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HEARTBEAT BIBLE STUDY LESSON FOUR





HEARTBEAT BIBLE STUDY

Lesson Four Version 3.2

GOD'S PLAN—MAKING DISCIPLES

Student's Outline

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By Darryl Knappen

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Review

THE READINESS GROUPINGS

Group A - The Unconvinced

Group B - The Convinced.

Group C - The Unsure and Ready

Group D - The Sure and Ready

THE SPIRITUAL READINESS CHECKLIST:

Yes	No	I sense God strongly working on my heart convicting me of the seriousness and the penalty of my sins.
Yes	No	I sense God asking me to make right the wrongs I have done to others much like Zaccheus wanted to do.
Yes	No	I am becoming so attracted to Jesus that I want Him more than life itself and am willing to follow Him anywhere.
Yes	No	I am convinced that my baptism, my church membership, and my good deeds are totally unable to earn me my salvation.
Yes	No	I am willing to give everything I hold dear and precious over to the control of Jesus Christ including even my closest relationships.

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Sample Prayer

Dear Jesus, I have become very much aware of my own sinfulness and stubborn rebellion against you and the Father. Here are the sins that come to my mind that I know have grieved your heart. (Tell Christ the specific sins that have come to your mind.) I am guilty of breaking your Law and deserve nothing but hell and death. I am tired of my life of selfish rebellion and sinful habits. I know that there is nothing good in me that will earn me salvation. I would like to be forgiven of my sins and to have you control my life as the new Master in charge. I desire you more than life itself and want to embrace you as my own for all of eternity. I pray you will accept me as your servant from this day forward. Amen.

1 John 5:13 (ESV) I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

THE ABUNDANT LIFE

John 10:10 (ESV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

A LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP

A DISCIPLE OBEYS THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Mark 12:30-31 (ESV) And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' [31] The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

A DISCIPLE OBEYS THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

STEP ONE - OBEDIENCE IN BAPTISM

Mark 1:10 (ESV) And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

Circle one: Jesus was baptized by: A) Sprinkling, B) Immersion (dunking).

John 3:23 (ESV) John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized.

Circle one: John needed a lot of water to baptize people because he practiced baptism by: A) Sprinkling, B) Immersion.

Acts 8:38-39 (ESV) And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. [39] And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

Circle one: Philip baptized the eunuch by: A) Sprinkling, B) Immersion.

Romans 6:3-4 (ESV) Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4] We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

STEP TWO - OBEDIENCE IN OBSERVING ALL CHRIST HAS COMMANDED.

Romans 8:29 (ESV)	For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to
the	of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many broth-
ers.	

TOOL #1 - God's Word

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV) For the word of God is _____ and ____, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

TOOL #2 - God's Spirit

Galatians 5:16 (ESV) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

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- 2. Tell someone weekly where they too can hear the gospel you have heard. Jesus commanded us in Acts 1:8 to be his witnesses. Here is what he said: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Giving away a gospel tract, or handing out a biblein11.org or biblein11.com card is an easy way to spread the gospel message. Others need to hear what you heard and every week you should be attempting to put this truth into their hands if not daily.
- 3. Get baptized. As soon as you can, speak to the leadership of your church and ask how soon would it be possible for you to be baptized. This is a command of Jesus we cannot ignore. It must be done. And, it needs to be done in front of people, preferably, who know you best so that you can testify to them of the change in your life and they can be watching for it. This is the real moment of truth and is the moment of demarcation the Lord has chosen to show to the world that your old life is now over, and your new life in Christ has begun.

The Heartbeat Bible Studies are now finished, but your growth as a Christian is just beginning. Talk to your Heartbeat teacher about what should be the next step to take in your walk with Christ. We suggest that the Heartbeat teacher take the student through what is called *Gospel DNA*. This can be downloaded from http://www.gcmcollective.org/article/gospel-dna/ and we also suggest using the Leader's Guide for both leader and student.

In order for this to happen, new believers must connect themselves to the kind of church that intentionally is trying to make this happen by having programs of discipleship in place to take each new believer to the next level of growth. These programs must require the believers to be members of small groups (of no more than 12-14 people) where those one another commands can be exercised, and then out of those groups, even smaller groups of three (men with men, women with women) where even greater intimate fellowship and accountability can take place.

