

21-DAY BAPTISM DEVOTIONAL

Preparing Your Heart for the Step of Baptism

This devotional is designed to walk you through 21 days of Scripture, reflection, and prayer as you prepare for baptism. Take each day one at a time. Be honest with yourself and with God. And know that this is not something you are doing alone.

Week 1 explores who you are in Christ. Week 2 calls you into obedience. Week 3 prepares you to walk fully in the new life that baptism declares.

WEEK 1

Understanding Who You Are in Christ

DAY

1

You Were Made for This

Psalm 139:14

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Before we can fully understand what baptism means, we have to understand who we are. You were not an accident. God knit you together with intentionality and purpose — and He has been working toward this moment in your life long before you ever started asking questions about faith. The decision to consider baptism is not random. It is the fruit of something God has already been doing in you. Today, take a moment to simply be still and recognize that you are known — fully known — by a God who has always been pursuing you.

Reflect

What has God been doing in your life that has brought you to this point of considering baptism?

Today's Prayer

Lord, thank You for knowing me before I ever knew You. Help me to see this season of my life as something You have been preparing me for. Give me eyes to recognize Your hand at work. Amen.

DAY

2

The Problem We All Share

Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

The hardest thing for most of us to accept is that we need saving. We prefer to believe we are basically good — that if we just try hard enough and do enough right things, we will be okay. But Scripture is honest with us: every single person has sinned and fallen short of who God created us to be. This is not meant to shame you — it is meant to free you. Because the moment you understand your need, the door to the greatest gift in the universe opens wide.

Reflect

In what areas of your life have you tried to be good enough without God? What has that felt like?

Today's Prayer

God, I do not want to pretend anymore. I acknowledge that I have fallen short. Thank You for not leaving me there. Help me to receive what You have freely offered. Amen.

DAY

3

The Gift You Cannot Earn

Ephesians 2:8-9

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast."

Grace is the most scandalous word in the Christian vocabulary. It means that what you could never earn, God freely gives. You cannot serve enough, give enough, or attend enough services to

earn your way into right standing with God. Salvation is a gift — and the nature of a gift is that you simply receive it. The moment you truly grasp this, everything changes. You stop performing for God and you start living with Him.

Reflect

Have you ever felt like you needed to earn God's love or approval? How does the truth of grace challenge that?

Today's Prayer

Father, I receive Your grace today — not as something I deserve, but as something You freely give. Teach me to live from a place of receiving rather than striving. Amen.

DAY

4

Jesus: The Only Way

John 14:6

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

There is a moment in every believer's journey where a question has to be settled: Who is Jesus to me? Not who is He historically, but who is He personally — to you? Jesus did not leave us guessing. He said He is the way, the truth, and the life. His death absorbed the penalty of your sin. His resurrection proved He had authority over death itself. Baptism is a declaration that you have answered that invitation.

Reflect

In your own words, who is Jesus to you right now? How has that understanding grown or changed recently?

Today's Prayer

Jesus, I believe You are who You said You are. You are the way — and I want to walk in it. You are the truth — and I want to live by it. You are the life — and I choose You. Amen.

DAY

5

The Moment Everything Changed

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

When you placed your faith in Christ, something happened that you may not have fully understood in the moment. You became new. Not improved — new. The old you, defined by sin and separation from God, is gone. A new you, defined by Christ and connected to the Father, is here. Baptism is the outward picture of this inward transformation. When you go under the water, you declare: the old is gone. When you come up, you declare: the new has come.

Reflect

What is one thing about the old you that you are most grateful no longer defines you?

Today's Prayer

Lord, thank You for making me new. Help me to walk in the identity You have given me rather than reverting to who I was. Remind me today that the old is gone. Amen.

DAY
6

Buried and Raised

Romans 6:4

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

The imagery of baptism is intentionally dramatic. You go under the water as a burial. You come up as a resurrection. This mirrors exactly what Jesus did: He died, was buried, and rose. When you were saved, you spiritually died to sin, were buried with Christ, and were raised with Him into new life. Baptism does not make this happen — it celebrates that it already has. You are not just a forgiven sinner. You are a raised-with-Christ new creation.

Reflect

What does it mean to you personally that you are raised with Christ — not just forgiven, but made alive?

Today's Prayer

Jesus, thank You for the resurrection that changed everything — for You and for me. I want to live like someone who has been raised to new life. Show me what that looks like today. Amen.

DAY
7

Your Story Matters

Revelation 12:11

"They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony."

Your story is powerful. When you share what God has done in your life, it carries weight that no argument or theology lesson can replicate. This is why baptism is public. It is not just a private spiritual transaction — it is a testimony. It is you saying, in front of people who love you: this is what God did in my life. Your story, no matter how ordinary it feels to you, has the potential to unlock faith in someone else who is watching.

Reflect

If you were to share your story of coming to faith in one or two sentences, what would you say?

Today's Prayer

Lord, help me not to be ashamed of my story. You wrote it — and You can use it. Give me the courage to share it, starting with my baptism. Amen.

