

The Cost of Living a Christian Life!



Lesson Three:

1 Corinthians 2:12-14 ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

The “natural man” is the sensual man or the “unspiritual man”.

Can a “natural man” know spiritual things?

A “natural man” or an “unspiritual man” does not know or comprehend spiritual things.

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Contrary: Adverse, opposite, (adversary), oppose.

So the flesh and Spirit, (capitol “S”pirit is God’s spirit), are each other’s enemies.

Why do or how does the flesh and Spirit oppose each other?

Even Christians who have the Holy Ghost can allow the “flesh” to be in control and make decisions based on the “flesh” instead of the “Spirit”.

The carnal man is no longer a natural man, but is a spiritual man who doesn't allow the Spirit to influence him.

This person has the Holy Ghost, but, he/she is not allowing God to control him.

The carnal man has not fully come out of Egypt.

Using an O.T. analogy, Egypt is a type of sin, slavery, or bondage.

2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

How do we “come out from among them”?

Hymn: Elisha A. Hoffman

I've turned my back upon the world
With all its idle pleasures,
And set my heart on better things,
On higher, holier treasures;
No more its glitter and its glare,
And vanity shall blind me;
I've crossed the separating line,
And left the world behind me.

When Israel left Egypt they needed to do two things: One, leave Egypt, and, two, enter the Promised Land.

1. Why did Israel struggle so much with idolatry, doubt, and fear when they entered the Promised Land?

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2. If a person falls into the same traps of sin, failure, or struggles with holiness and other Christian character issues, they have not fully severed their ties with Egypt (sin/world).
 3. God brought them out of Egypt so He might bring them in.
 4. When a Christian talks about their past as though they were having the “time of their life”, there is a problem.
 5. God saves us sinners so we might become saints.

Ephesians 5:11-12 ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. ¹² For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Our past should be a “testimony”, but it should not be what we “long for”.

Our testimony should be an example of how God can change people, not something we “brag” about.

Heart Disease

Is someone never really enters the Holy Land, but hangs out at the border between Egypt and Israel, they develop a “hard heart” over time.

The only way to keep from developing spiritual heart disease is to develop good spiritual habits and grow in God.

Israel could have stayed in the wilderness because it wasn't Egypt. However, to enter the Promised Land you will need to conquer the walled cities, the warriors of the land, the giants, and the sons of Anak.

There are Christians who have left Egypt, but who have not entered the Holy Land. They are wandering in the wilderness.

1. They haven't developed good spiritual habits.
2. They have more worldly friends than Christian friends.
3. Prayer is extremely difficult and Bible reading is extremely boring.

How do you get past the wilderness and get into the Promised Land?

The Status Quo

Brother Webster says, it is the current situation: the way things are now.

If you are happy with the way things are now, then you will not grow in the Lord. If you are not happy with the status quo, you will push yourself and grow.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

God Chasers

God chasers are people who seek God.

Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

Paul said: Nothing else in my life is as important as getting to know God. Everything else is dung.

True! God seekers will likely “outpace” or “pass by” others that seem to be satisfied at growing at a snail’s pace. Be careful not to be proud, boatsful or discourage others. Be glad they are making progress but, don’t let them pull you back.

Mark 4:20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive *it*, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

I want to be a “hundred-fold Christian”.

Hindrances

Galatians 5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Paul said to the Christian church at Galatia, “You were running so well, doing so good; who hindered you that you would not continue obeying the truth?”

Spiritual growth that is stunted/static, can be a real problem.

If you want to hear, learn, and grow, you will.

Rev. 2:7 says, if you have an ear to hear...

1. If you are listening, you will hear.
2. If you desire spiritual growth, you will grow.
3. Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,
4. Does this say that the principles of the doctrine of Christ is not important?

5. If those doctrines are important, then what is it that we should do?

Prison is full of Christians!

I was told by a prison guard, “the prison is full of Christians”.

What he was saying is, they read their Bibles, go to church, attend Bible studies, etc... When they approach the parole board, “They are a changed man”.

A month later they are doing drugs, committing crimes, and within a year they are back in jail (statistically speaking).

What happened to their “Christianity”?

What can we do to avoid the same mistakes?

What do Noah, Abraham, Peter, James, and most other Godly Bible characters have in common?

The principle is the same in O.T. and N.T.. Come out of the “world”.

What is the “world”? What are we to “come out of”?

If your idea is, “how far can I go and still please God”, you are on dangerous ground.

If your idea is, “I need to have a clean break from the world and be sold out to God”, welcome to a victorious Christian life.

Are you “wholly” following God? _____