

MY



BAPTISM

A 7-DAY BAPTISM DEVOTIONAL

If you're reading this, it's because you're considering getting baptized. So first, we would like to start off by saying congratulations!

Baptism is the next important step to take after deciding to make Jesus the Lord of your life. In this 7-day devotional, we want to help you to understand what baptism is, why we do it, how we do it, and who should take this next step.

So let's dive right in!

# DAY 1

## WHAT IS BAPTISM?

A S Y M B O L & S A C R A M E N T

Being 'baptized' simply means being immersed in water, which we do as a symbolic act of our new relationship with God. As we are submerged in the water, we are being immersed into a relationship with our Heavenly Father through the work of His Son Jesus Christ (on the Cross), by the power and person of the Holy Spirit.

***We came to Him broken and sinful, but are then made new and full of hope and grace.***

Through baptism, we are being symbolically baptized into the death of Jesus and raised up just like Him from the tomb. When we enter the water, we enter as men and women who were broken, lost, and hurting. When we emerge from the water, it represents that we've been washed of our sins, freed from our chains, and made into a brand-new person full of the Holy Spirit.

***Baptism is a symbol of an incredible work  
that is going on inside of us – our  
spiritual rebirth!***

The church has continued to practice baptism as not only a symbolic act, but as one of its central sacraments. A sacrament is a means of grace - or a way in which God infuses His love into our lives. A sacrament is much more than simply a religious ritual or symbolic act; it is something that the Spirit of God actively participates in, and uses as a means to dispense grace into our life and the life of the Church.

***G.R.A.C.E***  
***God's Riches At Christ's Expense***

**READ**

*Romans 6:3-4*  
*Luke 3:1-18*  
*Matthew 3:1-6*  
*1 Peter 3:18-22*

# DAY 2

## WHAT IS BAPTISM?

### PUBLIC DECLARATION

Yesterday we learned that Baptism is a symbolic and sacramental act to celebrate our new relationship with God. But it also serves another purpose: it's a public declaration of what God's done and what you've decided to do. Baptism is not an act of humiliation, but it is an act of humility! It is one of the central ways we declare to the world our gratitude and need for the grace of Jesus Christ.

***It says to Him and the world, I am not ashamed of God, His Body (the Church), or the Cross!***

Deciding to follow Jesus in your heart is wonderful, but there's something powerful about declaring your commitment to Christ in the presence of family and friends. In fact, your public declaration can even help you as you learn to listen and obey God. For example, walking away from God and the things He has for you becomes even more difficult after you've made people aware of your decision.

***That's part of the reason it's so powerful - you allow others to be aware of the decision you've made, and now they are able to help keep you accountable.***

On top of all that, being baptized is a great opportunity to be a witness to others. Many people invite their family and friends to witness their baptism, even if they don't know Jesus. This demonstrates some of the authenticity of what you've decided, and of what God is doing in your life, which may even serve as encouragement for them towards the things of God!

***Imagine this - you get baptized, and your family/friends end up coming to Jesus as a result! How incredible would that be?***

## READ

*Matthew 3:13-17*

*Matthew 5:14-16*

*Matthew 10:32-33*

*Acts 2:38-41*

*Mark 16:15*

# DAY 3

## WHY GET BAPTIZED?

### S P I R I T U A L   M A R K E R

We hinted a little bit about this yesterday, but one reason to get baptized is because it can be a defining moment in your life and walk with Christ. In baptism, the water is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4 teaches us that it is with the Holy Spirit we have been “sealed for the day of redemption” or branded as His own. Baptism is a sacrament that brings incredible peace and assurance into the heart of the believer.

In fact, your baptism will always be an important spiritual marker in your life. This marker is important because following Jesus doesn't automatically make your life easier.

***If anything, it's the opposite.***

The enemy of your soul was quite content with your life before you met Jesus: hopeless, self-destructive, and/or chaotic.

Once your life begins to change and you start to walk in obedience to the Father, the enemy often kicks it into high gear. Satan will often use manipulation, doubt, fear and other tricks to distract you from God's plans. In those times, it will be important to go back to the spiritual marker of your baptism and remember:

***God's gotten you this far and He'll take you the rest of the way too.***

## READ

*Deuteronomy 6:10-12*

*Psalms 106:6-13*

*Psalms 105:5*

*Psalms 77:11-12*

*Ephesians 4:30*



# DAY 4

## WHY GET BAPTIZED?

O B E D I E N C E   &   G O D ' S   P L E A S U R E

In wrapping up our days talking about why we should be baptized, we thought it would be fitting to use the simplest reason: because Jesus told us to do it! In fact, this is the Great Commission, which is the mission statement of Monterey Church.

