

Orientation Class #2

Living the New Life

Live Righteously—Titus 2:11, 12

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,”

Now that we are Christians God wants us to put off the old habits and ways that aren't pleasing to Him, and to put on a new way of living (Colossians 3:5-17). The Bible says, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age" (Titus 2:11, 12).

When a person becomes a Christian, he is not only delivered from the penalty of sin; he is also delivered from the power of sin. Paul learned the secret of living the Christian life: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Christ wants us to allow Him to be Lord of every aspect of our lives. As we obey Him, we demonstrate our love for Him (John 14:21).

“The responsibility of the saint is to desire to live a Christlike life, to depend upon the Holy Spirit for the power to live that life, and to step out in faith and live that life. This fulfilled will bring all the infinite resources of grace to the aid of the saint and put in operation all the activities of the Spirit in his behalf.” –Kenneth S. Wuest

1. Who should live holy lives? 1 Peter 2:24, 1:14-16
2. How can we live holy lives? 1 Peter 2:1, 2; Ephesians 4:22-24
3. When should we live holy lives? 1 Peter 4:2, 3; Acts 24:14-16
4. Why should we live holy lives? Titus 2:11-13; 1st Corinthians 3:10-15

“The Christian life is not necessarily an easy one; don't think that your troubles ceased the moment you received Christ. In certain ways they increased, but the great difference is that now you have a Lord who understands you perfectly and has the answers to all your problems. God in His grace has provided a full and complete salvation in His Son. Christ in you offers you the strength to serve God and live a life of abundant joy. This life is for the person who says with Paul, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life 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).” --from *Christ in You* by IVCF

Fellowship with God—1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The Bible says, "If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." --1 John 1:6-9

God desires that we live in fellowship with Him, but our sin can interrupt our fellowship. Sin can quench (1 Thess. 5:19) and grieve (Eph. 4:30) the Holy Spirit. God wants us to confess our sins (1 John 1:9). In the original Greek, the word translated as confess is *homologeō*--to speak the same. It means to agree with God about the sin.

Agreeing with God

We should agree that:

1. It is sin (1 Jn. 3:4, Rom. 14:23).
2. It is forgiven (Col. 2:13, 14).
3. We need God to overcome sin (2 Cor. 3:5, Phil. 4:13, Gal. 5:16).

Then, as an act of faith, we should thank God for forgiving us and restoring us to fellowship with Him (Matt. 21:22, 1 Thess. 5:18).

Filled with the Spirit—Ephesians 5:18

"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit"

The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3, 4), the third person of the Trinity (Matt. 28:19,20). When a person becomes a believer, the Holy Spirit comes into that person to be with him forever (Jn. 14:16, Rom. 8:9, Eph. 1:13). The Holy Spirit can empower us to live godly lives (Acts 1:8) and produce in us the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23).

We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). What does this mean? Col. 3:16 is a direct parallel to Eph. 5:18. To be filled with the Spirit is to let the Word of Christ dominate us. The Word is the handle by which the Holy Spirit can turn our wills. Being filled with the Spirit means to be controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's will as revealed in the Word of Christ.

Additional Topics

Benefits of our new life from God

2nd Corinthians 5:17—new creation
Acts 10:43—forgiveness
Galatians 5:22, 23—fruit of the Spirit
Hebrews 11:6--rewarder

1st John 5:13—know...eternal life
Ephesians 1:13, 14—Holy Spirit
Ephesians 2:10—purpose

Adversaries to righteous living

1st John 2:15-17—the world Galatians 5:13-21—the flesh Eph. 6:10-13—the devil

Temptation

James 1:13-15—not tempted by God 1st Corinthians 10:13—promise
Galatians 5:16—the Spirit

Sin

Romans 8:2—free Proverbs 28:13, 1st John 1:9--confess

Suffering

Christians may have times of suffering (Romans 5:12; 8:18-21; 1st Peter 4:12-19; James 1:2-4). Sometimes we may not understand why someone has to suffer (Deuteronomy 29:29). Yet Who is in ultimate control? (Romans 8:28; Genesis 50:20)

Our response to the suffering we endure is important (Hebrews 12:5, 6, 15; Job 1:21). What can result from our enduring suffering? (Hebrews 12:10, 11; 2nd Corinthians 1:3, 4)

Guidance for decisions in life

2nd Timothy 3:16, 17—the word Isaiah 8:20—the word James 1:5—prayer
Col. 3:20—parents Rom. 13:1-7—authorities Acts 5:29—obey God
Acts 13:1-3—fasting and prayer Proverbs 12:15, 15:22--counsel