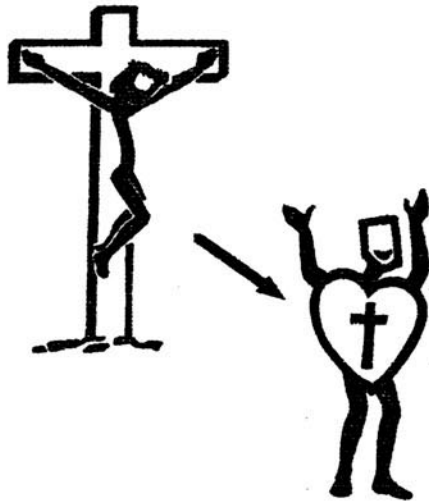


BAPTISM

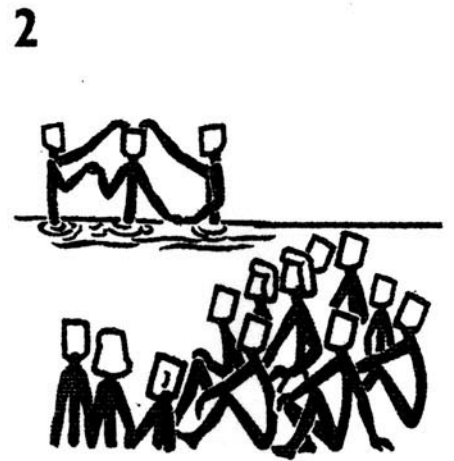
1. Baptism is a very important event in the life of a Christian. **Acts 2:38** says, "Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. The first picture shows a person kneeling in prayer and crying. This demonstrates turning away from sins. He is sorry and ashamed of the way he used to live, and does not want to live like that anymore. He confesses all of his sins to Jesus (**I John 1:9**). But we do not become Christians in our own strength. He believes that Jesus died and took the punishment for his sin. He believes that Jesus lives within him and that Jesus has cleansed his heart from sin and made him a new person (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).
2. Baptism does not wash our sins away, but it shows that when we believed in Jesus our hearts were washed clean by the blood of Jesus (**I John 1:7**). Baptism is a way of showing friends and family that we are now followers of Jesus Christ. In some places, baptism is a time of celebration for the new Christians, the church and the community. In some countries there is much opposition to a person becoming a Christian and baptism is not such a public event.
 - 3a When we confess our sins and believe in Jesus, he makes a big change in our life. This change is so big it is like the difference between life and death. Baptism demonstrates this big change. Baptism is also a picture of Jesus' death and the fact that he rose again from the dead (**Romans 6:3--4**).
 - 3b. When a person is baptized and goes under the water, it is a picture of being buried. First of all it is a picture that we believe that Jesus, the Son of God, left heaven and came to this earth. We believe he lived a sinless life, was crucified on a wooden cross, and was buried.
 - 3c. Going under the water is a picture that we have died to sin and will no longer continue to walk in sin. We have made a complete break with the past, and will no longer live the way we used to live. Our old way of life is dead and buried. When a person goes under the water at the time of baptism, he says, "goodbye," to the old way of living. He is dead to sin. "Those who have died have been set free from sin" (**Romans 6:5-8**)
 - 4a. Baptism is not only a picture of death, but also of resurrection. It says that the old way of life is dead and buried, but it also says we have a new, exciting, and different life because Jesus lives within us. Coming up out of the water is picture of new life (**2 Corinthians 5:17, Colossians 2: 12-14**).
 - 4b Baptism is a picture which shows that Jesus, who died for our sins, became alive again. By his resurrection, Jesus showed that he had defeated sin and death. **Acts 2:24** says that, "God raised Jesus from death, setting him free from its power, because it was impossible that death should hold him prisoner." Baptism shows our faith that God has raised Jesus from the grave. Jesus has defeated death, and now he is able to give us new and everlasting life (**Romans 6:9,11, John 3:16**).
 - 4c. Baptism is a picture that we have died to our old way of life and now we have a new way of life (**Ephesians 2:4-5**). We were dead in our sin and disobedience but now God has given us a brand new way of living. Romans 6:11 says, "You are to think of yourselves as dead, so far as sin is concerned, but living in fellowship with God through Jesus Christ." This new life that Jesus gives enables us to obey God and follow his laws. It helps us to live a life of love and show God's love to those around us. This life will not end when we die. Jesus gives us eternal life that continues into heaven. When Jesus returns, the dead will be raised, and we will receive new everlasting bodies which will never die. We will live in harmony and fellowship with God forever.



