THE QUESTION

How do we get into Christ and put on Christ, according to the Bible and the early Christians?

Asked by a THF member on August 7, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 10 numbered quotations · the 23 early Christian passages and 139 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/how-do-we-get-into-christ-and-put-on-christ-according-to-the-bible-and-the

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

The early Christians taught that we enter Christ and put on Christ through baptism, joined with faith in Him. In baptism a person shares in Christ's death and rising, is washed from sins, and is born again by water and the Spirit. They also taught that putting on Christ must continue in a holy, obedient life.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
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POINT 1 OF 7

Baptized into Christ means putting on Christ

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian takes Paul's words in Galatians at face value. He treats it as settled that those baptized into Christ have put on Christ. For him, baptism is the moment a person is clothed with Christ.

1 “For if the apostle is not speaking falsely when he says, "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ," Galatians 3:27, then certainly anyone who was baptized among them into Christ has put on Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 16, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Baptism joins us to Christ's death and rising

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions explain what the water pictures. Going down is dying with Christ, and coming up is rising with Him. Irenaeus quotes Paul in Romans to make the same point: those baptized into Christ are baptized into His death, so they can walk in a new life.

2 “The going down into the water is dying together with Christ. The coming up out of the water is rising again with Him.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 19, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

3 “Do you not know that many of us who were baptized in Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? So that, like Christ rose from the dead, we should also walk in newness of life."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book III* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›
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POINT 3 OF 7

One faith and one baptism belong together

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Ignatius says baptism is given so that we share in the Lord's death. In the same breath he speaks of one faith in Christ. He does not set faith and baptism against each other. Both are part of how a believer is joined to Christ.

4

“For if there is one God of the universe, the Father of Christ, "of whom are all things;" and one Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord, "by whom are all things;" and also one Holy Spirit, who worked in Moses, and in the prophets and apostles; and also one baptism, which is administered so that we should share in the death of the Lord; and also one chosen Church; there should likewise be but one faith in respect to Christ.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistles of Ignatius* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Born again by water and the Spirit

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Hippolytus invites the nations to come to baptism. When someone asks how to come, he answers: by water and the Holy Spirit. He says this is how a person is born again and clothed with life. The clothing picture fits Paul's words about putting on Christ.

5

“And someone says, "How shall we come? How?" By water and the Holy Spirit.”

later in the same passage

“This is the water joined with the Spirit, by which paradise is watered, by which the earth is enriched, by which plants grow, by which animals multiply, and, to say it all in one word, by which man is born again and clothed with life.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 11, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

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POINT 5 OF 7

The old self dies and sins are washed

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian says that in baptism the old man dies and the new man is born, and he points to Paul's washing of regeneration. Clement of Alexandria says the baptized have wiped away the sins that darkened them, so the Spirit's light can shine in them.

6 “For the blessed apostle declares and proves that baptism is where the old man dies and the new man is born, saying, "He saved us by the washing of regeneration,"”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Epistles* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 14, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

7 “As, then, those who have shaken off sleep immediately become fully awake within; or rather, as those who try to remove a film over the eyes do not supply light to them from outside, which they do not possess, but by removing the obstacle from the eyes leave the pupil free; so also we who are baptized, having wiped off the sins that darken the light of the Divine Spirit, have the eye of the spirit free, unimpeded, and full of light.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Instructor* 1.6 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 6, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

It all comes by grace and believing

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Justin uses the picture of clothing too. He says believers have been stripped of their filthy garments, meaning their sins. This happened by the grace of Jesus and through His name, for those who believed. It is God's gift, received by faith.

