

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 127. Risen with Christ



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Romans 6:4-8

We were therefore 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. 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. 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 – because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Romans 6:3-11; Romans 8:11

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

In this passage, Paul shows how baptism acts out the death and resurrection of Jesus. In the days of John the Baptist, Jesus and Paul, baptism was a step taken by an adult to show their personal decision to follow Jesus. It involved being totally immersed in water.

Not all churches do it this way today, but that does not affect its meaning. Jesus died to take the consequences of everything we do wrong. Then, He rose again from the dead to show that He had completely defeated the power of wrongdoing and death. When we become a Christian, we admit that we have done wrong and accept that Jesus has taken the punishment for us. We receive His forgiveness and invite Him to live in our hearts as our Lord and Saviour.

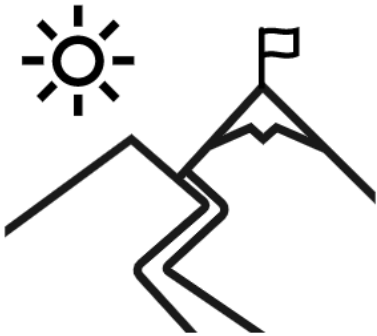
Paul reminds us that our old self was crucified with Jesus. We will still make mistakes. But, with His help we can put aside old habits, old values and old ways of thinking and behaving. And we share in the victory He has already won over temptation. Later, in Romans 8:11, Paul says that 'if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.'

When an explorer reaches somewhere new - perhaps the top of a mountain - they may put a flag in the ground. That tells everyone who comes along that they have claimed that spot. Similarly, baptism is not just a religious ritual; it is a declaration of our personal commitment to Jesus. It is a declaration to ourselves and our loved ones. It is a sign to Jesus of our love and commitment. It is also a declaration that we belong to Jesus, and we are living for Him.

### Reflections:

- Baptism is one way we can declare our commitment to Jesus. How else can we show Him and others that we have decided to follow Jesus?
- We can still be tempted. When that happens we can follow Jesus' example by quoting the Bible against the devil. Read this passage again putting 'I' instead of 'we' and 'anyone'. Memorise one or two key phrases from the passage and say them over to yourself when you are tempted.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

