

Faithful (Part 3)

Baptism Service 10/30/22

Welcome. In case you didn't notice, it's Baptism weekend. And 27 people are entering the water. 14/13. Age 10 to 82. Each and every one bearing witness to the saving grace of God in their lives. Each and every one proclaiming and showing that they're a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. So turn with me to Rom 6.

We've been focusing on faithfulness this month, and this morning I want to give you . . .

2 Marks of a Faithful Follower

We don't have time for 10.

1. You get baptized as an act of obedience. (Acts 2:38)

Just like the Apostle Peter told the *first* believers to do. Remember that? On the heels of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given? Peter stood up to explain it, and after emphasizing belief in Jesus, he says in **Acts 2:38** – *Repent and be baptized every one of you*. Believe in Jesus, repent of your sin, and get baptized to show it.

It's a command that still applies because we're in the same situation they were. Jesus died for *our* sins just like he did *theirs*. He rose again for *our* life just like he did theirs. And he ascended back to heaven as Lord of *all*, just like he is now. Same situation, same command. *Repent and be baptized*.

And *faithful* followers do. You don't avoid it, you don't ignore it, and you don't rationalize it. You get baptized as an act of faithful obedience; a response to God's amazing work of grace in your life; his glorious work of salvation. Baptism doesn't save you, it *shows* you're saved. And faithful followers are obedient to do it.

2. You get baptized to display your new life (Rom 6:3-4)

In Rom 6, the Apostle Paul explains it by using baptism as a metaphor for salvation. With the understanding that baptism means "immersed in, or brought under the influence of."

So speaking to believers in Rom 6:3, Paul says – *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?* It's a rhetorical question to say, "Don't you know that those who have been *saved*, those who have been brought under the influence of Jesus, have also been brought under the influence of his sin-defeating *death*?" It's true.

And then, pressing the analogy even further, he says in v4 – *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death*. Not baptism into water, but baptism into death. To say that when we were saved, we participated by proxy, by faith, in the sin-defeating death and burial of Jesus. *We were buried with him* it says. (4a) Dying to the *consequences* of our sin, when he died *for* our sin.

In order that [v4b], just as *Christ* was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father [his amazing grace and awesome power], we *too* might walk in newness of life. We too might be raised to new life.

All of which, baptism displays. Buried, raised. Dead, alive. Old, new. It's a picture. A metaphor to describe and display your salvation. Your new life in Christ.

And faithful followers do it. They get baptized to display their *death*, their immunity to the ill-effects of sin, the ultimate consequences of sin; and display their new *life* in the one without sin. Jesus. New life due to their connection and relationship with him. New life, full and forever. Final and free.

➤ If that's news to you, watch and listen carefully. And if your heart burns within you, if you too believe in Jesus, confess your sin and ask God to save you just like they have.

For the rest of you, who've already *made* that decision, get ready to rejoice. Because the grace and glory of God, displayed in faithful followers, is quite a sight.

Pray – God, give us eyes to see and ears to hear. Give us hearts to receive all that you've done. And be glorified in our midst. Exalted and lifted up because of the new life you've given, and the obedience of those getting baptized to show it.

How To Be Saved

You just heard 14/13 different stories of how God used the circumstances of life to get their attention and prepare their heart to be saved. Saved from the consequences of their sin, to eternal life with Christ.

And you can experience the same, if you . . .

Admit you're a sinner

That's the first step. The Bible says – *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*. (Rom 3:23) And being saved, starts by admitting that's you. That in God's eyes you're a sinner.

Believe in Jesus

Believe that when he died, he died for *you*. And rose again so you could too. So you could be spared from an eternity of judgment, and given new life starting right now. Full and forever.

Repent of your sin

Ask God to *forgive* you, and make a commitment to *turn* from your sin. To pursue righteousness instead of wickedness.

Receive him into your life

Receive Jesus into your life to follow him as *Lord* of your life. Living his way, doing his will, and enjoying his presence forever.

Admit, believe, repent, and receive. It's the only way to be saved from the consequences of your sin, and given new life in Christ.

If you want that, if your heart burns within you, pray with me right now.

I admit . . . But I believe . . . So I repent . . . And I receive.

Prayer – Lord, you're so good to us. Thank you for hearing our prayers and saving our souls. Flood those who just prayed with an overwhelming sense of your presence, and solidify their commitment for your glory and their joy. In Jesus' name, amen.

You are loved