

GROWING DISAPPOINTMENTS

(III John:1-6)

There is no doubt that God gets great joy in seeing new believers grow in Christ and desire to please Him. Unfortunately not all believers grow as they should. Problems and disappointments often cause them to stumble in their new faith and sometimes fall away.

Romans 15:1; Galatians 6:1-2 The growth and stability of new believers should concern older Christians because it is the responsibility of mature believers to help new believers grow.

OVERCOMING OLD LIFESTYLE

Acts 8:35-39 Many new believers are excited initially about their new found faith in Christ. They are joyful about forgiveness of sins, the chance of a new beginning, and the help they are anticipating regarding their new Christian life.

Luke 16:13; I Corinthians 10:21 The new believer soon discovers that Satan is alive and well and will attack more aggressively than ever. Temptations are sometime stronger than ever and they can be easily discouraged into doubting their salvation or the power of trusting in God's word.

Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:5-11 As more mature believers we can help those that are under attack by praying for them and advising them of their new adversary and the spiritual warfare (**Ephesians 6:12**) that they are now engaged in.

II Corinthians 6:14, 17 We must warn our new brothers and sisters that God expects us to separate ourselves from the fellowship of unbelievers.

OVERCOMING UNFAITHFUL BRETHREN

Galatians 2:11-13 Many new believers get hurt and discouraged when they see Christians they have looked up to become inconsistent by the way they live and act.

James 3:2 So many times believers do not pay attention to what they do or say around new believers. We say and do things that offend a new Christian without thinking and prevent godly growth in them.

I Timothy 4:12 We can and must help new believers in their spiritual progress for God. Our attitude and our example can make a great difference in whether they will continue to grow and serve the Lord.

OVERCOMING TRIALS

Acts 15:37-39; II Timothy 4:10 The temptations of the world and the flesh try to pull the young believers away from the straight and narrow path of Christian growth.

I Corinthians 15:33-34 Discouragement often comes from unconverted friends, co-workers and even from family members trying to get the new believer to come back to their old familiar ways.

Matthew 6:31-34 If mature believers have been living for God according to the bible, we can encourage the new believers by our own testimony that it is the right decision to trust God's word.

I John 2:14-17 As older and more mature believers, we can teach and show by our example that if we trust God, make the right friends and move away from worldliness God will honor our faithfulness.

Acts 14:21-22 New believers must understand that trials and problems will come. All the examples throughout the bible clearly show that God's people will suffer persecution and trials.

II Timothy 3:12-17 Over and over again Paul warns the churches to be aware that false teachers and evil men will try and lead us away from the truth. The only way to know what is wrong is to know what is right. The word of God is our safety net for us to be able to know right from wrong.

