

The Race

LIVING IN CHRIST-LIKENESS (The role of the Spirit)

The Objective: To understand that “trying harder” to your live as a Christ-follower will most certainly result in frustration and disappointment. To know that it is the Holy Spirit who is the source and power of transformation in the person who desires to live in Christ-likeness.

Consider:

Many Christ followers (both old and new) find it very hard to live as Christ lived (in Christ-likeness). As a matter of fact, in today’s culture it is often difficult to see the difference between those who claim to be Christians and a person who is still on his or her journey to trusting in Christ as their Savior.

Don’t become trapped in attempting to live like Christ in your “own power,” you will only be disappointed! The Holy Spirit supplies the power for you to live in Christ-likeness. No one can live in Christ-likeness by simply “trying harder.” A person who desires to live in Christ-likeness in confidence will make it a practice to allow the Holy Spirit to control every area of their life. *“So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature crave ...the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires.”* (Galatians 5:16-17).

Learn:

What do the following verses teach you about the Holy Spirit and the role He has in your life?

- Acts 1:8
- Romans 8:1-4, 9-11
- I Corinthians 6:19
- II Corinthians 3:18
- Galatians 5:22-23

As a Christ follower the Holy Spirit lives in you and delivers you from the old nature and produces righteousness. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that you will succeed in living in Christ-likeness. The following application is a proven biblical practice that will allow you (by faith) to give every area of your life to God, moment by moment, everyday! When you walk by the Spirit, you “run to win”!

Commit:

The Apostle Paul found and enjoyed his walk with the Lord. Read Romans 8:1-4. The Holy Spirit supplies power for you to live a in Christ likeness. No man can live like Christ by simply “trying harder.” Understand that *“The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God”* (Romans 8:7-8).

It is liberating to know that we cannot live like Christ life solely from our own efforts. We need God’s liberating power, given by His Holy Spirit who lives in us, to victoriously live as a Christ follower! (To no longer think that we must try harder to live like Christ is liberating!) We live in Christ likeness through the power that comes through the Spirit of God. It is the Spirit that liberates you from the vicious power of sin and death. Only the power of the Spirit gives victory and real freedom! Learn to rely on the Holy Spirit’s power and allow God to “live” through you and know that it takes faith.

Apply:

Develop the practice of living in Christ-likeness moment by moment (walk in the Spirit):

1. Sincerely Desire to be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit
(Matthew 5:6; John 7:37-39)
2. Consciously Confess your sin. By faith, thanking God for the forgiveness of all (past, present and future) sin because Christ died for you. Just be honest with Him!
(Colossians 2:13-15; I John 1:2:1-3; Hebrews 10:1-17; Psalm 24:3-5, 103:11-12)
3. Courageously Present every area of your life to God. Obey and trust Him in all things ...knowing He desires the best for your life.
(Romans 12:1,2; Romans 8:28;; Deuteronomy 7:9)
4. Continually Claim by faith, the fullness of the Holy Spirit according to His command to be filled (directed and controlled) (Ephesians 5:18) and His promise to always answer when we pray according to His will (I John 5:14-15)

(This practice is the basis of: *Have You Made the Wonderful Discovery of the Spirit-filled Life?* - Produced by CRU)

CAUTION:

A person who professes to be a Christian, but continues living as if they have no relationship with God should realize that they may not be a Christian at all. I John 2:3-6 addresses this and the Apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 5:13 that we were called to freedom (as new creatures – free from the burden of sin so that we can grow in Christ), but not to use this freedom to indulge the sinful nature (“old things”).

Further Study:

The book of Galatians speaks of living in Christ-likeness extensively. Read the book of Galatians at least three times over the next 30 days. The book is designed to set Christians free, freedom that comes through the work the Holy Spirit in one's life.