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8

“Even though we lived in fornication and all kinds of corrupt conversation, by the grace of our Jesus, according to His Father’s will, we have stripped ourselves of all that wickedness with which we were imbued.”

later in the same passage

“Just as Joshua, called by the prophet a priest, was evidently wearing filthy garments because he is said to have taken a harlot for a wife, and is called a brand plucked out of the fire because he received remission of sins when the devil that opposed him was rebuked; in the same way, we who have believed in God the Maker of all through the name of Jesus, have been stripped of the filthy garments, i.e., of our sins, through the name of His firstborn Son.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 3, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

Putting on Christ continues in daily life

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Putting on Christ is not only a one-time event. Clement quotes Paul's call to put on Jesus Christ and turn from fleshly desires. Justin says Jesus will clothe us in prepared garments if we follow His commandments. Grace starts the new life, and believers freely walk in it.

9

“For the divine apostle gives us this beautiful counsel: "Put on Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the lusts of the flesh."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Instructor* 3.11 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 7, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

10

“We are like those drawn out from the fire, purified from our former sins, and rescued from the affliction and fiery trial by which the devil and all his associates test us; from which Jesus the Son of God has promised to deliver us again and clothe us in prepared garments, if we follow His commandments; and He has promised to provide an eternal kingdom for us.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 3, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
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THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages do not settle what happens to a believer who dies before being baptized.
- Cyprian's words come from an argument about baptism done outside the church, which these passages do not fully explain.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 23 early Christian passages and 139 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–23, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 24–78, in Bible order), then 84 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *23 passages from 11 writers*

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 1–2*

1 *Epistles of Ignatius* (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “also one baptism, which is administered that we should have fellowship with the death of the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *Epistle to the Trallians* (1885 English; on point 7) “clothing yourselves with meekness, be ye renewed in faith, that is the flesh of the Lord, and in love, that is the blood of Jesus Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 3–4*

3 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) **Quotes 8, 10, page 5** “so we, who through the name of Jesus have believed as one man in God the Maker of all, have been stripped, through the name of His first-begotten Son… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English; on point 6) “these filthy garments, which have been put by you on all who have become Christians by the name of Jesus, God shows shall be taken away from us, when He… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 5*

5 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 2** “that the apostle did know Him as one, both who was born and who suffered, namely Christ Jesus, he again says in the same Epistle: “Know ye not, that so… [continues online] **read ›**

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Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 6–7*

6 *Instructor* 1.6 **Quote 7, page 4** "as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Instructor* 3.11 (1885 English) **Quote 9, page 5** "the divine apostle most beautifully counsels us to put on Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the lusts of the flesh. Romans 13:14… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 8–10*

8 *On Modesty* 17 (on point 2) "you ignorant that we who have been baptized in Christ have been baptized into His death… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *On Baptism* 10 treated as if it were a candidate for the remission and sanctification soon about to follow in Christ. For when John used to preach baptism for the remission of sins… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *On the Resurrection of the Flesh* 3 (on point 7) "be clothed by one who is naked, if you have put on Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 11*

11 *Discourse on the Holy Theophany* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** "I preach to this effect: Come, all you kindreds of the nations, to the immortality of the baptism… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · source 12*

12 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 "also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 13–17*

13 *Epistles* (on point 1) "the apostle says, "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Epistles* **Quote 6, page 4** regeneration is in the washing, that is, in baptism, how can heresy, which is not the spouse of Christ, give birth to sons for God through Christ? For it is… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 7) "you want clothing; but he who puts on Christ is both abundantly clothed and adorned… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Epistles* (1885 English) **Quote 1, page 2** "if the apostle does not speak falsely when he says, As many of you as are baptized into Christ, have put on Christ, Galatians 3:27 certainly he who has… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Treatises* (on point 7) "put on silk and purple, they cannot put on Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 18–20*

18 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) not let what is done by the godly be canceled by a second baptism. For as there is one God, one Christ, one Comforter, and one death of the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 2, page 2** "Father is the God over all. Christ is the only begotten God, the beloved Son, the Lord of glory… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Apostolic Constitutions* whatever I have commanded you," Matthew 28:19. Baptize in the name of the Father who sent, of Christ who came, and of the Comforter who testified. But first you… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 21*

21 *Writings* (on point 5) "baptism, the coarse dress of your birth is washed… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *sources 22–23*

