

4. The greatest enemy to occupation with Christ is self!
5. Arrogance is the deceiver of self through an unrealistic self-image.

James 1:22: “Be a doer of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

6. The arrogant one will never pick up the “yoke” because he seeks to receive and not serve.
7. Picking up that “yoke” requires reciprocal love motivation.

Why would the Lord mandate us to yoke ourselves to him??

The answer is simple. Ephesians 3:16: “That he would grant you according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man.”

8. This “yoke” or “yugos” that our Lord instructs us to pick up and put on is a metaphorical picture of positive volition to the protocol plan of God. It is an exact copy of the spiritual life tested and deployed by our Lord. We pick it up and put it on, then God the Holy Spirit begins to go to work shaping and molding us until we replicate the life of Christ.

Ephesians 2:10: “For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto divine good production which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

9. This template is invisible and applied to the soul. Paul recognized the finished work of God the Holy Spirit when he said in Ephesians 3:16: “So that He would give you according to the riches of His glory, His very own power so that you may be strengthened in the inner man by means of the Holy Spirit.”
10. Remember, you cannot pick up the “yoke” if you do not obey the imperative of “deute” or “come”.
11. The “yoke” is “easy” – (*christos*) good, gracious, kind. His “yoke” is manageable, and uplifting, gentle and edifying.
12. 1 Peter 2:3: “If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” This word “gracious” is the same word used here and translated “easy”.

PRINCIPLE: This voluntary submission to the “yoke” of our Lord will not drain nor weaken you, but instead make you stronger.

PRINCIPLE: Our Lord will never subject you to unrealistic goals nor burden you with unnecessary ritual.

So, if I were to identify the personality profile of our Lord that we should follow, part of it would definitely include:

“Wisdom” - Proverbs 9:10: “The fear (respect or reverence) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

“Knowledge” – Colossians 2:3: “In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

“Foresight” – Philippians 1:9: “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment.” (“*aisthesis*” – cognition, perception, discretion.)

“Understanding” – Psalms 119:104: “Through your precepts I get understanding.”

There is no doubt He had developed wisdom.

Luke 2:52: “And Jesus kept on increasing in wisdom (*σοφία (sophía)*) and physical maturity, and in grace [*χάρις (cháris)*] from the immediate source of God [*θεός (Théos)*] and all mankind”.

There is no doubt He had phenomenal understanding.

Luke 2:47: “And all that heard Him were amazed at His understanding and answers.”

Without a doubt he had amazing foresight.

Mark 10:32-34: “They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again, he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him.

Vs. 33: We are going up to Jerusalem,” he said, “and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles,

Vs. 34: who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.”

His understanding of the scriptures was legendary. Go back to age 12 in the temple and how the Scribes and Pharisees were amazed at His understanding of the scriptures.

Luke 2:45-47: “When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.

Vs. 46: Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

Vs. 47: And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.”

We must remember the Old Testament scriptures were written about Him but also to Him. He had a roadmap of His life in the prophecies of the Old Testament. He knew the foretold events of His life.

If our Lord acquired these assets in His human body, then we can as well. Remember, His spiritual life was our prototype. He demonstrated a unique lifestyle while in human form.

If you study Christ's life, you can see how He dealt with rejection and temptation, as well as political and religious pressure. We learn what is expected of us.

Jesus Christ faced political pressure from Rome but never appealed to politics.

He was mocked by religious leaders but never got discouraged.

He was tempted repeatedly but never succumbed to the temptation.

The people He needed the most, sold Him out and even denied Him.

If you stick with Bible Doctrine, be prepared to suffer. Your friends will turn on you, religion will oppose you, politicians will use you, and Satan will discourage you.

Those of you who are in the ministry, your message will be distorted, you will be discredited, the hearers will be discouraged, and the objective will be defeated. Remember, Satan is working way ahead of you seeking to cut you off at the pass.

Romans 5:3: “**And not only that but we also glory** (Our testing brings glory to us and the Lord, if we pass.) **in tribulation knowing that tribulation** (Everyday problems) **produces perseverance** (Endurance with people or circumstances) **and perseverance produces character and character produces hope** (*elpis* - ἐλπίς: the noun for joyful expectation or confident expectation).”

Col. Thieme says this about “hope”: Hope must be defined in two categories: confident expectation and absolute expectation with regard to the future. The difference between confident expectation and absolute expectation is your spiritual status. If you have walked through the door of hope (a personal sense of destiny – Problem Solving Device #6) with God's agenda, then you have converted confident expectation into absolute expectation.

