



THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE
Sunday October 27, 2024

INTRODUCTION

After inviting the Lord Jesus into our hearts and receiving salvation, we may have been exposed to terms that describe different kinds of Christians – born-again Christians, radical Christians, lukewarm Christians, on-fire Christians, Spirit-filled Christians, back-slidden Christians, nominal Christians, true Christians and so on

So, have you ever wondered who a ‘normal’ Christian is?
or what the ‘normal’ Christian life is like?

Today’s message is a call to be a normal Christian and an invitation to live the normal Christian life.

The word *Christian* appears only thrice in the Bible:

- Acts 11:26 : "the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."
Acts 26:28 : King Agrippa to Paul " You almost persuade me to become a Christian"
1 Peter 4:16 : "Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God."

Acts 11:26

And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

So, a *normal Christian* is a *disciple* of the Lord Jesus.

Who is a disciple?

Disciple (Greek. *Mathetes*) – a follower, learner, student, pupil.

A disciple is one who follows the principles, the precepts and the person of the Lord Jesus.



(Dear pastors, take only 2 minutes max. for each of these points and cover this section in 10-15 mins)

THE MARKS/CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE

Let's go through the following scriptures that bring out the characteristics or the identifying marks of a disciple.

1. *The disciple follows the Lord Jesus willingly*

Matthew 4:18-22

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. **19** Then He said to them, "**Follow Me**, and I will make you fishers of men." **20** **They immediately left their nets and followed Him.**

21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, **22** and **immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.**

2. *The disciple esteems and obeys the Word of God.*

John 8:31,32

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "**If you abide in My word, you are My disciples** indeed. **32** And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Abide: stay, dwell, continue, remain, stand

The disciple continues to abide in & obey God's Word even through life's challenges, changing seasons and inconvenient circumstances.

Matthew 28:20

20 teaching them to **observe all things that I have commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Observe: to guard from loss, to hold fast

In the great commission, the Lord's command to all disciples is to teach others to guard and hold fast all things that He has commanded us in His Word.



3. *The disciple walks in the love of God*

John 13:34,35

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The unconditional *agape* love of God expressed in kind words, thoughtful deeds and generous giving is a powerful, unspoken declaration that we are indeed disciples of the Lord Jesus.

4. *The disciple pursues fruitfulness in life*

John 15:5,8

5 "I am the vine; you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing

8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Fruitfulness is *an overflow* of abiding (*dwell, stay, continue*) in Jesus.
So, in pursuing fruitfulness, the disciple pursues abiding in Jesus.

Pruning in gardening involves cutting away dead, overgrown, or unnecessary parts of a plant which makes the plant healthier and more productive.

The Father's 'pruning' (John 15:2) makes the disciple even more fruitful.

5. *The disciple endeavors to be like Jesus*

Matthew 10:24,25

24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.

25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!

Luke 6:40

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.

perfectly trained: thoroughly equip or mend

The Holy Spirit is our teacher. He will *teach, train, equip* and *remind* us (John 14:26)



1 John 2:6

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

The disciple submits to be taught, trained and equipped by the Lord (*through His Word and by His Spirit*) to be like Him in order to *walk (regulate, conduct, live)* like Him.

6. The disciple follows the Lord willingly despite the cost or sacrifice

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

The cross - a place of **sacrifice, separation** from the world and **suffering** for the sake of God's Kingdom.

Paul's testimony

Acts 21:13

Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

7. The disciple is not ashamed of the Gospel

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

The disciple unashamedly shares the gospel despite ridicule knowing that it is the power of God to save.

When people get saved receiving the gospel, the disciple discipled.

Only a disciple can disciple.



(Dear pastors, just mention the scripture reference and paraphrase portions of it as the full verse will be on screen. Kindly pace yourself to complete this section in 30 mins)

THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE

The normal Christian life is the life of a disciple.

Let's examine what the scriptures describe as the life of a normal Christian.

1. A Life of Faith

John 20:27-29

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Faith in God is to be assured (*title deed, confirmation*) of the things that are *guaranteed* by Him & to consider as evidence (*proof*) the things that are not yet manifest to our physical senses. (Hebrews 11:1 *paraphrased*)

Hebrews 11:6

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Faith is a *requirement* for the disciple - who lives to please God.

It is not a presumptuous life or a life of assumptions.

It is a life where one takes God at His Word and *comprehends as fact* what's not yet experienced by the physical senses just because God has declared it.

WoTL 2024 – *conquer through faith* – subdue adversaries & take your Jerichos.

