

## **How to Be a Bapticostal Romans 8:5-11**

Delivered by Dr. Daniel Kitinoja at Calvary Baptist Church, Tilton, IL  
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I was excited and a little scared. Excited because it's something I've been thinking about for almost 20 years. So I was eager to talk about it, but then scared for at least two reasons. Number one, if I came up and preached this series and it was a total dud, you'd be thinking, "What have you been doing for the last 15 or 20 years? I thought you'd been thinking about this." But also because I know that when we start talking about life and the Spirit, sometimes Baptists get a little nervous.

I hope that as we worked our way through this series, number one, you were no longer nervous about life and the Spirit. In fact, maybe even a little excited. Because here's the thing: when we began the series, we started looking at what Jesus had to say. And if Jesus said He was going to send the Holy Spirit, you can put it down—it's because we needed the Spirit's help. We began in John chapter 9 and saw that Jesus was going to send the Holy Spirit, who would bubble up within us like streams of living water. As we go through the deserts of life—when we're worn out, weary, or feel like everything is an uphill climb—the Holy Spirit in the Christian bubbles up new life within us, strengthening us for the journey ahead.

We also saw from John chapter 14 that the Holy Spirit was going to be with us and in us, and that the presence of Christ would always remain with us. Then we started talking about the fruits of the Spirit. Galatians 5 talks about love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things, there is no law. Well, guess what? Those are the things that make life wonderful. Some time ago—probably before I was born—Elvis Presley sang a Christmas song where he said, "I wish it could be Christmas all year long," or, "Why can't every day be like Christmas?" It's the same idea. The fruits of the Spirit make life feel like Christmas all year long, just without the presents to buy or the hustle and bustle. It's about joy, love, and peace.

Then we moved from the fruits of the Spirit to spiritual gifts. We saw that God has given each Christian a spiritual gift to help build up the church. My question then is, why would anybody be afraid of this? Every Christian should want this. I hope we aren't nervous, but I also understand that when we talk about life in the Spirit and what it means to be Spirit-led, we can feel a little uneasy. It's easy to be mystified, asking, "What does it mean? How do we do it?"

Romans chapter 8 gives us clarity on this. Go ahead and turn there. In this passage, we are instructed from the Scriptures in a way that removes the mystery. It's no longer this Twilight Zone concept—it's real, practical, nuts-and-bolts living. It provides clear advice on how to live a life in the Spirit and removes much of the confusion. Before we dig into the passage, though, I want to take a wide-angle view of Romans and see how this passage fits into the bigger picture.

Romans begins in chapter 1 with the Apostle Paul saying, "I am unashamed of the gospel. It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile." Everybody can be saved through faith in Jesus Christ. Then Paul spends the next six or

seven chapters explaining what he means. He declares, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." It doesn't matter if you're a Jew, a Gentile, a religious person, or a non-religious person. We've all rebelled against God and done things our own way. The result is not only that we will die someday, but also that we will be separated from God for eternity in a place called hell.

Yes, we still believe in hell because Jesus taught about it. Hell is a place where there is no love, no joy, no peace, no patience, no kindness, or goodness. The things that make life special aren't present in hell. And most of all, there's no hope.

And what Jesus came to do is to deliver us from the judgment we all deserve. That's the good news. Jesus Christ died on a cross to pay for our sins so that through faith in Him, we can be forgiven and reconciled to God. And that's good news!

Paul goes on to explain in Chapter 4 that the idea of being saved by grace through faith isn't something new. It began all the way back in the Book of Genesis with Abraham. Then he addresses the fact that being saved by grace through faith doesn't mean we can live a sinful life. He reminds us that when we were baptized, we died to sin with Christ and were raised to newness of life. So it doesn't make sense to live however we want.

In Chapter 8, Paul begins to explain how we are to live. We don't work to please God by our deeds or try to earn salvation by works, but we are to be led by the Spirit. The Spirit will lead us into righteous living. That's the big picture. Now let's read our passage, and after we read it, we'll zoom in on each verse.

### **Romans 8:5-11**

*"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."*

Let's pray.

