

How are you doing with **The 5:14 Challenge?**

**Next Step:** I will take the 5:14 Challenge. I will set my clock for 5:14 a.m. and/or 5:14 p.m., wake up and pray, “Lord Jesus I love you. Wake me up to live with my spiritual eyes wide open, and Christ Jesus shine on me.”

You want to know one of the fastest ways to wake up? Water in the face! Adding water to a sleeper!

Even though getting splashed in the face with water will wake you up, that’s not exactly what we are talking about when we say adding water. As a matter of fact, answer this riddle for me.

**“What do these things have in common?”**

- A cup of coffee                      a rose                      a lily pad
- a catfish                                a jet ski                      and a Christian?

The answer is, for each of them to realize their full potential, you have to **“Add Water.”**

### **Jesus’ Ministry Was Launched by Adding Water**

As a child of God, it is important to follow Jesus’ example and be baptized in water. It is a very important first step in the Christian life. Jesus was baptized in order to “fulfill righteousness.”

**Matthew 3:13-17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”**

**15 Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.”**

**Then John consented. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”**

### **Jesus Commissions Us to Add Water to All Nations**

As Jesus commissioned His followers, He established Baptism as an eternal ordinance of His church.

**Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...** We, at Believers Church, are not fulfilling our commission if we are not being baptized ourselves and baptizing others.

### **Jesus Commands Us to Just Add Water**

Baptism is not an option for us; rather it is a commandment that God requires out of every believer.

Some of Jesus’ last recorded words instructed believers to be baptized.

Believing and baptism seem to naturally flow together. **Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.**

Jesus’ call for us to believe in Him also included a call to be baptized, showing us the importance and high value that the Lord places on Baptism.

Notice that even though we are expected to be baptized, Baptism is not what saves us, the believing does. “He who does not believe will be condemned.” Baptism is an outward display of an inward change.

### **Believers in the Bible Added Water**

**Pentecost - Acts 2:38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day**

Some have taken Peter’s words “let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ” to mean that these are the only words that can be properly spoken in a baptismal service. The most common words

spoken in baptisms are, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit”. The son is Jesus; therefore, baptizing in the name of the Son is baptizing in the name of Jesus.

**Phillip and the Ethiopian** – (Acts 8:26-36) When Phillip shared the gospel with the Ethiopian eunuch, he immediately asked, “**Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?**”

**Acts 8:37-38** Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

**Gentile Believers Were Baptized in Acts 10** - When salvation and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit came to the Gentiles; they were also instructed to be baptized in water.

**Acts 10:47-48** “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

**Lydia’s Household** Acts 16:14-15 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. 15 When she and the members of her household **were baptized**, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

**The Jailer and his family** Acts 16:30-33 ...He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” 31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household **were baptized**.

**Crispus, his family, and many Corinthians** – Acts 18:8 Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were **baptized**.

**Ephesus Believers** - Acts 19:4-5 Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” 5 On hearing this, they were **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus**.

**After his conversion, Ananias told Saul (Paul) the first thing he needed was to be baptized.** Acts 22:15-16 You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now what are you waiting for? **Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away**, calling on his name.’

## **Add Water as a Public Declaration**

### **A. Adding Water is a Public Identification With the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ Jesus.**

In water baptism, a Christian’s body is submerged in water as a public identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our old sinful nature symbolically dies when we go under the water.

**Romans 6:3-5 and 11**

**3** Or don’t you know that all of us who were **baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?**

**4** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

**5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

**Romans 6:11** In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

When we come up out of the water, we come up as a new person in Christ Jesus. We are no longer controlled by sin, but we are alive in Christ Jesus! Dead to sin, alive in Christ!

**2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!**

Were you selfish? That's dead.

Were you manipulative? That's dead.

Were you bitter? That's dead.

Were you an alcoholic? That's dead.

Were you addicted to drugs or even nicotine? That's dead.

Were you sexually immoral? That's dead. Did any other sin control your life before? That's dead.

Baptism is an outward expression of something that has already occurred in you at salvation.

- It is your public confession to your friends, family, and all who know you that you are now a new creation in Christ Jesus.
- It is your public commitment to forsake the ways of the world.
- It is your public declaration that you are dead to the sins of the past.

**Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

### **B. Adding Water Declares That You are Forgiven of All Your Sins**

**Colossians 2:12-14 (NLT) 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. 13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.**

### **C. Adding Water is a Public Declaration of Your Belonging**

- A wedding ring is an outward sign that a person belongs to another through the act of marriage.
- A military uniform is an outward sign that a person belongs to a particular branch of service.
- Similarly, baptism is an outward sign that identifies us as belonging to the family of God.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-14 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.**

- No matter your background or ethnic origin, by one Spirit, we are baptized into one body.
- Baptism represents your adoption into the family of God. You now belong to Christ's family and are members of His body. You are one of us now!

**Ephesians 2:19 (LB) “You are members of God’s very own family ... and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” EX: Rachel Bunch to Kayla: “Welcome to the team!”**

So, as you make the decision to be baptized, we rejoice with you as you publicly declare, “I am now a new creation in Christ Jesus, the old has passed away and all things are new! I am now baptized into the Body of Christ Jesus. I am part of His family!”

**NEXT STEP: I will be water baptized on Sunday, 09-25-22 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 am \_\_\_\_\_ 11 am.**

**NEXT STEP: I am willing to do a short video testimony telling why I want to be baptized.**

**NEXT STEP: I have already been baptized, but I will pray for and celebrate those who are being baptized on Sunday, 09-25-22.**