**It is challenging for a Christian to live a life in conformity with God’s will, often taking the path of ease, resigning from the arduous route of self-denial and training in the Word, to residing in a state of immaturity.**

**Christian Life Must Be Evidenced by Holiness** (Title by Pat)  
**By Charles Strong of** [**Bible One**](http://www.bibleone.net/)

It is indisputable that God never condones hypocrisy in His children. They are not only to “talk the talk” (say what is right) but they are to “walk the walk” (do what is right). The Christian life is not only grounded in holiness, but must be evidenced by holiness. Then again, every Christian

(1) retains a “sin nature” (“old man,” “flesh” [[Romans 7:18-23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+7.18-23&t=NKJV); [Galatians 5:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Galatians+5.17&t=NKJV)]) with its constant appeal and

(2) daily faces a formidable spiritual enemy, the devil, who “walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” ([1 Peter 5:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+5.8&t=NKJV)).

And this being the case, it is challenging for a Christian to live a life in conformity with God’s will, often taking the path of ease, resigning from the arduous route of self-denial and training in the Word, to residing in a state of immaturity.

The apostle Paul had to face the problem of immaturity in the Corinthian local church. He found that the Christians there continued in their “carnal” state (as immature babies), who could only digest (understand) the “milk,” not the “meat” (solid food), of God’s Word ([1 Corinthians 3:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+3.1-3&t=NKJV)). Sadly, this appears to be the case with a majority of Christians today, even those who fancy themselves as spiritual teachers.

It is as if they have completely lost their way, a condition that ensued soon after they believed in Christ. Although quick to join a local church, a spiritual diet void of in-depth Bible (doctrinal) study and maturation followed. Rather, it became customary to simply accept the shallow and redundant presentations from the pulpit and various “Sunday schools,” which could only regurgitate denominational precepts.

Although they have indeed experienced the “salvation of the spirit” ([Acts 16:30-31](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+16.30-31&t=NKJV); [Ephesians 2:8-9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+2.8-9&t=NKJV)), they know little of the “salvation of the soul” ([Hebrews 10:39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+10.39&t=NKJV); [1 Peter 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Peter+1.9&t=NKJV)). Harboring dreams of someday occupying a nebulous “heaven,” they have no idea of the coming Millennial Kingdom and the fulfillment of the very purpose of their salvation, to rule and reign with Christ as His consort queen, His bride, during the Messianic Era ([2 Timothy 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+2.12&t=NKJV); [Revelation 20:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.4&t=NKJV)). And more alarming, they have no idea of or concern for the impending judgment that they will face before Christ when He sits upon His throne ([2 Corinthians 5:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+5.10&t=NKJV)) judging their miniscule works of “wood, hay, straw” where they “will be saved, yet so as through fire” ([1 Corinthians 3:11-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+3.11-15&t=NKJV)).

On the other hand, should a Christian aspire to fulfill the purpose of his salvation, to go beyond spirit-salvation to the salvation of his soul and thereby present works of “gold, silver, precious stones” at the judgment seat of Christ with the end result of being included in the bride of Christ and ruling and reigning with Him during the Messianic Era, he will most certainly adopt the walk as it is outlined in the Word, *i.e.*, one which is anchored in the Spirit of God, which demonstrates love toward God and man, which produces good works, and which truly mirrors Jesus Christ.

Finally, it is clearly seen in Scripture that for one to achieve this quality of life (walk), one must saturate himself in God’s Word, for it is only the Word that is able to convey (effect the change in) a Christian from immaturity to maturity. This is seen in the following two companion passages of Scripture:

*And do not be drunk* [controlled] *with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled* [empowered] *with the Spirit,* [resulting in] (19) *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,* (20) *giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.* ([Ephesians 5:18-20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+5.18-20&t=NKJV))

*Let the Word of Christ dwell in* [empower] *you richly in all wisdom,* [resulting in] *teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.* ([Colossians 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+3.16&t=NKJV))

(See [Holy Spirit – Ministries and Filling!](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#Holy%20Spirit%20%E2%80%93%20Ministries%20and%20Filling!) in this site.)

The inference is that one is “filled” with the Spirit of God as he enriches himself in the Word of God. To be “filled [empowered by] the Spirit of God is not a secondary and spectacular secondary act after one is “saved,” as many in the Pentecostal movement may teach. Rather, it is a progressive, transforming, and dynamic process (see the following link: [Bible One - Charles Strong's Studying the Word of God](http://bibleone.net/Studying-the-Word-of-God.htm)), which a Christian is to experience if he is to “walk the walk,” not just “talk the talk.”

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Excerpted from [Bible One - Charles Strong's Walk the Walk](http://www.bibleone.net/Walk-the-Walk.htm).