22 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 the apostles charged those whom they addressed in the Holy Spirit to be baptized in the name of Christ Jesus, except that the power of the name of Jesus, invoked… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Treatise on Re-Baptism* 1 "he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

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THE BIBLE *55 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

24 **Genesis 2:25** The two of them were naked, both Adam and his wife, and they were not ashamed. **read ›**

25 **Genesis 3:7** Then the eyes of the two of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. **read ›**

26 **Genesis 3:21** The Lord God made tunics of skin for Adam and for his wife, and clothed them. **read ›**

27 **Exodus 29:5** You shall take the garments and clothe Aaron your brother with the full-length robe, the shoulder piece, and the oracle; and you shall join the oracle to the shoulder piece for him. **read ›**

28 **Exodus 29:6** You shall put the miter on his head, and put the plate, the Holiness, on the miter. **read ›**

29 **Exodus 29:8** Then you shall bring his sons and clothe them with tunics. **read ›**

30 **Leviticus 8:6** Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons near and washed them with water. **read ›**

31 **Leviticus 8:7** He put the tunic on him, tied the sash around him, clothed him with the under-robe, and put the shoulder piece on him. **read ›**

32 **Leviticus 16:4** He shall put on the sanctified linen tunic, and linen undergarments shall be on his body; he shall tie on a linen sash and put on the linen turban. These are holy garments; he shall bathe his whole body in water and put them on. **read ›**

33 **Numbers 19:20** But the man who is defiled and does not purify himself, that person shall be utterly destroyed from the midst of the congregation, because he has defiled the holy place of the Lord, because the water of sprinkling was not sprinkled on him; he is unclean. **read ›**

34 **Numbers 31:23** everything that passes through fire shall be clean; yet it shall be purified with the water of purification. And whatever does not pass through fire shall pass through water. **read ›**

35 **Deuteronomy 9:24** You have been disobedient toward the Lord from the day that he became known to you. **read ›**

36 **Deuteronomy 29:12** that you may enter into the covenant of the Lord your God and into his curses, which the Lord your God is making with you today, **read ›**

37 **2 Kings 5:14** So Naaman went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of Elisha; and his flesh returned like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. **read ›**

38 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

39 **Jeremiah 17:17** Do not become a stranger to me; spare me in the evil day. **read ›**

40 **Jeremiah 49:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

41 **Jeremiah 50:9** For behold, I am stirring up against Babylon congregations of nations from the land of the north, and they will line up for battle against her; from there she will be taken; as the arrow of a skilled warrior, it will not return empty. (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:9 (Jeremiah 50:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

42 **Ezekiel 25:4** therefore behold, I am handing you over to the children of Kedem for an inheritance, and they shall encamp with their goods among you, and they shall set their tents among you; they shall eat your fruits, and they shall drink your richness. **read ›**

43 **Ezekiel 29:14** and I will turn back the captivity of the Egyptians, and I will settle them in the land of Pathros, in the land from which they were taken; and it shall be a lowly kingdom, **read ›**

44 **Ezekiel 40:10** and the side rooms of the gate, opposite the side room, three on this side and three on that side, and one measure for the three; one measure for the porches on this side and on that. **read ›**

45 **Ezekiel 41:9** and the breadth of the wall of the side chamber on the outside, five cubits; and the remaining spaces between the side chambers of the house, **read ›**

46 **Daniel 11:31** And seeds from him shall arise, and they shall profane the sanctuary of might, and remove the continual offering, and set up an abomination made desolate. **read ›**

47 **Amos 5:5** But do not seek Bethel, and do not go into Gilgal, and do not cross over to the Well of the Oath; for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall be as though it were not. **read ›**

48 **Amos 5:18** Woe to those who desire the day of the Lord! Why is this day of the Lord for you? It is darkness, and not light. **read ›**

49 **Haggai 2:6** For thus says the Lord Almighty: Yet once more I will shake the heaven and the earth, and the sea and the dry land; **read ›**

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50 **Luke 3:3** He came into all the region around the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for remission of sins, **read ›**

