

SO YOU WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Goals of the Christian Way of Life

Reciprocation Principle: What you give to God you receive back much more in this life (up to 100x) and much, much more in the next life. What you give you get back abundantly! Social and spiritual reciprocity are clearly contrasted in Luke 14:12-15. This principle is also true for unbelievers—but in reverse. They want freedom from God to do their own thing in this life and are given such freedom forever, separated from God in Hades and in the Lake of Fire—their suffering perhaps equal to the pain God feels in being rejected.

	FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD	SPIRITUAL POWER	SPIRITUAL MATURITY	CHARACTER OF CHRIST	GOOD SERVANT	WALK BY FAITH	OBEDIENCE	OVERCOMER	GLORIFY GOD
GOAL	Fellowship with God (1 Jn 1:7)	Walk in the Spirit (Rm 8:4; Gal 5:16, 25)	Spiritual Maturity (Eph 4:13; Heb 5:13–14)	Proven Character (Rm 5:4); Christlikeness (1 Cor 11:1)	Service (Rm 12:11; Col 3:24; Rv 22:3); Finish the Course (2 Tm 4:7)	Strong Faith in Every Situation (2 Cor 5:7)	Keep the Faith (2 Tm 4:7)	Defeat World (Jn 16:33), Flesh (Gal 5:16), and Devil (1 Jn 2:14)	To Glorify (Cause a High Opinion of) God (Rv 5:13)
MEANS TO THE GOAL	Confession of Sin (1 Jn 1:9)	Filling of the Spirit (Acts 1:8; 2:4; 4:31; 6:3; 9:17; 13:52; Eph 5:18); “those who are in the flesh cannot please God” (Rm 8:8)	Bible Study (Col 1:9–10); Faith (Rm 10:17); Meditation (Josh 1:8; Ps 1:2; 119:97, 99, 148; Prv 6:6–11)	Testing (Dt 13:3; Jas 1:3); Trials & Perseverance (Rm 5:3–4; 2 Pt 1:5–8); Claim Promises (2 Pt 1:4)	Obedience (Mt 21:28–31; Acts 5:29); Faithfulness (Nm 12:7; 1 Cor 4:2); Use of Spiritual Gifts (1 Pt 4:10); Serve One Another (Mk 10:43–45)	Trust (Prv 3:5); Take Risks (Acts 15:26); Testing (Jas 1:2–4); Claim Promises (Rm 4:20; Heb 4:2)	Learn God’s Commandments (Ps 119:73, 97, 127); Testing (Dt 8:2)	Fight the Good Fight (2 Tm 4:7) with Prayer, Armor (Eph 6:11–17), and Offensive Weapons (2 Cor 6:7; 10:3–5)	Praise & Worship (Ps 66:4; 150:6); Testing (1 Pt 1:7); Suffering (Rm 8:17); Good Works (Mt 5:16; Jn 17:4)
RESULT	Makes Communication with God Possible; <i>i.e.</i> , We Talk to Him through Prayer (Ps 66:18) and He Talks to Us through Dreams, Visions, an Audible Voice, the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:6–7; Rm 8:16), and His Written Word	Spiritual instead of Carnal (Control by the Spirit instead of Your Flesh, 1 Cor 3:1–4); Help (Jn 14:26; Rm 8:26); Guidance (Acts 16:7); Answers to Prayer (Ps 66:18); Inner Power (Eph 3:16); Life and Peace (Rm 8:6)	Knowledge (Prv 2:6; 8:10; 20:15); Understanding (Prv 16:16); Wisdom (Prv 8:11; 9:10); Daily Renewal (2 Cor 4:16; Eph 4:23; Col 3:10); Stability (Eph 4:11–16; Phil 1:27–28)	Approval (1 Cor 11:18–19); Share God’s Nature (2 Pt 1:4); Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22–23); Answers to Prayers (Prv 15:29); Walk Humbly (Mic 6:8)	Accomplish the Good Works Foreordained for Us (Eph 2:10); Fruitful (Col 1:10; Phil 1:22; Tit 3:14); Overcome Evil (Rm 12:21); Meet Needs (Rm 15:25–27; 2 Cor 9:12); Please God (Gal 1:10; Heb 13:16); Glorify God (Mt 5:16; 1 Pt 2:12)	Endurance (Jas 1:2–4), Confidence (1 Pt 5:9); Approval (Heb 11:2, 39; Jas 1:12); Share God’s Nature (2 Pt 1:4); Do God’s Will (Heb 10:36); Stability (Jas 1:6)	Success and Prosperity (Josh 1:7–8); Friend of Jesus (Jn 15:14); Abide in Jesus’ Love (Jn 15:10)	Overcome All Enemies <i>Positionally</i> through Imputation (1 Jn 5:4–5; Rv 2:7, 11; 3:5; 21:7) and <i>Experientially</i> through Spiritual Warfare (Rm 8:37; 1 Jn 2:13–14; 4:1–6; Rv 2:17, 26–27; 3:12, 21)	God Is Glorified (by Miracles, Mk 2:12; Death, Jn 21:19; What You Do, 1 Cor 10:31; Good Works, 1 Pt 2:12; Spiritual Gifts, 1 Pt 4:11; Suffering, 1 Pt 4:16; Worship, Ps 86:9)
