

Any vestige of a belief that God will love you more because of your actions must be destroyed. God has loved you with all His love since you were conceived, and even before. His love is very great and eternally strong. Your actions may grieve the Holy Spirit and He may discipline you in this life for them, but He will not weaken, He cannot weaken, in His love for you.

Your rewards and responsibilities in the afterlife will be determined by your faithfulness and works in this life. God will wipe away all your tears for not doing better. But your entrance to a life of eternal joy was fully paid for by Christ on the cross long before you knew you needed it.

All ground at the foot of the cross is level. All ground at the judgement seat of Christ is not. You get in free. You are honored for your life example and works.

You cannot change or grow from a carnal Christian to a spiritual Christian by any form of self-effort, transforming Grace appropriated by Faith can change you.

Grace Bridges

Bridge One

Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

All of our salvation begins and ends with grace and grace alone.

Bridge Two

John 1:16

And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace.

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

We can not be idle in our faith, we must grow in grace all of our lives.

Bridge Three

2 Peter 1:3

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

We must remember that we obtain this very growth from God through grace and by faith.

Bridge Four

Romans 7:17

Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

I John 3:18-21

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

This bridge is perhaps the most difficult for Christian believers to understand. We have to learn that as far as God is concerned we are always in His favor and not give in to our own feelings of guilt and shame when we fail to be the believer that we want to be. If we forget this we spend a LOT MORE TIME in regret than we do in victory and peace.

Bridge Five

Philippians 4:4-8

4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Peace is the seal on God's grace. This peace can not be counterfeited. Real peace is recognized intuitively by the believer.

And then remember:

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.