

## A Prayer of Commitment

Dear God, thank you for saving me. I want to follow Christ by being baptized. I commit my baptism to you as an outward sign of the inner change that you have made in my life. I want to be identified with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Amen.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Baptism Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Pastor removes and retains this portion of the form.*

I'd like to invite these persons to come to my baptismal service.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

Suggested options:

- Person being baptized can take this list and personally invite those listed and others to come to their Baptismal Celebration Service.
- The church can write a letter to the persons listed above and invite them to attend the Baptismal Celebration Service.

*\*Pastor or New Believer retains this portion of the form.*



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# What next?

**BELIEVER'S BAPTISM**

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Now that you have become a Christian, you will want to continue the journey of faith and obedience to Christ in order to grow and mature. In any new journey there are important steps. One step we encourage you to take soon after accepting Christ as Savior is baptism. Christ set the example when he was baptized by John. Baptism is an act of obedience to Christ, and it illustrates to others that you have chosen to follow His steps. *(Matthew 3:16-17, Luke 3:21-22, Matthew 28:19, and Acts 2:41)*

### **Baptism identifies you with Christ.**

Wearing a sports uniform tells everyone whose team you are supporting. A wedding ring shows everyone you are committed to your spouse and marriage. Baptism symbolizes to everyone that you are committed to Christ. *(Romans 6:3)*

### **Baptism illustrates Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.**

When a believer is immersed below the surface into the water, it portrays to observers that Christ died and was buried. As the person is raised up out of the water, it symbolizes the resurrection of Christ. *(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)*

### **Baptism is a picture of a new life in Christ.**

Baptism pictures the death of your old sinful life and of being raised to walk in newness of life in Christ. *(Romans 6:4-5)*

### **Is baptism necessary?**

The Greek word "baptizo" is where we obtain our English word "baptism." The Greek definition is "to immerse, to dip, or to submerge." Only a submerged body can represent death and burial. The body being raised up out of the water provides a picture of resurrection and new life. *(Acts 8:38-39)*

### **How will you be baptized?**

Each church has slightly different environments for baptism. Many have a baptismal that is visible from the seats. Others use portable pools or troughs. Some even baptize in the ocean, a river, or a neighbor's pool. Any water deep enough for baptism is sufficient. Regardless of the situation, you will be asked to walk or climb into the water.

The pastor or someone chosen to baptize you will be waiting in or alongside the water. He will announce to those present your commitment and desire to follow Christ in baptism. You might even be asked to share how you came to accept Jesus as your Savior. You'll discuss this in advance of your baptism.

Next, he will immerse you into the water and then bring you up out of the water. In Matthew 3:16, it tells us of Christ's baptism, "After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water." *(NASB)*

## *Biblical Reasons to be Baptized*

### **Jesus commanded us.**

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..." *(Matthew 28:19 NKJV)*

### **To confess Jesus publicly.**

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven." *(Matthew 10:32 NKJV)*

### **To join the fellowship of the church.**

"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them." *(Acts 2:41 NKJV)*

### **To follow Christ's example.**

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lightning upon him." *(Matthew 3:16 NKJV)*

### **What if I:**

- Am already a church member?
- Was baptized as a child?
- Was baptized in a church that didn't immerse?

### **Will I:**

- Have to be baptized again?
- Have to be baptized right away?

Remember that Biblical baptism always follows salvation and does not occur before. Also, baptism should follow your commitment to Christ as soon as possible. You need to be baptized in proper scriptural order.

### **Let me ask you a few questions:**

Does what we have discussed about baptism make sense to you?

Is there any good reason why you would not want to follow Jesus in baptism?

Would you be willing to set a specific time to be baptized? If so, let's agree on a date.