

What Hinders Me From Being Baptized?

Acts 8:34-39

Introduction: The Ethiopian was a good, religious, and well-read man; yet he was lost. When he heard the gospel of Christ, he desired to be baptized immediately. Some people today put off baptism. Here are some reasons why.

I. Ignorance

- A. Many people don't realize how important baptism is to God
Gal 3:27, Acts 22:16, 1 Pet 3:21, Rom 6:3-4
Who should be baptized?
Believers (Mk 16:16) willing to repent (Acts 2:38)
- B. Misused verses taught to pretend baptism is not important
John 3:16 But read John 3:5, John 3:22
Acts 2:21 Acts 2:38
Acts 16:31 Read Acts 16:30-34
Mark 16:16 Read Mk 16:11, 13, 14, 16
Romans 10:9 Romans 6:4-6
- C. Some say don't know enough
Spiritual teaching comes after, not before: Mt. 28:18-20
Spiritual development comes after, not before, Col. 3:1-14

II. Influence

- A. Our obedience may be hindered by a fear of others
John 12:42-43, Luke 9:23, Matthew 10:37-38
- B. Some people may believe they are not worthy of salvation
Romans 5:8, 1 Timothy 1:15, 2 Corinthians 5:21

III. Indifference

Too many people in this world have wrong priorities
What is more important than this? Mt. 16:26

- A. Jesus died so you can be saved, Romans 5:8
- B. You will be added to the church when you are saved, Acts 2:47
- C. You will be ready for judgment when you are saved, 2 Cor. 5:17

Conclusion: Baptism is important to God and to us. There is no good reason for a spiritual person to refuse baptism.

Should I Be Baptized Again?

This is a question often asked by young children, by those baptized in denominational churches, and by those who are wondering if they were baptized for the wrong reason. As with all religious questions, the answer is found by looking to the Bible.

Two important things about baptism are the mode (method) and purpose. If these two are not right, then your baptism is incorrect and you need to be baptized according to the biblical model. As for mode, baptism is a burial or immersion in water, Matthew 3:16, Acts 8:38-39, Romans 6:4. The biblical definition of the word transliterated baptism in our bibles is "to plunge, dip, immerse." If you were baptized by sprinkling or pouring, your baptism is not according to the biblical command.

As to purpose, it is good to study the Scriptures to see what actions need to accompany baptism. Baptism is more than just getting wet or washed, 1 Peter 3:21. It is a response to God's command. Mark 16:16 reads, "*He who believes and is baptized shall be saved; he who does not believe shall be condemned.*" For baptism to be valid, the candidate must believe. This means the person must be familiar with the Scriptures (Romans 10:17). The person must have faith concerning the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. And this person must have an understanding concerning the nature of the Lord's church (recognizing that it is not a denomination). Scripture also reminds us that we must "*Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins*" Acts 2:38. Repentance means change. A candidate for biblical baptism must be mature enough and willing to change their life from selfishness to service for God (Romans 12:2). Rather than following parents, friends or traditions, they must realize that friendship with the world is enmity with God (James 4:4). They also must see that baptism is for (unto) the remission of sins. If the candidate has already said a "sinner's prayer" or believes he has already been saved, then he cannot possibly be baptized for remission of sins. Therefore, the majority of those baptized in denominational churches are not baptized biblically. Salvation is a personal experience for each one of us. Christ has already paid the price for our sins on the cross. As we respond biblically, we show our appreciation and love to our Savior. Let us be sure that we show others the way of salvation through Christ.