Six Secrets to the Christian Life

Introduction

Question: How does the Christian live the Christian Life?

Proposed Answers: Working really hard at it.

Will Power – Simply by determining to do so.

Dedication – Giving God everything you got.

Total Surrender – “Letting go and Letting God”

The Problem: The Christian inhabits a spiritually dead body.

Romans 8:10-11

Romans 8:10a

“If Christ is in you, **the body is dead** because of sin...”

Romans 8:10a

“If you have believed in Christ, then Christ is now living in you, even though **your physical body is dead spiritually** because of indwelling sin,

Things Received at Salvation: When you believe, you receive,

Believe

Eternal Life

Christ in You Dead Body

New Life

When you believe you receive these gifts (amongst other things) in your inner man which inhabits the spiritually dead body.

In your inner man your inward being or nature changes, but your physical body, the flesh remains the same, unchanged, still possessing sinful inclinations.

The new life in the inner man has no effect on the dead body. The dead body is completely unresponsive to this new life in your human spirit.

The new inner you possessed with eternal life desires to do good or to do what is right, but the flesh wages war with your inner self bringing you into captivity to it, due to its sinful power.

Romans 7:18b

“the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.”

Romans 7:22

“For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”

Romans 7:24

“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

The Problem: Even though the Christian has received new life, it has no power to effect change in the dead body. Every human effort to effect change ends in frustration.

Romans 8:10b

“but **the Spirit is life** because of righteousness.”

It is because of imputed righteousness that the Holy Spirit is able to inhabit the same spiritually dead physical house in which we live.

And everyone who believes in Christ for eternal life, possess the Holy Spirit,

Romans 8:9b

“Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

Romans 7:11

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

Believe

New Life Dead Body

Righteousness

His Spirit Life

It is through the power of the His Spirit that gives new **life** to our spiritually dead body.

The Christian life is not lived by our own human effort but by the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit.

Secret #1 – **The Christian Life is a Miracle of Resurrection**

**How** does the Spirit of God resurrect a spiritually dead body?

2 Corinthians 3:18

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

The Solution: The Spirit by His power through the process of transformation brings life to our spiritually dead body.

**Transformation Process**

**Looking into the Mirror** -

“When we all, with unveiled face, see in **a mirror** the glory of the Lord,” (3:18a)

The mirror is the Scriptures both Old and New. The Bible as a whole is the instrument that the Holy Spirit uses to change us.

And the Scriptures are about Jesus Christ, It’s His story.

“…these Scriptures… are they which testify of **Me**” (John 5:39)

“…beginning with Moses and all the prophets he explained to them all the Scriptures the things concerning **Himself**” (Luke 24:37)

**Unveiled Face** -

“When we all, **with unveiled face**, see in a mirror the glory of the Lord,” (3:18a)

Background: Exodus 34:29-34

Moses’s face glowed after speaking to the Lord. Whenever Moses spoke to the Lord or to the people of Israel what the Lord had said he spoke to them with an unveiled face. The rest of the time he kept it veiled.

The unveiled face is having a complete openness and exposure to the Word and the Lord of Glory.

Paul states that Israel’s mind was blinded; a veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament” (2 Corinthians 3:13-16), because of unbelief.

Believing removes the veil, and then understanding follows. Faith in Christ is prerequisite for “beholding… the glory of the Lord. “As a result, it is also a precondition for experiencing the Spirit’s transforming power.” (Hodges p. 24)

**Continuous Faith**

“It only takes a moment of faith to believe in Christ and be eternally saved.” But we need to **continue to believe** in Him to experience the process of growth and change.

Galatians 2:20

“…the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith** in the Son of God,”

With an unveiled face, with openness and continuous faith, we look into the Scriptures. This is the instrument the Holy Spirit uses in the transformation process to bring life by His power to our dead spiritual bodies.

From Glory to Glory

“are being transformed into the same image **from glory to glory**, (3:18b)

The transformation process is neither immediate, nor automatic, and can be regressive.

It occurs from one stage of transformation to another, “from glory to glory”

**The Goal** of the transformation process is increasing conformity to the likeness of God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

“just as **by the Spirit** of the Lord.” (3:18b)

This process is clearly not our work, but the work of the Holy Spirit

Secret #2 – **The Christian Life is a Miracle of Transformation**