

THE MEANS OF GRACE

THE POWER OF BAPTISM

DEVOTION

POWER OF BAPTISM

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three:

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy. (Titus 3:5–8)

FOR SHARING

1. What demonstrations of awesome power have you witnessed in your life?
2. Connected to the Word of God, the water of Baptism is "life-giving, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth."
Baptism is life-giving. We are by nature _____
Baptism is rich in grace. We are by nature _____
Baptism is a washing of the new birth. We are by nature _____
3. "When the devil sees Baptism and hears the word sounding, to him it is like a bright sun and he will not stay there" (Martin Luther). In what ways is Baptism like the splendor and power of the sun?
4. "Our Lord's institution of Baptism puts these blessings into baptismal water, and faith receives them." (Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation, Q 315). Explain.
5. The power of Baptism is the power of the Gospel—the Holy Spirit's gift of forgiveness, life, and salvation to all who believe (Romans 1:16–17). How is the Gospel working powerfully in your life? in your congregation?

PRAYER

O Lord God, thank You for Your powerful Holy Spirit. I praise You for the many blessings You give to me daily through my Baptism. Continue to renew and strengthen me by Your amazing grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.