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Can You Live The Christ Life?

By Caleb Osborne

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Were you lied to as newborn Christian? I was...let me explain.

You are a Christian, right? So, Can you live the Christ life? Well I guess I want to get a little more involved than that. I want to ask you if you can live the Christ life by your own effort!

If you're like me, you were probably brought up in a Church where the pastor told you every Sunday how you were supposed to act. He probably told you that you needed to do such and such in order to be a "good Christian".

And what if that stuff was hard to do? If you had a problem with a certain sin, what was the advice that you received. How was it recommended that you go about the subject of "living the Christian life"? If your early Christian education was like mine you were lied to!

The way to success I was told was through willpower. Grittin' the teeth and whatnot and just to "buckle down and do something for God". No matter how uncomfortable it may of seemed.

And uncomfortable it was! Are you still with me? I'm sure I'm not the only one that

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found the burdens of Christianity hard to live with. What could be heavier than the burden of a God that was displeased with your level of performance? Nothing comes to mind for me. Why then does the Bible say this in Matthew 11:29–31:

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

And I'd bet dollars to donuts that I'm not the only one that found myself failing

more than I was succeeding—am I right? Sure you might get nice and fired up about being a good Christian once or twice but then you'd fail and the "failure, condemnation, rededication Cycle" would set in (to quote a phrase coined by Dr. Steve McVey). After the failure, I'd feel condemned that I had failed God. After that period of self pity and general feeling of patheticness (Is that even a word?), I'd rededicate my efforts to do better for God the next time.

Sound familiar? Would you like to get off that religious rollercoaster ride and find the rest spoken of by Jesus? Are you ready for the Truth? Good, let me tell you what it's all about!

The Truth is that you, by your own efforts, can not live the Christian life!

Consider this verse:

"This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?"
Galatians 3:2–3

Didn't you come to salvation and the Christian life by faith in Christ to bring you that salvation? So why would you try to live that Christian life by your own effort

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instead of by faith in the one that will live it through you?

This is the key that will set you free. You can not live the Christian life, only Christ can! It makes sense doesn't it. He did it over 2,000 years ago and he is capable of doing it through you today! Consider Hebrews 4:15:

"For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."

Jesus has lived the "Christ Life" and he will do it through you if you let him!

"Who Else Wants to Experience The Abundant,

Care-free Life of Being a Better Christian
Day In and Day Out and Experiencing the Guiltless
Joy of Living Life Without Limits
or Having to Worry About Following a Bunch
of Uptight Rules?"
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---Caleb Osborne, a native of Virginia, is an up and coming author who has just completed publishing his first book---Christ Through Me. He is now in the process of working on other projects and running his website at www.ChristThroughMe.com where he has a FREE email newsletter that all are encouraged to sign up for.

Abiding in the Word

By Daniel N. Brown

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How many Christian people do you know who are bearing no fruit? Jesus said, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye

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abide in me. (John 15:4)

The meaning of the word "abide," means "to live" or "to dwell." So, to abide in Christ, means to live in Christ together as one person. Jesus Christ and the Word of God are one in the same (John 1:14). So, if we will abide in Christ, we will abide in the Word.

If we will abide in the Word, the Word will instruct us and teach us in the way we should go (Psalm 32:8). He will also guide us to pray according to His will and our prayers will have a guaranteed effect.

I love the scripture that says, "Ask the Father anything in My name and He will give it to you." (John 16:23)

Although this scripture is an encouraging promise, it is not a license to treat God as some cosmic bell-boy who should come and cater to our every whim. James 4:3 says, "You ask and do not receive because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your own lusts."

Yes, we are to live abundant and prosperous lives. That is our duty as Christians, for we are ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor 5:20). We are to be blessed, but also, we are to be a blessing.

Living prosperously is not just for ourselves, but also for others! "Work with your hands that you may have something to give to him who has need." (Eph 4:28)

Every person is created unique, with different characteristics, skills, and abilities. These are gifts that are to be used to produce good fruit for the Kingdom of God. I believe if we will abide in the Word and use our gifts we will be successful.

Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:5)

Daniel N. Brown is the publisher of the "Living the Abundant and Prosperous Christian Life" Newsletter. A free weekly publication that teaches people how to live the abundant and prosperous Christian life. Receive a free copy of Dan's 14 page report entitled, "5 Biblical Keys to Outrageous Prosperity," when you sign up. www.secretplaceonline.com

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