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Jimmy’s Question

Question: I need to know if you have to be baptized to go to heaven. I love God and was baptized when I was seven years old. I am now eighteen years old and someone from a non-denominational church told me that no one can be saved and baptized at such a young age. They also said that you have to be baptized to go to heaven, but my Baptist family said that you don’t. I just want to go to heaven. I am living for God in every way that I can, but I need to know if I must be baptized again now that I am supposedly of age to be baptized. Please help me ASAP. God bless and thanks.

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Response: Salvation and the forgiveness of sins come freely as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ. Acts 10:43 states: “All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His Name” (NIV). Salvation comes through faith, that is, trust and reliance upon Jesus and His shed blood to give you a right standing before God. In Acts 10:44-48 the Holy Ghost was given to the believers (confirming their salvation) before they were baptized.

Even though this is true, at other times it seems that the forgiveness of sins happened at the time of baptism (see Acts 2:38). This is because baptism is an expression or act of faith that was expressed at the time that a person turned to Jesus in repentance and faith (Mark 16:16 “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth

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not shall be damned”). It was also a way of calling on the Lord for a clear conscience (Acts 22:16; and 1 Peter 3:21).

If you truly, turned to Jesus from your heart, at the age of seven and were baptized, God accepts your childlike faith.

Baptism does have requirements. One requirement is repentance. Did you have a change of heart and a change of mind that resulted in turning from sin to Jesus and His forgiveness? (Acts 2:38, 20:21 and 17:30). Did you exercise faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior? (Mark 16:16, John 3:16 and Romans 10:9-10.) If not, then turn to Jesus now, repent from your sins, turn to His grace to forgive you, and seal that decision to follow Him through water baptism.

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