

Calvary Tabernacle

78 North Franklin Street - Sanctuary

80 North Franklin Street - Office

Hempstead, NY 11550

Phone: (516) 292-3685 / Fax: (516) 292-2821 / Web site: www.cometocalvary.com

Pastor Goldson's email: bfgoldson@cometocalvary.com

Calvary Tabernacle's Baptism Information & Request Form

Baptisms normally take place during our Sunday worship services on a quarterly basis (or upon special request). A baptism informational class will be offered 3-4 weeks prior to the Sunday services when the baptisms will be scheduled. Attendance at this class is normally required in order to be baptized (any exceptions must be worked out with Pastor Goldson in advance). In this document you will find a form that must be filled out and turn into Pastor Goldson at the church office 2 Sundays before your scheduled baptism. Once the form is returned, 2 church leaders will contact you to schedule a time to briefly visit with you the Sunday before your baptism to go through your turned in form together.

Answers to Commonly Asked Questions About Baptism

1. Who Should be baptized?

*"Those who believed and accepted His message were **baptized**..."* Acts 2:41

*"Simon himself **believed** and was **baptized**..."* Acts 8:13

*"But **when they believed** Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women."* Acts 8:12

2. What if I want to baptize my baby or toddler?

At our church, we practice "child dedication" where the parents dedicate themselves and their baby/child to the Lord. For more information on having your baby/child dedicated at one of our Sunday services, please go to the following website link: <http://1freechurch.org/Forms/child-dedication.htm>

3. If I'm not sure I have become a Christian or I struggle with doubts, what should I do?

#1 Admit you are a sinner that needs a Savior.

*Romans 3:23 "For **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God."*

Rom 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

*1 John 1:8-9 "If we **claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves** and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

#2 Believe - - put your confidence and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Rom 10:9-10 For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by **believing** in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.*

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Note: Many Christians go through all their life wondering, "Have I really given my life to Christ? Am I really going to go to heaven?" They doubt their salvation over and over. You need to settle it today. If you call on the name of the Lord He says, "I will". God will not lie. It doesn't matter how you feel. Feelings come and go. Years ago I stood in front of my wife and said two words that changed my life forever: "I do". At the time I probably had a minimal understanding of the impact of those two words. But the rest of my life I'm working out the implications of those two words, "I do". Some days I don't feel "married" – but it doesn't change the reality that I am married! There are some days you won't feel saved. There are some days you won't feel like a Christian. Feelings come and go. When your feeling wane, go back to the word of God and your solid testimony of receiving Christ as your Lord and Savior.

#3 Accept God's free gift of salvation. You can't earn it.

Ephesians 2:8,9 "It is by grace you are saved through faith and it is not of yourselves. It is the gift of God. Not of works so no one could boast."

#4 Invite Jesus Christ to come into your life and be Savior and Lord of your life.

*John 1:12 "To all who **received** him, to those who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."*

What does it mean to be a Christian? You must believe and receive.

Rev 3:20 (Jesus said) "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God. If you've never settled this issue or if you've always had doubts, "Am I really a Christian? Do I know for sure I'm going to heaven?" You can know for sure today by doing what Christ has said to do, by praying this prayer and meaning it in your heart: ***"Dear Jesus, Thank you for making me and loving me even when I've ignored You and gone my own way. I realize I need You in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask You to forgive me. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow You from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept Your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow as a Christian. Amen."***

4. Why Should I Be Baptized?

1. To follow the example set by **JESUS**

"At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ **COMMANDS** it.

*"Jesus said, 'Go then, to all people everywhere and **make them my disciples**, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and **then teach them** to obey everything I have commanded you.'" Matt. 28:19-20*

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3. It demonstrates that I really am a **CHRISTIAN**

*"...many of the people who heard Him **believed** and were **baptized**." Acts 18:8*

*"We know that we have come to know Him, if we **obey** His commands." 1 John 2:3*

5. What is the meaning of baptism?

1. It illustrates Christ's **DEATH** and **RESURRECTION**

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried...and He rose again." 1 Cor. 15:3-4

*"For when you are **baptized**, you were **buried** with Christ, and in baptism you were also **raised** with Christ. Col. 2:12*

2. It illustrates my **NEW LIFE** as a Christian.

"When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!" 2 Cor. 5:17

*"**By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life!**" Rom. 6:4*

Baptism doesn't make you a believer — it shows that **you already believe**. Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring — it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, **through faith**...it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9*

6. Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

Because **JESUS** was baptized that way.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16

Every baptism in the **BIBLE** was by immersion.

