

BAPTISM

Going
Public
With
God

Ephesians 4:5

“...one Lord, one faith, one baptism...”

The sight of Durant thumbing through the Good Book, though, represents just another reason why many observers have labeled Durant a special kind of superstar.



KEVIN DURANT & HIS BIBLE

Kevin Durant walked into his postgame news conference following the Oklahoma City Thunder's Game 1 victory over Denver and climbed to his seat atop a podium with three things in hand. His cellphone, a pair of headphones and a Bible. The first two, Durant has always carried. The third item was included only recently. Since March 8, Durant has read passages each day from the black leather Bible he carries with his name engraved on the front cover. Durant has been spotted digesting passages at his locker before games, which is not uncommon inside NBA locker rooms. Teammate Serge Ibaka has done the same since he entered the league. The sight of Durant thumbing through the Good Book, though, represents just another reason why many observers have labeled Durant a special kind of superstar.

“I just want to grow spiritually with the Lord,” Durant said. “It’s something I always talked about, but I never really got into it.”

“I’m keeping strong at it, just trying to make my walk with faith a little better,” Durant said.

“That’s making me a better person, opening my eyes to things and I’m also maturing as a person. I’m just trying to grow.”



Don't be ashamed of me and my teaching. If that happens, I will be ashamed of you when I come with my divine greatness and that of the Father and the holy angels.

Luke 9:26 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT . . .

How can you tell if someone is a fan of a team, movie, or school, etc.?

WHAT IS A FAN?

How do we recognize people who are on God's Team, or Fans of Jesus?

IS FAITH A PRIVATE MATTER?

Some people say your faith is a “private matter” – it is not something that you should talk about or bother other people with. But if our faith is a relationship, do we keep relationships a secret? Would a husband and wife keep their marriage a secret? Would parents say, “These kids? I have no ideas whose they are!” Christianity, unlike all other religions, is about a relationship with God. To keep it a secret, it is deny or destroy the relationship.



WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT BAPTISM . . .

READ Matthew 28:19-20

WHAT four (4) things did Jesus tell them to do?

The D _____ were told to (1) G _____ into all the world and (2) M _____ D _____ in every nation of the world, and they were to (3) B _____ these new disciples and to (4) T _____ them to obey Jesus.

READ Acts 2:38-42

How many people accepted the message about Jesus and accepted Him as their Savior that day?

Circle: 3 30 300 3000 300,000?

What did the disciples do with all these people who had believed in Jesus?

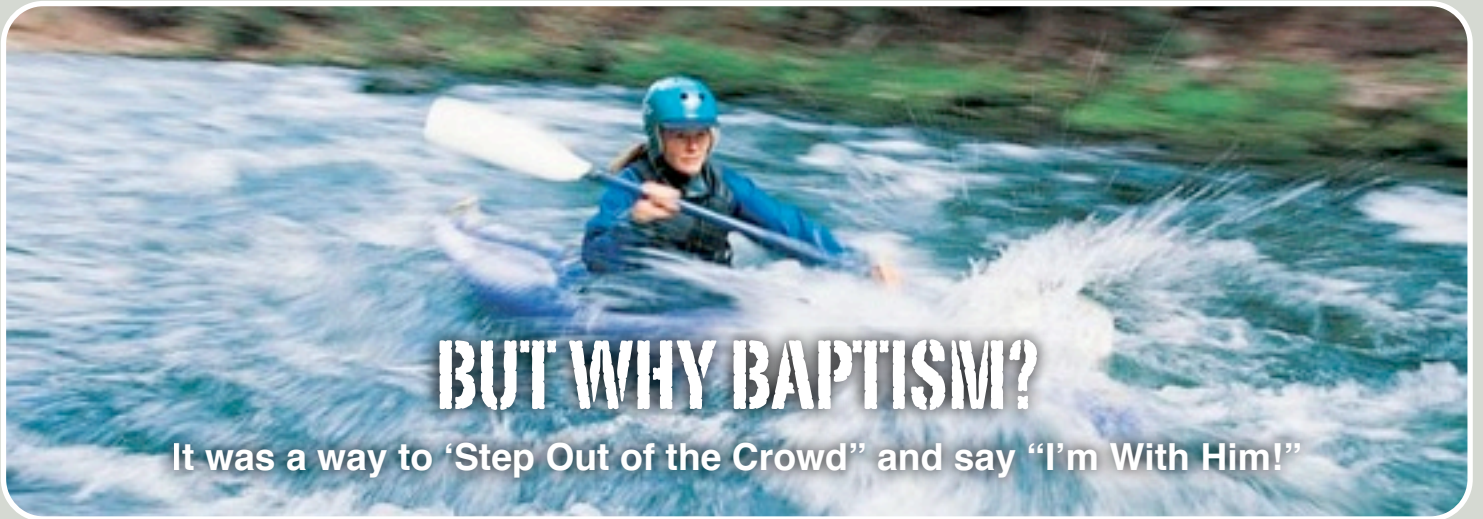
READ Acts 8:34-38 / 18:7-8 / Acts 16:13-15 / Acts 16:29-34 What do each of these stories have in common?

