

## Baptism Sunday

### “The Power of Baptism”

I. Introduction - We are going to take a break from our study in *Romans* this morning and talk about baptism today before we baptize a lot of folks.

A. We're doing this for three reasons:

1. I want everyone who is being baptized to understand what they are doing in terms of making a public profession of their faith to follow Jesus.
2. I want all of us to learn more about the power in baptism. Many are baptized out of ritual and miss the power that is released because they have never been taught what happens at baptism. I want all of us to be able to mix faith in what the word says so we can see the full benefit of baptism in our lives.
3. *Revelation 19:10* says the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. This means what we talk about we will see more of. I want to see more salvations and baptisms in our church. I recently told our leadership team, we see a ton of healings in our church. We see more healings in a month than some churches do in an entire decade, but we haven't seen a lot of salvations. I want to see that change. Since then, we've seen over 20 people give their life to Jesus through this church. Baptisms get this out in front of us and remind us of the importance of new life in Christ.

II. The Power of Baptism

A. **Public Profession - Matthew 28:18-20** Part of the great commission is baptizing people in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

1. This is a commandment of Jesus. He doesn't command us to do this to be saved (that would be a work of the law - **Ephesians 2:8**. Ex: Thief who hung on the cross next to Jesus wasn't baptized, but He is with Him in paradise.
2. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change of heart. It's not something we do to earn salvation, it is a public declaration of what has happened.
  - a. Who has ever heard someone say, “My relationship with the Lord is personal. My faith is private?”
  - b. People say this, but it isn't biblical. In the Bible, there is no such thing as a private faith. If we really believe we are changed from the inside out and our faith becomes public (not to earn salvation, but out of the overflow of relationship). **James 2:17, Titus 1:16**
  - c. Examples include baptisms at Pentecost, baptisms of gentiles in *Acts 10*, and the Philippian jailer in *Acts 16*.

**B. Power Released** - Baptism breaks off the bondage of our past. We need to release faith for it.

1. **1 Corinthians 10:1-2**

- a. Egypt is a picture of bondage (sin).
- b. Passing through the Red Sea to a promised land is a picture of salvation.
- c. The Red Sea (baptism) cut off Pharaoh's army and the bondage of Egypt forever. **This is what happens at salvation. Satan and his army and bondage to sin is cut off forever! We get a new nature when we are saved.**

2. **Romans 6:3-11**

- a. Our old man (sin nature) is buried. We are raised to newness of life.
- b. Baptism is a picture of washing away the old.
- c. We are now united to Christ.
- d. **Verse 11** Importance of mind renewal. We must reckon or consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to Christ Jesus our Lord.

**C. The Testimony of Jesus - Revelation 19:10** says, "*The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*" The word testimony comes from a Hebrew word, which means to do again. When we recite a testimony of Jesus, we are inviting Him to do the same miracle. We are prophesying into our future.

1. Ex: Keith shared how Jesus healed his eyes and then I invited anyone who had eye problems to get prayed for and we saw 5 other people healed that day.
2. These baptisms are testimonies of Jesus. They testify of how He brought people from darkness into His marvelous light. I believe as we do this publicly and mix faith with it, it will get in us and we'll share our faith more and then we'll see more people get saved and baptized.
3. Opportunity for Response

III. Baptisms

1. Have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior.
2. Do you by this act of baptism witness to this congregation you will follow Jesus as he gives you the strength.
3. I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

IV. Conclusion and Closing Prayer