

# Things That Will Get Better and Better for Faithful Christians

2 Cor. 7:5

## Introduction:

- A. Faithful Christians are often “troubled on every side” - from “without” and “within”.
  - 1. We often get things out of focus.
    - a. Dwell on darkness until we see no light.
    - b. Dwell on limitations until we see no potential.
    - c. Dwell on obstacles until we see no opportunities.
    - d. Dwell on weaknesses until we see no strengths.
    - e. Dwell on failures until we see no successes.
    - f. Dwell on statistics until we see no spiritual growth.
    - g. Dwell on conflicts until we see no peace.
  - 2. Remember that things are already better.
    - a. Were not a people, now the people of God. (1 Pet. 2:9-10)
    - b. Were without mercy, now have mercy. (1 Pet. 2:10).
    - c. Were sold under sin, now redeemed. (1 Pet. 1:18,19).
    - d. Were polluted with sin, now purified. (1 Pet. 1:22)
    - e. Were dead in sin, now born again. (1 Pet. 1:23-25).
- B. Faithful Christians can be confident that things will get better and better.
  - 1. As our faith increases we will see improvement “within”.
  - 2. As we work with God's providence we will see improvement “without.”

## Discussion:

- I. Our Ability to Discern Between Good and Evil. (Heb. 5:12-14).**
  - A. This is the skill to judge between good and evil things or situations.
    - 1. It is based on “the word of righteousness” (v. 13)
    - 2. It takes time (v. 12) and effort to develop.
    - 3. It improves with study, time, and practice.
  - B. How often have we been frustrated by having misjudged a matter!
- II. Our Ability to Resist Temptation and Withstand Trials. (Jas. 1:2-12).**
  - A. As we weather one storm, the next becomes easier.
  - B. Our faith is strengthen each time it is tested (1 Pet. 1:7).
    - 1. We come to realize from experience the truth of 1 Cor. 10:13.
    - 2. We come to understand what true deliverance. (cf. 2 Pet. 2:9; Heb. 11:35)
- III. Our Ability to Forgive. (Luke 17:3-5)**
  - A. Most of us want to forgive, but find it very hard at times.
  - B. No wonder the apostles said, “Increase our faith!” (v. 5)
- IV. Our Ability to Defend the Faith. (Acts 9:22).**
  - A. Many become discouraged because cannot refute error as well as others.
  - B. Need to understand that this too, is a growing process - will get better.
- V. Our Ability to Cope with Declining Physical Strength. (2 Cor. 4:16-5:8)**
  - A. Age, disease, persecution and other stresses take a toll on our bodies.
  - B. By daily spiritual renewing we put things into a better perspective.
- VI. Our Ability to Deal with Our Mortality. (Phil. 1:21-26).**
  - A. As faith grows, our hope of resurrection and heaven becomes more firm.
  - B. As faith grows, we see death less of a threat and more of an threshold.

## Conclusion:

We will always have problems, but if we continue to faithfully serve the Lord, things will continue to get better and better for us and finally will reach that “better country”.