Father in heaven, we thank You for today and the reminder from Brother Chad about how glorious You are and how that should fuel us to joy. I pray that as we consider how You work in us, we would be inspired, motivated, encouraged, and blessed. Help us to learn to walk more consistently in the Spirit. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Well, perhaps you're thinking, *I thought the preacher said this passage was going to demystify life in the Spirit.* We'll get there. But one of the first things I want you to notice is the stark difference between life in the Spirit and life in the flesh. Before, your life was set on a course of

living in sin, even if you didn't realize it. You may not have known you were in rebellion against God, but you were. That's where we lived. But now, through faith in Christ, everything is different.

It's often said—and I believe it's true—that one of the most effective ways to share the gospel is through your personal salvation story. But let me add this caveat: that's true as long as you include the essentials of the gospel. What do I mean? When sharing your story, it's important to explain both your life before and after Christ while making the gospel message clear.

For example, you might say, *This is what my life looked like before Jesus Christ: I was angry, bitter, and rebellious. I drank too much. I got into fights. I was never happy for long, and the people around me weren't happy either. But then one day, I heard the gospel. Someone invited me to church, or maybe a co-worker consistently lived out the Christian life, and I asked, "Why do you live this way?" Then they told me about Jesus Christ.*

*I learned that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins, and I realized that I was a sinner. His death paid for my sins. I put my trust in Jesus Christ, and since then, I've been following Him. He's been changing me. Have I gotten it right all the time? No. But I started getting angry less frequently, and suddenly drinking wasn't appealing to me anymore.*

Over time, God began to deliver me from the things that ruled me. I was a slave to sin, doing things I thought meant freedom, not realizing I was in bondage. But then I got set free. We're talking about the gospel, right? I remember someone—a family member—telling me their testimony. They shared how they lived one way, came to know Christ, and became different.

I didn't ask Christian for permission to share this, but it wasn't her story. I remember her saying, like many others, "I don't have one of those dramatic stories. I was raised in a Christian home. I can't remember not going to church. I saw others making choices that dishonored God, and I didn't want any part of that." A relative told her, "That's not a bad gospel story at all. It shows that as a young person, you don't have to do what everyone else is doing."

What Chrissy was doing—whether she realized it or not—was following the lead of the Spirit, not the flesh. Christian, you might not have fully understood what it means to live a Spirit-filled life, but watch this: if you ever chose to do something that honored God instead of something you really wanted to do but knew was sinful, you were following the Holy Spirit. Because now, you're on a new team, in a new family, with a new direction.

Verse 5 shows us that life in the Spirit is different because it has different goals. Look at the verse: "*For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.*" If you're someone who underlines or highlights, I would underline "set their minds on the flesh" and "set their minds on the things of the Spirit."

I studied this phrase in Greek, and you know what it means? It means to intentionally set your mind upon something. Yes, that was supposed to be a joke. But the point is, it's a deliberate choice to focus on the things God wants us to do. If you look at your life and say, "I believe in

Jesus, but I'm not really that different," or, "I haven't changed in a long time," the issue is likely that you're not currently setting your mind on the things of the Spirit.

Life in the Spirit is different because your intentions, mindset, and attitude are different. Now, let me give you an analogy. I'm a Cleveland Browns fan, but you Bears fans can appreciate this. Imagine you're in the NFL. You get drafted out of college to the Browns or the Bears. For three, four, or five years, all you see is losing. Meanwhile, in Kansas City, they keep going to the Super Bowl—or at least close to it.

Suddenly, your contract is up, and you get signed to the Kansas City Chiefs. Do you think walking into the Chiefs' locker room after playing for the Browns would feel different? Do you think the mindset would be different? Absolutely! There's a reason the Chiefs keep winning. The difference isn't the physical ability of the players—NFL athletes are all incredibly talented. The Browns struggle because something in their mindset is off.

Here's a fun fact for you younger folks: the Browns have existed for a long time, but for about four years, they didn't exist because they moved to Baltimore and became the Ravens. When the Browns returned in 1999, they weren't exactly a success story. As of now, they've been to the playoffs three times. They've *never* been to the Super Bowl.

Something is going wrong in this kind of thinking. When you're on a new team, you see a whole new way of life. I've heard people say, "I was working for one company—I had a job, I had money, and I liked the people I worked with—but as a company, we weren't really successful. Then I got a job at a competitor, and the difference was night and day."