This brings us to the topic of what kind of church the new believer should look for that would best help them and their family, grow in Christ-likeness. In the book titled *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*, the author, Mark Dever, lists nine qualities that should be present in a healthy church. We will shorten that checklist down to three to make it easier for you to remember while evaluating one church against another. This checklist will help you to discern which church to choose when becoming a member. Once you have made a commitment to membership in a church, the Bible says that you are now a covenant member of that family of believers, committed to seeing Christ grow in their lives as they are committed to see Christ grow in your life. Since that commitment is a very serious and long term commitment, one should choose wisely the kind of family he senses God leading him to join.

Healthy Church Checklist

Is the Bible being preached and taught in an expositional style? YES NO

What we mean by this is, does the pastor preach from God's word every Sunday going from paragraph to paragraph, book by book, or does he preach topical sermons only. Topical sermons are acceptable occasionally, but Christians need a steady diet of the entire word of God in order to grow in all aspects of their lives. Look for a church that mainly preaches and teaches from Bible books.

Is the Gospel being presented clearly and accurately? YES NO

Paul says in Galatians 1:8, (ESV) "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed." There are many forms of the Gospel being preached today that do not include repentance and surrender to Christ as necessary components for true salvation. These gospels are false gospels and will deceive people into believing that they are saved when in fact they are not. Look for a church that emphasizes genuine faith in their gospel invitations. That means especially that churches that teach we are saved by our good works are not teaching the true gospel. Avoid those churches or they will lead you and your family astray.

Is the church dedicated to the discipleship of its members? YES NO

The goal of the church ought not to be to get more people into the worship services, but instead to get people to grow into healthy disciples of Christ who are reproducing themselves in the lives of others. Look for a church that promotes discipleship as its goal and is doing it.

Where to Go From Here

1. **Tell someone today** that you surrendered to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life. Find a friend or a family member and say to them exactly what happened. Did you pray to repent of your sins and ask Jesus for forgiveness and commit to serving Him as His servant the rest of your life? Then tell someone today. Remember, Jesus said that if we **confess** with your mouth(s) that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9 ESV) If we don't tell people it means that we are too embarrassed to acknowledge Him and evidently we really didn't mean what we said. Jesus also tells us in Matthew 10:32-33 ESV this: "...everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

TOOL #3 - God's Church

The main New Testament model for the church is the

Galatians 5:13 (ESV) For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love _____ one another.

Our Commitment

Each member, then, is a ______ to every member.

Our Attitudes

Our Work

Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
Be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50)
Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
Belong to one another (Romans 12:5)
Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
Fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7)
Have equal concern for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)

Honor one another (Romans 12:10) Love one another (John 13:34)

Our Warning

Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
Carry burdens for one another (Galatians 6:2)
Instruct one another (Romans 15:14)
Offer hospitality to one another (1 peter 4:9)
Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
Speak truthfully to one another (Ephesians 4:25)
Spur one another toward love and good deeds

Do not judge one another (Romans 13:14)
Stop grumbling with one another (John 6:43)
Stop passing judgment on one another (Romans 14:13)

Confess sins and pray for one another (James 5:16

Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)

Forbear one another (Ephesians 4:2)

Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32)

Wash one another's feet (John 13:14)

Wait for one another (1 Corinthians 11:33)

Greet one another (Romans 16:16)

These one another commands are God's to holiness for believers.

Healthy Church Checklist

Is the Bible being preached and taught in an expositional style?
 Is the Gospel being presented clearly and accurately?
 Is the church dedicated to the discipleship of its members?

YES NO
YES NO

The Next Three Steps:

- 1. Tell someone today that you surrendered to Jesus.
- 2. Start witnessing weekly.
- 3. Ask how soon would it be possible to get baptized.

HEARTBEAT BIBLE STUDY

Lesson Four

GOD'S PLAN-MAKING DISCIPLES

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This is the complete lesson from which the teacher taught.

