

5-Day Devotional: "From the Water to the Walk"

Day 1: The Beginning of Obedience

Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

Devotional:

Jesus had no sin, yet he submitted to baptism to fulfill all righteousness. This act of obedience was not about personal need but about complete surrender to the Father's will. God responded with unmistakable approval. This challenges every believer to examine the condition of their own heart. Obedience is not always convenient or fully understood, but it is always rewarded. Just as Jesus stepped into the Jordan without hesitation, we are called to step forward in faith, trusting that what God commands is always sufficient, always purposeful, and always worth the surrender it requires.

Reflection: In what areas of your life is God calling you to obey, even when you do not fully understand the reason?

Application: Identify one area where hesitation has kept you from full obedience. Take a concrete step toward surrendering that area to God today.



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Day 2: Placed Into Christ

Reading: Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4

Devotional:

The word "into" carries enormous weight. Baptism is not a ceremony performed beside Christ or in honor of Christ -- it is a burial and a rising into union with Christ. Before baptism, a person stands outside of that saving relationship. After baptism, they are positioned inside it. Romans 6 draws a direct connection between Christ's death, burial, and resurrection and the believer's own experience in the water. This is not mere ritual. It is a spiritual reality. Every blessing described in Scripture as being found "in Christ" becomes accessible at the moment one is truly placed there.

Reflection: Do you understand your baptism as a moment of union with Christ, or did you treat it as a religious formality?

Application: Read Ephesians 1:3-14 and make a list of every blessing described as being found "in Christ." Let that list remind you of what your baptism secured.



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Day 3: Sins Washed Away

Reading: Acts 2:36-41; Acts 22:16

Devotional:

When the crowd in Jerusalem heard Peter's message, they were cut to the heart and asked what they must do.

Peter's answer connected repentance and baptism directly to the forgiveness of sins. The language of Acts 22:16 is equally striking -- "wash away your sins."

Baptism is not described as a symbolic gesture disconnected from actual spiritual transformation. It is the moment God, through his grace, removes what we could never remove on our own. The weight of guilt, the record of failure, the accumulation of every wrong choice -- all of it is addressed in that moment of faithful obedience.

Reflection: Have you truly grasped what was washed away at your baptism, or do you still carry guilt that God has already removed?

Application: Write down three things from your past that you have struggled to release. Remind yourself that if you are in Christ, those things have been washed away. Pray and consciously release each one to God.



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Day 4: A New Creation, Not A Repaired One

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:1-4

Devotional:

Scripture does not describe the baptized believer as a cleaned-up version of their former self. The language is far more radical -- a new creation. Old things have passed away. Everything has become new. Colossians 3 adds another layer: your life is now hidden with Christ in God. This means that when God looks at you, he sees you through the covering of his Son. Your worst moment, your deepest shame, your most regrettable decision -- none of it defines you any longer. Your identity is now secured in someone whose record is perfect. That is not religion. That is grace.

Reflection: Who or what are you allowing to define your identity -- your past, other people's opinions, or your position in Christ?

Application: Choose one truth about your identity in Christ and write it somewhere visible. Return to it every time your past attempts to reclaim its hold on how you see yourself.



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Day 5: Walking in the Newness of Life

Reading: Romans 6:4-8; Romans 6:23

Devotional:

Baptism is not the finish line. It is the starting line. Romans 6:4 makes clear that those who have been buried with Christ in baptism are now called to walk in newness of life. The walk will include difficulty, temptation, stumbling, and seasons of doubt. But the believer does not walk alone, and they do not walk without access to divine resources. Every spiritual blessing is found in Christ, and it is in Christ that eternal life is also found. The walk from the water is a daily commitment -- not a performance for others, but a pursuit of the one who made you new.

Reflection: Are you walking in the newness of life that your baptism declared, or have you drifted back into old patterns and old identities?

Application: Evaluate your daily habits and routines. Identify one practice you can add -- prayer, Scripture reading, fellowship, service -- that will strengthen your walk and keep you moving forward in Christ.

