

**Xenos Christian Fellowship
Christian Principles Unit 2
Dynamics of Spiritual Growth**

Week 2: Sanctification & Faith

Introduction

(Gal. 3:2, 3) This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

(Col. 2:6,7) As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, (7) having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith,

This raises the important question: what does biblical faith look like?

Definition of Biblical Faith

A willingness to *act* according to God's truth with *dependence* on him to perform it for/through us.

(Luke 1:35,38) And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God... (38) And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

As it relates to Justification:

(Rev. 3:20) 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.

As it relates to Sanctification:

Example: Abraham and Sarah

John 15:4-12

Therefore the New Testament teaches . . .

Indicative & Imperative

The terms "indicative" and "imperative" refer to two different verb moods commonly used by the New Testament authors in their teaching on sanctification.

The mood of a verb describes the degree of certainty of the action. There are four main moods used in New Testament Greek, including:

Indicative - the mood of certainty, actuality

Imperative - the mood of command

What does all this have to do with biblical faith?

The indicatives provide the content for the “dependence” aspect of sanctifying faith.

The imperatives provide the content for the “action” aspect of sanctifying faith.

Imperatives are based on indicatives

Explanation:

What God commands us to do (imperative) is based upon what he has done, is doing, or will do (indicative).

Biblical examples: In the following verses, put (parentheses around the indicative portion), underline the imperative portion, and circle the words that identify the relationship between these two portions.

(Eph. 4:32) Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

(Rom. 12:1) I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

(1 Jn. 4:11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

(Phil. 2:12,13*) So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

(Matt. 28:18-20) And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

(2 Peter 1:2-7) Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

(Heb. 10:19-25) Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

(Col. 3:1-17) Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him-- a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Significance:

What would it look like to cultivate dependence?

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Note:

Healthy experience flows from active faith

Explanation:

In many cases, our *experience* of God's blessing follows our willingness to *act* on the imperatives by faith.

Significance:

Biblical order:

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This dynamic in action –

(Josh. 3:13-16) And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD--the Lord of all the earth--set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap." (14) So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. (15) Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, (16) the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

Biblical Examples:

In the following passages, underline the imperative involved, put (parentheses around the blessing promised), and circle the words that indicate the relationship between these two.

(John 13:17*) If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

(Romans 12:2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

(2 Peter 1:8-11) For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

(Jas. 1:21-25)** Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. (22) But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. (23) For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; (24) for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. (25) But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.

(Ps. 1:1-3) How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! (2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. (3) And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Application

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Qualification:

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Qualification

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Qualification:

(For your personal study) Look for indicatives, imperatives and blessings in these passages and the way they interact with each other.

(Josh. 1:5b-9) "Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. (6) Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. (7) Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. (8) This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. (9) Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

(1 Pet. 1:23-2:3) . . . for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God . . . (3) Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

Conclusion

Memory Verses

Phil. 2:12,13*- Imperatives are based on indicatives

Jn. 13:17*- Experience flows from active faith

Jas. 1:22-25**- Experience flows from active faith

Assignment

Read Eph. 1:3-14; Col. 2:10-3:16; Rom. 6:1-13.

Read Walking In Victory, chapters 1-5. **Write** one paragraph summarizing each chapter, and one paragraph (for each chapter) on what was most helpful to you.

Points to know for the Exam for Week 2

- Be able to define biblical faith ("A willingness to act according to God's truth with dependence on him to perform it through you.").
- Be able to define "indicative" and "imperative," and explain the relationships between them in the New Testament: What God commands us to do (*imperative*) is based upon what he has done, is doing or will do (*indicative*).
- Be able to explain the other relationship we discussed in class: In many cases, our experience of God's blessing is dependent upon our willingness to do the imperatives by faith.