

# Spiritual Living



- **How long have you lived in your current home?**
- **Have you ever lived in a different city or country?**

Most of us are comfortable in our hometown. Being in a place with a different language or culture can cause confusion and anxiety. **Culture Shock** results when familiar customs no longer apply and many things must be relearned.

**Becoming a Christian can also be a Culture Shock.** After living much of our lives in the **Physical** world, we must now learn to live by the **Spirit**.

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*  
2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV



- ❖ **Underline two** words that describe “*anyone in Christ.*”
- ❖ **Circle** what happens to “*old things.*”

Once a person becomes a Christian, there should be a change in priorities and lifestyle.

## Spiritual Nature of the Christian

The Bible describes Man as a living **Soul**, existing in a **Body** and having a **Spirit**.

*“...may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*  
1 Thessalonians 5:23, NKJV

- ❖ **Circle** each of those **three** descriptions in the verse above.
  - ◆ Our **Bodies** connect us to the *Physical World*.
  - ◆ Our **Spirit** is our link to *God* and the *Spiritual World*.
  - ◆ Our **Soul** includes our *mind, emotions, and will*. It is influenced by our *Body and Spirit*.

*“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”* John 3:3, NKJV

- ❖ **Underline** what must happen so a person can “*see the kingdom of God.*”
  - ◆ **Everyone** is born with a *Sin Nature*.
  - ◆ But **Christians** are born again with a *New Nature* and possess the *Holy Spirit!*

## Spiritual Nature of People

The Bible describes **Three Kinds of People** in **1 Corinthians 2:14 - 3:3**.

### 1. The Non-Christian (or natural man)

*“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”* 1 Corinthians 2:14, NKJV

- ❖ **Circle** the type of person described.
- ❖ **Underline what** the “*natural man does not receive.*”
- ❖ **Frame why** the “*natural man*” is not able to “*receive the things of the Spirit of God.*”

**Non-Christian**

- ▶ Does Not Have Eternal Life
- ▶ Is an Enemy of God
- ▶ Life Influenced by World & Satan
- ▶ Does Not Have Fellowship with God
- ▶ Lifestyle Does Not Please God
- ▶ Life Dominated by Sin Nature

“A man ought to **LIVE** so that **everybody** knows he is a Christian...and most of all, his **family** ought to know.”  
~ Dwight Moody

“A **Christian is not one** who simply buys ‘**fire insurance**,’ who signs up just to avoid an unpleasant after life.

A **Christian is one** who follows Christ, one who is committed unquestionably to Christ as Lord and Savior, one who desires to please God.”

~ John MacArthur

“The **bottom line** in the Christian life is **OBEDIENCE** and most people don’t even like the word.”

~ Charles Stanley

“Going to **church** doesn’t make a man a **Christian**, any more than going to a **garage** makes him an **automobile.**”

~ Billy Sunday



❓ How does **Ephesians 2:1-3** describe non-Christians?

## 2. The Spiritual Christian

*"But he who is spiritual judges [discerns] all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ."*  
1 Corinthians 2:15-16, NKJV

- ❖ **Circle** the type of person described.
- ❖ **Underline** what type of "*mind*" the spiritual person has.

Having the "**mind of Christ**" enables us to make Christ-like decisions.

- The world does not understand decisions which are based on Biblical principles.
- Since Christ was misunderstood, we should not be surprised by similar treatment.

**spiritual Christian**

- ▶ Has Eternal Life
- ▶ Is a Child of God
- ▶ Yields life to God & lives by faith
- ▶ Has Fellowship with God
- ▶ Lifestyle Pleases God
- ▶ Resists temptation with God's help

## 3. The Worldly Christian

*"...I [Paul] could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly?..."*  
1 Corinthians 3:1-3, NIV



- ❖ **Circle** the type of people described.
- ❖ **Frame** what Paul "gave" them.
- ❖ **Underline** what a worldly Christian is "*not yet ready*" for.
- ❖ **Underline two** words that describe how a worldly Christian acts.

