

New Believer Lesson- How A Christian should live to please God?

How can we learn to set new standards of thought in our lives as we grow in Christ?

There are many things that radiate the character of God in our lives.

Let us examine ways the Bible teaches us we radiate the Character of Christ:

1. Patience

The virtue God gave us as a fruit of the Spirit demonstrating his peacefulness in our hearts and lives as we wait on him for our needs and wants.

A. *A patient man demonstrates peace - it should flow through his actions and words.*

Here are some verses that demonstrate that from the New and Old Testaments:

Proverbs 15:18

"A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel". NIV

Romans 8:24-25

"We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)" ESV

Romans 12:12

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer". NIV

Romans 15:4-5

"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus". NIV

Galatians 5:22

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace," patience", kindness, goodness, faithfulness and Gentleness". NIV

B. *Patience people radiate Peace to a hurting world!*

Patience is often a vital part of our Christian walk as we move through the old ways and deal with our past!

Revelation 14:12

"This means that God's holy people must endure persecution patiently, obeying his commands and maintaining their faith in Jesus". NIV

C. *Impatient people make many errors but the bible says ... Patience lay great errors to rest*

The Word Says - ...better to be a patient man than a warrior... NIV

Proverbs 16:32 says-

"Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.

The second part of the verse tell us better for one who controls his temper"... but taking the city is of little value for his victory if he loses his personal one (NIV)

2. Thanksgiving -is something we should always be thanking God teaches us Gratefulness!

1 Thess. 5:18 - commands us to give thanks it's a forceful tense "we are to give thanks in all circumstances

for it becomes for us his will"! NIV

Thankfulness helps us learn generosity teaching us to worship God properly and it creates the right heart before God!

Thankfulness brings God's blessings to us!

3. Daily Devotions- prayer and Bible intake create a solid foundation that keeps us afloat in our good and bad times

Spending time with God is our only weapon against temptation that helps us apply the Word!

Joshua 1:8-9 says we must live by the word so we can carry it out - here is the what the whole verse

Joshua 1:8 -"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" ...NIV

Matt 28:18-20 -"go into all the world and preach the gospel to all mankind..." NIV

4. Thinking God's way:

A. Learning to Control Thoughts- If you learn to control your thoughts, the battle is almost Won, it's said- **He who has the mind has the man**

B. Controlling your thought life enables you to control your speech and actions

C. Obedience - Obedience teaches us to say no avoiding bondage to sinful patterns.
John 8:31-32 NIV

D. Our thoughts make us or break us later in life!

It matters who we become and it shows if we fail to lay down old ways and actions
We all know the cliché:

"What would Jesus Do"? What would he say?

E. Developing good patterns takes time and practice

Phil. 4:8-

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things". NIV

Developing the right mindset and pure thoughts is a process- **it's not something we just do, the right patterns have to be formed in Christ - they come from listening and acting on His Word, through the immediate prompting of the Holy Spirit.**

Romans 12:2

"Do not be conformed any longer to the patterns of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - the good, pleasing and perfect will". NIV

Timothy 1:7

"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline". NIV

Thinking God's thoughts starts with what's in the heart and mind. It's the concept of **"Garbage in Garbage Out"** ...what we fill our minds with largely depends on what we think about and how we act and how we treat others.

Matt 15:11- says

"What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, is what makes him 'unclean.'" NIV

F. Attitude

Attitude determines everything because our attitudes show in our actions!

Having the right attitude is a choice and here are some ways we can be sure to choose properly:

A. The Right Attitude Happens when:

1. Choosing positive over negative ideas that enter our minds. Hate over Love, ETC...
2. It means meditating on pure food, leaving out the garbage - Rom 7:25, Ps 119:176, Gal 5:1
3. It means doing good to others even if they wrong us!

Titus 1:16

- "They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing good."**
4. It means submission to God's plan no matter how we think or feel.

James 4:7 we are commanded to submit to God in James ... for a reason

James 4:7- Submit to God resist the Devil and he will flee from you... flee period! NIV

5. Resisting- Who am I resisting: Why? Who are we fighting against?

1 Peter 5:8 -tell us the devil your enemy prowls around us like a roaring lion ...instilling fear is his greatest weapon NIV

5. Church Attendance

We must attend a church that builds us up and helps us remain in the vine to bear fruit.

John 15:1-16- we must remain in the vine (attached to Jesus and his Word) because spiritual food is only found in Christ:

A. Our growth - if we are not growing we are going no where

B. Being taught the right things- having the right friends, watching the right things and living the right way brings victory in our lives and help us grow properly!

C. Psalm 119:97-104 says-"May the words of my mouth and Meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight."..NIV

Meditation on the word changes our words and the earthly meditation of our hearts to things that are pleasing in God's sight.

6. Taming the tongue

The book of James teaches us that taming the tongue makes all the difference in our lives. It will destroy your reputation or gives you a good reputation depending on what you chose.

"Taming the Tongue is the way to a successful Christian walk"

A. The person that wishes to please God must act in line with what he or she says they will do!

1Tim 4:12-14- says "do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example in speech, life, love and purity...NIV

B. the result of a tamed tongue is a pure life

Titus 1:15 " to the pure all things are pure but to those who are corrupted and do not believe nothing is pure". NIV

C. Are the old ways really that bad? If I return to old patterns will it affect me or my walk with God?

Answer- Colossians 3:8 - "but now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips." NIV

It's clear our speech does affect our walk with God:

2 Corinthians 5:17 -says "If anyone is in Christ Jesus he is a New Creation the old has gone the new has come...NIV

D. Taming the tongue means we try to watch what we say to others in front of others to prove our convictions are real

"Largely people judge us by our walk and our talk and attitudes"!!!

The Bible tells us "by our words we are found guilty and by them we are acquitted"

Matthew 12:36

"But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every empty word they have spoken." NIV

Questions for this Lesson:

- 1. What must we pursue instead of evil desires? - 2 Timothy 2:20-22**
- 2. When do we get no credit from God for having patience? - 1 Peter 2:20**
- 3. In Psalm 37 it says that a patient man will gain what by trusting in God? - Psalm 37:17**
- 4. Name two things that you are thankful for right now? 1? 2?**
- 5. What is God's will for us according to 1 Thessalonians 5:18?**
- 6. What must we not let go of as the end approaches? - Heb 10:20-25**
- 7. As we serve the Lord as a New Believer what should our attitude be like? Phil. 2:5**
- 8. According to the Bible is it possible to think clean and pure thoughts? Colossians 3:1-5 Ps. 119:9**
- 9. What do Philippians tell us we can choose to think about? Phil 4:9-10**
- 10. List the fruit of Spirit according to Galatians 5! - Galatians 5:17-24**
- 11. Godly people always pursue what? 1 Timothy 6:11**
- 12. What principle is taught in Matthew regarding God's promises? Matt 5:33-37**
- 13. What should our speech do for others as we radiate the character of Christ to them? Eph 4:29**