WEEK 2

The Call to Obedience

DAY
8

Because He Said So

Matthew 28:19

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

There are many reasons to be baptized — but at the foundation of all of them is this: Jesus commanded it. He did not suggest it. He did not present it as an optional upgrade. When you are baptized, you are stepping into the stream of 2,000 years of believers who have obeyed the same command. Obedience, at its core, is not complicated. It is hearing what God says — and doing it.

Reflect

Is there anything that has made you hesitate to be baptized? What would it mean to simply say yes to what Jesus has asked?

Today's Prayer

Jesus, I want to be obedient — not because I have to be, but because I love You. Help me to take the steps You have asked me to take, without overthinking or delaying. Amen.

DAY

9

Love That Moves

1 John 5:3

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome."

Love is not passive. Real love moves. When you love someone, you want to please them — not out of fear, but out of genuine desire. When Jesus asks you to be baptized, He is not imposing a religious ritual on you. He is inviting you into a moment of love in action. Obedience is the language of love. Baptism is one of the earliest and clearest ways a new believer says: I love You enough to do what You ask.

Reflect

How does seeing obedience as an expression of love rather than duty change the way you think about baptism?

Today's Prayer

Father, let my obedience come from love and not obligation. I do not want to follow rules — I want to follow You. Thank You that Your commands are not burdens but gifts. Amen.

DAY

10

Don't Wait for Perfect

Acts 8:36

"Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

The Ethiopian eunuch is one of the most compelling characters in the book of Acts. He had just heard the gospel for the first time — and the moment he saw water by the road, his response was immediate: what is stopping me? He did not say he needed more time or more understanding. He believed, and he moved. One of the enemy's most effective tactics is convincing us to delay obedience until we feel more prepared. But readiness in God's kingdom is not about having everything figured out — it is about having faith enough to take the next step.

Reflect

What is one thing you have been waiting to figure out before taking your next step? Is that actually a requirement?

Today's Prayer

God, forgive me for the times I have delayed obedience waiting for perfect conditions. Give me the faith of the eunuch — to see the opportunity and say yes. Amen.

DAY

11

Immediate Obedience

Acts 2:41

"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

Three thousand people. In one day. This was the response on the day of Pentecost when Peter preached the first sermon of the early Church. They heard the message, they believed, and they were baptized — immediately, the same day. The early church did not treat baptism as something to get around to eventually. It was the natural, urgent next step after faith. There is a beautiful urgency in the question: when and where can I be baptized? It reflects the weight of what has happened in the heart.

Reflect

What would it mean for you to approach baptism with urgency — not as something on a to-do list but as a natural overflow of faith?

Today's Prayer

Lord, give me the urgency of the early church. Help me not to let what matters most become casual or convenient. I want to respond to Your grace with the enthusiasm it deserves. Amen.

DAY

Obedience in the Hard Moments

Luke 9:23

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Following Jesus is not always the path of least resistance. Sometimes obedience costs you something — the opinion of someone you respect, the comfort of keeping faith private, the pride of not wanting to be seen in front of people. Baptism is a moment of deliberate, visible, public obedience. For some people, that is the hardest part. But this is exactly what Jesus described: deny yourself, take up your cross, follow Me. The cross is directional — it points toward the life that comes on the other side of surrender.

Reflect

Is there a cost associated with your baptism? What would it look like to carry that cross?

Today's Prayer

Jesus, I do not want a comfortable faith. I want a real one. Help me to deny what needs to be denied and follow You — even in the moments that cost me something. Amen.

DAY

13

The Witness of Your Yes**Matthew 5:16**

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

When you are baptized, you are not just making a decision for yourself. You are making a declaration in front of others — and that declaration has a ripple effect you may never fully see this side of eternity. There will be someone watching your baptism who is not yet a believer. There will be someone who has been on the edge of faith for years. Your yes might be the thing that tips them toward their own yes. You are not just stepping into water. You are letting your light shine — visibly and boldly — before people who need to see that Jesus changes lives.

Reflect

Who in your life might be watching and waiting to see what you do with your faith? How does that change the significance of your baptism?

Today's Prayer

Lord, let my baptism be a moment that points people to You, not to me. Let my yes be a light. Use it in ways I cannot see or imagine. Amen.

DAY

14

You Are Not Alone

Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, but encouraging one another."

One of the most important things about baptism is that it is not a solo act. It is a community moment. You are welcomed into a family that has promised to walk with you. The church is not a building or a program — it is a people. And when you are baptized, those people are declaring something over you too: we are with you. Community is not a nice addition to the Christian life — it is essential to it. You were never meant to grow, struggle, and persevere in isolation.

Reflect

Who in your church community has been part of your journey toward baptism? How can you lean into community more deeply after you are baptized?

Today's Prayer

Father, thank You for the gift of community. Help me not to do faith alone. Surround me with people who will spur me on, and help me to be that person for others. Amen.

