

**BAPTISM APPLICATION FORM**  
Oswego Alliance Church

Please initial each item as you are able:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I am trusting Jesus Christ alone for my salvation, desiring that He be Lord of every area of my life.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I have read the white sheet, "What does the Bible Teach about Water Baptism?" and have looked up and read all the Bible verses referred to on that page.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ I have read the grey sheet, "Preparation for Baptism".
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I have completed the yellow Baptismal Questionnaire.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ I am 18 years of age or older.

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ I have my parent's permission to be baptized.

Signature of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_ I want to be baptized as a public testimony:
  - Confessing that Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord
  - Renouncing the devil and all his works
  - Desiring to follow Christ in death to self and to walk with Him in the newness of the Spirit-filled life.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the Pastor:

\_\_\_\_\_ Your blue Baptism Application

\_\_\_\_\_ Your Yellow Baptism Questionnaire (including your testimony)

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## What does the Bible Teach about Water Baptism?

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There are five questions usually asked about water baptism. Let's see how the Bible answers these questions:

### ■ *Who should be baptized?*

1. Those who have repented from their sins, and have a personal faith in Christ (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:36-37).
2. Those who have committed their lives to be disciples of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20; Note the qualifications for becoming a disciple in Luke 14:26-27).
3. Examples from the bible. In every case those who had placed their faith in Jesus Christ were baptized. The day of Pentecost (Acts 2:37ff), the new Christians at Samaria (Acts 8:12), The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:35-38, The Apostle Paul (Acts 9:17-18), Cornelius and his company (Acts 11:17-18; Acts 10:47-48), the Corinthians (Acts 18:8), the Ephesians (Acts 19:1-5).
4. Household baptisms: Stephanas (1 Corinthians 1:16, 16:15), the Jailor (Acts 16:31-34), Crispus (Acts 18:8), Lydia (Acts 16:14-15). In each of these cases, all of the household members first placed their faith in Christ for salvation, then were baptized. Infants cannot do this. There is not one instance of infant baptism in the bible.

### ■ *How should we be baptized?*

1. By immersion in water.
  - a) "Baptism" from the Greek "Baptizo" means literally "to dip", to "plunge under", "to immerse".
  - b) Examples in the bible showing immersion under water can be found in...
    - John 3:22-23 (John the Baptist).
    - Mark 1:9-11 (Jesus).
    - Acts 8:38-39 (Ethiopian Eunuch).
  - c) Must be symbolic of Burial and Resurrection (Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12).
2. In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - a) "In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). This is symbolic of our identification with God.)
3. For circumcision of the heart.

In the Old Testament, circumcision was an outward symbol of identification with God's people. God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham and sealed it with the sign of circumcision. In the New Testament, the outward symbol becomes Water baptism (Colossians 2:11-12)

### ■ *Where should we be baptized?*

Wherever there's enough water (John 3:22-23).

### ■ *Why should we be baptized?*

1. Because the Lord commanded us to (Matthew 28:18-20).
2. Because it shows we have a clear conscience before God (1 Peter 3:20-21).
3. Because it is a testimony to the world of the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-4).
4. Because it is symbolic of burying the "old person" (Romans 6:4-7).
5. Because it is a testimony to Satan's defeat (Colossians 2:12, 15).
6. Because it is a public acknowledgement of repentance and faith in Christ (Matthew 10:32-33).
7. Because it is a testimony to the oneness of true believers in Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).
8. Because it shows our willingness to accept God's purpose for our lives (Luke 7:30).

### ■ *When should we be water baptized?*

1. "Now" (Acts 22:16).
2. Because Biblical examples: in each case there was no delay...
  - Acts 2:41
  - Acts 8:12
  - Acts 8:35-37
  - Acts 9:17-18
  - Acts 10:48
  - Acts 16:30-34
  - Acts 19:4-5
3. As soon as you have repented from your sin and received Christ as your Savior (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 8:36-37).

## PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM

### **A. Testimony**

Begin to ask the Lord now to guide you in what He would have you to say in your testimony. Some things that you should include in this are:

1. How and /or where you came to know Christ.
2. A Bible verse that has become meaningful to you.
3. What this step in your life means to you.
4. An area of your life that you desire to grow in as you commit your life to Him.

### **B. Clothing**

In regard to what to wear – you can come to church dressed in what you will have on in the baptismal tank.

Men – you should wear water washable pants, sports shirt, and bring a towel and a dry change of clothes.

Women – you can wear or bring a swimsuit over which we will supply a baptismal gown to put on. Also bring a change of clothes, towel, etc.

### **C. Arrival Time**

30 minutes prior to service.

### **D. Spiritual Preparations**

1. Take time to search God's Word on baptism. One suggestion might be to read and meditate on Romans 6.
  - a. Romans 6:1-11 (the meaning of baptism)
  - b. Romans 16:12-23 (how this should affect the way I live)
2. You may want to fast all or part of the day as an expression of devotion to the Lord and after the baptism service plan on a celebration meal with family.
3. That evening after all of the activity, spend some time being quiet before the Lord reflecting on all that He has done for you.

### **E. Invitations**

This is a great and important in your Christian life. A public declaration of your faith in God! Don't forget to invite those people who are important to you that you wish to share this event with.

### **F. Encouraging Words**

Choose someone special (parents or close friend) and ask them to be prepared to give you a verse of Scripture while you are in the tank just prior to being baptized.

## BAPTISM QUESTIONNAIRE

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

1. In your own words, briefly describe your understand of baptism.

2. Why do you want to be baptized?

3. On a separate piece of paper, please write out your own personal testimony. Follow the guidelines on the grey sheet, "Preparation for Baptism," and limit yourself to one page or less.

4. Who will be sharing some words of encouragement with you just prior to you being baptized?

(Note: Please give this person the pink "Encouraging Words" sheet.

5. How many Baptismal Service Invitations could you use? \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: feel free to ask for extra invitations and simply return any unused invitations to the church office later.)

6. If possible, I would like to be baptized by \_\_\_\_\_.

## **“ENCOURAGING WORDS”**

Thank you for your willingness to participate in our next Baptismal Service.

After the baptismal candidate shares his or her personal testimony, you will have 60 seconds (or less) to share a verse of Scripture and/or some words of encouragement with the candidate.

Here are some tips to help you with your presentation:

- Begin now to prayerfully think through what you want to say.
- Write down word-for-word what you want to say.

Note: We are not suggesting that you have to read your speech during the Baptismal Service, although many may choose to do this (which is great!) Rather, by writing out what you want to say and then perhaps condensing it into the “point form” you’ll at least have covered what you want to say and, if your mind suddenly goes blank, you’ll at least have something to say.

- Practice your presentation several times out loud, and use a stopwatch to time yourself. It is very important that you limit yourself to 1 minute or less. Going over the time allotted to you is unfair to the rest of the baptismal candidates and to the rest of the congregation. You will be surprised how quickly 60 seconds flies by when you are standing in front of an audience and speaking into a microphone.
- As soon as the baptismal candidate you are encouraging enters the baptismal tank, immediately make your way to the front of the sanctuary and sit on the front pew by the microphone which will be on a stand just in front of the stairs leading up to the platform. The baptismal candidate will share their testimony and then you will be asked to respond. Having you move to the front when the candidate enters the tank will help eliminate “dead time” in the service and make everything flow smoother.
- When it is your turn to speak, please face the baptismal tank and look at the baptismal candidate. Talk directly into the microphone (adjust the mic, if necessary). Please speak loudly and clearly – the sound technician will turn the mic down if necessary, but we can only turn the mic up so much without getting feedback.

Again, thank you for agreeing to be part of this celebration. May God bless you and give His wisdom as you prepare.