2Thess #124

Your free will takes a stronger stance after salvation.

Our current study in 2Thessalonians chapter two - has us anchored on verse 14 and we may be in a longer series related to spiritual growth.

More importantly, a much clearer view on Spiritual Maturity.

/2Thes 2:14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, **that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

God called you to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ – HE does not force or manipulate you. Your free will takes a stronger stance after salvation.\

Salvation is triggered by a small amount of real faith, from your own free will decision and realization of your need for a savior.

After salvation your free will takes on a greater responsibility that is often overlooked.

/2Thes 2:14 - “*you may obtain*” means the act of acquiring something— this speaks to decisive action upon the Bel. To obtain the glory of Jesus Christ is the super-grace life or the highest level of maturity for the Christian. The mustard seed of faith was required at salvation for God the HS to bring you into eternal salvation (7-fold ministry). After salvation there is a calling for growth which requires more responsibility from your free will.\

God will do the work, as always. Yet now, you are becoming an active participant through your own decisions and lifestyle choices.

/*Now the proper good of a creature is to surrender itself to the Creator – to enact intellectually, volitionally and emotionally, that relationship which is given in the mere fact of its being a creature. When it does so, it is good and happy.*

*C.S. Lewis (1940), The Problem of Pain*\

So, in eternity past, not only did God design for us salvation but also spiritual growth is available in the temporal life, that is the glory of Christ.

In God’s abundant grace and mercy, you can reject spiritual growth and never lose your salvation.

You may reap misery or discipline and loss of rewards and blessings - but you never lose your salvation.

/Jhn 3:30 “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

This is the battle creed for the Church Age warrior. This is available to any Believer who allows God’s plan and HIS word to habitually wash over their life.\

The US Army creed for the infantry men is …FOLLOW ME!

The US Army creed for the artillery men is…King of Battle!

True soldiers within these military fields live and die by their creed.

The Christian soldier should live by the creed of – CHRIST must increase and I must decrease.

We were created to participate in the angelic warfare – we are invited to walk alongside GOD in this victory.

GOD will not manipulate or force anyone. That would make HIM unjust and unfair, also, make HIS grace plan and His word a lie.

But a scripture like John 3:30 must become a reality during your temporal walk on earth.

REPEAT

We are going to spend the next few lessons looking into the doctrine of the spiritual maturity.

More specifically the highest level which often is referred to as a super-grace life from my lineage.

Go into the OT - Psalms chapter 23 RF.

The super-grace life or reaching the ultimate stage of Christian growth, means a stage beyond the (ECS) Edification Complex of the Soul, that construction within the soul of a library of BD and pillars of spiritual strength.

It means - you have built it into a maximum capacity.

/Reaching the highest level of SM, is the area of reaping what God has sown for you in eternity past. It is characterized by occupation with Christ and the true capacities for life, love, happiness, for prosperity, and even for adversity. It is the ultimate position of strength, faith and calm assurance no matter what occurs in your life.\

How do you know you are hitting these high levels of SM?

You will know, without becoming arrogant, it has characteristics that are unmistakable.

In fact, only fleshly pride pounds the chest and states – I am a Spiritual Giant!

/David wrote this song during his son Absalom’s revolution, taking over his kingdom. He was out in the desert, basically on the run from one of his favorite children. With a relaxed mental attitude enough to write this to GOD;

Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.\

One sign of this maturity or at least that you are on your way toward SM, is Romans 8:28 becomes a reality in your walk.

/Psa 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, **I will not be in need**.

The truly mature Believer will not have this attitude in times of trouble – *‘IF ONLY, God did this or didn’t do that’\*

The spirit of thanksgiving and gratitude are very abundant in this SM Bels life.

No matter the circumstance a mature Bel is not questioning GOD or frustrated about the plan of God.

You really see the importance of historical context with a chapter like this!

/[Psa 23:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/psa/23/2/s_501002) **He lets me** lie down in green pastures; **He leads me** besides quiet waters.

GOD is the one who brings all blessings and the SM Bel recognizes this no matter what. There is also a peace within adversity that only GOD brings to those whom truly love HIM.\

Sometimes during a challenge or adversity, GOD brings forth a peaceful or calming presence.

Or even a serene environment in chaos, that gives the SM Bel assurance that HE is worked all of this out in eternity past.

REPEAT

King David is not in depression or angry at God. Not even while his son is overthrowing his kingdom and basically calling for a bounty on his head.

David was at a point of great blessing in his life – showing us there are temporal rewards and blessings not just heavenly rewards and blessings. Part of that blessing within the temporal, is when you have a relaxed mental attitude (RMA), no matter what!

REPEAT

Even at levels of higher SM - Satan is allowed to attack and God will test you.

Job and David are great examples of that.

/[Psa 23:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/psa/23/3/s_501003) **He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths**of righteousness For thesake of His name.

It is God’s plan and HIS word that guides us and secures us. HE does so for HIS purpose and HIS glory.\

David knew if it was part of God’s plan for the kingdom to come back to him that it would become very apparent.

