

SO YOU LIKE MILK TOAST

How to Fall Short of the Goals of the Christian Way of Life

A strong Bible teaching ministry in a local church is God's ordained way of accomplishing the goals of the Christian life. "Let all things be done for edification" (1 Cor 14:26). Ignore Bible teaching to your eternal regret. Why? Because to ignore the "meat" of the Word is to reduce your treasure in heaven, to forfeit much of your inheritance, to diminish your future position and privileges, and to minimize your eternal rewards.

What happens in a church that minimizes Bible teaching? Skips careful study? Serves only fast food? Can a watered-down local church hurt you spiritually? How can you know if you're in a milk toast church? Let's try a simple test—just one question on spiritual warfare: Can you name ten *offensive* spiritual weapons? If you can't, if you can only name one or two, you're no overcomer. Stay on the porch and don't run with the big dogs! You'll never reach the goals of the Christian life on a diet of milk or milk toast. No meat, no maturity. Without Bible teaching you can't accomplish a *single* goal of the Christian life! Insulted? I hope so. You need to wake up, set aside the fun and games, revamp your party-church mentality, abhor sermonettes for christianettes, and abandon country club Christianity. Find a Bible teaching church, start growing, and become all God wants you to be (Col 1:9–12). You'll be glad you did.

	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 (Hos 6:3; Eph 4:13; Heb 5:12–14)	Christlikeness (Rm 13:14; 1 Cor 2:16; 11:1; Gal 4:19)	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)
REASON FOR FAILING TO REACH THE GOAL	No Confession of Sin (1 Jn 1:9) due to Ignorance (from Lack of Bible Teaching), False Teaching, Disobedience, or Rebellion	No Filling of the Spirit (Eph 5:18); Grieving the Spirit (Eph 4:30); Quenching the Spirit (1 Thes 5:19); Carnality (Rm 8:8)	Dull of Hearing (Heb 5:11); Little Bible Study (Eph 4:11–13), Faith (Rm 10:17), or Growth (Heb 5:13; 1 Pt 2:2)	Temptation (Lk 8:13); Turn Away from the Truth (Prv 4:5; 2 Tm 4:3–4); Conform to This World (Rm 12:2)	Disobedience (1 Sam 28:15–19); Unfaithfulness (Ps 78:8; Lk 16:13); Little Use of Spiritual Gifts (Rm 12:6); Not Serve One Another (Gal 5:13)	Unbelief (Nm 14:11; Heb 3:19); Fail Tests (Ps 78:41); Not Claim Promises (Dt 1:19–36; Heb 4:1–3)	Unfaithfulness (Nm 14:33); Prejudice (Jon 1–2); Sin (Heb 3:17); Fail Tests (Dt 8:2)	Deceived (2 Cor 11:3); Held Captive (2 Tim 2:26–27); Don't Use Armor (Eph 6:11–17) and Offensive Weapons (2 Cor 6:7; 10:3–5)	Pride (Dn 5:22–30); Seeking Glory from Men (Jn 5:44; 12:43; 1 Thes 2:6); Rebellion (Rv 16:9, 11, 21)
RESULT OF THIS FAILURE	Makes Communication with God Impossible: No Answers to Prayers (Ps 66:18; Jude 20), No Dreams, Visions, Voice, or Ministries of the Spirit (1 Sam 28:6); Discipline (Ps 32:1–5); Judged with Weakness, Sickness, & Death (1 Cor 11:28–32)	Perpetual Carnality (Controlled by the Flesh instead of the Spirit, 1 Cor 3:1–4); No Help (Rm 8:26), Illumination (1 Cor 2:12–16); Guidance (Acts 16:7), Answers to Prayer (Ps 66:18), or Inner Power (Eph 3:16); Death (Rm 8:5–13)	Little Knowledge, Understanding, or Wisdom (Prv 2:6; Heb 5:14); Not Please God (Col 1:9–12); Fall Away (Mk 4:17; Heb 6:1–8); Instability (2 Pt 3:17); Rejection & Destruction (Hos 4:1, 6)	Worldliness (Js 4:4; 1 Jn 2:15); Not Share God's Nature (2 Pt 1:4); Little Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22–23); Deeds of the Flesh (Gal 5:19–21); Pride (Dt 8:14; Prv 16:5; 1 Pt 5:5)	Not Do Good Works Foreordained for Us (Eph 2:10; Rv 3:2); Unfruitful (Tit 3:14); Lukewarm (Rv 3:15–16); Do Evil Deeds (Rm 13:12); Not Please God (Heb 13:16); No Glory (Rm 2:7); Turned Over to Satan (1 Cor 5:5; 1 Tm 1:19–20; 2 Tm 4:14); Sin unto Death (Rv 2:20–23)	Complaining (Nm 14:27); Worry (Lk 8:14); Doubts (Jas 1:6); No Approval (Heb 11:2, 39); Discipline (1 Chr 21:1–17; Heb 3:8–19); Fall Away (1 Tm 4:1–3); Death (Ps 78:32; Jude 5)	Shame (Dn 9:7–8); Discipline (2 Sam 12:7–13); Rejected (1 Sam 13:13–14; 1 Kgs 11:9–13); Forgotten (Hos 4:6); Forsaken (2 Chr 15:2)	Overcome All Enemies <i>Positionally</i> through Imputation (1 Jn 5:4–5; Rv 2:7, 11; 3:5; 21:7) but Not <i>Experientially</i> through Spiritual Warfare (Rm 8:37; Rv 2:17, 26–27; 3:12, 21); Lack of Courage (Jn 16:33)	Give Occasion to God's Enemies to Blaspheme (2 Sam 12:14); Discipline (2 Sam 12:14); Unnecessary Hardship (Neh 9:26–27); Rejection & Death (Dn 5:22–30)
