

SOHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

# Believer's Baptism

## Session 3



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### What after Baptism?

- Being Baptised is not an end in itself, but a significant part of the developing life of the Christian.
- It is, therefore, important that in this session, we briefly consider what comes after baptism:


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### Temptation

- Matthew, Mark and Luke, in recording the Baptism of Jesus, all link it in with His Temptation in the desert.
- This is no coincidence and must be addressed at this point of preparation for Baptism.



 Mark 1:9-13 

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- As Christians we should expect temptation all through our lives.
- However, experience has shown that a believer going through the waters of Baptism is a sure target of Satan 



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- This is not something to be afraid of, but to feel privileged about and prepared for.
- Anyone who publicly declares that they have turned from darkness to life becomes a threat to the evil one.

 1 Corinthians 10:13  
 1 John 4:4

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### Growth


 Acts 2:42-47  
 Hebrews 10:23-25

- The Christian life is one of continual growth and as we have already noted, Baptism is a part of this developing life.

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• The passage in Acts shows the thrill and excitement of these new Christians in Jerusalem, working out their faith.

• It is a wonderful picture of how our Christian lives should continually be.

A cartoon illustration of a man with a large head, wearing a suit and tie, sitting on the floor and reading several books. He has a joyful expression, and the books are scattered around him, some open and some closed.


### The Bible

• To grow we need to continually be fed. The regular reading of the Bible (there are some very helpful notes and books available) and attendance at meetings where the Bible is preached and taught, are essential.

A simple line drawing of a closed Bible with a cross on the cover, resting on a small stand.

### Prayer


• Regular prayer was a feature in the early Church. Personal, family and Church prayer times are important to develop a relationship with the Lord.

A black and white photograph showing a pair of hands clasped together in a prayer position, with fingers pointing upwards.

### Fellowship


• Fellowship is often underrated until it is not available.

• If you take a burning coal out of a roaring fire and put it alone on the hearth, it will grow cold.

A black and white photograph of a single, dark, irregular piece of coal.

• Meeting with fellow believers in the Church and home; formally and informally, is essential for growth.

• We cannot go it alone!


A cartoon illustration of two men running towards the right. The man in front is carrying a large sack over his shoulder, and the man behind him is also running, looking back over his shoulder. They appear to be in a race or a journey.

### Discussion Point:

• Which of the areas of growing (Bible, Prayer and Fellowship) do you find the most difficult?

• How can you move forward in your growth?

## Service

 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

- The Bible shows us that before Jesus commenced His earthly ministry, He was baptised.
- He then gave Himself wholeheartedly to the service of His Father.

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- The apostle Paul, after his conversion experience in Acts 9, was baptised and then sent out to serve.
- Many people have faithfully served God for many years without being baptised. That does not take anything away from what God has done through them!

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- However, our Baptism thrusts us out into a new and exciting dimension of witness for God's kingdom and partnership in the work of the local church.



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## Discussion Point:

- What do you consider to be your gifts, and how can they be better used for the Lord?

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## Church Membership

- The church in the New Testament is described in a number of ways:

Examples:

Members of a body (1 Corinthians 12:27)  
Stones in a building (1 Peter 2:5)  
Branches in the vine (John 15:5)

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- As we have already seen, the New Testament knows nothing of isolated individual Christians.

- Yes! We are members of Christ's Church, but Paul demonstrates in his ministry the concept of the Local Church; the 'Local Body'.

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## Session 3 - What after Baptism?

- Church membership is committing yourself to that local 'body', becoming a 'limb' that helps the body to function effectively. It also gives a sense of identity.



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- The Church member has the privilege (and responsibility) of seeking the mind of Christ on a whole range of issues; from calling a Pastor and electing officers, to deciding the strategy for evangelism and approving the financial policy.



Acts 6:1-7

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- You are encouraged to become a member of Soham Baptist Church following your baptism.
- The 'Membership Pack' you will be given gives more details about this important step.

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