



The Importance of Baptizing Children

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Why baptize children? Often we see kids become Christians, buy a Bible, come to church, and that's it. I came to a point where I was tired of kids not reading their Bibles and praying. I was tired of kids not worshiping God with passion and getting excited about inviting friends to church or talking to them about the Lord. So...I did something about it.

Over the past five years, God has been steering me in the direction of training kids for ministry as never before. We need to find out what God is doing and what He wants, and get involved. So what does God want? Let's look at Acts 1:8. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses." God wants kids water baptized, filled with the Holy Spirit, full of power, and doing the ministry.

Be Ready for the Harvest

There is a harvest of young people coming to our churches as never before, and we need to be prepared for them. We need kids ministering to other kids. We need kids ministering to adults. God has called kids to be part of the Church, and we need to let them be involved.

Kids need to be taught to love and follow Him. They need to be obedient to God's Word, active in prayer, and excited about living for Jesus. Our kids need a fresh understanding of purpose. As leaders, we need to help children discover their goals in life. They need to know that their goals in life are not to decide what they want to do, but discover what He destined them to do!



Water Baptism Is for ALL

This brings us to the topic of water baptism and kids. If God is empowering children to be part of the Church today, they need to understand that everything God has made available to youth and adults is also available to them. Water baptism is important

for all Christians. Jesus said in John 14:15, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." It's as simple as that! When we love Jesus Christ, we want to do what He says.

Jesus himself was obedient to the Father, and to fulfill all righteousness, He was baptized. The disciples were baptized. The believers of the Early Church were baptized. In Peter's first sermon after Pentecost, he said, "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" (Acts 2:38).

Jesus didn't say that when one becomes a youth or adult he should be baptized and receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit or that at that time he can pray for the sick and share the gospel with the people around him. The children should too!

Don't Miss Out

God has a special plan for the kids of this time. No one can stop it, but many will miss it. Kids need to do the things Jesus has called them to do. They should be reading their Bibles, praying, and obeying. I believe part of obeying is getting kids to understand the importance of obeying Jesus' directive by being baptized in water.

If you want kids to be excited about the things of God, you need to help them express that excitement. Water baptism is an outward expression—a testimony of a person’s love, excitement, obedience, and trust in the Lord. When you have kids being baptized and giving their testimony on how much they love Jesus, you will find kids ready to go out and reach others for the Lord.

Beware the Enemy

The spiritual warfare between God and Satan is increasing in these last days. The bulls-eye of Satan’s target is children. The devil is our adversary. He is a roaring lion who knows the importance of these young kids and is waging an all-out battle against them. He is seeking to

divert them from any sense of purpose or destiny. He is using drugs, sex, divorce, abortion, humanism, games, and television to distract them.

I believe the enemy will do everything in his power to stop kids from being baptized in water. He doesn’t want them making this outward testimony of their desire to live for Jesus. An attitude has prevailed that kids are too young for the things of God—things like water baptism, ministry trips, ushering, greeting, and altar ministry.

The Church of Today

Kids are the church of today...not tomorrow. If we’re going to see the world reached, new churches started, and families being won to the Lord, we need kids to be ministering

alongside us. Kids need to believe God has given them the power to overcome sin—the power to be champions in this life! They need to be water baptized and share that they are living their lives for the Lord. Then they will start praying and desiring to pray. They need to know that, “If God is for [them] who can be against [them]?” (Romans 8:31).

I have baptized children as young as age five. I have seen them speaking in tongues, praying for the sick, and the sick being healed. God wants children to receive a real vision of who He is, what He has done for them, and what He has destined them to become. Unless we bring our children to that understanding, we will lose them. I believe an important step in that direction is water baptism.

Questions for Further Study—

1. Why is it important for kids today to learn to minister to other kids?

2. How can kids today discover God’s goal for their lives?

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