

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

¹³ 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, ¹⁴ 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

^{12b} work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

¹³ 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

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

¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith-- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ 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

⁵⁵ For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ 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. ⁵⁸ 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

³⁵ 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

¹ 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

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

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

²⁴ 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!

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

¹³ 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)

³² 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!

²³ 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. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (1 Thessalonians 5)

⁶ 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)

³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ 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!

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

⁵⁸ 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)

³⁶ 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