

Living Like a Christian

The way it's supposed to be...

God desires all of us to live an abundant and fruitful Christian life. Why does Jesus say He came to earth in John 10:10?

Do you think most Christians live this type of life? Why or why not?

The way it can be...

Many Christians try to live their Christian life on their own efforts. However it's *impossible* because they are trying to live their life by the flesh or the old nature. Our old nature is not capable of living the lifestyle that God wants us to live.

How does Paul describe old nature within him in Romans 7:18-19?

What kinds of things do people engage in who "live according to the flesh" in Galatians 5:16-18?

The way it should be...

In order to live a victorious, fruitful Christian life, you have to allow the Holy Spirit to live through you. In order to have this happen, four things must take place:

1. We must confess our sin (spiritually exhale)

Will God hear our prayers to Him if we cherish sin in our hearts? (Read Psalm 66:18)

2. We must ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit (spiritually inhale)

What does God command all Christians to do in Ephesians 5:18?

To be "filled" with the Holy Spirit means to be controlled or empowered by the Holy Spirit.

3. We must claim the Spirit-controlled life

Is it God's will that we are filled with His Holy Spirit?

What happens when we pray according to God's will? (See I John 5:14-15)

4. We must surrender every area of our life to the Spirit's control.

What are we urged to do in Romans 12:1?

Why is it important to give God control of every area of your life?



How are you filled with the Holy Spirit?

The following is a suggested prayer to be filled with the Holy Spirit:

"Dear Father, I need you. I acknowledge that I have been directing my own life and that, as a result, I have sinned against You. I thank you that you have forgiven my sins through Christ's death on the cross for me. I now invite Christ to again take His place on the throne of my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit as you commanded me to be filled, and as you promised in your word that you would do if I ask You in faith. I pray this in the name of Jesus."

Could you pray this prayer right now to God in your heart and really mean it? If so bow in prayer and trust God to fill you with the Holy Spirit right now.

How do you know you are filled?

Many times people get confused about the filling of the Holy Spirit because they look for some type of sign or feeling from God. However while the Bible sometimes does say great things happen when people are filled with the Holy Spirit, it asks us to walk in faith and trust God with the results (see *Hebrews 11:6*). Therefore, we should not be dependent upon feelings or signs to know we are under the Spirit's control but rather believe God and His Word by faith.

How many times do you think a person needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

The Basics #6

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