

## ☞ **Perpetual Faith**

Review: We have been given a gift of Precious Faith from God. It is a Powerful Faith as we learn to hear his voice. It should be Persistent Faith that keeps on pursuing the Lord no matter the circumstances. And, it's a Practical Faith that is put into action.

Perpetual = never ending; enduring; continuing forever

### ☞ **Colossians 2:6-7**

**So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness**

Just as; continue... believe and follow; trust and obey  
Rooted, built up, strengthened... like a tree. Cf. Psalm 1:1-3

### ☞ **Psalms 1:1-3**

**Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.**

### ☞ **Perpetual Faith is Grounded** (rooted)

v. 4 it avoids deceit

v. 8 it avoids captivity by: Hollow and deceptive philosophy; Human traditions; Worldly principles

Psalm 1:1 mentions: Counsel of the wicked; Way of sinners; Seat of mockers

*--Paul David Tripp... You are always being bombarded by the opinions of others. The world around you is not silent. You live in the middle of a constant cacophony of interpretations of reality. Whether it's the opinion of a friend, the lyrics of a song, the words of a text, an article from a newspaper, the plot of a sitcom, some information on a website, or the worldview of a great movie, your eyes are receiving and your mind is being influenced by a thousand voices every day. Each is telling you how to think, and in telling you how to think, is telling you how to live. We never interpret the events of our lives on the basis of pure objectivity; we are always influenced by a myriad of cultural and interpersonal influences.*

☞ Because of all those influences, we need to be **grounded in the truth of God's word.**

*It all began Genesis 3, "You will not certainly die." That's the "Big Lie" – You can sin and not die. We hear it all the time. The world trivializes sin. Much of the church trivializes sin. In today's world, almost anything is acceptable and almost nothing is sinful.*

*Some say Jesus paid the price for all our sin, past, present and future and we have a free ticket to heaven. All our sin is paid for; therefore, it doesn't matter if we sin. Some people take it a step further and even say if you don't sin – you are making the blood of Jesus useless. Therefore, sinning brings out the grace of God. Paul wrote against that in Romans.*

*Man's ideas of what is truth and what is good change all the time. Nowadays people believe that truth is relative. It might be true for you, but not for me, and there is no such thing as absolute truth. But when mankind is the decider of what is true and what is good and right, then those standards of truth and right will change with society, and I think I can safely guarantee that those standards will only continue to go down, not up. And if you're not careful, you can be taken captive by these things. And that's just plain dangerous.*

Perpetual faith is grounded in the truth of God's word.

☞ **Perpetual Faith pursues God's word** (delights in law of the Lord; Psalm 1:2)

**Perpetual Faith ponders God's word** (meditates day and night; Psalm 1:2)

**Perpetual Faith is planted in God's word** (like a tree by a stream; Psalm 1:3)

☞ **John 15:4-5**

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. **If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.**

☞ **Perpetual Faith is Growing** (built up; strengthened)

--Wuest's Word Studies... "Strengthened in the faith" refers to a living relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord. "Built up" is present tense, speaking of continuous action – "being constantly built up." "Strengthened" is also present tense, emphasizing continuous action; it refers to a process going on, "constantly being established" in your relationship with the Lord.

Faith is a gift from God, but it can grow! Babies... We enjoy the early years, but there is an expectation of growth and maturity. If your baby isn't growing, if your toddler isn't maturing, you know there's something wrong. And the longer there is no sign of growth, the more concerning it becomes. Likewise, faith is meant to grow. It takes faith to believe in Jesus and come to salvation, but that is like being a newborn. It's great and ☞ congratulations are in order, but now there ought to be growth. **If you're not growing as a believer there is something wrong!**

Luke 17:5

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

Increase = add to; take it further

### ☞ **2 Peter 1:5-7**

make every effort to **add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; **6** and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; **7** and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

2 Thessalonians 1:3

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.

Growing = to increase above the ordinary degree

### ☞ **2 Timothy 2:22**

Flee the evil desires of youth, and **pursue** righteousness, **faith**, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Pursue = to chase with intense effort in order to catch

Faith is a gift from God that we can increase by adding to it. We can pursue faith with intense effort. Required for growing faith:

### ☞ **Prayer**

Jude 20... But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith praying in the Holy Spirit.

### ☞ **Word**

Romans 10:17... faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

### ☞ **Fellowship**

1 Thessalonians 3:10... Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

2 Timothy 2:22... pursue... faith... with those who call on the Lord

### ☞ **Action**

*In the Christian life, we never stand still: we either go forward or gradually slip backward.*

Galatians 5:6

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Philemon 6

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

Back to the baby analogy... babies, at first don't have the strength or coordination to walk, but they learn to roll over; then they learn to crawl, and finally they start taking some steps until they are walking and eventually running. All of that time before they actually walk, they are gradually, through smaller actions, developing the strength and coordination to walk. With faith, do what you know to do, no matter how small, and you will grow.

Psalms 1:3 talks about growing:

☞ **Fruitful in season**

Galatians 6:9... Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

☞ **Firm without withering**

2 Corinthians 4:16... Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

☞ **Flourishing and prospering**

Proverbs 16:20... Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord.

☞ **Perpetual Faith is Grateful**

**Overflowing with thankfulness** – it super-abounds in giving thanks

A thankful spirit is a mark of Christian maturity. When a believer is abounding in thanksgiving, he is really making progress!

☞ **Lack of thankfulness works against your faith: Romans 1:21** says, “although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

☞ **Ephesians 5:19-20**

Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, **20 always giving thanks** to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

☞ **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

give thanks **in all circumstances**, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

## Conclusion

“just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him...” – the simple things of the Christian life provide continual and reliable spiritual fuel for growth.

We are to walk in Christ the same way we originally received Christ – by *faith*. The false teachers wanted to introduce some "new truths" for Christian maturity, but Paul denounced them. "You started with Christ and you must continue with Christ," Paul wrote. "You started with faith and you must continue with faith. This is the only way to make spiritual progress."

I want a Perpetual Faith that never ends and endures forever...

**Be Grounded** – dig deep roots; stand firm in Christ

**Be Growing** – keep building up and get stronger; grow up in your faith

**Be Grateful** – overflow with thankfulness

☞ **A grounded, growing, grateful believer will not be led astray. That's Perpetual Faith.**

**Popcorn Praises.**