

# Baptism: Explanation, What to Expect, Checklist

## What is Baptism?

After a person has believed in Jesus Christ as the One who died to pay the penalty for sin and that He resurrected to guarantee our eternal life (Romans 10:9-10), it is natural for that individual to publicly declare their faith in Jesus Christ. Although there are many ways a person can demonstrate their faith in Jesus Christ, God ordained baptism as the means by which a new believer publicly shows his faith. New believers have been expressing their faith in Jesus Christ through baptism for nearly 2,000 years; in fact, the Apostle Peter preached a sermon to thousands of people in the first century and called on them to repent and believe in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:14-40). Those who believed were immediately baptized as an expression of their faith in Jesus (Acts 2:41)

The word, *baptize*, literally means to dip or immerse (in water), so we believe the Bible teaches that a person best demonstrates their faith by being dipped or fully immersed in the water. Being fully immersed in the water is also symbolic of a person's faith in the death (person standing in the water), burial (person going under the water), and resurrection (person being raised out of the water) of Jesus Christ. So, when an individual is baptized in water, they are identifying themselves with Jesus Christ and publicly declaring their faith in Him.

According to the Bible, the only requirement before being baptized is faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin. Once an individual makes a faith decision, they can be baptized. What if a person was baptized or sprinkled as a baby or young child? Since most babies and young children are not capable of understanding their decision to be baptized, we believe it is important for them to wait until they have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin and then publicly express their faith through baptism. There is nothing wrong with a parent dedicating a young child to the Lord; however, baptism is a personal decision best made when there is a clear understanding of the action.

Baptism is the very first step in our obedience to Jesus Christ. If you have put your faith in Jesus Christ, choose to identify with Him by publicly demonstrating your faith through being baptized.

## How is Baptism Done?

We usually baptize once or twice a year at The Summit Church. Typically, there are several other people being baptized on the same day so there is usually no fear in being the only one. One of the Pastors will conduct the baptism, along with any friends or family who would like to participate. One of the pastors will walk you through the details prior to the baptism. This will help each individual feel comfortable with the decision they are making before they step into the water.

Here is a brief schedule of what will happen on the day of your baptism:

30 Minutes Before Service	Meet with a Pastor (he will instruct you on what to expect)
15 Minutes Before Service	Change into the clothes you'll be wearing for baptism
5 Minutes Before Service	Meet in the back hallway near the stage left
10 Minutes After Service Starts	Baptism Takes Place
20 Minutes After Service Starts	Baptism Concludes (return to bathroom/change into dry clothes)
30 Minutes After Service Starts	Join us in the auditorium after changing

## What Should a Person Bring the Day of Baptism?

### Baptism Checklist:

- ☐ Clothes to Get Wet (girls should wear shorts and t-shirt or a bathing suit with a t-shirt over it, guys should wear swim trunks with a t-shirt)
- ☐ Towel (you will get wet, so bring a towel to dry off after baptism)
- ☐ Washcloth or handkerchief (the Pastor doing the baptism will use this to put over your mouth and nose when you are going under to prevent water from going up your nose)
- ☐ Change of clothes
- ☐ Friends and family members (invite as many as possible to be a part of this special day)

## What Will Happen During the Baptism?

- ☐ The Pastor will welcome the congregation and explain the significance of baptism
- ☐ The Pastor will pray
- ☐ The Pastor will baptize one person at a time (he will tell the congregation your name)
- ☐ The Pastor will say something similar to the following,  
*“Your Name, because you have professed faith in Jesus Christ and want to obey the Lord’s command, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Buried in the likeness of Jesus’ death [the Pastor will dunk you backwards into the water and then pull you right back up] and raised to walk in newness of life.”*
- ☐ After you come up out of the water, the congregation will usually celebrate this public display of faith by clapping
- ☐ You can then simply walk to the side and wait for everyone else to be baptized
- ☐ When everyone has been baptized, you can head toward the bathroom, get changed into dry clothes, and then join us in the worship service

## What Next Steps Should I Take After Baptism?

- ☐ One of the best ways to take next steps in your faith is to read your Bible and pray daily
- ☐ Stop by our resource area and pick up some material to help you take next steps in your faith

Questions? Email [info@thesummit.life](mailto:info@thesummit.life).