

Normal Christian Life By Watchman Nee

normal christian life by watchman nee has become a foundational concept for many believers seeking a practical and authentic walk with Christ. Watchman Nee, a renowned Chinese Christian teacher and church leader of the 20th century, dedicated much of his life to exploring what it truly means to live as a normal Christian—one whose life is rooted in Christ and characterized by spiritual vitality, genuine fellowship, and daily obedience. His teachings emphasize that the Christian life is not about external rituals or superficial religiosity but about an inward transformation and a continuous union with Jesus Christ. This article delves into Nee's teachings on living a normal Christian life, exploring its core principles, practical applications, and how believers today can embrace this authentic walk with God.

Understanding the Normal Christian Life

What is a Normal Christian Life?

Watchman Nee describes the normal Christian life as the life that every believer is called to live—one that reflects the very nature and character of Jesus Christ. It is not an extraordinary or exceptional experience but a consistent, daily reality rooted in Christ's life within the believer. Nee emphasizes that the Christian life is fundamentally about union with Christ, surrendering oneself, and allowing His life to manifest through us. Key aspects include:

1. Living in continuous fellowship with Christ
2. Walking in obedience to God's Word
3. Experiencing spiritual growth and maturity
4. Manifesting Christ's love and humility in daily life

The Difference Between Religion and the Christian Life

Nee makes a clear distinction between religious activities and the genuine Christian life. Religion often focuses on outward appearances, rituals, and human effort, while the Christian life is about an inward transformation and reliance on the Holy Spirit. He stresses that:

1. Religion is about doing; Christianity is about being.
2. True Christianity involves a living relationship with Christ, not just external compliance.

3. The normal Christian life is characterized by inner peace, joy, and spiritual vitality.

Principles of Living the Normal Christian Life

1. Total Surrender to Christ

A cornerstone of Nee's teachings is that a believer must surrender everything to Jesus. This surrender involves:

1. Letting go of self-will and personal ambitions
2. Accepting Christ's lordship over every area of life
3. Yielding to the Holy Spirit's guidance daily

This surrender is not a one-time event but a continual process that enables the believer to live a life that is transparent and obedient.

2. Living by Faith and Not by Sight

Nee encourages believers to live by faith, trusting in God's promises rather than relying on circumstances or feelings. This includes:

1. Believing in the sufficiency of Christ's grace
2. Trusting God's word even when situations seem contrary
3. Walking confidently in the Spirit's leading

3. Daily Dependence on the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is essential for experiencing the normal Christian life. Nee advocates for:

1. Seeking the Spirit's power daily through prayer and meditation
2. Allowing the Spirit to produce Christlike character
3. Relying on the Spirit for guidance and strength in every decision

4. Practicing Spiritual Discipline

To maintain and grow in the Christian life, Nee recommends habits such as:

1. Regular prayer and worship
2. Reading and meditating on Scripture
3. Fellowship with other believers
4. Confession and repentance when necessary

The Practical Aspects of the Normal Christian Life

Walking in Obedience

Nee emphasizes that obedience to God's Word is the natural expression of a normal Christian life. This involves not only external compliance but an internal desire to please God out of love:

1. Applying biblical principles in daily decisions
2. Living honestly and with integrity
3. Responding with forgiveness and humility

Manifesting Christ's Love

One of the hallmarks of a normal Christian life is showing Christ's love to others. Nee states that love is the evidence of true discipleship:

1. Practicing kindness and patience
2. Serving others selflessly
3. Forgiving offenses and seeking reconciliation

Overcoming Flesh and Worldly Temptations

Nee teaches that believers will encounter struggles with the flesh and worldly influences. The normal Christian life involves:

1. Being vigilant and discerning
2. Relying on Christ's victory through the Spirit
3. Maintaining a clear separation from worldly values that oppose God's truth

Challenges in Living the Normal Christian Life

Dealing with Self and Ego

Self-centeredness and pride can hinder the believer's walk. Nee advises:

1. Practicing humility and dependence on Christ
2. Regular self-examination and repentance
3. Allowing the Holy Spirit to prune and refine character

Persevering Amidst Trials

Life's difficulties are inevitable, but Nee encourages believers to:

1. Trust in God's sovereignty
2. Maintain a joyful and peaceful spirit
3. Use trials as opportunities to deepen faith and reliance on Christ

Living Out the Normal Christian Life Today

Practical Steps for Modern Believers

To embrace Nee's teaching, believers can adopt several practical steps:

1. Start each day with prayer, surrendering to God's will
2. Read and meditate on Scripture to understand God's character and promises
3. Engage in fellowship with other believers for encouragement and accountability

4. Practice love and forgiveness in daily interactions
5. Depend on the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength

The Role of the Church and Community

Nee underscores the importance of the church as a community that fosters spiritual growth and accountability. Believers should:

1. Participate actively in church life and fellowship
2. Support one another in prayer and service
3. Seek spiritual maturity collectively and individually

Conclusion: Embracing the Normal Christian Life

Living a normal Christian life, as taught by Watchman Nee, is about returning to the basics of faith—union with Christ, dependence on the Holy Spirit, obedience to God’s Word, and manifesting Christ’s love in every aspect of life. It is a life characterized not by external religious appearances but by internal transformation and authenticity. In a world filled with distractions and superficial religious practices, Nee’s teachings serve as a reminder that the true Christian life is simple yet profound—rooted in Christ, powered by the Spirit, and lived out in everyday obedience and love. For believers today, embracing this normal Christian life means cultivating a deep, personal relationship with Jesus, allowing His life to flow through us, and becoming witnesses of His love and grace to a hurting world.

