

April 22, 2011

Hello. My name is Joshua Horky. I am twenty-nine years old. I began attending Seaside Church in 2006. I was baptized late in 1997 when I was 15 years old. I plan now to tell you why I am to be baptized again today.

The most recent Seaside Church Baptism was July 27, 2008 in Island Lake. Bishop Jefro did some preaching or teaching from Acts 2:38 in the Seaside Church building on that same morning, stating that baptism is for people who:

1. Believe in Jesus
2. Repent of their sins

And as I heard him, I thought that I had done both of those things, so I neglected the clear, convicting message of the Spirit of God which was that I should be baptized.

Some time later, I was talking to my college buddy, Warren Ring, about a lady in whom he thought he was interested and he asked me, "Have you ever just known that God wanted you to do something?" I answered that the last time that I heard God's voice was in the above situation and I included the qualifications for baptism. Upon hearing these qualifications, Warren indicated that he thought that he should be baptized again because he was saved by Jesus while he was in college and at the time of his first baptism, Warren was still looking for ways to keep sinning, rather than looking for sins of which to repent.

When I heard Warren say that about himself, I began to realize that I may have the same problem and the conviction of the Spirit of God on July 27, 2008 began to make sense to me and to fit with theology that I could understand.

Since my conversation with Warren, I realized that although I believed in Jesus, at the time of my first baptism I mistook:

1. Apology for Repentance
2. Humiliation for Humility

When I was younger than I am now, say from 1982→1997, I was taken to one protestant church or other every Sunday, I was exposed to the Word of God but not to the world, and I was restrained from being as rebellious as I would have liked to have been because of my parents and because of phenylketonuria. After I moved away from my parent's house, I didn't have to listen to them nearly so much as previously, and after I got a job that paid for my protein drink, I was not relying on anyone else for my protein drink. With these restraints gone, I took the chance to become rebellious.

The following is an overview of some of my rebellion since I began to attend Seaside Church.

It all started when I had what seemed to be a difference of opinion with Elder Schuette in 2007. As it turned out, it wasn't about the difference of opinion. It was about me not wanting to listen in a serious way to anyone disagree with me. Elder Schuette and I had a disagreement and rather than talk to him about it, I just decided that I didn't need to listen to him because I was the most important person to myself and I wanted to maintain the high position that I had gained in my own sight and I did not want to suffer through the shame of being humble enough to listen to someone change my mind.

When I made that decision, I created a lot of problems for myself:

1. I quickly became angry with everyone who disagreed with me or did not seem to esteem me as highly as I esteemed myself (much higher than anyone should have esteemed me)
2. My mind was opened to demons whose voices would tell me what they thought should happen to the people who disagreed with me or esteemed lower than I thought that they should. I would know better than to actually do the things that the demons persisted in demanding, and I would argue with them in my mind, but they were always more persistent than I, so I would have to distract myself with something every time that I wished to discontinue an argument.
3. I almost lost my job because of my writing about what I wanted to do to one of my co-workers who dared to cross me one day.
4. I lost my relationship with my sister for more than a year because of that same writing and because of the sinning that I had done against her when she was a child.

My sister, who had begun studying to get a psychology degree wrote me a nice letter, indicating all of the things that I needed to do to. I took this letter to Bishop Jefro and told him all about my problems in even greater detail than you have been hearing today. He proposed a meeting with Pat Day who had got me started in ministry at Seaside Church. The three of us met at Bishop Jefro's house and discussed various things related to my problems. At one point I almost left the meeting before it was over because I was asked whether I wanted to worship Jesus or myself. I couldn't bring myself to say that I wanted to worship Jesus, so I said that I wanted to continue to worship myself. I couldn't think of anything to say after that, so I said as much and was just about to leave because I knew that these church leaders would not want to help me to continue to worship myself. Just then, Bishop Jefro decided that he and Patso should pray for me. I don't know what they prayed, but after they were finished, I was able to bring myself to say that I wanted to discontinue worshiping myself and to begin worshiping Jesus.

Things began to improve for me from that point. I didn't lose my job. I became slower to anger. I was able to use the voices in my head as triggers to pray for the people I hated and the voices went away. My relationship with my sister has been restored. Because of the goodness of God.

So I am here to tell you that I am sure that Jesus saved my life by rescuing my mind from demons and I want to obey Him in all things because worshiping Him is better than worshiping myself, even though I don't obey Him in very many things. Even after being baptized, I wish that I loved Him more.