



MERCY ROAD  
CHURCH



# Youth and Adult Baptism

## *10 Frequently Asked Questions* By Pastor Mike Lotzer

**1) What does it mean to have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ?** We start a relationship with Jesus Christ by acknowledging we are broken by sin and need a savior who can forgive our sins and change our hearts. God alone can save at this level. When we ask God to save us and accept the death of Jesus as God's forgiving love we start a relationship with Jesus that never ends. Most people start this relationship with a prayer that goes something like this:

"Dear God, I see I am more flawed and sinful than I ever dared believe, but that I am even more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I turn from my old life of living for myself. I have nothing in my behavior to earn your approval or forgiveness God, but I now rest in what Jesus did and ask to be accepted into God's family for his sake. Please forgive me and come into my life forever. In Jesus name I pray. Amen."

When you pray and decide in this way your accounts are cleared. Your past, present and future sins are wiped out permanently and you are adopted legally into God's family. At this time the Holy Spirit enters your heart and begins to change you into the character of Jesus. Baptism is how we tell other people we have made this commitment. Have you made this commitment and prayed a prayer like this one? If you have, you should be baptized.

**2) So what is Baptism?** Baptism is the washing with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; it represents and seals our adoption into Christ, our cleansing from sin, and our commitment to belong to the Lord and to his church.

Matthew 28:19 - Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. . . .

**3) Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?** No, only the death of Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit can cleanse us from sin. Baptism is not spiritual hygiene, the water is not miraculous. God's forgiveness is the miracle that the water simply points to.

Luke 3:16 - John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Are you interested in speaking to someone about being baptized? Call us at (952) 210-0750 or e-mail us at [mike@mercyroadmn.com](mailto:mike@mercyroadmn.com)

**4) What questions will you ask me before you baptize me?** At Mercy Road we ask just two questions when you stand in the water with the pastor:

1) *"Have you put your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?" ...If so please answer "yes I have."*

2) *"Is it your desire to turn from sin and know, trust and obey Jesus?" ...If so answer ..."Yes it is."*

Additionally, you are welcome to say something to the church but are not expected or required to.

**5) What will the pastor say before I am baptized?** Today we acknowledge your old self is buried with Christ and you have been raised to new life in Jesus! Therefore, (your name here), I now baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!"

**6) What do I wear?** Plan on wearing a swimsuit or shorts and a dark t-shirt. We will provide a towel for you. Some people bring dry clothes to change into after the service. Some are prompted to be baptized although they did not plan on it that day. In that case they wear whatever they came to church in.

**7) Should I invite people to see my Baptism?** Inviting family and friends to see you be Baptized is something most people choose to do. If you are a student it is respectful to include your parents in this special decision and event.

**8) What if I'm not sure if I'm ready to be baptized?** You are welcome to talk to pastor Mike about this as well as other people you respect who love Jesus. Although Jesus tells us to do this nobody at this church will force or manipulate you to be baptized. This is simply your choice to make.

**9) What if I was baptized as a baby but want to be baptized again now that I understand God's forgiveness and have accepted Jesus?** The Bible says we only need to be baptized once. At our church we honor the tradition of baptizing babies for families who choose this. Most people at our church are baptized as adults (or at an age when they can understand and accept God's forgiving love... typically age 6 or older).

If you were baptized as a baby and choose to do it again now that you have made a choice for yourself, we will baptize you. In this case we call it a renewal of your baptismal vows. Being baptized more than once as an adult is not something we recommend... as the Bible does not ask us to do that.

**10) Will I get a certificate of baptism?** Yes, we will gladly mail one to you if you sign your name and address after you are baptized at a table in the back of the worship center. This is something many people choose to keep in a scrapbook to remember the public commitment they made. If you were baptized at our church in the past and did not receive a certificate, just ask us and we will get you one.

