



Congratulations!

Congratulations on your desire to be baptized! We are so excited about the amazing things that God is doing in your life, and we stand with you in your decision to be baptized and to follow Jesus.

This Baptism Packet that you are reading will step you through the process we follow here at Gateway for baptisms. It's easy to follow, and we are confident that as you go through this, you will gain a good understanding of why baptism is important and will be completely ready for the day of your baptism.

Here are the Simple Steps you'll need to take in this process. Use this page as a check-off list:

- ☐ 1. Read through the enclosed "About Water Baptism" Guide.
- ☐ 2. Complete the Water Baptism Application included with this packet, and turn it in to the Church Office or to a pastor at the Church.
- ☐ 3. Meet with a Pastor (*You will be contacted by the church, once your application is received!*)
- ☐ 4. Capture your testimony on video ahead of time (if desired).
- ☐ 5. Get your baptism date scheduled and on the calendar.
- ☐ 6. Invite your family & friends!
- ☐ 7. Be baptized!

As you have questions along the way, don't hesitate to contact the Church Office! God is with you as you walk this journey, and so are we.

Your Friends at Gateway

About Water Baptism

Introduction

What is water baptism, and why is it important? This short study guide will help you gain a Biblical understanding of water baptism. Read through all of this information, and jot down any notes or questions you have along the way. We will talk more about it when we meet together.

Should Everyone Be Baptized?

Everyone who has chosen to follow Jesus should be baptized! Baptism is an expression of a person's new life in Christ. If you've made a commitment to put your faith in Jesus Christ and to follow him, then you should be baptized. It's Biblical.

Sometimes, a person has been a believer in Jesus for a long time and for whatever reason, they were simply never baptized. Maybe that's you, and maybe you're asking the question of whether or not water baptism is even relevant for you.

Well, we believe it absolutely is! Baptism is a huge step of obedience to Jesus, as well as a proclamation to the world that you are living a new life with Jesus. So don't hesitate. Your baptism matters, and you will be blessed by choosing to obey God in this way.

Essential Understanding About Who Jesus Is

Before being baptized, it's important to have a complete understanding of the person of Jesus Christ. By this point, you have made a commitment to follow Jesus and the following truths are essential to your understanding of who he is.

1. Jesus is God

- The Scriptures tell us that Jesus existed with God the Father for all eternity. He is "God the Son".
- Key Scripture(s):
 - i. John 1:1–4 (NIV) ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
 - ii. Colossians 2:9–10 (NIV) ⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

2. Jesus became a Man and Came to Earth

- a. Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus was born into the world, he grew up living a sinless life, and he was killed on a cross. Jesus was a real person with flesh and blood.
- b. Key Scripture(s):

- i. John 1:14 (NIV) ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- ii. Philippians 2:5–7 (NIV) ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

3. Jesus was Perfectly Obedient to God the Father

- a. Jesus lived and faced temptation as you and I do, yet he never sinned. Jesus is the only person who has lived a perfectly obedient, sinless life.
- b. Hebrews 4:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

4. Jesus Died as a Substitute for Me

- a. The Bible is clear that there must be a sacrifice for sin. Sin is costly! Jesus willingly paid the price of the sacrifice for sin, so that we do not have to.
- b. 1 Peter 3:18 (NIV) ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

5. Jesus Rose from the Grave and Lives Today!

- a. Jesus died and was laid in a tomb, yet he did not stay there. On the third day, he rose from life by the power of God, and now he lives.
- b. Romans 10:9 (NIV) ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

6. There is only One Way to Heaven – through Jesus

- a. John 14:6 (NIV) ⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- b. Acts 4:12 (NIV) ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

About Water Baptism

What Baptism is and What it Does for Us

Jesus instructed us to be baptized. You may find it interesting that even Jesus himself was baptized! He was baptized by John the Baptist. When he came to John to be baptized, John said to him, “You should be baptizing me!” But Jesus chose to be baptized, as he was demonstrating to us the perfect example of obedience.

