

# North Christian Church -

## Pastor Ed Collins

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

5/29/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 92

### **Trust In the Process**

When we follow Jesus Christ with a sincere heart, He will reveal all things to us at the proper time.

### **Grace Precedes Fruit**

God will always afford a believer the appropriate grace to accomplish a command. This means that every command in the Bible is placed upon man in the presence and sufficiency of grace (ala 2Co 12:9).

### **Grace-Orientation**

Paul understood that "power is perfected in weakness" to the degree that he persistently fulfilled his mission in the face of obscene adversity, even from those in his own flock.

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"Courage" is really just another name for faith applied. Faith is a grace gift given to the humble. So while Paul appeared "boastful" to his flock, he was actually exceedingly humble, comparatively. As a result, he pressed on under all circumstances.

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circumstances.

### **Paul's Labor Pains**

Gal 4:19 "My children, with whom I am again in labor [to suffer child-birth pains] until Christ is formed in you." Paul persevered under immense pressure for the same reason Jesus did - for others - even when those same people forsook him, personally.

### **"proof of your faith"**

Requires testing (e.g., "by fire"). What is faith untested??? Faith reveals its value WHEN tested (Heb 11:6a "And without faith it is impossible to please Him.").

### **Lk 5:1-11**

- The fishermen had given up catching fish
- Jesus got into the boat with a "crowd" watching Him
- Jesus performed a miracle, by faith
- Peter is stricken with shame in the God-Man's presence

### **The Humble, Repentant Heart**

If we truly fear God, we are overwhelmed by our own sinfulness. This is the precursor to repentance that leads to salvation. Nowhere in scripture is it suggested that believers lose this sense of fear and repentance.

### **The Humble, Repentant Heart**

Peter had faith (Lk 5:1-11), and the "proof of that faith" (1Pe 1:7) is worth much more than anything he hauled into the boat that day! His faith was increased, as were others', and afterwards, he "left everything and followed [Jesus]."

### **Lk 5:1-11 with 1Pe 1:7**

Jesus never stopped strengthening the faith of His disciples. Likewise, He never stops strengthening our faith, in time. Faith does the job of overcoming our fears (fruit of the flesh) so that our inherent desire to obey (fruit of the new creature) may perform unrestrictedly in/through us. The Spirit is our "Helper" in this (Jn 14).

### **Expounding Upon 1Pe 1:7**

Among the greatest fruit for a true believer is their eternal security ("I lost not one" - Jn 18:9). That sense of security, knowing that you've been saved is among the most basic fruit in your soul; and it IS fruit, because it is a gift given by God to you, and it has become part of who you are (e.g. the new creature is assured of its destiny, and the Spirit confirms it! - 1Jn 3:24; 4:13)..

### **Distinctions**

There are those who actually walk by faith, and those who have an "incomplete" faith that says that "walking by faith" is the right way to walk. It's one thing to mentally assent to something, it's another to live it. "The righteous man shall live by faith" (Ro 1:17).

### **Your Life Has Context**

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Without context, parables are especially susceptible to interpretation errors. For example, does "You will know them by their fruit" (Mt 7:20) mean that we are

able to discern everyone's salvation by merely looking at their outward fruit?  
(ans: NO!!!)

### **Reading Parables**

Imposing contemporary culture upon a parable will inevitably result in errant conclusions. Speculation is always bad when it is taken as theology. If you don't "get it", you've missed it. If it's not plainly apparent, do NOT take it upon yourself to construct something that isn't there!!!

### **Speculation**

Do you have the right to say that since I like green, that I must also like blue and yellow simply because green is their derivative??? No, you don't, but a sophomore will do just that - they will speculate that they know more than they do. Do not be wise in your own estimation" (Ro 12:16).

### **Speculation**

Some people simply aren't satisfied with what they are given, so they speculate, sometimes egregiously. And the more they do that, the further from the truth about someone/something they get.

### **Avoiding Speculation Errors**

The parables haven't changed in 2,000 years. However, our culture and our "life contexts" have changed dramatically. Therefore, in order to "find" the meaning of a parable, we must avoid imposing contemporary ideologies on them in favor of understanding the context in which they were written (time, place, person, culture, etc.).

### **The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah**

by Alfred Edersheim