

Foundations 3 - The Goal of Our Faith

The GOAL of our faith – to become like Jesus

The will of God for every believer is that we are transformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

Everything that pleases the Father is in Jesus Christ

As the Lord Jesus Christ was being baptized, just prior to His public ministry, “the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice (of the Father) came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:22) Everything that pleases the Father is in Christ.

Jesus manifested the Father’s will

Before the Lord Jesus came to this earth, the Scripture spoke of Him saying: “Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.” (Heb. 10:7) At the end of His earthly ministry, the Lord Jesus said: “I have finished the work which You have given Me to do” and “I have manifested Your name (character and nature)”. (John 17:4,6)

Jesus is the exact image of God the Father

The Lord Jesus Christ is “the brightness of (the Father’s) glory and the express image of His person” (Heb. 1:3). He is the image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15). Jesus told

Philip “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:9). Jesus and the Father are One (John 10:30).

Jesus lived a life of dependency upon the Father

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.”

“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Romans 8:29

Jesus said:

John 5:30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

John 8:29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.

We are to become like Jesus

Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Ephesians 4:13-15 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of

Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Ephesians 3:17-19 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The Lord gave Himself for us so He could transform us into His image
Ephesians 5:25b-27 Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Colossians 1:21-22 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

Just as Jesus and the Father are One, we are to become One with God

The Lord Jesus prayed for us (John 17:21,23) “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Just as Jesus lived by the life of the Father, we are to live by His life

1 John 4:9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

Christ is our life

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die *is* gain

Colossians 3:4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

By Christ's life in us, we can walk like He walked

Colossians 1:27b

Christ in you, the hope of glory.

1 John 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

Luke 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

“Conformity to Christ Jesus” is the goal of all who are on the path to maturity

Philippians 3:10-15 “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and

reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.”

The death of Jesus Christ on the cross is the ultimate expression of love. For Paul to seek to be “conformed to His death” meant that Paul was seeking union with Jesus so that His love would manifest in and through Paul to the same degree as Jesus’ love in laying down His life on the cross. Hence Paul sought to “know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death”. In vs. 15 Paul states that everyone who is mature has this mind. If we are on the path to maturity in Christ, our number one passion, like Paul, will be to “know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death” which is conforming to Christ.

When the Lord Jesus returns, He should find us conformed to His image

Matthew 5:48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. (perfect = fully mature; lacking nothing)

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

In order to grow into full maturity in Christ, we must have foundations laid in our lives

Hebrews 6:1-3 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.

The following studies will cover each of these foundations, which are necessary in order for God to permit us to “go on to perfection”:

- 1) repentance from dead works
- 2) faith towards God
- 3) teaching of baptisms/washings
- 4) laying on of hands
- 5) resurrection of the dead
- 6) eternal judgment

God will do it

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.