

- Tight fitting clothes may become very clingy and hard to remove when wet.
- Check pockets, for phones, money or anything that you do not want wet, also be aware of watches or jewellery. Girls - too much make-up may just smudge all over your face which won't look good on photos.
- Bring with you a full change of clothes, some prefer to wear their better clothes after so they are not spoiled with the water.
- Also towels and hair brush etc.

Lastly and more importantly congratulations and enjoy your Baptism!

Here is some space to make some notes for your testimony

Life before you became a Christian:-

How You became a Christian:-

What has changed now:-

What happens?

One at a time you will step into the pool, where two others will be ready for you. There will be a reading/baptism promise read to you while you stand in the water. Usually people find it is easiest to cross their hands across their chest, so the team can hold you by the elbow and shoulder. Some people prefer to hold their nose. Then the pastor will say, '[Your name] upon the confession of your faith I now baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.' They will then lower you into the water until you are submerged and quickly bring you back up again.

WATER BAPTISM

at the Gatehouse Church

An Explanation About Baptism
& Some Helpful Notes For
Those Getting Baptised

Why by total immersion?

The Biblical examples always indicate total immersion in water, no mention of sprinkling of water. John the Baptist baptised people in the Jordan River (a large body of water). Jesus Himself was baptised by John in this river. Mark 1 verses 9-10 says 'At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Is Baptism necessary for salvation?

No! Salvation is complete when you repent of your past sins and put your complete trust in Jesus Christ and His death upon the cross. Salvation is by grace and not works.

Ephesians 2:8 'For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.'

Romans 6:23 'but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.'

What does Baptism mean?

It is an act of obedience, symbolising your willingness to be identified with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Being lowered down into the water we are showing our old self is dead to sin and buried by faith in Christ. Then as we are raised up from the water again it demonstrates resurrection, that we are a new creation by the Spirit of God, and made alive through the resurrection of Christ.

Romans 6:4 says, 'Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father even so we also should walk in newness of life.'

Is Baptism important?

Yes! Jesus instructed the disciples to 'go, make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit'. (Matthew 28:19).

There are many Biblical examples of water Baptism: John the Baptist baptized those who would repent (Mark 1:5). On the day of Pentecost, 3,000 new believers were baptized (Acts 2:41).

The Samaritans that believed were baptized. (Acts 8:12). Paul was baptized three days after he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. (Acts 9:18).

Cornelius and some other Gentiles were baptized. (Acts 10:47).

Lydia and her household were baptized (Acts 16:15).

The Philippian jailer and his household were baptized (Acts 16:33).

Many Corinthians were baptized (Acts 18:8).

The Ephesian disciples were baptized (Acts 19:5).

Baptism is a public declaration of salvation by faith!

Will it make a difference to my life?

Some people will say emphatically, 'yes it did!', but for every person it is an individual experience. It is an act of obedience to God, and obedience has its own reward, but you may not necessarily see or feel different at the time.

It is not unusual for people to have a tough time before baptism because the devil does not like Christians making this positive declaration of their faith. But God who sees your obedience will know what the next step of obedience He has in store for you. For some, the simple act of overcoming shyness or fear of water to make a public declaration, or inviting non-Christian friends or family has been a major obstacle that they have overcome.

Practical issues

Testimony:

Take time to prepare your testimony (confession of faith). Have a plan ahead of time what you think you want to say, although it is quite possible nerves or excitement changes what you say on the day.

- Note the time allotted and try not to overrun or linger on one point missing the rest.
- Your testimony should consist of; briefly - life before salvation, how you became a Christian, what has changed now.

Wear appropriate clothing;

Remember wet clothes often become transparent, many people prefer to have swimwear under their clothes.