

What does scripture say about the character of the new life in Christ?

Ephesians 4:17-32:

¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.”

²³ Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

²⁵ Putting away lying, “*Let each one of you* speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another.”

²⁶ “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give place to the devil.”

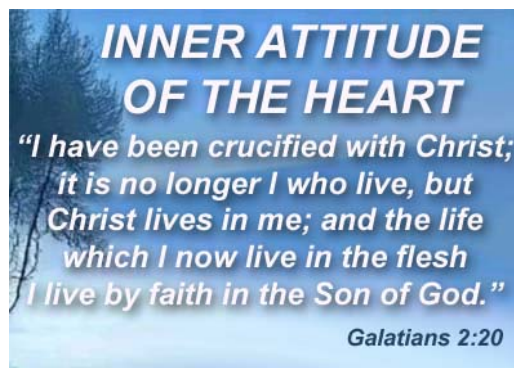
²⁹ “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

³⁰ “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

³² “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

Am I ready to live the “Full Circle Christian Life” character traits?

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To be born again clearly indicates that our confession of faith in Christ incorporate that we live to abide in Him, in His Word, and not live like the world.

The reason why Jesus clearly said:

John 15:4, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."

Luke 9:23, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

John 15:10, "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love."

John 8:31, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."

As such:

1 John 2:6, "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

Why?

Proverbs 28:26, "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered."

Therefore:

Colossians 3:2, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

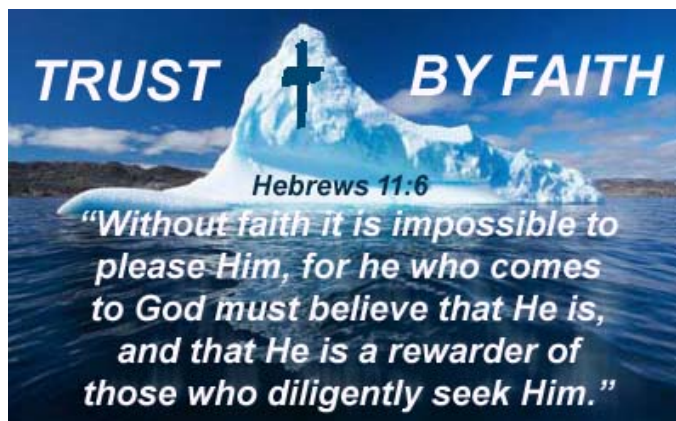
Romans 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

What's more?

Hebrews 12:1-2, "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith."

How steadfast am I to run the race to follow Christ from the heart?

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How is true faith in Christ expressed in the life of a born again believer? Colossians 2:6-7, "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

As such:

Romans 1:17, "The just shall live by faith."

The purpose being:

1 Peter 1:8-9, "Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls."

What's more?

1 Corinthians 2:5, "Your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."

How do I build and strengthen my faith in Christ?

Hebrews 4:12, "The word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

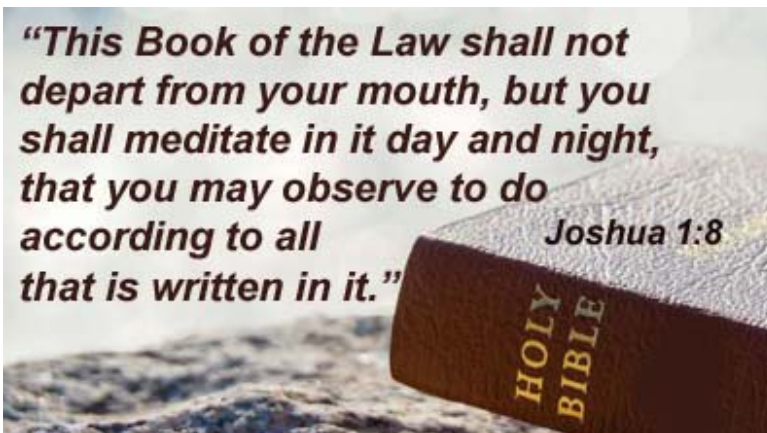
Romans 10:17, "So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Therefore:

1 Timothy 6:12, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

Is my faith routed and built up in Christ, so I truly follow Him as Lord?

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How does the Word of God lead and empower a believer to follow Christ as Lord?

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

As such:

Romans 15:4, "Whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

The reason Jesus said:

Matthew 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

What's more?

Isaiah 55:11, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it."