PAYMENT OR REWARDS IN THIS LIFE	Walk Close to God (Gn 5:24; 6:9); God Spoke to Moses Face to Face as a Friend (Ex 33:11; Nm 12:6–8)	Success in Everything; Accomplish God’s Plan for Your Life (Zech 4:6–7)	Success (Ecc 10:10); Strength, Riches, Honor, Peace, Long Life (Prv 3:16–17, 35; 24:5)	Stability (Lk 22:42); Blessings (Ps 5:12; 34:17; 92:12; Hos 10:12)	Many/Hundredfold Blessings (Mt 19:29; Mk 10:29–30; Lk 18:30); Payment (1 Cor 9:10–14; 1 Tm 5:18)	Peace & Joy (Heb 10:34); Protection (Eph 6:16); Miracles (Heb 11:32–35a)	Blessings (Dt 28:2; Lk 11:28); Peace & Long Life (Prv 3:1–2)	Authority (Lk 9:1; 10:17); Stand Firm (Eph 6:11); Satan Flees (Jas 4:7); Victorious Life (Rm 8:37)	God Glorifies Us (transfiguration, Lk 9:32; high position, Jas 1:9)
PAYMENT OR REWARDS IN THE NEXT LIFE	Walk with Jesus in White Robes (Rv 3:4); Eat and Drink at Jesus’ Table (Lk 22:30)	Holy Spirit Will Help You Accomplish God’s Will Forever (Jn 14:16)	Mary Receives a Better Portion of Jesus’ Inheritance for Listening to Jesus Teach (Lk 10:38–42); Perhaps Gold, Silver, and Precious Stones for Teaching Gold, Silver, and Precious Stones (1 Cor 3:10–15); Eternal Glory (Dn 12:3)	Repayment (Lk 14:12–14); Great Reward (Lk 6:22–23, 35); Inheritance (Ps 37:18); Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven (for humility, Mt 18:4; Lk 9:48)	Honor (Mt 25:21, 23; Jn 12:26); First or Greatest in the Kingdom (Mt 19:30; 23:11); Position & Privilege (Ez 44:15; Hg 2:23; Mt 19:28; Lk 19:17, 19); Payment (Prv 19:17; Is 49:4; Mt 6:4, 6; 10:41–42; 16:27; Rm 4:4; 1 Cor 3:8, 14; 2 Cor 5:10; Gal 6:9; Rv 22:12); Treasure (Lk 12:33; 1 Tm 6:19); Crown of Glory (1 Pt 5:1–4); Eternal Life (Mk 10:30)	Praise, Glory & Honor (1 Pt 1:6–7); Great Reward (Heb 10:32–36); Position & Privilege (2 Tm 2:12); Much Glory (2 Cor 4:17); Crown of Life (Jas 1:12; Rv 2:10); Abraham Rules the World (Rom 4:13)	Payment (1 Sam 26:23); Great in the Kingdom (Mt 5:19); Walk with Jesus (Rv 3:4); Inherit the Kingdom (1 Cor 6:9–10; Gal 5:19–21)	Honor (Rv 3:9); Military Honors; Crown of Righteousness for Fighting against Unrighteousness (2 Tm 4:7–8); Names & Pillar in the Temple (Rv 3:12); Perhaps Diadems Given by Jesus (cf. Rv 19:12); Rule with Christ (Rv 2:26–27; 3:21; 20:4)	Glorification (Dn 12:3; Mt 13:43; Jn 17:5; Rm 8:30) that includes an Inheritance (Col 3:24), Treasure (1 Tm 6:19), Crowns (2 Tm 4:8; Jas 1:12; 1 Pt 5:4; Rv 2:10), and Status (2 Tm 2:12)
GIFT YOU GIVE TO GOD	Apology, Friendship (2 Chr 20:7; Jas 2:23), and Companionship	Submission and Dependence (Eph 4:30; 1 Thes 5:19)	Friendship (of the Disciples, Jn 15:15; of Abraham, Jas 2:23)	Gives God Someone He Can Trust (Job 2:3, 9; 1 Kings 9:4; Hos 6:6–7)	Faithfulness (Heb 3:5); Dependability; Loyalty (Neh 13:14); Help God Accomplish His Goals (Heb 13:21)	Pleases God because You Trust Him (Heb 10:38; 11:6)	Gives God Someone He Can Use (Jn 14:23)	Help Defeat God’s Enemies and Resolve the Angelic Conflict (Job 1–2)	Thanksgiving, Praise, Honor, Glory, and Worship (Lk 18:43; Acts 16:25)
SPIRITUAL RECIPROCITY OR SPIRITUAL RECIPROCATION PRINCIPLE	Seek a Close Relationship with God Now, and Enjoy a Close Relationship with God Forever (Lk 22:28–30)	Make Yourself Dependent on God’s Power and Spirit Now, and He Will Empower You with the Spirit to Carry Out His Will Forever (Is 59:21; Jn 14:16–17)	Seek to Know God Now, and He Will Let You Know Him More in the World to Come (Is 2:3; 11:9; Jer 31:34; Rv 22:3–4)	Seek to Be Like Jesus Now, and God Will Make You More Like Him in the Next Life (1 Jn 3:2)	Trust God with Your Life and Affairs, and He Will Trust You with His Affairs (Mt 25:21; Lk 16:10–12; 19:17, 19); Serve Well Now, and Receive Greater Service Later (Hg 2:23; Mt 19:28)	Trust God and He Will Trust You; Risk Much for God and He Will Give You Much (Gn 22:16–18; Heb 11:17–19)	Be Faithful with Little and God Will Give You Much (Lk 16:10–12; 19:17; Gal 6:7)	Fight and Overcome Now, and Enjoy the Spoils of War Forever in the Kingdom of God (Rv 5:1–14; 19:11–20:3; Mt 13:43; Rv 21:1–7)	Glorify God Now, and God Will Glorify You Forever (Rm 2:7; Heb 2:10; 2 Cor 4:17; 2 Tm 2:10)