

Reality in a Sincere Christian Life

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To understand what the true Christian life really means, is something every true believer would be most fortunate to come to realize. Many professed Christians today “are occupied with a variety of (outward) activities”, but, as the Bible predicted (& Jesus repeated) this would ‘all be in vain’!

All their outwardly religious gestures and other activities are absolutely useless (in living a life of faith and trust, which, in essence, is the Atrue Christian life in reality). In truth, all those outward activities are extremely harmful to one’s spiritual condition, because they are inspired and controlled by the devil (who is in control of the self-life). It is bad enough to have the self-life in control of one’s daily affairs in this life (making decisions on fellowship matters, based on pleasing family members or employers, .. or making decisions based on the financial aspect of a situation, or a ‘cheaper way out’ instead of deciding in God’s will and trusting on Him to provide, or, depending on the climate or (what we eat or drink for health of our body). These things are bad enough, but to have the devil to control us, and for him to teach and inspire us under a ‘cloak of religion’, there is nothing on earth that could be worse.

The devil knows that (the Pastor said), and he will hide behind any outward activities of the self-life that he can devise, that would seem to make us feel more righteous before God, and he will use it to deceive us, instead of our getting real spiritual light from the Holy Spirit. When we allow the devil deceive us by listening to many and various opinions of God’s Truth, instead of turning

to God’s Word, and depending on the promised presence of the Holy Spirit to teach and lead us,... we are then placing ourselves on the devil’s territory for him to deceive us.

In speaking of the outwardly religious people of His day, Jesus said, “This is a People who honor Me with their lips, while their heart is far away from Me; but it is in vain they worship Me, while they lay down precepts which are mere human rules.” (Matt 15:8-9).

Well, it is far worse in this day and age if that is possible, because all their outward gestures and activities are controlled by self and the devil. In most cases they are not trusting God for anything, nor in any part of their life, while at the same time they profess to be Christians. But Jesus told us, (Matt. 7:20), “So by their fruits at any rate, you will easily recognize them.” And, (Jesus continues, verse 21) “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

What is the will of our Father in Heaven (we might ask)? Jesus tells us, .. “Trust in God: trust in me also.” John 14:1) To trust in, have faith in, or believe in God”,... all three mean one and the same thing, and that is the one requirement that God places on His true people. (John 6:29) “This,” replied Jesus, “is above all the thing that God requires--that you should be believers in Him whom He has sent.”

So, that is God’s will for us, just as the Scriptures say of His Son (Hebr. 10:7) “Then I said, ‘I have come --in the roll of the book it is written concerning Me--to do Thy will, O God.” Thus, we can see that it is the surrender of the self-will that God wants of us, and the Son of God, Himself, set the example for us to follow in our life of obedient faith and trust. If you love me, you will obey my commandments.”(Jesus said, John 14:15). (And, of course), do the will of My Father in Heaven”, acting from a sincere and willing heart (led by the Spirit), and not even thinking that outward religious practices of the self-life will enable us to become more righteous.

Wasting time on religious gestures that make one seem to feel more righteous, only hinders them from fully understanding what Jesus has already accomplished for them on the Cross. It hinders one from submitting themselves to having obedient faith in God,.. to be led and taught by His Spirit, to do His will in their life,... because they are deceived to think that their own efforts are making them more righteous. “But it is by faith

that My righteous servant shall live.” (Hebrews 10:38 says). That is the right road back to God and reversing the ‘sin of Adam’.

The apostle Paul referred to religious or ceremonial customs and practices of the self-life, in his letter to the Corinthians.(1 Cor.7: 19 says) “Circumcision is nothing, and un-circumcision is nothing; obedience to God’s commandments is everything.” (just as Jesus taught His disciples).

Paul referred to the ‘practice of circumcision’, because it was prevalent among professed Christians in those days. He could see that it was a real hindrance to their having real faith in God, and all in vain (as Jesus had said).

Paul could have referred to other ‘religious gestures’ and activities that were (and still are) a product of the self-life ,and, extremely harmful, because they are inspired and controlled by the devil, to keep a person away from getting on the right road back to the way God first created man, by reversing the ‘wrong steps’ that Adam had taken).

