

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Al Denson Show and for tuning in every week to our program. My prayer for you is to be encouraged in your daily walk with Christ through the words of this booklet. Our hope is that in turn you will tell others of what God is doing through our ministry to youth and parents on TV. I am convinced you will not find another program on any network anywhere that deals with issues today's youth and their parents are facing, and provides answers from a Godly perspective.

In addition, we would love for you to help us by going to our web site at www.aldenson.com. Here you can write to us, order additional material like this booklet, check out all my music, have a daily bible study, and stay up to date on the ministry. You can also send us a prayer request and questions for the TV show. But more importantly, please continue to be in prayer with us as we work together to help those that are in need.

Thanks for watching and God Bless!

Sincerely,



An Outreach of Celebration Ministries

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Why Isn't The Christian Life Working For Me?





Most artists create for only a brief moment in time. That phenomenon was once known as “15 minutes of fame”. Yet even in a fickle world, there still emerge a talented few that transcends time and trends. With nearly 15 years as a major label recording artist and seven hit

albums to his credit, Al Denson is that kind of artist.

But the attention and acclaim his artistry has brought him over the years are anything but the routine rewards of worldly success. Rather, they are the fruits of a life of purpose and passion, and a mission that has always reached far beyond merely making music.

The millions of young people Al has performed for, befriended, counseled, consoled and clowned around with in his career already know that. And thousands more are finding out every day.

This past year has seen Al expand his efforts to a global audience through the reach of his daily syndicated television production, “The Al Denson Show.” “You’ve got to reach out to people where they are with the most powerful means and this form of media allows you to build trust and a rapport,” says Al. “This has all been so amazing. I can’t imagine what lies in store when the Lord finally calls me home, but I don’t have to wait for heaven to receive rewards. I get them every time a kid comes up to me and says, ‘I heard what you said, and I accepted Christ.’ You can’t ask for anything more or better than that.”

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It Is Finished is a wonderful song which describes the victory Christ won over sin for every Christian when He died on the cross. The chorus says, “It is finished, the battle is over. It is finished, there’ll be no more war. It is finished, the end of the conflict. It is finished, and Jesus is Lord.” That chorus sounds like the victorious Christian life should be a given for all Christians, doesn’t it? But there is a verse to this song, which, unfortunately, seems to be more the reality for most Christians. It says, “But in my heart, the battle was raging. Not all prisoners of war have come home. They were battle-fields of my own making, I didn’t know that the war had been won.”

Can you identify? Are you a Christian who hasn’t personally experienced a victory over sin? One for whom the Christian life just doesn’t seem to work? Perhaps you struggle with thoughts, desires, or habits you just can’t seem to control. Maybe your problem is anger, depression, anxiety, guilt, or bitterness that you just can’t let go. Perhaps you are a person who can’t seem to “do life,” like other people and you don’t know why. Maybe no matter how hard you try to be a “good Christian,” you always feel as if you have never done enough—like you are never able to please God. As a result, the joy, peace, meaning, and purpose in

life you hear other Christians talk about is something you have never experienced.

If you are a Christian who is struggling and defeated, and if victory in Christ sounds like either a cruel joke or a completely unattainable

pipe dream, then please read this booklet carefully because God has good news for you. Regardless of who you are or how many times you have failed, you can discover the truths that will unlock the door for you to live a victorious life.

In order to do this, you must first understand some basic facts:

Fact #1

God created you, and every

other human being, with three emotional needs:

- The need to feel loved
- The need to feel valuable and capable (the need for self-esteem)
- The need to feel you are not alone

He did this on purpose because the Bible says that “God is love” and that He loves you (1 John :9-10). When God created you with a deep desire for love, He did that so that you would be drawn to Him. If you didn’t need love, you wouldn’t need God. Every need you have in life, God gave you, so you would recognize your need for Him, and turn to Him to supply those needs. God created you to be totally dependent on Him for everything in your life.

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C. S. Lewis said that just as a car is made to run on gas and won't run properly on anything else, God made humans to run on Him. He is the only fuel on which the human spirit was designed to burn and feed. Apart from God there is no energy, no power, and no fulfillment for people in life. The problem is that when you were born, you did the same thing that your grandparents, Adam and Eve, did. They decided that they wanted to be in charge of their own lives and meet their own needs their own way. Instead of living dependently on God, they made the decision to live independently of God. You, also, crowned yourself King or Queen of your own world. At that point, you put yourself in charge of getting your needs met.

