

Why is It So Hard to Follow Jesus

7-14-2024

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10b

...I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of. (MSG)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1

- **What is God's will for your life?**

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, Ephesians 4:15

... that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. Colossians 4:12b

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15-16

How To Reconnect To The Vine

1. **Assess the Damage**

"I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. Revelation 3:15-16

- **Hot: You are Growing**

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

2 Thessalonians 1:3

- **Cold: You do not Know God**

- **Lukewarm: You are Drifting**

Therefore, we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. Hebrews 2:1

2. **Begin with the Big Stuff**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun! (TLB)

(for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God. Hebrews 7:19

He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Psalm 24:4-5

• **Two big barriers between you and God**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every **weight**, and **sin** which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1*

– 1. **Idolatry**

“You shall have no other gods before me. “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Exodus 20:3-4

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. John 14:15

· *Materialism, laziness, self-centeredness, lying, pride, gluttony, sexual lust, envy, anger*

– 2. **Sin**

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

Come to your senses and stop sinning. 1 Corinthians 15:34 (NLT)

3. Have a Plan

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; 1 Timothy 4:7

Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit. (Phillips)

Repent
Resolve
Respond