When we see professed Christians everywhere, saying “Lord, Lord” (but taking part in many types of outward ‘forms of religion’), .. but we cannot see (or recognize) the fruits of the Spirit (as Jesus said we would),...then we are seeing a people who honor me with their lips, and not their heart (as Jesus said).

However, Aif anyone gives their life to God right, holds steadfast in the faith, and accepts Him as their teacher, God will eliminate all that false activity and wasted time (in their spiritual life). As quickly as possible, God will bring a person to understand what is really essential, necessary, and worthwhile in the Christian’s life of faith, .. (and of course, they will be different from professed Christians of the world).

God will enable them to compare the professed Christians of today, with professed Christians in the Bible. God will enable a surrendered person, to come to realize a great difference between those people who just say they believe and true believers in the Bible, and He will enable them to live like Bible Christians did. They will be led and taught by the Spirit, to live the humble life (committed to doing God’s will, instead of following the will of self-life), but, to live the same victorious life as Jesus Christ, Himself. “That is the goal and object of all of God’s dealings with us,.. to restore us to the Christian

character that He first created, .. the ‘image of God’, the ‘righteousness of God’, the ‘humility of God’, and everything else that is is God-like. And, the best thing of all,.. to have the love of God within ourselves.”

The way back to that goal, is not this outward religious activity, [that the devil uses to make one feel (or seem) like a Christian]. The way back is what God has enabled us to see, and know, and understand, (from His word and by His Spirit), and He receives all the glory for this.”

The first thing we need to learn and do on the road back, (and God wants to teach a person) is to depend on Him for everything that pertains to this present life,...not depend on all the plans that the world has devised. No one should find fault with that, for no one, or nothing else we would depend on (other than God)is worthwhile. Spending time on outward religious acts or activities are only used by Satan to deceive a person. It would only be wasted time in the true Christian’s life, if one were to do so (the Pastor noted).

Depending on God is the only essential thing in the divine life, [like a small child depending on its parent in this life (as Jesus explained), so, we must place all of our faith and dependence on God.] “I tell you in solemn truth that, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child, will certainly not enter it.”(Luke 18:17). That dependence on God, is the only right road back to the way God created man in the first place. It is having the Kingdom of God within ourselves (as Jesus explained repeatedly). “It is like yeast which a woman takes and buries in a bushel of flour, to work there until the whole is leavened.”

Or (Luke 13:19), “It is like a mustard seed which a man drops into the soil in his garden, and it grows and becomes a tree in whose branches the birds roost.”

In the same way, the Kingdom of God grows within a person’s heart, when they give-up depending on the self-will from Satan, and instead are surrendered to depend on God. It is that most necessary spiritual growth within a person (‘apart from which no one will see the Lord.’)(Hebrews 12:14).

True Christians in the Bible learned to trust God for the things in this present life, instead of on themselves or any other man. There could not be

any harm in that, nor any fault to be found with living and trusting in God (as His people in the Bible did).

The outstanding results of trusting in God and being taught and led by Him, is the example of the three Hebrew children in the 3rd. chapter of Daniel. It showed what God can and will do, for anyone who will put their faith in Him. Every human being can be brought to that same place of trust, when there is nothing they can do for themselves, and no one else but God can do for them. We just have to give God a chance to help us, by turning our trust and dependence on Him.

However, if people continue to shut God out of their lives, and continue to follow man's teaching, advice, and opinions controlled by the devil, instead of being taught by God through living a life of trust and learning from Him by experience, of course they will never learn to trust God for anything. With the devil in control, it would be impossible to trust anybody but man.

The result of God's teaching and workmanship can be seen in the stand those three Hebrew children took, when they refused to bend their backs to the emperor's golden image, or to even make a fake gesture of trusting in that image set up by man. They knew that burning to death instantly, was to be their punishment, but still they refused to bow and stood for what was right and Scriptural. No one that had not been taught by the Spirit of God, could have taken such a stand of faith and trust in God.

Those men proved by their decision and actions, that their surrender was final, to depend on God for everything in their life. They were not going to compromise on where their place of trust would be, no matter how severe the circumstances or penalties were. They were not just saying "Lord, Lord",... nor, were they only Ahonoring God with their lips, while their hearts were far away from Him.

They would not join in with the crowd of unbelievers, who were signing on with the emperor, by bowing to the rules that he had set up to trust in his image (instead of placing their trust in God alone). They would not even be part of such an outwardly religious gesture of false trust, by following the multitudes on the easy and wide path, even if it meant their life.

