

What Prevents You from Being Baptized

Acts 8:25-40

Sometimes God does surprising things

Background

Main characters

Eunuch from Ethiopia

Philip (the Hellenist deacon)

Insights for sharing our faith:

- Respond to the promptings of the Spirit
- Expect that God will prepare you for the situation

- When there is response, God has already prepared the heart
- Start with their questions, then use the Scripture to proclaim Jesus

Question: “What prevents me from being baptized?”

4 Barriers to Baptism

1. **Salvation** (25-35)

Guide = to lead the way

Isaiah 53:7-8

Take people from where they are to where they need to be.

2. **Willingness** (36-37)

v 37 – likely a later addition to the text

It almost seems strange that the Holy Spirit has such a tough time convincing believers to take the simplest steps of obedience.

3. **Ignorance** (Mt 28:19-20)

Example and command of Jesus

Baptism = a step of public identification & declaration

Baptism paints a vivid living picture of spiritual truth

4. **Water** (38-39)

went down in ... came up out of the water

baptize = to dip or dunk; to immerse

Translation VS transliteration

Does the mode matter?

2 clear indications: follows belief and into water

Take it Home – 2 inescapable questions:

Have YOU been baptized?

If not, what is preventing YOU?