The **Worldly Christian** may be

- a new or young Christian who is **not living by faith** or **yielding his life to God**.
- an older Christian who chooses to live according to the **lusts of the Sin Nature**.

**Worldly Christian**

- ▶ Has Eternal Life
- ▶ Is a Child of God
- ▶ Life Influenced by World & Satan
- ▶ Does Not Have Fellowship with God
- ▶ Lifestyle Does Not Please God
- ▶ Life Dominated by Sin Nature

*"I [God] know your deeds, that you [Church of Laodicea] are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth."*  
Revelation 3:15-16, NASB

- ❖ **Circle** what God wished the Church of Laodicea would have been.
- ❖ **Underline** what God was going to do because they were "*lukewarm*."

**"If you are Christians, then be consistent...."**

Beware of halfhearted discipleship, of compromise with evil, of conformity to the world...  
**Half-hearted Christianity** will only dishonor God, while it makes you miserable."  
~ Horatius Bonar

## APPLICATION

**Which Person best represents your life?** \_\_\_\_\_

- If you are a *Non-Christian*, do you want to **receive Christ** and let Him **fill** your life?
- If you are a *Worldly Christian*, you can choose to **allow Christ** to **fill** your life.



"One of the best tests of whether a person is a **mature Christian** is what he does with his **FREE TIME**."

~ Anonymous

**?** Whose **mind** (or attitude and actions) does **Philippians 2:5-8** say Christians should imitate?

"A wife who is **85% faithful** to her husband is not faithful at all. There is no such thing as **PART-TIME loyalty** to Jesus Christ."

~ Vance Havner

*"Not everyone who says to me [Jesus], 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the **one who does the will of my Father** who is in heaven."*

Matthew 7:21-23, ESV



## WARNING!

A Christian who continually lives in sin may not be a true Christian at all.

**See 1 John 2:3-6.**

"Hypocrisy is when your **EXTERNAL life** is better than your **INTERNAL life**."

~ Zac Poonen

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# Spiritual **GROWTH**

**Spiritual Growth** occurs as we yield more of our lives to Christ so **He fills every part: Mind, Will, Body, and Emotions.** This enables our lifestyle to bring more glory to God.

## ► Our MIND

*“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”* Romans 8:5-6, ESV

- ❖ **Circle** what people “*who live according to the flesh set their minds on.*”
- ❖ **Underline** what people “*who live according to the Spirit set their minds on.*”
- ❖ **Circle** the result of setting your “*mind on the flesh.*”
- ❖ **Underline** the result of setting your “*mind on the Spirit.*”

A spiritual mindset brings great peace in trials and reminds us of eternal **LIFE** ahead.

## ► Our WILL

*“for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”* Philippians 2:13, NKJV



- ❖ **Circle two** ways God “*works*” in Christians. God enables Christians to both **WILL** (have the desire) and to **DO** (have the ability and power) to please Him. That means we cannot even take credit for having the idea!

## ► Our BODY

*“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the **body**, whether good or evil.”* 2 Corinthians 5:10, ESV



- ❖ **Underline** what will happen to each of us at the “*judgment seat of Christ.*”

**“The GREATEST THOUGHT that has ever entered my mind is that one day I will have to stand before a holy God and give an account of my life.”** ~ Daniel Webster

## ► Our EMOTIONS



*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.**”* Colossians 3:12, NIV

- ❖ **Underline five** attitudes “*God’s chosen people*” should demonstrate.
- ◆ People notice if we **react with anger** or **respond with Christ-like attitudes** to difficulties.
- ◆ Our witness for Christ is damaged if we do not practice these godly character qualities.

## FEELINGS verses the TRUTH of God’s Word

☆ I don’t **FEEL** God’s presence.

