

# Christiana's Progress - Part 2 of the Book "Pilgrim's Progress"

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October 15th, 2017 - Christiana's Progress  
Stage 4 - Part 2 (pages 38-42)

**1 John 1:7** says; *"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."* This is what is happening with Christiana, her sons and Mercy. They've found Christian fellowship at the porters house. It's not a church but a place of believers coming together in fellowship.

Christian fellowship with the saints would be like you having fellowship with your own family member. Your fellowship would be different than mine with them because you've known them all your life. We read in **Philemon 4-7** about this same kind of fellowship with the saints which is a fruit of Holy Spirit in us; *"I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. For we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother."*

If you're born again and are in close fellowship with other Christians, Holy Spirit unites your hearts together with them and you're refreshed. **Ephesians 4:4-5** says; *"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*

We read in the script the following; *"Now, because it was somewhat late, and because the pilgrims were weary with their journey, and who also were made faint with the sight of the fight, and of the terrible lions, they asked, as soon as they might, to prepare to go to bed. "No", said those of the family, refresh yourselves first with a morsel of food; for they had prepared for them a lamb, with the accustomed sauce that belonged to it (Ex. 12:21; Jn. 1:29); for the Porter had heard before of their coming, and had told the news to those within."*

Part of the refreshing that you experience as a Christian, is the fellowshiping around the Lord's table. The lamb spoken about by the Porter symbolizes Jesus who is the Passover lamb. You can read about how the Israelites, while still in captivity in Egypt, were delivered from the angel of death by spreading the blood of a lamb over their doors in [Exodus 12: 21-28](#).

John the Baptist said this about Jesus when he saw him in **John 1:29**; *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* Jesus was slain, like a lamb, for the sins of all mankind. This was prophetic because Jesus had not yet been crucified on the cross, this was at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. There are no more sacrifices in the world that are needed to redeem us to God. Jesus finished it all when he went like a lamb to the cross to be crucified for your sins and mine. Now by faith through grace you can become born again - become a Christian.

In the midst of the rest and peace they were experiencing at the Porter's house, Mercy has a dream at night and Christiana responds to it with this; *"God speaks once, yes, twice, yet man perceives it not; in a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, in slumbering on the bed.' (Job 33:14-15) We need not, when in bed, lie awake to talk with God; he can visit us while we sleep, and cause us then to hear his voice. Our*

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*heart often wakes when we sleep, and God can speak, either by words, by proverbs, by signs and similitude's, as well as if one were awake.'"* This comes from [Job 33:14-15](#)

Mercy's dream coincides with what the prophet Ezekiel spoke about the Israelites and God's love for them in **Ezekiel 16:8-14**: *"When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord God. "Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty. Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you," says the Lord God."*

This love, provision, blessing and sense of belonging to, is what Mercy experienced in her dream and that as Christians we too can and should experience. A all encompassing love from Father God.

It was Christiana's and Mercy's desire to stay in the place of fellowship for a while so that they could be built up and edified in their faith and that's what Prudence and Piety offered to them. It says that their one month stay became very profitable to them. Christian fellowship is giving and receiving, being blessed and being a blessing to others, it is profitable to not only you but to the rest.

The meaning of these two ladies names, Prudence and Piety is interesting. Prudence means being cautious, or showing wisdom, good judgment, common sense and advisability. That's what she was offering at the Porter's house and that as Christians we need to walk in. **Ephesians 1:7-9** says; *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself."*

Piety means the quality of being religious or reverent. Acts of piety and charity (good works) go hand in hand. Underlying are devoutness, devotion, holiness, godliness and saintliness. Another attribute that we need to walk in as Christians. The Apostle Paul says to Timothy in **1 Timothy 5:4**: *"But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God."*

The next part of the script I find very intriguing. If your child was sat down by a fellow Christian and asked the questions that James, Joseph, Samuel and Matthew were asked, what would their answers be? Christiana was affirmed in how she had been teaching her boys the statutes of the Bible. The word catechize is where we get the word catechism from. It means to instruct someone in the principles of Christian religion by means of question and answer, typically by using a catechism. Putting out questions to or to interrogate someone. Now a days that word is used primarily in traditional churches and with Catholics, but it doesn't take away the value and need of it in Christian homes and churches today. These questions would be really the basic foundation of your Christian faith, the Biblical foundation which you stand on.

