

Growing into maturity – God’s work in us and our faithful response

Introduction:

What is the goal of the Christian life and what kind of help can we expect from God?

2 Peter 1:3-11

Why do you think it is important for a Christian to know who they are in Christ? What difference does it make to their lives?

Can you say with confidence that you are accepted, secure, God’s child, saved eternally?

In church history great Christians who did so much for God (Martin Luther, John Calvin, Billy Graham) knew that God loved them. They knew that God had saved them and this assurance enabled them to a powerful life of service for God. As Isaac Watts the hymn writer wrote in *When I survey the wondrous cross*. Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small, Love so amazing so divine, Demands my life, my all.

1. Does the bible teach that every believer should expect to have an assurance of God’s love and an assurance of God’s salvation?

Old Testament: Psalm 23:1; Psalm 40:17; Job 19:25. Do you think these Old Testament saints had a personal relationship with God? New Testament: John 5:24; 1 John 3:14; Romans 8:39; 2 Timothy 4:7-8

2. What is the basis of our confidence that we are eternally saved? Romans 5:6-11
3. What is faith? What are we called to put our faith in?
Is intellectual assent to facts about the person and work of Christ enough?
What does it mean to not only believe the facts but to also put our whole trust in the person and work of Christ?
Read Hebrews 11:1,6. What precious promises in God’s Word are you trusting in?
4. Our assurance is based on faith in the work of Christ and the word of God. Can we also expect to receive assurance from the direct witness of the Spirit to our hearts? Read Romans 5:5 and Romans 8:14-17.
5. To what extent do you agree with this statement – God has it all planned out, he has done all the work for my salvation. I don’t need to do anything?
Romans 8:29-30; Philippians 2:12-13

Why do we need to add to our faith? (2 Peter 1:3-11)

Where do you find discipline a challenge and how might discipline help you to grow?

How does the command to persevere in faith protect us against complacency?
Hebrews 10:35-39