

# ABOUT WATER BAPTISM



CROSSROADS CHURCH  
"bringing a real God to real people"



# water baptism

If you have received this booklet, chances are that you are interested in getting water baptized or you want to know what Crossroads Church believes about it. Either way, our hope is that this small booklet will help answer some of the most common questions we are frequently asked.

After reading the material, if all your questions are answered and you are ready to take this important step in your spiritual journey, please go to our website at [www.crossroadsc.com](http://www.crossroadsc.com) and fill out the form under water baptism. One of our staff pastors will receive your information and connect with you so you can be prepared at our next water baptism.

We're so excited about what God is doing in your life. He has led you to consider this important step and we would be honored to be a part of this special experience.

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## our story

One Saturday morning in March of 1985, Natalie and I both began our spiritual journey at the age of 19 in our living room in Seguin, Texas. To say that our lives changed that day is an understatement. Our lives were truly transformed by God's amazing grace and mercy. A miracle took place that day and neither of us really understood what happened. We needed to change, and the change we needed came from "that book." For the next six

months, we were fully immersed in reading our Bible. We tried to discover what happened and who it was that knocked on the door of our hearts that morning. The Truth finally came just a few days later as God brought understanding to our minds and revelation to our hearts. We found what many of you have already experienced.

Jesus Christ loves us and He willingly gave Himself to suffer and die on a cross in order to pay the penalty for our sins. His death, His burial, and His resurrection was the Truth that transformed our lives and that same truth still sustains us today. He lives today so you and I can experience His life here on earth.

Not long after this, we realized we could no longer live our lives secluded from everyone else so we became a part of a local church. This too is God's plan for us all. It was in this local church one evening where we heard about water baptism and were presented with the opportunity to participate. Natalie and I both wanted everything God had for us and we went into this experience with our hearts fully open and embracing all that God had for us. When we both came up out of the waters of baptism, Natalie was filled with God's Spirit and I was overwhelmed with God's love. Again, something special happened that day - another miracle came to us.

Today, Natalie and I understand even more God's plan and purpose for water baptism. Our prayer is that this booklet will answer questions and guide you as you consider water baptism as the next step in your spiritual journey. Please take your time to read and study the scriptures regarding this wonderful experience that's available to every follower of Jesus.

# why baptism is important

Once you have made a decision to follow Christ, water baptism is the next step in your spiritual journey. Some of you have never been baptized and you may have questions about its significance.

For those of you who were baptized or christened as infants, we encourage you to get re-baptized. “Why”, you ask? That’s a great question. Let me give you a brief history.

Before Jesus’ ministry began, we read of John the Baptist who earned his name when he began baptizing individuals in the river Jordan. He preached a message of turning away from idols and turning to God. He also invited them to physically demonstrate their commitment by humbling themselves and getting baptized in water. This signified that they were turning away from their old lifestyle and accepting the message that he preached.

Jesus Himself came forward to endorse this and was also baptized by John! By this, Jesus made a public demonstration and declaration of His intent to follow God. As He was getting baptized, the Holy Spirit came upon Him and His Heavenly Father publicly endorsed Him by expressing that this act was pleasing to Him. It was after this moment that Jesus began His public ministry and began by teaching with authority and performing miracles.

Later, in His last moments with His disciples, Jesus encouraged them to continue this practice (Matthew 28:18-19). In doing so, He gave every believer an example to follow. The importance of submitting to water baptism continues to stand as a declaration of one’s individual faith in Jesus and their desire to follow Him. This experience still pleases our Heavenly Father today! Having accepted Christ, participation in Water Baptism will be one of the most defining moments of your walk with Jesus. It serves as a reminder of your commitment and a public declaration of your love, loyalty, and allegiance to Jesus Christ!

# what does the bible say?

There are several examples in the bible regarding water baptism. Consider these examples:

**Acts 2:38, 41** - this passage indicates that immediately after receiving the message of Jesus, they were baptized. Baptism did NOT change them. Baptism was an expression of their faith in Jesus.

**Acts 16:29-22-33** - After experiencing and hearing the message of Jesus, again a jailer and his whole family believed and immediately were baptized.

**Acts 8:35-38** *“Acts 8:35-38 “Then Philip began with that very passage of 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. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Notice that he didnt wait to go home and change clothes! He said, “I believe in Jesus and I want this next step!”*

If you have accepted the message of forgiveness in Jesus, and have surrendered your life to be a follower of Jesus, then let me ask you the same question: “What is standing in your way of being baptized?”

