

“Kingdom reSet”

Presentation Handout

When in Doubt—Restart/Reset

- You know what they say when we can't seem to get your devices (computers, iPads, cell phones, etc.) to work—if all else fails, restart them.
- Even when you call tech support, expecting some special “tech-trick” it seems the first question they ask or the first thing they have you do is restart your device. And many times this amazingly “simple” act is all it takes to get our devices working correctly again.
- As human beings we're broke, we don't “work/run” well (like our devices) because of sin, we too need a spiritual restart—a “reset.”
- Baptism symbolizes this spiritual “reset,” like restarting our devices. Yet, there is confusion regarding its meaning, method, function, and symbolism. But we don't need to be confused as we study *Romans 6*, where the Apostle Paul explains the beauty of baptism.

Romans 6 Context

- In *Romans chapters 1-5*, Paul meticulously explains through words, word pictures & examples of Bible characters what faith, righteousness, salvation, etc. is or what it's not, particularly in *chapter 5*.
- *Chapter 5* seems to be Paul's crescendo for *chapters 1-4*. He summarizes what he has been teaching so far:
 - Beginning with Adam and each human being since, humanity sinned “away” from a faith relational connection with God into their own life of self-centeredness, disconnected from God, which caused physical death along with spiritual death, condemnation, disobedience, sinfulness ruling in their lives, etc. {*vv. 12-15b, 16a, 17a, 18a, 19, 20a, 21a*}.
 - God's response in Christ Jesus through His mercy brought or gave:
 - Gift of grace to all human beings—we take our next breathe and our hearts beat by God's gift of grace, whether one believes or not {*v. 15; Acts 17:25, 28a*}.
 - Free gift of justification of life—God's grace is given to every human being as well as the Holy Spirit woos sinful human beings back to God in salvation {*vv. 16, 18; Jeremiah 31:3; John 1:5, 9*}.
 - Gift of faith that human beings can exercise in receiving (believing) the gift of salvation in Jesus—not all will be saved but they could be if they exercised faith in Jesus {*vv. 17b, 19b; Romans 12:3; Ephesians 2:8-9*}.
 - Divine grace against sin ruling (abounding) in sinful human beings' lives. God's grace “pushes back” against sin by giving us the desire to say, “no” to it or yes to God's best will for our lives {*v.20; Titus 2:11-12*}.

- Gift of Christ’s righteousness—eternal life in Jesus along with a life of heart obedience {*v. 21; Jeremiah 31:31-34 -> Hebrews 8:7-12; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Ephesians 2:10*}.
- Somehow, Paul must have thought there would be confusion on what he just taught in *chapter 5*, so he gives a detailed description of this new salvation life *in* Christ and what happens when we experience it in his explanation of baptism.

Baptism—God’s Kingdom “reSet”

- Spiritually dead in Jesus {*Romans 6:1-4*}.
 - Dead people don’t sin. Dead people don’t fight against God. Dead people don’t demand their own way. Paul reminds us *in* Christ we’re spiritually dead. And this new kingdom life, symbolized by baptism, can only occur with spiritual death and burial because only out of spiritual death can there be a spiritual new life *in* Jesus.
 - Unless this spiritual death occurs, there will be two controlling life principles working in opposition in one’s life, dooming that person to fail spiritually!

Take-Away: It’s like two locomotive engines pulling in the opposite direction against one another. The train will *not* move. It would be stuck in place. Or it’s like two drivers in the same vehicle with their own steering wheels, trying to steer it in opposite directions. It would be disastrous! Unfortunately, this is how some people attempt to live spiritually with the same disastrous results!

No wonder Jesus said in *John 12:24-26*, “...Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me....”

This is the only way we can live for Jesus—we must spiritually die first!

- Paul continues to unpack what he means by spiritual die in *Romans 6:6-7* as he shares more key words/terms that describe what spiritual death is or how it works:
 - “old man” (woman/young adult/collegiate/youth/child) = the old sinful lifestyle (sinful desires, passions, lifestyle, etc.)—how one lives without God before salvation
 - “crucified with Him” = complete death done to someone *by* God *in* Christ Jesus
 - “body of sin” = inner sinful self that controls or tries to control our lives to sin
 - “done away with” = rendered or made inoperative, not eliminated or destroyed
 - Crucified in Jesus renders our body of sin/inner sinful-self inoperative/non-functioning—it doesn’t have to control us to sin!
 - “died” = crucified/spiritually dead
 - “freed” = liberated—freedom comes in dying, which means we can live for God now; slavery/bondage comes from sin.

Take-Away: If someone removed your battery in your automatic transmission vehicle or the distributor cap in an older vehicle, or disconnected the vehicle’s computer, it would be inoperable, non-functioning. This is what spiritual death does to our old person/sinful inner being through crucifixion *in* Jesus. Baptism symbolizes this spiritual death experience that renders our old man/inner sinful sin inoperable/non-functioning!

- As we die *in/with* Christ, we can now live with Him *in/through* His resurrection power.
- New life in Jesus [*{Romans 4-5, 6c, 8, 11}*](#)
 - Paul connects resurrection with a new life—a new way of living in thinking, feeling, acting, relating, perceiving, etc.
 - We must reckon/consider/receive this new life, which “resets” our lives in a new growing spiritual person *in* Jesus through faith, symbolized again by our baptism, which means we don’t have to be enslaved by or to sin.
 - The power for this new life comes from God, His resurrection power, not through our weak human power.

Take-Away: David remembers the first time he saw his Dad cry. He was six or seven-years-old. His Dad didn’t know how to show much emotion except anger. So, you can imagine David’s shock when he saw his Dad cry at his Grammy Berlin’s funeral.

