

The Messiah Has Come!



DISTINGUISHING MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN CONVERT (Edwards)

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4. True converts will have a new **appreciation** of spiritual truth.
5. True converts will **reflect** “a spirit of love to God and man.”

What is happening

Effectual Calling

Regeneration

Justification

Repentance

Faith

Adoption

Sanctification

Perseverance

Union With Christ

ATONEMENT

GLORIFICATION



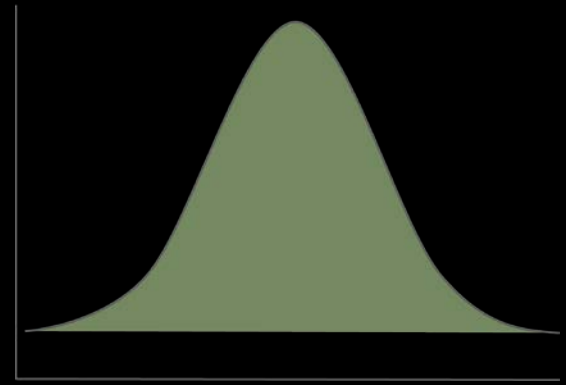
FROM FAITH TO SINLESS: SANCTIFICATION



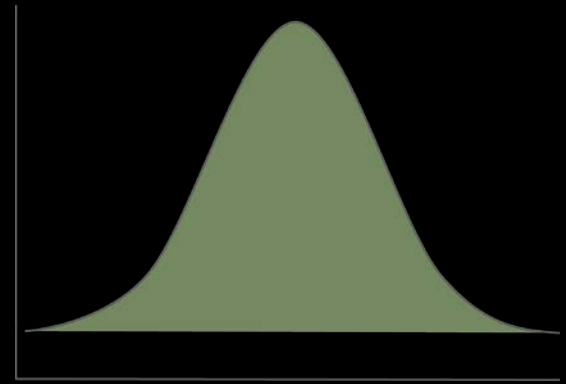
OUTLINE from last Sunday ...

1. Saved from the POWER of sin (complete)
 - ✓ New master (free from "self")
 - ✓ New mindset (free from deceit)
2. Being saved from the PERSUASION of sin (progressive)

FROM FAITH TO SINLESS: PERSEVERANCE



FROM FAITH TO SINLESS: PERSEVERANCE



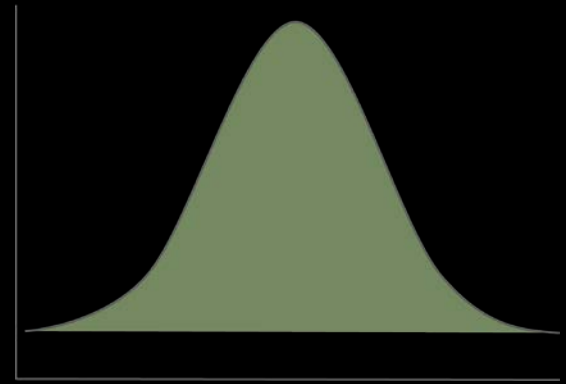
1. Perseverance of the Saints? ("P" in TULIP)

FROM FAITH TO SINLESS: PERSEVERANCE



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2. Once saved always saved? (universal question)

FROM FAITH TO SINLESS: PERSEVERANCE



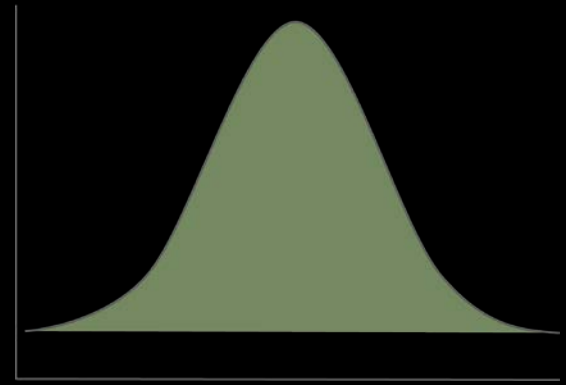
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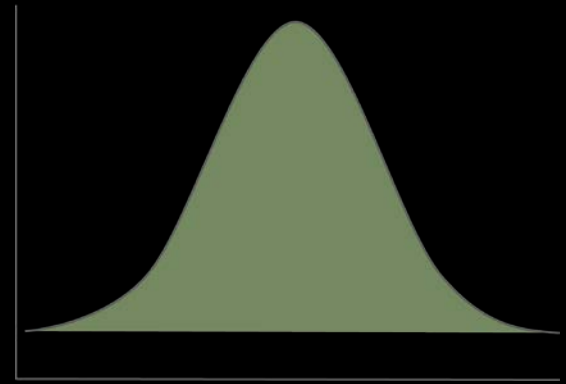
1. Perseverance of the Saints? (“P” in TULIP)
2. Once saved always saved? (universal question)
3. What is apostasy? (what is it not) ... *living a life characterized by unrepentant sin; holding tightly to behavior, attitudes, and actions that declare God’s words and ways to be untrue, invalid, and irrelevant.*

