

# What I Wish I Had Been Told and Taught Soon After I Was Born Again

## The Five Great Pillars of Faith

- God is sovereign is the first and most foundational truth we need to know, be taught and remember because our faith cannot exceed that of our belief in God's sovereignty.
- Our faith also rests on our understanding that God is good!
- He is willing to help and bless us.
- The issue then becomes are we willing? We will likely be far more willing, if we are told, taught and always remember everything God tells us is for our good.

In the same way, *everything* that is for God's glory is for our good and everything for our good is for God's glory.

- We must trust and believe God in those things we cannot understand – that are either temporarily unknown or, because of man's or our personal limitations, may be forever unknowable.

True faith is alive and fluid not unwavering and stagnant – Faith is indeed a great and continuing fight.

The great forerunner to a continuing and growing faith? – Developing an ever improving discipline of repenting.

Faith can be defined, on a practical basis, as the acceptance of God's offered grace.

The goal of our faith? – the salvation of our souls.

God gives grace to [and only to] the humble.

Grace is Big – No VERY Big! Jesus is His name, Grace is His point of contact with us, what He offers us, how we relate to Him. Jesus = Grace. Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>Jn 1:17</sup>

Whoever lives by the truth comes into the [grace and] light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.” <sup>Jn 3:21</sup>

Grace is something someone does for us that we cannot do for ourselves without any need or expectation for repayment.

In a nutshell grace isn't one of the many false views that reduce its effectiveness or thwart it altogether. Grace is too vital to be misconstrued and potentially lost!

Grace works through, not apart from or around, us.

Saved by Grace – Now What . . .? We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. <sup>Eph 2:10</sup>

How will we know and how can we dare do what God requires of us? God will tell us! The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>Jn 14:25 – 26</sup>

Who are we to dare think God can use us? God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong . . .

How in the heck will we have the time and money necessary . . .? Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Mt 6:25 - 33

God’s Eternal Math: 2 plus 2 = whatever God wants it to be. An example? 6 x 24 is more than 7 x 24.

The Work of God Is . . .? “To believe in the one he has sent.” Jn 6:29

Jesus’ Great Test? “If you love me, you will . . . obey what I command.” Jn 14:15

Jesus most frequently called his followers what? Disciples: those with the with appropriate disciplines of Christ.

We must make sure to keep the flame burning – we are told over and over, in many ways: BE CAREFUL!

And true faith is built how? Faith is the discipline of seeking and accepting God’s many offered graces.

Sin’s place for the true believer? Sin is a sign of either not being born again or, if born again, not living in grace by faith.

We will only move to maturity, from the elementary truths of God’s Word, as we by constant use have trained ourselves to distinguish good from evil.

A Great Question and Test: Can I or Can’t I . . .?

† Apart from me [Jesus] you can do nothing. Jn 15:5

† I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Phil 4:13

Every day offers the opportunity for pure joy if we use life’s inevitable trials for our training and benefit.

It is essential to know, practice and protect the great foundational disciplines of Christ!

There is an ever-present and deadly lure of form over substance – having a form of godliness but denying its power. Thus, it is vital all *Bible* teachings are kept relevant and timely!

To have God and His word relevant in our lives, we must make and keep both very personal, properly using the many examples we are given to show our need of God’s grace EVERY day.

We must remember ALL of Christ’s promises are conditional – we must value and seek to protect the grace we are given, not neglect and lose it!

We are not immune from “catching” that which is around us – It is surely true: “He who stops being better, stops being good.” Oliver Cromwell

A Final Very Important, Good and Easy On-Going Test:

† Ask in what ways and how much do I see a real everyday need for God and His grace?

† Consider our current and personal “roles” of life and reflect on where and how we need God's grace and truth to make us better in these responsibilities.

The Really Really Good News we need to remind ourselves of often? It is never too late to get better! Jesus Christ is ready to lead us again and further into His grace and truth – His purpose for coming, dying . . .