In lesson three we learned that Jesus Christ is the only qualified redeemer who can take away the sins of the world through his death on the cross. We read where Jesus claimed to be God. We read where the disciples claimed he was the sinless Redeemer. We also looked at how his death paid the ransom for us by dying both spiritually and physically, taking upon himself our sins in the process. In Part B we learned that there is a proper object of faith, namely Jesus, and an improper object of faith, namely good works.

We finished lesson three by examining what genuine faith looks like compared to false faith. We came to the conclusion that genuine faith was a disgust with our past life of sin that led to a delight in Jesus as our Savior, causing us to come to repentance for our sins and bringing us to the point of wanting to accept His forgiveness and surrender to His Lordship.

We promised that in this lesson we would share with you how a person can accept Jesus as his personal savior and receive the gift of eternal life. Once we do that we want to reveal what God's plan is for the new believer and that plan is to make from that person a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ who grows into becoming a disciple who reproduces future fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

THE READINESS GROUPINGS

At this point in our studies, people find themselves in one of four groups. Let's give these groups alphabetical titles.

Group A—The Unconvinced

Those in Group A see themselves as unconvinced. They've looked at the evidence for Christ and heard what He did to pay for their sins but they are still unconvinced that Christ is God and that His death will pay for their sins. They are not saying that they will always be unconvinced, but for now their minds and hearts cannot accept what they have heard as true.

Group B—The Convinced

Those in Group B see themselves as convinced and ready to repent and place their faith in Christ right now, today. They know that if they were to die today they would be lost for all eternity. Group B is anxious to take the Spiritual Readiness Checklist below to see if indeed their faith is, as far as they can tell, genuine and true.

Group C—The Unsure and Ready

Those in Group C see themselves as unsure. They thought they were Christians and on their way to heaven, but now are beginning to doubt whether or not they were ever truly saved. They have heard things in these lessons from the Bible about genuine faith and genuine repentance that

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TOOL #2 - God's Spirit

What makes the Bible so powerful is the Holy Spirit who takes the word that was heard and drives home the message to a person's conscience. They may ignore the message for a while, but the Holy Spirit will come back again and again, even waking people up in the middle of the night to remind them to get things right with God and with others. Giving the Spirit free rein or control in our lives is called walking by the Spirit. As He leads us along, we are given power to want the good more and more as we gain a greater dislike for the bad in our lives. Paul talks about this power often in his books. For example, he says in,

Galatians 5:16 (ESV) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

TOOL #3 - God's Church

Many people think that with God's word and God's Spirit helping them, they have all they need to grow in Christ. No one will deny that those two tools are powerful forces in our lives to bring about change. Yet God has given us one more tool that is essential to Christian growth. That tool is the church of Jesus Christ, the body of Christ. If a new believer does not immediately connect himself intimately with a fellowship of believers for the purpose of growing in Christ, he will not see any progress in his spiritual growth in Christ. The reason for that is simple: God designed us to live in fellowship with other believers. Just as in marriage, when a husband sharpens his wife and a wife sharpens her husband and they both mature together, so too in a church, each member sharpens other members to cause growth towards Christ-likeness.

The main New Testament model for the church is the **family.** In fact, the church really is the family of God and operates as a family. Think of your growing up years. Where did you do most of your maturing as a person? Was it in school, the playground, or sports? On the other hand, did you do most of your growing up in the context of a loving, caring family? The family of God has been provided for every believer to be there for them in good times and bad, whether perfect or imperfect, faithful or unfaithful. The truth is we are all former sinners struggling to grow in the Christian life together, helping each other in that process, just like any mom and dad would help their children grow, and siblings would help each other succeed (sometimes painfully). That means that every member of the family is there, not for themselves, but there for the other members of the family.

Each member, then, is a **servant** to every other. That concept seems foreign to us in America today where we have learned to be consumers, rather than givers. Yet the Bible clearly states that we are to serve one another. Paul says in,

Galatians 5:13 (ESV) For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love <u>serve</u> one another.

The following chart is taken from the book: *Making Peace A Guide to Overcoming Church Conflict* by Jim Van Yperen. As we go over this chart quickly, it will be apparent that God has not called us into the family of God to be served, but to serve.

