

A Successful Christian Life

This is Surrender

To yield to the possession or power of another; deliver up possession of on demand or under duress: *to surrender the fort to the enemy; to surrender the stolen goods to the police.*

This is the Surrendered Life

Surrender means to yield ownership, to relinquish control over what we consider ours:

- our property,
- our time,
- our rights.

When we surrender to God, we are simply acknowledging that what we "own" actually belongs to Him. He is the giver of all good things.

We are responsible to care for what God has given us, as stewards of His property, but by surrendering to God, we admit that He is ultimately in control of everything, including our present circumstances.

Surrendering to God helps us to let go of whatever has been holding us back from God's best for our lives.

By surrendering to God, we let go of whatever has kept us from wanting God's ways first.

BUT we cannot merely surrender because you were told to do so.

In the war people surrendered because if they did not they would lose their life.

So they were forced to do this and had to submit to their captors will.

God does not operate in worldly ways.

He FIRST Surrendered HIS own SON and then gave us a choice to accept HIS surrender by surrendering our lives.

Once we accept His gift we then submit to His will.

But again God does not force us but He gives us the choice to live a life of blessing if we do.

Remember that it is not a life devoid of trouble, because we live in a world that is debased and the world will ask for it's pound of flesh.

What we need to do to live a Successful Christian Life is recognize that we will go through trials of every sort but God will be with us to show us how to negotiate the rapids.

There is a difference in surrendering to an enemy and surrendering to God.

SLIDES

So where do we start?

How do I start right – so I can lead a Successful Christian Life?

Here are Seven (7) points to help you.

1. Begin Right

Start here

SLIDE

Accept this Wholeheartedly!

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Do this!

Romans 10:13

“For, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Know this!

Romans 10:9

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God

⁹ Not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Thank God for this!

John 1:12

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

YOU ARE NOW A CHILD OF GOD.

So what is the next step?

2. Confess Christ Openly

Communicate your love for God.

God requires it.

Matthew 10:32

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.”

Don’t get caught in this trap!

Matthew 10:33

“But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.”

And if don’t know what to say first learn about God.

This is what He wants – We should represent Him CORRECTLY.

3. Study the Word

1 Peter 2:2

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”

Have you noticed how babies will “throw their toys” when they are hungry?

The Bible should be part of our daily diet (Spiritual)

2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,”

Without the Word of God you cannot live.

What you will do is exist.

Here are some practical points to ponder.

1. Have a REALISTIC plan to read the Word systematically / daily
2. Read Prayerfully
3. Study a topic.
4. Study a book
5. Study a character

Just some of the things you can do to help get into God's word.

Remember that God's word will have an answer for any circumstance that you are going through.

But you need to read it prayerfully.

4. Pray without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17

“Pray continually”

All of us long to connect with someone who can identify with our circumstances and share in our day-to-day life.

Prayer is just that - a personal experience and intimate connection with our loving Heavenly Father.

I don't know how you can do without it!

God is available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

He knows everything you ever did and He still loves you!

He knows your future too.

He has the best plans for your life.

He cares for you so much that He gave His Son so that you could be with Him forever.

So in return (although this should not be our motivation)
PRAY.

5. Go to work for Christ

Colossians 3:23-24

"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ."

We are called to Service for God!

We "Saved to Serve."

Ephesians 2:10

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

So God has a plan for us to do His work.

We need to spend time prayerfully reading His word and taking spiritual advise on God's plan for our lives.

6. Give LARGELY

Yep that is what I said.

Contentious issue hey!

GIVING LARGELY

A well-to-do farmer vowed to assist a poor family who had lost everything in a fire. He promised not only money but also a large ham from his smokehouse. On the way to get the ham, though, a little voice inside his head encouraged him to give the smallest ham he had. The man listened a moment, but then called upon God's strength to overcome the temptation. "If you don't keep still," he threatened the voice, "I'll give that poor man every ham in my smokehouse." No doubt the farmer recognized the spiritual benefit he'd receive simply by sharing his blessings.

Have you noticed that the more you give to God, the more he gives back to you? This might be called the believer's advantage. You can be certain that when we're generous, God will return multiplied material blessings as well. Jesus said, "You won't regret it. No one who has sacrificed home, spouse, brothers and sisters, parents, children—whatever—will lose out. It will all come back multiplied many times over in your lifetime. And then the bonus of eternal life!" (Luke 18:29–30 MSG).

Don't listen to that little voice inside telling you to give less. Give **largely**; give your best, knowing that this pleases God and benefits everyone.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work

7. Keep Pushing on

Philippians 3:13-14

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

WE MUST NOT GIVE UP!

What happens when we do?

We move back to the old self that does not want to commit to serving God.

Press On toward the goal!

Conclusion

This is the surrendered Life.

You are submitting to God and His will.

Listen to this story

“I remember going to visit "Mum" she was my surrogate grandma, when I was growing up. She lived in a cabin in the woods, cooked amazing Pot pie, played a mean hand of Canasta and she loved Jesus with all her heart.

She had a simple and deep, abiding faith, and I loved to go to her home and rest. Even as a teen, I was aware of the heaviness of life at times, and I always found it restful, simple at Mum's and that somehow life made sense.

She was always humming or singing old hymns and one of her favorites was "I Surrender All." I think that I learned a lot of theology, just hanging out with her, and this hymn was sacred to her, along with Everlasting Arms. As I grew and learned more of her life story, I understood why. The very fact that she could live surrendered to God, trusting and believing, not blindly, but Faith-filled and at rest, I admired and simultaneously could not grasp.

This past year has been one of ambivalence... of push-pull with a call to surrender and trust that has been like nails on a chalkboard to my "type A" personality. I modified Mum's song to "I Surrender Some" and was doing fine, thank you very much...

Remember the cliché about "FINE" (feeling insecure, neurotic, & emotional) well, while I wasn't necessarily "fine" I was feeling sick, tired and sick of being sick and tired... so obviously surrendering some, wasn't really working!

So, after a lengthy battle, I decided that God wins and I would reassess. Which translates to Rest, lots of rest and doctor visits, listening and yep, you guessed it... SURRENDER!

This meant saying "no, but thanks for asking, maybe at another time..." A lot...

A lot more than I did in the past, A lot more than I like to... and trusting that God would bring opportunities back around another day, month... year...

It was during this season of Surrender that a dear friend said these words to me regarding faith: "Faith is not Believing that God Can, it is Knowing He Will."

These simple words rocked my world, as I thought about how much I believe... and yet don't surrender and trust... because when it comes right down to it... I don't think i KNOW.

As I studied Scripture, I found many examples of Faith filled folks who Knew God Would...

And so I am camped there... learning to surrender....

Anonymous.

Amen