

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

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IT IS WRITTEN, BUT MANY REJECT THE TEACHING

[No. 5]

Let us continue our study of some things that are written in the NT but many "believers" reject.

21. Romans 10:17- **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** Without hearing the word of God we cannot receive faith since faith comes by hearing it. We read in John 20:31 that **"these [signs of v 30] are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name."** We do *not* inherit faith! Faith *cannot* be bought, borrowed or stolen! God does *not* give us faith in some mysterious, miraculous, "better felt than told" way! The only way a person can receive saving faith is to receive it from hearing the word of God! Paul refers to the gospel as **"the word of faith, which we preach."** [Rom. 10:8] Also see Heb. 4:2.

22. Heb. 11:6- **"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God**

must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Faith is absolutely essential to pleasing God.

Salvation is by or **"through faith"** [Eph. 2:8; 1 Pet. 1:9]. We are **"justified by faith"** [Romans 5:1; 3:28; Acts 13:39]. We became **"the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus"** by being **"baptized into Christ."** [See Gal. 3:26-27]. We **"walk by faith"** [2 Cor. 5:7] and we **"live by faith"** [Rom. 1:17] as we **"continue in the faith"** [Col. 1:23].

Although we are justified by faith, justification is by works and **"not by faith only"** [James 2:24].

Is **"salvation by faith"** a salvation that is **conditional** or **unconditional**? Is it by an **active** or by a **passive** faith? Is it by a working faith or a faith **without** works? Is it by an **obedient** faith or a **disobedient** faith? Is it by a **living** faith or a **dead** faith?

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Editorial...

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

To grow as a Christian one must *first* obey the first principles of the gospel of Christ and become a child of God. A person becomes a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus by **repenting** of his sins and being **"baptized into Christ"** as Gal. 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4; Acts 2:38, etc. teaches.

GROW AND BE STRONG

We are taught in the NT to grow and to be strong in the Lord. Read the following passages:

---1 Pet. 2:2- **"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."**

---2 Pet. 3:18- **"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ..."**

---Eph. 4:15- **"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is**

the head, even Christ."

---2 Thess. 1:3- **"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth."**

---Eph. 6:10- **"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."**

---1 Cor. 16:13- **"Watch ye, stand in the faith, quit ye like men, be strong."**

---2 Tim. 2:1- **"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."**

IN WHAT SHOULD WE GROW?

We should grow in:

1. *Knowledge & Grace.*

---Solomon declared that **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge..."** [Prov. 1:7] and **"The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge"** [Prov. 18:15].

---Paul said: **"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God"** [Col. 1:10].

---In 2 Tim. 2:1 Paul also said: **"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."**

---Also see 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Pet. 1:5; Prov. 18:15; Prov. 21:11; Prov. 24:5; Prov. 9:10; John 8:32; 2 Cor. 8:7; Rom. 15:14; Col. 1:10; Hosea 4:6; Matt. 22:29, etc.

2. *Faith.*

---In 2 Thess. 1:3 the apostle Paul said: **"...because your faith**

groweth exceedingly..."

---See 2 Cor. 8:7; 2 Cor. 10:15, etc.

3. *Wisdom.*

---In Prov. 9:10 Solomon declared that "**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding**" and "**The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom...**" [Prov. 15:33].

We learn from Prov. 8:11 that "**...wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it**" and in Prov. 4:7 that "**Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.**"

In Christ "**he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence**" [Eph. 1:8]. Paul prayed that saints "**might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding**" [Col. 1:9].

Also see Prov. 3:13; Prov. 2:6-7; Eccl. 2:26; Eccl. 7:17; Jas. 1:5-8; Prov. 24:5, etc.

4. *Love.*

Writing to the brethren at Thessalonica Paul said: "**And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we toward you**" [1 Thess. 3:12]. The brethren at Thessalonica were exhorted to increase more and more in love. [See 1 Thess. 4:9-10]. The saints at Corinth abounded in their love for Paul and others. [See 2 Cor. 8:7]. Also see John 14:15; 1 John 5:3, etc.

5. *Strength.*

In Eph. 6:10 Paul admonish-

es Christians to "**Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.**"

---Prov. 24:5- "**A wise man is strong; yea a man of knowledge increaseth strength.**" ---Prov. 24:10-

"**If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.**"

---Acts 9:22a- "**But Saul increased the more in strength...**"

---Also see Col. 1:10-11; 2 Tim. 4:14-17; Eph. 3:16; Phil. 4:13, etc.

6. *Good works.*

In Eph. 2:10 Paul said: "**For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**"

What are the "*good works*" in which we should increase? They are not: (1) the works of the law of Moses (the first, the old covenant or testament), (2) the works of the flesh, (3) the works of our own righteousness and/or wisdom, (4) not works to be seen of men, and they are (5) not the works of which we could boast.

The "*good works*" in which we should increase are: (1) the works of God [see John 6:28-29], (2) the works in which God hath ordained that we walk, (3) works of God's righteousness, (4) works of faith [see James 2:17-24], and they are (5) any work that is authorized in the NT [See 2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:25; Col. 3:17; 2 John 9; Matt. 7:21-23; Jas. 2:12, etc]

SOME THINGS THAT WILL HELP US TO GROW

1. *Good spiritual food.* Jesus is "**the bread of life**". To partake of him we must "**live by**" (i.e. be-

lieve and obey his will as revealed in His word. [See John 6:35-58; 12:48; Luke 4:4; 1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14; James 1:21; 1:25; 2 Tim. 3:16-17].

2. *Spiritual exercise.* Paul said: "...**exercise thyself rather exercise unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things...**" [1 Tim. 4:7-8]. Also see 1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 5:12-14, etc.

3. "**Everything that is right, good, proper & profitable.**

Paul said: "**Therefore, as ye abound in everything, in faith, & utterance, & knowledge, & in all diligence, & in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace [of giving - ed] also**" [2 Cor. 8:7] Also see 2 Cor. 9:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Eph. 4:28, etc.

4. *Purity of heart.* See Matt. 5:8; Phil. 4:8; Prov. 4:23; Jas. 3:17; 1 Tim. 5:22; 2 Tim. 2:22; Matt. 15:18-20, etc.

Are you growing as a saint? You should be! Follow the truth and you will be strong in the Lord! (CRS)

(Continued from page 1)

Yes, "**salvation by faith**" is conditional! One must meet the conditions given in the NT. *Faith must be active, working, living, obedient!*

We will be judged by what is written! (To be continued) (CRS)

NOTICE: Carrol R. Sutton will be preaching in a different speakers meeting at EL BETHEL, SHELBYVILLE, TN on October 7, 2012 @ 9:00am Class period, 9:45 am Worship assembly & 5:30pm Worship assembly. Make plans to attend!

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SENTENCE SERMONS

Some men boast of being self-made, when they should be ashamed of the man they made.
* * * * *

Temptations will knock often on your door, but it is your fault if let them come in and linger.
* * * * *

The person who is seeking to find himself seldom does.
* * * * *

Don't try to bear past or future troubles, but only present ones. They are enough for now!
* * * * *

"Some elderships pay more attention to the length of a sermon than they do its depth."
--Alan Highers

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