

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# The Resources You Have for Living the Christian Life

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Romans 6:1-7

<sup>1</sup> The resources you have for living the Christian life are found in the symbolism of Christian baptism. Here in Romans, Chapter 6, verses 1 through 7, we find, <sup>2</sup> **What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.** <sup>3</sup>

**If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.** <sup>4</sup>

Chapter 5 explained that the Lord came to stamp out the sin life ushered in by Adam's rebellion. <sup>5</sup> The Law of Moses was then brought in so we could recognize what sin was. It spelled it out pretty clearly. <sup>6</sup> But this increased sin instead of stopping it. <sup>7</sup> The Lord, then, extended His grace to cover all your sins by dying on the cross. <sup>8</sup>

The question in this scripture is if the Lord is so happy covering all our sins with His grace, why bother stopping sin? Why not just continue sinning away and make Him happy? <sup>9</sup> The emphatic biblical answer is that God wants your response to His love and grace to be a transformed life of gratitude! Romans, Chapter 12, verses 1 and 2, **Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing**



**and perfect will.** God wants you to live the way He had created you to live. You are His “workmanship”; originally created to do good! <sup>1</sup> <sub>10</sub>

Although this transformed life is to be your gift back to God, He will give you all the resources you need to live it! Baptism, your initiation ceremony into your Christian life, demonstrates to you the resources He is giving you to live your life successfully! <sub>11</sub>

## I. Baptism Shows You the Power to Live the Christian Life – The Holy Spirit

– v4

Baptism shows you the power to live the Christian life. <sup>12</sup> This power is the Holy Spirit. Verse 4 says, **We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.** <sub>13</sub>

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<sup>1</sup> Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

In baptism you identify with the Lord's death, burial and resurrection. That's the gospel message. <sup>2</sup> <sup>14</sup> This verse says you are resurrected by God's glory, His power. That same Holy Spirit Who raised Lord Jesus from the dead will also give life to you. <sup>15</sup> In Romans, Chapter 8, verse 11, it says, **And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.** <sup>16</sup>

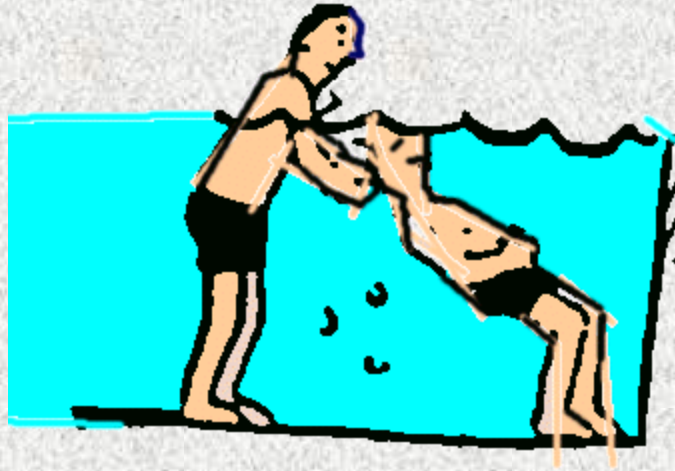
Acts, Chapter 2, verse 38, tells us that when you are baptized you are promised the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> I Corinthians 15:1-5 - Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

<sup>3</sup> Acts 2:38 - Peter replied, "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.



So, your baptism is telling you that your Christian life can be lived victoriously through the power of the Holy Spirit within you! <sup>18</sup>

## II. Baptism Shows You the Motivation to Live the Christian Life – The Resurrection – v5

Baptism shows you the motivation to live the Christian life. <sup>19</sup> The motivation is the resurrection. Verse 5 says, **If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.** <sup>20</sup> Knowing that you will live



forever with the Lord in heaven helps you to live for Him right now! <sup>21</sup>

The resurrection isn't really very hard to understand. God's Word illustrates it this way, **What you sow does not come to life unless it dies**. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But **God gives it a body** as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. <sup>4</sup> <sup>22</sup>

The seed is planted,



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<sup>4</sup> I Corinthians 15:36-38.

