

BAPTISM SUNDAY | *(Raised To Life)*

1: BAPTISM: FROM DEATH TO LIFE

John 3:1-8 ESV

¹ Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³ Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

- Note quickly that Jesus is saying we must be born again to enter the kingdom of God
- Further, he's saying that that rebirth is a work of the Spirit.
- Theologians describe this as 'regeneration'.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

It's baptism Sunday and I want to take a moment and walk through the significance of baptism and how it relates to the born again experience that Jesus and Paul talked about:

Romans 6:3-4 ESV

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.

Colossians 2:12-14 ESV

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.

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A: BAPTISM IS THE SYMBOLIC ACT OF WHAT CHRIST HAS ALREADY DONE IN US (regeneration).

- As Christ was laid in the tomb, we are laid in the water
- As Christ rose from death, we are raised to new life in him

B: BAPTISM IS OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH IN CHRIST

- We too have died (Jesus for our sin) and we have died to sin and the old life
- We have been raised to new life in/with Christ
- The life we now live, we live for the Son of God
- One theologian that I really appreciate takes it a step further and states that: BAPTISM IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE
 - As in, we've picked a new side in the fight.
 - We're part of the kingdom of God now!
 - And my testimony is part of our warfare.

C: THIS NEW LIFE IS RADICALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE OLD

- It's the power of the Gospel
- It's the power of the Holy Spirit – its not possible by mere human will power – its a supernatural work of God

2: THE NEW LIFE IS A TRANSFORMED LIFE

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ESV

⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

A: SINS THAT LEAD TO DEATH

- We have to recognize the things listed are sins that lead to death.
- Further recognize the difference between an UNREPENTANT LIFESTYLE (PRACTICE/WALK) and STUMBLE
- CANNOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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B: THERE'S HOPE OF TRANSFORMATION: SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU

- You were washed, sanctified, and justified
 - Washed = cleansed and forgiven
 - Sanctified = made righteous and holy (this is the transformative power of the Holy Spirit)
 - Justified = declared righteous in God's judgment

C: TRANSFORMATION HAPPENS AS WE ALLOW GOD TO RENEW OUR MINDS

Romans 12:2 ESV

² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- What you think about and what you meditate on will influence your behavior.
- If you meditate on God's word and God's laws, you will come into alignment with it, because your heart and mind are in it.
- ALSO: Who you surround yourself with matters.
 - What type of fellowship are you having?
 - They are contributing to what goes into your heart and mind!
- You become what you consume and think about.

Proverbs 4:23 ESV

²³ Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

- Eventually the fruit of your mind and heart will be seen in your actions, your words, and your life.

Matthew 15:18-20 ESV

¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."

This is why it's so vital to guard your hearts and minds... its also going to spill out at times.

- Sponge analogy:
 - What are you soaking/immersing yourself in.
 - When life (pressures of life) squeeze you, what comes out?
 - What does it reveal about the contents of your heart?

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3: THE NEW LIFE BEARS FRUIT

Galatians 5:16-26 ESV

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

A: THERE WILL CONTINUE TO BE A STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH AND THE DESIRES OF THE SPIRIT

- Sanctification is a process
- Spiritual warfare is real
- Renewing the mind is so vital to the process

B: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- Fruit—>results of-->
- Fruit of having the Holy Spirit regenerate you - make you born again - and living inside you
- Results of walking in and with the Spirit

C: HOW TO WALK WITH THE SPIRIT

- Fellowship with the Lord in prayer
- Crucify the flesh with its passions and desires

RESPONSE

Q: Have you been born again? If not, today is your day!

Q: What's the fruit of your life at the moment?

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- If someone were to bump into the wrong way, what's coming out of you?

RESPONSE:

- If what is coming out of your heart (mouth, words, socials, actions) isn't godly it's time to let the Lord do a work on your heart.
- It's also time to examine what you're soaking yourself in.
- Let us be people who walk with the Spirit, soaking in His word, so that when life presses and squeezes us... it's His goodness that comes out!