



## **THE REASONS FOR BELIEVER'S BAPTISM**

by Dr. Eddie Lawrence

1. Obedience--Jesus commands us to be baptized (Matthew 28:19-20). Baptism is the first step of obedience in the life of a new Christian.
2. Jesus was baptized-- A follower of Jesus should follow him in baptism.
3. Public Witness--Your baptism is a public witness to the fact that you have been saved.
4. New Testament Pattern--People in the New Testament were baptized after they were saved as an outward sign of the inward reality.

## **THE MEANING OF BELIEVER'S BAPTISM**

When you are baptized by being placed under the water and raised back up you will be demonstrating that you have trusted in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection for your salvation. Please consider the following symbolic pictures involved in baptism.

1. It publicly pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. It personally pictures your death to the old life and resurrection to new life.
3. It prophetically pictures the future resurrection of believers' bodies from the dead.

## **THE MANNER OF BELIEVER'S BAPTISM**

Bible baptism is by immersion. The Greek word in the New Testament for baptize is the word "baptizo" which means to dip beneath the surface. It was used in classical Greek of the sinking of a ship. It is easy to see that burial in water beautifully pictures Christ's burial in the tomb. Also, it is easy to see that lifting a person up out of the water is a beautiful picture of Christ's resurrection from the tomb. The word which means to sprinkle is never used in the New Testament for baptism. Therefore, Bible baptism occurs when a person who has already been born of the Spirit spiritually is physically immersed into water and lifted out of water in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. This outwardly portrays the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus which the person has already experienced inwardly.