

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Galatians 5:16-26 “I say then: *Walk in the Spirit*, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.... *The fruit of the Spirit* is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*”

Quote:: "God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on Him." — Hudson Taylor, missionary

Worship,¹ warfare² and work³ are three essential elements of a Christian's progressive growth towards Christ's likeness. True Christians are worshippers, warriors and workers who set themselves apart from that which offends God, and consecrate themselves to that which honors Him. Christ prayed, "Sanctify them *by Your truth. Your word is truth.* As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified *by the truth.*"⁴ The Son of God set Himself apart to fulfill the Word of God in submission to the will of God for the benefit of the people of God. He came into this world to save His people from their sins and "gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, *zealous for good works.*"⁵ Good works that focus upon the glory of God and the eternal good of men are the grateful response as well as the God-given responsibility of those saved by His grace.⁶ Paul wrote that no one engaged in **warfare** entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as *a soldier.*"⁷ Spiritual warfare against the flesh and the wickedness that permeates our world is a grim reality in the life of every true Christian. Jesus taught that "the *true worshippers* will **worship** the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."⁸ True worship is the glorious result of knowing

Dependent Responsibility

God as He reveals Himself in His Word. It is through God's Word that all who place saving faith in Christ develop and the display godliness before the world.⁹

Every responsibility that accompanies being a Christian is dependent upon the enabling of the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote, "...*Christ in you, the hope of glory.* Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect (complete) in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."¹⁰ Author Jerry Bridges states, "To walk by the Spirit is to live under the controlling influence of the Spirit and in *dependence upon Him....* Practically speaking, we live under the controlling influence of the Spirit as we continually *expose our minds to and seek to obey the Spirit's moral will for us as revealed in Scripture.* We live in dependence on Him *through prayer* as we continually cry out to Him for His power to enable us to obey His will. There is a fundamental principle of the Christian life that I call the principle of **dependent responsibility**; that is, we are responsible before God to obey His Word, to put to death the sins in our lives.... At the same time, we do not have the ability within ourselves to carry out this responsibility. *We are in fact totally dependent upon the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.* In this sense, we are both responsible and dependent." Paul wrote, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; *For it is God who works in you both to will and to do* for His good pleasure."¹¹ Personal prayer and study of God's Word reveal the degree of each Christian's *dependency upon God to fulfill the responsibilities* for which he or she will one day be judged! We are to "pray without ceasing" and "study to show ourselves approved unto God"¹² so that we might openly proclaim what God has done in us and for us through Christ Jesus.

1 John 17 2 Matthew 4:1-11 3 John 4:34; 6:38; 17:4; 19:30 4 John 17:17-19 5 Matthew 1:21; Titus 2:14 6 Ephesians 2:8-10 7 II Timothy 2:4 8 John 4:23-24 9 II Peter 1 10 Colossians 1:27-29 11 Philippians 2:12-13 12 I Thessalonians 5:17; II Timothy 2:15