Fact #2

Early in life you set out to find what it would take to get your need for love and self-esteem met. Having these needs met is not optional because these are the deepest, strongest needs

you have. So, the minute you were born this became your primary goal in life. It did not take long for your little infant mind to begin devising techniques to get what you needed, like crying at the top of your lungs when you felt alone. As you grew to be a toddler, perhaps you added to your repertoire temper tantrums, or whining. When you got a little older, you may have figured out that being cute, funny, good, or even really bad would get you the attention you needed. You see, children always spell love T-I-M-E, so whatever it would take to get someone to pay attention to you, you learned to do.

As you grew up you may have also found that being a good student, athlete, or musician made you feel valuable and capable. Or maybe being loud, angry, or rebellious let everyone know who were there, so you wouldn't feel alone. You might have discovered that sex would make you feel loved for a while, or that fame, wealth, power, or prestige would bring you what you needed.

Fact #3

Like every other member of the human race, you programmed your brain as you were growing up with your own personal set of techniques in an attempt to get your needs met. In the Bible, God calls these techniques the "flesh." The flesh refers to all the ways, or patterns of behavior, by which you have attempted to get all your own needs met apart from God.

Then one day you come to Christ and get saved. But, instead of allowing Jesus to meet the need you have for acceptance, you continue to use the do-it-yourself techniques you have always used. Every defeated, struggling Christian has this as their underlying problem regardless of how they look to the world. The techniques some Christians use just work better than others.

For example, let's take three Christians and call them "A," "B," and "C." Christian A, is the person for whom nothing in life seems to work. He can't get his emotional needs met anywhere. This is the person the world would say, "just

can't get his act together." Christian B, is the person who hasn't been hugely successful, but isn't a total failure at getting his needs met, either. Christian C, is the guy who is highly skilled at getting others to meet his emotional needs, so therefore has high self-esteem and appears successful in the eyes of the world. A, B, and C may look to be very different on the surface, but all three of these Christians are on a "crash and burn course" because they are not trusting Christ to meet their needs.

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Acceptance is what the whole human race hungers for and is what it takes to have these needs met. The only place in this world to look for acceptance, apart from God, is to look to other people. You first looked to your parents and family for acceptance, then to the other significant people in your life. From these important people you received messages that conveyed either acceptance or rejection.

Perhaps the messages you received were not the messages they intended to transmit to you—they may have simply been loving people with faulty transmitters. Or perhaps one or more of these significant people in your life were not emotionally healthy and truly had serious problems of their own. Either way, you didn't learn about them because, at that point, your world was too small to process what was really happening—the only person you could learn about was you.

Dr. Bill Gillham says to imagine that you have an emotional scale inside you which ranges from 1-10, with a "1" being, "I feel OK about myself," to a "10" being, "I am totally unacceptable, I am defective and

unworthy of love." If you were always receiving negative messages about yourself when you were growing up, then your emotions were constantly going up and down on your emotional scale. Because emotions come back down slowly after they top out at "10," they may have only had time to get back down to a "7" on your emotional scale before you picked up another negative message about yourself. Eventually, after this happens so many times, your feeler bottoms out on "7" and won't go any lower. So, your scale gets reset, and now a "1" for you is really a "7."

From then on, you react to everything and everyone in your life with a stuck feeler. Even on your best day, your feelings of rejection are about a "7," so if you receive what you perceive to be a negative message about yourself, you only have three points left on your emotional scale until you hit a "10." Once again you have confirmed in your own mind that you are unacceptable, defective, and unworthy of love. These "10" feelings are so painful that you may react to the pain in one of

several ways: anger, rage, violence, depression, withdrawal, or escaping through addictive behaviors such as work, sex, drugs, alcohol, food, or excessive spending, or giving up on yourself, or even suicide.

Dr. Gillham goes on to say that your brain has within it a memory bank that has memories etched across it. These are habit patterns of how you act, feel, and think. The more you repeat these patterns, the deeper they become imbedded in your memory. These memories are like trails in your brain and the more you travel the trail, the more worn and the wider the trail

becomes. The trail eventually becomes a road and sooner or later a highway, the more time you spend in your habit pattern.

So, if you grow up believing you are not accepted, you will begin to cut highways in your mind of rejection, insecurity, fear, etc. Even when you get older and are able to see the truth more objectively, you will still have a feeler that is stuck at "7." So you are going to be much more sensitive, and react much, much faster to what you perceive as rejection than other people do. These overreactions will make you feel weird, out of control, and like a failure.