It would be in God’s timing and His power.

You do not run out and make any decisions or get involved in any action outside of guidance from GOD.

When GOD clearly shows you it is time for actions or decisions…then you step forward and follow through!

This next one is very apparent within the life of a Believer at high levels of SM;

/[Psa 23:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/psa/23/4/s_501004) Even though I walk through **the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me;** Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

The SM Bel has capacity for life and death, they understand the full plan of God (personal sense of destiny). They are seen displaying dying grace when the time arrives.\

The reference to God’s rod and staff speaks to the WORD.

The shepherd’s rod was the hard end of the bottom, for discipline. While the top of the staff, was often considered the end with the hook, which helps guide a sheep back into the fold.

David knew of both ends of the staff and rod of God’s word. Mature Bels do not shy away from guidance or discipline from God.

/[Psa 23:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/psa/23/5/s_501005) **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;** You have anointed my head with oil; **My cup overflows.**

God had given David many victories and blessings already. David knew GOD does not remove blessings, Bels can destroy blessings, yet the mature Bel knows GOD will not remove them.\

When you are consistently inside the plan of GOD, you need not worry about your worldly blessings.

God will either protect them or replace them with something better.

Mature Bels remember the essence and promises of GOD – they have a strong confidence in who GOD is and what HE does.

The mature Believer also recognizes that God’s blessings are not all wrapped up in a home, a job or a bank account.

/Psa 23:6 **Certainly goodness and faithfulness will follow me** all the days of my life,And **my dwelling** *will be* **in the house of the LORD forever**.

SM Bel is oriented to the word and plan of GOD – there comfort is in their union with Christ and eternal security.\

This psalm is phenomenal in reference to looking at characteristics of a super-grace capacity.

The cup overflowing is the true capacity for maximum blessings. The cup is made up of doctrine and God does not pour until you have a cup.

God’s pouring out of maximum blessings is related to the super-grace life.

There are distinctions in God’s grace plan. Something like super-grace maturity is distinguished from other categories of God’s grace.

/Salvation grace, a moment of positive volition in a non-meritorious way, faith is the trigger;

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

/A second category of grace is the grace that keeps you alive after salvation. This is everything that God does for you that keeps the Believer alive and intact in the intensified stage of the angelic conflict. No volition is involved, this is a matter of the sovereignty of God. At salvation, everything (invisible portfolio of assets, all blessings & rewards) was available to you. All given and done in eternity past, yet capacity is required.\

Any Bel - after salvation can reject spiritual growth and even reject GOD.

That does not affect what TLJC did for them for eternal security. Truthfully it does not remove any blessings and rewards.

GOD does not remove HIS gifts and blessings – yet GOD, being a good and loving father, does not allow a wild teenager to have the keys to a brand -new sports car on the sixteenth b-day.

Even though that sports car was already bought and paid for, and the title is in that rebellious teenager’s name.

REPEAT

That wild teenager would destroy the gift and probably hurt others or even kill themselves or someone else in the process.

/Everything is filtered through the justice of system of God from eternity past. Therefore, blessings, gifts and rewards were already established in your name with a legal stipulation of capacity as a trigger. They will never go to anyone else and they will remain in your name forever, whether you get them or not. All blessings are established with release points, designed by GOD for levels of maturity.\

/All Bels will see every blessing and reward at the Bema Seat Judgement of Christ, whether they received them or not;

Rom 14:12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.\

Let us close today by quickly reading from 1Corinthians chapter 3.

Many loser Bels will see what they not only could have had in time - but what they will not receive in eternity.

It will forever be locked away in their name.

Every Bel - and for that matter every person will have their works and life opened up at judgment day.

For the Unbel - it is before eternity at the Great White Throne Judgment.

For the Bel - it is after the Rapture at the Bema Seat Judgement of Christ.

/2Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before **the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may receive **compensation for his deeds** done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad.\

Divine GOOD in the new nature or deeds of the flesh – in the old nature.

Remember… nothing is hidden from GOD, all things will be laid bare before HIM.

/1Cor 4:5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before *the* time, *but wait* **until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *human* hearts;** and then praise will come to each person from God.\

1Cor 3:11 For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The true cornerstone of the church – the foundation that brings all dispensations together.

TLJC is the TRUTH and LIGHT – the WORD.

Anything done outside of our union with Christ is from the flesh – it has no lasting, divine value.

[1Co 3:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/3/12/s_1065012) Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, *or* straw,

All Believers build a foundation in time on precious stones, gold and silver.

Or on wood, hay and straw.

**/**[1Co 3:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/3/13/s_1065013) each **one’s work will become evident**; for the day will show it because it is *to be* **revealed with fire**, and **the fire itself will test the quality of each one’s work.\**

[1Co 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/3/14/s_1065014) If anyone’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

**/**[1Co 3:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/3/15/s_1065015) **If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss**; but he **himself will be saved,** yet *only* so as through fire.

No equality in heaven – there are those who take their time, talent and treasure after salvation and apply it. Others simply walk in a life guaranteeing a barn-fire after the Rapture.\