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Going On

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To become a Christian is the greatest privilege any human being can have. Or, to put it another way, the greatest experience a human being can have is the knowledge of sins forgiven and peace with God. There is nothing to compare with this.

To see how highly the apostle Paul valued this experience, read Philippians 3:7-8. Now read on, from verse 9 to verse 14, and see that conversion is only the beginning. God intends us to have a growing and enriching experience of himself.

Salvation and the knowledge of sin forgiven is a tremendous gift, but it is not the only gift God has for us—see Romans 8:32. The ‘all things’ referred to here will only be experienced as we go on with Christ.

GOING ON WITH CHRIST MEANS THAT

we grow spiritually

1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18

we run the race patiently

Hebrews 12:1

we fight the battle bravely

1 Timothy 6:12





WALK WORTHY

'Growing', 'running', 'fighting', is picture language which the New Testament uses to show that if we are to go on with Christ and become better and stronger Christians, then there has to be effort and discipline in our lives. We cannot grow unless we eat; we cannot run the race effectively unless we train; we cannot fight the battle with any hope of success unless we obey the commander's orders. Read again 1 Timothy 6:12, starting this time at verse 11 and reading through to verse 14.

Going on with Christ does not mean primarily that you start doing lots of things for God. There are many Christians who suffer from a disease called 'activism'. The symptom of this spiritual illness is that a person measures how spiritual he is by how busy he is for God. The more meetings he attends in the week, the more spiritual he thinks he is. Let us make it clear that a true Christian will love to go to church. The Sunday services and mid-week prayer meeting will be priorities for him. But running around all over the place, and being out every evening, is no necessary mark of going on with Christ.

KNOWING AND LOVING HIM

Going on with Christ is, first and foremost, to realise what God has done and is doing for you, and then to go on to experience this. You will never go on with Christ unless you get to know him more and more.

Your understanding of what God has done for you will grow deeper as you grasp more of the doctrine and teaching of the Bible, and this will only come as a result of earnest and diligent study of the Scriptures. Sitting under a good and faithful Bible ministry is also invaluable to understanding. As you seek to grapple with the Word of God, doctrines like election, justification and atonement, which may now confuse you, will gradually, by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, come to thrill your soul. If doctrines like these do not warm your heart and thrill your soul, then you have not



properly understood them. The purpose of biblical doctrine is not merely to fill our heads with knowledge, but primarily to fill our hearts with love and make us worshippers. One flows out of the other. Correct understanding leads to true worship.

You will understand more of what God is doing for you as you more and more experience and feel his love in every aspect of your life. The more you know of him, the more you will love and trust him, and then the more you will see his power at work in your life.

The essential ingredients of spiritual growth are understanding, love, trust and experience.

The Christian is strong or weak depending upon how closely he has cultivated the knowledge of God. Progress in the Christian life is exactly equal to the growing knowledge we gain of the Triune God in personal experience. And such experience requires plenty of time spent at the holy task of cultivating God. God can be known satisfactorily only as we devote time to Him. *A. W. Tozer*

You need to believe now, as a young Christian, that the Lord Jesus Christ wants to make himself very real and precious to you. The following is the experience of a fifteen-year-old Christian who became one of the greatest preachers and soul-winners that England has ever known:

There is one verse of Scripture which, as a young believer, I used often to repeat, for it was very dear to me; it is this: 'Bind the sacrifice with cords even unto the horns of the altar.' I did feel then that I was wholly Christ's. In the marriage covenant of which the Lord speaks, when the Husband put the ring upon His bride's finger, He said to her, 'Thou hast become Mine'; and I remember when I felt upon my finger the ring of infinite, everlasting, covenant love that Christ put there. Oh, it was a joyful day, a blessed day! Happy day, happy day, when His choice was known to me, and He fixed my choice on Him! That blessed rest of



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soul, which comes of a sure possession of Christ, is not to be imitated, but it is greatly to be desired. I know that some good people who I believe will be saved, nevertheless do not attain to this sweet rest. They keep on thinking that it is something that they may get when they are very old, or when they are about to die, but they look upon the full assurance of faith, and the personal grasping of Christ, and saying, 'My Beloved is mine,' as something very dangerous. I began my Christian life in this happy fashion as a boy fifteen years of age.

Why was Charles Spurgeon so mightily used by God in Christian service? It was because he knew God and loved his Saviour in a most real and intense way. There is no substitute for this in the Christian life.

These words of Spurgeon can encourage you to see that, even though you may be quite a young Christian, you can have a 'full assurance of faith, and the personal grasping of Christ'. There is no growth in Christ without these.

The rest of the book seeks to deal with some of the obstacles that prevent the Christian from experiencing this fullness of salvation.

