HOW DO You Live According to the Spirit of God?

5 Steps to
Living
According
to the Spirit
of God



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#### #1 - It's ALL About A Savior

Acknowledge that you can do NOTHING to save yourself from the wrath of God due to your sinfulness. (church attendance is irrelevant)



When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:6-8 (New Living Translation)

### #2 – It's ALL About the Gift

Accept the free gift of salvation through the substitutionary death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.



John 3:16-17 (New International Version)

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**Romans 10:9** 

#### #3 – It's ALL About Grace

Realize that the same grace that saved you from damnation is the same grace that you must have for your sanctification.



For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 (New King James Version)

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (New King James Version)

### #4 — It's ALL About Staying Connected

Abide in Christ through daily adoration of God, confession of sin to God, thanksgiving to God, supplication of God and Scripture consumption.





Prayer is the power that moves the arm of God. E.M. Bounds

If you only feed your soul once a week on regurgitated spiritual food from a pastor, how well would your soul be?

How well would your physical body be if you only ate one physical meal of regurgitated food, once a week?

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:4-5 (New King James Version)

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17 (New King James Version)

### #5 – It's ALL About Your Appreciation & Dependence

Daily appreciate Christ's sacrifice on your behalf and acknowledge your desperate and utter dependence on the Holy Spirit to empower you to live a Christ-like life.





I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, selfcontrol. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16-25 (NKJV)

## LIVING ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD

# Living according to the Spirit of God can be likened to:



A Sail Boat



Honoring Your Friend

### WITH WHOSE POWER ARE YOU LIVING?

How we attain holiness is an entire separate discussion which revolves around living according to the **Spirit** of God and not according to our **Flesh**.



### ROW, ROW, ROW Your Boat



I want to tell you an analogy that made a lot of sense to me.

Many people think that living the Christian life is like rowing a row boat: the harder and faster you row the boat the farther and faster you move, right?

## Powerless, Frustrated Living



In Christianity, too many people try harder and harder to do better to be a better person, all under their own power, without looking to God to do the work for them. (by reading their Bible and prayer)

### Raise Your Sail

The Christian life is really like moving in a sail boat. You raise your sail and point it in the direction of God (surrendering your will to God's will) and the wind or the Holy Spirit takes you where you need to go. (in other words, transforming your character into that of Jesus Christ)



## It's Your Choice...

Do you see the difference between living the Christian life like rowing a row boat and living it like riding a sail boat?

In which one would you like to travel?

### HONORING YOUR FRIEND

Imagine you and a friend are walking down a busy street. You are walking on the side of the sidewalk next to the road and your friend is walking on the side next to the grass. It's a pretty busy traffic day so you need to be careful and pay attention to what's going on around you.





As you are walking down the sidewalk, out of the corner of the eye if your friend, they see a car is speeding, out of control, right toward you. If nothing changes, the car is going to run you over and more than likely kill you. You have NO idea of what is going to happen, you are just walking down the sidewalk.

As your friend sees that if you don't get out of the way, you are going to be killed, they jump between you and the car and push you out of the way, and you fall to the ground.



While your friend saved your life, the car that was going to hit you, now hit your friend. Unfortunately, your friend did not survive the crash and died. Instead of you being hit by the car, your friend took the hit in your place.





If your friend had not jumped in front of the car to save your life, would you have a life to live? You'd be dead. Since they gave their life in your place, you now have a life to live that you would not have, had your friend not gave up their life, for you.

### From that point on:

" would it make sense to live your life to honor or dishonor your friend that gave their life for you?

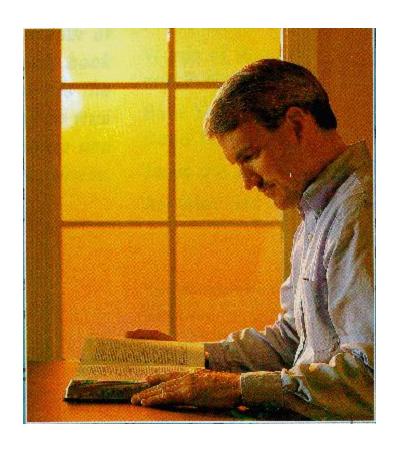
" Would it make sense to learn as much as you could about your friend to know what they were about and what was important them, so that you could live your life to honor them?"

Only if you knew what they were all about would you know if you were honoring them with your life, or not.

" If you were living in a way that did not honor them, would that feel right?

How could you do that?

Would it make sense to read about your friend?





Talk to people about your friend?
You would do all of this to learn as much as you could about your friend.

By learning about what your friend talked about and did with their life, would give you a good idea of what your life should be about, right?

From now on would it make sense that what was important to them was now important to you?

Remember, if they had not died in your place, you would not have a life.

Living your life now
would not be
because you HAD to
but because you
WANTED to live your
life to honor
them because you
were GLAD about
what they did for you.

This is all the same as it is with what Jesus did for us. He came into our world, when he did not have to come here.