Hope is the monopoly of the believer who is positive to Bible doctrine. 1 Thessalonians 4:13, "That you may not grieve with the rest who have no hope."

If you want to know what Christ did and replicate His life, you're going to have to humble yourself. That means to orient to authority. You're going to have to become obedient. That's what the Bible says Christ did in Philippians 2:7-8:

Vs. 7: “But emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Vs. 8: Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

There is no greater illustration than the humanity of our Lord.

He humbled Himself and became obedient. So, we have to humble ourselves and become obedient to His word.

1 Peter 5:5-6: “You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the arrogant, but gives grace to the humble.

Vs. 6: Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.”

As a member of the human race, our Lord had to learn humility from the authority of His parents (Hebrews 5:8).

As He grew, He learned authority orientation from the training of His parents and the authority of Scripture so that He was able to choose never to sin (Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

He accepted the authority of God the Father. He was free to avoid the cross, but He humbled Himself in obedience to God’s plan for His life. There would be no salvation without our Lord’s humility. Our Lord humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of the death of the cross.

True Humility as found in the Word of God is the quality that allows us to live the Christian Life.

In the end, living a life of humility and obedience to the Word of God, is honorable (Proverbs 18:12; 29:23) and exalting (1 Peter 5:6). “To live humbly with your God.”

1. Genuine humility is required in order to execute the Christian Life.
2. Genuine Humility is freedom from pride and arrogance.
3. There is nothing worse than a proud arrogant self-righteous Christian.
4. Without genuine humility, the believer is forever divorced from reality.
5. When there is no genuine humility, God the Father teaches through enforced humility by means of divine discipline.
6. Genuine humility is simply obedience to the divine mandates without complaining or whining about being treated unfairly.

7. Humility or being humble in the unique spiritual life of the Church Age is recognition of the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ and submitting to that authority.
8. In Biblical humility, the independence of human power and ability is reduced to zero, so that dependence on the power and ability of God are increased to the maximum through the function of grace.

I Peter 5:5b-6: “God resisteth the proud but he gives grace to the humble.

Vs. 6: Humble yourselves therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”

“Humble yourselves” - The aorist/passive/imperative of “*TAPEINOO*” - *ταπεινῶω* (shut up and listen and obey without making excuses)

The “Passive voice” of this verb indicates this is accomplished only by means of the Filling of the Holy Spirit, not some false humility.

You do know our Lord faced tests we cannot imagine. Do you think Jesus ever faced the fear of death? Absolutely! “My Son, I want You to go to earth, become a man and die and I will raise You up in three days.” “What?”

Jesus had the ultimate test. He had to willingly die and trust that His Father would resurrect Him. Trust that His Father would not abandon Him. It had to be hard and, even the night before He died, He said, “Father let this cup pass from Me” and then He said, “Nevertheless not My will but Thy will be done”.

Here’s the question for you. Do you believe God will raise you up again like Jesus believed it?

Matthew 4:1: “Then was Jesus led up under the authority of the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tempted from the source of the devil.”

Our Lord, had to be tested in order to become the prototype for the Church-Age believer. Jesus was impeccable and therefore not able to sin, nevertheless, the temptations were real.

The Holy Spirit led him into the desert where His volition was challenged in order to establish the prototype for the soon-to-become Church-Age believers.

Jesus had the filling of the Holy Spirit and was tested to follow the will of God while being tempted by the devil: [diǃboloj (diábolos): “accuser, slanderer, adversary, tempter”; proper names: “Lucifer, Satan”].

Matthew 4:2: “After He fasted [nhsteÚw (nēsteúō): privately for concentration on the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit] forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.”

Fasting refers to the decision to avoid eating so as to focus attention on the study and retention of divine guidance.

Mathew 4:3: “And when the tempter [devil, Lucifer, Satan] came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, and you are, speak to these stones commanding them to become bread.”

Lucifer issued a first-class condition to command Jesus to speak to the stones. The structure of the sentence indicates that Lucifer knew Jesus was the Son of God.

And since He is the Son of God, then Lucifer commands Him to:

“speak to these stones by commanding them to become bread.”

