

## Grace Pointers,

What an extraordinary day! I hope you had the opportunity to witness the *sixteen* people that publicly professed their faith in Jesus Christ through baptism. Those sixteen people are such a great sample of the folks that we have here at Grace Point. The group included: youth who want to declare Jesus as Lord of their life at an early age, older folks who have recently exchanged their lives and are experiencing the new transformational work, a dad who has been a Christ follower for years taking a step of obedience, a mom who wanted to be baptized for a long time but had a fear of offending her family, and others who wanted to show the world the change of what was happening inside them by publically testifying to the source of that change. All of them saying that it's not about what they have decided, it's about what Jesus has done.

Baptism isn't about following a tradition, it isn't about a way to be right with God or be "protected," and it isn't about doing something under pressure. Baptism is an opportunity as a believer to be obedient and it is a privilege to publicly share about our exchanged life. That was what we witnessed Sunday morning. And those who witnessed these stories were encouraged, challenged and praising God as a result.

One Life, One Lifetime,  
Pastor Jeff

## Musing

It was 4:30 a.m. when we woke our new youth pastor, David Martin, from a dead sleep. We drove him to the hill behind the church and in 30 degree temps with a slight drizzle we as a staff encircled him and taught him our team values. You see, he couldn't leave the hill and we couldn't leave the hill until he had the values committed to memory. Sure it's a sadistic tradition and sure it's a little over the top, but David has been initiated into ministry at Grace Point. The fact is he will never forget that morning or the values he was taught.



## Attention!

- Missed today's sermon?  
[Listen online.](#)
- [ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

## Letters to a Warrior Poet

<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**Matthew 28:18-20**

Warrior Poet\*,

The commission to follow and to lead others to follow is the heartbeat of our God. The assignment that gives purpose to our lives is to follow Him and to lead others to do the same. In either case the fulfillment of who we are is tied to following and leading. If we falter in either our lives begin to drown in selfish pursuits and the cultivation of endless distractions that never satisfy. You have been ordained to a life of meaning and apart from it there is none.

\*"Warrior Poet" references the heart of David who wrote the majority of Psalms. He had the heart of an artist and yet was a warrior and king. These devotionals are written to encourage those who have hearts passionate for God to press on in the journey.



**GRACE POINT**

C H U R C H

Our purpose is to lead  
unsaved people to a  
relationship of full devotion  
to Jesus Christ.

## Take It Home

## Sermon Application

### **Ordained: The Initiation**

**Senior Pastor Jeff Harris**

#### I. New Covenant Initiation

*Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-39; 16:31-34;  
Romans 4:9-12; 6:3-7; 9:6-8; Galatians 3:23-29*

#### II. The Historical Divide

#### III. The Present Practice

*Romans 1:16-17*

### Discussion

- What was your understanding of baptism growing up? How has it changed or been influenced over your lifetime of experiences?
- Have you been baptized? If so, when and why? If not, why not? Share with someone.
- Do you wrestle with heritage or family/cultural traditions regarding baptism? Explain.
- How are infant baptism and believer's baptism different? What do the above scriptures say about baptism?
- Baptism is the privilege to publicly testify about Christ. What step do you need to take in publicly testifying about Christ?

### Family Activity

#### Initiation

We would all like to think we don't have to obey the rules while everyone else does. Jesus had never sinned and didn't need to change his heart. But when he was baptized, he showed us how to please God by doing what God wants us to do. Read Matthew 3 to see how Jesus was obedient.

After you read the account in the Bible gather these supplies to see a demonstration of obedience.

- Table salt
- Finely ground pepper
- Saucer
- Metal spoon
- Wool clothing

Mix a tablespoon of salt and a tablespoon of pepper in a saucer. Rub the back of a metal spoon on a piece of clothing made of wool to create static. Pass the spoon over the salt and pepper. Experiment with passing the spoon over the mixture at different heights. When you get the height just right, the pepper will "jump" up to the spoon, leaving the heavier salt on the saucer!

What power made the pepper "obey" the spoon?  
What power helps you obey God?