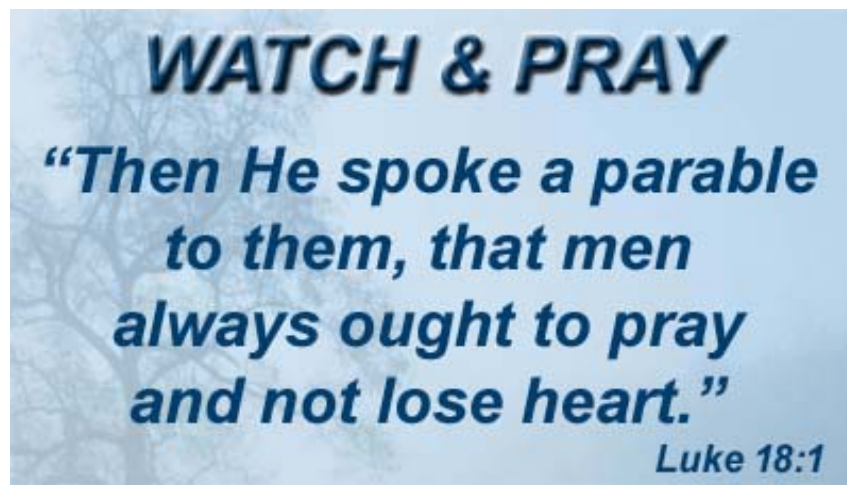
Psalms 1:1-2, "Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night."

Therefore:

2 Timothy 2:15, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

How dedicated am I to meditate on, and live by God's Word right now?

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How did Jesus teach us to pray?

Matthew 6:6: "When you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

Then in verse 7 He added, "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen *do*. For they think that they will be heard for their many words."

As such:

Philippians 4:6-7, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Why?

Psalms 145:18, "The LORD *is* near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth."

What's more?

Matthew 26:41, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, "Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Therefore:

Hebrews 4:16, "Let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

How steadfast am I to pray, so as to guard my heart and mind through Christ Jesus?

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BEARING FRUIT TO THE GLORY OF GOD

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

John 15:1-2

As born again believers in Christ, why must we bear fruit to the glory of God?

Ephesians 2:10, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

As such Jesus said:

John 15:16, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

John 15:5, “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

John 15:8, “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

What’s more?

Matthew 7:19, “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Luke 14:27, “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.”

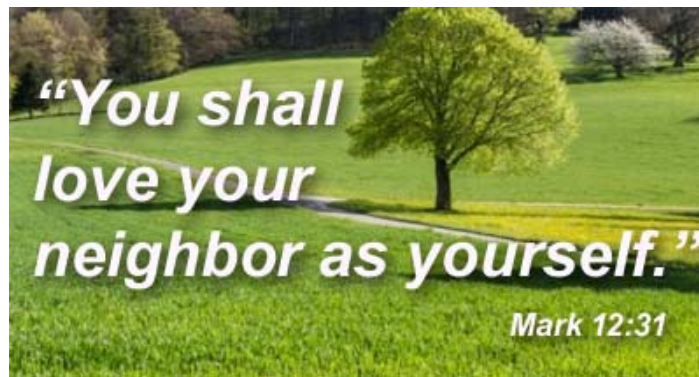
How then are we to bear fruit?

Colossians 1:10, “Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Colossians 3:23, “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”

How dedicated and steadfast am I to bear fruit to the glory of God?

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What is the true meaning and importance of love from God's perspective?

1 Corinthians 13:4-6, "Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth."

1 Corinthians 13:13, "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love."

Why?

1 John 4:8, "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

As such Jesus commanded us:

John 15:12, "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Matthew 7:12, "Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them."

What's more?

Luke 6:27, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."

Conversely we are warned:

1 John 2:15 "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Therefore:

1 John 4:7, "Let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

1 John 3:18, "Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

Colossians 3:14, "Put on love, which is the bond of perfection."

How sincerely and truthfully do I love God, and as such loving my neighbor as myself?

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SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

“Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Ephesians 4:1-3

As parents and followers of Christ, how are we to lead our family so as to exalt the love of Christ and keep the unity of spirit?

Deuteronomy 6:5-7, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children.”

Colossians 1:10-11, “Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy.”

Titus 2:7-8, “In all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of good works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned.”

What’s more?

Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Ephesians 6:4, “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

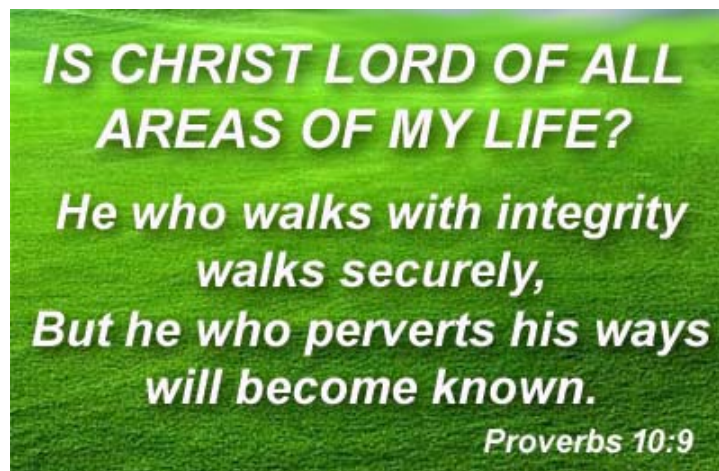
Therefore:

1 Peter 3:8, “Be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted.”

Joshua 24:15, “As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Do I lead my family in the love and Spirit of Christ?

