



... a place to belong



Application Form and Information
for those interested in following the Lord
through the waters of Baptism

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WATER BAPTISM

Scripture refers to two different types of Baptism for the believer (Acts 1:5): (a) baptism with water; and (b) baptism with the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of this booklet is to study only water baptism. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is another complete study in itself.

Many questions are asked about water baptism. “What is water baptism? Why should I be baptized? Is it necessary to be baptized again if I was sprinkled as a baby or as a child? Do I have to be baptized to go to heaven? If I’ve already been baptized in the Holy Spirit, is it necessary to be baptized in water?”

The following pages attempt to answer these questions from the Word of God.

1. What is Water Baptism?

Water Baptism is a symbolic action taken by believers in Christ signifying identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

“Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:3,4 NIV)

2. Why should I be baptized?

Water baptism was introduced by John the Baptist as an evidence of the Jew's repentance (Mark 1:4). Jesus came along and submitted to the baptism of John (Mark 1:9,10). Thus he endorsed the ministry, mode and method of baptism that John used. The presence of God the Father and the Holy Spirit also endorsed the ordinance of water baptism (Mark 1:10,11).

When It comes time for Jesus to return to His Father, Jesus commanded his disciples to "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Matthew 28:19)

God can only be pleased with the obedience of his children. Jesus said in John 14:15, "If ye love me keep my commandments."

In Luke 7:30 we read, "the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves to God's authority. They rejected the counsel; they showed that rejection and that refusal by not being baptized.

Water baptism is important in the believer's public profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said in Matthew 10:32, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."

When we are baptized, we are taking a stand; we are making a confession. We are saying, "I belong to Christ; He is now Lord of my life!" Openly, publicly we identify ourselves with Christ.

Water Baptism was followed by the New Testament apostles, and taught by the early church.

The need to submit to the authority and the Lordship of Christ is no less vital today. It is still a vital part of our discipleship, of our confession of our obedience to His Word.

3. When should I be baptized?

In the new Testament, baptism was immediately after conversion, or as soon as it was convenient after being born again.

Paul, the apostle, converted on the road to Damascus, was instructed to go to the house of Ananius. When he got there Ananius said to him, “Why tarriest thou?” (Why do you delay?) “Arise and be baptized.”

In Acts 8, we read the account of Philip and the eunuch. The eunuch, upon confessing that he believed (with all his heart) that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, was immediately baptized by Philip.

This is an important step in our Christian walk, and not one to be taken lightly. Therefore, the Pastor and church board have suggested that anyone over the age of eleven should be baptized at their earliest opportunity, after accepting Christ as their personal Saviour.

4. How should I be baptized?

The word baptism comes from the Greek word “baptize which literally means to immerse, to dip, or to plunge.

Water baptism symbolizes the death, the burial and the resurrection of Christ. We believe that the scriptural account of water baptism is by immersion – going into the water – the death; going under the water – the burial; coming up out of the water – the resurrection. When we submit to the water of baptism in this manner, we are saying, “I died with Christ, I was buried with Christ, I arose with Christ, I have a new life in Christ.”

The baptism of Jesus himself supports this method. Matthew 3:16 says. “and Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water...”

5. Is it necessary to be baptized again if I was sprinkled as a baby or as a child?

Since we believe that sprinkling is not a genuine method for baptism, you have never been baptized. Even if you had been immersed as a baby or an unsaved adult, that would not suffice as “repentance” and “believing” must precede the baptizing. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36,37

6. Do I have to be baptized to go to heaven?

In Acts 16:30,31, the Philippian jailer asked: “What must I do to be saved?” The answer was simply “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”

Romans 10:13 – “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Eph. 2:8,9 – “for by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God – not of works lest any man should boast.”

1 John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

These scriptures support the statement that water baptism is not necessary for forgiveness of sins, salvation or entrance to heaven.

This is a blessing secured by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are not baptized to be saved but because we already are.

7. If I've already been baptized in the Holy Ghost, is it necessary to be baptized in water?

Yes, even after the house of Cornelius had received the Holy Ghost, Peter yet commanded them to be baptized in water. (Acts 10:44-48)

INFORMATION FOR BAPTISMAL CANDIDATES

You have decided that you want to obey the Lord in the waters of baptism, as a public profession of Jesus Christ as Lord of your life.

Now what?

1. Fill in the application supplied in this booklet and turn it into the church office. The pastor will recognize your application and notify you as to the next baptismal service.
2. A “baptismal class” may be arranged for the potential candidates.
3. Be prepared to arrive 30-35 minutes before the baptismal service for final instructions.
4. Please bring the following items with you to the baptismal service;
 - a. A large bath towel
 - b. A plastic bag or small suitcase in which to take your wet clothing home
 - c. Hair dryer, if needed
 - d. Bathing suit (or suitable clothes that you do not mind getting wet) to wear under the baptismal gown. The baptismal gown is provided by the church
 - e. An extra set of dry clothing to wear for the remainder of the service.
5. Please be prepared to give a short testimony.
6. You are cautioned not to touch the microphone while you are standing in the water.
7. If you have further questions, please contact the church office.

APPLICATION FOR WATER BAPTISM

I have accepted Jesus Christ as my own personal Saviour and believe that I have been born again by the power of God. I now wish to be obedient to the command of the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19 to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

DATE OF SALVATION: _____

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

DATE OF BAPTISM: _____ (Office)
