

Pleasing God

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We all have in our being a void, an empty space (almost in our DNA) that only God can fill. We hunger for something to fill the emptiness inside but may not recognize that only the Lord can truly satisfy that longing. In our search for meaning, we often turn to other things - money, success, relationships, achievements - hoping they will provide the fulfillment we seek.

Then, one day we hear about Jesus Christ and His Word, the Bible.

We take all the necessary steps to become His Disciple and take on the name "Christian". We are sorry for our sins, we repent and are

① buried with Him in Baptism. We receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

★ Read Romans 6: 1-14 - Randy Reads

- So what is this "Newness of Life"?

- What is this "New Creation"?

- What is this "New Birth"?

You are Not the Same -

It's Not the End
But A New Beginning

you are now a Child of God

And as His child, you may be disciplined

★ Read Hebrews 12: 7-11

You are Now added to the Body of

①A Christ - His Church

★ Read Romans 12: 5-8

You are now to be an example to everyone around you

Jesus says "You are the Light of the world. - Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.

You are now a soldier - a warrior - in God's army.

Ephesians 6:13-17 tells us to put on the whole armor of God to be spiritually equipped for life's Battles and to stand against Satan. 1 Peter 5:8 tells us that Satan is like a roaring Lion seeking for someone to devour. He already has the world so his mission is to pull Christians back into his world. - So remember every day to put on the whole armor of God.

There are some habits and sins that we need to give up - and we can with God's help and the prompting of the Holy Spirit -

★ Read Charles Stanley's card -

Jim Elliott and his wife, Elizabeth were missionaries to Ecuador. Jim was killed in 1956 by the very Native people he was trying to teach the Gospel. Jim wrote in his journal in 1949 while in college - "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep - to gain that he cannot lose -"

The idea is "Don't cling to temporary things like money, comfort, even your own life because you can't keep them anyway. Instead trade them for eternal things with God that you can't lose"

The question is "What is the ONE thing that we can do to please God?"

Although we are saved by Grace and not by works, we naturally want to thank Him for all His Blessings.

With every Blessing comes a responsibility on our part.

Since the beginning of time, man has tried to please God through animal sacrifices, prayers, works of charity and worship. And though good in themselves, we still can feel that something is missing.

We are created with Self Will. We can choose how we want to live.

We can choose God or reject Him.

IN the end, No matter how hard we try - IN order to please God, we must Surrender Our Will for God's Will

* Luke 9:23 -

Jesus said "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me

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This is a quote from Corrie ten Boom

"I have held many things in my hands
and I have lost them all; but
whatever I have placed in God's hands
that I still possess."

Surrender does not mean we will
never experience loss

Sometimes faith is not asking God to
place something back into our hands

Some time faith is opening our hands
and saying - "Lord I trust this
more in your hands than in mine

Hold earthly things gently -

Hold tightly to God -

THIS IS SURRENDER

Come Willing TO GOD

WITH HANDS WIDE OPEN & FREE

LY

There is Peace in Surrender

There is Joy in Surrender

There is Freedom in Surrender

- Give it to God -

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How can we know the Will of God?

He gave us the Ten Commandments through Moses. Although we live under a New and better Covenant, the Ten Commandments are a good foundation for moral and Godly living.

- Jesus taught us, not only by word but by example. He taught us how to live - how to love - how to pray - How to forgive
- We have Paul's letters to the churches instructing Christians how to behave in the House of God - the Family of God.
- We have the inspired word of God - the Bible - We have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us as we pray and seek God's will -

2 Peter 3:9 Tells us that He does not want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance -

All God really wants is YOU -

★ Ecclesiasts 12:13 Fear God and Keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of mankind

★ Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ giving thanks to God the Father through Him

Hold nothing back - Everyday stuff - work - eating - talking - gets redefined as worship when it's done for Christ.

Surrendering to God is challenging. But God has bigger plans for us, and we fail to realize this until we let go and see for ourselves that God Knows Best -

A → Read Insert - A

In the Bible, full surrender means prioritizing God's will over your own, letting go of personal ego and trusting His direction - We die to self. Full surrender is rarely a one-time event. It is a daily decision to yield your mind, body and desires to God. Letting go of your need to control and trusting in a higher plan.

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There will be times when you get angry with God and ask "Why me?" If you really love me, why did you let this happen? When we have to drink the Bitter cup, Remember Christ's prayer in Gethsemane - "Father, let this cup pass from me - yet, Not my will but Thine be done"

So, in order to fill that Void that we mentioned in the beginning - requires total surrender - total submission - Total Trust as we pray every day

Not My Will, Lord Jesus, But Thine ~~BE DONE~~ Amen

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YOU ARE A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST

GOD HAS MADE YOU A NEW
CREATION IN CHRIST JESUS.
YOUR OLD SELF IS GONE. THE NEW
YOU IS EMPOWERED BY THE
HOLY SPIRIT AND CLOTHED IN
CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.
YOU ARE HIS MASTERPIECE.

Charles F. Stanley



THEREFORE IF ANYONE IS
IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW
CREATURE; THE OLD THINGS
PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD, NEW
THINGS HAVE COME.

—2 COR. 5:17

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YOU ARE INDWELT BY THE
HOLY SPIRIT (JOHN 14:17)

YOU HAVE BEEN SET FREE FROM
THE POWER OF SIN
(ROM. 6:6)

YOU ARE EMPOWERED TO LIVE
A RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY LIFE
(EPH. 4:24)



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