

"KINGDOM LIVING IS ONLY BY HIS GRACE"

FAITH: TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD

Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast...."

JUSTIFICATION: WE ARE NOW JUSTIFIED AS IF AS WE NEVER SINNED

Romans 5:1-2: "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God...." When A Person Confesses He Is A Sinner- Receives Jesus as Lord and Savior – That Person Becomes Born Again-Of The Spirit

Are You Imperfect? Good . . . God Uses Imperfect People

Humans cannot be perfect no matter how hard they try. No one else is Christ. If God doesn't expect perfection from us; only obedience, how could we possibly think we are godly enough to achieve perfection?

God used normal, everyday imperfect human beings for His work? We tend to believe that the personalities of the Bible were superheroes, larger than life, but look again:



Abraham was old and Jeremiah was a child, Moses was timid and not a great speaker while Peter was proud and had a temper. Elijah got discouraged and Jeremiah was frequently depressed. Paul was egotistical and boastful while Jonah was a coward, David was an adulterer and a murderer and Solomon seemed to love women more than his LORD. Don't think women were any better: Sarah was a doubter, Rebekah was a schemer, Miriam was a gossip, Martha was controlling and Rahab was a prostitute!

"And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those He has given Me, but that I should raise them up at the last day." John 6:39

Just as parents love their children no matter what, God loves us and desires what's best for us. We are not perfect, but that shouldn't give us license to be disobedient either. Striving for excellence pleases God. How you live represents your Christian testimony. Concentrate on that rather than expecting personal perfection which frustrates and discourages. Begin to create a strong godly example here on earth so you will hear the words, **"Well done my good and faithful servant."** (Matthew 25:23)



I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and

acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:1-2). This exhortation really serves as a summary statement of all that follows. A living sacrifice to God is one who does not conform, but is transformed. We are not to be conformed to this world. Paul is using the word **world** here to refer to the **spirit of the age**. In other words, **world** refers to the popular worldview that rejects God and His revelation. As unbelievers, we are naturally conformed to the world (Ephesians 2:1-3) **"You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the Spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else."** As believers, we are no longer conformed to this world because we no longer belong to the spirit of this age. We have been translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's beloved Son. (Colossians 1:13,14) **"He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."** Therefore, rather than continuing to conform to this world, we are to be transformed by having our minds renewed.

"RENEWING OF OUR MINDS"



It is interesting to note that Paul says that we must be transformed by the renewing of our **"minds."** The mind is the key to the Christian life. The reason why non-Christians do not respond to Christian truth is that they cannot discern spiritual truth (1 Corinthians 2:14) **"Those who are unspiritual do not**

receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned." The gospel is a call for the unbeliever to repent of his sin and embrace Christ by faith. The Greek word translated **"repentance"** carries the notion of a change of mind. Our thinking must be changed (transformed) from old, ungodly ways of thinking into new, Godly ways of thinking. What we know in our minds to be true forms a conviction in our hearts of that truth, and that conviction in our hearts translates into action. Therefore, we must first renew our minds.