FROM FAITH TO SINLESS: PERSEVERANCE



1. Perseverance of the Saints? ("P" in TULIP)
2. Once saved always saved? (universal question)
3. What is apostasy? (what is it not)
4. What about those who walk away/live in defiance?

FROM FAITH TO SINLESS: PERSEVERANCE



1. Perseverance of the Saints? (“P” in TULIP)
2. Once saved always saved? (universal question)
3. What is apostasy? (what is it not)
4. What about those who walk away/live in defiance?
 - *Lost their faith? (Arminian response)*
 - *Never had faith? (Reformed response)*
 - *Wayward/backsliding? (American evangelical response)*

FROM FAITH TO SINLESS: PERSEVERANCE

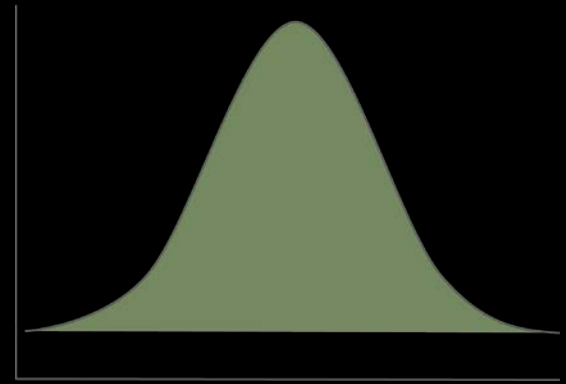


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Hebrews 4:7 ... *today, if you hear my voice,
do not harden your hearts ...*

BELIEVE → CONFESS → REPENT → FAITH

FROM FAITH TO SINLESS: PERSEVERANCE



OUTLINE for Today ...

1. "BECOMING PARTAKERS" of the divine nature → Christ in us (completed) – (v2-4)
2. "BEING PARTAKERS" of the divine nature → expressing Christ in us (progressive) – (v5-7)
3. "STIRRING UP" the established → reminding one another of Christ in us (ongoing) – (v8-13)

BECOMING PARTAKERS (Christ in us ...)



2 Peter 2:3f ... *His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness ... through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire ...*

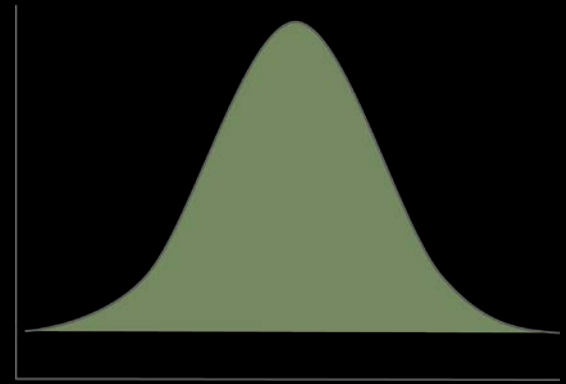
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- 1) Granted ALL things that pertain to life/godliness!
- 2) Granted His promises → escape corruption of my sinful nature & become partaker of his divine nature

BECOMING PARTAKERS (Christ in us ...)



HAVE I ESCAPED ...? AM I A PARTAKER ...?

BECOMING PARTAKERS (Christ in us ...)



HAVE I ESCAPED ...? AM I A PARTAKER ...?

