

Q36: What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A36: The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, **joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace**, and perseverance therein to the end.

A Helpful Distinction from Thomas Vincent:

(1) Assurance of God's love, (2) peace of conscience, and (3) joy in the Holy Spirit flow to us **from our sight and sense** of our justification, adoption, and sanctification.

(4) Increase of grace and (5) perseverance therein to the end flow to us from the very being and nature of our justification, adoption, and sanctification.

Joy in the Holy Spirit

Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

Romans 12:12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

Joy - a tentative definition: the emotion that causes the inward being to take delight and express heightened pleasure and satisfaction.

1. The believer's source of joy.
2. The believer's object(s) of joy.
3. The believer's joy *now* in relation to the believer's joy *to come*.

The relationship between hope and faith.

"Here joy begins to enter into us, there we shall enter into joy" (T. Watson).

4. Enemies of joy: doubt; selfishness; worldliness; impatience

Increase of Grace

2 Peter 3:18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, ⁴so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,

1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

"True grace is progressive, of a spreading and growing nature" (T. Watson).

"Such as do not grow in grace, decay in grace" (T. Watson).

Signs of growing in grace?

Signs of not growing in grace:

1. When we lose our spiritual appetite.
2. When we grow more worldly.
3. When we are less troubled about our sin.

How shall we grow in grace?

A_____ in Christ (John 15:1-6).

How shall we do this?