**it dies, it decays**



**and, then, it blossoms.**



**Every farmer and gardener understands that. <sup>23</sup> The gospel story is that Lord Jesus died, was buried and,**



then, resurrected. <sup>24</sup> What this scripture passage is telling us is when you die to sin and are buried in Christian baptism, you are resurrected into a new life. Baptism ceremonially illustrates what is happening in your heart! <sup>25</sup>



Baptism gives you a picture of the hope of the resurrected life just like the Lord's resurrected life. This is your incentive for living your Christian life! <sup>26</sup>

### **III. Baptism Shows the Freedom to Live the Christian Life – The Crucified Self –**

v6

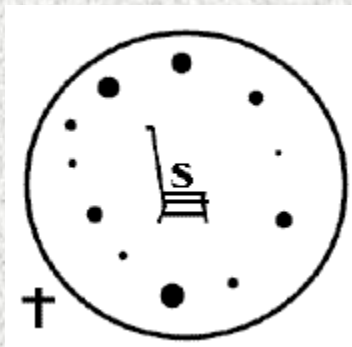
Baptism shows the freedom to live the Christian life. <sup>27</sup> The freedom is found in the crucified self. Verse 6 and 7 continues, **For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.** <sup>28</sup>

In baptism, you crucify your old self. In the King James Version “old self” is translated “the old man”. That helps us visualize this passage better. <sup>29</sup> A person really needs to humble their pride to submit to being immersed in a tub of water! <sup>30</sup> God wants a humble heart because a humble heart is a usable one. Matthew, Chapter 23, verses 11 and 12, reads, **The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.** <sup>31</sup> God’s Word has the Lord

repeating this statement three times. <sup>5</sup> It must be important! <sup>32</sup>

Your baptism is showing that when your old self is taken off the throne of your life, the Lord Jesus can take His rightful place there! <sup>33</sup>

When the Lord is on the outside of your life, you are on the throne calling the shots. <sup>34</sup>



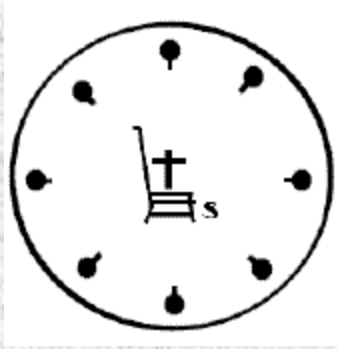
The elements in your life are in disharmony. The Lord never intended for you to be the boss of your life! <sup>35</sup>

When the Lord is on the inside of your life, He should be on your throne calling the shots. <sup>36</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Here, Luke 14:11 & Luke 18:14.





The elements in your life are in harmony because your life is the way God created it to be! <sup>6</sup> <sub>37</sub>

Your baptism is showing you that the Lord Jesus is calling the shots in your life. <sub>38</sub>

#### **IV. Baptism Shows You the Escape from Guilt to Live the Christian Life – The Forgiveness of Your Sins – v7**

Baptism shows you the escape from guilt to live the Christian life. The escape from guilt is found in the forgiveness of your sins. <sup>39</sup> Verse 7 states, **For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we**

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<sup>6</sup> Images are from "Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?" by William Bright. It is downloadable from <http://www.campuscrusade.com/fourlawseng.htm>. Campus Crusade for Christ.

**should no longer be slaves to sin — because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.** <sup>40</sup>

**Remember, it's when you are baptized that you are promised the forgiveness of your sins. Acts, Chapter 2, verse 38, records, Peter replied, "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.**

**Let's not be confused here. This is not "Baptismal Regeneration" in the sense that there is a supernatural element in the water or even in the ceremony itself that provides forgiveness of your sins. <sup>41</sup> The forgiveness of your sins could only be provided through the shedding of innocent blood for you. <sup>42</sup>**

**In the Old Covenant, the celebration of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, was the annual event which dealt with individual and corporate sin. An innocent animal would be slaughtered and its blood drained from its body. The high priest would enter the Most**

Holy Place in the temple to sprinkle this blood on the lid of the Ark of the Covenant. This ceremony would postpone the consequences of sin for the following year. Hebrews, Chapter 9, verse 22, says, **In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.** <sup>43</sup>

In the New Covenant, the Lord's death on the cross was for the forgiveness of sins. . . . **So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people.**

<sup>7</sup> <sup>44</sup>

The difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant way of dealing with sin was this. The Old Covenant Day of Atonement sacrifice was only temporary and succeeded in only pushing the consequences of sin ahead each year. So, it had to be repeated annually. <sup>45</sup>

In the New Covenant our Lord's sacrificial suffering and death on the cross was once and forever. It paid

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<sup>7</sup> Hebrews 9:28.



**the price for your sin. That event, over 2000 years ago, paid the price for sin. When you surrender your life to the Lord's authority over you, through the ceremony of your baptism, you are applying what Jesus did for you on the cross to your own individual life! <sup>46</sup>**

**Baptism shows you that because of what Jesus did for you on the cross, you are a forgiven person! <sup>47</sup>**

**What a better way to proclaim forgiveness than by identifying with the gospel message in baptism where the Lord provided it!**

**<http://biblelifemessages.org/>**