

Christian Life By Applying Faith

Chapter 10

What is True Life?

True life. What is it? Is it collecting possessions and things that break and corrode or rust, that get stolen or lost? What is life? Is it power and control over people? Perhaps it is another person, who will eventually die? Or is it your work that is unforgiving, relentless, and ungrateful that has you working to death and until you die? Is it striving and scraping to get ahead; or maybe it is just dog-eat-dog and the dog that is still breathing with the largest bone wins, which is full of stress and frustration? All of this causes ulcers, high blood pressure and other stressed related diseases?

Or maybe it is being touched by a simple sunset or beautiful person or moon and stars? Or is life living in love, peace and happiness with God? I prefer this one. I prefer to have peace in my heart, to be full of love and happiness knowing where I am going and who loves me, and knowing who cares for me and wants me happy, and who wants to take away my frustrations and stress, and replace it with an easier way of living. This is what you get when you are obedient to God, for He says through Jesus:

MT 11:27 "All things have been committed to Me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him."

MT 11:28 "**Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. [29] 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. [30] For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**"

All He wants is what is best for us. He does not want us to get sick with worry or frustrated with work. So He says here that He wants to give us rest. He wants us to take His yoke to use. In the old days of Jesus, the yoke is the wooden device that the farmers used to connect the oxen together with, and it is in turn connected to the wagon or plow so that they can pull it. He says that His work for us is easier than ours, and He wants to trade: His for ours. He then in turn will provide for us (see below) and give us rest and peace. Finally He will dwell in us and live in us. Growing in us the fruits of the Spirit: His love, peace, joy, happiness and more. To me this is living. This is living the true Christian life.

Please note: Please do not get me wrong; He is not saying that life will be perfect with out any problems or troubles. What He is saying is that being righteous will

help you get through and survive the troubles and problems. He is not saying that life will not have its up and downs or be a bed of roses with only milk and honey, He is saying that He will be with you through it all and He will give you peace and joy in your heart for comfort and keep you safe. He is saying that if you stay with Him and follow Him, He will get you through it. That when you seek Him for wisdom and guidance, He will provide you with the answers that till get you through it. Then when it is all over, He will touch, heal, love and support you, and in the end He will bring you closer to Him and love you. Then He will provide milk and honey.

It is better to be obedient or even a slave to the One who cares, who loves, who died for you and only wants the best for you then to be free (an illusion like in the Matrix) then to be under a disguised dictator and ruthless leader. One who in reality hates and despises you and wants nothing more to then to totally destroy you and your family with as much pain as possible.

10.1 What is Christianity about?

Christianity is a person who has a living **relationship** with the living God. To be a Christian means to be Christ-like, to be like Christ. And a relationship must be constantly worked at and not just once in awhile, like just on Sundays. So a Christian is one who is constantly working at living always with the Living God.

Many people call themselves Christians, but many people are wrong for they are not a Christian. A Christian is a person who has been Born Again, who has the Holy Spirit living in them, who has decided to follow and obey and constantly working on their relationship with Jesus not matter what.

It is about life with God, because of the sacrifice of His only birthed Son, Jesus. See Chapter 5 for review on Born Again.

There are many religions, beliefs, customs, religious rules and regulations by man and churches. They all say that if you do all of the things that they say and only what they say, then, you will be saved. But they are wrong. It is only what Jesus says, that will lead to salvation. He is not controlling. He is not demanding. He is not a dictator. He leads, pleads, guides, suggests, and shows us, but He never dictates to us. Even though He uses the word command, when you look at that He commands, it is just something that is now part of the nature of a Christian, for a Born Again person as being part of being Born Again, has a new nature, one that automatically do as God commands, because it is nto a command but part of a Christians life.

We have our free will. He respects that. He wants us to follow Him freely and willingly. He shows us the truth and then asks us to decide on it. He shows us the consequences of our actions and decisions and then lets us decide with our free will. And then if we fail, He is there to pick us up, dust us off and lets us do it again until we get it right.

Any religion, church or organization that does the contrary, they are, frankly, evil. God hates the religious spirit. It is that evil religious spirit that killed Jesus. That evil religious spirit was in the Pharisees of the day of Jesus, and they killed Him.

It is the religious spirit that is still at war with God today. It is controlling, manipulative, demanding and total dictatorial. So this religious spirit has made many demands on those people who want to fit in. It demands total surrender to it, not necessarily to God. It demands totally obedience to that religion or denomination and nothing else. That is why those religions do not want people to believe in free thought, to read the bible for only they have the right to read and understand it. I mean why should you waste your time when they know it all, just ask them and save your time. They do not believe that God helps us that God talks to us or that God still has prophets or apostles.