I remember hearing a high school athlete talk about a kid who had joined their team from another school. He said that when the kid joined their team, which was really good, it was like going from a "podunk nothing" to playing for a college-level team. The mindset was different. Even practice was different.

As Christians, when we become followers of Jesus Christ, there is a new mindset, a new aim, and a new purpose. This doesn't usually happen by accident. It's a decision—a choice to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit.

So, "Baptist costals" are Christians who live differently because their minds are set on following the Spirit rather than the desires of the flesh. That's what it's about—intentionality. If you've ever heard the phrase "being led by the Spirit," it can sound a little mystifying, especially when read out of context. But let's read it in context.

Romans 8:14 says, "*All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*" But catch this—Romans 8:5 gives the meaning: "*Set the mind on the Spirit.*" When Christians determine to follow the Spirit's lead—whether it's to believe in Christ, repent of sins, or live life the way Christ wants us to—it's not as mystifying as it might sound. Suddenly, you're following Jesus and doing things you wouldn't normally do.

A lot of young people in their 20s wrestle with questions like, “What’s God’s will for my life? Should I go to this college or that one? Should I join the military? Should I marry this girl or not?” Those are good questions to wrestle with, but many get bogged down by them.

Can I just tell you? If the Holy Spirit is leading you to pursue righteousness, you’re going to be okay. You’ll end up making godly choices. And what if you mess up? Do you think the God who controls the universe can’t redirect the path of a child who’s trying to do the right thing but stumbles?

Here’s the thing: God doesn’t seem to direct parked cars. How many of you have ever driven a Sea-Doo? Anybody? I’ve ridden them a few times. Nothing happens when you don’t have the throttle down. You can turn the handlebars all you want, but you’re not going anywhere.

Imagine that’s you if you’re not following Christ or the Holy Spirit. You’re like a Sea-Doo without the throttle down. But as soon as you hit the throttle, you take off, and it’s fun! When you start moving, you can turn, and it will respond. That’s how it is when you follow the Spirit—you move, you take action, and God leads you.

Christian, what am I saying? When we’re not following the Spirit into righteousness, God doesn’t seem to lead us. But as soon as we step out in obedience to the Spirit, we don’t have to worry about getting too many things wrong. Take the stress off. If you’re trying to please God, He will show you the way. You might mess up along the journey, but you’ll learn and grow in righteousness and godliness.

This is what it’s like to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. “Baptist costals” intentionally choose to follow the Spirit’s lead rather than the flesh. When someone asks me, “What is a Baptist costal? I don’t understand the word,” I tell them I combined Baptist and Pentecostal for fun. But the idea I want you to catch is this: being a Baptist costal means living unafraid of the Holy Spirit’s power at work within us.

So you intentionally choose to do what the Holy Spirit wants instead of what the flesh desires. What does that look like in real time? It’s the difference between choosing to be greedy or being generous, choosing faith or fear, forgiveness or unforgiveness, self-control or lashing out. That’s the difference when we start following the lead of the Holy Spirit.

This requires us to aim to please God rather than our flesh. The Spirit leads us to be different, to become like Christ, and this produces different results. In verses 6-8, we see that life in the Spirit achieves these different results. Let’s read the passage:

*“For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”*

What are we talking about here? To set the mind on the flesh means focusing on the desires and priorities of the flesh, which always lead to sin. But the mind of the Spirit leads us first to

repentance and belief in Jesus Christ for salvation, and then to continue following Him after we've come to faith.

Verse 7 says, "*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.*" Verse 8 adds, "*Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*" Minds set on doing what the flesh wants are hostile to God and in rebellion against Him.

Now, I think a lot of people don't realize they're in rebellion against God. Even some Christians—people who believe in Jesus Christ—may not be actively hostile to God, but they could still be in rebellion. Do you think you're going to have peace as a Christian if you're living in rebellion against God?

It's been well said that the most miserable person on Earth isn't the atheist who denies God exists—it's the Christian who knows God exists but lives like He doesn't. A person in rebellion against God cannot please Him because pleasing God isn't their aim. Their minds are set on something else.

Let me ask you this: do you aim to please God? Does His will enter your thoughts when you make decisions and take action?

