

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Is Baptism Necessary For Salvation?

Know This...

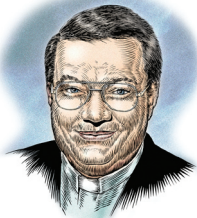
When Adam and Eve trusted Satan over God, grace abandoned their souls as sin entered them. As children of Adam and Eve, we have been born into a fallen world with the stain of original sin on our souls. Baptism washes away original sin, personal sin, and the temporal punishment due to sin. Baptism fills our souls with grace and makes us children of God. Jesus made Baptism necessary for salvation.

Saints Peter and Paul confirm this in their epistles.



John: Baptism is a beautiful and powerful gift from God. It sets us free from sin, makes us members of the Body of Christ, and incorporates us into His Church.

James: This sacrament unites us to Jesus' death and resurrection, makes us pleasing to our heavenly Father, and saves us from eternal separation with God.



John: While baptism is necessary for salvation, the unbaptized can be saved. "God has bound salvation to the Sacrament of Baptism, but He Himself is not bound by His sacraments." CCC 1257

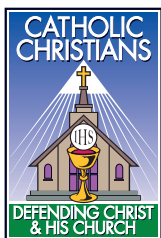
James: Sacramental Baptism is the normal means of being baptized; but there is also baptism of blood (martyrdom), baptism of explicit desire, and baptism of implicit desire.

John: Baptism seals the Christian with an indelible mark that claims him for Christ. Sin cannot erase this mark.

James: Christians who remain faithful to their Baptismal calling merit the reward of eternal life.

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"Jesus said, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?' Jesus answered, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and the spirit.'" Jn 3:3-5 "Jesus said to the Apostles, 'All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'" Mt 28:18-19

PAPA SAYS

"Peter said to them, '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. For the promise is made to you and to your children.'" Acts 2:38-39 "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit; in which He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water: Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you." 1 Pet 3:18-21a



"I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God." Ezek 36:25-28 "Let us approach with a sincere heart and in absolute trust, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water." Heb 10:22 "Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life." Rom 6:3-4 "When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us; not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the baptism of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." Tit 3:4-5

Lord God, You gave me life through my father and mother. Through Your Son's death and resurrection, You opened the gates of heaven. Through the sacrament of Baptism, You cleansed me from original sin and gave me a share in Your Son's divine nature. I pray that I will always cherish Your undeserved gift of grace. Keep me faithful to Your Word that I may sing Your praises for all creation to hear. Grant this through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

