

# Affirmation of Baptism Promises

## What You Promise When You Affirm Your Baptism

*It is important for you, your classmates and your parents to fully understand what it is you will actually promise to God. Confirmation helps prepare you to understand these promises and keep them once you make them to God.*

Affirmation of Baptism involves these main promises:

- 1. You promise that you will continue to be an active and vital part of the church, the “body of Christ.”**

You promise that you won't disappear from church. You promise that you will continue to worship God regularly, that you will cherish the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper and that you will be involved in the life and ministry of the church. You will continue to grow in your knowledge of the Bible and strive to have a strong prayer life. **You will do this of your own free will.** By keeping this promise you'll say, “God loves me and I'm going to stand up and let the world know I love him, too.”

*Some people incorrectly think they can live out faith in isolation apart from the church. But this is not God's intention. The Bible only speaks of faith as an active part of a community of believers. The church is where God wants us to be. It is God's will.*

- 2. You promise to share the Good News of your faith in Jesus by the things you say and the things you do.**

You promise that you'll live to imitate Jesus (Ephesians 5:1-2), to be an “ambassador for Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:20) to all those you know, helping them to know and believe the saving Gospel. What you do and say either builds people up and makes them better, or tears them down and harms them. *You promise that your words and deeds will bring honor and glory to our Lord Jesus and help others to grow in faith.*

- 3. You promise that you will follow Jesus' example and serve God by serving others. You will show your love for God by the love you give to people in God's holy name.**

You promise that you will live for something bigger than yourself. The world has enough selfish, self-centered people. **You will live for God.** Your life will show your love for God by what you do for others. These deeds may be big and seen by many, or small and known to no one. But God knows. You promise to seek ways in which you can live out the **Great Commandment** (Luke 10:25-27), as you “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” **Your life will be one giant “Thank You” to God.**

## What Your Parents Promised When You Were Baptized

Here are the important promises your parents made when you were baptized years ago. Be thankful your parents kept these promises as a sign of the love they have for you and God.

**1. They promised that they loved you not just as parents, but also as Christians.**

Lots of children have parents who love them. You have *Christian* parents who share God's love.

**2. They promised they would faithfully bring you to worship the Lord.**

They didn't say that they'd drop you off at church, go home and pick you up later. They didn't promise that they'd let you decide if you wanted to go to church. They didn't promise just to worship on Easter, Christmas or whenever it was convenient. They promised to show you how to worship the Lord *regularly* by worshiping with you. ***This continues after your affirmation of baptism, too.***

**3. They promised they would teach you the basics of our faith which Martin Luther says all Christians must know to be considered Christians; the Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed and Ten Commandments.**

Your parents didn't just turn this job over to your Sunday School teachers or pastors. They promised that they would be your *primary teachers* of the basic beliefs Christians hold as the truth. ***They will continue to work with you on this all during Confirmation.***

**4. They promised that as you grew they would help you learn the Bible's life giving message.**

Remember the Bible you got in third grade? Remember all those Bible stories in Sunday School and the Bible stories your parents read to you or talked about with you? All of these were part of your parents keeping this promise.

**5. They promised they would provide for your instruction (*The Greek word is "Catechism"*) in the Christian faith so you would live out your covenant promises with God, be part of the church and live a life which pleases God.**

Your parents promised so much more than helping you learn *stuff* about God. They promised to walk with you in faith so you could grow to be a loving, dedicated disciple of Jesus Christ. ***They promised this because they want you to be with God in this life and in heaven eternally.***