

# GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



## GIG86 – Baptism – The Defeat Of Our Will

I have been talking so much about the Adamic nature and the basis of our salvation, I felt like it was really necessary to touch on the subject of baptism and the power of baptism that we really have available to us as part of the arsenal that lets us win the war over our Adamic nature and our human will, as it seems to exert itself against doing the will of God.

I am going to have us go to Romans the sixth chapter, and I will start at verses 1-3. “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?” Here we begin to see the concept of baptism. We know it is generally accepted in Christianity that first you are saved by faith in Christ and His salvific work on the cross; we then, of course, confess with our mouth after believing in our hearts. But the next step after generally receiving, by some, the baptism of the Holy Spirit that goes along with the salvation experience, we are taught to receive water baptism. And it is this baptism that we are speaking of, that we have been baptized into Christ, having been baptized into His death. The symbolism of baptism is that you are put down into the water – and that is, symbolically and spiritually, being immersed into His death on the cross. When we are raised up out of the water, we are then raised into the likeness of His resurrection and the power of His resurrection. This we must recognize is not just necessarily a sacrament or some type of an expression of faith; there is a power in baptism that we really need to experience as believers. It is the power to come up into His resurrection, and to free us from this internal war against our Adamic nature, or our human will. This is what is being expressed here.

Going on in verse 4, it says, “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.” What is this newness of life? It is a newness because we are now free from this internal war that we continually seem to lose in battling with our Adamic nature, or warring with our will to worship it as an idolatry; which, of course, is the sin that man is so guilty of. So we come up in newness of life. Remember that – it is a new life. The new life is that we are to be free from this idolatry. We are to be loosed from this war, through what? Through the power of resurrection. The death of Christ was one thing, but the resurrection of Christ was something else. And it is this power of resurrection that brings a life that had not been experienced before, and that we must also enter into in baptism. As much as it is the expression that we go into the death of Christ which He experienced, having won the war with His will, we then also experience this power of resurrection. That power of resurrection serves to give us a newness of life that we live, even now, in this life we are in. It is not waiting until we go off to heaven, or something like that. It is now, day to day, how we are able to live, having been “endued with this power from on high,” as Christ told the disciples to wait for. When they were baptized into the Holy Spirit, they were baptized into this power of His resurrection. And it is this which we receive.

Verses 5-15: “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.” What is this old self? It is this Adamic nature. It is this war of the will that we face, our human will set against doing

the will of God because it serves itself, not Him. So, this “old self was crucified” – past tense. Can we emphasize that? – “was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin” – remember how Paul referred to this body of death: “Who will deliver me from this body of death?” That is what he is speaking of here. He says, “In order that our body of sin” – or this body of death – “might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.” See, this whole war is over. In Christ, this war is over. And what baptism is about is not symbolic. It is about us literally experiencing the death and resurrection. It is about seeing this old life put to death, this old war of idolatry – serving two masters, or trying to. We can't serve two masters. We can't serve our will and serve the will of God – we will love one and despise the other. And usually, it is our own will that we end up serving. “For the death that He died,” speaking of Christ, “He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourself to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” See, now we are alive to God. We are reconciled to God. We are able to serve Him and to serve His will because this Adamic nature, this will of the flesh, has been crucified with Christ. And when we talk about sin, that really is the ultimate sin. It is the root of all sin, which the will of man brings about in us to serve itself.

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts.” See, sin is connected with obedience, obedience to what you will. We have been delivered from that. Don't let that reign in you any longer. Do not obey what its desires are. Its lusts are to do its own thing, to accomplish its own will. “And do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” Now we can do the will of God. “For sin shall not be master over you.” See, we are not going to serve it anymore. We are not going to serve our own will. “For you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!” That is just a confusion; you don't know what you are talking about if you are saying, “Oh, well, we can sin now that we have grace, because anytime we make a mistake, we simply go take Communion again and again and again; and we say, ‘We're sorry for our sin.’” No, that is not the point of Christ. The point of Christ is the ultimate defeat of our will and us serving our will in idolatrous sin. “Shall we sin because we are not under the law?” No.

Verses 16-23: “Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey?” And this has been what we faced all of our lives. We presented ourselves to serve our will, and therefore we became a slave to our will, and we were obedient to our will – which of course canceled out doing the will of God. “You are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness. But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.” In other words, this is difficult to understand. “For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness,” – what is lawlessness? It is submission to your will – “resulting in further lawlessness,” – when you submit yourself to your will, you will do it again, and again, and again – “so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.” In other words, we are obedient to Christ, and that brings about our sanctification. “For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. But now having been freed from sin and enslaved

to God,” – I love that. We are slaves to obedience to God. Man, does your human will hate that kind of terminology? That just is like fingernails on the blackboard to your will. It does not like this idea of being enslaved to God to do the will of God, because it refuses anything but its own will and its own ascendancy to the throne. He says, – “you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.” Thank You, God. We come into eternal life. “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Colossians 3, verses 1-5: “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ,” – that is what baptism is about. We are raised up with Christ. He says, then “keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” See, we are no longer be focused down upon the flesh and the things of the flesh, and the things of the human will and mind. “Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” Thank you, Lord. Our life is hidden with Christ in God. What is it hidden in? It is hidden in His Lordship over us, that we do His will now. “When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion,” – speaking of, of course, evil passion – “evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.” See, all of these things are defined and described as idolatry, ultimately. It doesn't matter whether it is immorality, or impurity, or following lusts of evil passion; or whether it is just evil desires that come within us, as Paul talked about; or greed. Whatever it is, all of these amount to idolatry. Why? Because it is your will in ascendancy over the will of God, with us serving that. And that is called idolatry. And the greatest sin, and true sin, is idolatry, because it worships something other than the true God; and it is obedient and serves something other than the true God, Creator of the universe, blessed for ever and ever.

Verse 6 says, “For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.” We lived in these things. They were the force that drove us, the service of our will. We lived in this reality of our idolatry, and this is what we talk about as the Adamic nature. It is what we talk about in disobedience and sin. But God has brought about for us Christ, who won the war over His human will, and then opened the door for us, in the sacrament that we call baptism, where we are able to express – and more than express, experience – being immersed into the likeness of His death, being brought into death with Him on the cross; and also being raised with Him in the likeness of His resurrection, having won the war, having broken the power of sin, not to serve sin again, but to find ourselves in absolute obedience to Him as the Lord; to have our minds set on the things above where Christ is. We focus on Him, and we live in a new life born out of this experience of baptism.

If you have never been baptized before, I encourage you to study these verses to have really a revelation of what baptism is all about, the power of baptism in your life. Again, it is not a sacrament. It is not a show. There is a power to be experienced through this baptism of water. And I encourage you, if you have not experienced it, pray over it. Read the Scriptures about it, and find this reality come about in your life, where you are expressing the absolute defeat of your Adamic nature; and you are winning the war over your will, as Christ won the war over His; and you are being lifted up into His Presence, into His Lordship, and out of an old life of idolatry into a new life of serving Him and serving Him only.

I want us to think about these things. As Christ's human will was defeated at the cross, so our will is to be crucified in baptism. We reckon our Adamic nature dead through Christ, and we live life in obedience to God; a new life, as he said. I believe for this to be a dynamic experience in your life as a believer. And I

bless you to become one of those that has not only entered into the likeness of His death, but now is raised in the power of His resurrection. Amen.