

# A Step-by-Step Guide to Preparing for Water Baptism

## Introduction:

Christian water baptism is a significant and deeply symbolic act of faith and obedience, representing a believer's commitment to follow Jesus Christ. It's a beautiful and sacred experience that signifies spiritual rebirth and cleansing from sin. This guide will help you understand the process and how to prepare for this important step in your spiritual journey.

## **\*\*Step 1: Understand the Significance of Baptism\*\***

Baptism is a public declaration of your faith in Jesus Christ, symbolizing your identification with His death, burial, and resurrection. It is a celebration that signifies your decision to leave your old life behind and embrace a new life in Christ!

Matthew 28 says,

*18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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."*

## **\*\*Step 2: Reflect and Prepare Spiritually\*\***

1. Repentance: Take time to reflect on your life and repent for your sins. Confess your sins to God and ask for forgiveness through prayer.
2. Accept Jesus as your Saviour: Ensure that you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and have accepted Him as your Lord and Savior.
3. Read the Bible: Study the Scriptures to gain a deeper understanding of the teachings of Jesus and the importance of baptism. Focus on passages like Matthew 3:13-17, Colossians 2:12, 1 Peter 3:21 and Acts 2:38. If you need a Bible, we would be honored to gift one to you.

## **\*\*Step 3: Select Your Baptismal Date\*\***

Work with your church to choose a date for your baptism ceremony. This should be a day that holds personal significance and allows ample time for preparation.

#### **\*\*Step 4: Practical Preparation\*\***

1. Clothing: Wear modest, dark colored attire for the baptism. You may be provided with a t-shirt from the church. If you have the time, have a shower before arriving and then bring the following:

- The clothing you will be baptised in
- Towel
- Change of clothes

2. Invite loved ones: Encourage friends and family to attend your baptism ceremony. It's a joyful celebration to share with your loved ones!

3. **\*\*Testimony\*\*** (optional): Let us know if you'd like to prepare to share your story on how you've come to make Christ Lord of your life. This would be no more than a 2-3 minute time of sharing and we ask that you prepare a written form if possible. You can share 1) What your life was like before Christ, 2) How you came to Christ, and 3) What your life is like now with Christ. We'd be glad to sit with you to help you with this.

#### **\*\*Step 5: Understand the Baptismal Service\*\***

Familiarize yourself with what will happen during the baptismal ceremony:

1. **\*\*Order of Service\*\***: Please arrive 1 hour before the service begins. (Service Time: 10am, Arrival Time 9am). We will walk through the order of events of the service and will highlight when we will call you up to get into the baptism tank.

2. **\*\*Immersion\*\***: We will attempt to have the water a comfortable temperature. We will help you carefully enter the tank. Depending on the type of tank used, we will explain how to sit/stand and how we will help you fully submerge in the water.

3. **\*\*Share Your Story\*\***: If you've opted to share your story, we will have a microphone ready for you, held by one of the pastors.

3. **\*\*Prayer\*\***: There will likely be prayers offered before and after your baptism.

#### **\*\*Step 6: Embrace the Moment\*\***

Congratulations! You've taken your first step in the pathway to following Jesus. Continue to take steps towards being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing what Jesus did in our church, community, and world. Discover your next step in the pathway by visiting our website or speaking to a pastor and may God bless you richly!

Enjoy the day and celebrate! Trust God's grace that will help you here on out. After the service, you will receive a baptism certificate to remember the day of your celebration.