

## Disappointments New Christians Face

One of the greatest joys in the life of a person is when one becomes a child of God (**Acts 8:39; 3 John 4**) and part of the temple of the living God (**2 Corinthians 6:16**). It is the start of a brand new life with all its expectations and blessings (**Romans 6:4**). One is now part of the beautiful body of Christ (**Acts 2:47; Ephesians 5:23, 25-27**). One is part of the family of Christians that love one another as Christ has loved them (**John 13:34-35**).

However, there are problems and disappointments that can overwhelm the new Christian and some may even fall away from the truth (**2 Peter 2:20-22**). We have a responsibility to the new Christians (i.e. **Galatians 6:1-2; Romans 15:1-2**). We are to be careful to and help them grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 3:18**). If we are not careful we can cause them to sin and thus we have sinned against Christ (**1 Corinthians 8:12**).

New Christians discover that they still face the same temptations they had before becoming a Christian. They can become easily discouraged and be overcome and fall away (**Luke 8:13**). We need to remind and help them know that this “transformation” is an on-going process (**Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:5-11**). We need to help them understand the nature of temptation and the power of God (**1 Corinthians 10:13**).

Sometimes New Christians become disappointed by “imperfect” Christians. The new Christians see those who do not practice what they preach (**1 John 2:4-6**). They seem to bite and devour one another (**Galatians 5:15**). It hurts to see this happen to those who they are looking up to. But this is not a new thing (**Luke 6:46; Galatians 2:11-14; James 4:17**).

Sometimes new Christians are pressured by the pleasures of the world. We need to remember that the pleasures of the world are only for a season (**Hebrews 11:25**). This may even influence their prayers (**James 4:3**). This can choke out the Word of God to the point of unfruitfulness (**Luke 8:14; 1 John 2:15-17**). We have to draw near to God and He will draw near to us (**James 4:7-8**).

Sometimes new Christians are pressured by their unconverted friends to partake in the ways of the world again. Paul warned about this pressure (**1 Corinthians 15:33-34**). We all need to be reminded that friendship with the world is enmity (deep seated hatred) with God (**James 4:4**). We need to develop close friendships with Christians in the Lord. All this takes time and commitment to do what is right.

Sometimes new Christians think that all their problems will go away when they come up out of the waters of baptism. Then they find out that is not the case. And sometimes they think that older Christians do not have problems. But such is not always the case (**1 Peter 1:6-9; James 1:2-4**). We all need to learn how to handle these circumstances (**James 4:5-8**).

New Christians need the opportunity to partake of the milk of the word in order that they may grow in respect to their salvation (**1 Peter 2:2-3**). They need to learn how to rightly divide the word of truth (**2 Timothy 2:15**). Sometimes those who ought to be teachers have not grown as they should (**Hebrews 5:12-14**). Remember, we all must learn to resist the devil and be steadfast

in the faith (**1 Peter 5:7-9**).

Let us help new Christians to be growing Christians and set the proper example also. Sometimes we need to walk a little slower to let them catch up with us (**Romans 14:13-16**). Sometimes we need to carry our brother (**Galatians 6:1-2**). Let us set the proper example of the joy of being a Christian, a child of the living God. The reward is out of this world.

Something to think about!

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