



# THE SCROLLS

Helping one another mature so we can impact our world for Christ

**This week's belief: Giving My Faith**

For the week of August 29th, 2005

## Beliefs

- T rinity
- S alvation by Grace
- A uthority of Bible
- P ersonal God
- I dentity in Christ
- C hurch
- H umanity
- C ompassion
- E ternity
- S tewardship

## Practices

- W orship
- P rayer
- B ible S tudy
- S ingle-mindedness
- B iblical Community
- S piritual Gifts
- G iving My T ime
- G iving My Money
- G iving My Faith
- G iving My Life

## Virtues

- L ove
- J oy
- P eace
- P atience
- K indness/Goodness
- F aithfulness
- G entleness
- S elf-Control
- H ope
- H umility
- F orgiveness

## Moving Forward!

*Being a Christian is like riding a bike. Unless you move forward, you'll fall off. You might want to try it just to be sure – get on your bike and find out how long you can stay on while going nowhere. You may be able to balance for awhile but eventually, you'll fall off.*

*Perhaps you've tried it in your faith. You came to Christ, moved forward in your faith for awhile, but for one reason or another, you began to slack. You stopped doing that which helped you grow in the beginning. You became stuck. Your faith became emptied of its meaning and power. In a sense, you fell off.*

*The only way to remain vital in your relationship with Christ is to move forward. In this sense, it is no different from the other relationships we have. Whether it's a marriage or a friendship, all relationships depend upon growth in order to remain dynamic and full of life. That's Paul's message to us as we continue on in Colossians this week.*

## Monday – One Thing I Do

Please read Colossians 2:6-7 and Philipians 3:12-14.

1. Begin by writing Phil. 3:12-14 in your own words.
2. What insights does the Phil. 3 passage have about moving forward?
3. How did Paul regard his past? How did he regard his future?

**Digging Deeper** - If you were to put Phil. 3 into practice in your own life, what would you have to do about your past successes or failures? What is one thing you could do this week to move forward in Christ?

## Tuesday – Receiving Christ Jesus as Lord

*"Spiritual growth is a mystery. Trying to control it is as vain as telling a rose how to blossom or commanding a child to 'grow up!'"* R. Paul Stevens – Everyday Christianity

Please read Colossians 2:6-7

1. How is moving forward (i.e. growing) in Christ related to receiving Christ?
2. How did you first receive Jesus Christ as your Lord? What was integral to your receiving him?
3. What do the following verses tell us about receiving Christ: John 1:11, Mark 10:15, Luke 8:4-15? How does all this relate to growth?

## Wednesday – Living in him

*"Mere change is not growth. Growth is the synthesis of change and continuity, and where there is no continuity there is no growth."* CS Lewis

Please read Colossians 2:6-7

1. Why is the quote by CS Lewis in important insight into spiritual growth?
2. What do you think it means to "live in him" (Col. 2)?
3. Please read 1 John 2:6, 3:24 and 4:13. How do these verses help us to understand what it means to "live in Christ"?

**Text Insight** – The word "live" in the NIV is a bit vague. Literally, it means to "walk", which in Jewish thought referred to the ethical or behavioral arena of our lives.

4. Living in Christ necessitates learning day by day, moment by moment, trial by trial, how to walk as Jesus walked. We will spend our entire lives learning this and growing. As you consider your life, in what ways is the Spirit leading you to walk as Jesus did?

## Thursday – Rooted in him

*"Because spiritual growth is a mystery that is beyond rational analysis or human technique, metaphors are needed – figures of speech providing sacred hints that express reality in ways that appeal to the imagination."*

R. Paul Stevens – Everyday Christianity

Please read Col. 2:6-7, Psalm 1, and John 15:1-8

1. What does it mean to be rooted in Christ?
2. For a moment look outside at a plant. Imagine the unseen roots of that plant and what is happening below the surface. Why did Christ and the biblical writers choose this metaphor to describe our growth and spiritual vitality?
3. As you think about your life, what is threatening your root structure and health?
4. What is aiding your rootedness in Christ?

## Friday – Built up in him

Please read Colossians 2:6-7 and Ephesians 4:7-16

*“One of the greatest tragedies of the Western church today is that people read the Bible through the lens of Western individualism. So passages like Ephesians 4:14 and 4:15 are understood as descriptions of individual growth, in reality they are statements about the growth of people together.”* R. Paul Stevens

1. The phrase “built up” is the centerpiece of the Eph. 4 passage. How does the rest of the Ephesians 4 passage explain what it means to be built up?
2. Can we grow in our faith without relationships with other believers? Why or why not?
3. A spiritual relationship is a relationship you have with someone that encourages and strengthens you in your faith. What spiritual relationships/friendships has God given to you? What have you learned or how have you grown from those relationships?

**Growing Deeper** – Take some time to write, call or email one of your spiritual friends and let him/her know how much you value them. If you don't have any spiritual relationships at this time, ask God to bring one into your life. You might also consider joining one of FBC's small groups (e.g. Home Groups, Men's/Women's group).

## Saturday – Overflowing with Thankfulness

Please read Colossians 2:6-7

1. What role does gratitude play in our spiritual growth?
2. Throughout his letters, Paul makes a big deal about “thankfulness”. Why do you think he does that?
3. What does a lack of thankfulness reveal about our spiritual health?

**Growing Deeper** – Consider grabbing a concordance and looking up some verses about thankfulness. After reading, take time to reflect on God's goodness and your gratitude for all he has done for us in Christ.



### Homegroup Discussion

*This section is designed for Home Groups and Small Groups who would like to discuss the Scrolls together. Begin by reading the introduction, “Moving Forward”, Col. 2:6-7 and Eph. 4:7-16.*

1. The metaphor of riding a bike is just one metaphor for describing our spiritual growth in Christ? What metaphors does the Bible use? Can you think of any metaphors from our modern day world?
2. Read the quote by Paul Stevens under Thursday's section. How does our culture's emphasis on “Individualism” affect the way we view our faith in Christ?
3. The phrase “built up” is the centerpiece of the Eph. 4 passage. How does the rest of the Ephesians 4 passage explain what it means to be built up?
4. Can we grow in our faith without relationships with other believers? Why or why not?
5. What do we as Christians need in order to develop spiritual relationships with other believers?
6. Why are we sometimes reluctant to invest in those relationships?
7. Pray together, asking God to deepen your home group relationships and to give you a spirit of unity. Pray for FBC, that we may grow as a church in our relationships with one another.

### Family Time with Kids

*Families can use these Bible readings and the “question of the week” to help your children learn about their faith.*

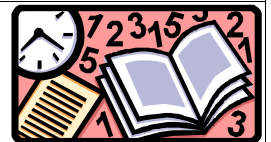
\_\_\_ **Monday:** Philippians 3:12-14

\_\_\_ **Tuesday:** 1 John 3:23-24

\_\_\_ **Wednesday:** Psalm 1

\_\_\_ **Thursday:** John 15:1-8

\_\_\_ **Friday:** Colossians 2:6-7



**Question of the Week:** As you read each passage above, what can you learn about growing in your relationship with Jesus?