51 **Luke 3:4** as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths. **read ›**

52 **Luke 3:5** Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked places shall become straight, and the rough ways shall become smooth roads. **read ›**

53 **Acts 1:18** Now this man acquired a field with the wages of unrighteousness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle, and all his intestines poured out. **read ›**

54 **Acts 11:5** “I was praying in the city of Joppa, and in a trance I saw a vision: something like a great sheet descending, lowered from heaven by its four corners. It came down to me. **read ›**

55 **Acts 19:3** He said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” **read ›**

56 **Acts 19:4** Paul said, “John indeed baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Christ Jesus.” **read ›**

57 **Romans 6:3** Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **read ›**

58 **Romans 6:4** We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. **read ›**

59 **Romans 6:5** For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will also be part of his resurrection; **read ›**

60 **Romans 13:14** But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, for its lusts. **read ›**

61 **1 Corinthians 1:17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be emptied of its power. **read ›**

62 **1 Corinthians 5:1** It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and sexual immorality of a kind not even named among the Gentiles, that someone has his father’s wife. **read ›**

63 **1 Corinthians 5:2** And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, so that the one who did this deed might be removed from among you. **read ›**

64 **1 Corinthians 10:2** and were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; **read ›**

65 **1 Corinthians 12:13** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all given drink to share in one Spirit. **read ›**

66 **2 Corinthians 5:3** if indeed being clothed, we will not be found naked. **read ›**

67 **Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **read ›**

68 **Ephesians 2:13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off are made near in the blood of Christ. **read ›**

69 **Ephesians 4:5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **read ›**

70 **Ephesians 4:22** that, concerning your former way of life, you put off the old man, who is being corrupted by deceitful desires, **read ›**

71 **Ephesians 4:24** and put on the new man, who in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of truth. **read ›**

72 **Ephesians 6:14** Stand therefore, having tied truth around your waist and put on the breastplate of righteousness, **read ›**

73 **Colossians 2:12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. **read ›**

74 **Colossians 3:4** When Christ, our life, is revealed, then you also shall be revealed with him in glory. **read ›**

75 **Colossians 3:10** and have put on the new man, who is being renewed in knowledge after the image of his Creator. **read ›**

76 **Colossians 3:12** Therefore, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **read ›**

77 **Colossians 3:14** Above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. **read ›**

78 **Revelation 19:8** It was given to her that she would array herself in bright, pure, fine linen, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. **read ›**

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ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *84 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 9:18

Exodus 32:34

Deuteronomy 32:10 · 32:23

Psalms 18:26

Isaiah 44:25

Jeremiah 5:8

Zechariah 3:3

Matthew 3:7 · 3:11 · 3:15 · 9:29 · 19:14 · 19:17 · 21:23 · 21:25 · 28:19

Mark 1:4 · 2:8 · 11:30 · 14:27 · 16:16

Luke 1:76 · 7:18 · 7:37 · 10:21 · 12:50 · 14:11 · 20:4 · 22:32

John 1:3 · 1:6 · 1:9 · 1:17 · 1:33 · 3:5 · 3:30 · 3:36 · 6:40 · 7:39 · 16:6 · 19:34 · 20:22

Acts 4:12 · 5:31 · 10:44 · 15:9 · 16:1 · 19:1

Romans 6:1 · 6:10 · 7:18 · 8:2 · 8:3 · 8:5 · 15:15 · 15:16

1 Corinthians 1:20 · 3:19 · 5:11 · 10:4 · 12:3 · 13:11 · 14:20

2 Corinthians 1:21 · 3:6 · 5:5

Galatians 1:8 · 3:23 · 3:26 · 3:28 · 4:7 · 5:2 · 5:19

Ephesians 2:3 · 4:17 · 5:3 · 5:8 · 5:12

Colossians 3:5

1 Thessalonians 2:3 · 4:3 · 4:8

1 Peter 2:9

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Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “How do we get into Christ and put on Christ, according to the Bible and the early Christians?” on August 7, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY