

# North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

[www.nccdighton.org](http://www.nccdighton.org)

4/19/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part  
75

## **WE NEED EACH OTHER!!!**

1Co 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

### **The Mirror is Good**

We must not be afraid to look in the mirror. God already sees it all, He wants us to see it too, so we can be set free.

### **Why?**

The answer to the question, "Why am I not walking in a way that I know is pleasing to God?", is simple...it's a lack of faith. The remedy is oh-so simple: Faith comes from hearing (Ro 10:17) and God gives grace to the humble (Jas 4:6). It's not an intellectual/doctrinal issue, it's a spiritual/humility one.

### **MacDonald on Heb 11:6**

*No amount of good works can compensate for lack of faith. After all is said and done, when a man refuses to believe God, he is calling Him a liar. 'The one who does not believe God has made Him a liar' (1Jn 5:10), and how can God be pleased by people who call Him a liar.*

### **MacDonald on Heb 11:6**

*Faith is the only thing that gives God His proper place, and puts man in his place too.*

### **C. H. Mackintosh on Heb 11:6**

*"[Faith] glorifies God exceedingly because it proves that we have more confidence in His eyesight than in our own."*

### **MacDonald on Heb 11:6**

*Faith not only believes that God exists, but it also trusts Him to reward 'those who diligently seek Him'. There is nothing about God that makes it impossible for men to believe. The difficulty is with the human will.*

### **"Covert Arrogance", pg. 25**

*"Saul's lack of faith in God revealed his own arrogance before God."*

**Rev 3:18**

*I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.*

### **Why?**

The answer to the question, "Why am I not walking in a way that I know is pleasing to God?", is simple...it's a lack of faith. The remedy is oh-so simple: Faith comes from hearing (Ro 10:17) and God gives grace to the humble (Jas 4:6). It's not an intellectual/doctrinal issue, it's a spiritual/humility one.

### **"He humbled Himself"**

It's impossible to fully understand the magnitude of this - truly - yet its place in scripture is reserved for all believers to absorb, to take on as the first step in walking by faith.

### **Overcoming Darkness**

Jesus overcame darkness by abiding in the Light, exclusively. That's different than the person who splits their time/energy/attention between wrestling with darkness and abiding in the Light. Faith implies letting go.

### **Heb 3:13 [Amplified]**

*But continually encourage one another every day, as long as it is called "Today" [and there is an opportunity], so that none of you will be hardened [into settled rebellion] by the deceitfulness of sin [its cleverness, delusive glamour, and sophistication].*

### **Overcoming Darkness w/ Faith- /Grace-Orientation**

God shows us grace every day by simply waking us up and giving us the breath of life...that is the "baseline" grace He's given even the unbelievers (through patience)...THAT is a test, in and of itself.

### **Ac 5:41-42**

*So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

### **Life Is Meant to Be Experienced**

Wisdom is gained through experience, not merely going to church. "Mission" implies the "field" (aka life). Consider our "Great Co-Mission (joint mission with God)".

### **Preparing for Experience (e.g., sanctification)**

There's simply no substitute for experience. No matter how intelligent a person may be, their wares must be put to the test in order to precipitate true wisdom.

### **Creature Credit Antagonizes Sanctification**

In any and every circumstance in life, the flesh will always seek a superior position to its peers. Everything's a competition, whether it's verbalized or not. That same mentality is brought into the faith, even. THIS is the reason for the

artificial complexity! Sanctification is NOT a competition.

### **The Purpose of Artificial Complexity**

Man WANTS sanctification to be complex since it affords the flesh a way to stratify itself. That's creature credit in a nutshell.

### **The Simplicity of Our Faith**

There's only a small amount of central doctrine in scripture (e.g., the Gospel). The rest of it describes accounts of where those core doctrines are either being reaffirmed or defended against attacks.

### **2Co 11:3**

*But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.*

### **Matt 13:45-46**

*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.*