



**Living by Faith Part 5–The Doctrine of Baptism**  
**Pastor Dave Patterson**  
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**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

***“BAPTISM IS A COMMANDMENT... NOT A SUGGESTION”***

**[Matthew 28:18-20, NLT]**

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.** <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

***The pattern has not changed: repent, be baptized, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.***

**[Acts 2:38-39, NLT]**

Peter replied, “Each of you must **repent** of your sins and turn to God, and **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.”

<p><b>Sacrament</b> = a visible act or symbol of a spiritual reality /A channel of the grace of God, when applied by faith</p>
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***If you have been born again, you have had a heart transplant. You have a regenerated spirit.***

**[Romans 6:1-2]**

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?

***The farther the sin takes you, the farther the grace of God comes to rescue you. The great grace of God has no limits.***

**[Romans 6:16]**

Don't you realize that **you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey?** You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

**[2 Peter 2:19]**

They **(the ungodly)** promise freedom, but they themselves are slaves of sin and corruption. For **you are a slave to whatever controls you.**

**[John 8:34]**

Jesus replied, “**I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin.**”

**[Romans 7:23]**

but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and **making me a prisoner of the law of sin** at work within me.

**[Romans 6:3-4 ]**

Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

**[Romans 6:5-7]**

Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ **so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.** For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

***We are set free from the power of sin but not the ability to sin. You don't have to live in the patterns of your past. You've been given authority to walk in newness of life!***

**[Romans 6:8-11]**

And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. So you also should **consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin** and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

**[Romans 6:12-14]**

**Do not let sin control the way you live;** do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. **Instead,** give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. For sin is no longer your master.

**[Romans 6:12-14, AMP]**

For **sin will no longer be a master over you, (to hold enslaving and imprisoning power)**

**[Romans 6:13,17, AMP]**

**Offer yourselves to God** [in a decisive act] as those alive [raised] from the dead [to a new life], and your members [all of your abilities—sanctified, set apart] as instruments of righteousness [yielded] to God.

***Take your talent, your personality, your resources, and everything that's in front of you, and you sanctify it. You have been given a new nature that is now fighting for freedom every day.***

But thank God that though you were slaves of sin, you became **obedient with all your heart** to the standard of teaching in which you were instructed **and** to which you were committed.

***You cannot maintain freedom in a vacuum. It must be replaced with obedience to the Word of God and a sacrifice of who you are.***

**FOR MONDAY—**

1. If you haven't been baptized, pray and ask the Lord to speak to you about the timing of making that declaration of your faith.
2. Consider ("take account" / "do the math") of the fact that God has brought you freedom by the power of the Cross.
3. Thank God for the newness of life He's given you. Journal the different "spiritual real estate" you've gained through God's resurrection power.

## TALK IT THROUGH

1. What does biblical faith look like? What template do we see in Acts 2?
2. What is your understanding of the Great Commission? [Matthew 28.18-20]  
Why is it essential to our living for Jesus?
3. Which things came at a cost because of you standing for Christ and going public with your faith?
4. What is a sacrament, and why does it require faith for it to release power?
5. Why is baptism a commandment and not a suggestion?
6. What does it mean to “die to sin?” When does salvation take place for us?
7. How does our modern-day perspective on slavery differ contextually from those in the church at Rome? How does the “greater the sin” the “greater the grace” work? What keeps that from getting abused?
8. What faith reenactment do we rehearse in full-immersion water baptism?  
What power is transferred at water baptism?
9. How’s your freedom level, and are you living that out?
10. What do you need to offer the Lord for a greater level of freedom?