"...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water..." Acts 8:38-39

THE WORD "BAPTIZE" MEANS TO "DIP INTO WATER".

The Greek word *baptizo* means "to immerse or dip under water".

IT BEST SYMBOLIZES A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!

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7. Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has **BELIEVED** in Christ.

*"Those who believed and accepted His message were **baptized**..."* Acts 2:41

*"Simon himself **believed** and was **baptized**..."* Acts 8:13

*"But **when they believed** Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women." Acts 8:12*

At Calvary Tabernacle, we wait until our children are old enough to **believe** and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Generally speaking, this will be 7 years of age or older. Any child between 7-12 will first be interviewed by a pastor and/or elder to see if he or she has accepted Christ and is ready for baptism.

8. When Should I Be Baptized?

As soon as you have believed (or as soon as you realize the importance of being baptized)! (NOTE: BE SURE TO CHECK WITH THE PASTOR ABOUT WHEN BAPTISMS WILL NEXT BE SCHEDULED AT THE CHURCH).

*"Those who believed...were baptized...**that day!**"* Acts 2:41

"Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, 'Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?' Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' The man answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him." Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect", you'll never feel "good enough"!

9. Do I Have To Be Baptized To Become A Member Of This Church?

Calvary Tabernacle do not require baptism for church membership, but we do actively encourage believer's baptism as an important act of obedience in someone's Christian life and spiritual development. Although baptism is not required for church membership, individuals desiring membership in Calvary Tabernacle are interviewed by church leaders and asked to articulate their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

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Answers to Other Commonly Asked Questions

1. What happens during the actual baptism?

- A. Meet in the room behind the sanctuary about 10 minutes before the service starts (you will be told in advance whether you will be baptized at the 9:00am or 12:00pm service). Change into the clothes and gown you will be baptized in. You can wear whatever you feel comfortable in. If you're a woman, maybe a swim suit with a t-shirt over the top of your suit. For men, just a pair of shorts and a t-shirt is fine. Make sure it is something you don't mind getting wet. Over the top of your clothing, you will be given a white gown to wear. (Note: On some occasions, the baptisms are planned for the middle or the end of the service - - when that happens, you will be notified ahead of time. You will then need to meet in the room behind the sanctuary about 10 minutes prior to the start of the baptisms in order to get ready).
- B. At the beginning of the time for baptisms, the pastor will briefly explain to the congregation the meaning of baptism. You will then be called to come into the baptism pool.
- C. The pastor will then ask for your personal testimony concerning how you came to faith in Christ. You have the choice of sharing your testimony verbally, personally reading it OR having it read out loud by the pastor OR a special person of your own choosing. A written version of your testimony needs to be turned in with your "request to be baptized form" 2 weeks prior to the baptism service.
- D. After your testimony, the pastor will then turn you to the left, put his arm behind your back and on your waist and will say, "(Your name), based on your profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and your desire to follow Him all the days of your life, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (If you want, you can hold your nose at this time). The pastor will then dunk you backwards (as you slightly bend your knees and lean backwards). The pastor will then help pull you back up. The congregation will normally applaud at this time. You can then walk out of the baptism pool and go back and change. You can use the bathroom in the lower level before you rejoin the congregation for the rest of the service.
- E. If you want, you can have people take photos or videos of your baptism.
- F. Following your baptism service, the church will give you a baptism certificate.

2. Can a family be baptized together? Yes. If each family member understands the full meaning of baptism and has become a Christian, we encourage families to be baptized at once.

3. What about younger children getting baptized? Younger children who wish to be baptized are asked to have a meeting with a pastoral staff member or elder for a pre-baptism conversation. Once the office or a pastor receives a written request form for a child to be baptized, they will set up a time to visit with the child.

4. Should I invite people to my baptism service? Baptism was always designed by God to be a public event. It is a time when a person says, "I'm a Christian and I want to obey the Lord and live my life for Him." For this reason, it is good to use invitations (the church provides) to invite as many family, friends, relatives, neighbors, classmates, coworkers, or others to witness your baptism. Many times, people who normally do not attend church, will be willing to come to someone's baptism if they are personally invited. A baptism service is a powerful way for people to see, hear and feel the reality of a living God in other people's lives.