Normal Christian Life by Watchman Nee is a timeless spiritual classic that continues to inspire countless believers around the world. This profound work delves into the essence of what it means to live a genuine Christian life, emphasizing that Christianity is not merely a set of doctrines or religious rituals but a vibrant, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. Watchman Nee, a renowned Chinese Christian author and church leader, offers practical insights rooted in biblical truths that challenge believers to move beyond superficial faith and embrace the fullness of Christ in daily living.

Introduction to the Concept of the Normal Christian Life

Watchman Nee begins by addressing a common misconception among Christians—that the Christian life is complex or reserved for a select few spiritual giants. Instead, he asserts that the Christian life is, in its essence, "normal," accessible to every believer who is willing to surrender fully to Christ. The core message is that Christianity is about experiencing Christ’s life and power in our daily routines, transforming our conduct, thoughts, and attitudes. Nee underscores that the Christian life is not about striving under the law or merely adhering to religious duties but about living in union with Christ—receiving

His life, His strength, and His love. This foundational idea sets the tone for the entire book, emphasizing that spiritual maturity is a matter of daily dependence on Jesus rather than human effort.

Key Themes in "The Normal Christian Life"

1. The Cross and Resurrection as Central to Christian Living

One of Nee's pivotal teachings is that understanding and embracing the cross is essential to experiencing the normal Christian life. He explains that: - The cross is not just an event in history but a present reality that signifies dying to self and worldly desires. - The believer must reckon themselves dead to sin and self-centeredness, allowing Christ's resurrection life to flow through them. Features & Insights: - The believer's daily walk involves a conscious choice to identify with Christ's death and resurrection. - The cross liberates believers from the power of sin and self, enabling a new, victorious life. Pros: - Clarifies the spiritual process of sanctification. - Offers practical steps for overcoming sin through identification with Christ's death. Cons: - Requires a deep understanding and acceptance of spiritual principles, which may be challenging for new believers.

2. Living in the Spirit versus the Flesh

Nee emphasizes the distinction between living according to the flesh (our old nature) and living in the Spirit. He asserts: - The Christian life is about choosing to live in the Spirit, which is empowered by Christ's life within us. - The flesh, with its desires and self-centeredness, is a barrier to experiencing the normal Christian life. Features & Insights: - The Holy Spirit is the key to sanctification and victorious living. - Christians are called to walk by faith, guided by the Spirit, rather than by their own strength or carnal desires. Pros: - Reinforces the importance of the Holy Spirit's role in daily life. - Encourages believers to cultivate a Spirit-led walk. Cons: - May require a significant shift in mindset for those accustomed to relying on their own strength.

3. The Role of Faith and Surrender

A recurring theme is that faith and surrender are fundamental to experiencing the normal Christian life. Nee writes: - Faith is not merely believing in God but trusting Christ to live His life through us. - Surrender involves letting go of self-effort and allowing Christ to take full control. Features & Insights: - The believer's daily attitude should be one of surrender, trusting that Christ's life is sufficient. - Faith is active and dynamic, leading to a life of dependence and obedience. Pros: - Provides a practical framework for daily spiritual discipline. - Encourages a relationship based on trust rather than works. Cons: - Surrendering all aspects of life can be difficult, especially in a culture that values independence.

Practical Aspects of Living the Normal Christian Life

1. Daily Devotion and Prayer

Nee advocates for a consistent daily prayer life rooted in communion with Christ. He believes that: - Prayer is not just asking for needs but an expression of dependence on God. - Regular fellowship with Jesus helps believers maintain their spiritual vitality. Features & Insights: - Prayer should be honest, simple, and rooted in faith. - Devotion involves listening to God's voice and obeying His leading. Pros: - Builds intimacy with Christ. - Keeps believers grounded amidst life's challenges. Cons: - Requires discipline and intentionality, which can be challenging to sustain.

2. The Importance of the Local Church and Fellowship

Nee emphasizes that the Christian life is not meant to be lived in isolation. Christian fellowship provides: - Mutual encouragement - Accountability - Opportunities for spiritual growth and service Features & Insights: - The church is a body where each member contributes to the spiritual health of others. - Living a normal Christian life includes active participation in church life. Pros: - Fosters community and support. - Provides opportunities for service and growth. Cons: - Not all church environments are healthy; discernment is necessary.

