

CD711OA: Advanced Communication - Fall 2022  
Priscilla Wong  
Sermon Manuscripts 3

Sermon Topic: Transformation through Jesus  
Scripture: Romans 6:3-7; 12-14  
Youtube link to Sermon: <https://youtu.be/5s5MciLSbYI>

I love Baptism! Baptism is one of my most favorite christian celebration next to Christmas and Easter. Such a joyful moment that's worth celebrating. One of the most memorable baptism service I have been to other than my own was the one where both of my parents and my parents-in-laws got baptized together. I was beyond joyful that day, it almost felt like it was my wedding day, everyone was congratulating and rejoicing with us. Watching them get baptized was a major milestone. They came to Christ at different times but they were all touched by the Holy Spirit to get baptized at that time. And they all had their own story of encountering Jesus to tell. As a matter of fact, we all have our own story of encountering Jesus to tell. Those of you who are getting baptized today, you all have your own story of encountering Jesus to tell. And you know what, when we turn to God, heaven roars with joy! In Luke 15:10, it says "I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." I believe the same joy is rocking heaven right now because joy is overflowing today! Exuberant joy is shown on all of your faces, those who are getting baptized today. And your loved ones who are here to celebrate with you today, their faces are also filled with joy. What a joyful day, praise the Lord, hallelujah!

You know what the Bible says about baptism or the moment when we decide to accept Jesus as our savior? I want to bring us to Romans chapter 6 verses 3 to 7 and walk you through what that looks like. It goes like this: "3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin." We know that Jesus died for our sins and on the third day he rose again. Verses 3 to 5 is telling us that when we were touched by God to believe in Jesus, we were united with Jesus, we were baptized into the life of Jesus - when Jesus died on the cross for us, he took all our sins and infirmities away from us and bore them on himself, and our old sinful self died and was buried with Jesus just as how Jesus died and was buried. This is the first half of redemption, then Jesus rose again! Our new self also resurrected with Jesus because we were united with Jesus and baptized into the life of Jesus. Simply put, our old sinful self has died and now I no longer live, now it's Jesus who lives inside of me! Just like how Galatians 2:20 summarized it: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." This is exactly what happened the moment you believe in God, you are baptized into the life of Jesus and become united with Jesus. Isn't that wonderful to know? When you get baptized later, you are reminded once again what Christ has done on the cross for you: when you go into the water, your old self got crucified

with Jesus because he bore all your sins and diseases on that cross, and when you come out of that water, you resurrected with Jesus and you no longer live, it's Jesus who lives inside of you, hallelujah, what a glorious moment. And this is not the end, my dear friends, verses 6 to 7 tells us, you are now no longer a slave to sin, you are set free! "6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin." Jesus has done it once and for all for us, it is finished, it is finished for you and I. Thank you, thank you, Jesus for what you have done. We did not do anything to deserve this grace, but because God loves us, he is gracious to us. God's grace is for free, but it is certainly not cheap, Jesus paid the hefty price to redeem you and I.

Jesus has done his part to redeem us, what do we do? We need to believe in him so we can receive this salvation, okay, so we did that, we say we believe in you Jesus. Now anything else? Yes, according to the verses that follow in Romans chapter 6, there is also something we need to do on our part. In Romans chapter 6, verses 12 to 14, it says: "12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace." What does it mean? It means that that we don't offer ourselves to sin and do what is wicked, but now that we were brought from death to life, we offer ourselves to God to do what is right. Wow, this is what God wants us to do, some of you might say, it is so hard, so NO SIN? We are only human, no one is perfect, it's impossible. Well yeah, it is super duper hard when we use only our own might and own strength and try not to be a slave to sin. I'll give you some example, when a beautiful woman walks by in front of you, your eyes follow wherever she goes, may be it's not a woman, may be it's a man. Or may be lust might not be your weakness, it is something else... it's just so hard not to gossip, or I just get so angry whenever that happens, or it could be pride, or jealousy, or greed. You know what, God did not leave us alone to live in this world, he knows it is hard! When we believe in God, the Holy Spirit enters and lives inside of us. As Jesus said in John chapter 4 verse 26, "But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you." Jesus lives inside of us through the Holy Spirit, so instead of relying on our own selves, we can rely on the Holy Spirit so we can offer ourselves to God as an instrument of righteousness, and do what is right. And in order for the Holy Spirit to help us, we have to allow that to happen. It is not going to happen automatically, we have to intentionally allow the Holy Spirit to help us. Yes you heard it right, allowing the Holy Spirit to help us.

