

DAILY READING: BAPTISM

My faith in Jesus is made visible through baptism. Water baptism is the outward sign of an inward change. Putting my faith in Jesus was an inward decision; being baptized is a public act of obedience. Through baptism I am going public with my faith. I am letting those around me know I identify myself with Jesus and God's family of faith – the Church. My choice to go public through baptism gives God, my Father in Heaven, great joy. Baptism confirms my relationship with God.

God required baptism of Jesus so He requires it of me. This is an act of submission and a willingness to live according to God's ways. When Jesus came up out of the water, the Bible says the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God descended on Him like a dove. This confirmed Jesus' identity to those who were around. In the same way, my baptism is a picture of me putting on a new identity in Jesus. The old way of life has been washed away and I have been raised to new life in Christ.

My faith in Jesus is made visible through baptism. It is my declaration of faith and association with Him. I understand delayed obedience is disobedience. Therefore, I choose to stop putting off the decision to publicly identify with Jesus through baptism. This is what He has called me to do as His follower. Thinking more about it is not going to produce a more committed me. My faith in Jesus is made visible through baptism.

Through baptism, I am taking action to put on the attitude, character and desires of Jesus. He led the way with His own baptism, and I want the world to know I am united with Him and His Church. My faith in Jesus is made visible through baptism.

MEMORY VERSE:

Galatians 3:27
 "And all who have
 been united with Christ
 in baptism have put on
 Christ, like putting on
 new clothes."
 Galatians 3:27

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DAILY STUDY: BAPTISM

DAY 1: Jesus, Baptism, and Obedience - Matthew 3:13-15
 (Page 735); Luke 3:21-22 (Page 782); 1 Samuel 15:22 (Page 222)

DAY 2: Don't Hesitate - Acts 2:38-41 (Page 831); Acts 8:26-40
 (Page 837); Acts 16:33 (Page 845)

DAY 3: Make Disciples - Matthew 28:19-20 (Page 760);
 Mark 16:15-16 (Page 778)

DAY 4: United with Christ - 1 Corinthians 12:13 (Page 877);
 Galatians 3:27-28 (Page 892)

DAY 5: Alive to God - Romans 6:3-11 (Page 861)

DAY 6: One Lord, One Baptism - 1 Corinthians 1:16 (Page 870);
 Ephesians 4:5 (Page 897); Ezekiel 11:19-20 (Page 633)

DAY 7: More on Baptism - 1 Corinthians 10:2 (Page 875);
 1 Peter 3:20-21 (Page 936); Genesis 8:15-18 (Page 8). Read the
 Daily Reading once again and highlight things that stand out.
 Answer the three Life Transformation questions for growth in
 this area. Take time to learn the memory verse.

ACTIVITY:

Is there something in your faith
 you have been procrastinating?
 If it is baptism, schedule it.
 Take one step and move
 forward in obedience.

LIFE TRANSFORMATION QUESTIONS:

1. As you read the Daily Reading, what stood out and why?
2. What action will you take to apply this truth? Be specific.
3. What areas of your life will benefit from this action? How and why?

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