(See chart on page 5)

These one another commands are God's **pathway** to holiness for believers. Each of us has blind spots and weaknesses we cannot see on our own and we need others to lovingly, graciously point them out to us for the purpose of helping us grow in Christ. The end result will be happier people living this redemptive life called Christianity, in a way that transforms marriages, families, perhaps even businesses and eventually entire communities as each transformed Christian brings blessing and truth to his sphere of influence.

Since our physical baptism reflects our spiritual baptism in Christ, when would be the best time to get baptized? Should this happen as soon as one is physically born or when one is spiritually re-born?

A lot of people struggle with the doctrine of baptism, because many denominations teach that baptism is necessary in order for a person to be saved or is necessary in order to enter them into a covenant relationship with God. If that is true, then what do you think God did with the criminal who was crucified next to Jesus and to whom Jesus said, "This day you will be with me in Paradise"? Did God let him into Paradise or did he not make it?

Your first step of obedience to Christ will be to enter the waters of baptism as soon as your church leadership feels you are ready. What they should look for in terms of readiness is your commitment to follow Jesus no matter what, for that is what baptism is all about. It is a public testimony indicating your desire to follow Jesus for the rest of your life no matter the cost.

STEP TWO - OBEDIENCE IN OBSERVING ALL CHRIST HAS COMMANDED.

The second step in your walk of obedience to Christ is to observe all that he commanded and to teach others to do the same. God's goal in this process is to conform us to the image of His Son Jesus Christ. When we look like Christ and act like Christ, we will be reflecting the nature of God to the world and God will get the glory for what he has done in our lives as well as how He is appearing to others through us. Paul says in,

Romans 8:29 (ESV) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the <u>image</u> of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

How does God conform us to the image of Christ? He does it by using three tools.

TOOL #1 - God's Word

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God's word is powerful. It is unlike any other book in the world. It has the power to change lives, but it is powerless to change lives if it is left unread. The growing Christian is one who is regularly reading, studying and memorizing God's word so that God can speak to Him through His word. The Bible says in,

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV) For the word of God is <u>living</u> and <u>active</u>, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Notice that we had you fill in the words living and active in your outline. Frequently people will mention that they had no idea God was concerned about an area of their life until the pastor or Sunday school teacher preached on a certain passage of Scripture that brought conviction to their life. Upon being convicted of that sin, people confess their sins to God and to others and their lives begin to change for the better, one area after another. That is how the Bible is living and active. It is a book that changes lives.

they had never heard or understood before. Now they know that genuine faith requires complete repentance (evidenced by acts of repentance) and a complete surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ. They too are ready to take the Spiritual Readiness Checklist below to see if indeed their faith is, as far as they can tell, genuine and true.

Group D— The Sure and Ready

Those in Group D see themselves as more sure of their salvation after these lessons than they have ever been. They have enjoyed the review and have been confirmed in their belief that they are truly saved because they have examined their own life and looked at the "fruit" produced by the Holy Spirit. Their heart is growing more in love with Christ every day and as a result they are becoming more obedient to Christ's commands. Those in Group D welcome the honest probing questions of a loving friend who points out areas of disobedience because they want more than anything in life to be pleasing to the Lord. They too are ready to take the Spiritual Readiness Checklist below because it will confirm even more if indeed their faith is, as far as they can tell, genuine and true.

Which group would you place yourself in at this point in time; Group A, B, C, or D? Are you ready to take the Spiritual Readiness Checklist to help you decide if your faith is genuine and true?

SPIRITUAL READINESS CHECKLIST:

(See outline on page 2)

If you answered YES to all of the above statements, then your heart is ready to do business with Christ and you are ready to pray a prayer of surrender similar to the sample prayer given below.

Sample Prayer

Dear Jesus, I have become very much aware of my own sinfulness and stubborn rebellion against you and the Father. Here are the sins that come to my mind that I know have grieved your heart. (Tell Christ the specific sins that have come to your mind.) I am guilty of breaking your Law and deserve nothing but hell and death.

I am tired of my life of selfish rebellion and sinful habits. I know that there is nothing good in me that will earn me salvation. I would like to be forgiven of my sins and to have you control my life as the new Master in charge. I desire you more than life itself and want to embrace you as my own for all of eternity. I pray you will accept me as your servant from this day forward. Amen.

