



1. Last week, we said that the Bible describes three main ways Christians can be assured of salvation: the promises of God, the witness of the Holy Spirit, and the transformation of our hearts and minds by the Spirit. What stood out to you most in this discussion? How has this encouraged or challenged you?
2. The New Testament promises that Christians will one day be like Jesus (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 3:2). The process by which this happens is called *spiritual transformation*, where the believer slowly grows spiritually from the time of conversion until he or she enters God's presence. However, during this transformation, the Christian continues to struggle with sin (Galatians 5:17).

If you are a Christian, how have you experienced this struggle between your desire to follow God and your old sinful desires? How can we be actively involved in our own spiritual transformation?

3. The Christian's struggle with sin will one day be released. According to 2 Corinthians 5:8 and Hebrews 12:22-24, believers will be united with Christ upon death. Although we will later receive resurrected bodies (1 Corinthians 15:44), believers will first exist with Christ in spirit in an *intermediate state*. In this state, we will be united with Christ in the presence of thousands of angels, reunited with believers of all ages, and perfectly conformed to Christ in our spirits.

How does this appeal to you? What is most meaningful about this for you?

4. God promises that all Christians will receive a rich welcome into His eternal kingdom (2 Peter 1:10-11). God's welcome is "not because we deserve it, but because we have been clothed with the spotless robe of Christ's righteousness" (Bridges, 149). How is this future "homecoming" relevant for you today? How can you rest in this biblical truth right now?
5. According to Romans 8:23, 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 and 51-55, and Philippians 3:20-21, all Christians will one day be transformed to be like Christ in body (as well as spirit). What do you think of being resurrected with a body, to a physical and material kingdom? Does this change the way you view your own physical body or our current physical world?

How is God calling you to place hope in the future He has for you?

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