

"RE-BAPTISM, SHOULD ONE BE...?"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

Often the question has been asked, **should I be re-baptized?** I would like to "touch" on the subject briefly.

Water baptism is a very sacred act and **not just a formality**. Some have told me that baptism is to be administered after one is saved from their sins. This person says it is "an outward sign of an inward grace." The Bible disagrees with such false teaching concerning baptism.

Baptism is more than the above. It is the **ACT OF OBEDIENCE** in which one has their state changed from lost to saved according to Acts 2:38, which states one has their sins forgiven at baptism. Thus, if one has not been baptized properly (for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit), then they should be baptized immediately.

Wrong reasons and ways that are possible to be baptized:

- a) Substituting sprinkling or pouring for immersion as the Bible teaches
- b) Not making the decision oneself to be baptized (parent made it for one)
- c) Being baptized under pressure from another (parent, spouse, or a friend twisting one's arm...)
- d) Accepting baptism just to make one a member of the church
- e) Fearing an eternity in hell

If after one has been properly baptized and then "falls away"

or "**back-slides**" - (being indifferent or walking deeply in various ways of sin) the way back to God is not being baptized again, but by repenting of one's sins and praying for forgiveness (Acts 8:22). However, if one is constantly disturbed by the fact that they did not understand the proper meaning of baptism at the time of their baptism *or* it was performed improperly - then in order to clear their conscience they should be baptized (I Peter 3:21). Some would call this their first baptism and some would call it a second. No matter what one calls it - the **IMPORTANT MATTER IS** - that one becomes satisfied within his/her heart that they are now (after proper baptism) "right" in God's sight (due to cleansing by Christ's blood, which happens at baptism) and begin making their "mark" for Christ by becoming productive for Him who died for lost sinners. Thus, do it today if there is a question in your heart. **The Lord's church needs you** and your talents, not tomorrow - but today!

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