

## Each Day Is a Part of the Process

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16).

Progress is one of the best things in life. It's also one of the most important. David Livingstone, the intrepid Scottish explorer, famously said, "I will go anywhere as long as it's forward." If that's true for explorers, it's even more true for Christians.

As Paul wrote about his difficulties, he wanted to put the emphasis on his spiritual condition rather than his outward circumstances. He said, "Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day." None of Paul's attitudes is more worthy of our imitation than this one. We might, like our brother, be "perishing" physically, but spiritually it is always possible to be "renewed" each day. Compared to this kind of growth, any other kind of progress in life seems trivial.

Most Christians would agree that what has just been said is true. However, our daily to-do lists may not show spiritual growth to be our priority. Perhaps we think that attending church services and upholding correct doctrine will be enough; our spiritual growth will take care of itself. But being "renewed day by day," as Paul put it, does not happen accidentally or coincidentally; it requires deliberate attention. It takes time and even some of our money. As with anything important, the real evidence will be found in our time record and list of expenditures. If we want to make progress, we must pay conscious attention to it, doing daily the things God has designed for our growth — things like Bible study, prayer, private worship, and meditation on God's law "day and night" (Psalm 1:2).

When we turned away from our old life and were baptized into Christ, God "delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Colossians 1:13). But at that point, we were newborn babies in the kingdom, needing to grow up. So, no matter how long we've been "walking in Christ," let's not underestimate the work that remains to be done on our hearts and minds. As we press forward, let's be patient. Each day is a part of the process by which we "are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

"Being a Christian is more than just an instantaneous conversion — it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more Christlike" (Billy Graham).

*Gary Henry — WordPoints.com + AreYouaChristian.com*