When we are baptized, it is strongly symbolic of what Jesus has done for us spiritually. The baptism process of being dipped under the water, represents the old life being buried in the water, and us rising again out of the water, represents newness of life, our sin and “old self” being washed away.

That is exactly what happened when you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. You chose to lay down your old ways of life, and because of the cleansing work of Jesus Christ, you entered into new life with a clean slate. Your sins are forgiven and you are now washed clean, as white as snow. That is the work of Jesus!

Since Jesus instructed us to be baptized, and since we see the pattern of the early Church being baptized, it is an important step for each of us to take. Being baptized doesn’t earn your salvation for you. You are saved by faith in Jesus Christ. Yet baptism demonstrates submission to God and is a time for celebration!

Why Be Baptized?

1. We are Following the Example of Jesus Christ
 - a. **Mark 1:9–10** (NIV) ⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.
2. Jesus Instructed us to be Baptized
 - a. **Matthew 28:19–20** (NIV) ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
3. It’s a Public Declaration of your Faith in Jesus
 - a. **Acts 18:8** (NIV) ⁸ Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

About Water Baptism

I've Been Baptized Before. Should I be Baptized Again?

Sometimes a person has been baptized when they were younger, yet they later went through a period of struggle in their life where they weren't walking with Jesus. On returning to Jesus, they want to be baptized again a second time.

This may be the case with you, today. If it is, then you are welcome to be baptized again, as an outward expression of your renewed commitment to following Jesus. In addition, we want to get you connected with others for deeper discipleship and continued growth in Jesus. God is so full of grace, and He rejoices in your renewed commitment to following Him!

I was sprinkled as an Infant. Does that Count?

If you were sprinkled as an infant, that is great. Here at Gateway we don't sprinkle infants, but we do dedicate children to the Lord. It's a bit different, but in both cases we consider the action to be an expression of the parent(s) desire to see their children follow the Lord.

Child dedication is a great move, and we fully embrace it. However, baptism is something different, and whether or not you were sprinkled, infant baptized or dedicated as a child, it's important for you to personally make the choice to follow Jesus and to be baptized.

Baptism Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Home #: _____ Mobile #: _____

1. Write briefly, about how and when you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior:

2. How has your life changed since choosing to follow Jesus?

3. Why do you want to be baptized?
4. Is there anything in your life (to your knowledge) that you know is not aligned with God's will? If so, are you willing to repent and turn away from it?
5. I want to be baptized for the: ☐First Time ☐Rebaptism
6. Check all that apply:
 - ☐ I have read the "About Water Baptism" paperwork.
 - ☐ I have turned my life over to Jesus and repented of all known sin.
 - ☐ I would like to record a short video testimony to be shown on the day of my baptism. Please have a member of the Creative Team contact me.

Please turn your completed application in to the Church office or a member of the pastoral or office staff.

Baptism Day Instructions

Arrival Time

- ☐ Come to the service that day, and connect with your baptism pastor. At the designated time during the service, they will escort you back to the Prayer room, to change and get prepared for baptism. They will also pray with you.

What to Bring

- ☐ A change of clothes to get wet!
 - o T-shirt and Shorts
- ☐ Towel
- ☐ Bag to put your wet clothes in
- ☐ Blow Dryer if desired

Who to Invite

- ☐ Invite family and friends to the service at which you will be baptized. This is a time for celebration! All of the church during that service will be cheering you on, as well.

How the Baptism will Work

- When it is time for your Baptism during the worship service, the Pastor will invite you into the baptism tank.
- The Pastor will then invite any family or close friends to come up and stand on the stage, to be close for viewing, to stand with you, and for if they want to take pictures!
- The Pastor will make some opening remarks. If you have a video testimonial, then it will be shown at that time.
- The Pastor will ask you the following question:
 1. Why do you want to be baptized?
- You will then be baptized! It's a good idea to hold your nose while you go under!
- When you come up from the water, we consider it a celebration, so you can expect some cheering and some noise!