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Lies and deception are oftentimes found in the workplace. As such, how should a believer in Christ act and lead, so as to abide in Him?

Proverbs 4:25-27, "Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil."

And as Jesus said:

Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Why?

Proverbs 12:22, "Lying lips *are* an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully *are* His delight."

Proverbs 11:3, "The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them."

What's more?

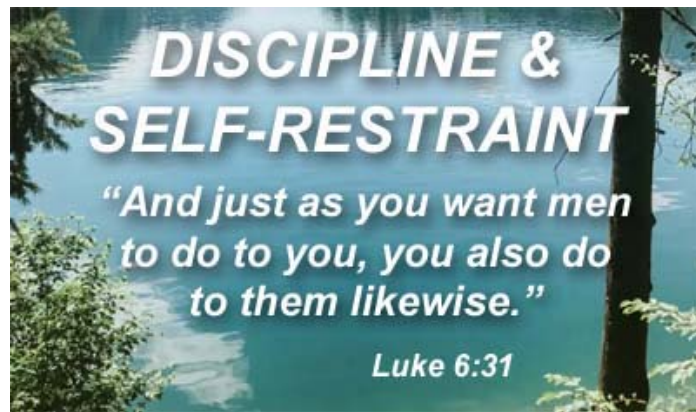
Colossians 3:23-24, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ."

Therefore:

Philippians 4:8, "Whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things."

How evident is the light of Christ through my interactions with people?

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How does the Word of God teach us to live so that we carry the light of Christ, even in difficult and challenging situations?

James 1:12, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."

Why?

Romans 8:28, "We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose."

As such:

Colossians 4:6, "*Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."

Romans 12:17, "Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men."

What's more?

James 1:2-4, "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

In Jesus' own words:

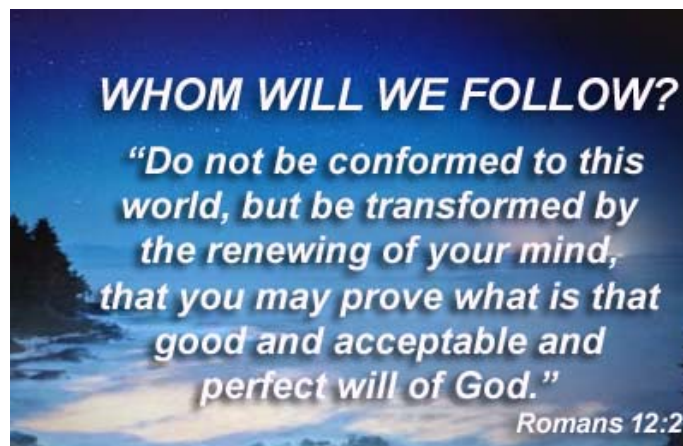
John 16:33, "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Therefore:

Romans 12:12, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

Do I carry the light of Christ at all times, even in difficult, challenging and unfair situations?

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In accordance with the Word of God, how must we live to abide in Christ and not be conformed to the world?

2 Corinthians 6:14, “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”

Why?

1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

Proverbs 13:20, “He who walks with wise *men* will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.”

On the other hand:

1 John 3:24, “Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him.”

As such Jesus said:

John 17:15-16, “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

Therefore:

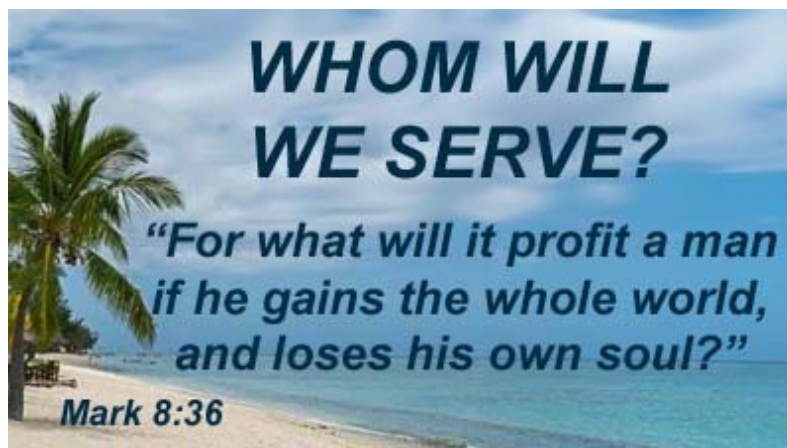
Colossians 2:8, “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

What’s more?

Ephesians 5:11, “Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.”

How committed am I to follow Christ in not being yoked together with unbelievers?

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The rat race in our society to get rich quick is so pervasive that it destroys lives as a result.

As such, what does the Word of God teach us?

1 Timothy 6:6-7, “Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.”

How must we then live so as to not make money and possessions our god?

In Jesus’ own words:

Luke 12:15, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

Matthew 6:24, “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

What’s more?

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Why?

1 Timothy 6:10, “For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil.”

Therefore:

1 Timothy 6:17, “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.”

Is my trust in God, or have money and possessions become my god and the pursuit of my life?

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