

# Congratulations on your decision to follow Christ in water baptism!

Being water baptized is a natural next step of obedience in the life of a new follower of Jesus. It is an outward testimony of the internal change that has taken place in the believer's life. Through water baptism, we identify with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection not just in a moment, but as a way of living.

By participating in baptism you are publicly declaring the decision you have made to be a follower of Jesus.

Please be sure to read the informational material on water baptism below and then complete and submit a baptism application. You will receive a confirmation e-mail after we've received the application informing you of the next baptismal service.

## Baptism

Baptism is a celebration of what God has done in the life of a Christ follower. Matthew 28:19-20 teaches us that followers of Christ are to be baptized and that it is one of the first steps in this lifelong journey of discipleship.

### What is baptism?

Baptism is an outward testimony (being immersed in water), of what has occurred inwardly in a believer's life, namely dying to a sinful nature and being raised to new life and devotion to God through salvation.

- **Every believer should be baptized.** Jesus commanded it— he ordained it—in a way that would make it an ongoing practice of the church.

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. ~Matthew 28:19-20*

- **Baptism should be preceded by repentance.** Repentance simply means change. It means to change the way we think and turn from our sin and selfishness to serve the Lord. Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already are one! Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

*You were told that your foolish desires will destroy you and that you must give up your old way of life with all its bad habits. Let the Spirit change your way of thinking and make you into a new person. You were created to be like God, and so you must please him and be truly holy. ~ Ephesians 4:22-24*

- **Baptism is a public testimony.** We stand before witnesses confessing our identification with Jesus and a declaration of our intention and desire to live a life pleasing to him.

*People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ~Matthew 3:5-6*

- **Baptism represents a profound spiritual truth.** The action of being immersed in the water symbolizes your “old self” of unbelief and rebellion toward God dying and being buried with Christ. The action of coming out of the water pictures Christ’s resurrection and a “new self” rising out of the water that now lives for God by faith.

*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ~Romans 6:3-4*

- **Baptism is by immersion in water** - The word baptism in Greek means to dip or immerse. The act of baptism as burial and rising from the dead is most naturally understood to mean that you are buried under water and then come out of from the water to signify rising from the grave.

- **Jesus was baptized by being immersed in water.**

*As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. ~Matthew 3:16*

- **Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water.**

*...then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water... ~Acts 8:38-39*

- **It is the best way to picture a burial and resurrection.**

*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ~Romans 6:3-4*

- **Baptism is more than a one-time event - it’s a way of living.** In reality, the Christian life is a baptism life. Our Christian experience is all about a continual, daily dying to ourselves and rising with Christ. While baptism breaks the power of this old self, experience also tells us that the old self continues to live long after our baptism experience. So baptism initiates us into a lifelong process of putting off, or dying to this old self - the one apart from God that is self-seeking, self-serving and self-protecting and entering into and embracing the new life in Christ that is being birthed in us through the Spirit.

*In the same way, you must think of yourselves as dead to the power of sin. But Christ Jesus has given life to you, and you live for God.*

*~Romans 6:11*

*Give yourselves to God, as people who have been raised from death to life. ~Romans 6:13*

*Don't let sin keep ruling your lives. ~Romans 6:14*

*Now you are set free from sin and are slaves who please God.*

*~Romans 6:18*

### **When are we to be baptized?**

There is no reason to delay. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, they can and should be baptized.

*Those who believed...were baptized...that day!~Acts 2:41*

*Then Philip began with the Scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, Look here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now? Philip said, If you believe with all your heart, you may. The official answered, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ~Acts 8:36-39*

### **What are the requirements to be baptized at Faith?**

At Faith there are two requirements before a person is baptized:

- The person being baptized must have trusted in Jesus Christ as Savior.
- The person must understand what baptism signifies.

If you believe in Jesus, accept his gift of salvation and understand what it means to be water baptized, then there is no reason you should not participate in water baptism.

### **What about child baptism?**

We do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ. Parents have the responsibility to affirm a decision that is appropriate for a child's stage of faith development. When a child expresses a sincere desire to be baptized, serious consideration needs to be given to their desire.

### **What if I've been baptized by sprinkling as an infant?**

We recommend that you be baptized again if you have not been baptized by immersion since you became a believer. It doesn't devalue a prior experience, but simply reflects your desire to be baptized in the same way Jesus demonstrated and commanded us to follow.

### **How do I sign up for baptism at Faith?**

Complete the registration form found on our website. After you submit the completed form, you will be notified of the next baptismal date.

## **Common questions about being baptized:**

- **Will I have to say anything?**

Possibly. You may be asked to share a brief testimony (2-3 sentences) of your faith story. Of course, if you choose not to, you are not obligated to share.

- **May I invite family and friends to come and watch?**

Yes! They can even take pictures! This is such an important part of your faith journey, we encourage you to invite as many family/friends as you'd like.

- **What do I bring?**

A towel and a change of clothing, including undergarments. Other things, such as a hair dryer may be helpful, but are optional.

- **What should I wear?**

Please wear appropriate clothing that won't be harmed by getting wet. Keep in mind how the material will look on you when it is wet, so you can take the necessary steps to be modest at all times (no white t-shirts!).

- **When are the baptismal services scheduled?**

We hold baptismal services approximately every two months. Once we receive your application, you will be notified when the next service is scheduled. Please arrive 30 minutes prior to the baptism service for last minute instructions.

**If you have further questions**, please contact us at [info@faithtricity.com](mailto:info@faithtricity.com).