

## **CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS – Part 2**

### **A QUESTIONS AND SOME ANSWERS**

When I get linked up with Jesus (receive him, come to him, commit my life to him – it doesn't matter which image we use) can I really be sure of him? Is the relationship permanent? It is common to have some doubts, especially at the beginning of our Christian lives. God wants us to be sure about him, and the Bible has answers to these questions.

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| *Can I be sure I am accepted?                | John 6:37           |
| *Will God hold my past failures against me?  | Romans 8:1          |
| *When I fail, am I thrown out of the family? | 1 John 1:9          |
| *Can I keep it up?                           | 2 Corinthians 12:9  |
| *How can I overcome temptation?              | 1 Corinthians 10:13 |
| *Can I really be sure that God accepts me?   |                     |
| What the Father promised us.                 | 1 John 5:10-12      |
| What the Son achieved for us.                | 1 John 4:10         |
| What the Spirit does in us.                  | 1 John 4:13         |

\*What changes will I gradually notice the Spirit making in me?

John's first letter (1 John) is full of confidence. *'We know'* is a theme in the letter. John tells us about:

- a new desire to please God 2:4,5
- a new assurance about being forgiven 1:9, 2:1,2
- a new willingness to face opposition 3:13
- a new delight in being with other Christians 3:14
- a new generosity of spirit 3:17
- a new experience of overcoming temptation 4:4, 5:4
- a new discovery of God Answering prayer 3:22
- a new understanding, set of priorities 5:20,21

We are not meant to guess whether we belong.

We are meant to be confident about it. 1 John 5:11, 12

### **B A VERSE TO LEARN**

1 John 5:12. "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son does not have life."

## **C BIBLE STUDY SECTION**

Romans 8 is a long chapter, full of good things about the Holy Spirit's work in us. We look at part of it now. Read verses 8-17.

- a) In v.9 and in vv. 15, 16 Paul describes our link with God in two different ways. What are these two images? Which one says more to you?
- b) vv. 10-14 Find some of the differences between a person who is linked with Christ and one who is not.
- c) V. 17 Can we expect life as a Christian to be easy? How can this verse encourage us in difficult times?
- d) Read vv. 26,27 What do these verses, and v. 15, tell us about prayer?

## **D TIME TO PRAY**

Choose from today:

- One thing you have learned
- One verse that particularly struck you

Can you make a prayer about each of them?

We have read about being in God's family. God has no dumb children and he wants us to talk to him as naturally as we talk with one another. In family life, all the members usually join in conversation together. Praying aloud is no more valuable than praying silently, but it helps us to concentrate in our praying and all can join in 'Amen.'" Try a one sentence prayer of thanks, a request or a thought from our Bible study. Think of the things that people shared at the beginning, and pray about them as well.

It is also helpful to pray aloud when we are alone. Not only does it help us to concentrate, but it gets us used to putting our prayers into words and to hearing our voice aloud when we pray.