

Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

Hebrews 4:11

Store In My Heart

Galatians 6:1

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Our responsibility to help our brethren is one of the means by which God provides escape from temptation. Even if we give in and commit a wrong our brothers and sisters in Christ will do their best to bring us back to God.

Each of us needs to remain diligent in our application of God's Word in our life, but sometimes we slip and fall into temptation. That is when it is good to have our brothers and sisters in Christ who will do their best to bring us back to God.

Trying to remain faithful alone can be a difficult task. We can rejoice in knowing both God and our brethren are ready to help as we need them.



A Work In Progress

U. Buckley

Sometimes in conversation with people regarding religion and church attendance, one might say something like, 'You know, when I get myself together, I'll start going to church'.

There are a couple of things I'd like to say about that statement. There are, I'm sure, more things that could be said.

First, this kind of lull toward the implication that the church is made up of people who have it all together, or at least think they do. This is not the case. I've heard it said that the church is like a hospital. People don't go there because they are well and in good health, but to get well. The church is for people who realize their need for change and are seeking to do so.

Peter writing to people who were already in the church wrote in **2Peter 1:5-7**, "*But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, love*". This was written to people who didn't have it all together but were working toward it.

Peter further encouraged them in **2Peter 3:18**, "*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" We are a work in progress.

Secondly, this 'work in progress' begins with a change of mind. Paul wrote in **Romans 12:2**, "*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God,*" Paul wrote also in **Colossians 3:9-10**, "*Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.*"

Notice from these passages, transformation comes with the

renewing of the mind, and we are renewed in knowledge. One cannot get himself together without knowledge of the need and the how, matched with the will to do so.

Paul described the church in **1Timothy 3:15** as, *“the pillar and ground of the truth.”* The responsibility of the church is to teach the truth of God’s revelation, which imparts knowledge, leading to the change of the mind and getting it together. Let me conclude with the words of **2Peter 1:2-4**, *“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”*

(Brother Buckley is one of the elders of the Dowlen Road Church in Beaumont, TX where some of our children worship. I have been trying to catch and read his regular posts on Facebook for a good while now. His teaching is consistently helpful in learning to better serve God. I have used some of his writing in the past and I thought this message that I saved several weeks ago would be in line with our studies on Sunday evening and several of the recent lessons I have presented.

From the moment we decide to give our life to God through Christ change becomes a constant part of our life. We change from lost to saved. We change from worldly to spiritual. These are not instant changes, they take time and to some degree they never end as long as we are on this side of eternity. The life of one who belongs to Christ is a life of constant growth as we seek to find the completeness that is found only through adherence to the Word of God. As pointed out in the article, we must transform by putting off the things of the world and putting on the things of God.

These changes will be both physical and spiritual. They will affect our mind and body as we seek to make the adjustment from focus on the world and its desires to drawing near to God through the Word he left to guide us to Him. The question for us, especially those of us who have been servants of God for many years, “Am I still growing closer to God?” We must continue to mature and gain in our faith and strength until we reach the end of our time here. Study Diligently. Consider Carefully. Keep Growing. DLH)

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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For Our Information

Sue Soliday was still having problems with her sugar level last week. She has pretty much overcome the congestion she had earlier.

Marla Rigsby has been given some exercises from a physical therapist to help with her shoulder. She also received medication to deal with corneal dystrophy in her eyes.

Amy Simpson’s back is getting better.

John Ragsdale received more blood last Wednesday.

Sunday Evening - **2Kings 25:22**. Wednesday Evening - **James 2:8**

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