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When your life is built around rejection, you normally end up rejecting yourself and find you don't trust others. You never let anyone get too close for fear they will find out how defective you really are and reject you more. If someone does love you or gets too close, you will usually do something to make them reject you so your reality will match up with what you believe to be true. You want to succeed, but you deliberately fail. If you believe that you are worthless, your feeler will get stuck feeling worthless. If you believe you are inadequate, your feeler gets stuck feeling inadequate. If you believe you are ugly, believe you are a loser, believe you are a failure, etc., then that is where you will get stuck emotionally.

Once you have cut a highway of any of these negative emotions in your brain, the feeling that will follow will be guilt. You will feel guilty for taking up space on the earth or even breathing air. You will feel responsible for all the misery and problems around you. You will feel guilty for being so inadequate, so ugly, so defective, and unlovable. Are you guilty? No, but a person with a stuck feeler can't tell the difference between false guilt and real guilt. The only way for you to tell the difference is to look to

the Word of God. Emotions will lie and are unreliable, so the Bible is the only measuring stick you should use for truth—never your emotions.

Remember, all people learn early in life what it takes to get their needs met and some are more successful at doing this than others. You may be like Christian "A" who seems to have little going for him as far as the world is concerned and no matter what you do, you can't seem to find the acceptance you are looking for. Or you may be Christian "B" who gets some of his needs met some of the time. You may even be Christian "C" who seems to have everything the world says is important and as a result, has received a lot of acceptance from others.

But acceptance in this world comes with a price tag and it is called "performance." If you want the acceptance of others, then you must perform up to their standards and you must dance to their tune. Acceptance will be the "pay off" for services rendered. If you are talented enough, intelligent enough, good looking enough, funny enough, etc., you can earn their acceptance, maybe. But you will always have to keep dancing. You can't ever slow down or you will lose what you had to

the next guy. Regardless of who you are or how much acceptance you are able to milk out of others with your own techniques, you will never be satisfied or have the deepest needs of your heart met because God never created you to be fulfilled by anything or anyone other than Himself.

After you came to Christ, Satan knows he can never own you again. So the next best thing he can do is to keep you down and defeated. The

primary way he attempts to do this is to tempt you to go back and use the old techniques you used to get your needs met before you came to Christ. This can even be done in the church. You can still be the life of the party (or in this case, the fellowship), the "funny" guy, the best looking girl, the most knowledgeable Bible teacher or student, the most pious person, the person who "can't say no," or the biggest giver. Whatever it takes to get others to accept you.

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Trusting in the same old “flesh” techniques you have always used to generate acceptance from others, will never satisfy your God-given need for love and self-esteem because once again, God never created you to be fulfilled by anything or anyone other than Himself. He is the only one who can give you the acceptance you crave and satisfy your needs for love and self-esteem. If you, as a Christian, are still adjusting to the world’s demands to gain the acceptance of others, you are caught in a “flesh” trap and this is where your struggle lies. God wants you to know what Christ has made available to you, so you can be free from “walking after the flesh” and instead, have all your needs met in Him. Once you make this discovery, you’ll find that the Christian life really does work! So now that you know what your problem is, how does the problem get fixed? Perhaps an illustration will explain it best.

One day an Indian brave found an eagle’s egg and put it into the nest of a prairie chicken. The eaglet finally hatched with the brood of chicks and grew up with them. All his life, the eagle, thinking he was a prairie chicken, did what the prairie chickens did, he scratched in the dirt for seeds and insects to eat. He clucked and cackled. And he flew in a brief thrashing of wings and flurry of feathers no more than a few feet off the ground. After all, that’s how prairie chickens were supposed to fly.

Years passed and the eagle grew very old. One day, he saw a magnificent bird far above him in the sky. Hanging with graceful majesty on the powerful wind currents it soared with scarcely a beat of its strong golden wings. “What a beautiful bird!” he said to his neighbors. “What is it?” “That is an eagle—the chief of birds,” the neighbor clucked. “But don’t give it a second thought. You could never be like him.”

So the eagle died thinking he was a prairie chicken. The eagle spent his life looking up at the eagles and longing to join them among the clouds. But it never once occurred to him to lift his wings and try to fly himself. Growing up among prairie chickens, the eagle thought he was a prairie chicken, so he acted like a prairie chicken. How sad that he never realized who he really was and that he, too, could soar with the eagles.