Those Hebrew children are an example of what we will do, when we are under God's

teaching and workmanship, (and it is the attitude that God will bring His people to take, when faced with making a scriptural decision. God will enable us to be un-compromising in where our place of trust should be and remain).

And God is no respecter of persons. He will bring every true child of His to that same place, which is necessary if they take the same position of trust, that the Hebrew children did. (They were tested and they proved that their surrender of the self-life was final, their commitment to trust in God was real, and their place of trust was uncompromising)(and not just an outward religious gesture)The circumstances were so arranged, that it could be their final test, their graduation, on their way to getting back to the image of Christ (or God). It was a re-tracing of the very steps that Adam took after he fell. It was the supreme test for them because their life was at stake, but God enabled them to pass the test, ..because their surrender to trust Him in obedient faith was sincere and final.

These two steps of depending fully on God and being proven that 'our surrender of the self-life' and dependence on Him is real and final, .. are fundamental and true steps back to the way God first created man in 'His own image and likeness', (Gen.1:26).

When we are fully surrendered to do God's will in our life, and when we realize what kind of a God we have (like the Hebrew children did under His teaching and training), God will enable us to be uncompromising in our life of faith and trust, and in the decisions we make. When we realize that God will not fail His promise to keep us, then, instead of us saving up money, and owning property or a business or other treasures on earth, He will enable us (in our life of trust), to sell, give to the poor, and, Athen,.... come follow me, as Jesus told us, (Luke 18:22).

Jesus set a humble example for everyone, of a daily life of trust in His Heavenly Father to provide for Him(Matt.8:20)"Foxes have holes," replied Jesus, "and birds have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." God supplied His daily needs.

When we realize (under God's teaching and workmanship, like the Hebrew children), that God will protect us from financial losses, .. then, instead of us taking responsibility for insurance coverage, God will enable us to be

uncompromising in our faith.

Therefore, He will enable us to refuse to sign our approval of man-made policies for financial insurance (on things or works), for that is not where our place of trust should be, .. even if it is a law followed by the majority of people. Jesus said, “ ‘This is a People who honor Me with their lips, while their heart is far away from Me; but it is in vain they worship Me, while they lay down precepts which are mere human rules.’ ” (Matt 15:8-9).

And, when we have fully surrendered the self-will, and under God’s teaching and workmanship He enables us to realize (like the Hebrew children did) what kind of a God we have, and that He is the Healer of His people. He will enable us (through His Spirit) to be uncompromising in our faith and trust in Him, for the health and strength of our body. He will enable us to refuse medical attention, or medical immunization programs devised by the devil and carried out by those who have been deceived by him. Those who allow themselves to be deceived by the devil and are depending on everything else but God for things and circumstances in their life, cannot be guided by the Holy Spirit. A person is under one of two controls. Believers under the power of the Holy Spirit and trusting God, while unbelievers are under the power of the devil and trusting on anyone or anything but God.

When people continue to shut God out of their lives and continue to accept wrong teaching from man (or the devil), they will never learn to trust God for anything.

(As said before), To understand what the true Christian life really means, is something every true believer would be most fortunate to come to realize, instead of being occupied with outward religious gestures under the cloak of religion, which will all be in vain, as Jesus said. [For one to actually ‘live by faith’ in ‘God’s Word’, is the true Christian life in reality!]



www.fcgchurch.org

*Receive free Tracts email:

fcgchurch1@gmail.com

Or write to: PO Box 24283

Philadelphia, PA 19120

S344R 1227 23W

[The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia](#)

SOME MAIN POINTS OF... REALITY IN A SINCERE CHRISTIAN LIFE:

1./ How fortunate true believers are when they have come to the place where they understand that living a life of genuine faith and trust in God, is the only true Christian life.

2./ And, then to fully realize that outward religious gestures and activities, have no value whatever, spiritually... rather they are a product of the self- life and used by Satan to become a hindrance to a true Christian keeping their eyes on God alone.

3./ The example of the three Hebrew children is used, to emphasize that when one is taught and led by God’s Spirit, they will not compromise where their place of trust should be and remain, no matter how hard the test or what consequences may seem to be awaiting a person,... for God is faithful to provide, protect, and avenge on behalf of faithful believers.

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