... it is not feeling the Spirit that proves my saved state but the truth of what Christ did perfectly for me ...

(A Valley of Vision prayer, p89)

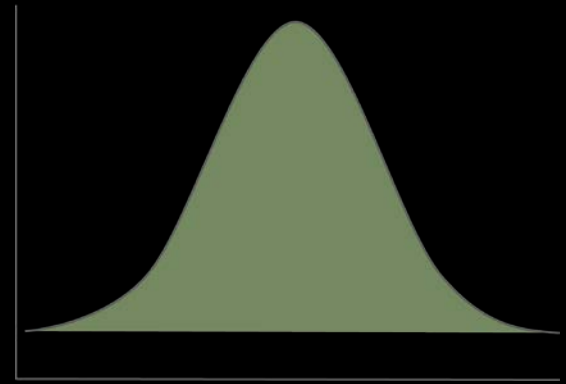
BECOMING PARTAKERS (Christ in us ...)



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Jeremiah 17:9 ... *the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick; who can understand it? I the Lord search the heart and test the mind ... (heart can deceive)*

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Matthew 7:21 ... *not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven ... (Jesus defines the DTR)*

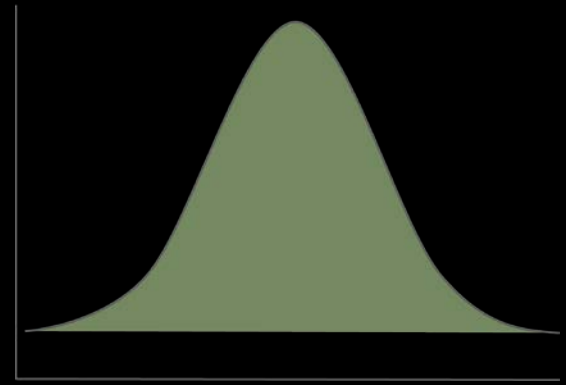
BECOMING PARTAKERS (Christ in us ...)



HAVE I ESCAPED ...? AM I A PARTAKER ...?

The Scripture leads us to conclude that it is possible to have a very uplifting, ennobling, reforming, and exhilarating experience of contact with supernatural forces which are operative in God's kingdom of grace and that these forces produce effects in us which to human observation are hardly distinguishable from those produced by God's regenerating and sanctifying grace and yet not be partakers of Christ and heirs in eternal life ...? (Murray, p153)

BECOMING PARTAKERS (Christ in us ...)



TESTING IS FOR ALL AGES and STAGES

BECOMING PARTAKERS (Christ in us ...)



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2 Peter 1:12f ... *I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up ...*

BECOMING PARTAKERS (Christ in us ...)

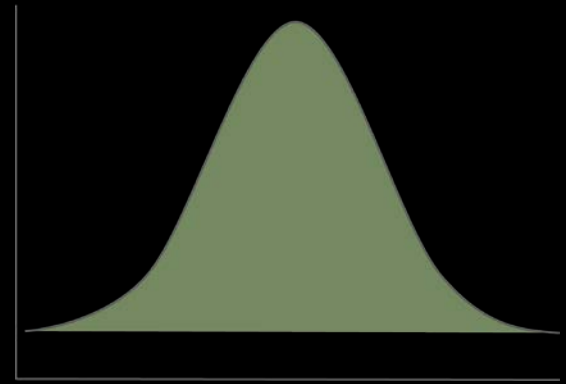


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2 Corinthians 13:5 ... *examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test ...*

BECOMING PARTAKERS (Christ in us ...)



TESTING IS FOR ALL AGES and STAGES

Luke 6:43f ... *no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.*

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks ...

