

# Baptism

Acts 8:34-38 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

**Question:** Why would the newly saved convert desire water baptism?

**Answer:** He got it!

Baptism symbolizes death and resurrection. We die to our old life and we rise to our new life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

\*The "physical act" of water baptism does not cleanse us nor save us; but it is an outward expression/recognition of what happened to us through the resurrection of Jesus.

## I. Why not?

A. Philip explained Jesus to the eunuch - resulting in a **desire to be baptized:**

1. Philip did a good job explaining Jesus!
2. Baptism does not make sense without understanding what happened with Jesus rose from the grave.
3. The automatic reaction from the Eunuch was, "I want to go all the way for Jesus."
4. Baptism - greek word *Baptizō* meaning **immerse**. We must immerse ourselves into our new life!

B. "What hinders me?" Reason that hinder:

1. Religion “Got baptized when I was a baby” [Mark 16:16]
2. Don’t want to be disloyal to old religion.
3. Embarrassed: to speak, get wet, do anything public.
4. Humbling
5. Never seen it, therefore don’t understand.
6. “I’m not living right” [Don’t feel worthy]
7. Waiting for “total” commitment.
8. Which one [above] are you?

C. Very important “next step” in the convert’s walk with God. [Urgency] [Tell the world right away!]

## II. Why? [The Importance]

A. Commanded by Jesus:

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

B. Action of Faith

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

1. A declaration of faith in salvation.
2. A declaration of a new life to be lived.

3. Old man [old nature] going down, and new man [new nature] alive through Jesus.

### C. New Family

1Cor 12:12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.

## III. Who needs to get baptized?

### A. New Converts

Acts 2:40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

### B. Rededicated Backsliders

### C. Transfers

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him [Nicodemus], “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

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#### **Further Study:**

\*1 Peter 3:18-22

Exodus 14 (Children of Israel cross the Red Sea after “Salvation”)

Matthew 3:16 Jesus was Baptized!