So we're going to take you through the Bible references to this catechism that Prudence is having with James the youngest; *"PRUDENCE. "Come, James, can you tell me who made you?" JAMES. "God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit." PRUDENCE. "Good boy! And can you tell me who saved you?" JAMES. "God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit."*

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In the great commission in **Matthew 28:16-20**, Jesus confirms how the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one. So when you're born again, all three come into your life - or the Trinity abides in you. *"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."*

How does God the Father save you? By his grace according to **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 of works, lest anyone should boast."*

How does God the Son save you? By his righteousness, death, blood and life according to **Revelation 1:4-6**; *"John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."* This is the inheritance that we have!

How does God the Holy Spirit save you? By his illumination, by his renovation and by his preservation. Here are a few scriptures that apply to this. **Titus 3:4-6**; *"But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior."* Also [Ephesians 1:12-14](#). There is a continual cleansing and renewing in Christ every day as we're conformed into his image.

Prudence continues catechizing with the third son Joseph by asking the following; **PRUDENCE**. *"What is man?"* **JOSEPH**. *"A rational creature, so made by God, as my brother said."* We know how to reason right from wrong, we have rational and we've been created with understanding and you can read that in [Genesis 2:15-17](#). This was the downfall of mankind and where sin entered into the heart of man.

**PRUDENCE**. *"What is supposed by this word 'saved'?"* **JOSEPH**. *"That man, by sin, has brought himself into a state of captivity and misery."* We read in **Romans 7:19-25** *"For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin."*

**PRUDENCE**. *"What is supposed by his being saved by the Trinity?"* **JOSEPH**. *"That sin is so great and mighty a tyrant that none can pull us out of its clutches but God; and that God is so good and loving to man, as to pull him indeed out of this miserable state."* This is the certainty of God's witness in your life in **1 John 5:6-8** says; *"This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one."*

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Two other scriptures that bear witness to this are in **Romans 10:9-10**; "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." **Romans 6:23**; "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

*PRUDENCE. "What is God's design in saving poor men?" JOSEPH. "The glorifying of his name, of his grace, and justice, etc., and the everlasting happiness of his creation." Romans 3:21-26* says; "But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

*PRUDENCE. "Who, then, are those who will be saved?" JOSEPH. "Those that accept his salvation." Romans 10:8-10* says; "But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Read also [Ephesians 2:8-9](#).

*PRUDENCE. "What is heaven?" SAMUEL. "A place and state most blessed, because God dwells there." Revelation 22:1-5* we have a glimpse of heaven where it says; "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever."

*PRUDENCE. "What is hell?" SAMUEL. "A place and state most woeful, because it is the dwelling-place of sin, the devil, and death." This is where no one wants to talk about, but it's as real as heaven. Revelation 20:10* says; "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." **Revelation 20:14-15**; "Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

*PRUDENCE. "Why would you go to heaven?" SAMUEL. "That I may see God, and serve him without wearying; that I may see Christ, and love him forever; and that I may have that fullness of the Holy Spirit in me which I can by no means enjoy here." 2 Corinthians 5:1-3* says; "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked." This is the assurance of the resurrection!

*PRUDENCE. "I ask then, if there was ever anything that had an existence before God?" MATTHEW. "No, for God is eternal; nor is there anything, except himself, that had a being until the beginning of the first day. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them." John 1:1-3* says; "In the beginning



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*was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."*

*PRUDENCE. "What do you think of the Bible?" MATTHEW. "It is the holy Word of God." 2 Peter 1:15-17 says; "Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Peter affirms that he saw and walked with Jesus before his death, crucifixion and resurrection. But Jesus said to Thomas that those who haven't seen him in the flesh, are blessed too. Why? Because we walk by faith now as Christians and not by sight.*

*PRUDENCE. "Is there anything written there that you do not understand?" MATTHEW. "Yes, a great deal." PRUDENCE. "What do you do when you come across passages that you do not understand?" MATTHEW. "I think God is wiser than I. I pray also that he will please to let me know everything." John 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come." I think this is the state of all of us isn't it. But Holy Spirit is our guide and truth!*

*PRUDENCE. "What do you believe about the resurrection of the dead?" MATTHEW. "I believe they will rise who were once buried; the same in nature, but not in corruption. And I believe this for two reasons: firstly, because God has promised it; and secondly, because he is able to perform it." 2 Corinthians 5:1-3 gives us the assurance of the resurrection that we have; "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked." Also read [John 11:17-27](#) where it talks about Jesus bringing Lazarus back to life from the dead.*

I'd encourage you to take these scriptures to heart and know them as they are the foundation to your faith and the word that you can use when non-Christians ask you the basis of your faith. They are core questions that everyone has in their life.