

PROGRESSIVE PREPARATION FOR GOD'S PURE & MATURE CHURCH

Progress of maturity
Sanctification (HOW?)

Summary

- 1) God expects His Church to progress spiritually
- GROWTH
- 2) God wants His Church to be prepared
- BE READY
- 3) God wants His Church to be pure
- HOLY
- 4) God wants His Church to mature
- Fruitfulness

Knowing is not enough: Apply and Practice



Life = Race

Heb 12:1

Therefore we also,
since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us lay aside every weight,
and the sin which so easily
ensnares us,
and let us run with endurance the race that is set
before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the [a]author and [b]finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



Life = Race

Heb 12:2

looking unto **Jesus**,
the **author** and
finisher of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before
Him
endured the **cross**,
despising the shame, and has
sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



Life = Race

2 Tim 4:7

I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.

Gal 5:7

You ran well.
Who hindered you from obeying the truth?



RECAP: Progression

- **Moving towards a goal in the right direction**
 - Not regressing or standing still
 - Maturity = Child/milk/carnal to mature/solid/spiritual
- **Warning against lukewarm/mixture (great contrast)**
- **How to progress?**
 - Life that wins (Gal 2:20 – No longer I, but Christ who lives in me)
 - Let go (Yield/surrender), and Let God (Believe)
 - Acknowledge that we are weak (Repent)
 - Ask and receive (Thank You Jesus, You are my ..., I depend)



Life that wins (victorious, overcoming)

1) A Life that is free from sins

Matt 1:21

2) A Life that is free from the power of sin

Roman 6:1-4

3) A Life that Holds Intimate Communion with God

Luke 1:69-75

4) A Life that is wholly satisfied with God

John 4:14



The Full Salvation/Gospel

- Jesus = He shall save His people from their sins (Matt 1:21)
- Life Jacket vs Life Boat



The Nature of the Life that Wins

1) Exchanged life not changed

- **We** need to be removed and let **Christ** in (Victory = Christ)

Gal 2.20:

