

# Reflections on Baptism

*(S, V and Cheryl Williams at Footscray Baptist Church, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022*

- V's statement

- S's statement

*"After choosing the Christianity, I feel high self-confidence in myself, so that I have a lot of positive energy in my decisions. I have found my lost way because I know that Jesus Christ is my support and helps me at all times and everywhere; Therefore, I follow him because I know that Jesus Christ is the truth and the only way of righteous".*

- Cheryl's reflection

Baptism is a sign of our new Christian identity, a time when we make a public statement about our new relationship with God.

Jesus calls us to follow him through the waters of baptism, so as a sign of our desire to follow Him we enter the waters.

The water is a reminder of freedom, we recall how Moses led the people to freedom through the Red Sea.

The water is a sign of the way in which God heals us, we recall how Naaman finally let go of his pride and entered the waters to be healed.

Baptism is a sign of dying to our old life and as we come out of the water, the rising to a new life.

The Scriptures remind us that we are baptized into the body of Christ, the church where we are all equal.

As we have spent the past couple of months talking about faith and baptism and what it means, to me a couple of things have stood out in our conversations and I thank you S and V and others for the insights you have shared.

1. That God's Spirit dwells deep within each of us and changes us and guides us
2. That belief in our God and following Jesus offers freedom to us all
3. That our family increases, we are all brothers and sisters no matter our background, our race, our culture, our language, we are equal as Paul says in his letter to the Galatians
4. That our focus is on the future, not dwelling on the past
5. That despite the hardships we have experienced faith in God gives us hope, peace and joy.

I look forward to the journey we are all on as we support one another in living out our commitment to Jesus and each other.