

What If I Was Baptized As A Baby

Crossroads Church, Perry, Iowa 2019.1

We're glad that your parents chose to raise you in a manner that emphasizes the importance of God and spiritual things. This means that they recognize the importance of honoring God with their lives, and they would want you to honor God with your life.

We believe that followers of Jesus should honor God in every aspect of their lives... This is why we base our lives, and our practices, on the teachings of God's Word. The Bible is our source of authority in all that we teach and practice. As we read about baptism in the Bible, the teaching and the practice of the early church was that people first committed their lives to Jesus, and baptism followed as a public declaration of their new faith.

If you were baptized as a baby, you obviously weren't expressing your personal faith in God. Your parents were expressing their desire that you live your life in the knowledge, appreciation and love of God. They wanted you to share their belief that God loves you and desires to have a relationship with you.

Baptism, in the Bible, is a sign or a symbol that a person already believes in Jesus Christ as their Leader, Forgiver, Savior, and Lord. It's a public means of identifying oneself as a Christ follower and saying that your life is committed to Jesus. Baptism is also the public means of identifying with other Christ followers. It is a matter of relational solidarity among true Christians. Jesus commanded that we should be baptized for these reasons. Of course, there is also the matter of simple obedience to Jesus, since He commanded us to do it in Matthew 28:19.

Your decision to be baptized now that you've chosen to follow Jesus doesn't change/alter/or take away anything from your infant baptism. Your baptism as a believing adult is a separate event in your life. It's actually the next step in your natural progression of becoming responsible for, and "owning," your personal faith in Jesus Christ. Your parents would want your faith journey to continue down this natural path where you choose to have a close personal faith in Jesus. And now here you are!

Thank your parents for getting your spiritual journey started! Explain to them that you've chosen to fully embrace faith in Jesus, and to live your life for Him! Wasn't that their long term hope when they had you baptized as a baby?

Invite your family to join you and witness your baptism! They will hear you share your testimony and you can introduce them to your church family! They can share the joy and enthusiasm you have in living your life for Jesus!