

The Balanced Christian Life

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I. Introduction.

A. Balance in life is important.

B. Illustration: the wheel.

II. The rim: the Christian living the life. (2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 2:6)

A. We have a saving faith.

B. We have a walking faith. (Romans 1:17)

III. The center: Jesus.

A. If Jesus is not the center, the life will have discord.

B. Satan blinds us to the truth, plucks the Word of God out of our minds, raises doubts or gets us to disobey. (2 Corinthians 4; Luke 8; 4:7; John 14:24)

C. Our love is measured by our obedience.

D. Our doctrine is proven by our obedience too. If Jesus really is our Lord we will trust him. (Luke 6:46; Psalm 119:50-60; 27:4)

E. Our salvation is proved by our obedience. (1 John 3:3-5)

F. Jesus is the part of our life that everything else rests. (1 Peter 5:7; Psalm 55:72)

IV. The spokes.

A. The foundation spoke: the Word of God.

1. It is good for salvation, guidance, equipment and assurance of salvation. (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:23; Revelation 3:20; Romans 10:13; John 3:16; 1 John 5:11-13)

B. Prayer.

1. We pray for fellowship with God.

2. God wants us to make time to know him. (Jeremiah 2:32; Psalm 119:18; Revelation 1:3; 2 Timothy 2:15)

3. Hindrance to prayer: unconfessed sin, which demands confession. (Isaiah 59:1-2; 1 John 1:9)

4. Prayer outline:

a. Adoration. (Psalm 50:23)

b. Confession. (1 John 1:9)

c. Thanksgiving. (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Romans 8:28)

d. Supplication.

1) Praying for others. (1 Samuel 12:23)

2) Praying for our own needs. (Philippians 4:6-7)

5. In believing God we will be established and prosper. (2 Chronicles 20:20)

C. Witness. Witness will be a natural overflow of the Christian life. (Acts 1:8)

D. Fellowship.

1. The basis of Christian fellowship is a common relationship to the Lord Jesus. (1 John 1:3)

2. Fellowship with one another is necessary to and evidence of our relationship with God. (1 John 4:12)

3. Fellowship is proof of salvation. (1 John 3:14)

4. Jesus prayed that we might have fellowship with each other. (John 17:11, 21-23)

5. Christian fellowship is a fellowship of honesty (Romans 12:3)

6. Fellowship includes meeting together and encouraging one another in Christian love. (Hebrew 12:24-25)

7. This includes praying for one another. (James 5:16)

8. Fellowship keeps us from falling. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

V. Homework.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the center of the Christian life?

2. Which spoke do you need to incorporate more in your life the most?

3. What will you do to put all four spokes in balanced action in your life today?
