

LIVING FOR JESUS

Based on material prepared by Ron Adams

LIVING FOR JESUS

As Christians we are made alive in Him.

"... having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions ..."
(Colossians 2:12-13)

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We are to live for Him.

"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, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds." (Titus 2:11-14)

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It's more than being a member and attending church services. Much more!

To be a Christian is to be a disciple.

"... the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch." (Acts 11:26b)

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A disciple is a learner.

*"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 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. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*
(Matthew 11:28-30)

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As disciples, we must be self-denying followers.

*"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must **deny himself**, and take up his cross and **follow Me**. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?'"*
(Matthew 16:24-26)

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As followers of Christ, we must hear and follow the voice of the good Shepherd.

"I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep."
(John 10:14-15)

*"My sheep **hear My voice**, and I know them, and they **follow Me**; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand."* (John 10:27-28)

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To grow in the Lord, we must **enhance** our faith.

"Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love." (2 Peter 1:5-7)

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Attributes to practice from 2 Peter 1:5-7:

"Applying all diligence"

Things to put on our "Must Do" list

"Moral excellence"

Virtue, righteous behavior

"Knowledge"

Growing in insight and understanding

"Self-control"

Conforming our will to His, denying self and our own emotions

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Attributes to practice from 2 Peter 1:5-7:

"Perseverance"

Brave patience and continuance, bearing and contending

"Godliness"

Piety characterized by an attitude of learning and doing what is pleasing to God.

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Attributes to practice from 2 Peter 1:5-7:

"Brotherly kindness"

*"**Be kind** to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."* (Ephesians 4:32)

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Attributes to practice from 2 Peter 1:5-7:

"**Love**" – Active good will by deliberate choice.

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall **love** your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, **love** your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."* (Matthew 5:43-45)

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To grow in the Lord, we must **bear the fruit of the Spirit**, which means cultivating what the Spirit plants in our hearts.

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."
(Galatians 5:22-23)*

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"**Love**" (agape): active good will. It is the word used to describe God's love for us.

*"For God so **loved** the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16 NKJV)*

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves ..." (Philippians 2:3)

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We must **love** God AND one another.

*"And He said to him, 'You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39)*

*"**Love** does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." (Romans 13:10)*

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We must love without partiality.

*"If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself,' you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors." (James 2:8-9)*

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We must love our enemies.

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall **love** your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, **love** your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (Matthew 5:43-45)*

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"**Joy**": Not a synonym of "happy." A state of well-being based on God's power and promise. We must experience joy even in trying times.

*"But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your **joy** with me." (Philippians 2:17-18)*

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When we receive the word with **joy**, we set a good example to others.

*"You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the **joy** of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia."* (1 Thessalonians 1:6-7)

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We should receive the trials of life with **joy**, as we learn to patiently endure.

*"My brethren, count it all **joy** when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."* (James 1:2-3 NKJV)

We should radiate the **joy** that comes from knowing the Lord.

*"These things I have spoken to you so that My **joy** may be in you, and that your **joy** may be made full."* (John 15:11)

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Peace: With the Lord.

*"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ..."* (Romans 5:1)

Peace within our hearts and minds.

*"And the **peace** of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:7)

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Peace with others. We should be peacemakers.

*"Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at **peace** with one another."* (Mark 9:50)

*"Pursue **peace** with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord."* (Hebrews 12:14)

*"If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at **peace** with all men."* (Romans 12:18)

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Peace: With our brethren.

*"Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of **peace**."* (Ephesians 4:1-3)

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Patience: Longsuffering.

We must practice **patience** with all.

*"We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be **patient** with everyone."* (1 Thessalonians 5:14)

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Patience: Longsuffering.

We must practice **patience** when wronged.

*"The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, **patient** when wronged ..."*
(2 Timothy 2:24)

We must practice **patience** while undergoing trials and tribulations.

*"For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with **patience**? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you **patiently** endure it, this finds favor with God."* (1 Peter 2:20)

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Kindness: Kind – a group of individuals linked by traits held in common (human).

We must show **kindness** in conduct towards all others.

*"**Be kind** to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."* (Ephesians 4:32)

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Goodness: The practice of being good. Good thoughts lead to good words and good actions.

*"This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in **good deeds**. These things are good and profitable for men."*
(Titus 3:8)

*"Our people must also learn to engage in **good deeds** to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful."*
(Titus 3:14)

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Faithfulness: We must be faithful (trustworthy) in our dealings with God.

*"And without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."* (Hebrews 11:6)

We must be **faithful** with one another.

*"Beloved, you are acting **faithfully** in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers ..."*
(3 John 5)

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Gentle: Meekness (akin to humility). "Strength controlled."

*"Blessed are the **gentle**, for they shall inherit the earth."* (Matthew 5:5)

"Let your **gentle** spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near." (Philippians 4:5)

*"So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, **gentleness** and patience ..."*
(Colossians 3:12)

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Self-control. Preventing harm to self and others.

*"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises **self-control** in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."*
(1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

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Self-control.

We must make it our life's ambition to transform our thinking to please God.

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."
(Romans 12:1-2)

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CONCLUSION

TWO THINGS ONE MUST DO:

- 1) Be diligent to enhance your faith in order to endure, persevere, and be victorious.
- 2) Have a pure and honest heart wherein the fruits of the Spirit may be found in abundance.

This is what "Living for Jesus" is all about.

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear the word of God (2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

Believe the gospel message (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

Repent of sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ (Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4)

Remain Obedient (Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12)