

Preparing Someone for Water Baptism

And 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...." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. Acts 2:38, 41

Preparing Someone for Water Baptism

1. Have them complete the Water Baptism form.
 - It can be found on the Grace Honolulu app or our website.
2. Go through chapter 4 of the *One 2 One* discipleship tool with them.
 - Confirm their faith in Jesus and their understanding of water baptism.
3. Prepare them to share their 1" testimony.
 - Include repentance and placing their faith in Jesus
4. Encourage them to invite family and friends.
5. At their baptism,
 - **The Grace Group leader and/or the person who led the person through *One 2 One* are authorized to baptize.**
 - The church will provide a T-shirt for them to wear during their baptism.
 - Ask them to wear dark clothing.
 - Please ask women who are getting baptized to wear shorts or leggings (no bikinis, skirts, etc).
 - Have them bring an extra change of clothes and a towel.

What is Water Baptism?

Water Baptism is a public declaration of a personal commitment to follow Christ. In the Bible, baptism shows the old life (a life of sin) being put away and a new life (committed to following Christ) emerging.

Water baptism is not a means for salvation, but an act of faith and obedience after believing the gospel and turning to God. Neither the act of baptism nor the water of baptism cleanses us or saves us. We are saved by what Jesus did (death and resurrection) and not by what we do (baptism).

The origin of the word “baptism” comes from the Greek word, *baptizo*, which means to immerse or submerge. When we perform baptisms, we submerge in water because that is the way modeled in the Bible.

1. In water baptism, we **personally identify** with Christ’s death and resurrection. By obeying His command to be baptized, we identify with the power of the cross and the resurrection of Jesus to deliver us completely from the power and authority of sin. (Romans 6:1-6)
 - There is a death to the ways of our former lives as our “old” selves, and past lives of sin are nailed to the cross of Jesus. (verse 3, 6)
 - There is a “burial” of our old nature, with the water being symbolic of the grave. (verse 4)
 - There is a “resurrection” when we come up and leave the old behind, being raised up like Christ. (verses 4-5)
2. In water baptism, we **publicly profess** our faith in Jesus. (*Luke 12:8-9*)
3. In water baptism, we **are received** into the community of Christ’s followers, the church. We receive the family name of Jesus and become members of God’s kingdom with the tremendous power and authority that comes with it. (*Acts 2:41*)

Who Should Be Baptized?

If someone has received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, they are ready to be baptized. Baptism is an opportunity to show others that you have decided to follow Christ.

Because babies, infants, and young children have not developed intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually to understand salvation and water baptism sufficiently, we do not water baptize children until they are older. Instead, we assist parents in dedicating their young children to God (Baby Dedication).

Why do we need to be Water Baptized?

- **Jesus was water baptized.**

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. ¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:13-17

- **Jesus commanded His disciples to follow His example.**

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." Matthew 28:19-20

Because Jesus commanded us to be baptized, baptism is an **act of obedience**. While it is not necessary for salvation, it demonstrates our submission to God.