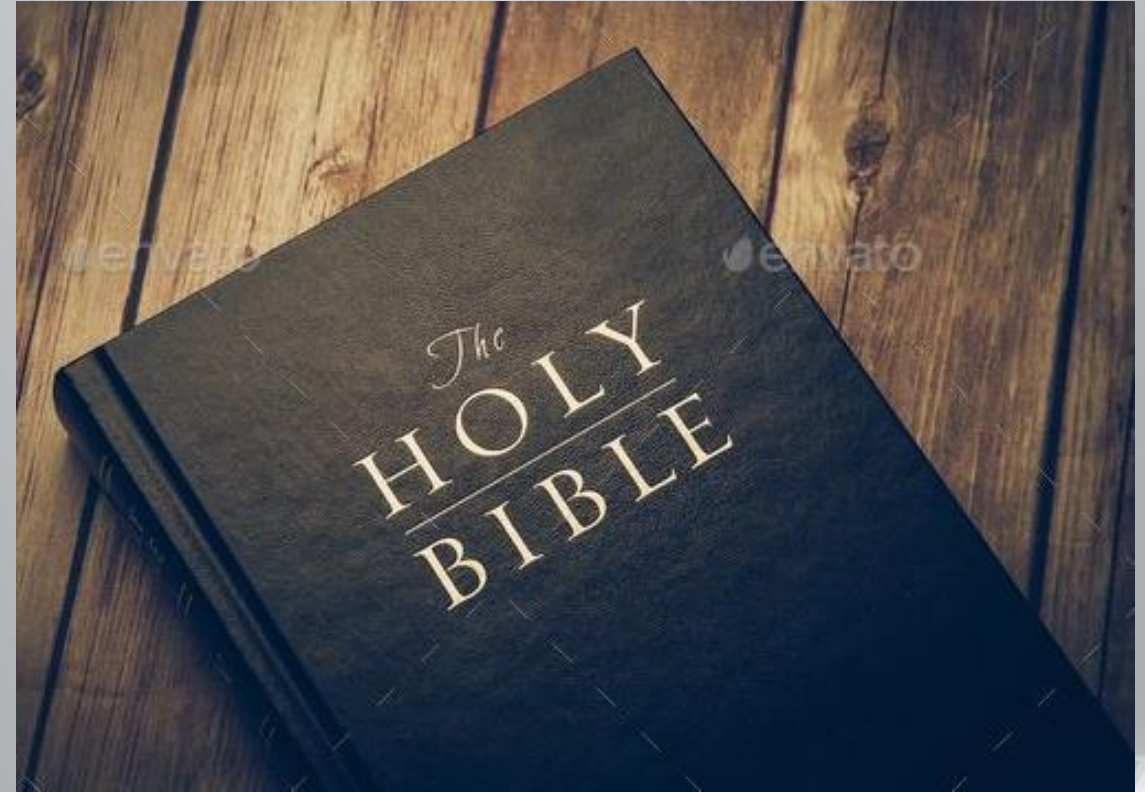
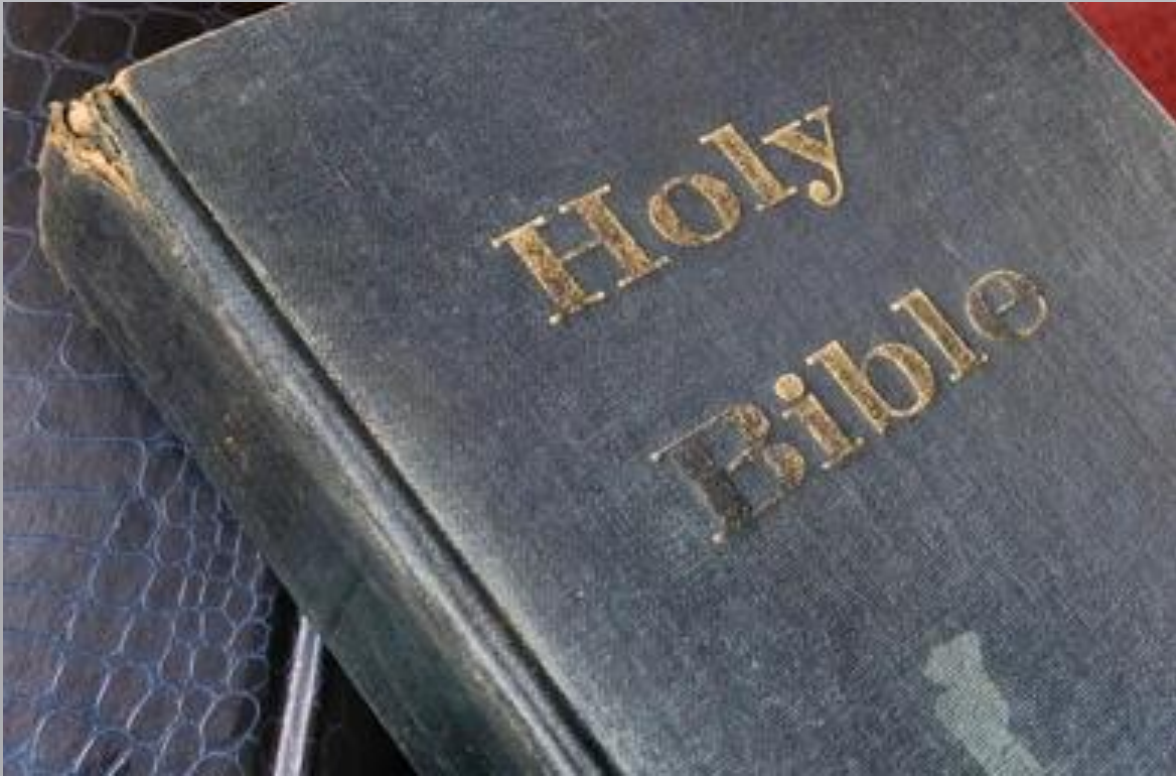
and it is no longer **I** have been crucified with **Christ**;
I that live,
but **Christ**
liveth in **me**:
and that life which **I** now live in the flesh
I live in **faith**,
the **faith**
which is in the **Son of God.**”



The Nature of the Life that Wins

1) Exchanged life not changed

- **We** (OLD) need to be removed and let **Christ (NEW)** in (Victory = Christ)



The Nature of the Life that Wins

1) Exchanged life not changed

- Isa 63

To console those who mourn in Zion,

To give them **beauty** for **ashes,**

The **oil of joy** for **mourning,**

The **garment of praise** for **the spirit of heaviness;**

That they may be called trees of righteousness,

The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”



The Nature of the Life that Wins

2) A gift not a reward

Gift is freely given vs reward which demands effort (work)



The Nature of the Life that Wins

2) A gift not a reward

Salvation, Victory in Life and our sanctification
= obtained freely, not through self effort (works)

1 Cor 15:57

But thanks be to **God,**
who gives
us the victory
through our **Lord Jesus Christ.**

As salvation is obtained through God's free grace without our works,
so victory over sin is God's free gift without our works too.



