

Everyday **FAITH** Family Page

Delivered

Law/Gospel

I sinfully deny Baptism's ability to change hearts and lives.

Through Baptism, I receive complete forgiveness and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Bible Words

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Prayer

Lord God, through the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus, You saved us from the eternal death we deserve because of our sins. In Holy Baptism, You washed away our sins, gave us faith in You, and made us Your children. By the power of the Holy Spirit, continue to make our faith in You stronger and stronger. Amen.

Ananias Baptizes Saul

Acts 9:10–22

Far from leaving Saul (later known as Paul) on the side of the road following his dramatic encounter, Jesus delivers the apostle to the house of Judas on Straight Street. Nevertheless, Saul is far from ready to embrace God's calling. He is shaken, weakened, and blinded. God encourages Saul with a vision that a man named Ananias will visit him and serve as the Lord's instrument to restore the apostle's sight.

Trusting in the work of the Holy Spirit in Saul's life, Ananias obeys the Lord's charge. Ananias goes to the house on Straight Street and finds things just as the Lord said he would. We give thanks to the Lord that Ananias reacted as he did, for certainly he could have indulged his doubts and rejected the Lord's charge, obeying fear and self-preservation over the Lord's work. Through Ananias, the Lord restored Saul, His chosen instrument to spread the Gospel to the Gentiles and Israelites.

Baptism prepares us for heaven. In the waters of Baptism, we have been buried and raised with Christ and have God's forgiveness for His sake. We are as righteous as we need to be. What's more, through Baptism, the Holy Spirit empowers us to resist the temptation of sin and instead to embrace a God-pleasing life.