

# How to Recognize Spiritual Growth in You

## The Story of the Cross Still Moves You

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – September 8, 2019

### 1 Corinthians 1:17-18

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel — not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

### 1. THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS IS POWERFUL

#### 1 Corinthians 1:17

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel — not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

#### 1 Corinthians 15:3-20

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time... 7-12... 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15-16... 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18-19... 20 BUT CHRIST HAS INDEED BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD, THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP.

### 2. THOSE REJECTING THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS WILL PERISH

#### 1 Corinthians 1:18a

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing...

#### Galatians 1:8-9

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

### 3. THOSE EMBRACING THE POWER OF THE CROSS WILL BE SAVED

#### 1 Corinthians 1:18b

18 ... to us who are being SAVED [the message of the cross] is the POWER of God.