

HOW TO LIVE AS A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN

1 JOHN 1:3,4

INTRODUCTION:

1. Right now, you can come to know real joy because of your fellowship with God. (1 John 1.3,4; cf. Ps. 32.1,2)
2. 1 John was written to those who were forgiven. (1 John 2.12)
 - a) They had obeyed the gospel. (Acts 5.31,32)
 - b) They were saved *“for His name’s sake.”* (cf. Acts 4.12)
 - c) They were faithful Christians. Forgiven is a continued state.
3. Joy comes from living as a faithful Christian.

I. LIVING FAITHFULLY MEANS OBEDIENCE

- A. **1 JOHN 2.13:** *“you have known Him...”*
 1. Who did they know? (1 John 1.1; John 1.1,14)
 2. To know Him who is from the beginning is to keep His commandments. (1 John 2.3-6)
- B. Love helps me to live in obedience to God.
 1. **1 JOHN 5.1-3:** *“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.”* Love is displayed by obedience.
 2. **1 JOHN 5.3:** *“And His commandments are not burdensome.”* When are His commandments hard?

II. LIVING FAITHFULLY MEANS OVERCOMING

- A. **1 JOHN 2.13:** *“you have overcome the wicked one.”*
 1. Living a life of sin is living for the devil. (1 John 3.8)
 2. The faithful Christian *“keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him”* (1 John 5.18; Eph. 6.11)
 3. The devil is of the world. (1 John 5.19; Eph. 2.1,2)
- B. Faith helps me overcome the devil.
 1. **1 JOHN 5.4,5:** *“And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”*
 2. Faith is my shield against the devil’s attacks. (Eph. 6.16)

CONCLUSION: I can obey and overcome because of the word of God that dwells in me. (1 John 2.14; 1.10)

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

February 15, 2026

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

The Blood that Flows Backwards

How blessed we are to know that the blood of Jesus *“cleanses us from all sin”* (1 John 1.7). Through grace and our obedience to the gospel, we have been *“redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ”* (1 Pet. 1.18,19). What about those who lived and died prior to the coming of Christ? Have their souls been lost forever having never had the chance to contact the blood of Christ?

The Gentiles did not have the special relationship with God that defined the Jews. Even the Jews with their sacrifices of bulls and goats could never *“take away sins”* (Heb. 10.4). So where does that leave those who have lived and died before Jesus came and shed His life saving blood?

The apostle Paul explained that Jesus came to save those *“who were under the law”* (Gal. 4.5). However, the Gentiles were not left out in God’s plan of salvation (Gal. 3.14). Were all these who lived before Christ lost? The answer is found in Hebrews 9.15: Jesus is the *“Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant.”* Simply put, the blood of Jesus went backwards to save those who strove to obey the laws of God just as it goes forward to save those who would afterward believe.

CLP

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FORGIVE?

MATTHEW 18:21

INTRODUCTION:

1. Has someone ever been in your crosshairs?
2. In Matthew 18, Jesus addresses forgiveness in three sections.
 - a) **Matthew 18.1-20:** There is a solution that is offered.
 - b) **Matthew 18.21,22:** There is a question that is asked.
 - c) **Matthew 18.23-35:** There is an answer that is given.
3. What does it mean to truly forgive?

I. THE QUESTION

- A. There are four steps in conflict resolution.
 1. **Matthew 18.15:** Confrontation.
 2. **Matthew 18.16:** Confirmation.
 3. **Matthew 18.17:** Communication.
 4. **Matthew 18.17:** Cessation.
- B. What does it mean to truly forgive?
 1. **Matthew 18.18,19:** We are in agreement.
 2. **Matthew 18.20:** We are walking together.
- C. From this context, Peter asks a question.
 1. **Matthew 18.21:** *“Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”*
 2. Forgive (apehimi): To grant freedom. (cf. Luke 9.54)

II. THE ANSWER

- A. The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant.
 1. **Matthew 18.22-27:** Section One: Forgiveness Applied.
 2. **Matthew 18.28-30:** Section Two: Forgiveness Denied.
 3. **Matthew 18.31-35:** Section Three: Debt Reapplied.
- B. How can I be more forgiving?
 1. Patience: I need to work on my temper and be more patient with others. (Matt. 18.26,29)
 2. Compassion: I need to develop deep feelings for others that will move me. (Matt. 18.27)
 3. Pity: I need to put myself in their shoes and treat others the way I want to be treated. (Matt. 18.33)

CONCLUSION: Matthew 18.35: *“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”*

GROWING IN THE FAITH

Have you ever wondered what it means to grow in the faith? It is one of those Bible phrases that we reference all the time. It is one of those things that we strive to achieve, because growing in the faith is something that defines a mature and faithful Christian. But what exactly does it mean to grow in the faith?

The apostle Paul commended the brethren in Thessalonica *“because your faith grows exceedingly”* (2 Thess. 1.3). When you keep reading, you learn what it meant for them to have this growing faith. In the next verse, Paul writes how he would go to other congregations and brag about how much they have grown as evidenced by *“all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure”* (2 Thess. 1.4). Someone who has not grown in the faith may be more vulnerable to giving up the faith when faced with life’s difficulties (Matt. 13.20,21). The one who has grown in the faith is the one who can endure hardships. Do you find it easier to resist the temptations that once caused you to fall? Are you more inclined to draw closer to God than pull away when you are struggling with life? Then you are growing in the faith.

Growing in the faith also refers to growing in our feelings toward one another. Peter said to *“grow in the grace”* (2 Pet. 3.18). Grace is a combination of love, mercy, and kindness (Eph. 2.4-7). Someone who grows in grace grows in their ability to be merciful, kind, and loving. Someone who is petty, unforgiving, and holding onto hurt feelings toward their brethren indicates a lack of spiritual maturity. When you are growing in the faith, it becomes easier to treat someone with kindness than with contempt. It is easier to control your temper than to flare in anger.

Growing in the faith also means to increase in your knowledge and understanding of the Bible. We are to desire the word of God, *“that you may grow thereby”* (1 Pet. 2.2). We are to *“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Pet. 3.18). Someone can be a Christian for years and still not be able to find the scriptures to even the most fundamental Bible subjects. They have not grown in the faith. There are some who ought to be able to teach the Bible, but they need to be taught the first principles themselves because they have not grown (Heb. 5.12-14).

God expects us to grow, but we are to take the steps to add to our faith (2 Pet. 1.5-7).