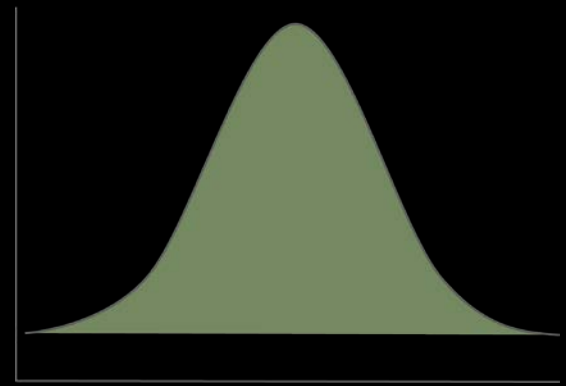
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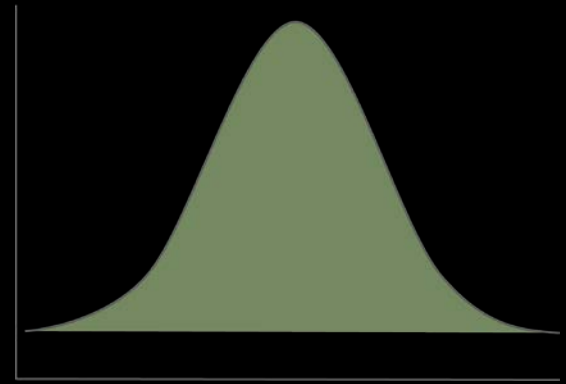
SUMMARY → what is complete in every believer

- 1) Granted ALL things that pertain to life/godliness!
- 2) Granted His promises → escape corruption of sinful nature and become partaker of divine nature

BEING PARTAKERS (expressing Christ in us ...)



BEING PARTAKERS
(expressing Christ in us ...)



CHRIST'S PROMISES

+

EXPRESSING CHRIST (OBEDIENCE)

=

ASSURANCE

BEING PARTAKERS
(expressing Christ in us ...)



CHRIST'S PROMISES

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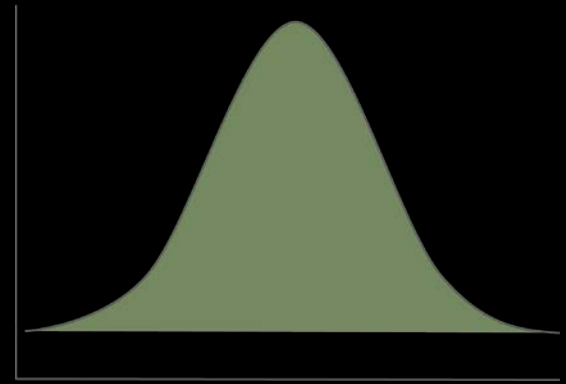
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ASSURANCE

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BELIEVE → CONFESS → REPENT → FAITH

BEING PARTAKERS (expressing Christ in us ...)



EXPRESSING CHRIST THROUGH OUR BELIEFS ...

2 Peter 1:5 ... *supplement your faith with goodness and goodness with knowledge ...*

BEING PARTAKERS (expressing Christ in us ...)



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2 Peter 1:5 ... *supplement your faith with goodness and goodness with knowledge ...*

2 Corinthians 10:5 ... *we destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ ... (personal and corporate)*

BEING PARTAKERS (expressing Christ in us ...)



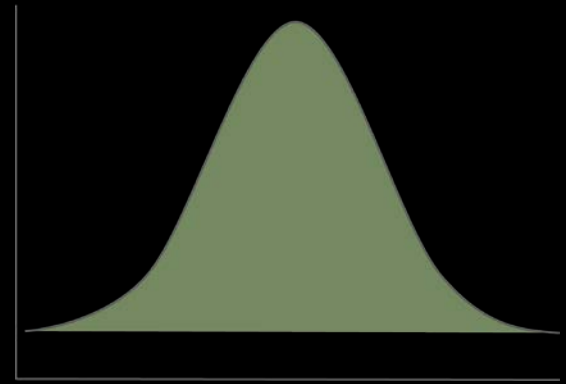
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Psalms 18:30 ... *this God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all who take refuge in him ...*

BEING PARTAKERS (expressing Christ in us ...)



EXPRESSING CHRIST THROUGH OUR ACTIONS ...

2 Peter 1:6a ... *knowledge with self-control and self-control with steadfastness (perseverance) ...*

BEING PARTAKERS (expressing Christ in us ...)



