

ROCKCLIFFE

Pentecostal Church



For those considering water baptism

We are so glad that you are considering baptism! This information will give you an explanation of baptism as well as give you the steps you will need to take to be baptized at Rockcliffe's upcoming Baptism service. We are excited about all those who want to take this next step in following God through baptism. Please review the information pamphlet in the lobby "*Comprehending the Principle of Water Baptism*" and the information enclosed on this registration. If you have any questions, feel free to call one of our pastors. We would be happy to help you!

Am I Ready To Be Baptized?

The Ethiopian asked Philip, "*Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?*" Then Philip began with that very passage of scripture and told him the good news about Jesus and he accepted Christ as his Lord. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the Ethiopian said, "*Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?*" . . . Then they went into the water and Philip baptized him. **Acts 8:34-38**

"*Why shouldn't I be baptized?*" the brand-new Christian asked the disciple. Once a person admits that he or she is a sinner and turns to Christ for salvation, the Bible says that the watching world needs to know that that person has made that decision. Baptism has always stood as a kind of public test for people who have moved from being a fan into being a follower.

Followers are those who have realized that their sin has separated them from God. They have given up all efforts to reach God through good works or religious activity. They have concluded that Jesus Christ's death on the cross for their sins **is the only thing** that can bridge the gap between them and God. A believer is someone who has decided to trust Christ alone for his/her salvation.

If you have come to that point in your spiritual journey, then the answer is yes, you are ready to be baptized. Just as a bride and groom tell of their love for one another through the symbol of rings, you should also want to show the world, through baptism, of your union with Christ. Let the invisible miracle that has happened in you show through this act He has ordained for you.

Biblical Passages Concerning Baptism

At Rockcliffe the Bible is the source of our beliefs. In **Matthew 28:19-20** Jesus commands his followers to “. . . go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. . .” Baptism is the means by which followers of Christ are identified. In passages such as **Acts 2:41, 8:12, and 10:47-48**, it is evident that baptism follows an individual's decision to trust Christ alone for salvation. The New Testament records the baptisms of adult believers only. Baptism was never intended to provide salvation for an individual, but rather to publicly identify a person with Christ.

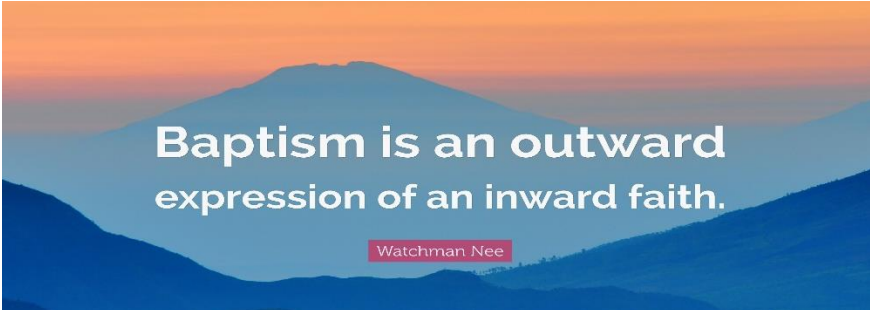
Here is what our church constitution says about baptism:

5.7.2.2.2 WATER BAPTISM

Water baptism signifies the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and is practised by immersion.

(**Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38, 41; 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5**)

Christian baptism by immersion (**Acts 8:36-39**) is symbolic of the beginning of the Christian life and is the holy and beautiful testimony of a believer affirming personal faith in the crucified, buried, resurrected, and ascended Savior Jesus Christ. This spiritual union with Christ in death to the old life in Adam and resurrection to a new life in Christ is illustrated by water baptism (**Romans 6:1-11; Gal. 2:20, Col. 2:11-12**). It is also a sign of identification with the body of Christ, the church (**Acts 2:41-42**).



Baptism is an outward
expression of an inward faith.

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Baptism Registration Form - Please Print



Name _____

Address _____

City/Prov./Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Parents' Names *(If under 18yrs)* _____

e-mail Address _____

Please briefly respond to the following questions:

1. When did you first start attending Rockcliffe? _____

2. Were you baptized as an infant? _____

3. What motivated you to desire to be baptized? **(circle one)**

Small Group Membership Process Pastoral Teaching Church Announcement
Friend Parent(s) Youth Ministries Other: _____

Testimony

As stated earlier, baptism is for believers – those who have clearly decided to trust Christ alone for their salvation. If this is true of you, please write a paragraph or two using the following guidelines:

1. Be sure to explain your story in such a way that if someone heard your story, he/she would know what to do to become a Christian.
2. What was your life like before you decided to trust Christ?
3. Describe how and when you decided to trust Christ alone for your salvation.
4. How has this decision made a difference in your salvation?

Thanks for taking the time to tell us your story. We are excited to read every word of it! If we need any further information, we will contact you within the next few days.

Pastor Phil Smith