

**Live  
for  
Christ**

**a 30 Day Devotional**

**by Brian Fletcher**

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612 Watch Hill Rd  
Midlothian, Virginia 23114  
(804) 931-7777  
[fletch@springrunpc.org](mailto:fletch@springrunpc.org)

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# INTRODUCTION

You have been transformed! God has created life. He has created you and me to live life to the fullest. Living life to the fullest means that we live for His glory. Apart from our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, there is no meaning, purpose or significance to life. Therefore, everything we do, we do to the glory of God.

The Christian life is meant to be centered around Christ, not us. Our whole lives are being transformed from self-centered people to Christ-centered people. When we became Christians, we changed. Our "old lives" were put away and we were given "new lives" in Christ. For some of us the change has been extremely radical, for others, it was less dramatic. Either way, the significance of the change that is taking place is monumental and eternal. The decision you made to surrender your life to Christ and follow Him will last for eternity. You will never make a more important decision in your life.

Studying the Bible is an essential part of living the Christian life. The Bible is God's perfect and unchangeable Word to us. Many people approach the Bible with the question, "What does God want me to do?" But in reality, the Bible is all about what God has already done for us through Jesus. The central figure and message of the Bible is Jesus Christ, his life, death, resurrection, and reign over the universe.

So, before you attempt to apply a passage of Scripture you need to look for the gospel message first. The gospel message is going to tell you what God has done for you, how He has transformed your heart and given you new desires. Then you will be able to apply the passage and see how God wants you to live out this new life in Christ.

All for Jesus,

Fletch

# THE BIBLE is a story and this story started in a garden...

God, the Creator of the Universe, had created man and woman in His own image. He placed them in the Garden of Eden, a place of perfect paradise. They had all they needed and were fully satisfied, or so it seemed. One day a serpent approached them and made them an offer. He said that if they ate of the tree of knowledge, which God had forbid them to do, then they would become like God. Adam and Eve decided this would be a good thing for them to do. Unfortunately, it was the worst thing they could have done. They disobeyed God and would have to face the consequences. The consequences included, a broken relationship with God, getting cast out of paradise, hard labor (for the man and woman), and eventually death. The creation would sustain consequences as well. Weeds, thorns, catastrophic weather, disease, sickness and many other disastrous effects. The entire world was thrown into immediate chaos.

But God, who is rich in mercy, had planned for a restoration process. This included a Redeemer who would come and save the world from this dreadful condition and bring complete renewal to all those who believed in Him. The Bible tells the story of this Redeemer, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who would come and save His people from their sin through His life, death and resurrection.

We call this story the gospel. Gospel literally means "good news". As you just read this brief overview of the story you saw that after man was created, he quickly found himself in dire need to be saved. His own sin had brought him a death sentence. That's the "bad news". The "good news" is that God has sent a Savior, Jesus Christ, who has come to pay the penalty of death for our sins. The gospel is good news because it reveals to us a merciful and loving God who has chosen to save His people.

However, this gospel is not meant to sit stagnant in the realm of only getting us into heaven. The gospel is meant to sustain us every day as we understand it deeper and allow it to transform us. Regular Bible study and prayer will help us to know and understand the gospel daily.

# 10 WAYS TO PURSUE CHRIST

**1 Read your Bible and Pray.** You need to make reading your Bible and praying a top priority in your life. The more you read and study, the more interested and excited you will be about it. Share what you are learning with your leader and your friends. Ask lots of questions and learn as much as you can. And remember, you are not just learning about God, you are getting to know God. Praying is a way in which we communicate with God. Prayer is opening your heart up to God. God wants us to come to him boldly but with humility.

**2 Spend time with your leader.** You need someone who will disciple you and help you understand what it means to live the Christian life. Your leader loves spending time with you, sharing their own life and experiences in Christ with you. Stay as close to them and learn as much as you can from them.

**3 Get involved in Campaigners.** It's critical that you surround yourself with other believers who are following hard after Christ. Coming together each week for Bible Study, worship and ministry training is what you need to be doing. You will need the encouragement of your friends and leaders, and they need your encouragement as well.

**4 Understand you have a New Identity.** Once you put your faith in Christ you become a new person. The Bible says you are a child of God, you have been made righteous and holy based on the righteousness of Christ given to you. The transformation in your life will be gradual but consistent. You will begin to have new desires and a new perspective on life. Your new life is now centered on Christ and not on yourself.

**5 Know that your Eternal Destiny is Secure.** Once God makes you his child and brings you into a relationship with himself through faith in Christ, he will never let you go. You can be fully assured of this because God has made a promise to you, he will never leave you or forsake you.

**6 Receive God's grace every day.** You must understand that God loves you unconditionally because of what Jesus has done for you. This means that there is nothing you can do to cause God to love you any less than he does now, and there is nothing you can do to cause God to love you anymore than he does now. God pours out his grace into your life all day every day. God's grace given to you through Jesus fills you up and overflows to those around you.

