
When Should I Be Baptized?

I was asked to preach on this question recently by one of the kids. They said it would probably help a lot of kids.

To Answer The Question

- In order to know when we should be baptized we need to know:
 - Why we should be baptized – What it's for
 - What baptism does for us – The benefits we get
 - What baptism may cost us – The price we pay
 - What we need to do before we are baptized

Why We Need To Be Baptized

■ Jesus Said We Need It To Be Saved

- *Mark 16:16 "Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved, but anyone who does not believe will be punished."* NCV

■ We Need To Be Saved Because Of Our Sin

- *Isaiah 59:1-2 " Surely the Lord's power is enough to save you. He can hear you when you ask him for help. It is your evil that has separated you from your God. Your sins cause him to turn away from you, so he does not hear you." NCV*

■ What Is Sin?

- *John 3:18-19 "People who believe in God's Son are not judged guilty. Those who do not believe have already been judged guilty, because they have not believed in God's one and only Son. They are judged by this fact: The Light has come into the world, but they did not want light. They wanted darkness, because they were doing evil things." NCV*

Why We Need To Be Baptized (cont.)

■ It Saves Us From Our Sin

- **1 Peter 3:21** *"And that water is like baptism that now saves you—not the washing of dirt from the body, but the promise made to God from a good conscience. And this is because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead."* NCV

■ To Be Raised & Clothed With Christ

- **Romans 6:3-4** *"Did you forget that all of us became part of Christ when we were baptized? We shared his death in our baptism. When we were baptized, we were buried with Christ and shared his death. So, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the wonderful power of the Father, we also can live a new life."* NCV
- **Galatians 3:27** *"You were all baptized into Christ, and so you were all clothed with Christ."* NCV

Why We Need To Be Baptized (cont.)

■ To Be Born Of The Spirit of God

- *John 3:3-5" Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, unless one is born again, he cannot be in God's kingdom."*

Nicodemus said, "But if a person is already old, how can he be born again? He cannot enter his mother's body again. So how can a person be born a second time?"

But Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, unless one is born from water and the Spirit, he cannot enter God's kingdom." NCV

What Baptism Does For Us

- We saw before that it saves us from our sin, but in addition to saving us, being born into God's family has other blessings that go along with salvation.
- We Become Children of God
 - John 1:12-13 *"But to all who did accept him and believe in him he gave the right to become children of God. They did not become his children in any human way—by any human parents or human desire. They were born of God."* NCV
- We Have An Inheritance Reserved In Heaven
 - 1 Peter 1:3-4 *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In God's great mercy he has caused us to be born again into a living hope, because Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Now we hope for the blessings God has for his children. These blessings, which cannot be destroyed or be spoiled or lose their beauty, are kept in heaven for you."* NCV

What Baptism Does For Us (cont.)

■ God Will Be With Us Wherever We Go

- Hebrews 13:6 *"Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be satisfied with what you have. God has said, "I will never leave you; I will never forget you." "* NCV

■ We Are Priests In God's Royal Family

- 1 Peter 2:9 *"But you are a chosen people, royal priests, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession. You were chosen to tell about the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."* NCV

■ We Can Approach God's Throne For Help

- Hebrews 4:15-16 *"For our high priest is able to understand our weaknesses. When he lived on earth, he was tempted in every way that we are, but he did not sin. Let us, then, feel very sure that we can come before God's throne where there is grace. There we can receive mercy and grace to help us when we need it."* NCV

What Baptism May Cost Us

- Some friends, schoolmates and even some family members may not like us or even attack us when we live and follow Jesus.

- *John 15:20 "Remember what I told you: A servant is not greater than his master. If people did wrong to me, they will do wrong to you, too. And if they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours, too." NCV*

- *Mark 10:29-30 "Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, all those who have left houses, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or farms for me and for the Good News will get more than they left. Here in this world they will have a hundred times more homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields. And with those things, they will also suffer for their belief. But in the age that is coming they will have life forever." NCV*

- This is a commitment that lasts for the rest of our life. There should be no turning back to sin.

- *Hebrews 10:39 "But we are not those who turn back and are lost. We are people who have faith and are saved." NCV*

What Do We Do Before Baptism

■ Believe Jesus Is Lord and Christ

- John 12:46 *"I have come as light into the world so that whoever believes in me would not stay in darkness."* NCV
- Heb 11:6 *"Without faith no one can please God. Anyone who comes to God must believe that he is real and that he rewards those who truly want to find him."* NCV

■ Repent of Our Sins

- 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 *"Now I am happy, not because you were made sad, but because your sorrow made you change your lives. You became sad in the way God wanted you to, so you were not hurt by us in any way. The kind of sorrow God wants makes people change their hearts and lives. This leads to salvation, and you cannot be sorry for that. But the kind of sorrow the world has brings death."* NCV

What Do We Do Before Baptism (cont.)

- **Confess Jesus is Our Lord (Master or Leader)**
 - Romans 10:10 *"We believe with our hearts, and so we are made right with God. And we use our mouths to say that we believe, and so we are saved."* NCV
- **When Should I Be Baptized Then?**
 - When I believe there is a God in Heaven.
 - When I believe God sent Jesus to die on the cross for my sin.
 - When I want to be part of God's family.
 - When I realize I have sinned, done wrong things that I knew I shouldn't do.
 - When I no longer want to do what is wrong. (This doesn't mean you will never make mistakes and do wrong things ever again, but you need to want to do what is right like Jesus did.)
 - When I'm willing to be made fun of or even hated for following Jesus.
 - When I'm willing to say to anyone Jesus is my Lord.
 - When I want to have my sins washed away.

When All That Is True

- **When we are willing to do these things and we want to begin following Jesus we should be baptized. Just as the Apostle Paul was told by Ananias:**
 - ***Acts 22:14-16 "He said, 'The God of our ancestors chose you long ago to know his plan, to see the Righteous One, and to hear words from him. You will be his witness to all people, telling them about what you have seen and heard. Now, why wait any longer? Get up, be baptized, and wash your sins away, trusting in him to save you.'" NCV***