Because if the people did believe this and that God did give the prophets, or apostles or that God even talks to us, then they know that God would denounce them for the evil false leaders they are. They know that God would say to them,

MT 7:15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. [16] By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? [17] Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. [18] A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. [19] Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. [20] Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them."

MT 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. [22] Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' [23] Then I will tell them plainly, '**I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!**'"

Well how can this be? Because, they are only acting. I they do not have the Holy Spirit living in them. The Holy Spirit cannot live in a person who still has evil in their hearts.

Talk is easy.

Look at TV. The people who you see do not believe that they are saying or doing. They are acting. So are many religious people. They only say what they know you want to hear, so that they can control you. That is what makes them religious and not Christian. They are acting as a Christian, but their heart is still full of evil.

God says:

RO 10:5 "Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." [6] But the righteousness that

is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) [7] "or 'Who will descend into the deep?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). [8] But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: [9] 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. [10] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. [11] As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." [12] For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, [13] for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Here He shows that yes, speaking or the words you say are important, but along with that word you say, you must believe in your heart. These actors say the words but they do not believe with their hearts, because they believe in their father, the devil and not God our Father.

But these actors He says in Matthew 7:23 will go to hell with their true father.

So if you are with a group that requires and demands that you to follow any rules, customs, have total obedience, whether it be by rule or guilt, or manipulation, or any other forms of control over you or others, then do not join, support, fellowship or have any part of them. The religious spirit that killed Jesus is there, and if it killed Jesus, just think what they want to do to you that is unless God has asked you to fight against that religious spirit, but that is another chapter in the Advanced Manual.

In short a Christian is a person who is a child of God, who is born again, and has the Holy Spirit in them creating a living and lasting relationship with God. This is a person that you can see the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their life. See Galatians 5. This is a person who follows God and no one else. This is a person who is totally obedient to God and so he loves God. This is a person who wants to do nothing else but to please God.

To do this, you let God's Holy Spirit live in you, dwell in you, lead you, guide you, teach you and in short, live in and through you. When this happens, it is called being Baptized in the Holy Spirit. Remember earlier we talked about the Holy Spirit, God's great secret.

10.2 The Holy Spirit

When you are Born Again, God gives you the gift of salvation because of your faith in Him. He removes your old, dirty, full of sin spirit and replaces it with a new, clean, holy, and pure spirit from God.

That is how you are saved, and the next step is being obedient to God. One command Jesus gave was after He rose from the dead and was visiting then and before He left was this:

AC 1:1 “In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach [2] until the day He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles He had chosen. [3] After His suffering, He showed Himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the Kingdom of God. [4] On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: **"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. [5] For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be Baptized with the Holy Spirit."**

AC 2:1 “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. [2] Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. [3] They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. [4] **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

One of the mysteries of God is this concept of being Baptized in the Holy Spirit. The true definition of Baptism is “To be immersed completely.” To be Baptized in water is to be completely immersed in water such that the water could drown you—and so drowning is to symbolize your dying and then raising from the dead like Jesus did. To be baptized in the Holy Spirit is to be completely immersed in the Holy Spirit. It is when you are fully committed to God and His ways that He fills you with the Holy Spirit. So much so that He can be allowed to communicate to you in various methods. This way is how He can guide you into all truth and teach you all things according to John 14, 15 and 16.

Why is this important? Because being completely filled and overflowing in the Holy Spirit is how God works with and through us. To either work in us or to use us to work in others. In order to be part of this you need to understand what it is, who it is and why God is doing this.

Here is how it started.

This is the act of the first Baptism in the Holy Spirit, which was done on Pentecost.

AC 2:5 “Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. [6] When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. [7] Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? [8] Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? [9] Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, [10] Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome [11] (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in

our own tongues!" [12] Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

AC 2:13 "Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine. "

AC 2:14 "Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. [15] These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! [16] No, **this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:**

AC 2:17 " `In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams."

AC 2:18 "Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out My Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy."

AC 2:19 "I will show wonders in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke."

AC 2:20 "The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord."

AC 2:21 "And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved."

AC 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know. [23] This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. [24] But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him."

So this is the fulfillment of John 14, 15 and 16 for when the Helper (Counselor) comes He will Baptize you in the Holy Spirit and you will greater things than Jesus did.

