

Baptism - Guide for Personal Reflection

Baptism is a time for personal reflection and thanksgiving. To prepare you for sharing your testimony publicly, we would ask you to reflect on what God has done in your life and compare your thoughts with the teaching of the Bible. The following Scriptures can serve as a guide to you in this process. Please use the available space on this sheet for questions or notes that you might want to discuss during your appointment.

1. Do I believe the promises of God's Word?

John 3:16 — For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 5:24 — I assure you, those who listen to My message and believe in God who sent Me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

Romans 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.

1 John 1:8-10 — If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that His Word has no place in our hearts.

2. How can I know my faith is genuine?

1 John 2:3-6 — And how can we be sure that we belong to Him? By obeying His commandments. If someone says, "I belong to God", but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and does not live in the truth. But those who obey God's Word really do love Him. That is the way to know whether or not we live in Him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Christ did.

1 John 3:14-15 — If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to eternal life. But a person who has no love is still dead. Anyone who hates another Christian is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them.

1 John 4:7-8 — Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is born of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God—for God is love.

1 John 5:1-5 — Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves His children, too. We know we love God's children if we love God and obey His commandments. Loving God means keeping His commandments, and really, that isn't difficult. For every child of God defeats this evil world by trusting Christ to give the victory. And the ones who win this battle against the world are the ones who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

3. Am I experiencing the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in my life?

Romans 8:15-16 — So you should not be like cowering, fearful slaves. You should behave instead like God's very own children, adopted into His family—calling Him "Father, dear Father." For His Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children.

Galatians 5:19-23 — When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law.