

Maintaining your Christian Life



In order to have a healthy, joyful, victorious Christian life you need to *maintain* it. Salvation happens at a moment, praise God for that! But from thenceforth, you need to do routine maintenance in order to have a glorious and Spirit filled Christian life. In order to continue and grow from the good start God gave you when you were born again, you need to put forth some effort of your own, with God's help in order to grow up into Jesus Christ and mature in the LORD.

This truth is plainly demonstrated in all of creation. We know everything left to it self decays, and withers, gets corrupted, and dies (Hebrews 1:10-12). You cut the grass every week for 30 years, but if you stop cutting the grass at that point, the grass will continue to grow and weeds will come up. You can wash your car every week, but if you stop washing your car, it will get dirty and dirtier and dirtier. You can take a shower every day for 50 years, but if you decided to stop showering, after a few days you will begin to stink! Do you get my point? Likewise, you can live for the LORD for years and years, but if you decide to stop and take a break, your life will be overrun with thorns and nettles in no time.

Evolution doesn't make sense in the world we all live in. However I do believe in evolution. I believe one day I am going to evolve into something much greater! My change will come in a moment (1 Corinthians 15:47-57, Philippians 3:20-21, Psalm 17:13-15, Job 19:25-27)!

Proverbs 24:30-34

24:30 A lazy person is void of understanding

24:31 His field and vineyard “was grown over with thorns”

Compare that to what Jesus said in Luke 8:5-15, Mark 4:14-20. When you get lazy in your Christian life, and don't maintain it, the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17) come in a choke the word of God that you received that it can't bring forth fruit. Doesn't this fit the bill of our Laodecian Church Age (Revelation 3:14-22). In the last days leading up to the return of Jesus Christ people are lovers of pleasures and the things of the world (2 Timothy 3:1-9). When you start to get lax in your relationship with the Lord you will start to become worldly. That is a fact (1 John 4:4-6, Romans 8:5, 12:1-2). You ought to be different from the world!

That “stone wall” is a picture of protection in your Bible (Nehemiah 4:3, Exodus 14:22, 2 Chronicles 32:1-5, Zechariah 2:5). Notice how an enemy did not break down the stone wall, it was broken down because he did not maintain it. Are you hearing me?

24:33-34 If you slack of just a little bit, and get a little lazy, you are headed for trouble. Christian you need to maintain your relationship with the LORD in doesn't come automatically, you need to work at it!

Characteristics of someone who is dying spiritually

Slothful: Proverbs 15:19, 21:25, 26:13-16, Matthew 25:26

A lazy person refuses to labor, he is caught up in the world, he always makes excuses, he sleeps too much (out of balance), he is wise in his own conceits (excessive pride in himself), a lazy person will be punished, a slothful person doesn't labor for the LORD

Sluggard: Proverbs 6:6-11, 10:26, 13:4, 20:4

A sluggard doesn't work, sleeps a lot, and will come to poverty, no one likes to ask a sluggard to perform a task, the sluggard dreams big dreams but it doesn't amount to anything because he is lazy, he makes excuses

The Bible says AWAKE! (Romans 13:11-14, Ephesians 5:14-21)

How do you maintain your Christian Life?

The Lord likens us to something he planted (Isaiah 60:21, Psalm 80:8, 15; 92:13, Isaiah 5:1-7, Jeremiah 2:21, Matthew 15:12-13, Romans 6:5, 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-47)

A plant needs water and sunlight in order to grow and produce fruit! Hallelujah! You don't need a college education or have to go to Bible school to understand what you need to do in order to produce fruit for God!

What was the first occupation on the face of the earth? (Genesis 2:7-17)

Before the fall:

Working in the garden was easy and enjoyable. There were no “thorns” or “nettles”, there was always enough water and sun light – and best of all, God was there!

After the fall what happened?

God cursed the ground (picture of our flesh (Romans 7:18)). Isn't it a struggle to produce fruit from bad ground? Thank God though he has given you a new start, a new man that is incorruptible, his Spirit that dwells within you, God dwells in you to will and to actually perform what he desires (Philippians 2:13), that you may bring forth fruit unto God, but we still have to deal with the flesh – but not forever! Sorrow is now mingled in with bearing fruit – how true is that (Psalm 126:6). Now you have to deal with the world when trying to bear fruit for the LORD (the ground bringing forth thorns and thistles) and they always try to choke the word. It takes much effort (the sweat of your brow) to produce something from the ground that is edible (i.e. that is well pleasing in sight – Romans 12:1-3) and is good for someone to eat and gain nourishment from!

Our life ought to be like a tree planted by a river (Psalm 1, Jeremiah 17:5-10, Revelation 22:1-2)

What you need to do:

You need to water yourself (Ephesians 5:25-26, 1 Peter 2:1-3) Get in the Book!
Get enough sunshine, you need to soak up the “Sun” (Malachi 4:2) Have fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ

What not to do:

Don't be a cloud and block out the Son from shining (Let your light SO shine!)
Don't be the moon and try to eclipse the Son that they may see you instead of Jesus!
Don't try to feed a plant with your “miracle grow”, the water of the word is just fine! (In other words, just give them the Bible, don't give them anything else).
Don't get upset when the fruit doesn't show up immediately, it takes some time amen!

Get working in your garden!!!!