LOSS OF REWARDS IN THIS LIFE	No Close Walk (Gn 5:24; 6:9) and No Close Friendship with God (Ex 33:11; Nm 12:8); No Prosperity (Prv 28:13)	No Success (1 Sam 16:14; Ps 51:11); Never Accomplish God's Plan for Your Life (Zech 4:6–7)	Little Success (Ecc 10:10); Little Strength, Riches, Honor, or Peace (Prv 3:16–17; 24:5)	Discipline (Heb 12:6); Self-Induced Misery (Prv 22:3); Few Blessings (Ps 5:12)	Few Blessings (Mk 10:29–30); Discipline (2 Chr 26:16–21; Rv 3:19); Cursing (Dt 28:45–48; Neh 9:32–37)	Suffering (Nm 14:33; Dt 8:15); Loss of Inheritance (Nm 14:22–24)	Cursing (Dt 28:15ff); Loss of Inheritance (Dn 9:4–14; Heb 4:6)	No Authority (Acts 19:13–16); Defeated (Rm 8:37; Eph 6:11; Jas 4:7); Casualty (1 Pt 5:8)	Lightly Esteemed (1 Sam 2:30b); No Honor (2 Chr 26:18); Shame (Phil 3:19)
LOSS OF REWARDS IN THE NEXT LIFE	No Walk with Jesus in White Robes (Rv 3:4); No Eating and Drinking at Jesus' Table (Mt 26:29; Lk 22:28–30); Few Rewards (Heb 11:6)	Carnal Christians Will Receive Less Help and Power from the Holy Spirit in the World to Come Than Those Who Walked in the Spirit (Jn 14:16)	Martha Receives a Lesser Portion of Jesus' Inheritance for Doing Good Works (Lk 10:38–42); Loss of Reward for Teaching Wood, Hay, and Stubble such as Myths, False Doctrine, and Legalism (1 Cor 3:10–15); Little Eternal Glory (Dn 12:3)	Little Repayment (Mt 5:46; Lk 6:33; 14:13–14); Lesser Reward (Heb 10:35); Lose Crown (Rv 3:11); Little Wealth (1 Tm 4:8; 6:6); Smaller Inheritance (Ps 37:18; 1 Cor 6:9–10; Gal 5:21); Not Greatest in the Kingdom (Mt 18:4; Lk 9:48)	Little Honor (Mt 25:21; Jn 12:26); Last in the Kingdom (Mt 19:30); Lesser Position & Privilege (Ez 44:15; Hg 2:23; Lk 19:17, 19; Rv 2:26); Little Payment (Prv 19:17; 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); Little Treasure (Lk 12:33; 1 Tm 6:19; Rv 3:18); No Crown of Glory (1 Pt 5:1–4)	Little Praise, Glory & Honor (1 Pt 1:6–7); Little Reward (Heb 10:32–36); Lesser Position & Privilege (Rm 4:13); Little Glory (2 Cor 4:17); Loss of Inheritance (Heb 4:3; Jas 1:12; Rv 2:10)	Little Payment (1 Sam 26:23); Least in the Kingdom (Mt 5:19); Punishment & Shame (Ez 44:10–14); Loss of Inheritance (Heb 4:9–11); Rejection (1 Chr 28:9)	Little Honor (Rv 3:9); No Military Honors; No Crown of Righteousness for Fighting against Unrighteousness (2 Tm 4:7–8); Not a Pillar in the Temple (Rv 3:12); Receive No Diadems from Jesus (comp. Rv 19:12 with 21:24); No Rule with Christ (Rv 2:26–27; 3:21; 20:4)	Less Glorification (Dn 12:3; Mt 13:43) by Reducing Your Inheritance (Col 3:24), Treasure in Heaven (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); Shame (Mk 8:38; Lk 9:26; Rv 3:18; 16:15)
SPIRITUAL RECIPROCITY OR SPIRITUAL RECIPROCIATION PRINCIPLE	If You Don't Seek a Close Relationship with God Now, You Will Be in His Kingdom but He Will Deny You a Close Relationship with Himself Forever (Lk 22:28–30)	Not Depending on God's Spirit and Power Now <i>Reduces</i> the Spiritual Power You Will Have in the Next Life to Serve God (Is 59:21; Jn 14:16–17)	Don't Seek to Know God Now, and He Won't Let You Know Him <i>Intimately</i> in the World to Come (Ez 44:10–16; Hg 2:23; Lk 22:28–30; cf. Is 11:9)	Don't Seek to Be Like Jesus Now, and God Will Make You <i>Less</i> Like Him in the Next Life (1 Jn 3:2)	Don't Trust God with Your Life, and He Won't Entrust You with His Affairs (Mt 25:21; Lk 16:10–12; 19:20–26); Serve Poorly Now, and Receive Lesser Service Later (Hg 2:23; Mt 19:28)	Don't Trust God and He Will Not Trust You; Risk Little and God Will Give You Little (Gn 22:16–18; Heb 11:17–19)	Unfaithful with Little and God Will Give You Little (Lk 16:10–12; cf. 12:47–48; 19:17; Gal 6:7)	Flee or Be Overcome Now, and Forfeit Many Spoils of War in the Eternal Kingdom of God (Rv 5:1–14; 19:11–20:3; Mt 13:43; Rv 21:1–7)	Glorify God Little Now, and God Will Glorify You with Less—Forever (Rm 2:7; 2 Cor 4:17; 2 Tm 2:10)