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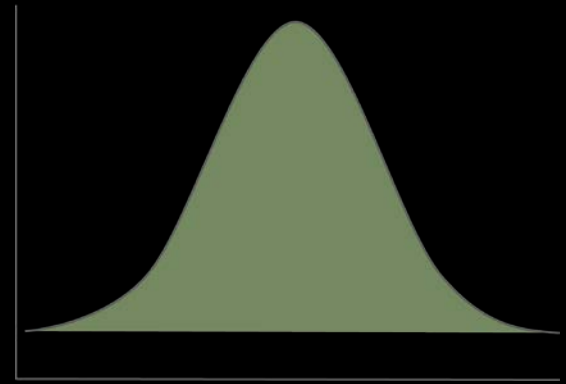
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2 Timothy 1:7 ... *God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control ...*

BEING PARTAKERS (expressing Christ in us ...)



EXPRESSING CHRIST THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS ...

1. Godliness →

- **Psalm 66:17f** ... *I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened ...*

BEING PARTAKERS (expressing Christ in us ...)

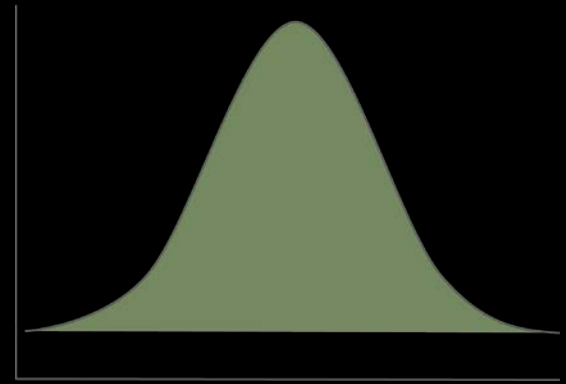


EXPRESSING CHRIST THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS ...

2. Brotherly kindness →

- **Proverbs 6:19** ... *one who sows discord among brothers (an abomination to the Lord) ...*
- **Psalms 133:1** ... *Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity ...*

BEING PARTAKERS (expressing Christ in us ...)



EXPRESSING CHRIST THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS ...

3. Love →

- **Matthew 5:44f** ... *I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust ...*

BEING PARTAKERS (expressing Christ in us ...)



SUMMARY → qualities that are “increasing” in believers

1) BELIEFS → goodness and knowledge

2) ACTIONS → self-control and steadfastness

3) RELATIONSHIPS → godliness, brotherly kindness,
and love

*So what shall
we do?*

STIR UP THE ESTABLISHED
(remind one another of Christ in us ...?)

STIR UP THE ESTABLISHED

(remind one another of Christ in us ...?)

2 Peter 1:8-10 ... *if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being **ineffective or unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so **nearsighted** that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.*

*Therefore, be all the more diligent to **confirm** your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.*

STIR UP THE ESTABLISHED

(remind one another of Christ in us ...?)

“QUALITIES”

**WITH THE
CROSS**

**WITHOUT THE
CROSS**

“QUALITIES”	WITH THE CROSS	WITHOUT THE CROSS

STIR UP THE ESTABLISHED

(remind one another of Christ in us ...?)

"QUALITIES"

**WITH THE
CROSS**

**WITHOUT THE
CROSS**

INCREASING

**CREDIT THE
DIVINE NATURE**

**GROW IN
PRIDE**

STIR UP THE ESTABLISHED

(remind one another of Christ in us ...?)

"QUALITIES"	WITH THE CROSS	WITHOUT THE CROSS
INCREASING	CREDIT THE DIVINE NATURE	GROW IN PRIDE
LACKING	CONFESS & REPENT	DOUBT & DESPAIR
AFFIRMING SIN	CONTEST	CONDEMN

STIR UP THE ESTABLISHED

(remind one another of Christ in us ...?)

"QUALITIES"	WITH THE CROSS	WITHOUT THE CROSS
INCREASING	CREDIT THE DIVINE NATURE	GROW IN PRIDE
LACKING	CONFESS & REPENT	DOUBT & DESPAIR
AFFIRMING SIN (SELF/OTHERS)	CONTEST THE SIN	CONDEMN THE PERSON

← FROM DEATH TO LIFE →

EFFECTUAL CALLING

REGENERATION

JUSTIFICATION

REPENTANCE

FAITH

ADOPTION

SANCTIFICATION

PERSEVERANCE

UNION WITH CHRIST

ATONEMENT

GLORIFICATION