The Nature of the Life that Wins

2) A gift not a reward

Christ's patience is my patience

Christ's holiness is my holiness

Christ's communion is my communion

Christ's virtues are my virtues

“Lord Jesus, I thank and praise You, You are my... and I depend”



The Nature of the Life that Wins

3) Obtained, not attained

<i>Obtain – Possess it, take hold of it</i>	<i>Instantaneous</i>	<i>(Faith)</i>
<i>Attain – Slowly work towards it</i>	<i>Gradual</i>	<i>(Religion)</i>

1 Cor 1:30

But of Him you are in

Christ Jesus, who became for **us**
wisdom from God—

and

righteousness

and

sanctification

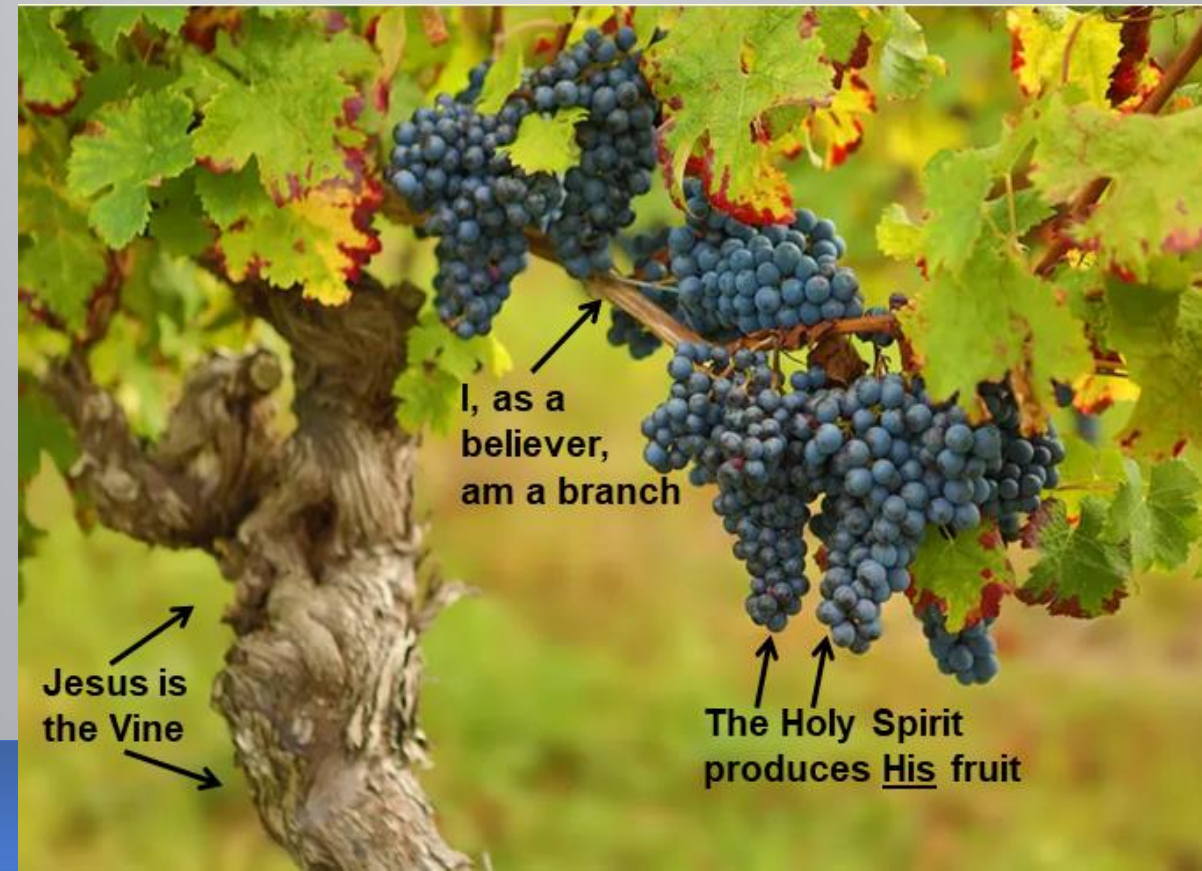
and

redemption



Conclusion

- Possessing this life is a miracle, not human effort
- The consequence – an expressed life (of Christ) not a suppressed one (of the old man).
- Simple believe what Jesus has done then speak it out
Rom 10:10
Accept Jesus as your victory:
“Jesus You are my victory!”





EVANGEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

