

# The Season of Pentecost

## *Spiritual Transformation #5: Making It to the End of the Journey*

### INTRODUCTION & REVIEW

#### A. Our Journey since Pentecost: Looking at Spiritual Transformation

##### 1. Becoming like Christ – the central employment of our salvation

<i>Justification:</i>	<i>Sanctification:</i>	<i>Glorification:</i>
"just as if I never sinned"	"growing in holiness"	"no more mortality, sin, or pain"
God declares you to be the righteousness of Christ	The Holy Spirit – (a) grows the new nature in you; (b) puts to death the old nature	We (a) depart to be with Jesus in Paradise; then (b) meet him in new bodies at his Second Coming
The moment you in faith ask the Jesus to enter your life	A lifetime process; undertaken daily	(a) When we die; and (b) when He comes again

##### 2. Our hearts are not naturally inclined to this!

##### 3. God has given us his Holy Spirit

*<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1)*

#### B. So How Does this Process Work?

##### 1. God & You

<sup>12b</sup> work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

<sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Philippians 2)

##### 2. Choosing the right choices

##### 3. The Means of Grace:

The Scriptures - Prayer - Fellowship - Sharing the Faith - The Lord's Table - Baptism

*Not spiritual magic – but Spiritual means*

## I. FUEL FOR THE JOURNEY

### 1. The Love of God poured down in our hearts

<sup>5</sup> ... because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Romans 5)

<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith-- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3)

## II. REGULAR REST STOPS ALONG THE WAY

### 1. Arrive safely at your journey – rest regularly!

### 2. Weekly Eucharist

<sup>55</sup> For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." (John 6)

### 3. Daily

<sup>35</sup> And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. (Mark 1)

*"You will never change your life until you change something you do daily."*

## III. THE LAWS OF NAVIGATION IN NEW TERRITORY

### A. Present your bodies to God

#### 1. You are the sacrifice at the Table

<sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12)

*"We present ourselves – our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice"*

## 2. Your Body Belongs to God

<sup>20</sup> ... for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6)

<sup>18</sup> ... knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (1 Peter 1)

<sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5)

## B. Practice giving and receiving forgiveness

### 1. Receive God's forgiveness

*" ... give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us....."*

### 2. Release other's chains - and release yourself!

<sup>13</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. (Philippians 1)

<sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (Col 3:13 ESV)

<sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4)

## C. Just Keep on Keeping on

### 1. God will do it!

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (1 Thessalonians 5)

<sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Phi 1:6 ESV)

<sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. <sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Rom 8:30-31 ESV)

## 2. Our part is to press on!

<sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.  
(Galatians 6)

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15)

<sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. (Hebrews 10)

### Follow the Master ...

O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me,  
My Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If Thou wilt be my Guide.

Oh, let me feel Thee near me;  
The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
The tempting sounds I hear;  
My foes are ever near me,  
Around me and within;  
But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer,  
And shield my soul from sin.

Oh, let me hear Thee speaking,  
In accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion,  
The murmurs of self-will;  
Oh, speak to reassure me,  
To hasten, or control;  
Oh, speak, and make me listen,  
Thou Guardian of my soul.

Oh, let me see Thy footmarks,  
And in them plant mine own;  
My hope to follow duly  
Is in Thy strength alone.  
Oh, guide me, call me, draw me,  
Uphold me to the end;  
And then to rest receive me,  
My Savior and my Friend

- The Reverend John Earnest Bode (1816-1874)  
Rector, Castle Camps Parish, Cambridgeshire, UK