

World Harvest Baptismal

We are so excited that you have chosen to be baptized at World Harvest Church. It is very important to us that each person who is baptized at World Harvest understand what we believe about the doctrine of water baptism.

We believe we should follow the Lords' example when He was baptized by John. In Matthew 3:15, Jesus told John that he should be baptized to fulfill all righteousness. Though we do not believe it is a condition of salvation, it is a crucial part of our testimony that we indeed are Disciples of Christ.

I Peter 3:21 in the Amplified Bible says, “*And baptism, does now also save you from inward questionings and fears, not by the removing of outward body filth, but by providing you with the answer of a good and clear conscience (inward cleanness and peace) before God because you are demonstrating what you believe to be yours through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*”

Basically, water baptism is a public display of what God has done on the inside of you and helps you to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you were washed clean on the inside from your past. Just as Jesus was buried and rose again, in water baptism, we lay down our old nature (going down in the water) and we take upon us the new nature of God (the coming out of the water). We are signifying the old way of living is dead and gone, and now we are living a new life, alive with Christ.

II Corinthians 5:10 says, “*if any man be in Christ, he is anew person: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*”

Please read the following statements and let us know if you do not understand or agree with them.

- I understand that when I am baptized, it is a public expression that I have accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.
- I understand that baptism is not a condition of salvation, but trusting in the sacrifice Jesus Christ made on the cross is the only way my sins are forgiven.
- I understand that the reason we baptize through immersion is that all of the Biblical examples of baptism were immersions. The word baptism itself comes from the Greek work ‘*Baptisma*’, which means to immerse completely.
- I believe that baptism is a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When I am baptized I show that I completely trust in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus for my salvation.
- I believe that baptism is a celebration of how I myself have passed from death to life

World Harvest Baptismal FAQs

What Do I Wear?

We recommend that you wear loose fitting clothes to be Baptized in. Loose fitting Shorts or swimsuits for the guys are suitable with a shirt.

We recommend the ladies wear either loose fitting long shorts or pants and a dark loose fitting shirt.

Shoes or sandals are not necessary

Bring a bag to keep your clothes and toiletries together. Also, it is recommended that you have a small trash bag to put your wet clothes in after the Baptismal.

What Time Do I Show Up?

We will have a meeting with all the people being Baptized 15 minutes before the service begins (10:45) in the Prayer Room to go over the procedures once again, answer any questions, and to review the purpose for Baptism. Please leave your bag of dry clothes and toiletries in the Prayer Room for safety.

What is the Process?

Once the pre-service meeting is over, we request that you stay either in the hallway or the back of the sanctuary with your towel in hand. (You may want to bring a second towel and have in your bag with your dry clothes for when you change out of your wet clothes.) When the time comes for the Baptismal to begin, the Pastor will call for all those being Baptized. An Usher will direct you to where to line up at.

The Baptismal will take place one person at a time. When it is your turn, hand your towel to the Usher. Before you step into the tank, the Pastor will ask you to introduce yourself to the congregation. After that, he will ask you, “*Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?*” He will then wait for your response. Then he will usually ask, “*Do you choose to live your life for Jesus for the rest of your days?*” After your response, you will then be directed into the Baptismal tank by an Usher or one of the Pastors.

Once in the tank, you will need to turn around and face the audience and sit down on the Cinder Block bricks in the bottom of the tank. You will be sitting in about stomach high water. You will then need to grab your nose with one hand and then grab your wrist with the other hand. The Pastor will usually say, “*I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son & the Holy Ghost*” and then the Pastors will lay you back down into the water until you are completely submerged. The Pastors will bring you back up out of the water to the sitting position. (Just relax and let the Pastors do the laying back and the lifting up.)

You will have a moment to gain your composure and then when you are ready, get up from the sitting position in the tank and exit the tank. An Usher will be there to assist you and to hand you your towel. You then can go to the bathrooms to change into your dry clothes or stand at the back and watch the others being baptized.

What about Pictures?

Your family is welcome to take pictures if they would like. A video camera will be showing the Baptismal on the screens on the stage wall also.