

Baptism “Home-work”

This homework is an important part of the process of being baptized. It is part of a conscious commitment to invite Christ’s leadership and rule in your life, your relationships, your worldview and your behaviors.

Considering Baptism:

- Take some time to re-read and consider Scripture’s emphasis on baptism: Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:37-47, Galatians 3:26-29, Colossians 1:13, Titus 3:3-8, Romans 6:1-11, I Corinthians 10: 1-12, I Corinthians 12:12,13
- Take one of the above Scriptures and commit it to memory (or a portion of it)

These following are meant to guide you in a time of self-reflection. Take some time to pray through and journal out your responses in the following areas. Then go through each of these steps with your core-fa (as well as with another friend if you’d like)

Confession:

- Read Psalms 51, I John 1:5:2:2, James 5:16
- Write out what sins you are repenting of in your baptism—be specific as it pertains to your own spiritual journey.
- If in listening to God you become aware of people you have wronged, or of relationships that are not right as far as it concerns you then share that with your core-fa and make a plan to apologize, be truthful about an issue, to make restitution (to pay back if you owe someone or have cheated them)—to do whatever needs to be done in order to make the relationship right.
- It could also be that someone has wronged you and you have not forgiven that person, but have held on to bitterness.—share who that person is and verbalize your forgiveness to God and to them if possible and appropriate. If it is not possible to do this in person, write a letter or make a phone call. Make it your goal to do these things before your baptism.

Renunciation:

To renounce is to consciously, verbally reject and separate yourself from certain

repetitive sinful desires, addictions, strongholds of Satan in your life. These could include sexual addictions, gambling, pornography, eating disorders, lying, drunkenness, gossip, involvement in the occult to name a few.

•Read: I Peter 5:6-9, Matthew 4:1-11, John 10:10, Ephesians 6:10-18

•Take some time to listen to God and see if there are areas where Satan has gained a foothold in your life. Write out a brief history of your involvement in this area.

•Take time to share these strongholds with your core-fa/friend and then pray. Verbally name and renounce the areas of stronghold in your life and pray for God's power and presence in your life.

•Make a plan of accountability to begin walking in freedom.

Dedication:

Baptism is a time not only for the Lord to affirm his love for you, but for you to affirm your love and loyalty to the Lord—much like a bride and groom do in a wedding.

•Read Romans 12:1,2, I Peter 1:13-21, Joshua 24:14-22

•Write out your “baptismal vows” to the Lord. What are you pledging yourself to? What are the commitments you are making. Make it your personal statement of love and loyalty to Christ.

•Take time to read and pray through it with your core-fa/friend. Have them pray for you to live this out by God's grace.

Filling of the Spirit:

In the New Testament we find the giving, filling and empowerment of the Spirit associated with baptism. While we certainly wouldn't limit the Spirit's activity only to water baptism, it seems apparent that we should anticipate the work of the Spirit at our baptism.

•Read Matthew 3:13-17, Acts 2:37-39, Acts 8:9-17, Ephesians 5:17,18, I Corinthians 12:13

•After taking time to read and meditate on the promises of God's Spirit pray with your core-fa/friend for an openness to the Holy Spirit and pray for a filling and empowering work in your life.