

Seek To Be an Established Believer:

Romans 1:11 ...to the end you may **be established**...

Romans 16:25 Now to Him who is able to **establish you**...

Romans 1:11 “This verse provides the reason or explanation of the constancy of the prayer referred to in verses 9, 10. His longing desire to see the saints at Rome had in view a particular aim, namely, that he might impart to them some spiritual gift by which **they might be established**....He does not say that *he might establish* them. It would not have been unbiblical for him to have said so (Luke 22:32; Acts 18:23; I Thessalonians 3:2). But the reference to the Holy Spirit in this context and also modesty dictated the use of the passive, “to the end **that you may be established**” (Romans 16:25; II Thessalonians 2:17).¹

I Peter 5:10 ...may the God of all grace..., after you have suffered a while...**establish**, strengthen, and settle you...

The KJV translators translate the same Greek word often translated *establish* three slightly different ways that help us grasp the meaning:

Luke 9:51 ...he steadfastly **set** his face to go to Jerusalem...

Luke 16:26 ...there is a great gulf **fixed**...

Luke 22:32 ...when you are converted, **strengthen** your brethren...

Mark 8:8-21

Are the apostles, except Judas, believing regenerated persons at this point in their lives: Yes or No? Circle one. Are they *established believers* at this point in their lives? _____

1. Established Believers do not water down or explain away the hard sayings of the Son of God:

Mark 8:33 Note satanic activity throughout the gospel of Mark, two pairs of mothers and daughters: Mark 6:13-28, 7:24-30.

¹ Epistle to The Romans *John Murray* p.22 reprinted 1975

2. Consider the most gospel-established married couples that you know. Would any of them water down, or balk at Jesus's words in Mark 8:34,35 or Luke 14:25-27 ?

Do these hard saying short change us?

What was the title of Dave Harvey's book on marriage?

3. Established believers are increasingly shaped in their values and decisions by *the long view of human existence*: Mark 9:1-4

a. Long ago in the flood people perished suddenly in mass after sustained warning. Peter says it will happen again: II Peter 3:5-12.

b. We should be people who meditate on what it means to “perish.”

Will people know what day it is? Will people know where their friends and children are? What will it be like to go to a place that was prepared for Satan and his angels? What are these people giving and getting in exchange for their everlasting souls?

Do we really believe in creation? Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:5,6

Do we really believe in re-creation? Romans 8:21-25

4. Established believers are visible object lessons regarding godliness: God-likeness.

a. Jesus, in a striking sentence, explained His godly rationale for healing the sick man who had severe infirmities for 38 years: “My Father works...and I work” (John 5:17). In other words, “My work on this man, on this day, *exactly images* the mind, will, and purpose of God.”

b. Established believers “sigh deeply”, *imaging God*, as they encounter, and react to, evil: Mark 8:11,12 Compare Ezekiel 9:1-5.

5. Established believers know how to be abased and how to abound.

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. Philippians 4:12

Does Psalm 62:10 say, “If riches increase, curse them and get rid of them, for they are too hot to handle”? What does Psalm 62:10 say about the person who has increased riches?

Don't miss the memo: You are not an angel. You are a material human. God designed you to have things, get things, and enjoy things. The ability to enjoy things in life comes from God: Ecclesiastes 5:18-6:2. I Corinthians 10:31.

6. Established believers are content “let the day to declare” the actual results of their faith and what God actually thought about the race they ran: I Corinthians 3:13, 4:5; Hebrews 11:34-38.

7. Established believers are increasingly doctrinally sensitive marking those who “by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts” of saints who are not yet established: Romans 16:17-20.