Things We Take For Granted

When we become accustomed to something or someone always being there, we tend to take them for granted. Depending on what it is, that can be dangerous.

- Taking a spouse for granted is always problematic.
- Taking children or parents for granted will lead to strained or dysfunctional relationships.
- Taking for granted your car will always run without checking the gas and oil levels is certain to result in frustration at best and likely expensive repairs.

If we are fortunate we learn these things through training and wise council growing up. If not, we have to learn the hard way – often the painful way.

Taking our faith, our salvation for granted is just as real, especially if we grew up in church.

We may have been around it all our lives and if we were saved at an early age we may have never experienced real struggles in our life without our faith to lean on.

Those saved later in life may have a better understanding of just how “life-changing” their step of faith was, but after a while they too can become at ease in their faith and take it for granted.

In the business world they say that if you are not getting better, you are backing up. In our walk with God, the same is true. If you are not growing spiritually, you are backing up!

Getting saved is NOT a “one-and-done” thing. We don’t simply profess our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior one time and then we’re done.

Being a Christian is an everyday journey. We either grow spiritually stronger or we are backsliding.

We would consider a newborn baby that doesn’t grow physically or mentally to be abnormal!

A Christian that never grows spiritually isn't normal either.

Bethel has always been a church to preach the gospel. That helps us grow spiritually.

But the more we spiritually grow the more important it is for each of us to take personal responsibility for our growth. Spend time in prayer and Bible study and seek opportunities to learn and mature.

Scripture teaches us this very point.

Colossians 1:9-10

*And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.*

Paul was telling the church at Colosse that his prayer for them was that they "be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding... and increasing in the knowledge of God." Paul was talking about spiritual growth!

Spiritual growth doesn't occur unless we are intentional in our efforts to mature.

Don't take your salvation for granted.
Don't learn the hard way that your faith isn't real.
True Christians desire spiritual growth. Take advantage of opportunities to learn and mature in your faith.