



Remember Your Baptism

A Gospel-centered
Devotional



Introduction

Praise God and congratulations! Believing in Jesus and being baptized are huge milestones! So we want to help you celebrate what God has done and prepare you to take the next steps into what he will continue to do by remembering your baptism.

Baptism is about the gospel. So remembering your baptism is remembering the good news of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Whether you've already been baptized or you're preparing to be soon, we want you to reflect on the significance of your baptism so that you can spend your whole life remembering and telling others what God has done for you in Christ.

To do that, we have five entries for this devotional:

1. Death to Life (Colossians 2:11–14)
2. Washed in the Water (Acts 2:32–33, 36–39)
3. Risen to Walk in Newness of Life (Romans 6:1–11)
4. One Baptism (Ephesians 4:1–7, 11–13)
5. You Are Sent (Matthew 28:18–20)

There's no one way to work through this devotional. You can do one a day for five days, or spread it out over a few weeks. Whatever works!

Discipleship happens in relationships, so we recommend you invite a small group member, friend, or family member to walk through the devotional with you. We've included some conversation starters at the end of

each entry to give you something to talk about from the day's reading and teaching.

If you don't have anyone to join you for this devotional, you can [contact](#) a member of our Summit staff team and they will help get you connected.

This devotional focuses on your growth through baptism into a whole life with and for Jesus. But it may not answer all your questions. If you want more information about what the Summit believes about baptism, check out [this article](#).

Let's dive in!¹

¹ All Bible verses are taken from the ESV (English Standard Version).

Day 1: Death to Life

The Gospel, Its Picture, and Our Real Life in Jesus

Key Idea: The gospel is the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Baptism gives a picture of the gospel of Jesus and our life in him.

Baptism is about the gospel—the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus lived the perfect life in our place. He died the death that we deserved in our place. Then, he came back to life to give us his place of life forever. Baptism is a picture of that gospel—you go under the water just like Jesus was buried, and then you are raised out of the water just like Jesus resurrected from the dead.

Which means baptism is like a portrait, a picture of a real person. Take a royal portrait of a king. The artist makes it his aim to depict the real person as accurately as possible. Jesus is a real person too, and so baptism is like a portrait of his life, death, and resurrection.

Here's the crazy part—baptism is a portrait of you too! When you believed in Jesus, you joined him in his life, death, and resurrection. Now, his story is your story too! His life is your life. His death is your death. His resurrection is your resurrection.

Believing in Jesus and being baptized is like looking at the portrait of a king and then stepping through the frame into the real thing. We don't just

show the picture of what Jesus did in the past; by faith in him, we also delight that we are with him in the present. We rejoice that we share in his eternal life even now!

Bible Reading

11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, **12** having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. **13** And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, **14** by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:11–14)

Questions

- In baptism, what of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection do we share? (v. 12)

- What were you before Jesus? (v. 13)

- What are you now in Jesus? (vv. 13–14)

In Colossians 2, Paul tells the story of the true baptism—Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, and how by faith in him we share in that story. He says we were “buried with him in baptism” (v. 12). That means Jesus died for us, and so his death is our death too. Then, we were “raised with him through faith” (v. 12). Jesus came back to life for us and so his resurrection is our resurrection too! And we get all of that “through faith” (v. 12).

For everyone who has believed in Jesus, his life is our life. His death is our death. His resurrection is our resurrection. That’s what we present as a picture before the whole world when we are buried under the water and brought up out when we’re baptized. Your baptism is an outward declaration of your inward transformation in Christ. As you remember your baptism, you remember that you have been changed by Jesus to be like him!

Conversation Starter: Tell your story of what your life looked like before Jesus, what Jesus has done for you, and how your life looks different since believing in him.

Day 2: Washed in the Water

The Holy Spirit Applies Jesus' Work

Key Idea: Baptism shows the picture that the Holy Spirit applies Jesus' work to our lives.

Jesus did everything necessary to save you and then sent his Holy Spirit to apply his work to you and live in you. If you believe in Jesus, right now, the Holy Spirit of God is both with and in you!

When Jesus teaches his disciples about how he will send his Holy Spirit to them, he describes the Holy Spirit's sending as baptism. He says, "You heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:4–5).

So in the Bible, there are two types of baptism. The first baptism happens by the Holy Spirit at the moment you believe in Jesus. It's instantaneous and accomplishes the work. No sooner had you confessed your faith in Jesus and turned from your disobedience against God than did the Holy Spirit rush upon you and wash you as clean as Jesus, making his life your life, his death your death, and his resurrection your resurrection.