***We do it because Jesus said to, and He promises to never leave or forsake us in this mission.***

Believe it or not, you won't always know why God has led you to certain places in your life, and you won't always be comfortable. In fact, following God through the promptings of the Holy Spirit can often feel like a wild goose chase.

Maybe that's the case for you and baptism too? Maybe the idea of being dunked into water in front of other people sounds terrifying to you? However, following Jesus means learning to trust Him, even (or especially) in the areas where you're not sure where He's taking you.

***God uses each act of obedience to build our character so that we can receive and be good stewards of the blessings He has for us.***

When God asks you to do something, we can be confident that He always has a good reason and plan. Furthermore, your decision to be baptized greatly pleases the Father.

When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him and the Father bellowed from Heaven, "this is my Son, with whom I am well-pleased". When we are baptized, the Holy Spirit descends upon us as well, and the Father speaks over us, saying:

***"This one has now become my son/daughter, and I am pleased with them too!"***

So why should you get baptized? Because Jesus did and it pleases our Father!

**READ**

***Proverbs 3:5-6, John 14:23-24, Psalm 28:7, John 14:31, Matthew 28:19-20***

# DAY 5

## HOW SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

B A P T I S M   B Y   I M M E R S I O N

Often times people ask, "I was baptized as a baby. Should I be baptized again?" We thought it would be helpful to devote a day of this study to explain this a little.

The sacrament of baptism has been practiced through immersion of confessing believers and also through the baptism of infants and children. There is good theological standing for both methods, but we have decided to practice believer baptism by immersion. Our main reason for this is because we feel it is the best application of what the Bible calls for, and because we relish the opportunity to celebrate new faith in Christ.

***If we're honest, none of us even  
remember being one or two years old, let  
alone did we understand the weight of our  
sin and what it takes to follow Jesus.***

That's why we believe that baptism is by immersion for people who are of an age where they can understand the commitment they're making. So long story short, if you were baptized/ sprinkled as a baby, we believe that being baptized as an adult can be a really encouraging and powerful event.

**READ**

*Matthew 3:13-17*  
*Acts 8:26-40*

# DAY 6

## WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

ALL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

Anyone who has agreed to follow Jesus (as both Savior and Lord) should be baptized - that's the only requirement!

Time and time again we read in scripture that wherever the apostles go and preach, people are baptized. It says that they believed and were baptized. So if you're agonizing about whether you deserve to be baptized or whether this is your next step, simply ask yourself one question:

***Have I given my life to Jesus, and are you  
ready to follow Him for the rest of your  
life?***

If the answer is yes and you haven't been baptized, it IS your next step!

Reach out to a pastor this Sunday, or sign up for baptisms at [www.monterey.church](http://www.monterey.church) under the “**NEXT STEPS**” menu. Don’t wait another minute to take the next step!

# READ

*Acts 8:4-13*

*Acts 2:41*

*Matthew 3:13-17*

# DAY 7

## WHO SHOULD COME TO MY BAPTISM?

YOUR CHURCH, FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Baptism is also a celebration of becoming a member of the Body of Christ, which is the church of all believers. Many members of Monterey Church will be there to witness, celebrate and welcome you to your new extended family.

However, one of the greatest parts about your baptism is that you have a unique opportunity to invite family and friends into community with your church. It is not uncommon for friends and family to attend a baptism, even when they don't share the same beliefs.

Take advantage of the chance you have to invite your loved ones to witness your baptism, and spend the surrounding days and weeks praying that God begins to do a work in their heart.

Pray that as you step out in faith to invite them, that He would then do His part in softening their heart. We have seen guests who decided to follow Jesus after witnessing the beautiful sacrament of baptism.

***Don't be afraid to invite someone--step out in boldness and trust that God will do what only He can do!***

**READ**

*Romans 10:11-15*  
*Acts 1:8*



In preparation for your baptism, spend some time reflecting on your new life since deciding to follow Jesus. On the day of your baptism, you will be asked to briefly share your testimony. Below are a few questions to help you prepare:

## **MY LIFE BEFORE JESUS WAS...**

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## **I GAVE MY LIFE TO JESUS BECAUSE...**

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## **SINCE DECIDING TO FOLLOW JESUS, I...**

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A week or two before the baptism, there will be a meeting with your pastor to discuss your testimony, the details regarding the day of your baptism and pray together!

# THE BIG DAY



**ARRIVE 30 MINUTES  
EARLY**



**MEET WITH THE  
PASTOR**

# DRESS CODE



HIM



HER

**T-SHIRT WITH SHORTS  
OR SWIMMING TRUNKS**

**SWIM SUIT WORN  
UNDER DARK T-SHIRT  
AND SHORTS**

**BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES  
AND A TOWEL**





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