

CITYLIGHTS BAPTISM FAQs

What is baptism?

The word “baptism” literally means to “dip in water.” Baptism is a ceremony that is commanded by Jesus in which his followers make a public profession of their faith in Jesus. The baptism ceremony symbolizes that the believer is identifying with Jesus in His life, death and resurrection.

Who should be baptized?

All followers of Jesus should be baptized as a publicly declaration of their faith. At Citylights, we believe in “believers’ baptism,” meaning that we only baptize individuals that make a personal profession of faith. We will baptize any person, including children, if they personally profess faith in Jesus and have a personal desire for baptism.

Is baptism required for salvation?

No, absolutely not! We are saved by God’s grace only, and receive His gift of forgiveness through our faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism does not earn any favor from God. It is only a public declaration of our faith and desire to follow Jesus.

Does getting baptized earn favor or blessing from God?

No, we do not believe that act of getting baptized earns special favor or blessing from God. It is however a command of Jesus, so it does carry with it the usual rewards of simple obedience to God.

Is “sinlessness” or “spiritual maturity” required for baptism?

No. All believers in Jesus should be baptized. If you wait until you are “sinless,” you will never be baptized. Baptism is an act of simple obedience.

What can I expect at the baptism service?

A Baptism Service is a celebration of what God has done in your life. At Citylights, we hold our baptism outside in the patio in a portable baptismal pool. Towards the end of the worship service, we will gather in the patio. Each baptismal candidate will share a short testimony of their faith in Jesus. At that time, someone who was instrumental in your faith development will light a candle for you. Then you will proceed into the baptismal pool (the water will be cold!), the pastor will gently lower you into the water and quickly raise you up, then pray over you.

What should I wear, and what should I bring with me?

You should wear a Citylights T-shirt into the baptismal pool. If you don’t own one, we will give you one. Please bring with you a change of clothes and a towel.

What if I was baptized before, can I get re-baptized?

We do not “re-baptize” a person unless they were baptized before they had a personal and genuine faith.

Who should I invite?

Baptism is a celebration of what Jesus has done in your life. Invite your family and friends to share this occasion with you. You should especially invite those who are not yet believers to your baptism ceremony because it will be a powerful testimony to a person who does not yet believe in Jesus.

What should I say?

Many people do not want to get baptized because they are afraid of public speaking. Please do not let this stop you. We suggest you prepare a short written testimony that you can read in 3 minutes. We will give you a “Testimony Worksheet” to help you gather your thoughts.

What’s should I do next?

1. Commit to be baptized at the next baptism ceremony
2. Prepare your testimony to be read
3. Ask someone to be your “Candle Lighter” (a person who was instrumental to your faith development)
4. Invite your family and friends

BAPTISM TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

1) Describe your life before you received Christ.

- What was your life like? Faith background?
- What were your fears? What made you seek God?
- What questions did you have for God?

2) Describe how you became a Christian.

- What made you seek God?
- How did you learn about God?
- How did your faith become real in your life?

3) Describe your life now that you have received Christ.

- What has God done in your life?
- How did God meet your needs for forgiveness, peace, significance, love, etc.?
- What is your favorite verse that encourages you today?