

## HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE

**Philippians 3:7-14**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** If asked, just about any Christian would admit that he/she could stand some improvement in his/her Christian life. There are strengths, but there also weaknesses and those weaknesses probably outweigh the strengths. It would indeed be an unusual thing to meet a Christian who was perfectly satisfied with his/her life style and saw no need to make any changes. For those of us who want to improve our Christian lives, here are some suggestions.

### **1. Admit that you need to make some changes.**

- As active as the apostle Paul was and as devoted as he was to the Lord, he admitted that he was never totally satisfied with how he was living and that he "pressed toward the mark," constantly trying to live more like the Lord every day.
- There is no place for being satisfied and that "all is as good as it can get" in a Christian's life for there is always room for improvement.

### **2. Make up your mind that you are going to improve your Christian life.**

- Being unsure, having questions before attempting changes, almost always causes no change to happen.
- Don't "say" you are going to make changes to improve your Christian life and not mean it with all your heart, being and soul.
- Make up your mind and don't look back!

### **3. Don't wait around for God to find you and then bless you.**

- God's blessings aren't some magical spell that He casts just because He wants to.
- Nobody deserves God's blessings so if a person wants God's blessings, then he/she has to get in the pathways which lead to being blessed.
- Get busy doing something which gets God's attention and gives Him reason and cause to bless you.

### **4. Be sincere and serious when you "repent" of your sins.**

- "Lord, forgive me of my sins, Amen.." is not going to get a person very far in getting one's sins taken care of.
- A person must sincerely feel regret and sorrow for his/her sin/s and wish that they could relive that time of sin over again and this time not sin.
- A person must feel disgust within him/herself for the sin that he/she commits and in that feeling go to the Lord in sincere repentance.
- Too many "think" they have repented and been forgiven just because they mentioned it in a hasty insincere prayer. Repentance doesn't come that way.

### **5. Get right with everybody that you can.**

- Pay your debts.
- Give a sincere apology.
- Return something "borrowed" that you "forgot" to return.
- Whatever it may be that has caused indifference, separation between you and anybody, do your best to make things right.

**6. Do some Bible study on what the righteous life is to be like.**

- Take some notes on what Jesus taught called the "Sermon on the Mount."
- Read what Jesus taught His disciples about what it took to be a "real" disciple of His.
- Study what Paul said as he described his efforts to live as the Lord wanted and the reasons behind what he was doing or not doing.
- Spend some time on your knees comparing your life to what you learn from the Scriptures about living a life pleasing to the Lord Jesus.

**7. Change your attitude and way of thinking, of seeing things.**

- What kind of language is used in television programs?
- What kind of nudity is seen in today's television programs?
- What kind of music is being heard in public today?
- What style of dress do people wear today?
- There was a time when profanity was never heard, when nudity was never seen, when God's name was never used in an empty way.
- There was a time when the Lord's Day was sacred, holy and stores were closed.
- Without knowing it, without thinking, we pay no attention to the vulgarities of today that are seen and heard.
- Wake up! Open your eyes! Listen and see what is happening which we have all been a part of that brings disgrace upon the Lord and His Word.

**8. Begin to focus your life and stop being "open" to whatever will be, will be.**

- As a Christian, you are a specialist.
- God gives each Christian at least one gift and that gift is to be used for what God has in mind for the Christian to do with his/her life.
- You, as a Christian, have been assigned a specific task, role for the Lord and given a responsibility along with the ability (gift) to fulfill your assigned duty.
- Spend some time on your knees and find out what God has assigned you to do, and then do it without reservation or question.

**9. Find somebody to witness to.**

- Witnessing is not grabbing somebody around the neck and telling them that they need to get baptized.
- Witnessing is making yourself available to God and to your Church to be used to help others come to know the Lord Jesus.
- Witnessing is obeying, not bossing, not being the leader, not being the organizer, it is simply doing what every Christian should be doing, but in the way God wants YOU to.

**10. Start to expect God to do some things in your life.**

- You will get God's attention when you begin to change your life into the life that He wants you to live.
- Once you begin to get God's attention, you will begin to be blessed and given something to do for Him.
- YOU are the one to determine how much God can use you. YOU are the one to determine how much your life will change.
- YOU are a Christian, now live like you should be living, make whatever changes you need to make.