She was literally a mother to David’s Dad over the years as his mother (her daughter) died when he was only three. Do you think his father wished he could somehow bring her back to life to continue to have her in his life? Of course! Could he? No, of course not!

Neither can we resurrect ourselves from a life of sin and death, to live a new spiritual, godly life. We need God’s resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead to empower us to live a new life in Jesus [*{1 Peter 1:3-5}*](#).

- Choosing & Growing *in* Jesus [*{Romans 6:11-13}*](#)
 - Baptism represents God’s kingdom living, which is associated with choice and growth. It is *not* a one-time event. It’s a lifestyle!
 - This doesn’t mean you will never sin or need to ask for forgiveness from God and others. What it does mean, instead, is we will be open to learning and growing in choosing new ways to live. We’ll be willing to allow God to change us in a proactive way, not passive if we “trip” over it along life’s way mindset [*{Romans 6:16-18}*](#).

Take-Away: When growing up the two main emotions I (*presenter – David Sitler*) saw modeled because of my parents’ brokenness was anger and emotional withdrawal-punishment.

Unfortunately, I was a “good” student! What a disaster when I entered marriage and parenting—either I was angry at my wife and son, or emotionally withdrawn. Neither, response was conducive to healthy family relationships.

Over the years, I promised God and my family I would do better next time (and I meant it) until the next stressful situation occurred and you guessed it, the same emotional “dance” happened all over again.

This emotional “rollercoaster dance” went on for years until I finally (out of desperation) visited a good Christian counselor, Dr. Cal. My emotional baggage,” was damaging, no destroying my relationships with my wife and son. And I didn’t want to lose them!

And I’m sure glad I went. God has helped me to grow and heal so I do not need to live or respond with these same old “emotional dances.”

God has not called us to status quo, nor rebaptism over and over to fix what we need to cooperate with God to heal in practical ways, like counseling!!

Recently on the New Life Live call-in counseling show, the Christian counselors stated based on [*Ephesians 3:20*](#): God doesn’t usually change our situations, He wants to change

us! Sadly, it's natural for us to avoid growth because: what would God or others think? Well, God already knows and actually, He wants the best life for us. So, He's doesn't view us less, we do. He wants to heal and grow us so we can experience His best plan/will for our lives, if we'd only cooperate with Him!

This is what baptism is all about: salvation, forgiveness, healing, restoration, reconciliation, growth, etc. And what a life it is when we receive it by grace through faith!!

Baptism in the New Testament

- *Matthew 3:4-6; Mark 1:5; John 3:22-23; Acts 8:34-38*
 - John the Baptist baptized *in* the Jordan River “hinting” baptism was by immersion, not sprinkling or pouring.
 - In *John 3* we are told there was much water needed to baptize because NT baptism was by immersion.
 - The Ethiopian eunuch and Philip went down *into* the water because baptism is by immersion.
- *Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-10; Luke 3:21-22*
 - Jesus *came up* from the water, which seems to indicate He was baptized while *in* the water (immersion).
 - Jesus filled all righteousness when He was baptized.
 - The Godhead is present at Jesus’ baptism—the Father speaks, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, and Jesus in humanity is being baptized.
 - The infilling of the Holy Spirit helped Jesus live for the Father and faithfully minister for Him.
 - All of the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ baptism include the Holy Spirit.
- *Luke 3:7-14; Acts 2:38a; 8:12; 8:34-38 (37); 9:17-18; 10:34-48 (37, 47-48); 16:(14)-15a, 29-34; 18:5-8; 22:12-16; Galatians 3:26-27; Colossians 2:11-13*
 - Baptism symbolizes repentance, faith, and the lifestyle change that takes place in one’s life through the Holy Spirit before baptism—no “magic” in the water.
- *Matthew 21:24-26; Mark 11:29-32; Luke 3:2-3; 7:28-30; 20:3-6*
 - Baptism is given by God and His will for believing human beings—symbolizing their faith response to the Holy Spirit’s conviction and drawing to God in salvation.
- *Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:38; 8:14-17; 11:15-16; 19:1-6 (2-4, 6)*
 - There is a water baptism and a Spirit baptism. One can be baptized with water-baptism but not necessarily with Spirit-baptism automatically.
- *Mark 1:4; Acts 2:38; 22:12-16*
 - Baptism symbolizes the remission of sins—forgiven of our sins by God.
- *Acts 8:26-38 (30-31, 35); 10:34-48 (34-43); 16:29-34 (32); 18:5-8 (5, 8); 19:1-6 (2-5)*
 - In preparation for baptism there is a preaching, sharing, and/or teaching of God’s Word—learning and beginning change of one’s life as a result.
- *Acts 19:1-6*
 - There is a biblical New Testament precedent for re-baptism when new truth has been learned and/or a significant renewed spiritual walk has been experienced.

- **Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 1:11-16; Galatians 3:26-27; Colossians 2:11-13**
 - Those who are baptized are baptized *into* the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, not any other human being.
 - This infers baptism is by immersion or the symbolize wouldn't make sense.
- **Acts 2:40-47; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13**
 - When baptized into Christ Jesus we are also baptized into His Church for spiritual connection, community, support, accountability, growth, etc.

In-Christ Motif/Concept

- To review the spiritual meaning and the significance of being *IN* Christ, please see *theJourney* website at www.god-journey.com, under “Presentations,” “Hope 04.”

LIVING CHOICE: Will you embrace, receive God's kingdom life—salvation, change, growth, healing—through baptism, if you haven't already been baptized, or if you have, will you by His grace through faith live the kingdom life He desires for you?