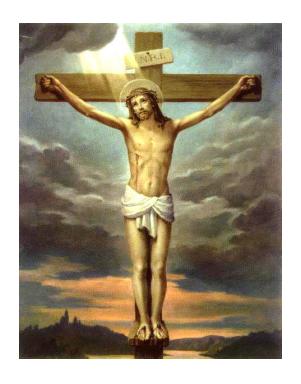






She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-which means, "God with us."

Matthew 1:21-23 (New International Version)



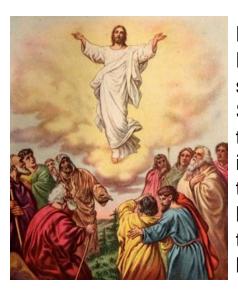
He died on the cross to pay for our sin to give us eternal life, when he did not have to. He rose again from the dead three days later and now is alive.



just as the Scriptures said.

He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said."

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (New Living Translation)



He went to
Heaven and
sent HIS
SPIRIT
to live
inside of us
to help us
live a life
that will
honor him.

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away.
Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go,
I will send him to you.

John 16:7 (New International Version)

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive,



because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

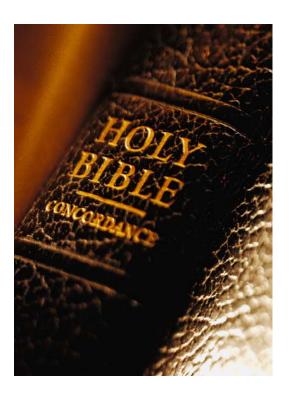
"But the Helper, the
Holy Spirit, whom the Father will
send in My name, He will teach you
all things, and bring to your remembrance
all that I said to you.

John 14:16-18, 26 (New American Standard Version)



Since he did this for us, doesn't it make sense for us to live our lives to honor him?

How can we know what would honor him?



God gave us his word in the Bible so we can learn all about what Jesus said and what he was about.

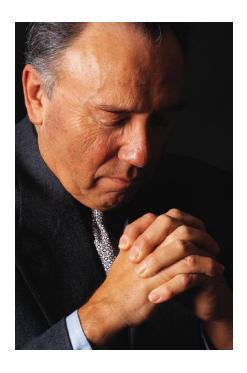
All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

2 Timothy 3:16 (New Living Translation)

Since Jesus is alive, we can talk to him through prayer.

For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers;

1 Peter 3:12 (New King James Version)





We can talk to people to learn more about what Jesus did and said and what he was about. These are all ways that we can learn more about who Jesus was and what he was about.



As we get to know Jesus better, we start to live a life that honors him. Not because we have to but because we want to. We do this not by trying harder to do better, but by getting to know Jesus better. The better friends we become with ANYONE, especially Jesus, we just start acting like our best friends.



"...... Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me."

1 John 3:2
(New Living Translation)

Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. John 15:15 (New Living Translation)





## Trying Harder Isn't Enough

Notice this does not involve SIMPLY trying harder to do better at whatever, but it is ALL about allowing Christ to live through you and renewing your mind:



I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. **Galatians 2:20** 

We cannot take credit for any goodness in our lives, because Jesus is the one living it out through us. We are just his vessel.

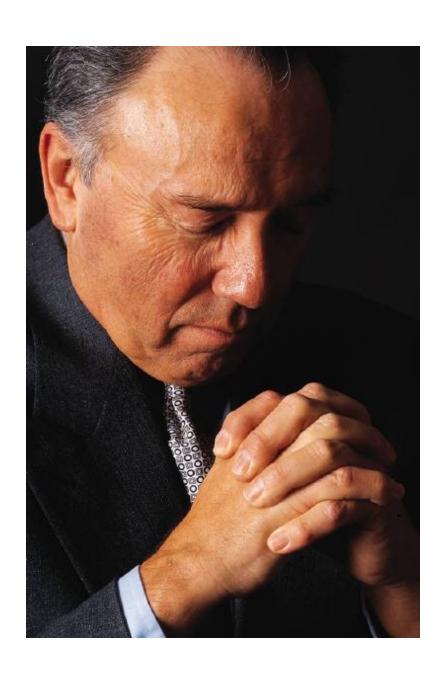
## Change Your Mind... Change Your Life

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2



In order to LET Christ live through us, our minds need to be changed to whatever needs to be changed.

We must HATE evil, which is to fear the Lord.



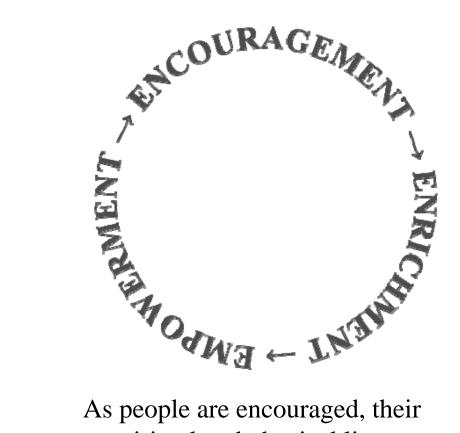
### **NEED PRAYER?**

Email your prayer requests to: prayerrequests@ecubedintl.org

## We will pray for you right away!

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