2. A Word-centered life

Matthew 4:4

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"



As food is for the physical body, so is the quickened Word of God for the spiritual nourishment of the disciple. The disciple literally feeds on God's Word making the time and effort to receive it, read it and study it diligently.

John 8:31-32

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Colossians 3:16-17

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

The Word centered life is one where one's choices, decisions, lifestyle, work, leisure, entertainment, values – everything – is based on and *defined by the Word of God*. This is not something weird but something normal – to have the Word of God as *the reference point* for life.

It is a life where one does not grudgingly endure the instructions in the Word but rather *delights* in it, *meditates* on it day and night, *confesses* it, *applies* it to experience its power.

It is a life where one *deeply reveres* and *willingly orders* one's life according to God's Word - valuing it as something more precious than all earthly possessions.

3. A life filled and being led by the Holy Spirit

Romans 8:14

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

Galatians 5:16,25

**16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

It is a life of having the privilege of *being guided* by the Holy Spirit (in all of life's situations) who has infinite wisdom, power and understanding.

It is *an overcoming life* - overcoming all the forbidden longings of the flesh.



Ephesians 5:18-19

**18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,**

It is a life of *continuously being filled* with the Holy Spirit, our bodies being the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. There is a purpose for this in-filling – to receive power to be witnesses.

The overflow of being filled with the Spirit is a life of worship and adoration of the Lord with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.

4. A Supernatural Life

Mark 16:17-18

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

John 14:12

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

Hebrews 2:4

God also bearing witness *(to the sharing of the Gospel)* both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

It is a life that’s *naturally supernatural* with signs, wonders, miracles & gifts of the Spirit, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The supernatural is the manifestation (expression) of the Holy Spirit and reveals the love of God for His people – to show Himself strong to heal, deliver, encourage, edify and comfort.

The supernatural life is a life of walking in God-given authority as children of God to do *His works*, desiring to see His Kingdom come, and His will be done *on earth as it is in heaven*.



5. *A Life of loving & serving God's people*

John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you...By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Hebrews 13:16

But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

It is a life of *God's love in action* through the disciple

The *goodness of God* revealed through the disciple melts the hardest of hearts and leads many to repentance. (*paraphrase* of Romans 2:4)

6. *A Life of intimacy with God, pursuing His presence*

James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

John 15:5,7

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

Mark 12:30-31

30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Revelation 3:20

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

It is a life of *deep communion* and *intimate friendship* with the Lord, choosing to delight His heart in passionate worship, *hungry for more* of His presence. (*eg. Moses, David, Paul*)



7. *A Life of Integrity, Holiness and Purity*

1 John 2:6

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

The Lord Jesus walked full of grace and truth - in holiness, righteousness, love, compassion and power.

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

1 Peter 1:15-16

"But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"

1 Peter 2:11-12

11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

A life of imitating the Lord Jesus, growing in Christlikeness and in His anointing
A consecrated life walking in sanctification and honor

8. *A life of witnessing with power*

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 4:33

And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

A life of *witnessing* not just through words but also *in demonstration of His power*.



SUMMARY

We are invited and commissioned by the Lord to live the Normal Christian life.

Welcome to the Normal Christian Life!

1. A life of faith
2. A Word centered life
3. A life filled and led by the Holy Spirit
4. A supernatural Life
5. A Life of loving & serving God's people
6. A Life of intimacy with God, pursuing His presence
7. A Life of integrity, holiness and purity
8. A Life of witnessing with power

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**The Normal Christian Life
Sunday October 27, 2024**

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. **There is no need to read the entire sermon notes during the Life Group.**

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *see below*.

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

The Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to contribute. Please discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

- 1) *Apart from what we studied, what do you think are some other distinguishing characteristics of disciples of the Lord Jesus?*
- 2) *From what you have seen in the Word, what are some other aspects of the normal Christian life?*



3) *Why is the normal Christian life not lived out by many believers today? How does one get back to living it?*

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.



The Normal Christian Life Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

The normal Christian life is for all believers.

In this message, we discover what it truly means to be a normal Christian and what it means to live a normal Christian life. The normal Christian life is an extraordinary, adventurous life, lived in close communion with God. It is a faith filled, Word-centered, Spirit-led, supernatural life lived by loving God and serving God's people.

Welcome to the Normal Christian Life!

KEYWORDS

disciple, discipleship, following Jesus, follow me, fishers of men, Spirit led, Spirit filled, faith, Word centered, Word based, supernatural, miracles, power, signs, anointing, love, kindness, generous, Christlike, consecration, sanctification, wonders, life, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS



The Normal Christian Life Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

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Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

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