In Romans, the book begins by declaring, "*I am unashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.*" It then goes on to explain why we need salvation. It describes people in the world who, thinking themselves wise, refuse to honor God as God or give Him thanks.

If we don't keep God in our thoughts, plans, and actions, do you think that honors Him? It doesn't. It dishonors Him. So, Christian, we need to keep God at the forefront of our minds when we make decisions and take action.

How does this play out in daily life? Let's consider an example: if a guy asks a girl out on a date, a good question for her to ask is, "Would Jesus approve of me going on a date with this guy? Would He disapprove? Are there things about him that indicate this isn't good for me or that he could lead me down a path I shouldn't go?"

And these days, sometimes girls are the ones asking guys out. The guy might think, "This is awesome! A girl is asking me out—this is the greatest thing that's ever happened to me!" But hold on. Maybe he should, and maybe he shouldn't. Has he considered God's thoughts about who he dates, how he dates, where he goes, what shows he watches, or what songs he listens to?

You see, "Baptist costals" set their minds on following the lead of the Spirit, and they experience peace because their lives please God. Believers who don't follow the Spirit don't know that peace. They live as though they are still dead to God, as though they are still in the flesh. There's been a lot of talk in the Christian world lately about the strength and weakness of the church today. If it's weak, it's because we have not set our mind on pleasing God. We have not set our mind on following the lead of the Holy Spirit. And believers who do not follow the Spirit do not

know peace because they are not pleasing God, and live like they are still dead to Him. Because life and the Spirit is the difference between eternal life and eternal death.

Look at verse 9 to 11. It's the difference between eternal life and eternal death. You, however, you by contrast, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit. If in fact, the Spirit of God dwells in you, and it's an assumption, assuming you in fact do have the Spirit of God in you, because he's writing to Christians. He continues, Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. How so? The righteousness that comes by faith in Christ. Verse 11, If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Now, that's where I started to get bogged down in my own studies. I said, What's this thing talking about? What he's doing, because Paul is just enamored with the Gospel of Christ, he's come back once again in verse 9 through 11, and behind the text are Gospel truths. Number one, hey, you don't have the Holy Spirit if you don't believe in Jesus Christ, but if you do believe in Christ, and I'm assuming you are because you're going to church, then you have the Holy Spirit. And although you live in a body that craves sin from time to time, and you know that sin produces death, and you live in this body of death, the Holy Spirit who is in you will one day deliver you from it.

Sometimes in life, we get tastes of that. When we get victory over an addiction, when we get victory over a history of sin, when we come from a childhood that taught us that we need to be sinful in some way to get what we need to get by, and all of a sudden we come to faith in Christ, and it changes everything, we know a taste of this life, this freedom, this new life. But He's not just stopping there. He's ultimately going from salvation or justification to sanctification to ultimate glorification. How do I know? When He says that the Holy Spirit will give life to your mortal bodies. He's talking about resurrection.

If you as a Christian have ever tried to get delivered from sin and you struggled with it, hallelujah, the Bible talks about you. You want to know what it says? Paul says this in Romans 7, Oh, what wretched man that I am! Who will save me from this body of death? Because the good that I want to do, I don't do. I don't have it in me. Ah, but praise me to God. Thanks me to God who gives us the victory through Christ Jesus. Sometimes we taste it today, but you can put it down. If you don't taste it today, a day will come when you will be fully delivered from this sinful body, because you're going to get a new body.

See, we have this reality. There's two components. As Christians, we live in the spirit while we walk in these bodies. That internal witness of the Holy Spirit that says, I am a child of God. I am born again through faith in Jesus Christ. I do need to live different. I still struggle, but I know I'm a child of God. And a day will come when you will be set free fully. In the meantime, let's pursue it. Let's press on towards that goal. And God willing, He'll set us free from many things that get their claws in us.

All right, here's the actual sermon that I wrote. Everyone who believes in Jesus receives the Holy Spirit. When you think about the application of the Bible, one good question to ask is, is there a

truth to know and believe? Put it down, Christian. Everyone who believes in Jesus receives the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that we would. In 1 John, I'm sorry, the Gospel of John, Chapter 14, Jesus said this. He's preparing His disciples for His death on the cross in resurrection and what life is going to be like afterwards.

