

TWO LIVES OF A CHRISTIAN

1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3

Introduction: It is not unusual for a pastor to get a "swelled" head from the many compliments he gets from his congregation as they leave a worship service, "great message pastor," "you were really preaching to me, pastor," "everybody should have been here to hear that message, pastor."...etc. Everyone does like to be complimented but for a pastor, anything he does worth complimenting, all the thanks, glory and honor should go to the Lord and not the pastor. It is not only pastors that allow themselves to take credit and honor due God, but every Christian often does that very same thing. This happens when the "carnal" or worldly nature takes over. One of the world's most effective evangelists once said that 9 out of 10 Christians live defeated lives because they have never allowed the Holy Spirit to control their lives. They are living "carnal" lives, thinking of "self" and not the Lord. So really, a Christian can live two lives.

I. THE BIBLE MENTIONS THREE KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

1. There is the Natural man/person. (*1 Corinthians 2:14*)
 - The natural man cannot live as Jesus Christ lived.
 - He/she has never experienced the new birth, experienced salvation.
 - The natural man is spiritually dead.
 - The natural man/woman does not understand the message of the Bible.
2. Then there is the Spirit-Controlled Christian. (*1 Corinthians 2:15*)
 - These people CHOOSE to live as Jesus Christ lived.
 - They yield their lives to God and are led by the Holy Spirit in all things.
3. Lastly, there is the Carnal Christian. (*1 Corinthians 3:1-3*)
 - These Christians choose NOT to live as Jesus Christ lived.
 - They are saved, but have not grown in the Lord.
 - They are "abnormal" Christians, not living as God intends.

II. THERE ARE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CARNAL AND SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN

1. The Carnal Christian:
 - Lives a life of defeat and unhappiness in life.
 - A life filled with tension, strife, fear, discouragement, etc.
 - Experience very little in what is healthy for growing a Christian life.
 - Bible study, prayer, fellowship, witnessing.
 - They depend on "self" only and often are overcome by circumstances and the least bit of interference.
2. The Spiritual Christian:
 - Is victorious, blessed, knows love, joy, peace and patience.
 - Is faithful, experiences God's goodness.
 - Is active in becoming all God wants.
 - Has a healthy diet of spiritual things, prays, studies God's Word.

- Enjoys Christian fellowship and witnesses.
- Takes everything to the Lord and depends upon the Lord when things get tough.
- Leaves the results to God.

III. THE CHRISTIAN IS COMMANDED TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. *Ephesians 5:28*

2. Today is no different than days gone by for people still seek the external things:
 - attempting to find peace
 - wealth, position, and now drugs.
3. There are four spiritual lessons in this passage:
 - This is a command, it is imperative, not some option for the Christian.
 - This is in PRESENT tense and an experience to be repeated over and over.
 - It is in PLURAL person which means EVERY Christian, not just pastors and certain others.
 - It is in PASSIVE voice which means that it is something that GOD does for the Christian.

IV. WHY DON'T MOST CHRISTIANS LIVE THE SPIRIT CONTROLLED LIFE AS COMMANDED?

1. Most Christians are ignorant of the Bible! They attend services but don't study the Bible.
2. They are misinformed somehow thinking that this command is for only CERTAIN Christians.
 - Only pastors, evangelists, professors, etc. are meant to be so filled.
 - That tongue speaking must accompany this command as proof of being filled.
 - Think that it is an EXTRA or special blessing.
3. There is a lack of concern for they are too busy with worldly things.
4. They are living deliberately in sin and don't want to give it up, although he/she knows what he/she is doing is against God's Word and what God wants him/her to be doing.

V. HOW DOES A CHRISTIAN LIVE THE SPIRIT CONTROLLED LIFE?

1. One must recognize that the presence of the Holy Spirit within is permanent!
2. One must recognize that it is God's will for the Holy Spirit to be the leader of one's life.
3. One must genuinely desire to be led and controlled by the Holy Spirit.
4. One must deal with his/her sins, confessing them, getting rid of them.
5. One must abandon his/her own will to God's will, thus dying to self.
6. One must acknowledge through FAITH the will of the Holy Spirit.
 - How does one "feel" when saved? How does one "feel" the control of the Holy Spirit?

CONCLUSION:

1. Salvation is free to whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord.
2. The Holy Spirit is freely given to every person who calls upon the name of the Lord.
3. The believer/Christian is saved but still free to choose how he/she will live his/her life: as God wants or as he/she wants.
4. It is God's will, God's plan for every Christian to be led by His indwelling Holy Spirit, to do, to be all that God has in mind for that believing person.
5. Christian, you have a choice! Live as you want or Live as God wants you to live, led, controlled by the Holy Spirit. The choice is yours.