Then, the second baptism is what you do in a tank of water with the church

as witness. This baptism shows a picture of what the Holy Spirit has already done in you. In the previous entry, we talked about how going under the water and coming out of it pictures what Jesus has done. The water itself pictures what the Holy Spirit does. He's what we're baptized with. He's the way we are united to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. It's in and through him we are buried and raised with Jesus.

As we remember our baptism, we remember that the Holy Spirit lives in us and is still empowering us to live like Jesus and tell others about him.

Bible Reading

32 “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. **33** Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ... **36** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” **37** Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” **38** And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” (Acts 2:32–33, 36–39)

Questions

- Who gives the Holy Spirit? (v. 33)

- Who receives the Holy Spirit? (vv. 38–39)

Acts 2 tells the story of when the Holy Spirit first came to live in believers of Jesus. There was a mighty rushing wind, tongues of fire (weird, but true), and suddenly, everyone was changed. Immediately, they went and started telling other people about Jesus and called them to repent (turn from sin), be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit.

That moment started a chain reaction that changed the world! Those who believed, received the Holy Spirit and had power to go tell more people about Jesus. Then, as those people believed, they received the Holy Spirit, and they too had power to go tell even more people about Jesus, who then believed, received the Holy Spirit, and told more people—you get the idea.

Eventually, that chain of Spirit-filled, Jesus-telling people reached all the way to you. Someone who had the Spirit told you about Jesus. You believed and received the Holy Spirit, and now, you get to keep it going by telling others who will believe, receive the Holy Spirit, and tell others.

Conversation Starter: How do you feel knowing that God’s Spirit lives in you? Excited? overwhelmed? concerned? What impact does the Holy Spirit have in your daily life? What impact could he have? Who is the Holy Spirit empowering you to tell about Jesus?

Day 3: Risen to Walk in Newness of Life

Living a Life Like Jesus

Key Idea: Baptism is the start of living a whole life with and like Jesus.

When you believed in Jesus, the Holy Spirit applied Jesus' life, death, and resurrection to you. Now, Jesus' life is your life. His death is your death, and his resurrection is your resurrection. In your baptism, you tell the whole world that you are united to Jesus and they can be too.

Because you are one with Jesus, now you get to spend your whole life becoming more and more like him in all you think, say, and do. Every day, you get to remember your baptism and preach the gospel to yourself. Jesus died, and all your sins died with him. Jesus resurrected and gave you a new, righteous (or pure) life without end.

In Jesus, you are already free from sin and disobedience against God. Now, you get to live out the new life you received in Jesus.

Bible Reading

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were buried therefore with

him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10** For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. **11** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:1–11)

Questions

- What do you share with Jesus in baptism? (vv. 4–5)

- How are we set free from sin? (vv. 6–8)

- What has Jesus set us free from? (vv. 7, 9)

- How do people who have died with Christ and are risen with him live their lives? (vv. 6–11)

Romans 6 has a lot of similarities to Colossians 2 (from our first entry). Through faith and in our baptism, we share in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection (vv. 3–4). Then, he declares one of the most incredible implications of the gospel: In Jesus, we are free from sin and death (vv. 7–9). We are no longer bound by our disobedience against God, because our sinful selves have already died with Jesus. And we are no longer bound by fear of death, because that fear died when Jesus came back to life. We are free!

Now, we choose to live like Jesus and not pretend like we're slaves to sin. I know that might feel a little odd because we don't always feel free from sin. In fact, sometimes, the draw to disobey God pulls us so much that we feel too weak to push back and say no to sin.

The good news in Jesus is that we're free, whether we feel like it or not. Part of living like Jesus is "considering yourself dead to sin" (Romans 6:11). In other words, even when we don't feel like it, we remind ourselves that we are free and train ourselves that we can choose not to sin. We can choose to walk in the new life we have in Jesus, and day by day, little by little, we live more like Jesus by saying no to sin.

Conversation Starter: What does it look like day to day in your life to "consider your[self] dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus"? What things do people who are alive to God think, say, and do? What do they not think, say, and do?

Day 4: One Baptism

United to God's Family— the Church

Key Idea: Baptism shows a picture of your adoption into the family of God—the church.

When you believed in Jesus, you received him and all the benefits of his life, death, and resurrection. In that moment, you also became a part of his family—the church. God, our Father, adopted you in Christ, his Son, through the power of the Holy Spirit. As a result, you joined his great big gospel family. Now, you have brothers and sisters all across RDU and around the world!

We all have one Father, one Spirit, one Lord Jesus, and one baptism. Every member of God's family shares in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus by faith and lives out that picture in our baptism. That makes baptism one of the things we all have in common!

