

How Does One Become a Bahá'í?

Becoming a Bahá'í is as simple and yet as difficult as acknowledging Bahá'u'lláh as God's Messenger for this age, and making a commitment to practice His laws and teachings. This does not require any ceremonies.

The blessings, glories, and honors ordained for those who recognize the Redeemer of the age, especially at His dawning, are far beyond anything we can imagine. They will become manifest to us only in the next Kingdom.

Whoso hath, in this Day, refused to allow the doubts and fancies of men to turn him away from Him Who is the Eternal Truth...to deter him from recognizing His Message, such a man will be regarded by God, the Lord of all men, as one of His mighty signs, and will be numbered among them *whose names have been inscribed by the Pen of the Most High in His Book*. Blessed is he that hath recognized the true stature of such a soul, that hath acknowledged its station, and discovered its virtues [emphasis added]...¹

Bahá'u'lláh

But at that time your people—every one *whose name is found written*

in the book—will be delivered... Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens [emphasis added]. Daniel 12:1-3

Verily I say, this is the Day in which mankind can behold the Face, and hear the Voice, of the Promised One...It behoveth every man to blot out the trace of every idle word from the tablet of his heart, and to gaze, with an open and unbiased mind, on the signs of His Revelation, the proofs of His Mission, and the tokens of His glory.²

Bahá'u'lláh

Blessed the ear that hath heard and the tongue that hath borne witness and the eye that hath seen and recognized the Lord Himself, in His great glory and majesty, invested with grandeur and dominion. Blessed are they that have attained His presence. Blessed the man who hath sought enlightenment from the Day-star of My Word. Blessed he who hath attired his head with the diadem of My love. Blessed is he who hath heard of My grief and hath arisen to aid Me among My people...Blessed is he who hath remained faithful to My Covenant, and whom the things of the world have not kept back from attaining My Court of holiness. Blessed is the man who hath detached himself from all else but Me, hath soared in the atmosphere of My love, hath gained admittance

into My Kingdom, gazed upon My realms of glory, quaffed the living waters of My bounty, hath drunk his fill from the heavenly river of My loving providence...Verily, he is of Me. Upon him rest My mercy, My loving-kindness, My bounty and My glory.³

Bahá'u'lláh

O Lord of Hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who dwell in thy house...

Psalms 84:4

Becoming a Bahá'í is as challenging as recognizing that Bahá'u'lláh is the Promised One of our age, and as consequential as coming to this far-reaching conclusion: His Word is the Word of God, and therefore must be trusted, honored, and obeyed.

In many countries, for the purpose of keeping records, the person who declares his or her faith in Bahá'u'lláh signs a card, requesting enrollment in the Bahá'í Faith. What happens if a person changes his or her mind after signing the card? All it takes is a letter to the Bahá'í National Office stating that one no longer believes in Bahá'u'lláh.

Faith is a matter of freedom, not force; a question of desire, not compulsion and coercion. God's Messengers teach us to love and respect all people, believers and non-believers alike. 'Abdu'l-Bahá states that we should never feel superior to anyone, including those who are not Bahá'ís. Even looking down on the worst sinners and deviants

is evidence of pride. Pride masquerades in many robes and veils. It is always invisible and difficult to detect. We must always stand on guard against it.

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1. Motlagh, Hushidar. *Unto Him Shall We Return* (a compilation), Wilmette, IL: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1985, p. 6.
 2. *The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 111.
 3. *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 16-17.



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