

After Baptism

Jesus commands all of us to be baptized into His name (Mark 16:16). Baptism removes sin (Acts 22:16). Baptism saves (1 Peter 3:21). Baptism is not the end, it is just the beginning of a life and relationship with Jesus. Getting baptized does not fulfill all that God wants you to do. What comes "After" baptism?

- ❑ **Walking in the newness of life (Romans 6:4).** Paul reminds Christians: "*Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come*" (2 Corinthians 5:17). "After" baptism, God expects you to show that your heart has changed. You will not continue the old sinful habits that led you away from God. Your language, your appearance, your attitude and your behavior will be appropriate for one who claims to be a Christian. You will strive to be Holy as God is Holy (1 Peter 1:15-16).
- ❑ **Taking on spiritual responsibilities.** God expects certain things from His children. Christians must carry on the work of God. "After" baptism it is important that you worship regularly with God's people. You will want to get to know your family in Christ. Hospitality, giving and being busy in good works (Titus 2:14) are some of the responsibilities that come "after" baptism.
- ❑ **Growing stronger in the Lord (Ephesians 6:10).** "After" baptism God wants you to grow into a strong and powerful Christian. Strong, faithful and busy Christians help the church to be growing and strong. These type of Christians are looked upon to teach classes and be elders and deacons someday. Growth takes time. It begins by spending time studying the Bible and praying often to God. Coming to Bible classes and taking notes during sermons will help you grow even faster. Weak Christians are a burden. They cannot be counted upon. But strong and powerful Christians are a blessing to any congregation.
- ❑ **Telling others about Jesus.** The early Christians went everywhere teaching and preaching Jesus (Acts 8:4). Andrew took his brother, Peter, to Jesus (John 1:40-41). You can invite a friend to come with you to services. In time, you will want to talk to your friends about Jesus. As you grow, you may even conduct a Bible study with your friends. One of the great blessings of being a Christian is sharing the "good news" (Gospel) with others. Think of how many friends you have that are not Christians. Wouldn't it be great if they were? They may just be waiting for you to invite them to services.

Roger Shouse