

# **Beyond Sunday with Scripture References**

## **Your Next Step**

### **A Sermon Application Guide**

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

#### **Message Theme & Prayer Focus**

What is Water Baptism?

*"Father, thank you for making it possible for me to follow you in all my ways. Strengthen me by your Holy Spirit to see, hear, and follow the truth you speak through your Word. Thank you for every opportunity you bless me with to receive and then follow through with that truth, modeling your love and grace to the world around me in Jesus' name. Amen!"*

#### **Key Concepts/Truths**

Baptism is going public in our belief of Jesus, committing to live for Him the rest of our lives. Peter actually commanded Christians to be baptized once they believed.

The word "baptism" literally means "immersion". In scripture, every time someone was baptized, they were fully immersed in water as a sign of their old way of life being put to death, and a new way of life began.

We all have a next step in our faith journey. The first step is to believe, and Jesus tells us the next step is always water baptism. But it doesn't end there. We are to be always growing, taking another step in the direction God would have us go by the power of His Spirit.

Jesus asks us all to be water baptized to identify with Him and His life, death, burial, and resurrection. He isn't just interested in us becoming a Christian and getting to Heaven, He wants us to be disciples and to be like Him every day of our lives.

The sprinkling of water as an infant may be a good dedication of our children to the Lord, but it by no means takes the place of fully being immersed in water as Christ was, as He says for us to be as well.

Jesus says that those who believe will be saved. In western Christianity we tend to view being saved as just going to Heaven, but Jesus meant so much more than that. His definition of "saved" has always been "to be delivered, protected, healed, made whole, and preserved." It was more about a way of life than a happening after death.

Jesus died not to simply get us to Heaven, but to get the Kingdom of Heaven inside every one of us. Christianity is personal, but it is not private. Because Jesus was baptized, there should be no reason why we, as His followers, should not be baptized in the same way.

Baptism sets up a barrier between us and our old way of life. In water baptism, by faith, we drown the things of our old life like sin and desires that would try to follow us into our new life. At baptism, our faith connects with what Jesus did for us.

Baptism is so much more than some Christian ritual. It's a confession, an exit, and a burial of our old way of life partnered with a promise for more in life. It's a symbol that we've given our life to Jesus and a starting point to receive power by God's Holy Spirit to walk in the way that He created us.

### **Key Verses:**

Matthew 3:15 • Matthew 11:12 • Matthew 28:19 • Acts 8:36-39 • 1 Corinthians 10:1-2 • 1 Peter 3:21 • 2 Corinthians 5:17 • Romans 6:4 • Romans 1:16

### **Daily Application**

Sometimes we don't move forward with something new because we have yet to recognize the level of benefit in what lies ahead. If we haven't been baptized, there is no way for us to fully understand the life that Jesus has prepared for us to walk in. Even if we have been baptized, it takes a conscious effort to begin living that way, with power and authority through Jesus' name. Baptism certainly unlocks the ability for us to begin walking in that newness of life through its public declaration of following Jesus, but to actually make the decision to take Jesus up on His offer of new life and begin to operate in that fullness is on us.

Living life is a choice. It doesn't just happen to us. Following Jesus isn't something that we default into. When we truly decide to live the way that He's called us to, the richness of life on the other side of that decision is immense. There is a level of joy, peace, and prosperity found only in following Jesus. He modeled a way for us to live through His life on earth. Only by adopting His way of life, and all that He commands of us, will we fully live in the fullness that He intended for us. So say, "yes" to Him. Follow Him in baptism, receiving the Holy Spirit, listening to what He says and walking in the same life that He modeled for us all. Life will never be the same.

### **This Week's Declarations**

"I say, "Yes" to Jesus. My "Yes" means I follow what His Word says and what He leads me in by His Holy Spirit. The life I used to live is gone because Jesus' new life is in me. I put to death my old life and choose to follow Jesus' example. I walk in the Spirit, experiencing His life and modelling for others to see and follow. I advance the Kingdom of Heaven and make more of it a reality through my actions everyday in service to Christ. I will let my light shine as an example pointing to God, for His glory, in Jesus' name!"

### **What's Next?**

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

## Scripture References

### Your Next Step

#### **Matthew 11:12 NKJV**

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

#### **Matthew 28:18-19 NKJV**

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Acts 8:36-39 NKJV**

Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

#### **Acts 10:44-48 NKJV**

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

#### **Acts 16:30-34 AMP**

and after he brought them out [of the inner prison], he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus [as your personal Savior and entrust yourself to Him] and you will be saved, you and your household [if they also believe]." And they spoke the word of the Lord [concerning eternal salvation through faith in Christ] to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their bloody wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household. Then he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, since he had believed in God with his entire family [accepting with joy what had been made known to them about the Christ].

#### **1 Corinthians 10:1-2 NKJV**

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

#### **1 Peter 3:21 NKJV**

There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

**2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

**Romans 6:4-5 NKJV**

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

**Exodus 14:13 NKJV**

And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold] your peace."

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**Acts 2:38-39 NKJV**

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Exodus 14:31 NKJV**

Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.

**Romans 1:16 NKJV**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

**Matthew 3:15 NKJV**

But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.