

## **Lesson 15**

### **Baptism**

#### **Baptism: What It Means to Be Cleansed**

##### **Why Must We Be Baptized?**

When Jesus lived on Earth, He taught us important things we should do to follow God's plan. One of these things is called baptism. Baptism is like a special ceremony that shows our commitment to God.

Jesus told His followers to go and teach everyone about God's love and to baptize them (Matthew 28:19–20). Baptism is the first step we take after we believe in Jesus and decide to follow Him.

##### **We Must Be Baptized for the Remission of Our Sins**

When we choose to have faith in Jesus and change our ways, we ask for forgiveness for the wrong things we've done. Baptism is a way to show that we are truly sorry and want to start fresh. It's like washing away our mistakes so we can begin anew.

John the Baptist baptized people to show they were sorry for their sins (Mark 1:4). When we are baptized, our sins are forgiven through Jesus' sacrifice for us.

##### **We Must Be Baptized to Become Members of God's Family**

Baptism is also a way to become part of God's family, which is like joining a special group of people who love and follow Jesus. When we are baptized, we become part of the Church, which is like a big family that helps and supports each other.

##### **We Must Be Baptized before We Can Receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost**

After we are baptized, we can receive the Holy Ghost, which helps us feel close to God and gives us strength to do what's right. Baptism is like opening a door for the Holy Ghost to come into our lives and guide us.

## **We Must Be Baptized to Show Obedience**

Even though Jesus never sinned, He still chose to be baptized to show us what we should do (Matthew 3:15). When we are baptized, we show that we want to do what Jesus asks of us. It's like saying "yes" to God's plan for our lives.

## **We Must Be Baptized to Enter Heaven**

Jesus said that those who believe in Him and are baptized will inherit the kingdom of God. This means that baptism is really important for our future happiness with God.

## **Baptism at the Age of Accountability**

When we are old enough to understand right from wrong, usually around eight years old, we can choose to be baptized. Babies don't need to be baptized because they are innocent and don't understand sin yet.

## **We Make Covenants When We Are Baptized**

When we are baptized, we promise to follow Jesus and obey His commandments. In return, God promises to forgive our sins and bless us with His Spirit.

## **Baptism Gives Us a New Beginning**

Baptism is like a fresh start. It's a chance for us to begin a new life following Jesus' example (Romans 6:4). When we are baptized, it's like we're washing away our old selves and starting over as better people.

## **Scripture References:**

- Matthew 28:19–20
- Mark 1:4
- Matthew 3:15
- Romans 6:4

## Title: "Nathan's Dive into Baptism"

In a cozy town nestled between gentle hills and murmuring streams, there lived a boy named Nathan. Nathan was a curious and thoughtful child, always eager to learn about the world around him. One sunny afternoon, as Nathan played by the babbling brook, he heard his parents talking about baptism—a word he'd often heard but never fully understood.

Intrigued, Nathan approached his parents and asked, "What is baptism, and why is it so important?" His parents smiled warmly and sat him down to explain.

"Baptism," they began, "is like a special ceremony that shows our commitment to God. Just as Jesus taught His followers to baptize others, it's a way for us to follow Him and become part of God's family."

As Nathan listened intently, his parents explained that baptism symbolizes the washing away of sins and the beginning of a new life with Jesus. "When we choose to be baptized," they continued, "we're saying 'yes' to God's plan for our lives and showing our willingness to follow His teachings."

Excited by the idea of starting anew, Nathan eagerly asked, "Can I be baptized too?" His parents smiled and explained that baptism is typically done when a person is old enough to understand right from wrong, usually around eight years old.

Determined to prepare himself for this important step, Nathan spent the following weeks learning about Jesus and His teachings. He prayed earnestly, asking God to help him understand and to guide him on his journey.

Finally, the day of Nathan's baptism arrived. With a heart full of joy and anticipation, Nathan stepped into the clear waters of the baptismal font. As the water enveloped him, he felt a profound sense of peace and renewal wash over him.

Emerging from the water, Nathan felt lighter, as if a heavy burden had been lifted from his shoulders. He knew that he had taken an important step toward becoming closer to God and following Jesus' example.

From that day forward, Nathan embraced his new life with enthusiasm and gratitude. Baptism had given him a fresh start—a chance to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and live a life filled with love, kindness, and faith. And as he looked to the future, Nathan knew that God's blessings would accompany him every step of the way.