

What Prevents You

Rev. Lex DeLong / General

Baptism / Baptism / Acts 8:26–40

To be a genuine follower and witness of Jesus who is growing spiritually, you must read, be taught, and declare God's Word and your faith in it.

Notes

01/07 Acts 8:26-40 "What Prevents You," Subtitle: Why Baptism?, Scripture: John 3:15-18

Timeline of NT Writings

- James - 50
- 1+2 Thess. - 52-53
- Gal. - 55
- 1+2 Cor. - 57
- Rom. - 57-59
- Phil., Col., Philemon, Eph. - 62-63
- Luke - 63
- **Acts - 64 (Emperor Nero, Great fire of Rome)**
- 1 Tim., Titus - 65
- 2 Tim., Mark - 66
- Matt., Heb. - 67
- 1+2 Pet., Jude, Rev. - 67-68 (Nero lost power and suicide)
- (AD 70, Vespasian declared Emperor, Sent Titus to destroy Jerusalem)
- John - 85
- 1, 2, +3 John - 90-95

Peter was already preaching great sermons and thousands were believing in Jesus, were baptized, and were added to the church (Acts 2:41).

In Acts 7, Stephen preached about Israel's response to the messages of the Prophets and accused the High Priest and Jewish leaders of the same rebellion. At the end of chapter 7, Stephen was stoned at the feet of the Pharisee, Saul, who would later accept Christ and be renamed Paul.

At the beginning of Acts 8, Saul began to persecute the church while Philip went from Jerusalem to Samaria to proclaim Christ. Through v. 24 of Ch. 8, they encounter Simon the sorcerer.

Philip and those with him started back to Jerusalem in v. 25, when an angel of the Lord told him to go south on the road that led to Gaza. As he went, he found an Ethiopian Eunuch and was told by the Holy Spirit to catch up with him and talk with him. He taught the Eunuch that the prophetic Scriptures were fulfilled in Jesus, which was sufficient for him to trust in Jesus and be baptized.

The Eunuch came to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home, reading the prophet Isaiah on the long journey back to the Sudan.

What is the means by which a person becomes a growing/advancing follower of Jesus?

To be a genuine follower and witness of Jesus who is growing spiritually, you must read, be taught, and declare God's Word and your faith in it.

Everyone needs to read God's Word (Acts 8:26-28)

- The Eunuch was reading the Word of God

This is not unlike some who listen to the Bible being read to them while they are driving.

Everyone benefits from being taught God's Word (Acts 8:27-35)

- The Eunuch was taught the Word of God

The Eunuch's confusion with the passage would be reasonable to understand, since he seemed to be either a proselyte, or at least one who worshiped the one true God. Judaism struggles with Isa. 53's teaching.

Everyone advances from publically responding to God's Word (Acts 8:36-40)

- The Eunuch publically responded to the Word of God

This narrative introduces the gospel being directed by God to Gentiles and sets the stage for God's conversion of Saul to be a follower of Jesus and missionary to the Gentiles and Peter's dream through which God teaches that the Gospel is for all the nations in Acts 10.

To be a genuine follower and witness of Jesus who is growing spiritually, you must read, be taught, and declare God's Word and your faith in it.

It is a public spiritual existence not a private one.

It is designed to touch the lives of others as you publically follow Jesus.

God wants you to experience the blessing of spreading the Gospel message to anyone who will listen.