WEEK 3

Walking in the New Life

DAY

15

The New Has Come

Isaiah 43:19

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

God is in the business of new things. He made a new covenant. He gave you a new heart. He called you a new creation. Baptism is a marker — a stake in the ground that says: something new has begun. But it is not the end of new things. It is the beginning of a lifetime of walking with a God who does not leave things the way they are. Whatever you are stepping into after baptism, you are not stepping into it alone — and you are not stepping into it as the person you used to be.

Reflect

What new thing do you sense God doing in your life right now? What does it look like to cooperate with that?

Today's Prayer

God, I want to perceive what You are doing. Open my eyes to the new things You are bringing into my life — and give me the courage to walk in them. Amen.

DAY

16**Dead to Sin, Alive to God****Romans 6:11**

"In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Baptism is a declaration, but it is also an invitation to daily practice. Paul says to count yourself dead to sin — it is an active, ongoing choice. Sin still has a voice after your baptism. Old habits, old patterns, and old thoughts do not simply vanish. But you now have the authority, in Christ, to say: that is not who I am anymore. The Christian life is learning to walk in what is already spiritually true — to let the outer life catch up to the inner reality. You are not becoming new. You are walking in the newness that already is.

Reflect

What is one area where you need to walk in who you already are in Christ, rather than reverting to who you used to be?

Today's Prayer

Lord, help me to count myself dead to sin today — practically, specifically, in the areas where I am most tempted. And help me to walk fully alive in You. Amen.

DAY
17

The Spirit Inside You

1 Corinthians 6:19

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

When you placed your faith in Jesus, something extraordinary happened: God took up residence inside of you. The Holy Spirit — the very Spirit of God — now lives within you. You carry the presence of God wherever you go. He is your Counselor, your Comforter, your Guide. Baptism is a celebration of this reality. You are not just a person trying harder to be good — you are a person with God Himself dwelling within you, empowering you to live the life He has called you to.

Reflect

How aware are you day-to-day of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life? What would it look like to be more attentive to His voice?

Today's Prayer

Holy Spirit, I acknowledge that You are in me. Teach me to pay attention to You. Help me not to grieve You or quench You, but to walk in step with You today. Amen.

DAY
18

Rooted and Growing

Colossians 2:6-7

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

A tree is not planted and expected to be full-grown overnight. It needs roots — deep ones — before it can bear fruit that lasts. The Christian life is the same. Baptism is a beginning, not a graduation. Some people treat it as a finish line, but it is actually a starting block. The most exciting part of your journey with Jesus is not what brought you here — it is what comes next. Keep showing up, keep going deeper, keep letting your roots grow down into Him.

Reflect

What spiritual practices are you most wanting to build into your life after baptism?

Today's Prayer

Lord, help me to be rooted. I do not want to be a shallow-soil believer. Grow me deep in You so that whatever comes cannot uproot what You have planted. Amen.

DAY

19

Carrying Each Other

Galatians 6:2

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

The new life is not meant to be lived in isolation. When you are baptized, you are not just added to a membership roll — you are joining a family with real people, real struggles, and real responsibility to one another. The law of Christ is the law of love — and love carries. It shows up. It sits with someone in the hard places. Your baptism is a public commitment not just to God but to His people. You are saying: I am in. And being in means being present — really present — for those around you.

Reflect

Who in your church community might need to be carried right now? And who do you need to allow to carry you?

Today's Prayer

Father, make me someone who carries others. Remove the self-sufficiency that keeps me from being carried when I need it. Help me to live the law of love in practical, daily ways. Amen.

DAY

20

He Is Not Finished With You

Philippians 1:6

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

God is not finished with you. Whatever you feel — however incomplete, however messy, however far you think you still have to go — God is not finished. He who began this work in you is the same God who will complete it. Baptism is a chapter, not the final page. It is a milestone in an ongoing story that God is writing with your life. The most important thing you can do after your baptism is to keep going — keep showing up, keep trusting, keep growing. The Author of your story does not abandon what He starts.

Reflect

What unfinished areas of your life do you most need to surrender to God's ongoing work in you?

Today's Prayer

Lord, I trust You to finish what You started. On the days I feel like giving up, remind me that You are still writing my story. Give me the patience and the faith to keep going. Amen.

DAY
21

Go — You Are Ready

Matthew 28:20

"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

You made it to Day 21. And here is what we want you to know: you are ready. Not because you have everything figured out. Not because you have no more doubts or questions. But because the God who saved you is going with you. The Great Commission ends with the greatest promise: I am with you always. Not just on good days. Not just in the moments you feel spiritually strong. Always. When you step into the water for your baptism, He is there. When you step out and back into ordinary life, He is still there. You were never walking alone — and you never will be.

Reflect

As you approach your baptism, what is the one thing you most want to say to God about this moment in your life?

Today's Prayer

Jesus, thank You for being with me — through every day of this journey and every day still to come. I step into my baptism not with all the answers, but with all of my trust in You. I am Yours. Amen.

A Church Where No One Walks Alone

We are honored to have walked through these 21 days with you. Baptism is one of the most significant moments of your life in Christ — and we will be right there with you when the day comes. You are loved. You are seen. And you are not alone.