**7 Get involved in ministry.** Your Young Life club is the most impactful ministry that will ever come to your school. Grab your campaigner friends and start loving, caring for and serving the kids at your school. There will be no other time in your life where you will have the opportunities you have now, to band together with other believers and reach out to non-believers.

**8 Worship.** You were created to worship God. Worship can happen in a thousand different ways, but here a few main places. The first is personal worship. This takes place between you and God, most likely while you are reading your Bible and praying. But also maybe while you listen to worship songs or in glorifying God through your acts of service to others. The second is corporate worship. This is simply when you get together with other believers to sing, hear the Bible taught and pray with one another. Go to church. Find a church in your area that preaches the gospel faithfully. Ask your Young Life leader to take you to church with them.

**9 Live in the rhythm of repentance and faith.** As you grow in Christ and live out your faith, you will fail and sin against God. While God has already forgiven your past, present and future sins, he still desires for us to confess those sins to him. Once we've confessed our sins, then we turn away from them and turn back to Christ in faith. Believe that the promises of God are better than the promises of the world.

**10 Don't give up.** Starting out as a Christian can be really difficult. Everything is so new, you make lots of mistakes, and some people even think you are weird for the decision you made. But God has put his indelible mark on your life and he will never let you go. Trust the power of Christ living in you for encouragement, for help and comfort, and for strength and courage to live for Christ.

# 01: NEW CREATIONS

*Jesus Christ creates new people when His relationship with them is restored. Jesus gives us a new heart and a new identity. The quest for life centers around Jesus and His plan for our lives.*

## PRAY

Pray that God will open your eyes and your heart to understand this passage and apply it to your life today.

## READ

II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20

## EXPLORE

1. Do you feel like a “new creation”? How would you explain the change that took place in your life when you became a Christian?
2. What does the writer mean when he says, “I have been crucified with Christ”?
3. By what power do you live your life now?

## LIVE

1. How are you going to remind yourself that you live by faith in Christ and not by faith in yourself?
2. What is one thing that you will do today to show that you are a “new creation”?
3. Memorize II Corinthians 5:17 and hide it in your heart.

SAMPLE



## 02: OBEDIENT FAITH

*"... Jesus Christ is your life ..." This phrase helps us understand that Jesus lives in and through us. Becoming a Christian is not about just living according to a new set of rules but allowing Jesus to live through us.*

### PRAY

Pray that you will listen to what God is saying to you today. Ask Him to give you the courage to obey Him.

### READ

Romans 1:5; John 14:21; Job 17:9

### EXPLORE

1. Where does obedience come from?
2. What "proves" our love for Christ?
3. What will happen if we obey the ways of God?

### LIVE

1. How could your faith effect your obedience to Christ today?
2. How do you think Christ might show Himself to you today?
3. How can you live a "righteous" life today?

## 03: RENEWED IN CHRIST

*God has saved His people by His own amazing, free grace. We did not deserve it nor do we earn it by our good works. We cannot even pay God back for His love and mercy. God has an infinite amount of grace and He will spend an infinite amount of time showering us with it.*

### PRAY

Pray that God will open your eyes and your heart to understand this passage and apply it to your life today.

### READ

Colossians 3:1-11

### EXPLORE

1. What are some of the characteristics of the "old self" or "old nature"?
2. What image are we being renewed back into?
3. What do you think verse 3 means when it says, "for you died"?

### LIVE

1. Can you identify in your own life with the characteristics of the old self or old nature? Which ones?
2. What should our hearts be set on?
3. What does it mean that our lives are "hidden in Christ"?

## 04: NOT BY WORKS

*God wants each child of His to know with absolute certainty that He is their Father. Nothing can change that relationship. The assurance of believers gives them a sure hope and dependence upon God. Our eternal salvation rests on the character of God and His integrity.*

### PRAY

Pray that God will open your eyes and your heart to understand this passage and apply it to your life today.

### READ

Ephesians 2:8-10

### EXPLORE

1. What actually "saved" us, where did it come from?
2. Who are you in Christ?
3. Define "grace" in your own words.

### LIVE

1. What are the good works that God prepared in advance for us to do?
2. Do our good works cause God to love us any more or less?
3. If we cannot boast about our works, what can we boast in?

## 05: THAT YOU MAY KNOW

*Spiritual fruit is produced by living by the Spirit, not by trying to “be better” people. Believers cannot live the Christian life by “just doing it”. They must rely upon the Spirit of Christ to live in and through them.*

### PRAY

Confess a specific sin you have committed in the last day. Pray that God’s Word will help you to be sure of your salvation.

### READ

I John 5:1-13

### EXPLORE

1. What must you absolutely believe in your heart to be born of God?
2. What is the “testimony” talked about in verses 10-12?
3. What evidence should our lives show that we are Christians? (see v.3-5)

### LIVE

1. Do you ever doubt whether or not you are a Christian? How does this passage help you get rid of any doubt?
2. How can you “know” you have eternal life?
3. How will your assurance of salvation effect the way you live today?

SAMPLE