

Two Verses To Believe (and keep believing) In 2012

Tucked away in an obscure, somewhat strange little book in the next to last book in our English Bibles, there's a couple of verses that should light us up and lead us to an ongoing, practical understanding of how the Gospel will affect us every day of 2012. Our prayer is that this year, we would simply come alive to the multiplied blessings stated and implied in these two Verses!

HERE'S THE VERSES: *Jude 24-25*

In these Verses, we discover that God's grace is active in 2012 as we find 4 assurances that both challenge and comfort us.

1. **Although I may FALTER, the grasp of God's GRACE is steady and sure.**

Here's what we WILL do . . . and what GOD will do, this year. And an assurance about discipline (*Hebrews 12:7-12*). *We WILL falter* (and our culture will focus on our faltering, just as we will focus on other's falterings). God NEVER fails us! We will falter in our adoration of God, but he will remain unfaltering in His affection for us. We will be distant (@ times) from God; God will be constantly and fully engaged with us. And, like a Good Father, He will make sure that while our bad choices will have bad consequences, He will never look at His Children with disgust or regret. We're secure in His unearned and undeserved, gracious love!

2. **All year long, God is PERFECTING me and PREPARING me for ETERNITY.**

See *Philippians 1:6*. Although in the New Heavens and the New Earth, we will be perfect, the "perfecting" spoken of here is that of God having a purpose and goal for my life and accomplishing it – sometimes with me, and sometimes in spite of me! We are without fault only because God has placed us in Christ, Who is faultless! Also, life is preparation for eternity. "We are in the land of the dying, heading to the land of the living." "When Christ returns or we die, whichever comes first, we begin the first chapter of a story which never ends, and each chapter is better than the one before." – C. S. Lewis

3. **My life is an ongoing RESPONSE to God's ongoing GRACE and MERCY.**

See *Nehemiah 8:10; Zechariah 3:14-17*. Our hope is built on nothing less, more, or else than Jesus' blood and righteousness. God's joy in Christ is our strength. Because God delights in us, we delight in God. Because God rejoices over us with singing, we will sing a new song forever. In Christianity, GOD INITIATES, WE RESPOND, and not the other way around!

4. **There is only one GOD and SAVIOR -- with an eternally distinctive CHARACTER.**

- How do we respond to God's GLORY in Christ? *By making sure He is the heaviest factor in every decision we make; and by being a telescope that makes a "distant" God seem near, and a microscope that makes a "small" God look large!*
- How do we respond to God's MAJESTY in Christ? *Since God is majestic, we respond in humble worship.*
- How do we respond to God's POWER in Christ? *First by realizing that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is available to us; and second by living in constant dependence on God, since the only power we have is the power He provides.*
- How do we respond to God's AUTHORITY in Christ? *By reminding ourselves that authority is always vested in a PERSON (people in authority make the rules); and that we are under Christ's Authority (big "A") as He guides us through His Words (the Bible), His life example, and His Spirit.*