

What Baptism Will Not Do

Bible baptism is important. Jesus commanded baptism (Mk. 16:16). Baptism removes sin (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16). Baptism saves (1 Pet. 3:21). Baptism is not the end, but just the beginning. It will not do some things.

- ⇒ **Baptism will NOT Remove Temptation.** God will provide a way of escape from temptation (1 Cor. 10:13). The devil must be resisted (Jas 4:7). The fiery darts of the devil must be extinguished (Eph. 6:16). Baptism does not do this. Jesus was tempted after He was baptized and so will we.
- ⇒ **Baptism will NOT Forgive Future Sins.** Baptism washes away the sins a person has committed (Acts 22:16). Sins committed in the future need to be confessed and prayed for (1 Jn. 1:9).
- ⇒ **Baptism will NOT Turn a Child into an Adult.** If a child is placed into the water of baptism, he is still a child when he comes up out of the water. The act of baptism does not mature a person.
- ⇒ **Baptism will NOT Alter Our Personality.** Baptism will not turn a shy person into an outgoing individual. Baptism will not stop a person from being accident prone. Baptism will not make a person more friendly or a better manager of money.
- ⇒ **Baptism will NOT Fulfill All that God Commands.** Jesus told the apostles, that after they baptized someone, they were to “*teach them to observe all that I commanded you*” (Mt 28:20). There is more teaching that comes after baptism. God expects us to act as His children. He wants us to have a heart like Jesus. Christ must be our life. These qualities are developed by adding patience, self-control, virtue and godliness to our faith (2 Pet 1:5-8). Baptism alone will not do this.

Roger Shouse