

We never push someone to be baptised, that is to complete the salvation and worship event. They need to know who Jesus is, take their sin seriously and ask His forgiveness first. If you are unsure of either of these things, please grab our "How to Connect to God" booklet and ask us questions. But when you get to this point (belief in who Jesus is and you ask His forgiveness for specific sins) the sooner you obey God the better it is for you as this will begin the habit of just obeying God out of love for Him.

**NB The bible does not say :**

- ⇒ Baptism is just some external symbol of an internal change.
- ⇒ That baptism should take place in church or in front of witnesses.
- ⇒ That you need to prove yourself or do a course first.



The Lord Jesus Christ left only two ordinances (practices that must be continued) for all Christians to keep - **Communion and Water Baptism.**

This booklet is designed to answer the **Who? When? How? and Why?** of water baptism.

Please take the time to read this booklet and look up the scriptures.

If you wish to be baptized, as the scriptures say, please ask a mature Christian or a church leader to baptize you.

# Whangarei Central Baptist Church



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Baptism is part of the salvation event, along with believing in who Jesus is, turning from specific sin, and receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

There is no evidence in the Bible that following the beginning of the church in Acts 2, there was ever a believer who did not do all of these things 'immediately' after believing.

### Two things are necessary for a person to be baptised, what are they?

Acts 2:41

*"On that day about three thousand **believed** his message and were baptised".*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:38

*"Peter said, "**Turn back to God!** Be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven. Then you will be given the Holy Spirit."*

2. \_\_\_\_\_

This phrase means to turn from specific sin and ask God's forgiveness for it. No one should ever be baptised unless they have done these two things first!  
Nothing else is required biblically!

### 3. While there is no doubting the power of prayers prayed over babies, in light of the above, how old does a person need to be before they are baptised?

Acts 8:38

*"He ordered the chariot to stop. Then they both went down into the water, and Philip baptised him"*

Matthew 3:16

*"So Jesus was baptised. And as soon as he came out of the water, the sky opened, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down on Him like a dove"*

### 4. How then should a person be baptised?

There are scriptures that say faith saves, scriptures that say turn from your sin and be saved, scriptures that say when you have the Holy Spirit you have the assurance of salvation and scriptures that link baptism with salvation. For example:

Mark 16:16-18

*"Anyone who believes me and is baptised will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe me will be condemned. Everyone who believes me will be able to do wonderful things. By using my name they will force out demons, and they will speak new languages. They will handle snakes and drink poison and not be hurt. They will heal sick people by placing their hands on them."*

### 5. What is happening to a persons unconfessed sin when they are being baptised?

Ephesians 5:26

*"He made the church holy by the power of his word, and he made it pure by washing it with water"*

### 6. What happens to the power of sin over our lives when we are baptised?

Romans 6:5-7

*"If we shared in Jesus' death by being baptised, we will be raised to life with him. We know that the persons we used to be were nailed to the cross with Jesus. This was done, so that our sinful bodies would no longer be the slaves of sin. We know that sin doesn't have power over dead people. "*

### 7. It's when you get the team jersey.

Galatians 3:27

*"And when you were baptised, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on new clothes"*

### 8. Review the scriptures below and decide 'when' a person should be baptised.

Acts 8:36-37

*"As they were going along the road, they came to a place where there was some water. The official said, "Look! Here is some water. Why can't I be baptised?"*

Acts 16:31-33

*"They replied, "have faith in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved! This is also true for everyone who lives in your home."*

Then Paul and Silas told him and everyone else in his house about the Lord. While it was still night, the jailer took them to a place where he could wash their cuts and bruises. Then he and everyone in his home were baptised.

### 9. Read Mark 1:1-10 Jesus' baptism.

Jesus did not need any sin washed away. He was already on God's team!

Jesus was dedicated and prophesied over in the temple as a child, He experienced a Bar-mitzvah (more elaborate than a confirmation). What did the Father say over Him when He was baptised?