If you are a struggling and defeated Christian, then you have the same problem the little eagle had—you don’t understand who you are. If you are striving for acceptance, you are fighting a battle that has already been won. If you are, don’t feel badly—you have lots of company, because one of the best kept secrets in Christianity is that God accepts His kids completely. If you are saved, you are not on a performance-based acceptance with God, you are on a Jesus-based acceptance with your

heavenly Father, and performance has nothing to do with it. Of course, how you live and your performance is important to God, but performance is about winning His approval, not His acceptance.

God accepts you perfectly in Christ. As Bill Gillham says, God doesn’t grade you on a one-to-ten scale, He grades pass-fail. His acceptance of you is not contingent on your performance, but on Jesus’ performance for us, which was perfect. If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then God has accepted you completely because that is how He accepts His Son. There is no way God could love or accept you more, and there is no way He could ever love and accept you less, no matter how often you do sin. For you to feel differently about yourself than God does, would mean that your

standards for acceptance are higher than God’s!

What you, like many other Christians have failed to understand is that salvation is a two-sided coin. Side 1 represents Jesus coming into the believer. Side 2 represents the believer being placed into Christ. Yes, Jesus is in you, but you are also in Him. You can’t have one without the other. For every one verse in the New Testament that talks about Jesus being in the believer, there are ten verses that talk about the believer being in Christ. You have probably heard a hundred sermons on how to get Jesus to come into you, but maybe very few, if any, on what it means to be “in Christ.” If the Bible mentions being “in Christ” ten times more than “Christ in you,” then understanding who you are in Christ and what this means, may be the answer to your problem.

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To begin with, you must understand that Christ created all things, the Bible says in John 1:3. If anything exists in its natural state, Jesus created it. This includes the time dimension. Time was created by Him. Therefore, He is not time dimensional. If He were, the created would be superior to the Creator. Yes, at a point in history, Jesus chose to willingly enter time and space for about thirty-three years. But He lives in eternity, and in eternity, there is no past and no future—there is only the present.

The second you were saved, the Bible says God placed you “in Christ.” That means your old, sinful self, your sin nature, was crucified on the cross with Christ and buried with Jesus. (Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:6, Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12). And, it also means that when Christ was raised from the dead, that a new, lovely, godly you was raised with Him. And now the Word says you are “seated at the right hand of God” with Christ in heaven! (Colossians 3:1-4) In Christ, at salvation, you were not only given a new present and a new future, but you were also given a new past! The new you, created in Christ (Ephesians 2:10) is now your true identity!

According to the Bible, you were immediately changed at the point of salvation from a sinner to a saint. Fifty-six times after the cross, the Bible refers to born-again people as “saints.” The very life of Christ is now living in you through the Holy Spirit. Imagine, for thirty-three years, Jesus lived and functioned on this earth in a “earthsuit,” as Dr. Gillham calls it. But God doesn’t have an earthsuit any longer. He doesn’t need one because He lives in yours. Now He can express Himself through your life. You still have the same outward appearance, and the same unique personality, but Christ is your power source that gives you your identity. Just as in a kitchen there can be many electrical appliances, all with different functions. But once those appliances are plugged into the electrical outlet, their unique identities are expressed. So it is when you are in Christ. He is the power that gives life to who you are in Christ.

The Bible makes it very clear that who you are in Christ is a present day reality. Here are just a few verses of Scripture that confirm this:

- You are justified and redeemed (already). Romans 3:24
- Your old self was crucified. Romans 6:6
- You are not condemned. Romans 8:1

- You are free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2
- You are accepted. Romans 15:7
- You are sanctified (holy, set apart). I Corinthians 1:2
- You have wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption. I Corinthians 1:30
- You are a new creature. II Corinthians 5:21
- You are liberated (set free). Galatians 2:4
- You are a son and a heir of Christ. Galatians 4:7
- You are (now) blessed with every spiritual blessing in heaven. Ephesians 1:3
- You are chosen, holy, and blameless before God. Ephesians 1:4
- You are redeemed and forgiven. Ephesians 1:7
- You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13
- You are raised with Him. Colossians 3:1

- You are alive in Christ. Ephesians 2:5
- You are (now) seated in heaven with Christ. Ephesians 2:6
- You are complete (perfect) in Christ. Colossians 2:10
- You have all your needs supplied in Christ. Philippians 4:19
- Your life is (now) hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3

This is who God says you are in Christ! Not a prairie chicken who can only look longingly up in the sky, but an eagle who was created to soar in the clouds! Your old, sinful nature died with

Christ and you now have a new nature that is someone very special. Jesus will live the same life through you that He lived through His own body when He walked on this earth if you will cooperate with Him. You no longer have to live a life of constant struggle and striving to get your needs met.

