

What Is Baptism Sermon Guide

In this sermon, Pastor Vincent unpacked the powerful tool of baptism and the biblical truth that freedom is found when we surrender our lives fully to Jesus. Using powerful stories like Sonya's transformed life, he showed us how dying to our own plans makes room for God to move in and through us. Go deeper in study with discussion questions and a week of devotionals to allow God to move through you and truly surrender, or die to yourself, for His name's sake.

This sermon emphasizes:

- Baptism is a public celebration of surrendering our lives to Jesus.
- Surrendering to Jesus means letting go of our own desires and embracing the changes He wants to bring - in our mindset, our surroundings and even the people we spend time with.
- God invites us to surrender to Him, not because He wants to punish us, but because He has an incredible purpose for our lives that goes far beyond what we could ever imagine for ourselves.
- True freedom and spiritual wholeness come when we obediently hand over the reins of control over our lives to Christ.
- The powerful testimonies we heard (like Sonya's story) show us the amazing life transformations that can happen when we surrender to Jesus!

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Key Scriptures:

Matthew 10:39 (NASB1995)

"He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it."

Romans 6:1-7 (NASB1995)

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin."

Discussion Questions:

1. In your own words, what do you think it means to "die to self"? Can you share an example of how you've experienced this in your life?
2. Why is it so important to surrender fully to Christ? How have you seen the benefits of this in your own walk with Him?
3. Baptism is such a powerful symbol of our surrender to Jesus! How did you feel during your own baptism?
4. God may call us to change our mindsets, locations, or even the people we spend time with as part of our surrender. Can you think of any of these areas you can surrender more to Jesus?
5. Tell a story about a time when you chose obedience to God, even when it was difficult, and how He blessed you through that decision.
6. It can be so tempting to cling tightly to our own dreams and ambitions. How can we cultivate a mindset of handing over our plans to God's greater purposes?
7. What fears or doubts tend to come up when we consider fully surrendering areas of our lives to Christ? How can we overcome these?
8. How can you better support and encourage someone in your life that is on a journey of surrendering to Jesus?
9. Our church family plays an important role in helping us grow spiritually. In what ways has being part of this community aided your own process of surrender?
10. Stories like Sonya's are so inspiring! How can we share testimonies like hers to inspire others to take that step of surrendering to Christ?

Devotional:

The following incorporates the ancient Christian practice of Lectio Divina to meditate on the main Scriptures from this teaching. You can use them in your personal times of prayer to feast on God's Word:

Day 1: Monday (Matthew 10:39)

- **Read:** Slowly read and consider Matthew 10:39 and note any words that stand out to you. *"He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it."*
- **Meditate:** Take a few moments to ponder this paradoxical truth that losing our lives to Christ is actually how we find true, abundant life.
- **Pray:** Ask God to reveal any areas where you might be holding too tightly to your own plans and ambitions instead of fully surrendering to His perfect will for your life.

- **Contemplate:** Is there a temporary, worldly pursuit you've been seeking fulfillment in? Bring that to God and invite Him to reorient your heart.
- **Act:** Identify one area or aspect of your life that you sense God is inviting you to surrender more fully to Him today. Take a practical step of obedience in that area.

Day 2: Tuesday (Romans 6:1-3)

- **Read:** Slowly read and consider Romans 6:1-3 and note any words that stand out to you. *"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?"*
- **Meditate:** Reflect on the powerful symbolism and meaning behind the practice of baptism - we're publicly identifying with Christ's death, leaving our old sinful selves behind.
- **Pray:** Take a moment to confess any areas where sin has been creeping into your life. Ask God for His forgiveness and supernatural power to overcome sin and turn away from sin back to God.
- **Contemplate:** Are there sinful patterns, habits or mindsets you've been struggling to break free from? Lay these at the feet of Jesus.
- **Act:** Today, purposefully turn away from that sin and intentionally take a step towards obedience and righteousness.

Day 3: Wednesday (Romans 6:4-5)

- **Read:** Slowly read and consider Romans 6:4-5 and note any words that stand out to you. *"Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection."*
- **Meditate:** Consider the amazing power of the resurrection of Jesus that has made it possible for us to experience freedom and transformation in our own lives.
- **Pray:** Thank God for the incredible gift of new life through Jesus. Ask Him to continue shaping and renewing you through the Holy Spirit and Word of God.
- **Contemplate:** What areas of your life are most in need of Christ's reviving, renewing power right now?
- **Act:** Pinpoint one specific aspect that needs renewal and purposefully surrender it to the Lordship of Christ today.

Day 4: Thursday (Romans 6:6)

- **Read:** Slowly read and consider Romans 6:6 and note any words that stand out to you. *"Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin."*
- **Meditate:** Take some time to ponder what it means that your old, sinful self has been crucified with Christ. You have been freed from bondage!
- **Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas where you are still enslaved to sin or selfishness. Invite God to continue transforming you in these specific areas.
- **Contemplate:** Are there ways you are still clinging to your "old self" instead of embracing your new identity in Christ?

- **Act:** Take practical steps today to "put to death" those old sinful patterns and intentionally live out your new life in Christ.

Day 5: Friday (Romans 6:7)

- **Read:** Slowly read and consider Romans 6:7 and note any words that stand out to you. *"For he who has died is freed from sin."*
- **Meditate:** Joy and gratitude overflows in us when we know that through Christ, we have been liberated from sin's power? Reflect on that truth in your life and the lives of your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- **Pray:** Thank Jesus for the priceless gift of freedom and forgiveness. Ask Him to help you experience that freedom more fully each day.
- **Contemplate:** Are there areas where sin still manages to weigh you down or imprison you at times? Bring those to God and confess these sins to a friend.
- **Act:** Pinpoint one way that you long for greater freedom in Christ. Surrender that to Him today.

Day 6 - Saturday (Matthew 10:39, Romans 6:1-7)

- **Read:** Review the key scriptures from this week's devotionals on the themes of surrender, obedience, and new life in Christ.
- **Meditate:** Reflect on how each of these passages points to the incredible transformation and purpose we can experience through full surrender to Jesus.
- **Pray:** Ask God to continue renewing your mind and reshaping your heart's desires to align with His beautiful plans for your life.
- **Contemplate:** As you prepare for the upcoming week, how can you continue living in joyful, obedient surrender to Christ in each day and circumstance?
- **Act:** Prayerfully make a plan with practical next steps to help you walk in greater surrender and consecration in the coming week.

Baptism Bash | May 19

While baptism happens everywhere in our church — Lifegroups, weekly services and regular Sunday services — we look forward every year to our special Baptism Bash Sunday! Both our 9 and 11 a.m. services will be dedicated to celebrating the baptism of dozens of people in our church family. If you or someone you know would like to be baptized during our upcoming Baptism Bash, [sign up here!](#)