As we think about living out the new life we have received in Jesus, we cannot do it alone. We love one another. We serve one another. We offer the unique gifts and abilities that God has given us so that God's whole family becomes like Jesus. We live life with Jesus in relationship with our brothers and sisters as we all together remember and live out baptism, day by day.

Bible Reading

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. **7** But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ... **11** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:1–7, 11–13)

Questions

- What do all Christians have in common? (vv. 4–5)
- How should Christians act as a result of our oneness? (vv. 1–3)
- Who has received gifts of grace from Jesus? (v. 7)
- What are God's gifts for? (vv. 12–13)

Your baptism is a picture of your adoption into God’s family, so Paul includes “one baptism” right in the middle of “one Spirit ... one Lord ... and one God and Father” (vv. 4–5). To be baptized is to have God as Father and the church as brothers and sisters.

As a part of God’s family, he has given us each special gifts to contribute to the church’s work in the world (v. 7). God expects us to use those gifts according to his good purposes—for the whole church to grow up together to be like Jesus (v. 13).

Part of being a family member is learning how God, our Father, has gifted you and living in close relationship with other members of your church family. One important way we live out our lives as members of God’s family is by becoming a member of a local church, where we can live day to day like family. For more information about becoming a member of The Summit Church family, come join us at [Explore the Summit](#).

At the Summit, the place where we live our family life most directly is in our small groups. So as you consider living out your new identity as a family member, consider joining a small group. You can find out more at summitchurch.com/connect/small-groups.

Conversation Starter: How do you feel about the fact that when you believed in Jesus, you were also adopted into a new family? How do you or could you live with the local church as family? Are you a member of The Summit Church? Are you in a small group?

Day 5: You Are Sent

Making Disciples in RDU and Around the World

Key Idea: In your baptism, Jesus commissioned you to go and make disciples of all nations.

When you believe, are baptized in Jesus Christ, and receive the Holy Spirit, he commissions you to go and make disciples.

“Commission” isn’t a word we use a lot, but we do hear it used in the military. Officers are “commissioned” for a particular duty. They’re given a purpose, a job, to do their part in a much larger mission.

Our commission from Jesus is a lot like that. Jesus gives all who have been baptized a responsibility to go and make disciples of all nations. Your baptism is about who you are in Jesus and your new purpose in him.

All who are in Jesus join in Jesus’ work—to fill the whole earth with disciples so that people from every nation, tribe, and tongue will be baptized and worship him forever. Sometimes, we go across the street, and other times we go around the world; either way, we all participate in God’s great mission to make disciples.

Bible Reading

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:18–20)

Questions

- How much authority does Jesus have? (v. 18)
- What did he send us to do? (vv. 19–20)
- Where are we commanded to go? (v. 19)
- Where is Jesus while we go? (v. 20)

These are Jesus’ last words to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. Jesus’ last words were a commission, giving a purpose to all his followers. He sent us to continue the work that he began doing, by making disciples through baptism and obedience.

He starts with himself, declaring to all that he is the King, with “all authority” over everything (v. 18). Then, as King, he sends his disciples to be about his work, living their lives under his reign, according to his purposes, by making “disciples of all nations” (v. 19).

All nations? That’s a pretty monumental task! How will we ever do it? Jesus’ very last phrase gives us the key to success. “I am with you,” he says (v. 20). We can accomplish his mission because he will be with us and do it through us.

So for all of us who are baptized into Jesus Christ by the Spirit, we join in the mission of our King. We go and tell others about Jesus and invite them to have a baptism like ours. We offer them the opportunity to move from death to life in Jesus, to receive the Holy Spirit, to be free from sin and death, to join the family of God, and to receive a commission to go and make disciples.

That’s why we end every church service with “You are sent.” Jesus sends every one of us to join his work. Where will you go? Who will you tell?

You are sent.

Conversation Starter: To whom is Jesus sending you to make disciples? How do you feel that Jesus has commissioned you to join in his work? Privileged? frightened? nervous? excited? What is your next step to obey Jesus’ command to “go and make disciples of all nations”?

What's Your Next Step?

This devotional is over, but your life with Jesus is just beginning. Now, you get to spend your whole life living out and remembering your baptism!

One part of living a whole life with Jesus is taking time to consider, What's my next step? As you complete this devotional, take some time to pray and ask God what your next step to grow as a disciple of Jesus should be. As God answers your prayer, be sure to share it with a member of your new church family.

If you have not already, we hope as a part of your next steps that you will join us in the [Explore the Summit](#) class. This class will give you opportunities to hear more about the Summit and get connected to our church family.

