

The 3 Major Phases of the Normal Healthy Christian Life

<p>Salvation (Decision)</p> <p>①</p> <p>John 5:24 I assure you: Anyone who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.</p> <p>1 John 5:13 I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.</p>	<p>Lordship (Decision)</p> <p>②</p> <p>Matt. 11:28-30 (<i>Jesus said</i>) ... take up My yoke and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for yourselves. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.</p> <p>Heb. 3:19, 4:11 ... they (<i>Israelites</i>) were unable to enter because of unbelief. Let us then make every effort to enter that rest...</p> <p>1 Cor. 7:23 ... he who is called as a free man is Christ's slave. You were bought at a price....</p>	<p>Abiding In Christ (Process)</p> <p>③</p> <p>The goal is “continual” fellowship, To be a “usable” vessel (instrument)</p> <p>John 15:1-17 ...and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me.</p> <p>1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.</p> <p>Rom. 6:13 ... do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness.</p> <p>2 Tim. 2:21 So if anyone purifies himself from anything dishonorable, he will be a special instrument, set apart, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.</p>	<p>As I Abide, God Increasingly Produces His Fruit Through Me</p> <p>Eternal spiritual fruit is whatever the Holy Spirit produces through my life</p> <p>The Holy Spirit is producing His fruit through me Gal. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.</p> <p>John 15:5 ... The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit,... (see also Rom. 7:4) John 15:16 ... I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain,...</p> <p>God is glorifying Himself through me John 15:8 My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit...</p> <p>He is maturing me John 15:2 ... and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit.</p> <p>He is using my spiritual gift(s) 1 Cor. 12:4-11 ... A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person to produce what is beneficial...</p> <p>He is preparing eternal rewards for me 2 Cor. 4:17 ... producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.</p> <p>He is attracting others to Himself through me Acts 1:8 (<i>Jesus said</i>) ... you will be My witnesses...</p>
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The following true story about “Vera”, illustrates the 3 Major Phases of the Christian life

- 1) Even though a Lordship decision **should be made at conversion**, sometimes it is not made until **years later**.
- 2) A true surrender of the **will** is followed by changes in **behavior**. (review lesson 1-7, if needed)

(This testimony is segmented to better demonstrate the major phases of the Christian life.)

<p>① Salvation (Decision)</p> <p>Christ as “Savior”</p> <p>Vera recalls her conversion in a little church in Kansas: “When the invitation to receive Christ as Savior was given, I knew I should go forward. But my feet seemed glued to the floor. Finally on the last verse of ‘Almost Persuaded,’ I went and made my confession of faith.”</p> <p><i>This new believer should have been personally disciplined at this critical time, which probably would have averted the following years of desert experience.</i></p>	<p>Desert Experience</p> <p>After graduating from high school, Vera taught in an elementary school. Her teaching career ended when she married.</p>	<p>② Lordship (Decision)</p> <p>Christ as “Lord”</p> <p><i>(After some years of wandering)</i></p> <p>Vera relates. “I had been married several years when the Lord got my attention,” “At home one day, I came under deep conviction, and knew I had to ask Jesus to be the Lord of my life.”</p>	<p>③ Abiding In Christ (Process)</p> <p>Changed behavior brought about by the Holy Spirit’s transforming power</p> <p>“Changes came that I can’t explain, except that I know it was the Lord’s work in me.”</p> <p>Vera contacted people she felt she might have wronged and apologized to them. She developed a hunger for Bible study. “As a child I’d learned John 3:16 and Psalm 23, but I hadn’t been interested in learning anything else,” she confesses. “Now I wanted to learn everything.”</p> <p>To further her search for understanding of God’s Word, she tuned in to Gospel programs on her radio. And she began to make prayer a part of her daily routine.</p> <p>Through the years, as she helped with farming and raising their son, Vera continued to study the Bible and maintain her prayer regimen. When Vera and her husband decided to retire, they moved and joined a Bible-teaching church, where Vera was soon recognized for her Bible knowledge and her faithfulness in prayer.</p> <p>She didn’t plan it, nor is her intercession organized, yet through telephone or personal visits she has encouraged many lives. Seekers have been counseled as Vera shares spiritual truths from a lifetime relationship with the Lord.</p>
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