JN 14:9 "Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10] Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His work. [11] Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. [12] **I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.** [13] And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. [14] You may ask Me for anything in My name, and I will do it."

Here is how we live as a Christian. The Holy Spirit is the Key. When we are "Born Again", we receive a new Spirit from God that is Holy and Pure. And so now that we have a holy and pure spirit, we can receive the Holy Spirit of God to live in and with us. He lives with our spirit in our heart. But for Him to live with our spirit our heart must be holy and pure, so there is no way that He will live with a sinful spirit in our hearts.

In order for Him to live in our heart, we must have a clean heart. As we have mentioned, when we lived in this world with the evil spirit still in our hearts, it had friends there too. We have had many other evil spirits living in our hearts that must be removed before we can receive this great gift of God.

It is like Jesus said in His parable.

LK 11:23 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.

LK 11:24 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' [25] When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. [26] **Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there.** And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."

LK 11:27 "As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you."

LK 11:28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

This is what He showed me as to why it is so important for the Holy Spirit to live in us. When we are "Born Again", the evil spirit is removed from us, and our Father washes us—our house--clean with the blood of Jesus. But if we neglect to ask the Father to fill us with the Holy Spirit, then when that evil spirit returns, and does not see the Holy Spirit living in us, he gets his friends and they all reclaim the house and now the house is worse than before. You have seen this when a person gives their life to Christ and they are happy and joyful for a while, but then something happens and they become worse than

before. Well this is what He is describing here. You must be filled with the Holy Spirit if for nothing else then to be protected from evil

And this also shows why you—you house—must be cleaned, because the Holy Spirit will not live in an evil and defiled house.

Is it automatically done when you are Born Again? Sometimes yes and sometimes no. It depends on each person. Some people realize that they need and want a deep, strong, and close relationship with God and so they seek being as close to Him as possible. For this seeking, He answers with them infilling of the Holy Spirit, but they do not know or realize it, for of course in order to have a close deep relationship it requires the Holy Spirit to establish it. They make a strong commitment with God and so He gives this gift.

But others do not know or realize this. So they do not. Only latter when things do not work or they are having lost of problems do they finally seek God to find out why and then the Holy Spirit shows them their lack of commitment and relationship to they seek it. Then once they make the necessary commitment does God give this gift.

10.3 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

But now that Holy Spirit can live with our spirit and so us, here is what He wants to do. He comes with many other spiritual gifts. These gifts are for us to use to be able to obey God's commands.

1CO 12:1 "Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. [2] You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. [3] Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

1CO 12:4 "**There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.** [5] There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. [6] There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men."

1CO 12:7 "**Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.** [8] To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, [9] to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, [10] to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. [11] All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines."

What is God's first command?

JN 15:9 "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. [10] If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. [11] I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. [12] **My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.**"

His commands are to love God and to love each other. How can you do that if the enemy is always trying to destroy this. He is always trying to make you dirty, filthy and unholy. How do you stop him?

1PE 5:5 "Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

"God opposes the proud (haughty)
but gives grace to the humble."

1PE 5:6 "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. [7] Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

1PE 5:8 "Be self-controlled and alert. **Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.** [9] Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings."

MT 12:43 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, (like being born again) it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. [44] Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied (empty), swept clean and put in order. [45] Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. **And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.**"

The main problem many Christians have is that once they are Born Again, they are still empty. God says that He wants to live in that house, but He must be invited. He respects our free will. We must be willing to have Him live in our house.

2CO 6:14 "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? [15] What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? [16] What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? **For we are the temple of the living God.** As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

2CO 6:17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord.

Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

2CO 6:18 "I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

2CO 7:1 "Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."

REV 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. [15] I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! [16] So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth. [17] You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. [18] I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

REV 3:19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. [20] **Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me.**

REV 3:21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. [22] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

He is calling on you to let Him in, now that you have a holy and pure spirit. But make note of what He says about these lukewarm people for He is talking to the religious people. More on that later.

EPH 5:15 "Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, [16] making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. [17] Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. [18] Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. [19] Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, [20] always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

EPH 6:10 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. [11] Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. [12] **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. [13] Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able**

to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. [14]

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, [15] and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. [16] In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. [17] Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. [18] And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

The full armor of God comes only through the Holy Spirit.

JAS 3:7 “All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, [8] **but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.**”

JAS 3:9 “With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. [10] Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. [11] Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? [12] My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.”

