

Lesson #4

God's Plan After Salvation



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Preparation for study

The only thing that prevents the Holy Spirit from teaching us is our personal sin(s). King David of the Old Testament clearly put it this way:

If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear; (Psalms 66:18).

Therefore, if the Lord cannot hear a believer's prayer due to unconfessed sin in his soul, it follows doctrinally that the Holy Spirit will not teach the individual.

Here is the solution:

If we confess [acknowledge] our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [sins, known or forgotten] (1 John 1:9).

At this point, you may want to pause and acknowledge directly to God any sin that may hinder you from being fully blessed through the Word of God.

A Craving for Sound Bible Doctrine

God's plan after salvation for the new convert is that he would mature to the point that God can use him to bring glory and honor to Himself.

His first command to the new convert was recorded by the apostle Peter.

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation (1 Peter 2:2 NIV).

Let us look at this verse in depth.

Newborn babies: The moment an individual hears the gospel and responds to it by “faith alone in Christ alone,” there is a new birth in the family of God.

This person may be 100 years old at the point of his personal faith in Christ, but he is still considered a newborn baby before God. This believer is given a new life. He is placed into a new family -- the family of God.

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26).

This believer is transferred permanently from Satan’s domain into the eternal kingdom of God (John 5:24). The apostle Paul, referring to our new position in God’s kingdom, joyfully said:

Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us [permanently] to the kingdom of His beloved Son (Colossians 1:12-13).

Pure spiritual milk: There must be a strong desire or a longing for pure, sound Bible teaching. The fact that the Word of God used the word “pure” should be a clear warning to the believer that impure spiritual milk or false teachings do exist.

Some believers have decided it is not important where they worship. This is true in the sense that neither the type of building, nor the geographical location, nor the title of the church should be the deciding factor. However, not all places of “Christian” worship teach sound Bible truth.

There are a few questions a believer should ask himself before he relaxes comfortably in his current local church.

- Am I truly learning sound Bible doctrine under my pastor?
- Am I honestly growing spiritually?
- Is my pastor really teaching or is he merely “tickling my ears”?
- In the depth of my soul, am I comfortable here?
- Am I totally confused about spiritual matters?

If the answers are not satisfactory, then the believer alone needs to make a decision whether or not to remain in that congregation. Always remember that when believers truly crave sound Bible teaching, God will provide it. The Psalmist wrote:

Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it [give you the desires of you heart] (Psalm 37:4-5).

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself said: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find ...” (Matthew 7:7a). Regarding your prayer that is offered in accordance with His plan He said: “Though it tarries [delays], wait for it; for it will certainly come ...” (Habakkuk 2:3b).

In conclusion, it is God’s will that the believer should desire to know Him.

Grow Up in Your Salvation

It is God’s desire that His children would grow spiritually. The extent to which a believer advances spiritually is parallel to the extent to which he glorifies God.

God’s plan after salvation is for the believer to grow into maturity whereby he can be fully occupied with the person of Christ and His work on the Cross. Only a mature believer can utter these glorifying words:

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain [profit] (Philippians 1:21).

Through daily study and application of the Word of God, the apostle Paul advanced spiritually to the point that he knew and understood his purpose in life.

It is impossible for a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ to discover the meaning and purpose of his life after salvation without knowledge of God’s Word. In fact, only a mature believer can remain focused on Christ and not be moved by the distractions and pleasures of this world.

With regard to a believer’s spiritual growth, the apostle Paul wrote:

For this reason also, since the day we [Paul and his fellow workers] heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you [the believers living in Colossae] and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk [live] in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9-10).

These two verses outline the main reasons why believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are kept alive after salvation. The apostle Paul began his prayer by asking God to fill their souls “with the knowledge of His will [i.e., God’s plan after salvation].”

He realized, through the mentorship of God the Holy Spirit, that in order to live in a manner that glorifies God, believers needed Bible doctrine in their souls. This conclusion comes from the infallible Word of God.

The Importance of The Word of God

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped [matured] for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).

The law of Your mouth [Bible doctrine] is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces (Psalm 119:72).

I shall give thanks to You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments (Psalm 119:7).

How can a young man [believer] keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word (Psalm 119:9).

Your word I have treasured in my heart [soul], that I may not sin against You. (Psalm 119:11).

How sweet are Your words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth! (Psalm 119:103).

From Your precepts [Bible doctrine] I get understanding [knowledge]; therefore I hate every false way (Psalm 119:104).

The law [Bible doctrine] of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip (Psalm 37:31).

“I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart [mind]” (Psalm 40:8).

Our Lord Jesus Christ set a profound precedent for us to follow. Luke of the New Testament wrote:

They [Joseph and Mary] found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions ... And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men (Luke 2:46, 52).

Next time, in lesson #5 we will continue with the importance of the word of God. Until then, may the Lord bless you and keep you.