You still have the same outward appearance, and the same unique personality, but Christ is your power source that gives you your identity.

Perhaps you have been operating like a cordless appliance, running on your own power all week and then going to church on Sunday to get your battery recharged. That is not God's plan. He wants you to stay "plugged in" to Christ all the time. That is how you cooperate with Christ so He can express Himself through your life. God never intended for you to try your best to live the Christian life. He placed His Spirit within you to live His life through you. Your old purpose in life was to get your needs met by using the old "flesh" techniques you learned early in life. Your new purpose is to look to Christ to meet your needs and allow Him to live His life in your body, just as He lived His life in His own body when he was here on earth.

Listen to Ezekiel 36:26-27: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws." These verses are present-day realities for all believers. God put a new heart and a new Spirit in you at the moment of salvation. Once you understand that, you can begin to live like it is a reality. You

can choose to simply file these truths in your existing body of knowledge as interesting facts about the Christian life, and close this booklet no different than you were when you opened it. Or you must be willing to let go of your old techniques for living, and make these truths yours experientially.

But, you must understand that Satan does not want you to let go of your "prairie chicken" mentality. Remember, the names given for Satan in the Bible are "deceiver," "temper," and "accuser," among other things. A deceiver is someone who will make you believe something is true when it is a lie, or he will make you believe something is a lie when it is true, and the deception always takes place in your mind. The Bible also says that Satan "disguises himself as an angel of light" (II Corinthians 11:14). In the Scripture "light" stands for truth, so Satan comes at you as "truth." Dr. Gillham says that the way he does this is to put a thought in your mind and disguise it as your thought by speaking to you with first-person singular pronouns (I, me, my, myself, etc.). For example: "After what she did I have a right to be angry—I'll tell her off!" Satan tempts you to believe that it is really the "old you," who isn't really dead. If you chose to

believe this, you will grab the idea and convert it into an action. You will be the one who sins but the sin originated with what the Bible calls "the power of sin" (Satan), not with your mind. Don't forget—the Bible says that your old nature died on the cross with Christ and that you now have the "mind of Christ" (I Corinthians 2:16). So any time a thought comes to your mind that is not a thought Christ would have, it is a thought from the enemy. Buy into that thought, and you will find yourself under the control of sin.

Your soul and your spirit are holy now, so this "power of sin" that Paul speaks of in Romans 7

is in your body, probably your brain, which has yet to be redeemed. This doesn't mean that your body is evil, the Holy Spirit lives in it. Your body is neither good nor bad—it can be used either way. Remember, God created you with needs to encourage you to be dependent on Him to have those needs met. Satan's strategy is to get you to live independently of God by using your old "flesh" techniques to get your needs met. Bill Gillham says that when this happens you are simply a saint who is being tempted by Satan to get your needs met through fleshly techniques, acting like someone you are not (a sinner).

Perhaps you have been operating like a cordless appliance, running on your own power all week and then going to church on Sunday to get your battery recharged.

Whether or not you are able to live a victorious Christian life or not...

Temptation is simply having an idea presented by Satan to you for your consideration. What you do with the idea will depend on who you believe. Whether or not you are able to live a victorious Christian life or not will depend on what you believe about who you really are, a saint, or a sinner. You will live out whatever you believe to be your true identity. You do not have two natures—one good and one evil—your sin nature is dead! The Bible says that your new, true identity is “dead to sin but alive to God in Christ” (Romans 6:11-13).

You are literally a brand-new person in Christ, a good person who loves Jesus and wants to submit to His Lordship. If you really believe this, you will make the decision to act or behave as if you are dead to sin, and that Christ is living through you in every situation. If your Christianity is not working, it is because you do not understand your true identity in Christ and how to let Christ live His own victorious life through you.