He says in verse 15, *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he dwells in you and will be in you."*

Galatians 3:2 asks the question rhetorically: *"I want to ask you, did you receive the Holy Spirit by works of the law or by believing, by hearing in faith?"*

Now, I'm aware that there are some who read the Bible and somehow have concluded that Christians don't have the Spirit dwelling in them. I don't know how to read the Bible and come away with that. Because it literally says, if you don't have the Spirit, you don't belong to Christ, and you receive the Spirit when you believe in Him.

You want to know the truest test of whether you're a child of God? It's not your performance. It's whether or not the Holy Spirit is witnessing to you and saying, "Yes, you are a child of God." Maybe He says, "No, you've not been living like one lately, but you are one of God's children through faith in Jesus Christ."

Some of us have friends and loved ones who are living like they don't know Jesus, but you know that they know. And I think what we need to do is pray that God would convict them and bring them back to faithfulness to Him.

See, Baptist costals then live differently. They live different lives because they know that they are no longer in the flesh, but in the Spirit. If you are afraid of this idea of being a Baptist costal, Baptists, you are in the Spirit. Let's live like it on purpose. That's my encouragement.

So let's think of some application. Baptist costals are Christians who live differently because we are different. So let's think of the applications.

**Number one:** Christian, know that you are alive in Christ by the Holy Spirit who dwells in you. You're alive in Christ. You are in the Holy Spirit. That is your experience. You may struggle with the flesh sometimes, but listen, can I tell you one thing that was different? Before the Holy Spirit started to lead me, I had a very foul mouth, very foul—embarrassed people.

One day, I'm at the gym, and some dude is lifting weights, and I'm over there—this is back when I was really good—and he's just cussing up a storm. And I'm just looking at this like, "Did you knock it off, bro?" And then the thought occurred to me, how hypocritical. And then the thought occurred to me, holy smokes, I've not been cussing. How did that happen? It's amazing what happens when you start following the lead of the Holy Spirit.



Sometimes you taste victory without even realizing it. Now listen, we can intentionally choose to pursue righteousness, and we should, but sometimes it's—I don't believe in luck—sometimes good things just seem to happen in the life of the Christian.

But get this: you are alive in Christ, and the Holy Spirit dwells in you. So you are a Baptist costal.

**Second thing:** Set your mind on intentionally living a life that pleases God. That may be the primary application and takeaway point. Christians, set your mind on following the lead of the Holy Spirit. You may mess up, you may stumble and fall, but He will lead you to get up and keep following, and you'll taste victory.

**Third thing:** Determine each morning that you are going to live to please God rather than your flesh. So tomorrow, when you wake up, open your Bible and say, "God, show me what to do. Show me what the Word means."

You start reading, and you make an observation. Say, "Okay, there's a truth I need to believe here. Or there's a command that I need to obey. I've not been obeying that. I need to start doing that. Or this challenges the way that I think about how life works, about what's really important."

Then you say, "Oh God, how do I live this out? Show me how to live this out. Help me, I pray, to live it out." You start doing that, you're going to be living. You are going to be intentionally living in the Spirit. You will be intentionally following the Holy Spirit.

All of a sudden, God's going to be changing you. People will start noticing, "Hey, he's different, she's different." You got a crummy—maybe life isn't going well with you and your spouse this morning. How much different would tomorrow be if you woke up and said, "I don't know what he's going to do or what she's going to do, but I'm going to start my day and I'm going to say, 'God, what do you want me to do?'"

And you start looking at the Bible for the marching orders, and this starts challenging you in 17 different ways. And you said, "Man, no wonder my husband's always mad at me. I've not been doing this at all. Maybe I'm the problem." Or, "Man, maybe it is you." Man, we like to think there's always a woman to blame, but I've got on good authority—we're pretty sinful too.

And you start looking at God's word, and it starts changing you. Ooh, eventually your spouse is going to look at you and go, "What's wrong with you?" And now we have a conversation that could actually be meaningful.

How different would it be if you went to work tomorrow, and you got these co-workers that are always jerks to you, and you respond in kind? You say, "How do you know what that's like?" I've done that. You said, "Today, I'm going to respond the way Jesus would have me to respond."

