

## Week 6: Grow in Christ Jesus

What did we talk about last week (wait for responses)? Last week we told you that receiving God's gift of eternal life is a free gift (Romans 6:23), and that there is absolutely nothing anyone can do to earn eternal life (Ephesians 2:8-9). You can't "do" anything to receive this gift, but **only** believe in Jesus Christ and that He came to earth to die as payment for your sins.

If you believe that you must do things, like being the best person you can possibly be, then what you are really saying is that Jesus did not do enough for me to receive eternal life. You are saying that you must add to what Jesus has already done for you. It is really important for you all to know that things like:

- Praying does not get you into heaven
- Giving money to the church does not get you into heaven
- Being nice to people does not get you into heaven
- Coming to church does not get you into heaven
- Reading the bible does not get you into heaven

Although God would like for you to do all these things because you love God and you want to please Him and want to become more like Him, or because you want to help people and be more like Jesus, please know that doing all these things will not get you into heaven however.

So, in conclusion, once we trust in Jesus alone, and believe that by Him dying on a cross for each one of our sins will save us and allow us to spend eternity with Him one day, God the Father then desires for us to become more like Jesus each day by how we live our lives. If we strive to live in order to please God, then people around us will see us as different and that will allow us to tell others **why** we are different!

Remember, it is trusting in Jesus Christ **ALONE** that will provide eternal life for you (John14:6). Also, remember that although you will try to do what is pleasing to God, sometimes you will fail and hurt God. However, in times like this God does promise to help us and give us the strength to do what pleases Him (Hebrews 13:5).

Let us pray to God that he would continue to give us the strength and ability to be more and more like Him each day (sanctification).

