



# Believer's Baptism

Journey Ministries  
Baptism Handbook

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Dear fellow Christ-follower:

I am really excited about your decision to take part in Believer's Baptism. This is an incredible step in your faith journey.

Please take the time to read through this booklet that we have prepared. It will give you a good understanding of Believer's Baptism and its importance in your life. As you look through this booklet it is my hope that this will be a tool to help answer your questions about believer's baptism on your journey in following Jesus Christ.

I still remember my baptism to this day. It was an incredible moment for me personally! It is our hope that you will see the value of this moment and will look back to this day as a milestone in your spiritual journey.

You need to know that God loves you deeply and desires to see you thrive in your faith journey. This is one of those steps in that journey. It will be exciting to watch your life unfold as God opens up the doors ahead of you.

In His Love,

*Ron*

Ron Stier  
Lead Pastor

## THE BAPTISM PROCESS

The baptism process at Journey has been designed to be both simple and meaningful. From the registration form to the baptism meeting, to Baptism itself, each step has been carefully planned with you in mind.

**Sign up for water baptism.** While you are at our InfoCentral, please sign up for the baptism class and plan to attend.

**Pick up a baptism booklet at our guest table.** You will need to read through and complete the Bible study and testimony portions in this booklet before the Believer's Baptism.

**Your Testimony.** You will need to write a short testimony of how you came to accept the Lord into your life; when it took place and how it happened. This will be good for you to see your story in print and it's a good tool to help you in preparation for your testimony.

**Invite your family and friends.** This is a great way for you to share your story and your experience with others in your life. Let them share the joy of this experience with you. No matter where they may be on their spiritual journey, your baptism will be a great story of commitment for them to see first hand. Perhaps seeing you make your commitment will encourage them to follow the Lord.

**Get baptized!** Baptisms take place during the Sunday morning service and include you sharing your testimony.

## Questions concerning the actual Baptism service

Plan to arrive early (9:40 am), and let Pastor Ron know that you are there.

You will be sharing your testimony with others in front of the congregation. This will happen before you are baptized. Pastor Ron will be there to assist you. Your testimony should focus on "before Christ, and after Christ, with an emphasis on your personal conversion story, ie: How I came to Christ. "

Your testimony should be "short and sweet".  
1 to 2 sentences is perfect.

Wear modest, conservative clothing. Casual shorts and t-shirts are appropriate. Please be conscious to wear clothing that will not become "see-through" when wet.

Bring a nice, bath towel to use after your baptism.

Our portable baptism tank is a "sit down" variety. You will be sitting in water and then lay back to be completely immersed.

Bring a dry change of clothes. You will be able to change into dry clothes, immediately after you are baptized.

## SUMMARY

ALL born-again believers should be baptized in water.

Jesus Christ commanded us to be baptized.

Baptism is a witness to the world that we now belong to Christ.

It is a symbolic act.

It is identification with Christ, His death, burial and resurrection.

Believer's Baptism is by immersion.

## BELIEVER'S BAPTISM INFORMATION

By Ron Stier

I have prepared this booklet to help you understand Believer's Baptism. At this point you have most likely made the most important decision of your life - to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. I am so glad you are now part of a great family, God's family. And now it is so important to follow the Lord's command in Believer's Baptism.

Believer's Baptism is an outward testimony of an inward experience. You are publicly telling the world that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. Baptism is a way to show that you are "all in".

There are several common questions most people have concerning Believer's Baptism.

**First of all**, you may be asking, "Is it really important that I be baptized?" Yes, it is. Jesus commanded us in Matthew 28:19-20, Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Peter also made it clear in Acts 2:38 when he said, "Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Later, Peter also commands it in Acts 10:48, "*And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.*" So you see, Believer's Baptism should not be an option.

Believer's Baptism is just obeying what the Lord has commanded to do.

**Second**, maybe you're asking, "Does Believer's Baptism save me?" No, it does not. The scripture is very clear that your sins are washed away or forgiven by what Christ did on the cross for us, not by the tub of water that you are baptized in. Paul said in Romans 10:9-10: "...that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

**Third**, you might ask, "Do I have to be dipped or sprinkled?" Here at Journey we practice water baptism by immersion. The very word 'baptize' means to be 'fully wet', 'dunked' or 'immersed'. In Matthew 3:16 it says Jesus "came up out of the water". In Acts 8:38, talking about Philip and the Ethiopian, we read, "They went down, into the water."

**Fourth**, you might ask, "When should I be baptized in water?" It should always follow as soon as possible after your commitment to follow Jesus Christ. Peter said in Acts 2:38, "*Repent and be baptized.*" So, first, you need to repent and accept Jesus Christ and then follow that by being baptized in water.

**Fifth**, you say, "I was sprinkled as a child— isn't that good enough? That sprinkling or confirmation was before you made a personal commitment to Jesus. Typically, it's an expression made by your parents on your behalf. The scripture pattern of Believer's Baptism always follows our own personal repentance and decision to follow Christ. It is important that your baptism be a part of your decision to turn from your sins after turning your life over to Jesus Christ.

**And then finally**, I want you to see what Believer's Baptism indicates. As I already said, it communicates to the world that you are a Christ follower. In Acts 8:37, Philip said, "*If you believe with all of your heart, you may be baptized.*" It tells the world you are following Jesus Christ and it also indicates you have died to your sins. Listen to Paul in Romans 6:6-10, "Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also share his new life. We are sure of this because Christ rose from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. He died once to defeat sin, and now he lives for the glory of God." This tells us that Believer's Baptism symbolizes that you have died to your old self and to your sins.

At the same time, Believer's Baptism symbolizes that you have been raised with Christ to a new life. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!" When you are lowered into the waters and then raised again it is to say, "I have died to myself and now I am being raised with Christ to live a new life for Him."

**Believer's Baptism** indicates that you have made a choice to follow Jesus for the *rest* of your life.