



WHAT BAPTISM MEANS

IN THE JOURNEY OF DISCIPLESHIP BAPTISM IS THE SACRAMENT WHICH MARKS US OUTWARDLY AND CELEBRATES:

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO US.



IT MARKS THE COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

GOD WANTS WITH US, AS HIS CHILDREN WHO ARE GIVEN A NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST, MADE RIGHT WITH GOD: "IN CHRIST JESUS YOU ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD THROUGH FAITH, FOR ALL OF YOU WHO WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE CLOTHED YOURSELVES WITH CHRIST." (GALATIANS 3: 26 - 27). THE WATER SYMBOLISES BEING COMPLETELY COVERED IN CHRIST.

WE KNOW WE ARE FORGIVEN



AND REBORN SPIRITUALLY THROUGH THE "WASHING OF REBIRTH AND RENEWAL BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOM HE POURED OUT ON US GENEROUSLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR. (TITUS 3:5-6). PETER WRITES THAT "BAPTISM THAT NOW SAVES YOU ALSO—NOT THE REMOVAL OF DIRT FROM THE BODY BUT THE PLEDGE OF A CLEAR CONSCIENCE TOWARD GOD." (1 PETER 3:21) THE WATER SYMBOLISES BEING WASHED CLEAN, IMMERSSED IN GOD'S PRESENCE, AND PASSING THROUGH THE WATERS OF BIRTH.



WE LIVE IN THE LIGHT OF FUTURE RESURRECTION

CONFIDENT THAT ETERNAL LIFE HAS ALREADY BEGUN: "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." (ROMANS 6: 4). GOING INTO AND OUT OF THE WATER SYMBOLISES DYING AND RISING TO LIFE.

OUR BELONGING TO THE FAMILY OF THE CHURCH.

"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." (1 CORINTHIANS 12: 13).





OUR COMMITMENT TO CHRIST AND TO WHAT GOD IS DOING.



“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.” (ROMANS 6:4). THE WATER SYMBOLIZES BEING SET APART FOR GOD, DYING TO OURSELVES, TO LIVE FOR HIM.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

THERE ARE EXAMPLES WHERE THE INDIVIDUAL'S DECISION LEADS TO BAPTISM, AND THERE ARE EXAMPLES IN WHICH PEOPLE ARE BAPTISED BECAUSE THEY BELONG TO A FAMILY OF DISCIPLES. THE FIRST PUTS THE EMPHASIS ON THE WHAT THE PERSON DOES IN COMMITTING TO GOD, THE SECOND ON WHAT GOD DOES IN THE PERSON'S LIFE.

THIS IS WHY SOME CHURCHES



BAPTISE CHILDREN (BY CHRISTENING SO AS NOT TO DROWN THEM!)

AND SOME PRACTISE BAPTISM FOR THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THE DECISION TO BE BAPTISED AS THEY GROW IN THEIR DISCIPLESHIP – USUALLY BY FULLY IMMERSING THEM.



FOR THOSE ADULTS WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN BAPTISED

AS CHILDREN BUT WISH TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR CHOSEN ADULT FAITH, THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OFFERS CONFIRMATION – IN WHICH THEIR BAPTISM IS "CONFIRMED" – AND RENEWAL OF BAPTISM VOWS.

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**, AND TEACHING THEM TO **OBEY** EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND SURELY **I AM WITH YOU** ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE.”
(MATTHEW 28: 19-20)