Let me explain this to you. Water Baptism DOES NOT secure your eternity. It is simply an outward demonstration of the work that Jesus did inside your heart. Those who participated in the Bible had these things in common:

1. They were baptized by immersion (they went INTO the water)
2. They accepted the message of turning away from their old lifestyle and making a commitment to be a follower of Jesus.
3. They were not ashamed and made it publicly before everyone.



# are you ready?

If you have read and understood the material in this booklet and are now ready for your water baptism experience, we are so excited and honored to be a part of it. Begin inviting your family and friends to support you as make this public declaration of your faith in Jesus.

By participating in water baptism, you are declaring the following:

- **I AM DECLARING** my allegiance to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I am disassociating from my old lifestyle, symbolically burying it by being immersed into the waters of baptism.
- **I AM BELIEVING** in the message and person of Jesus Christ and wish to identify myself as a follower of Christ. I desire to show others that my heart and my life is committed to Him. I do this by making this public demonstration through water baptism before my God, my family, and my friends.
- **I AM SUBMITTING** myself to God's Spirit, God's Word, and God's Body. As I am raised up from the waters of baptism, I identify with my new self. Old things are passed away and all things become new. I am asking Him to fill me with His Spirit, lead me by His Love, and guide me in His Truth.

If you're in agreement with the statements above and understand the significance of this act, **YOU ARE READY FOR WATER BAPTISM!**

Please read the following guidelines and get ready for the next water baptism experience at Crossroads Church! All calendar dates will be on the website at [www.crossroadsc.com](http://www.crossroadsc.com).

# water baptism guidelines

## Preparation

Before participating in water baptism, please read this booklet in order to make sure you understand the significance about your decision. If you have unanswered questions, call the church office at 830-379-7737 or email us at [info@crossroadsc.com](mailto:info@crossroadsc.com).

## Your Information

Go to [www.crossroadsc.com/baptism](http://www.crossroadsc.com/baptism) and fill out the baptism form. We will need this in order to prepare the best experience at the time of your baptism.

## Clothing Requirements

- all participants will wear the provided water baptism t-shirt over your undershirt or t-shirt
- dark color shorts or pants (modest length shorts please)

## Things You Need To Bring

- duffle bag or backpack with your own towel
- toiletries (i.e. comb or brush)
- complete change of clothing

## Photos or Video

Pictures and /or videotaping by family or friends is allowed and encouraged. The cameras in the main “living room” will be used to project on the large screens; therefore, **please note that we do not provide copies of videos or pictures for the water baptism ceremony.**

## NOTE:

Registration for water baptism will be held in the living room on Sunday morning during the service of your choice and is only for ages 12 years and older. Request for baptisms under 12 will be approved on an individual basis. Please contact us at 830-379-7737 for an appointment or email us at [info@crossroadsc.com](mailto:info@crossroadsc.com)



## other questions

**1. WHAT IS BAPTISM?** Baptism means to be immersed in water. It's the conscience act of identifying yourself with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**2. WHO SHOULD GET BAPTIZED?** Every follower of Jesus.

**3. WHAT IF I WAS BAPTIZED AS AN INFANT?** Unless you understood and were aware of your decision, we encourage you to get re-baptized. Infant and child baptism usually has more to do with the faith and commitment of the parent than that of the child.

**3. DO I GET BAPTIZED IMMEDIATELY AFTER I ACCEPT JESUS?** In the New Testament, many of them were immediately baptized after receiving the message of Jesus. We encourage all to declare your commitment publically.

**4. AM I STILL A CHRISTIAN IF I DON'T GET BAPTIZED?** Yes! We are saved through faith in Jesus, not baptism.

**5. CAN I GET RE-BAPTIZED?** Certainly! Doing so may be a very important step for you. Perhaps you have fallen away and you would like to re-declare your trust and submission to Him. Just remember, this does not save you. Obedience is better than sacrifice.

**6. WILL I EXPECT TO LIVE A SINLESS LIFE AFTER I GET BAPTIZED?** No, that's impossible. We all struggle and fail. The important thing to remember is to confess it, turn away from it, and get back up!

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Crossroads Church  
3455 US Hwy 90 W.  
Seguin, Tx. 78155  
830-379-77737  
[www.crossroadsc.com](http://www.crossroadsc.com)