Welcome to the Family of God!

If you prayed that prayer with all sincerity, and if you can't wait to set the wrongs right as Zaccheus did, and if you see changes happening in your life that are drawing you ever closer to God, then you are witnessing evidences of Christ's new birth in your life. Those evidences will provide you the assurance of your salvation in times of doubting ahead. John said in 1 John 5:13, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life." The things John wrote about were the evidences of a transformed life. When one sees those evidences, for example, a love for our enemies, forgiveness to others, and so on, they can rest assured that their faith continues to show strong evidences of genuineness. Welcome to the Family of God.

THE ABUNDANT LIFE

Congratulations. You have just entered the most rewarding and fulfilling life imaginable. You are now a disciple of Jesus Christ; a child of God! The adventure of obedience is now before you. God will show you remarkable ways how He can provide for your needs, answer your prayers, give direction to your life, and rescue you from a sinful and destructive life. He promised that your new life in Christ would be what he calls abundant. That does not mean soft, or easy, or problem free. He never promised us this. The Apostle Paul's life was none of those things yet his life was abundant. This Christian life can be compared to boot camp for a soldier making us spiritual Rangers on earth in preparation for an eternity of assignments, for the glory of God. That means that it will not be boring, nor easy, but then again, what did we deserve?

John 10:10 (ESV) says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

A LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP

This new life God has called you to, is called a life of discipleship. A disciple is one who follows the instructions and lifestyle of his master, and in our case, our master is our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ wants us to live the identical kind of life he lived, a life lived in the full control and power of the Spirit of God.

A DISCIPLE OBEYS THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

You will learn a lot in the coming months about what it means to be a disciple of Christ. At this point we do not want to overwhelm you with too much information that is unnecessary for your growth in Christ. We instead want to sum up everything Jesus wants you to do for the rest of your life and he tells us what that is in the form of two separate commandments. The first commandment is called the Great Commandment and is found in Mark 12:30.

Mark 12:30-31 (ESV) "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' [31] The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

The truth is you don't need to know any more commandments or laws or rules than the one above. If you learn to faithfully follow that one commandment you will automatically be fulfilling all of the others. You will spend the rest of your life learning to improve your ability to obey the Great Commandment. Can you think of any of the Ten Commandments that are not covered by the commandment above?

A DISCIPLE OBEYS THE GREAT COMMISSION

The second commandment Christ has called us to obey is called the Great Commission. The final instruction Christ gave to His disciples is found in Matthew 28:18-20.

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Great Commandment was concerned about your growth as a disciple of Christ in that you would learn to love God and others. The Great Commission is concerned about your growing future disciples which is simply an outgrowth of loving others because what could be better for anyone than to enter into a love relationship with God such as the one you just began or have had for years. Notice that the first thing a disciple is to do is to be baptized. Let's discuss what baptism means according to the Bible.

THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

STEP ONE - OBEDIENCE IN BAPTISM

The Great Commission tells us how to make new disciples, and it also tells us how to be a disciple. The first act of obedience to Christ is to be baptized. Some who have taken these lessons have never been baptized before. Many have been baptized as babies at their infant baptism. The Bible instructs us concerning the when and how of baptism and as we examine these Biblical passages, your idea of baptism may change as a result of this brief overview.

Mark 1:10 (ESV) And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

This verse refers to Jesus' baptism by John and we can immediately see how Jesus was baptized in this passage. Which method of baptism do you think John used to baptize Jesus?

John 3:23 (ESV) John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized

Does this sound like John needed a lot of water because he was sprinkling or immersing the candidates for baptism?

Acts 8:38-39 (ESV) And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. [39] And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

The same question can be asked of Philip's baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch. Did Philip practice sprinkling or immersion?

Baptism by immersion seems to be the mode of baptism in the early church, and its symbolism faithfully represents what happened to a new believer when they accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. The new believer died with Christ in his death (going down), was buried with Christ in his burial, (staying down for a half second), and was raised with Christ in newness of life as he comes back up out of the baptismal waters. That's what Paul was indicating happened with our spiritual baptism in Romans 6.

Romans 6:3-4 (ESV) Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4] We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.