

Work in Progress

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Ephesians 1:5 *He pre-destined us to be adopted*
Ephesians 2:18 *For thru Christ we have access*
Colossians 1:13 *Delivered us from the power of*
Colossians 2:6 *So walk in Him, rooted & built up*
Romans 8:1 *No condemnation in Christ Jesus*
Philippians 1:6 *He who began a good work*
Philippians 3:8 *I count all things but loss to win*
Acts 1:8 *Ye shall receive power after the H.S.*
John 15:5 *I am the vine, ye are the branches*
John 15:16 *ye should bring forth much fruit*

1 A work in progress is being in a learning mode at the start of every day—it means being changed by the Spirit of God; it is continually learning spiritual lessons *from* God and meeting every situation as His Word says to meet or react to them.

2 When we sincerely *repent* and *accept* the Spirit of God in our heart—we can *obey* the instructions of Jesus regarding the attitudes we take and decisions we make. AV **1 Corinthians 12:27** “*Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*”

3 Our being *transformed* includes our being *accepted* into God’s family of believers. WEY **Ephesians 1:5** “*For He pre-destined us to be adopted by Himself as sons through Jesus Christ—such being His gracious will and pleasure—*

AV **6** *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*”

4 This spiritual work in progress includes continual access to God through prayer—paid for by the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.

AV **Ephesians 2:18** “*For through [Christ] we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father*”—which means asking God every day to change our *attitudes* and transform our *desires* to be what *He* wants them to be.

5 Depending totally on God for everything is possible through the payment of the Blood sacrifice of Jesus. We move from spiritual *darkness* to spiritual *light*.

It is this atoning work of the Cross that AV **Colossians 1:13** “*Delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.*”

6 This spiritual work in progress is made possible through Christ **Colossians 1:14** “*In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.*”

A huge price had to be paid for this *redemption* and *forgiveness*, but without them no salvation is possible.

7 We begin each day with a *prayer* for spiritual *guidance*, so that what we decide to get involved with that day has God’s favor and blessing. We are *serving* God and *following* Jesus—NKJV **Colossians 2:6** “*So walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him.*”

8 As we keep our *faith* and *focus* on the Blood of Christ and as we ask the Spirit of God to empower

us to obey the Scriptures, the devil cannot *accuse* us or *confuse* us—

There is NKJV **Romans 8:1** “*Now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*”

9 To *walk* and *talk* and *treat* people “*According to the Spirit*” every *day* concerning *everything*, is all part of being *transformed* by the Cross—it is a *work in progress*.

No matter *what* trial we may be going through, there is some spiritual *benefit* in it—if we *conduct* our life “*According to the Spirit.*”

10 Every life has purpose and God’s purpose is that our *life*; our *activities*; and our *conversations* are “*According to the Spirit.*”

We cannot *please* God nor *obey* His Word with any activity, conversation, or anything else until we decide that it *must* be “*According to the Spirit.*”

11 Being transformed by the Cross is an on-going work in process—God is teaching us each day how to *act*, *talk*, and *respond*. We should be *sure* that this *changing* and *adjusting* of our Christian character continues—AV **Philippians 1:6** “*He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.*”

12 This *changing* of our attitude may *seem* gradual at times, but it is to *continue* and *move* toward the goal of Christ-likeness in *everything* and toward *everyone*.

Whatever God *shows* us needs to be *changed*; *adjusted*; or *eliminated*—whether an attitude or

activity, we are to ask Him to *help* us *follow* that advice and to *discard* the wrong.

13 NKJV **Philippians 3:8** “*I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.*”

14 Faith is the key to the righteousness of Christ—what we must be *clothed* with when we stand before His judgment seat. Any worldly *attitude* or unscriptural *activity* is to be considered rubbish and disposed of—we are *a work in progress*.

15 Wanting to *believe* and *receive* the gift of the Holy Spirit is a *key* factor since unbelievers *cannot* receive that Gift—they walk “*According to the flesh*”—Not knowing and not walking any other way because AV **2 Corinthians 4:4** “*The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not.*”

16 This spiritual work in our heart moves forward each *day* since we have continual access to God for His help every *hour*.

When a trial seems too much for us to deal with in our own strength, we AV **Hebrews 4:16** “*Come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*”

17 We all make mistakes, but *access* to God’s “*Throne of grace*” brings us back to His way and transformed by His Spirit. We *admit* that we have sinned, and we *confess* them to God.

18 We have been *born again*, so we do not want to *sin again*—at least not deliberately.

AV **1 John 5:18** “*Whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*”

19 As we meet every circumstance in a scriptural way by the empowerment of His Spirit, our light can shine on the path of others. We can be *light* and *salt* and we can make a *difference* in the life of another by showing them a right example—**Matthew 5:16** “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*”

20 Our on-going transformation enables us to be a witness for Truth. When Jesus ascended into Heaven, He said AV **Acts 1:8** “*Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea.*”

21 Our being willing to follow the teaching of the New Testament concerning every situation we encounter, is what enables this spiritual work to progress every day.

AV **Ephesians 2:10** “*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.*” By placing each new day in God’s hands for His control of everything that day, we can maintain a *willingness* to repent of anything shown us to be outside the will of God.

22 The devil tries to talk us *out* of believing God’s promises **2 Corinthians 1:20**, and he says it is *impossible* to maintain that position in Christ. He suggests we accept something *less* than what God wants us to *have*.

We know however NKJV **Philippians 4:13** “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*”

23 The apostle admitted he was the “*Least of all saints*” AV **Ephesians 3:8**, but God was willing to *forgive* him and *give* him the opportunity to “*Preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.*”

24 All these verses tell us that we are being *transformed* by the Cross, as we are forgiven by His Blood. Once we *know* our true identity in Christ, we then ask—

How does God want me to act?

What attitude does He want me to have?

In *what way* should I treat people?

25 God wants our *life* to be an *example* for others; and He wants His *Truth* to shine through the way we treat those around us—in the home, at work, during sports, and at all times.

26 We have been *chosen* and *appointed* to this life of *faith and trust* on God—we just need to *accept* that appointment and *walk* in the light of that Truth every day.

It is a *transforming* process that is always a *work in progress* as we stay connected to the Vine.

27 AV **John 15:5** “*I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing*”—but *with* Him we can do *all things!*



www.fcgchurch.org

*Receive free Tracts email:
fcgchurch1@gmail.com

Or write to: PO Box 24283
Philadelphia, PA 19120

#3168 0901 24C