*“...He [God] has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”* Heb. 13:5, ESV

- ❖ **Circle two** things God will “*never*” do.

☆ I am **AFRAID** of dying.

*“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me....”* Psalm 23:4, NKJV

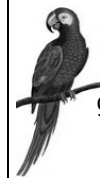
- ❖ **Underline** why a believer does not need to fear death.

❓ *What are two things Ezekiel 36:26-27 says God gives to help us obey Him?*

“The **Conversion of a Soul** is the miracle of a moment, but the **Manufacture of a Saint** is the task of a lifetime.”

~ Alan Redpath

❓ *What happened because Ananias and Sapphira set their minds on worldly things?* (See Acts 5:1-5.)



**“A real Christian** is a person who can give his **pet PARROT** to the town gossip.” ~ Billy Sunday

**“Measure not God’s love & favor by your own feeling.**

The sun shines as clearly in the **darkest** day as it does in the **brightest.**



The difference is not in the sun, but in **some clouds** which hinder the manifestation of the light thereof.”

~ Richard Sibbes

“If I count correctly, there are over **350 ‘fear nots’** in the Bible – think of them as God’s **one-a-day vitamin.**”



~ Chuck Swindoll

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# Living by Faith

*"For we live by faith, not by sight."*

2 Corinthians 5:7, NIV

- ❖ **Circle** what we are to "live by."
- ❖ **Underline** what we are **not** to "live by."
  - **Sight, Touch, Hearing, Taste, and Smell** enable us to live in the **Physical** world.
  - **Faith** enables us to live in the **Spiritual** realm while we are still in our **Physical** body.

*"In **FAITH** there is enough **light** for those who want to believe and enough **shadows** to blind those who don't." ~ Blaise Pascal*



*"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." Hebrews 11:6, NIV*

- ❖ **Circle** what happens if we **don't** have faith.
- ❖ **Underline two** things Hebrews 11:6 says we "must believe" about God.

**Living by Faith in God and His Word** is like flying a plane by instruments.



Though you may feel like you are flying **right side up**, your instruments may indicate the plane is really **upside down!**

- The **PILOT** must discipline himself to **trust the instruments** and not his feelings!
- **CHRISTIANS** must discipline themselves to **trust God's Word** and not their feelings!

*"While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are **temporary**, but the things which are not seen are **eternal**." 2 Corinthians 4:18, NKJV*

- ❖ **Circle** the word that describes "things which are seen."
- ❖ **Underline** the word that describes "things which are **not** seen."

Through faith, we can look beyond the physical world of temporary pleasures and "see" the future rewards God has for those who faithfully serve Him.

*"I [Paul] have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the **faith**. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8, ESV*



- ❖ **Underline three** things Paul had done.
- ❖ **Circle everyone** who would receive a "crown of righteousness" from the Lord.

Paul endured shipwrecks, beatings, imprisonments, and many other hardships for the cause of Christ. (See 2 Cor. 11:23-27.) What an example of living a victorious Christian life!

## APPLICATION

- ❓ **What is an area that God is currently teaching you about faith?**
- ❓ **How can you respond to this situation with faith that pleases God?**

"**FAITH** is like **Wi Fi**. It is **invisible** but has the **power to connect you to what you need.**"  
~ Unknown

❓ **What are seven things Christians should add to their FAITH? (See 2 Peter 1:5-7.)**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

**"FAITH DOES NOT** eliminate questions.



But **FAITH** knows where to take them."  
~ Elisabeth Elliot

**"FAITH** is not the belief that God will do what you **want**. It is the belief that God will do what is **right**."  
~ Max Lucado

## AFFIRMATION

1. Christ lives in me!
2. My life belongs to God.
3. I am empowered by Christ.
4. I trust Christ with my life.

## PRAYER

*Dear Lord, thank you for giving me a new spiritual nature. Help me trust Your Word instead of my feelings. Teach me to live by faith and focus on what is eternal. Amen.*

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