

Baptism

A:

1. **I was so happy on the day when I believed in the Lord. I felt that the Lord was so close to me. All my problems of sin were solved!**

- . “Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance… Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:7,10 ESV)
- . Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God. (Acts 16:34 ESV)

B:

2. **Congratulations! When we decide to repent and turn to the Lord, it's really a new page in our life. It's not an end but a new beginning instead!**

- . And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” (Acts 2:38-40 ESV)
- . Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God. (Hebrews 6:1 ESV)

3. **We should learn about the truth diligently and become the Lord's disciple, and be determined to follow all that the Lord has commanded.**

- . When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose. (Acts 11:23 ESV)
- . And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42 ESV)

4. If we love God, we will follow His commandments. In fact, all His commandments are good for us.

- . “Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” (John 14:21 ESV)

5. We don't rely on keeping the commandments to please God, or to earn our salvation. God indeed loves us the most. He is very willing to forgive our sins and He also longs to bless us greatly.

- . Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16 ESV)
- . And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6 ESV)

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6. I see. The Lord's salvation is perfect; getting baptized doesn't wash away our sins nor bring us to heaven. Then why do we still need to be baptized?

- . Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot... Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart. (1 Peter 1:18-19,22 ESV)

B:

7. Baptism is an open testimony that we take after we have accepted the Lord.

- . Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in (Or *into*) the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19 ESV)
- . “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” (Acts 10:47 ESV)

8. **Through baptism, the believer testifies that he was once in sins, but now he is willing to accept the Lord as his Saviour, to obey Him and follow Him for his whole life.**
9. **Getting baptized is an action to express to God that: "God, You are the best; I am willing to follow You." This greatly glorifies God.**
10. **At the same time, getting baptized is to show that we completely cut off from Satan and the power of darkness, being firm in our stance.**

. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (*Some manuscripts add all or most of verse 37: And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."*) And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. (Acts 8:36-38 ESV)

. Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. (Acts 18:8 ESV)

. Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily. (Acts 19:18-20 ESV)

11. **Baptism also shows that we are united with the Lord. The old self, who once sinned, has already died, buried and raised with the Lord!**
12. **Before the believer was emerged into the water, it resembles his old self. When he is put under the water, this represents the old self died and was buried. When he comes up from the water, it tells that he is raised with the Lord!**
13. **Through baptism, we are reminded that we are the new creation. We should walk in the newness of life. Old things have passed away. By the Lord, we can live a holy life.**

. Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in

newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. (Romans 6:3-5 ESV)

- . Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead. (Colossians 2:12 ESV)
- . For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Galatians 3:27 ESV)

14. What the baptism represents indeed happened on the day when we accepted the Lord as our Saviour: God remembers our sins no more and we have become the children of God.

- . But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12 ESV)

15. Therefore, on the day we are clear about the salvation, we can get baptized!

- . So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41 ESV)
- . And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:34-36 ESV)
- . And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. (Acts 16:31-33 ESV)

16. However, sometimes, we need to make arrangement and wait for the opportunity to bear testimony before our families and friends. It is a great blessing for us to carry out God's commandment as early as possible. In addition, we will experience the Lord appearing to us.

17. There's no need for us to learn a whole lot about the Lord or be knowledgeable about the Bible before we can get baptised. Actually, after our baptism, we should

continue to pursue the Lord diligently. We should always draw near to Him, love Him and live a life of union with Him. Then we will have a blessed and fulfilled life.

- . Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. (Philippians 3:13-15 ESV)
- . Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God. (Hebrews 6:1 ESV)
- . Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:10-11 ESV)