

“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the Hope of the Gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;” Colossians 1:23 KJV



“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath [Christ] reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight.” The preceding is conditional, because of the next phrase; *“IF ye continue in the faith grounded and settled.”* If you are endeavoring to continue in faith by your own effort, you have failed already! *“For it is God which worketh in you; both to will AND TO DO of His good pleasure! Faith cometh by...the Word of God.”* Faith is the gift of God imparted to the repentant through the hearing of His Word which is why it is imperative we proclaim the Gospel, God’s Word, to those still in darkness. It’s not our words, but God’s Word, the Truth, which imparts faith to the hearing ear! God is His Word. *“In the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God.”* So, it is God who by hearing (obedient) faith instills in my soul the desires of righteousness. *“Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”* Many of us, like the Apostle Paul, find *“the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. I find that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after 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.”* We find ourselves exclaiming with him, *“O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”* His only recourse, as is ours, was to remember to continue to trust in the Saviour who came to *“seek and to save that which was lost”* So He concludes the whole matter upon this premise: *“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* We give thanks in our joyful times, but in the midst of trial we often neglect the admonition, *“In EVERYTHING give thanks!”* Not just the happy times, the righteous times, the prosperous times, but EVERY TIME! It doesn’t say, *“FEEL thankful,”* it says *“GIVE thanks.”* Faith is not founded on feelings, but on the absolutes of God’s Word! Feelings are self-based; faith is God-based!

Continuance in righteousness,
Must always come with thankfulness,
For if we pause and give it thought,
We’ll call on Jesus as we ought! ~CGP

My destiny is not founded upon who I was, am, or will be: It is founded upon who Christ is *“the same yesterday, to day, and forever!”* The Saviour! *“Thou shalt call His name, Jesus; for He shall SAVE (present tense) His people from their sins.”* When you “feel” unredeemable because of your sin, you are exactly the person Jesus came to save. Simply trust and call upon Him, *“for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* The word “Whosoever” is not specific to unbelievers, but means *“whosoever. IF we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, AND to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.”* Do you need saving from sin every day? I do! So I every time the Holy Spirit convinces me through God’s Word I have sinned, I confess it to God, forsake it, and return to the obedience of faith! My eternity is secure, but my body is the burden of my soul, so, especially when we sin, remember to *“give thanks”* to the Saviour. WHY? Because He forgives all those who call upon Him!

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly...WHATSOEVER ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, GIVING THANKS to God and the Father by Him.” Colossians 3:16-17 KJV