So, the church in Jerusalem began with people believing in J _____, and then being B _____.

Then everyone knew that they had been added to the C _____.



After Jesus was baptized heaven opened, & the Spirit of God, like a dove, descended upon him. Witnesses to the baptism heard a voice from heaven saying, "This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."



1] BAPTISM IS A S_____ THAT WE ARE ON G_____ S_____ N_____

READ Acts 22:12-16 The Apostle Paul is telling about his believing in Jesus and being baptized. A Christian named Ananias was witnessing to Paul, and this verse is what he said to Paul. Ananias is telling Paul to prove that he is ready to call on the name of the Lord and become a Christian. Paul used to punish Christians for following Jesus. Christians were afraid of him. How can Paul prove that he really is calling on the name of the Lord as his own Savior?

Luke 9:23-26 To live for Christ we must DENY ourselves and live 100% for God. If we are ashamed of God, He will be ashamed of us!

So then, Baptism shows that WE ARE NOW WITH JESUS, that a person has become a Christian. BUT BAPTISM ALSO IS A SYMBOL – WHAT IS A SYMBOL? An A_____ that has a special M_____.



Here are some SYMBOLS that you probably know about, write what they mean in the blank below:
Shaking hands shows:
A kiss shows:

2] BAPTISM IS A SYMBOL THAT WE HAVE BEEN W_____ C_____ FROM S_____

Think of the many ways we use water – to wash ourselves (or our pets), to drink when we are thirsty, etc.

READ I Peter 3:18-22 What does the water of baptism symbolize?

So then, B_____ in water shows that our S_____ have been washed away by Jesus.



3] BAPTISM IS A SYMBOL THAT WE HAVE D_____ TO OUR S_____

READ ROMANS 6:1-4 Just as Jesus died for sin – we are to die to sin. To share in his new life, we must share in his death. When we go under the water, we remember that he died for us.

4] BAPTISM IS A SYMBOL THAT WE WILL BE R_____ WITH C_____

READ ROMANS 6:5-10 Jesus died, but he rose again. We are also to die to sin, but we will rise with him. The life we live we are to live for God! When we come out of the water, we remember that He rose again for us.

5] BAPTISM IS A SYMBOL THAT SHOWS OUR O _____ TO G _____

A police badge is a symbol that a person wears to show that he/she is a _____.

If you put on a police badge, does that make you a police officer? [] Yes [] No
Why?

So then, a police badge is to show that a person ALREADY belongs to the _____.

If a person gets baptized, does that MAKE him/her a Christian? [] Yes [] No
Getting B _____ shows O _____, that a person belongs to J _____.

IT'S KINDA LIKE A . . . A WEDDING RING

A wedding ring is much more than jewelry. A wedding ring is an outward expression of an inner commitment. It is a subtle, but clear announcement to the world: NOT AVAILABLE. It says I have someone who loves me, who is faithful to me, and that I am equally committed to in return. It says my love has been given to someone and no one else can have that love. It says I belong to someone else. I can be your friend, but there will always be someone else more important to me than you in my life. The opposite is true. No rings says I am available. I am approachable. I'm not committed yet.

HIDE IT IN YOUR HEART . . .

Read Acts 2:37-47 / Memorize Verse 38 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.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP . . .

More important than "should I be baptized" is the question: "Where do I stand with God?" But if you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, and you are committed to living for Him the rest of your life, you may be ready for Baptism. But baptism is more than just the event at church. The message of baptism is what is important.

Are you ready and willing to 'go public' with your relationship with God? Not just at church, but at home, at school, and everywhere else? There is no 'magic' in baptism that changes you – it is to show a change that has already taken place in your heart



BEFORE YOU DIVE...

THE CHECK LIST FOR WATER BAPTISM:

- MUST BE SAVED
- SHARE TESTIMONY WITH PASTOR T OR CHURCH STAFF
- ASK PARENTS
- INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS
- BRING AN EXTRA CHANGE OF CLOTHES

