

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaways:

1. Baptism is not about earning salvation but expressing faith and commitment to Jesus
2. Through baptism, we receive the Holy Spirit—God's presence living in us
3. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in baptized believers
4. God desires relationship with us and is pleased when we commit to Him
5. Baptism symbolizes death to our old life and resurrection to new life in Christ

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did John the Baptist initially resist baptizing Jesus? What does Jesus's response teach us about obedience to God's will?
2. What is the significance of all three persons of the Trinity being present at Jesus's baptism?
3. How does the story of Noah's flood connect to baptism? What does the symbolism of the dove versus the raven teach us?
4. Jason stated: "The presence of the Holy Spirit is the presence of God living and dwelling inside of you." How does this truth change the way you approach daily challenges like loneliness, anxiety, or fear?
5. God says He is "well pleased" when we commit to Him. How does knowing that God desires to spend eternity with you—and that it brings Him joy—affect your view of your relationship with Him?
6. Jesus didn't need baptism for forgiveness of sins, yet He chose to be baptized. What does this teach us about the importance of baptism for believers today?
7. Acts 2:38 says, "Repent and be baptized...and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's presence and power since your baptism?
8. Jason mentioned that baptism represents dying to ourselves and being raised to new life. What are some practical ways we continue to "die to ourselves" after baptism?

Practical Applications:

1. If applicable: Reflect on your baptism. Write it down or share it with someone who isn't a Christian. How has God's presence made a difference in your life since that day?
2. If not yet baptized: Study what the Bible says about baptism. Meet with a minister or shepherd to discuss any questions you have. Consider making the commitment.
3. Daily, remind yourself: "God's presence lives in me. The power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to me today." Let this direct how you approach the day's challenges?
4. Following the example from last week's service, identify one area where you need to repent. Share it with a trusted brother or sister and ask them to pray with you and hold you accountable.