



BAPTISM

Baptism separates the tyre kickers from the car buyers - Max Lucado

Baptism is faith in action - Watchman Nee

The Greek word for Baptism (baptizein) means to plunge, sink, to be immersed.

Purity in Jesus' day was wildly popular. People went along to the local baths before going to the temple for sacrifices or festivals. Some groups said the act of washing cleansed the soul, others said repentance cleansed the soul and you washed afterwards as a sign of what's just happened. Certain people weren't allowed near the temple, which meant they couldn't take part with sacrifices or ritual washing: they couldn't experience the forgiveness of God. This included tax collectors, prostitutes, soldiers (as they were almost always Gentiles), people who were mentally unwell and Samaritans.

And then we find John the Baptist. He talks like a priest and baptizes people like a priest, but he's doing it in the wrong place, and he's offering it to the wrong people. He's baptising tax collectors, prostitutes and soldiers out in the desert, not a temple in sight. The people couldn't come to God; John brought God to the people. John offered a once-and-for-all baptism. You weren't just washing away your wrongs. Instead it was a burial of your old life and the beginning of a new life. Even Jesus, who was sinless, got baptised as he was about to take on the sin of the world. Jesus and John (and possibly the crowd around them) heard God declare all around him that Jesus is indeed his son, the one that will bring justice to the nations (Mark

1:11, Luke 3:22, quoting Isaiah 42:1).

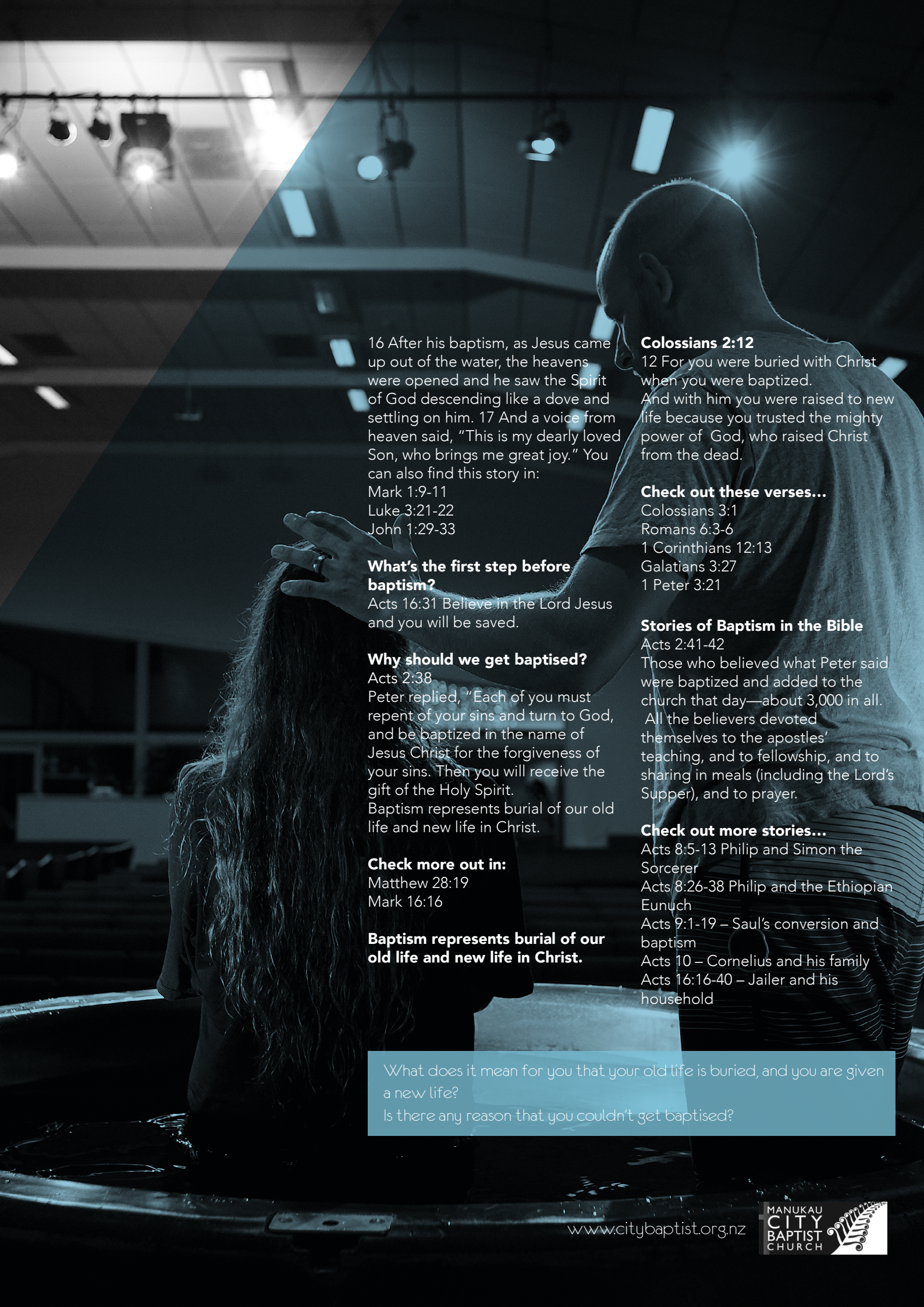
We experience God in a new way after baptism. There's something about the act of baptism - and the faith required to ask for it - that deepens our relationship with God.

Jesus and Baptism

Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"

15 But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him.

A man with a shaved head, wearing a grey t-shirt, is performing a baptism. He is standing in a pool of water, holding the head of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair. The woman is also in the water, her head tilted back. The background is a dark, industrial-looking space with overhead lights and structural beams. A large, dark, triangular graphic element is on the left side of the image.

16 After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy." You can also find this story in:

Mark 1:9-11
Luke 3:21-22
John 1:29-33

What's the first step before baptism?

Acts 16:31 Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.

Why should we get baptised?

Acts 2:38
Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Baptism represents burial of our old life and new life in Christ.

Check more out in:

Matthew 28:19
Mark 16:16

Baptism represents burial of our old life and new life in Christ.

Colossians 2:12

12 For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

Check out these verses...

Colossians 3:1
Romans 6:3-6
1 Corinthians 12:13
Galatians 3:27
1 Peter 3:21

Stories of Baptism in the Bible

Acts 2:41-42
Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

Check out more stories...

Acts 8:5-13 Philip and Simon the Sorcerer
Acts 8:26-38 Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch
Acts 9:1-19 – Saul's conversion and baptism
Acts 10 – Cornelius and his family
Acts 16:16-40 – Jailer and his household

What does it mean for you that your old life is buried, and you are given a new life?

Is there any reason that you couldn't get baptised?