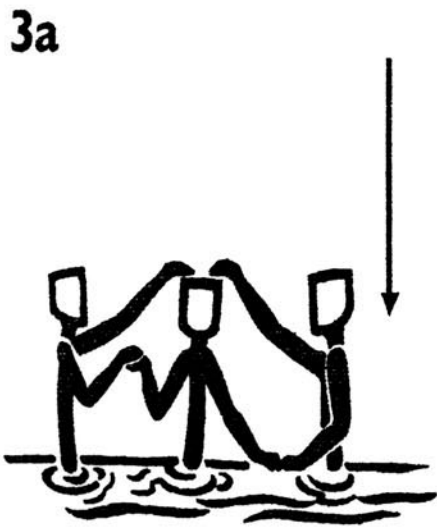
ACTS 2.38, 1 JN 1.9



2 COR 5.17



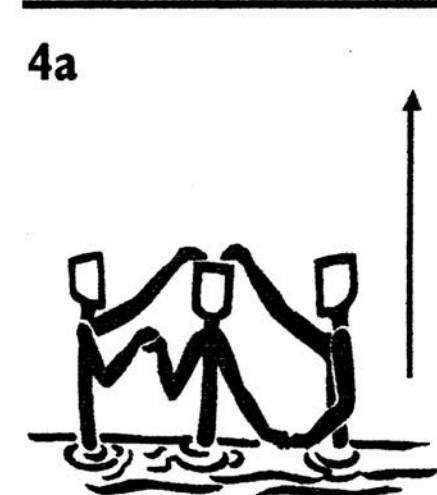
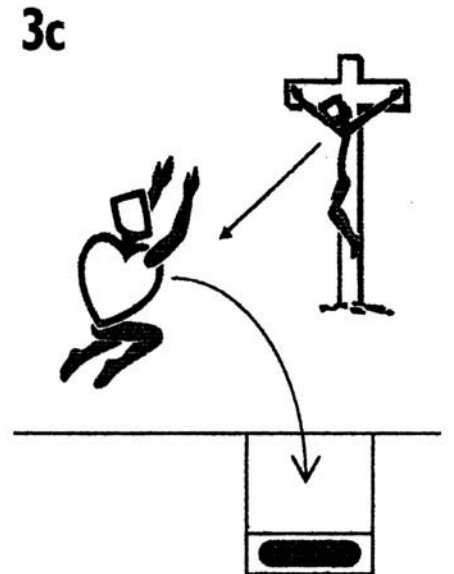
1 JN 1.7



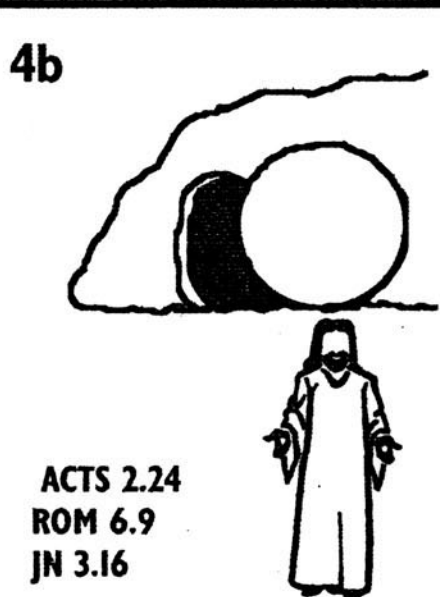
ROM 6.3-4



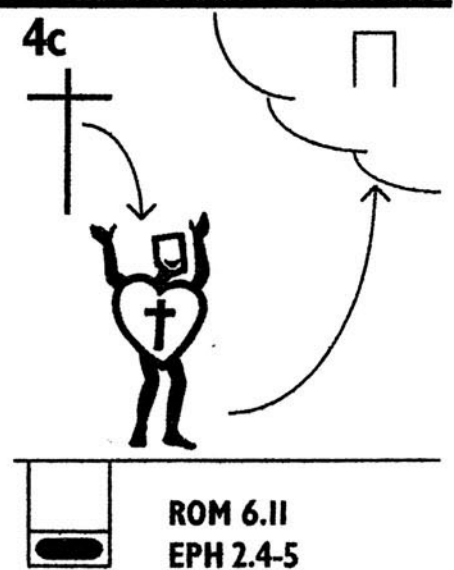
ROM 6.5-8



2 COR 5.17 COL 2.12-14



ACTS 2.24
ROM 6.9
JN 3.16



ROM 6.11
EPH 2.4-5