

This booklet has been developed with reference to:

***Baptism: A Believers first Obedience..... Larry Dyer***

***New Growth 2.....John Sweetman***



This material has been developed as a part of the training @ ashgrove.

Ashgrove Baptist Church  
7 Firhill st, Ashgrove 4060  
3366 2066

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Writing your testimony

Your testimony should really have these 3 components, what your life was like before, how you came to meet Jesus and what your life is like now. Below is a framework to help you get started.

### 1. Before

Thinking back to your life before becoming a Christian, what would you say was the general direction your life was heading? Where would you be now without Jesus?

What was happening in your life that brought you to a place of searching for God?

### 2. During

When did you hear the good news about Jesus?

What happened when you heard the good news about Jesus?

How did you come to believe Jesus is the resurrected Lord and trust in him for the forgiveness of your sins?

Was there a particular scripture/incident/event that impacted you in the decision to follow Jesus?

### 3. After

How has your life changed because of your commitment to follow Jesus?

What is different?

What does spiritual life now bring you?

Why are you being baptised today?

## Your Thoughts

Q: What do you think baptism is about?

---

---

---

Q: Why haven't you been baptized yet and why are you looking into it now?

---

---

---

## Some Background on Baptism

### 1. John the Baptist's Baptism.....Read Matt 3:1-7

Q: What was the purpose of John the Baptist's baptism? (3:2, 6,11)

---

---

---

Q: What was his method of baptizing? (3:11, 16)

---

---

The bible records that John baptized Jews as a sign of repentance of their sins. In baptizing the children of Abraham it was a testimony that they needed salvation just as much as gentiles did even though they were the chosen people of God. The Jews had practiced proselyte baptism of gentiles whenever a gentile wanted to become a part of the Jewish community so it was not a new practice to the Jews. John's baptism therefore was an outward physical immersion that expressed an inward spiritual repentance, in preparation for the Messiah's coming. John's baptism was only for the Jews and anticipated Christ's coming.

It is not the baptism that we practise today.

**2. Jesus' Baptism.....Read again Matt 3:1-7**

Q: Why do you think John didn't want to baptize Jesus? (3:14)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Q: Why then was Jesus baptized? (3:15)  
i.e think about where this event occurs within the context of Jesus life and ministry.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus was baptized not because he needed to be baptized but rather to show his obedience to the Father and to show that He was identifying himself with the plight of sinners.

**3. Jesus & His Disciples Baptizing.....Read John 3:22-30**

Q: In your own words summarize what is happening in these events.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Q: What do you notice about John the Baptist and how He sees himself?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Here we find both Jesus and John were baptizing. A Jew tries to provoke John to jealousy but John's response is "I must decrease so that he may increase." John knew His role was to point people to Jesus as their savior and as people left John and came to follow Jesus they were rebaptised in the name of Jesus to identify themselves as His followers. Jesus used the same rite of initiation that John had used. Once they had expressed faith in Jesus they were baptized by one of His disciples.

**Your Baptism and Your Testimony**

Q: Why do you think it's important to prepare your testimony?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your testimony is one of the ways that God uses you to share with others about the reality of the gospel. Your testimony is authoritative, powerful and relatable. It is authoritative because it is your own story that no-one else can argue with, it is powerful because it communicates the truths of the gospel (which is God's power for saving people) and it is relatable because it helps people see firsthand how the gospel effects our lives.

What do the following passages say about sharing your testimony?

Rev 12:11 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Peter 3:15 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Tim 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

**Paul's testimony as an example.....Read Acts 22:1-16**

Q: what are the core elements of Paul's testimonies?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**For your Reflection**

**In your own words write down what the significance of baptism is?**

---

---

---

---

**When and how should someone be baptized?**

---

---

---

---

**Do you have any other questions about baptism?**

---

---

---

---

**Read Acts 19:1-5**

This passage draws the difference between John’s baptism and Jesus baptism. Clearly these people had been baptized by the baptism of John but hadn’t as yet heard of Jesus, the Messiah. But when they heard and believed they were baptized into the name of Jesus.

