

## GROWING IN THANKFULNESS

Tuesday, November 21

Reading: Colossians 2

**Colossians 2:6** *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, **7** rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

A group of tourists visiting a picturesque village walked by an old man sitting beside a fence. In a rather patronizing way, one tourist asked him, “Were any great men born in this village?” The old man replied, “Nope, only babies.”<sup>1</sup>

The old man was right. We all begin life in the same place – as babies needing to be nurtured to grow. The same is true in our spiritual lives. In Colossians 2:6-7, the Apostle Paul lists some “steps” in our Christian growth. While some of these steps overlap and work together, they are each important if we want a firm faith (2:5).

“Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord” – The first step is always receiving Christ as your Savior. This is “by grace through faith” (Eph. 2:8-9). Notice the three-fold name of Jesus here. “Christ” means Messiah, the Anointed One. He is the promised Savior. “Jesus” was the name given to Him at His birth into this world. It means “God Saves.” “Lord” is His title as King. Jesus is in charge. When you place your faith in Him you can be sure that He will keep His promises, save you from your sins, and direct your life in the right paths.

“Continue to live your lives in Him” – Just as we were saved by grace through faith, so we must walk every day by faith. We must continue to trust in Christ’s guidance and direction and live each day in the grace and love He gives us.

“Rooted and built up in Him” – We do not base our spiritual growth on what the church says or what other people say. Our foundation is in Jesus Christ Himself who has given us the Holy Spirit to help us grow to be more like the Savior.

“Strengthened in the faith as you were taught” – How do we learn more about Christ and grow in our faith? We are taught by God’s Word as we study it and apply it to our lives. Paul spends the rest of this chapter showing the difference between the truth of God’s Word and the twisted teachings that come from people’s imaginations (2:8-23).

“Overflowing with thankfulness” – As we grow in our daily walk with Jesus and study and apply His Word to our lives, our ability to live by faith will grow stronger. This will produce more and more joy and gratitude in our hearts.

There’s a gospel song that says: “I’m not what I want to be / I’m not what I’m gonna be / but THANK GOD I’m not what I was” Can you relate to those words? As you look back over your life, can you thank God today for how far He has led you and for the promise of His presence and power as you continue to walk with Christ?

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ministry127.com/resources/illustration/growing-in-the-lord>