

September 9, 2018

## “Growing 101”

### “Introduction to Foundational Principles”

#### “Starting a New Life”

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

#### A. A new life brings...

“At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!” 2 Corinthians 5:16b

1. A new life means death to the old life.

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

2. A new life is a gift from God.

“And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.” 2 Corinthians 5:18

3. A new life brings us into relationship with Christ.

“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”

2 Corinthians 5:21

4. A new life gives us a full and satisfying life.

“My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” John 10:10b

5. A new life brings us eternal life with Jesus.

“I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.”

John 5:24

#### B. The new beginning brings...

“throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.” Ephesians 4:22-24

1. A new beginning brings a new citizenship.

“In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.” Ephesians 2:12

2. A new beginning brings a new family.

“So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family.” Ephesians 2:19

3. A new beginning brings a new purpose.

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” Philippians 2:13

4. A new beginning brings a new power.

“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13

5. A new beginning brings a new destiny with a new pathway to follow.

“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.” Romans 6:4

#### C. To start that new life...

“Jesus replied, ‘I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’” John 3:5-7

1. Admit that you are a sinner.

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” Romans 3:23

2. Believe that Jesus died for your sins.

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

3. Confess your sins to Him.

“But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

1 John 1:9

4. Decide to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

“Dear God,

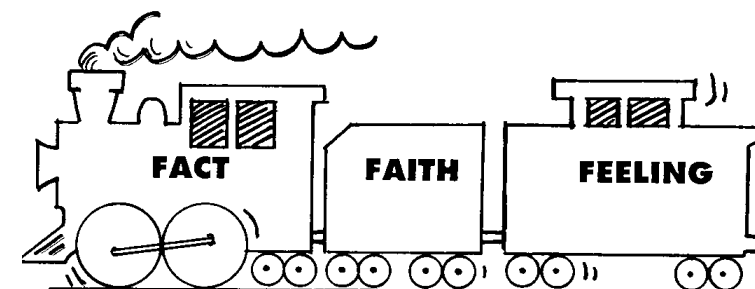
I know I’m a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness.

I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life.

I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will.

I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.”

“I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13



God’s Word    Trust in Christ    Changeable

“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.” Revelation 3:20

If you have made a personal decision to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior, please send us a text so we can celebrate with you.

Simply Text: IChooseJesus To: 88202

We aren’t only called to become Christians; we are also called to be Christians.

Billy Graham

**John 5:10-13**

**A NEW CONFIDENCE: HOW TO KNOW YOU ARE SAVED**

Often it is easy for a new Christian to not “feel saved.” Assurance of salvation is the opposite of doubting and is based on scriptural facts. It is possible for us to doubt our salvation and not to live up to the privileges God has for us.

**WHAT ARE SOME REASONS WHY WE DOUBT OUR SALVATION?**

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**COMPARE THE OLD LIFE WITH THE NEW LIFE:**

The Old Life:                      The New Life:

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Fear of Dying | 1. Peace with God |
| 2. Uncertainty   | 2. Assurance      |
| 3.               | 3.                |
| 4.               | 4.                |

A promise is only as good as the character of the one who makes it. When we recognize the complete trustworthiness of God, the promises He makes to us are validated. For our assurance of salvation, we need only to take God at His Word. In this lesson we will study how to know we have eternal life.

MEMORY VERSE I JOHN 5:13

**I. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION COMES BECAUSE WE HAVE CHRIST IN OUR HEARTS**

1. According to I John 5:11-12

A. Who gives eternal life?

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B. Where is eternal life found?

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C. Who has eternal life?

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2. According to Revelation 3:20, where is Christ right now in relation to the believer?

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A. How does Christ enter a person’s life?

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B. What does Christ promise to do?

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**II. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION IS NOT BASED ON FEELINGS.**

1. When do we “feel” like doubting our salvation?

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2. If we trust our feelings rather than God and His Word, how will this affect our attitudes and actions?

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3. Discuss three consequences of doubt: I John 1:4

A. We do not have Joy (Luke 24:38)

B. We are hindered in Ministry (James 1:6-8)

C. We easily fall into Sin (Romans 14:23)

4. If we put our trust in God despite how we feel, how does this change our attitudes and actions?

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**III. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION COMES FROM THE WITNESS OF GOD’S WORD.**

1. According to I John 5:13, what reason does John give for writing this book?

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2. According to John 20:31 what is the greatest thing that happens to us when we believe in Christ?

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3. What do all these promises from God’s Word have in common? John 3:16, Acts 16:31, Romans 10:9

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**CHALLENGE: FOLLOW ABRAHAM’S EXAMPLE** Genesis 22

1. Expect testing

2. Go back to God’s Word

3. Choose again to believe it, despite how you feel

4. Continue in obedience

**QUESTION:** IF YOU WERE TO DIE TONIGHT, ARE YOU SURE THAT YOU WOULD BE IN HEAVEN WITH GOD? WHY or WHY NOT?

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**APPLICATION:** Write down the names of two people that you will share with this week, why you are assured of your salvation:

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**FOR FURTHER STUDY:**

1. When did God first promise eternal life? Titus 1:2

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2. Why has God chosen to make our salvation dependent on His grace and not on our works? Ephesians 2:8, 9

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3. Our assurance of salvation is based on God’s faithfulness. Look up the following references and discover what God is faithful to do:

A. Deuteronomy 7:9

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B. I Corinthians 1:8-9

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C. I Corinthians 10:13

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D. I Thessalonians 5:23-24

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E. II Timothy 2:13

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4. What are some things that you see about faith in Hebrews 11:6?

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5. Suppose after you explained the love and grace of Christ to a friend, he said “Great! That means that I can sin whenever I want to, and God will forgive me.” What are some of the things that you would tell your friend based on Hebrews 12:5-11, Romans 6:1-2, 15-16, and I John 2:4?

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**CONCLUSION:**

1. Assurance does not come if we live in the past.

2. Assurance does not come if we doubt.

3. Assurance will not come if we depend on feelings.

4. Assurance comes when we realize that eternal life begins the moment we trust Christ for our salvation. John 5:24.