



# House of Destiny Church

## Baptism Package

Going to the waters.....



"Expanding the KINGDOM of GOD, one LIFE at a Time"



## **BAPTISM PROCESS OVERVIEW**

Congratulations! House of Destiny Church celebrates your interest in baptism! Baptism is a celebration of your relationship with Jesus and your life with Christ. It is an opportunity to “identify” yourself as someone who has decided to follow Jesus. By being baptized, you are announcing that you are choosing to leave your former way of doing life on your own and entering into a new life with God. The practice of baptism is symbolic of this choice as you enter the water and are immersed, dying to the old way of life and coming out of the water, being raised to new life! By getting baptized, you are not declaring that you are perfect, have it all figured out, or have reached ‘super-Christian’ status. In fact, you’re saying almost the opposite. You are saying by this act, that because you have chosen to enter into a new life with Him, He will rescue you from the destructiveness of sin and brokenness and will begin the process of transforming you into the person He created you to be.

If you would like to be baptized by House of Destiny Church, below is the process for scheduling and preparing for your baptism:

1. Read through the Baptism Study Guide
2. Complete/Submit Baptism Request Form and Testimony
3. Share your testimony with us
4. Be baptized!

If you have any questions or concerns as you work through this process, we are here to help. Please don’t hesitate to call! We look forward to celebrating your baptism with you!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Esteban Carrasco Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Rev. Esteban Carrasco Jr.

Senior Pastor

[casadedestino2011@gmail.com](mailto:casadedestino2011@gmail.com)

774-200-6095

## **BAPTISM DAY INFORMATION**

Arrival Time: Please arrive 30 minutes before the celebration begins. Find the officiating pastor when you arrive.

Clothing: Wear conservative clothing, i.e., bathing suit with shorts and t-shirt (no white, please). Bring a towel, plastic bag for your wet clothes and some dry clothing.

Contact Person: On baptism day, if for any reason you cannot be there as scheduled, please contact church office at (774) 200-6095 and let them know ASAP.

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## **BAPTISM STUDY GUIDE**

People from House of Destiny Church come from various backgrounds, some have never attended church regularly and some have a long history in a church. This information should help you understand a biblical point of view whether you are new to the Christian faith or you are a Christian but have not been baptized after accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior.

### **What baptism means and doesn't mean:**

Baptism is a symbol of the salvation that has already taken place in your life! Water baptism serves as a public identification with Jesus—a visual and symbolic demonstration of a person's connection to Christ's death, burial and resurrection. It signifies that his former way of life has been put to death and that he is now a new creation of God. Baptism is a spiritually significant union with the church community, uniting you with all believers through the ancient practice that has taken place for centuries in churches around the globe. In many ways, it is public announcement similar to an initiation ceremony, joining you with other followers of Jesus. The water of baptism does not save you, only faith in Jesus Christ saves, but those who are saved by Jesus are to be baptized. It is an outward sign that a person has entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ. It symbolizes what takes place inwardly at the time of salvation:

- Acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Sharing in His death and resurrection.
- Being symbolically washed clean.

Because Jesus instructed us to be baptized, baptism is also an act of obedience. It demonstrates submission to God. A good way to understand baptism is to look at a wedding ring. A wedding ring is worn by people who've committed their life in marriage to their mate. The ring doesn't make them married but shows a reality (their marriage) that has already taken place and so it is with baptism. It announces the reality of your salvation in Jesus Christ.

### **Who should be baptized?**

All who have trusted Jesus Christ as their savior should be baptized. Baptism was given to those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It is an expression of one's faith in Jesus Christ, trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

### **When should I be baptized?**

One should be baptized as soon as possible after accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

*Acts 8:35-38 - Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water: Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him."*

*Acts 2:41 – Those who accepted his messages were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."*

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## **Why should I be baptized?**

### **1. Christ commanded it.**

*Matthew 28:19-20 – Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

### **2. It follows Christ's example.**

*Mark 1:9-10 – At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.*

### **3. It is a public profession of your faith.**

*Acts 18:8 – Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.*

## **How is a person baptized?**

The Greek word for baptism: baptizo, literally means to immerse or dunk, and this is the word used to describe Jesus Christ's own baptism by John the Baptist. Because Jesus modeled this act for us, we baptize by immersion. The bible gives us the normative method of baptism in the baptism of Jesus.

