

BIBLE ADVENTURE 10:
SALVATION - What About Baptism?
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John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Discovery Treasures:

You may be asking which comes first. . . asking Jesus to be my Lord and Savior, or getting baptized? Asking Jesus to become your Lord and Savior comes first to bring salvation. Baptism alone does not bring salvation, you must confess with your mouth. Remember 1 John 1:9 which says, *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* And Romans 10:9-10 which says, *:that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Or you may be asking yourself, “If I’ve accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior do I *need* to be baptized?” According to our memory scripture John 3:5 you *could* say the answer is “yes” being that, if you want to enter the kingdom of God. I personally believe that baptism is an important part of our Christian walk. But let’s keep going, because I want you to be able to decide for yourself.

What does baptism offer? That is found in our other memory scripture Acts 2:38. In this scripture we discover that by being baptized we receive both the remission of our sins, and we receive the Holy Spirit.

REMISSION: the cancellation of a debt, charge, or penalty.

But isn’t the remission of our sins what Jesus died on the cross for? Yes. But let’s dig deeper for more treasures. Baptism is a symbolic, physical action; it represents a couple of things. One thing is saying to God through your action of being baptized that you are dying with

Christ (on the cross/filled with sin in your “old” life) and being risen with Christ (raised from the dead/taking the first step to walking in our “new” life). We find this in Romans 6:4 which says, *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.* And another way baptism is symbolic is by show God you are being “washed clean.” We will touch on this second symbol later in this Adventure. But for now, let's keep going with baptismal benefits.

Receiving the Holy Spirit is also a wonderful and holy benefit! The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. Think about that. . . God is trusting you by allowing a piece of His living, breathing, Spirit to live inside of you. He is allowing a part of Him to live inside of you to lead and to guide you. And because Jesus goes to his Father (God), and the Holy Spirit lives in you, you will have the power to do even greater good things than Jesus did while He was here on earth. This is found in John 14:12,15-17. 12 says, *Most assuredly, I [Jesus] say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.* And 15-17 says, *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

Let's discover what baptism is. What does the word, baptism actually mean? Here is Wikipedia's definition.

BAPTISM: (from the Greek noun Βάπτισμα baptism) is a Christian rite of admission and adoption, almost invariably with the use of water, into Christianity. It may be performed by sprinkling or pouring water on the head, or by immersing in water either partially or completely.

From this definition we learn that Christian baptism involves water. Why do you think that is? For one, we know that water washes things clean. Because we are sinners that means we are “unclean” before God. Jesus paid the price on the cross; His blood that He shed washes away our sins so that we become, and can remain clean through repentance. The symbolism of being washed clean through baptism is found in Acts 22:16 which says, . . . *Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*

So what are we to do? I believe the answer lays within your heart. I wanted to be baptized after giving my life to Jesus and began reading the Bible. And I'm going to guess that once you have prayed, confessed, and asked Jesus to forgive your sins, confessed and accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and dive into the Bible to start building the wonderful and most important relationship of your life, you may begin to be drawn to being baptized as well.

For me, baptism (sprinkling or immersed) is done out of love with a grateful attitude toward God. I see it done as a symbolic action that someone (who has asked Jesus to become their Lord and Savior) takes to show God that they accept that Jesus's blood was shed for the remission of their sins. I see it as an avenue to receive God's Holy Spirit. And I

also see it as a symbolic action that Christians take on their own accord.

But don't take Lady Violet's word for it. . .fall in love with Jesus, and search God's word on your own to find the answers you're looking for. Ask God to help and guide you to those answers, and *that* I can guaranteed He will do.

Congrats on completing the Salvation Bible Adventure!

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SALVATION ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES:

Memorize John 3:5, Acts 2:38

FAMILY & FRIENDS ACTIVITY:

Our first activity is going to be saying a prayer to either obtain salvation for the first time, or rededicate your life to Jesus. As a family, or with your friends, join hands and say the following prayer out loud to God. He will listen...I guarantee!

PRAYER: Dear God, I believe in my heart that Jesus is Lord. I believe in my heart that Jesus died and God the Father raised Him from the dead. I believe that you, Jesus, shed your blood for me, and I ask that you forgive me of my sins. Thank you for salvation, for saving me, and for allowing me to be a part of your Heavenly Kingdom. May I become closer to you each day. May I have the passion to learn your Word, hear your voice, and follow your ways. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Our second activity is going to be saying a prayer to open your heart and eyes to the act and symbolism of being baptized. As a family, or with your friends, join hands and say the following prayer out loud to God. He will listen...I guarantee!

PRAYER: Dear God, Thank you for your gift of salvation. Now that I have accepted and confessed your son, Jesus, as my Lord and Savior, I want to learn more about baptism. Please open my heart and eyes to learning more about this amazing action Christians take. Please put within my heart the desire to do Your will in this matter. Thank you for being patient with me as I learn, build, and grow my relationship with you. In Jesus name, Amen.

Our third activity involves praying and getting out and discovering! If you do not belong to a church, gather as a family and/or with your friends and pray together for God to lead you to the church He has for you. After you have prayed together, begin searching online for a church that you believe God is leading you to in your area. Keep in mind, the first one you try may not be the one you're looking for, and that's OK. Keep looking. But the good news is, once you have found the church for you, you can talk to the pastor about salvation, bapitsm and/or getting baptised, and he or she will be more than willing to bring light to the subjects.

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USE THIS SPACE TO WRITE DOWN THE NAMES and CONTACT INFO OF CHURCHES YOU'D LIKE TO VISIT, AS WELL AS QUESTIONS YOU HAVE FOR THE PASTOR: