

BAPTISM TESTIMONY HELPER & PREPARATION



IMPORTANT NOTE: The following information is for *incoming members* of Master's Bible Church who are preparing to be baptized because they have completed their membership interview and have confirmed the need to be baptized (or rebaptized) in conformity with God's word. Please consult the 'MEMBERSHIP' page under 'MINISTRIES' for any questions on the membership process or contact the elders or deacons at MBC; the page can be found at this link: <https://www.mastersbiblechurch.com/membership>.

Dear Saint,

I am so excited for you!

Please read everything below to help you prepare for baptism, and let the elders know if you have any questions.

Please plan to send a copy of your testimony, which you plan to read to:

- jhornbaker@mastersbiblechurch.com
- jbeer@mastersbiblechurch.com
- joey@mastersbiblechurch.com

The written testimony (that you plan to read on the day of baptism) needs to be sent for review *at least one week after you have had your membership interview, or four days prior to the day on which your baptism is scheduled.*

Here is the Personal Testimony Helper

Preparing Your Testimony

On a sheet of paper, write or type your testimony. Be sure to include...

- A clear description of what your life was like before Christ saved you (If possible, to the best of your ability - for some this may be obvious while for others this may just be a statement similar to, "I can never remember a time where Christ was not the center of our household, but I knew I was sinner because...")

- A clear description of the events surrounding your conversion (This may span over an extended period of time or be a specific moment, it depends on the individual)
- A clear presentation of the changes in your life since you have come to know Christ (What fruit have you shown? New desires? New affections? Increased love?)
- Your favorite, pertinent Bible verses!

Important Notes

Please limit your testimony to a single, 1.5-spaced page (front and back).

- Type size should be at least 12 point. Remember to include your name.
- Print on cardstock and cover/laminate so it is water-resistant
- Remember that Christ is the hero in all our testimonies!

EXAMPLE TESTIMONY:

“My name is John Doe. I was raised in a Christian home and confessed Christ at 6 years old. Although I never doubted Christ’s deity or ability to save, by my teen years, I was unwilling to give up my sin. There was no fruit from my confession because I refused to submit my life to Christ. I was angry, proud, covetous, arrogant, a liar, full of lust and totally depraved.

“For 15 years, I wrestled daily with whether the confession I made was genuine. I was trusting in the prayer I prayed, but I still refused to submit. In 2000, I began attending Grace and was convicted through the preaching of the Bible. In early 2001, while reading 1 John, the Lord opened my eyes to see that I was not saved and needed to submit to Christ as Lord. I repented of my sin and submitted my life to Christ as my Savior and my Lord. I was in the worst possible state, thinking I was saved, tasting of the gospel, but on my way to the worst of God’s wrath. And yet, in His kindness, in His perfect patience, He called me to repentance and faith in Him. I praise Him and give glory to Him alone.

“God has transformed me. I now have new desires, new affections, and new longings, to love Jesus Christ and obey His Word. I love fellowship with Christ’s church and am actively involved in a home Bible study, where I am benefitting from fellowship in the body and desire to serve others in whatever way I can. I also cultivate my walk with God through daily Scripture reading and prayer, and am excited for Sunday every week when I can hear God’s Word preached and taught.

“Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God. He is the servant of all, who died on the cross for all who would believe. He was resurrected and is alive and is the only Savior and Lord. Today I want to be baptized so that I might obey Jesus and publicly proclaim that He is Lord.”

Key Information for the Day of Baptism:

Baptisms will take place at the end of the service. You will be given a room to change in (ladies on the left side [baptismal room] facing the stage; men on the right side [baptismal room] facing the stage). Bring some clothes that can get wet. You are encouraged to bring your own towel, but we do have some in case you forget.

IMPORTANT: We will have white robes for you to change into before your baptism. Please arrive early and find the elder you have been in contact with for your baptism. He will help you get a robe in your size before service starts.

When it is your turn, the pastor performing baptisms will call your name, and you will descend into the tub with your printed testimony.

Considerations Leading Up to the Baptism

When Jesus was present on earth, his disciples did *not* fast (Matthew 9:14-15). However, that indicated that when Jesus left, *fasting would be a regular practice for His disciples* (Matthew 6:16-18). This is especially true for important events and serious commitments. Throughout much of church history, especially in the first century, Christians have taken the commitment to baptism seriously, with sober reflection, fervent prayer, and fasting beforehand.¹

If you are interested in understanding fasting better, please listen to Pastor Joey's sermon on fasting titled, “Hungering for God: Fasting as Warfare”, out of his *Sermon on the Mount* series, *Cultivate & Propagate: Kingdom Ethics in a Fallen World*, from Matthew 6:16-18 (follow this link to watch: https://youtu.be/US_G91PCHDw?si=OqWHjbjN3CCEbZ-6).

¹“But before the baptism, let him who baptizeth and him who is baptized fast previously, and any others who may be able. And thou shalt command him who is baptized to fast one or two days before.” Anonymous, *The Didache: The Original Greek Text with Four English Translations* (p. 15), (Function), Kindle Edition. The Didache is not inspired scripture, it is a first-century confession or statement of faith that gives us insight into the practices of the early church.