John’s baptism was a preparatory baptism for Jews readying them for the Messiah – when they heard and believed in Jesus they were then re-baptized into the name of Jesus to identify that they were now followers of Jesus.

This is the baptism that we practice today.

**The Significance of Baptism**

Read Matt 28:19-20

As Paul Jewett puts it, we see in this central text that baptism “*is an initiatory washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit which the risen Lord commissioned His apostles to administer to all His followers as a mark of their discipleship.*”

It is rich in symbolism that conveys the spiritual realities of what has occurred when a believer puts their faith in Jesus as the Lord.

<b>From God to the believer it is a sign that:</b>	<b>From the believer to God it is a sign that:</b>
<p><b>1. God has totally and completely forgiven their sins.</b> <i>At they moment they put their faith in Jesus they received God’s forgiveness.</i></p> <p><i>Their sins have been dealt with in their entirety through the sacrifice of Jesus.</i></p> <p><i>Baptism’s act of washing depicts the cleansing of the forgiveness of sins.</i></p> <p>Acts 10:44-47; 1 Cor 6:11b</p>	<p><b>1. They have acknowledged their need of a savior and have repented of their sins.</b> <i>Symbolic washing and cleansing implies the presence of sin.</i></p> <p><i>Baptism is a profession of repentance, a change of mind about sin in which we are declaring that we have repented of sin and desire to turn from it.</i></p> <p>Acts 2:38; Acts 13:24</p>

From God to the believer it is a sign that:	From the believer to God it is a sign that:
<p><b>2. That they have been identified with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection.</b>  <i>The old has gone and the new life has come – eternal life/resurrection is assured.</i></p> <p><i>The act of being immersed – going into the water acts out how the believer has died to sin, being under the water pictures our burial with Christ, and coming out of the water depicts the resurrection life that is now the believers.</i></p> <p>Rom 6:3-4</p>	<p><b>2. That their faith is now in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and that His sacrifice on the cross was sufficient.</b>  <i>From the earliest days of the church baptism in the name of Jesus functioned as the rite of entry or initiation into the new sect of those who called upon the name of Jesus.</i></p> <p><i>To be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit is to be identified with the Trinity. It is a way of saying that you believe Jesus, the Son of God, is as divine as the Father and the Spirit.</i></p> <p>Acts 2:21, 41; 22:16; Rom 10:10-14; 1 Cor 1:2</p>
<p><b>3. That they have been united with Christ and have become a part of His chosen people.</b>  <i>Clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Because we are united with Christ our status is secure before God.</i></p> <p><i>The act of immersion symbolizes the immersion that has taken place in the believer being in Christ.</i></p> <p>1 Cor 12:13</p>	<p><b>3. That they are committing their lives to having Jesus as their Lord and Master.</b>  <i>Baptism was also a mechanism that was used to demonstrate that a disciple was now following a certain Master.</i></p>

Therefore ,

*“Baptism, then, is an outward symbol of an inward spiritual transformation. From God’s viewpoint it is an outward sign to those who believe that their sins have been washed away by the blood of Christ and they have been united with Him by His Spirit in His new resurrection life. It is a sign to one being baptized that he is a full partaker in all the benefits and blessing which Christ has secured for believers. On the believer’s part, baptism is a public repentance for his sin and confession of his faith in Jesus Christ as his savior. As well it is a sign of his discipleship; that he is giving himself up to Christ to walk in the transformed life commanded in the Gospel.” Paul Jewett*

## **The Practise of Baptism**

**Read Acts 8:34-39 & 10:44-48**

Here we have two instances of baptism, The Ethiopian and Cornelius.

**Q: What was the order of events that took place in their spiritual lives of these two?**

---



---



---



---

**Q: And where did baptism fit within these events?**

---



---



---

So what we see in the bible is that those who put their faith in Jesus were immediately baptized, as a symbol of the spiritual transformation that had taken place. It was practiced as immersion as an act of obedience as a testimony to the relationship that they had entered into with Jesus.