

THREE NECESSARY STEPS

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There are three necessary steps for living a successful Christian life. The first is to confess and forsake every sin; the second would be an unconditional surrender of our entire life to God, and the third would be to meet the various circumstances of our daily life as the New Testament teaches.

God has made a great provision for His people to be successful in the Christian life and He has it all laid out for us in His Word. Every Christian should be on the alert in their quest for seeking it out because, Jesus said that real Christians would be as scarce in the closing days as they were in the days of Noah.

Luke 17:27, *“They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.”*

He also said that it would be as it was in the days of Lot, Luke 17:28-30, *“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”*

Just three persons escaped out of two cities and only eight persons out of the whole world were in a position to have their lives saved when the flood came. Jesus then made another prophecy. Luke 18:8, *“When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”*

Or, when the Son of man comes, will He find anybody going before God with all their problems and getting their deliverance in His way?

Paul made the same prediction in 2nd Timothy 3:1-5, *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves,*

covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

Paul meant that the world will be full of people having the form of godliness without the power of God back of it.

Then he tells Timothy in 2nd Timothy 4:2-4, *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”*

What Paul means is to stand firm, continue to preach God’s Word, regardless of how many show no interest in being convicted of their sins. Satan has them believing that they are living a good life and are on their way to heaven.

We can see this all around us today, we are surrounded by such a dark cloud of unbelief and false Christianity. In these days there are so many more things, the pleasures of life, favorite pastimes, things that Satan uses to fill minds with so there is no time left to learn more about living an overcoming life of faith and trust, and to be prepared when Jesus comes.

Matthew 24:12-13, *“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”*

Real religion consists of trusting God alone for everything that concerns us and doing exactly what His Word says in the New Testament under every circumstance. That is the only place of real happiness here and preparation for eternal life hereafter.

When we come to the place where we would rather die than to do anything different than what God’s Word says, or to trust in anything or anybody but Him, nothing in the whole world can hinder the power of God from working in our life here, spiritually, physically, financially, in the home life or anything else that concerns us.

We need to be successful in dealing with God about the various things in our daily life and receive deliverance out of all our troubles, in His way, and to be prepared for eternal life.

Peter tells us in 2nd Peter 1:10 *“to give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”*

We are to bend every nerve in order to be found of Him in peace, without spot or blemish. He also said in 1 Peter 4:18, *“And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?”*

The solid foundation for success in the Christian life is to confess and forsake every sin and to surrender our entire life and will to God. That is the solid foundation and there can be no success without it. It is not only the scriptural thing to do but it is common sense as well.

We belong to God by creation and anyone who may have created something certainly has a right to use it as He pleases. The second reason God has a claim on us is because we have been purchased with the Blood of His Son. That is what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, *“Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”*

We are living today in a world of great trouble and danger of every kind, disease, war, hate, and crime all around us. More so than any time in recent history. Of ourselves we are unable to protect or deliver ourselves from any of these troubles, and without God’s presence with us, we would be going through the same troubles as the rest of the world. If there were no other reason, it is necessary to allow God to take full possession of us, for our own sakes, that we might have someone to deliver and to protect us in this life and then to prepare us for eternal life. God is the only One who can do that for us.

God cannot do any of this for us unless we give Him full possession of our lives. Something that He has every right to since we are His by creation, and He also has purchased us with the Blood of His Son. We need to be sure to turn our lives over to Him if we ever expect Him to make us men and women of real faith and develop us into the very image of Christ.

There are only two powers in this world to control humanity, One is God and the other is Satan. There is no middle ground. Many people think that Satan has no control over them, and that Satan never bothers them. They would be surprised to know that Satan controls anyone who is not filled with the Holy Spirit. It could not be otherwise, because there is no middle ground.

That is why Paul said in 2nd Corinthians 6:17 to, *“Come out from among them, and be ye separate.”*

Anyone who has not accepted God’s Truth is under Satan’s control. He doesn’t care how pious or sincere they may be, just so they are under his influence and power. That is why Paul said in Ephesians 6:10-12, *“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

The whole world is under the direct control of Satan. He is the master of every nation, which is why it seems that every law they make is directed against us.

John said in 1st John 5:19 that, *“the whole world lieth in wickedness.”* They have no time for God and His Word.

Paul said in Ephesians 2:2 that Satan is *“the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”*

Paul then emphasizes the importance of standing your ground, be firm and never run away from your battles in defeat.

Ephesians 6:13-17, *“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

We need to hold steadfast until the battle is over, and we will be victorious. That is absolutely necessary for our victory because God cannot help us until we do.

Another important principle that has so much bearing on our Christian life is found in Luke 14:26-27, *“If*

any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.”

That does not mean that we are to have any hatred or dislike of any kind in our heart toward anyone, much less our own family. We are always to be as kind, thoughtful, and loving toward them as we can.

Jesus never meant that we were to actually hate our family, nor does it mean that we are to do away with our own life also, if we did, that would seal our doom for time and eternity.

The real meaning of Luke 14:26-27 is that our surrender to God should be so complete and unconditional that we will never allow anyone, even the members of our own family, to cause us to disobey the Word of God. Even more than that—we are to be willing to lose our life rather than turn aside ever so slightly from God’s will. That is God’s standard of surrender.

Whenever the will of God conflicts with the will of our family, friends, or even our own opinion, God should have the preference before anyone or anything else.

That is more important than it may seem at first, because Satan is so very subtle and will try his very best to hinder us from doing the will of God. If we have never surrendered to the extent of putting God ahead of our family, friends, or relatives, and even our own life also, Satan will cause us to stumble and fail at that very point where we have not fully surrendered and will manage to turn us aside from God’s full Truth.

Large numbers of people have balked at God’s financial and healing plans, and yet when they are fully accepted, they bring untold blessings of every kind. When we have burned our bridge on financial trust, we have placed God ahead of our life. When we have burned our bridge on healing and have settled it that we would rather die than to take any medication or human remedies of any kind, or anything else that is contrary to God’s will, we have hated our own life; or we have loved God and His will more than our own life.

Those who have risked their lives on God’s faithfulness have never lost them. Jesus said in Luke 9:24, *“For whosoever will save his life (or try to save it by*

human means or plans) shall lose it: but whosoever will lose (risk) his life for my sake, (or for doing my will) the same shall save it.”

Let us remember, we will never make a success of the Christian life unless we put God first in everything. That is absolutely necessary in order for Him to teach and train us. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-29, *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”*

The moment we enter into God’s rest, Satan is done and is unable to bring things up to worry us. God’s peace is double-acting; peace within and peace without. If anything did arise that would naturally be of disturbing nature, it would not bother a person who is resting in Him. Romans 8:28, *“All things work together for good to them that love God.”*

Regardless of how disturbing a situation can be, God can turn it into the greatest blessing. Everything that touches a real Christian is for their best interest now and eternal life in the end.



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