*Matthew 3:16 – As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.*

*Colossians 2:12 – For when you were baptized you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.*



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What about being baptized outside of a church building or service?**

There is nothing more “spiritual” about being baptized in a church building or in a church service. In the teaching of the Bible and the church, the emphasis is on a public statement of faith in Jesus as a part of the church community. Your flexibility is appreciated. Please keep this in mind as we work out a time and place for our celebration with you.

### **What about being baptized again?**

House of Destiny Church encourages you be baptized if you have not been baptized by immersion after accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. If you have been baptized after accepting Jesus Christ but have struggled and are now renewing your commitment to Christ, you don’t need to be baptized again. If you are seeking to rededicate your life to God the best action is to get connected and focus on growing your relationship with God through full involvement in the church community. If you are sensing that you need to rededicate your life to Christ, it is important that you tell someone about this choice so that someone can celebrate this decision with you and encourage you along the way.

### **What about infant baptism?**

While we celebrate the love and blessing of parents, in the Bible we see baptism occurring only after a person has made a conscious choice to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. For this reason, House of Destiny Church performs believer baptisms only, which means we don’t baptize infants. If a person was baptized as a baby and does not want to be re-baptized due to reasons of theological conviction, he or she will still be welcomed as a member upon completion of the membership process. If you have an infant you can have your infant dedicated to the Lord and you will need to complete the baby dedication packet.



## **PREPARING AND SHARING YOUR STORY**

Communicating how you entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ is vitally important. On a separate sheet of paper take some time now to tell us more about that experience in your life. You may either hand write your testimony or type it on a computer. Either way, please include this document when you submit your paperwork.

While you have the freedom to write your testimony in any form that you deem appropriate, many have found it easier to share their story of salvation by breaking down their testimony into the following three stages:

### **Before I received Christ:**

Describe your value system, motivations and lifestyle prior to your conversion. Identify the events and circumstances that caused you to consider Jesus Christ as the solution to your spiritual need and ultimately led to your decision to accept Him as Savior. In some cases this process may have taken place over a long period of time.

### **How I received Christ:**

Please include the specific steps that you took to become a Christian and why you believe that you have eternal life. As much as possible, try to avoid religious lingo or church clichés (“born again”, “asked Jesus into my heart”, etc.) as this will prepare you to communicate your story more clearly and authentically to your friends.

### **After I received Christ:**

Describe the difference that Christ has made in your thinking, motivation, values, and actions. For some this may be a dramatic change from the “before” description. For others who accepted Christ at an early age, this step will allow you to think through and describe how your life is different than what it could have been and to describe the transformation that is continuing to take place in your life. In either case, please state what assurances that you have of forgiveness and eternal life.

We understand that this may be the first time you have ever written out your testimony and it can be a challenging task. If you need help, please feel free to contact the church office: (774) 200-6095 or E-mail: [casadedestino2011@gmail.com](mailto:casadedestino2011@gmail.com)

We look forward to reading your story of faith and we hope that you will take the time to share it with someone else who may not know the truth of the Gospel.

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## **BAPTISM REQUEST FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Work # \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete all information requested. This information is important to us in communicating with you as we prepare for your baptism.

- I read the Baptism Study Guide.
- I completed my story/testimony, and included it with this application.
- I feel that I am ready to be baptized.
- I have questions and would like to speak with someone before proceeding with my baptism.

State briefly why you want to be baptized?

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After completing this form, you may bring it to the church service, or mail it to House of Destiny Church, 45 Charlton Street, Southbridge, MA 01550. If you have questions or concerns regarding baptism, please contact the church office at (774) 200-6095 or [casadedestino2011@gmail.com](mailto:casadedestino2011@gmail.com)