



B A P T I S M



SO YOU ARE WONDERING ABOUT BAPTISM?

South West Baptist Church comes alive when people get baptised! It's one of the most important things we do as a church and the cause for much celebration.

Put simply, we love seeing people going deeper in their relationship with Christ and making a commitment to belong to this community of faith at South West.

If you've made the decision to be a follower of Christ then baptism is the next step. Baptism is when you make a public declaration of your faith in God. It is a way to join the family of believers and often is a time when people have a significant encounter with God. At South West we believe it's an important part of the journey of transformation with God.

So if you are thinking about baptism we encourage you to talk it through with one of our pastoral staff or other leaders, or email baptism@swbc.org.nz

Come on, what are you waiting for?
Look forward to chatting with you,

The Team at South West Baptist Church

LOOKING AT SCRIPTURE

Why be baptised?

1. Because Jesus was

Matthew 3:13-17 (NLT)

Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptised by John. But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptised by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?". But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptise him. After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

Jesus was baptised as a sign of commitment to be obedient to his father. He didn't have to be—it was a choice he made.

2. Jesus said that we are to be baptised

Matthew 28:18-19

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Baptism is not a sign that we have arrived in the Christian life—simply a sign that we have begun. Jesus says we are to be baptised as part of our journey with God.

3. Baptism is a sign of new beginnings

Baptism is a sign (or sacrament) of our union with Christ in his death and resurrection.

Romans 6:1-4

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

The New Testament uses some vivid pictures about baptism which talk about leaving our old life behind and beginning a new life with Jesus.

Acts 22:16 "washed clean"

Gal 3:27 "putting off the old life and putting on Christ"

Col 2:12 "being buried and raised with Christ"

4. Baptism is a sign of our being baptised in the Holy Spirit

Acts 19:6

When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Baptism is linked to a new openness for God to work in our lives.

5. Baptism is a sign (sacrament) of our place (tūrangawaewae—our place of belonging) in the body of Christ. It means we are his church and his people

1 Cor 12:12-14

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Baptism links to membership of the body and church.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I know I'm ready to be baptised? Some people get baptised as a sign of faith, taking the next step. Some get baptised because they feel God asking them to.

To get baptised at South West , you need to meet with a leader in the life of the church (like a youth pastor, member of the pastoral staff, life group leader or community leader) to help you sort out whether this is a good time to take this next step. This person will help you prepare for baptism.

Who can baptise someone? When we baptise people we have two people in the pool with them. Both people will have a strong Christian faith.

One might be a family member, a close friend, someone from your community, life group, youth group or a significant person. The other person, who says the baptism prayer in the pool, would normally be a recognised pastoral leader in the life of the church, for example a pastor, youth leader, community leader, life group leader, ministry leader or similar. This person is baptising the person out of relationship with them and on behalf of the church.

Do I have to get baptised on Sunday? No, we can baptise you anywhere, anytime but our preference is to baptise people in the services because you are joining the family at South West and Sundays are our key gathering time as a whole church.

++ SOUTH WEST BAPTIST CHURCH