

# Baptism Worksheet

## What is baptism?

Very simply, baptism is the immersion or dipping of a person in water upon the profession of their faith in the gospel. Our statement of faith says:

“Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of giving himself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. It is prerequisite to church fellowship, and to participation in the Lord’s Supper.”

Baptism is:

1. ***A necessary step for all disciples (Matt 28:18-20).***
2. ***A symbol of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection—and yours (Romans 6:1-11).***
3. ***Preceded by repentance and faith (Acts 2:38-41).***<sup>1</sup>
4. ***The front door of the church (Acts 2:38-47).***

After someone has professed faith and repentance, and their lives do not contradict that profession, they are right candidates for baptism. Upon their baptism, they enter into the life of the church; a life of devotion to biblical teaching, fellowship, communion, and prayer (Acts 2:42-47).

## Are you ready to be baptized?

Some have various hang-ups about baptism that are not warranted. But some want to be baptized for the wrong reason. Some Christians unnecessarily put off their baptism for too long, while many can look back at a baptism that did not occur upon saving faith and then need to be re-baptized. How do you know if you are ready to be baptized? These questions may help you sort it out further.

1. ***Have you begun to trust in Christ and turn from your sin?*** Have you seen yourself as an unworthy sinner before a holy God and trusted in Christ alone to save you, calling out to him? Have you begun to fight against sin in your life, though you know you are still imperfect? If you are not trusting in Christ or you are happy to live on in sin, then baptism is not for you. But if you have come to faith in Christ, even if just very recently, you are a candidate for baptism. You don’t have to reach a certain level of maturity to be baptized.

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<sup>1</sup>Faith is trust in Jesus Christ based on who he is and what he has done. Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change in behaviour. Real (though imperfect) change begins to take place when someone becomes a Christian. Thomas Watson wrote of 6 ingredients of repentance: (1) sight of sin, (2) sorrow for sin, (3) confession of sin, (4) shame for sin, (5) hatred for sin, and (6) turning from sin (Thomas Watson, *The Doctrine of Repentance* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth, reprint 2016), 18).



**2. What is the good news (gospel)?**

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**3. What has Jesus done for you?**

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**4. Do you know what following Christ might cost you?**

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5. Do you still want to follow him in baptism and lifelong commitment to him and his people?

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### Writing a Testimony

1. **Be brief.** About one page double-spaced is probably average, though there is nothing wrong with going even shorter. If you are reading it out loud at your baptism, then it should take about 3-5 minutes.
2. **Give a general timeline of when and how God saved you.** Some people know the exact date and time, while to some people it seemed more gradual. But give us an idea of when and how you came to know Christ—how you came to repentance and faith. You don't need to get into graphic detail—share as much as you feel is necessary.
3. **Give some idea of how your life has changed since knowing Christ.** Your life before and after. How you have been changing since you began walking with Christ.
4. **Make sure you include something about the gospel message.** This is the reason you are saved, and it is upon hearing this message that people are saved.
5. **Make your commitment to Christ known.** Make it clear that you are now following Christ, and that is why you are being baptized.