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5. Does the church ever perform private baptisms? In the Bible there's no such thing as a Christian who hasn't been baptized. Let me mention a couple of special things. You may have a special circumstance which needs a private baptism. We would be happy to do that for you. Sometimes individuals who have been going through cancer treatments wear a wig or toupee and they're afraid that's going to fall off, or sometimes people are not physically able to walk into the baptismal pool because of physical problems - - if you need to arrange a private baptism, please talk with a pastor.

6. Is it ok to be baptized more than once? Because many people who were baptized as infants want to make a personal public profession of faith, they request to be baptized again. Sometimes people are baptized a second time because of special circumstances (for example: a Christian visits the Holy Land and decides they would like to be baptized in the Jordan River as a reaffirmation of their faith OR on occasion a Christian wife might want to be baptized with her husband who is making a first time profession of faith).

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Request Form to be baptized

Turn this form into the pastor or church office at least 2 Sundays prior to the scheduled baptism. You can give it to Pastor Goldson at church, OR drop it off, fax it, or mail it into the church offices at 80 North Franklin Street, Hempstead, NY 11550 (Phone: 516-292-3685 Fax: 516-292-3685).

Please call the church office and talk with Pastor Goldson (516) 292-3685 if you would like to know when the next baptism informational class and baptism service will be taking place.

I would like to be baptized during the worship service when baptism will be taking place

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Birth date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Email: _____

If possible, I would prefer to be baptized during the: () 9:00am Worship Service () 12:00pm Worship Service

Please print your full name (as you would like it to appear on your baptismal certificate):

1. If you are under 18, does your parent/s or guardian/s agree with you being baptized? ()Yes ()No

What are the name/s of your parent/s or guardian/s: _____

Note: Children 7-12 will be interviewed by a pastor and/or elder prior to be approved for baptism.

2. I prayed and received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior (state approximate time period, as best as you can articulate -- examples: "1995" or "fall of 1995" or "September 5, 1995"): _____

3. I have gone through (or am planning on attending) the next Baptismal informational class and recognize that being baptized is an outward sign of an inward reality that I am a follower of Jesus Christ. ()Yes ()No () I still am unclear what baptism means and I would like to talk with a church leader further.

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4. I am planning to invite family, relatives, friends, colleagues and/or others to this baptismal service and would like to request cards from the church that give the baptismal service time and a map to the church:

No Yes...number of cards/maps needed:_____

5. I would like to express my faith in Christ in the following way during my baptism:

Verbal testimony/comments about how I came to faith in Christ. My personal written testimony is attached* (if possible, please email a copy to: bfgoldson@cometocalvary.com).

Written testimony/comments about how I came to faith in Christ. My personal written testimony is attached* (if possible, please email a copy to: bfgoldson@cometocalvary.com). I would like my testimony read by: The pastor Church elder:_____ The following special person in my life:_____

6. I understand that this form must be turned into Pastor Goldson or the church office at least 2 Sundays prior to the baptism service. I also understand that I will be contacted by 2 church leaders to have a brief meeting to go over my form the Sunday prior to my baptism. Yes (If these things will not work out in your schedule, please call Pastor Goldson at the church office (516) 292-3685 and explain your circumstances so other arrangements can be worked out).

YOUR WRITTEN TESTIMONY WILL BE WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE PASTOR OR CHURCH LEADER AND MAY BE EDITED FOR CLARITY OR LENGTH.

As a helpful encouragement and reminder, a devoted and faithful Christian is normally one who:

- Has accepted Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.
- Has chosen to follow Christ by being baptized. **NOTE: By filling out this form and proceeding with your baptism, you will be taking a significant step forward in your Christian life.**
- Is a faithful participant in a local church.
- Seeks to develop their relationship with the Lord through daily Bible reading and prayer.
- Seeks to serve God and others with the gifts, time and abilities God has given them.
- Faithfully supports their local church from the finances God has entrusted to them.
- Actively prays for and looks for opportunities to share Christ with others.

MY TESTIMONY ABOUT COMING TO KNOW CHRIST AS MY PERSONAL SAVIOR IS:_____