JAS 3:13 “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. [14] But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. [15] Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. [16] For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”

10.4 How to receive the Holy Spirit

Now the question is: how? How do we prevent ourselves from being on both sides: evil and good? The way that God shows is by the Holy Spirit. But to do that you must make a full and complete commitment to God, to follow Him and to obey all of His commands. For committing one sin, the Holy Spirit will leave you and will no longer work with you, until you have been cleaned again, by asking for forgiveness and to repent from what caused that sin.

But that is the purpose of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to help you to fight sin and the cause of it. The Holy Spirit will empower you and strengthen you. It is not magic or automatic. You need to understand the Holy Spirit and you must follow His ways. Then you will also be considered wise, for wisdom also comes from the Holy Spirit when asked for.

How do you get baptized in the Holy Spirit? As we said, God gives this gift once we make a deep commitment with Him, this is a covenant. The covenant is an agreement between you and Him. You come to the understanding of what He wants from you and you in turn understand what He is willing to do for and with you.

You are willing to give your life for Him. You are willing to follow His commands. You are willing to live a clean, pure and holy life. You are willing to follow Him even if it means to your death. You are willing to repent from all ways not from or for God. You are willing to allow God to purify your heart; to remove all evil spirits in your heart making it holy. You are willing to seek Him and His kingdom first and to live in faith in Him. You are willing to allow Him to use you in anyway that He pleases.

Also do not worry or get stressed out, because if you do sin, He is more than willing to forgive when you ask for forgiveness and then repent from that sin. We are not perfect; we are just forgiven. Being a Christian is not easy. Not when you have a relentless enemy always trying to stop you, trying to really kill you or at least discredit you and your savior, Jesus. **Whether you believe this or not, makes no difference to the reality of it; your belief does not make it real or not, but rather it brings you into the reality of it.** You have to choose which side you want to be on and fight for it.

JAS 3:17 “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. [18] Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

JAS 4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? [2] You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. [3] **When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”**

JAS 4:4 **“You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.** [5] Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit He caused to live in us envies intensely? [6] But He gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble.”"

JAS 4:7 “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, **you double-minded.** [9] Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. [10] Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

To be single-minded you must be fully committed to God. You must make the decision to stand for and with God and to not let anything change your mind. Changing your mind after you have made the right decision is being double-minded.

This is your part of the covenant with Him. His part is to fill you with the Holy Spirit and to fulfill all that is written about the Holy Spirit. This you will have to study to know and understand. He will teach you. You can now expect God to fulfill John 14, 15, and 16 in your life and more. You can now expect God to live in and through you.

After you make this new covenant with God to be fully committed to Him and His Kingdom, then He will gladly fill, immerse, and baptize you in the Holy Spirit. Now you are being like Jesus the Christ and that is what makes you a Christian. The last thing you have to do is to ASK. Pray.

LK 11:5 "Then He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, [6] because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'"

LK 11:7 "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' [8] I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs."

LK 11:9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. [10] For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

LK 11:11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? [12] Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? [13] **If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"**

But there is a caveat to this prayer thing.

MT 21:18 "Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. [19] Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered."

MT 21:20 "When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked."

MT 21:21 "Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, **if you have faith and do not doubt**, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. [22] If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

And

MK 11:20 "In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. [21] Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

MK 11:22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. [23] "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. [24] Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, **believe that you have received it**, and it will be yours. [25] And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, **forgive him**, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. "

There is of course more to this and we will get into it as you read more. But lets continue.

10.5 Hear His Voice

Once you are Born again, which makes you righteous, holy and pure, and after you are Baptized in the Holy Spirit, then you are now in the position to hear God speaking to you. How else are you going to know what God wants and how to obey God's commands? I cannot remember everything He has said in the bible or other commands from Him. I am not smart enough to learn all of what He wants me to do and I am not wise enough to know how to use what I have learned. So how can I do it? By the Holy Spirit fulfilling John 14, 15, and 16.

One of the things that get in our way to hear Him is what He calls static. It is all of the things that are going through you mind and all of the things being pushed into your minds from the enemy. You will find that as you do these things and get closer to God the static is removed and you can hear clearly. In the Advanced manual we talk on window control. This is the way that God has given us to remove all static. The important thing to get here is that God does speak to us and through us to others for Him.

It is easy. The Holy Spirit is the key. **Remember John 14, 15, and 16.** God promises that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things of God, He will remind us of all things He has taught us and He will guide us to all truth as long as He is living in you. But how will He do this?

One-way is to read the bible that was written by men who received messages directly from God as they heard His voice. But we too can hear His voice and know the will of our Father. Look at these scriptures.

