



# 19 Minutes with Luther

## Baptism

### The Power of Baptism

*Third: How can water do such great things?*

It is certainly not the water that does such things, but God's Word which is in and with the water and faith which trusts this Word used with the water.

For without God's Word the water is just plain water and not Baptism. But with this Word it is Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of rebirth by the Holy Spirit.

*Where is this written?*

Saint Paul says in Titus, chapter 3, "[God] saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying."

### The Meaning of Baptism for Our Daily Life

*Fourth: What does baptizing with water mean?*

Baptism means that the old Adam in us should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

*Where is this written?*

Saint Paul says in Romans, chapter 6, "We were . . . buried with [Christ] 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."

1. According to the words of the Power of Baptism and the Scripture passage quoted there, who is working in Baptism so that its simple water offers the incredible blessings of forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life? Through what means or instrument are these blessings offered in Baptism?
2. Since Baptism's power is in the Word of God, what would we say about the type of water that must be used? about the method of baptizing?
3. According to the following passages, what does the Holy Spirit do through the Word of God in Baptism?

*"[God] saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5).*

- The Knowledge of God
- Law and Gospel
- Introduction to the Law
- 1st Commandment
- 2nd Commandment
- 3rd Commandment
- 4th Commandment
- 5th Commandment
- 6th Commandment
- 7th Commandment
- 8th Commandment
- 9th & 10th Commandments
- The Conclusion
- The Gospel & the Nature of God
- The Apostles' Creed (Faith)
- 1st Article (Creation)
- 1st Article (Preservation)
- 1st Article (Protection)
- 1st Article (The Fall into Sin)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Person)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Office)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Work)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)
- 2nd Article (Christian Life)
- 2nd Article (Saved by Faith)
- 3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)
- 3rd Article (Calls)
- 3rd Article (Enlightens)
- 3rd Article (Sanctifies)
- 3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)
- 3rd Article (Invisible Church)
- 3rd Article (Visible Church)
- 3rd Article (Forgiveness)
- 3rd Article (Eternal Life)
- Baptism (Part 1)
- **Baptism (Part 2)**
- Holy Communion (Part 1)
- Holy Communion (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 1)
- Keys & Confession (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 3)
- Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
- The Address
- 1st Petition
- 2nd Petition
- 3rd Petition
- 4th Petition
- 5th Petition
- 6th Petition
- 7th Petition
- The Doxology

*“Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing” (Acts 8:38,39).*

4. Baptism makes us mindful of the conflict that exists within every Christian between the old Adam and the new man. Fill in the following chart.

Old Adam	New Man
_____ from birth,	holy by _____,
inclined toward _____, and	inclined toward _____, and
hates _____ and his will.	_____ God and his will.

5. The water of our baptisms reminds us that we belong to the Lord and are daily to drown the old Adam through contrition and repentance. According to the following passage, what are contrition and repentance?

*“Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. . . . A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise” (Psalm 51:4,17).*

6. In the Meaning of Baptism for Our Daily Life, Martin Luther quotes Romans 6:4, reminding us that, as baptized children of God, we are to live new and holy lives. How does Baptism itself fill us with a desire to live such lives?

7. Comment on the following statements:

A person who has not been baptized can still be saved.

It is possible for a child to lose the faith that was given to him in Baptism.

### Luther said:

*“These two parts of the rite, the dipping beneath the water and the emerging again, point to Baptism’s power and effect, which are simply the slaying of the old Adam and the resurrection of the new man. Both of these actions are to keep happening in us throughout our life on earth. A Christian life is thus nothing more than an ongoing daily Baptism, once begun and always continuing.” (Tappert, pp. 444,445.)*

### Closing Prayer

Holy Spirit, remind us daily that we have been sanctified by the Word of God and washed clean through the water of Baptism. Help and empower us to live each moment of our lives as redeemed children of God in Christ. Amen.

### At home

Memorize the Power of Baptism and the Meaning of Baptism for Our Daily Life.

### Helps

(1) The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God in Baptism to bring us the blessings of the sacrament. (2) Contrary to the claims of some, it does not matter what type of water is used, since the power of Baptism is in the Word of God. Neither is there an advantage in one method of baptizing over another (immersion over against sprinkling or pouring). This too is contrary to the claims of some. (3) Through the Word of God in Baptism, the Holy Spirit either creates saving faith (washing of rebirth), as is the case with little children, or he strengthens faith, as was the case with the Ethiopian eunuch, who after his baptism went on his way rejoicing. (4) The old Adam is sinful from birth, inclined toward evil, and hates God and his will. The new man is holy by faith, inclined toward good, and loves God and his will. There is a conflict. (5) Contrition and repentance mean acknowledging and having a deep and sincere sorrow over our sins and trusting that God forgives those sins for Jesus’ sake. (6) Baptism reminds us of the eternal blessings Jesus our Savior gives us through this sacrament and then fills us with the desire to respond to his love by living our lives to his glory. (7) Jesus said, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Unbaptized persons can be saved if he has not despised Baptism. A child may tragically lose the God-given faith received through Baptism if that faith is not nurtured and fed with the Word of God. It is the parents’ responsibility to see to the spiritual training of their children.