3. Overcoming Sin and Temptation

Nee offers practical guidance on how believers can overcome sin by: - Recognizing that victory is through Christ's power, not human effort. - Maintaining a constant awareness of their union with Christ. Features & Insights: - Sin should be viewed as a defeated enemy, not an insurmountable obstacle. - The believer's identity in Christ is crucial to overcoming temptation. Pros: - Empowers believers to live victoriously. - Emphasizes the sufficiency of Christ's grace. Cons: - Requires ongoing spiritual discipline and reliance on the Holy Spirit.

Critique and Reflection

Strengths of "The Normal Christian Life": - Biblical Foundation: Nee's teachings are deeply rooted in Scripture, providing a solid biblical basis for practical Christian living. - Practicality: The book offers clear, actionable steps for believers to incorporate spiritual principles into everyday life. - Transformational Focus: It encourages believers to undergo a genuine transformation by participating in Christ's death and resurrection. - Emphasis on the Spirit: The emphasis on the Holy Spirit's role aligns with New Testament teachings, fostering a Spirit-led lifestyle. Weaknesses or Challenges: - Depth of Spiritual

Understanding: Some concepts may be difficult for new believers to grasp without prior biblical knowledge. - Balance of Grace and Effort: While Nee emphasizes grace, some readers may find the language about surrender and dying to self demanding. - Cultural Context: Written in a specific cultural and historical context, some illustrations or examples may require adaptation for modern readers. Overall Impression: "Normal Christian Life" by Watchman Nee is a profound and inspiring guide that challenges believers to move beyond superficial religion into a vibrant, victorious walk with Christ. Its emphasis on the cross, Spirit-led living, and daily surrender makes it a valuable resource for those seeking a deeper, more authentic Christian experience. While it demands spiritual maturity and commitment, the principles it advocates are accessible and transformative for anyone willing to embrace the true essence of Christianity.

Conclusion

In summary, The Normal Christian Life offers a comprehensive blueprint for living out the Christian faith as it was intended—vibrant, victorious, and rooted in Christ's death and resurrection. Watchman Nee's insights remain relevant today, reminding believers that the Christian life is not extraordinary but rather the normal way to live as a follower of Jesus. Embracing these truths can lead to a life marked by peace, power, and purpose—qualities that define the true Christian experience. Whether you are a new believer or a seasoned Christian, this book provides valuable spiritual nourishment and a call to live in the fullness of Christ every day.

Questions & Answers About normal christian life by watchman nee

No	Question	Answer
1	What is the core message of Watchman Nee's 'Normal Christian Life'?	The core message emphasizes that the Christian life is about living in daily fellowship with Christ, experiencing His life within, and understanding that salvation is a matter of Christ living in and through us, rather than merely adhering to religious duties.
2	How does Watchman Nee describe the difference between religious activity and the normal Christian life?	Nee distinguishes between religious activity, which is outward and self-driven, and the normal Christian life, which is rooted in Christ's life within us, leading to a spontaneous and victorious walk characterized by dependence on Christ rather than human effort.
3	According to Nee, what is the significance of the cross in the normal Christian life?	The cross signifies dying to self and the old nature, allowing Christ's life to be fully expressed through us. It is the foundational step to experience the victorious and normal Christian life.
4	In 'Normal Christian Life,' how does Watchman Nee explain the concept of salvation?	Nee teaches that salvation is not just a one-time event but an ongoing process of Christ living in us, transforming us from within, and enabling us to live a victorious Christian life.

5	What role does fellowship play in living a normal Christian life according to Nee?	Fellowship with Christ and other believers is essential, as it sustains and nurtures the Christian life, helping believers stay rooted in Christ's life and walk in victory and spiritual growth.
6	How does Watchman Nee address the issue of spiritual growth and maturity?	Nee emphasizes that spiritual growth comes from allowing Christ to live through us, daily surrendering to Him, and experiencing the life of Christ, rather than relying on religious efforts or outward rituals.
7	What is Nee's perspective on the relationship between the Law and the Christian life?	Nee explains that the Law cannot produce the Christian life; instead, Christ's life within us is the new and living way, fulfilling the Law's righteousness through grace and the indwelling life of Christ.
8	How does 'Normal Christian Life' challenge modern believers' understanding of spiritual success?	Nee challenges believers to redefine success as living a Christ-centered, surrendered life characterized by dependence on Him, rather than external achievements or religious appearances.
9	What practical steps does Watchman Nee offer for believers to live the normal Christian life?	Nee encourages daily surrender, deep fellowship with Christ through prayer and the Word, dying to self via the cross, and living by the Spirit, all aimed at allowing Christ to manifest His life through us.

Christian living, spiritual growth, holiness, prayer, Bible study, faith walk, discipleship, holiness lifestyle, spiritual discipline, divine guidance