Well God says that His sheep hears and knows His voice. He often uses the idea of Him being the good Shepard and we are His sheep.

PS 100:3 "Know that the LORD is God.
It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, the sheep of His pasture."

MT 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. [32] All the nations will be gathered before Him, and **He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.** [33] He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on his left."

JN 10:1 "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. [2] The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. [3] The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. [4] **When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.** [5] But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." [6] Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what He was telling them."

JN 10:7 "Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. [8] **All who ever came before Me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.** [9] I am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. [10] The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

JN 10:11 "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. [12] The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. [13] The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."

JN 10:14 "I am the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know Me-- [15] just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father--and I lay down My life for the sheep. [16] I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. **They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.** [17] The reason My Father loves Me is that I lay down My life--only to take it up again. [18] No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

He has indicated also to Elijah as to where He lives and how He communicates.

1KI 19:7 “The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." [8] So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. [9] There he went into a cave and spent the night.”

And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1KI 19:10 He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

1KI 19:11” The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." “

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. [12] After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. **And after the fire came a gentle whisper (a small still voice).** [13] When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"”

1KI 19:14 “He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."”

1KI 19:15 “The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. [16] Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. [17] Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. [18] Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel--all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him."”

As you can see the Lord talked to Elijah in two ways, in side of the cave, which was the Word that spoke to bring Elijah in to God’s presence. Then once he was at the cave opening—notice it took obedience to be in the presence of God—God showed him where He lived, He lived in the Small Still voice.

How can it be a voice if it was still? The stillness is Him living in Elijah. It was His presence in Elijah. It was His Spirit in Elijah that God communicated through. So the voice was communication and the still means it is a directly into Elijah's heart.

The other one, the Word, it was into His mind. The Word is like a two edged sword that can penetrate anything.

HEB 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. [13] Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

So the Word could penetrate Elijah's fearful mind and bring him to God, even in a hiding place like that cave or pit, that we create for ourselves.

So God is in the small, still voice. God is also in His word.

JN 1:1 "In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. [2] He was with God in the beginning."

JN 1:3 "Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. [4] In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. [5] The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."

So how do we know the will of God? We have to hear it. We have to read it. We have to live it. And we have to live with it. In reality, everything from here on out, is practicing hearing and obeying God's will, whether it is written or with in you.

10.6 How to live a Christian life

There are 2 main principles that God has given us to live by,

1. Love God your Lord with all of your heart, mind and body, and to love your neighbor as yourself.

This one you probably know but lets look into this second one.

2. And to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

As we said the bible is full of His words. There are many promises in the bible. Some we can take as ours because it is for everyone, and others we cannot take and we must pray for it and wait on the Lord to give it. Here are a few that belong to everyone.

MT 6:25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important

than food, and the body more important than clothes? [26] Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? [27] Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

Is not this talking about our daily life our food, cloths housing, and life support. But He continues.

MT 6:28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. [29] Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. [30] If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? [31] So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' [32] For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. [33] **But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.** [34] Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Here is the secret. MT 6:33 **But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

So we seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and everything will be ours.

He is saying that our daily life is seeking first His kingdom and His rightness. Then after we do that He will ensure that we will get all things. All things, clothes food, housing money, anything we need to life. Kids college money, vacation money, the honeymoon trip, everything we should need.

As long as you are allowing yourself to always be lead by the Holy Spirit, to live by the Holy Spirit and to always live with the Holy Spirit you will succeed.

GAL 5:1 "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

GAL 5:2 "Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. [3] Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. [4] You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. [5] But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. [6] For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

GAL 5:7 “You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? [8] That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. [9] "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." [10] I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be. [11] Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. [12] As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!”

GAL 5:13 “You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. [14] The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." [15] If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.”

GAL 5:16 “**So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.** [17] For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. [18] But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.”

GAL 5:19 “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; [20] idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions [21] and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

GAL 5:22 “**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control.** Against such things there is no law. [24] Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. [25] Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. [26] Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

GAL 6:1 “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. [2] Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. [3] If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. [4] **Each one should test his own actions.** Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, [5] for each one should carry his own load.”

GAL 6:6 “Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.”

GAL 6:7 “**Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked.** A man reaps what he sows. [8] The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature

will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. [9] Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. [10] Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

GAL 6:11 “See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!

GAL 6:12 “Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. [13] Not even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh. [14] May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. [15] Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. [16] Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.”

GAL 6:17 “Finally, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.”

GAL 6:18 “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.”