And you kept your mouth shut. Maybe not at first, they don't say anything, but eventually, they start going, "This is weird. What happened to this guy? Did you get religion or something? What happened to you? Did you get religious or something?"

"No, I started to follow Jesus, and it's not the same thing." And now we're talking.

See, when we start saying, "You know what? I'm going to intentionally live to please God," all of a sudden things start looking different, especially when we start saying, "I want to begin my day by determining what God wants me to do, and then following suit."

Finally, don't be afraid to follow the lead of the Spirit. I'm going to say it a little louder for the Baptists. You ready? Don't be afraid to follow the lead of the Spirit. Relax, I'm a Baptist. I'm very Baptist. I'm an ordained Baptist at that, okay? But I also know we get scared of this stuff, and we have no reason to be.

In fact, we should rejoice because the God of the universe sent the Holy Spirit to lead you in this life and didn't say, "Figure it out on your own. Sink or swim." That's not how He left us at all—which is good because if you're anything like me, you're painfully average.

And you fumble a lot. Spiritually speaking, you miss the winning free throw. You say dumb things when you should say righteous things, and then you don't know how to go back and fix it. "How do you know?" I live this way.

Ah, but when I'm following the Holy Spirit, things tend to go well, and this is great news. And it comes with salvation.

But this morning, if you're a person who's heard this—this talk about the Holy Spirit—I want to share with you something. If you have not come to Jesus Christ, you don't have the Holy Spirit in you. That's what the text said. That's what God's word said. And that's not said to beat you up; it's said to wake you up.

Because here's the reality: All of us, like sheep, have gone astray. We've all gone astray. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. That means a lot of things, but one of the things it means is we've not lived the way God intended us to live when He created us.

We've sinned. And that sin has led, number one, to the fact that we're all eventually going to die. But number two, there's a day of judgment waiting for us. And Dan Kitinoja is not the judge. So you, in fact, do have something to be worried about.

The God of the universe, who never sins and who offered salvation to you, is the one who judges. So the bad news is all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

But the good news is that there is salvation by grace through faith in Jesus. This morning, if you have come to the place where you know that you have sinned against the Holy God, you have broken His rules, and you've not really considered Him when you've made decisions, it means you're standing guilty.

But here's the thing, God doesn't just want you to wallow in the fact that you're guilty. He wants you to recognize that you need to be saved. And here's the thing: He sent Jesus Christ. He lived a sinless life—the life that I was supposed to live and you're supposed to live. He died on a cross in my place and in yours.

What He says is: repent, turn from sin and unbelief, turn to Jesus Christ in faith, and then follow Him. This morning, if you'd like to turn from unbelief to faith in Christ to be saved, the Bible says, "*Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*" So, if you're willing to turn from unbelief to faith in Jesus and call on Him, I'm going to lead you in a very simple prayer.

You can call on Him. And because you're responding in faith to Jesus, not only will you be saved, but you'll also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who will lead you, guide you, and empower you to be transformed, to become like Jesus.

If you'd like to receive Jesus, I invite you to come and to pray with me. I'm going to lead us in a very simple prayer, and then I think the praise team is going to play one more song. If you want to pray to receive Jesus for salvation, join me in prayer.

I want everyone to bow their heads and close their eyes.

**Father God, I confess that I have sinned against you. I have rebelled against your rules, and I'm guilty. But I believe that Jesus Christ, your Son, came and lived among us. He did not sin, but He died on a cross for my sins and rose again the third day. Today, I'm turning from unbelief to faith in Jesus for salvation. Thank you for saving me. Thank you for giving me the Holy Spirit. Help me now to set my mind on the Holy Spirit, that I may live life the way that pleases you. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.**

If you prayed to receive Jesus, I want to say welcome to the family of God. But you began a journey today with Jesus, and I want to share with you that the next step for a faithful Christian is to be baptized.

So, if you prayed to receive Jesus for salvation, I encourage you to find me and share with me that you've been saved, and talk with me about baptism. Perhaps you're a person who's been a part of our church for a while, but you've never joined. Come and talk with me soon. You can officially join and lock arms with us as we advance the kingdom of God together and stir one another up to faithfulness to Christ.

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