There are some tools you will need to have if you are going to put this into practice:

1. Quit focusing on what you shouldn't be doing and make as your focus, experiencing Christ as your life.
2. Rehearse your true identity on a daily basis:
 - You are not worthless, inadequate, unlovable, or insecure. God says you are holy and not to call unholy what He has called holy (Acts:10:15).
 - God says you are blameless (Ephesians 1:4).
 - God says you are complete (perfect) in Christ (Colossians 2:19).
 - God says you no longer guilty but totally forgiven (Colossians 2:13).
 - God says you are not condemned (Romans 8:1).
 - God says you are a conqueror and victorious through Him (Romans 8:37).
 - God says that you are actually now seated in heaven with Him, above your circumstances (Ephesians 2:6).

3. The Bible says in Colossians 3:1-4 that God wants you to understand what your true identity is and the method He has designed to enable you to live it out. He says in this passage, “set your mind on things above,” then again, “set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.” See yourself relaxing with Christ next to the Father. They are totally accepting and loving you, and all your needs are met. God has everything under control. These are the things to think about!

4. Colossians 3:4 says that Christ is your life. He is the only life you have. Your soul and spirit could not reside in your body without the life of Christ because you and He are one. If Christ were to ever leave your body, you would fall over dead because your old life died with Him on the cross. Since He is your life and He is the

only one who ever lived a victorious life, let him live His life through you. The life He will express through your personality will be a life of obedience to the Father, a life of service.

You may not feel that these things are true, but even though your emotions don't agree with the truth, your mind can. The more you make the decision to ignore your feeling and go with the facts, your “feeler” will gradually get unstuck. You'll then be able to tolerate situations that would have defeated you before. Don't misunderstand, you will never get complete control over your emotions. You will be able to exercise some control over them, but never total control. As a saved person you can control your mind and your will, but not your feelings. God wants you to trust Him and not how you feel. This is how you learn to walk by faith.

...will depend on what you believe about who you really are, a saint, or a sinner.

For example, some Christians will say that they have lost their peace. What they really mean is they have lost a peaceful feeling. They want the feeling back because the feeling is where they are getting their sense of security from. But if the only peace you have is a peaceful feeling, then you don't have peace at all, because peace is a function of your mind, not of your emotions. Regardless of your circumstances, you can have peace of mind when you make God and His Word the object of your trust and not your feelings.

Even when you blow it, that doesn't mean that Christ is no longer your life. Don't look to your performance as proof of your new identity, and don't make your performance the object of your faith, either. Your part is to simply do the best you can, trust that Christ is doing His part through you, then leave the results to Him. If things turn out well, then praise God. If things don't, then praise Him anyway and let Him

handle any problems that are created as a result. Your part is to concentrate on being dependent on Christ to meet every need you have.

You can have a victorious life when you remember this:

1. **Facts** Know who you are in Christ and what God says about you.
2. **Faith** Place your trust in those facts.
3. **Behavior** Act like the facts are true.
4. **Feelings** Ignore them if they don't line up with the facts.

Your emotions are never to be the measuring stick of whether or not you are walking with God. Don't look to your feelings as proof that your new life in Christ is working. You can't use a sign as the object of your faith, instead of the Word of God. Here is a clue that will help you: Check out the areas where you are having the most difficulty walking in the Spirit, and you'll find it is always in those areas where your feeler is stuck.

You may think that behaving in a way which is contrary to the way you feel will make you a hypocrite, but that is not true. Again, Dr. Gillham helps make this very clear by giving this explanation:

- God's Definition of a Hypocrite:
Pretending to Be What You Are Not
- Satan's Definition of a Hypocrite:
Acting Contrary to How You Feel

If you major on how you feel, you will never walk in your true identity in Christ. Acting like Christ doesn't make you a phony. It is being who you really are, not pretending to be what you aren't. You must make the choice to act (by faith) as if Christ were expressing His life through you in the way you speak to people, in the way you treat others, in the places you go, the things that you do, and the way you spend your time. This is what it means to live a life of obedience to the Word of God by faith.

When you ignore how you feel and the accusations that come into your mind that are contrary to your true identity, you'll be experiencing Christ as your life. It is only as you begin to be obedient to the truths you have learned, that your life will take on the characteristics of Christ. Remember, you are now who God says you are. You can never get holier, more accepted, or more forgiven than you are at this moment. You can become a more mature version of who you are, by simply maturing into what you already are. You are holy—now just start acting like it.

To learn more about the victorious Christian life, please read Dr. Bill Gillham's wonderful book, "Lifetime Guarantee" (Harvest House).

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