Can anyone tell me, is God's kingdom inside of you when you accept Jesus? You may think that since now I accept Jesus, Jesus lives in me through the Holy Spirit who dwells inside of me, so wherever Jesus is, there it is his kingdom, so yes, God's kingdom is inside of me. But I want to help us think further here, kingdom exists when a king can freely exercise his power and rule over the kingdom, right? What kind of king is it when he cannot rule over his kingdom because his people don't allow him? May be that's called a figurehead king? What kind of king is Jesus in your life? Do you allow King Jesus to rule in your life? It takes intentional willingness to allow Jesus to rule in our life, God's kingdom exists only where Jesus is the king who rules.

We like to be the boss of ourselves, and sometimes not just boss of ourselves, we like to be the boss of others, it just feels better when we know we are in control so things would go our way or as expected, it feels so unsafe and scary when things are out of our control. For some of us, our default mode is to rely on ourselves, other people, everyone and everything else but God. We feel that human and this world gives us better wisdom and practical methods, God is just too supernatural or abstract for me to rely on. I want to tell you, you need to taste and see how good and wonderful our God truly is. And for some of us, for certain areas in our life, we say “ok Jesus, you can come in, take a look, but don’t change my life too much, I like it the way it is”, and for certain areas, we say to Jesus “just don’t come in yet, I’m not ready.” Even though we know something is wrong or even very wrong, but we just want to maintain the status quo, you want to see a breakthrough in your life, but you don’t want to let Jesus come in a specific area of your life and rule. Yes, Jesus is the hope, peace, salvation, the way, the truth, and the life. In John chapter 10 verse 10, Jesus says he came to give us life, an abundant life. That is the heart of God, God wants to rule in our life not because he is a control freak, he wants to give us an abundant life and he disciplines those he loves (in Hebrews 12:6). Because he knows we cannot do life on our own. But when we do not allow Jesus to rule, breakthrough that leads to abundant life might not happen.

And for some of us, you might feel like you are stuck in a rut for so long, please do not give up journeying with Jesus, he walks with you, he talks with you, he is your friend like no other, and most importantly, he is your God who shines his face upon you. I want to encourage you with Deuteronomy 31:8. So when Moses was 120 years old and could not lead the Israelites any longer, he assured the Israelites that God would lead them into Canaan, the promise land. I want to encourage you on your personal journey with God with this verse as well: “The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

Don’t fight sin with just our own might and effort, because it is hard, our naked eyes can see what’s tangible but we don’t see the supernatural battle that is going on when devil is looking to devour us like a roaring lion. This scripture from 1Peter 5:8 gives us a vivid picture of what the devil does and looks like, a roaring lion prowling around looking for someone to devour. The scripture also tells us to stay alert so we don’t get devoured. Listen to the Holy Spirit, let the Holy Spirit help us to discern and deliver us from the mouth of the roaring lion. Another scripture also taught us how to deal with the devil, James chapter 4 verse 7 taught us “Submit ourselves to God, resist the devil, the devil will flee from you.” These two scriptures actually remind me of a lion documentary, all other animals were minding their own business, foraging or just simply hanging out and while they were doing it, they led their guard down. But the lion was lurking, he would target the weakest animal, one that is an easy target that he can overcome. And when the animal was attacked by the lion, it would try hard to fight and resist, this is life or death for the animal. For us, we also need to fight and resist, so the devil will flee from us.

You see, the only way to win with this glorious king Jesus in life is to intentionally listen to the Holy Spirit and intentionally let King Jesus who lives in us through the Holy Spirit rule. If you are looking for breakthrough and transformation, let this humble and gentle king Jesus come in your life and rule. He is not a forceful king, he would not command or force you to let him

reign. He is humble and gentle, look at the way he entered this world, in Phillipians chapter 2 verses 5 to 11, it says: “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: 6Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross. 9Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name above all names, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

During this Christmas season, we are celebrating the birth of Jesus. Remember the story where Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room in any inn that Mary and Joseph could find. There was no room for Jesus at the inn, but is there room in your heart for Jesus? Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart, would you allow him to come in and let him do greater work in your life? The abundant life that he promised to give us, it will not happen when we do not allow him to rule in our life. Don’t let Jesus be that figurehead king, he is glorious, victorious, he can come powerfully to rock your world. He deserves all the glory and honor from us. May we rejoice with heaven and celebrate today when we see lives united with Jesus, old selves crucified on the cross, and new lives resurrected with King Jesus!