

## Connecting With My Baptism Everyday

Baptism is not just an event of the past. A child of God can and should connect with their baptism every day. It's a good and vital thing!

If you've read Martin Luther, you remember that he encouraged every Christian to get up each morning, make the sign of the cross, and then remember the gift of new life that we received in baptism.

Therefore, baptism is not just an event that took place somewhere in our past. While it is meant to be a one-time event from Christ through His Church to you, the impact of baptism lasts a lifetime.

Let's first review the blessing of baptism, namely, being washed in the Name of God with water, before we consider about remembering it each day ... Jesus gave the gift of Baptism as a conduit of His grace and as a tangible connection point with Him in our lives of faith. We call this a "means of grace." It's a gift that Christ chooses to convey His cross-earned grace to you personally. Like Peter says in **1 Peter 3**, "**baptism saves us**" (vs.21). In other words, the benefits of Christ's resurrection are put into our lives when we are baptized. We receive the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. That's what Peter declared to the crowds in Acts 2:38. Baptism would bring the gift of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit to the people. Baptism is a tool or a means by which God chooses to make His salvation personal to us.

This is also a tangible connection point in our life of faith, in that baptism serves as a real, physical, and outward connection point with God. God doesn't just come to us simply with ideas; He comes to us with tangible blessings. Baptism is one of those ... you can feel and hear the water ... you can hear and see the promise of God connected to it. The act of baptism is one we can recall and rejoice in. If you ever doubt God's presence or grace in your life, you can say, "*Wait a minute, I've been baptized! I am a precious child of God.*" Your new life in Christ is not simply an idea. It is an action that God took for you, witnessed by others and celebrated by His people.

A good start in connecting with that precious gift every day is by taking Martin Luther's advice. Every morning and evening, a person can make the sign of the cross, the same sign placed over you in your baptism, and remember that God made you His own, forgave your sins and gave you the gift of His Holy Spirit in Baptism. In fact, every time water washes you throughout the day, you are reminded of how the Name of God was washed into your life for your forgiveness and salvation.

Scripture teaches us that it's not the water alone, but God's Word connected to that water that gives baptism the power to forgive and save. God chose water to deliver His Name to you in a unique, personal way. So, remember your baptism, remember the power of God's Name, and remember the verses that tell you of this blessing ... like Romans chapter six, where it says, "**Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ were baptized into his death? 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 might too walk in newness of life**" (Romans 6:3-4 ESV). I also like the simplicity and confidence of **Mark 16:16** when Jesus said: "**Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.**" And **Galatians 3:27**: "**For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**" All these verses make the gift of baptism come alive each day. They allow you to start and end the day with confidence in your Savior Jesus and with certainty about God's faithful work in your life.

I encourage you baptized children of God to remember who you are. You are not meaningless specks in a chaotic universe; you're not fending for yourselves out there. You are the precious, baptized people of God, redeemed, and restored, and empowered for life in Him.

That's the View from Here.

Pastor Bill Winter