1. Recognizing Jesus as deity does not indicate that Lucifer is saved by this comment. It means that he recognizes the fact but continues, and remains, the lead witness for the defense before the Divine Court of Appeals.
2. Lucifer has been judged, found guilty, and sentenced to the lake of fire. The only reason his incarceration has not already taken place was his appeal to the court to allow his appeal.
3. In this scene, Lucifer is cross-examining Jesus in His true humanity to disqualify Him as a witness before the court.
4. If Jesus does what Lucifer commands, He will have discredited Himself as a witness by using His deity to perform the task.
5. It is the humanity of Christ that is under cross-examination, not His deity. Jesus’ task is to perform the duty of inculcating doctrine into his human soul in order to use Scripture to do battle in the angelic conflict.

Matthew 4:4: “But He [Jesus] answered and said, “It was written in the past with results that stand forever, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that keeps on coming out of the mouth of God which is to our advantage.’” (EXT)

Jesus did not use the power of His deity in His response but did use the power of the Word of God to do so in:

Deuteronomy 8:3b: ... “man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.”

1. Victory in the angelic conflict is not accomplished solely by utilization of worldly provisions such as food, but by the study, retention, facilitation, and application of the Word of God.

2. Our relationship with God is through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Just having the general necessities of life is not really living. Having a relationship with God must come first and that is through the study of the Word of God.
3. Throughout this passage, Jesus successfully passed all the tests that Lucifer threw at Him which prepared Him to endure the cross, while being judged for the sins of the entire world.

When tempted by Satan, He continually relied on the power and promises of the Word of God (Matthew 4; Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:16; 6:13).

So, if you're going to do what Jesus did, you will have to follow Him, and that means your faith is going to be tested. Everything you learn in the Bible Classes our pastor teaches, you're going to be tested on them. I hate to tell you that but that's the way it is. The Bible says in, 1 Peter 1:7:

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried by fire,” “that it might be found in the praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

Faith has to be tested and we see how to handle that testing by the example the Lord Jesus Christ left for us.

The template left by our Lord is a pattern for our thinking and actions so that we should walk in His steps.

You are going to be tested and now we know how to handle it. If you continue your spiritual advance not only will you be tested but you will be hated.

I've told you before, and I want to remind you again, persecution is coming in terms of anti-Christian thinking; you've just begun to see the tip of the iceberg.

But our Lord was hated, and He was persecuted, so we have no reason to be concerned because our Lord tells us in Matthew 10:16-22:

Vs.16: “Behold I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, therefore be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

Vs.17: But beware of men for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues;

Vs.18: and you will be brought before Governors and Kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

Vs.19: But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you shall speak. For it will be given you in that hour what you should say.

Vs.20: For it is not you who speaks but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

Vs.21: Brother will deliver brother, Father will deliver children, children will deliver parents and cause them to be put to death.

Vs.22: You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end, shall be delivered (future passive indicative of "sozo" – "σῶζω" here it means to be delivered from danger or even death.) from persecution."

John 17:14: "I have given them Your word and the world hated them because they are not of this world just as I am not of this world."

Psalms 69:4: "They that hate are without cause. They are more than the hairs of mine head."

John 15:20: "If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you."

Philippians 1:29: "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him but also to suffer for His sake."

Another example our Lord left us was how to pray and He told us to pray without ceasing!!

Did our Lord pray?

Matthew 5:44: "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Luke 23:34: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Luke 22:41-42: "And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray.

Vs.42: saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thy will be done."

He tells us how to pray:

Be in fellowship and filled with the Holy Spirit by confessing any known sins to God the Father. 1 John 1:9 & 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Address your prayer to God the Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and close in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 6:6 & Ephesians 6:18

He tells us what to pray:

Gratitude and Thanksgiving: Give adoration and thanksgiving to God for His daily grace provisions. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 & Ephesians 5:20

Intercessions: Pray for others. Ephesians 6:18 and pray for our nation and its leadership. 2 Chronicles 7:14 & Numbers 14:13. Pray for those who seek to do you harm. Matthew 5:44 & Luke 6:28

Petitions and Supplications: Pray for yourself. Hebrews 4:16 Request sanctification of food. 1 Timothy 4:4-5

So, if we want to know “What Jesus Would Do”? We have to know what “He Did”. And that starts with knowing the “Mind of Christ,” which He left for us, and sitting and studying under a qualified pastor who teaches us Bible Doctrine. We can then follow the mandates and the example He left for us.

We did not touch on everything, it would take years to teach all the examples our Lord left for us to follow, but I tried to touch on a couple of very important attributes of our Lord that we need to replicate if we are going to be someone God can use.

We know that Christianity itself is under attack and is being suppressed in the public forum (the courts, Marxists, the government, etc.). The gospel, which has been freely preached for years in this nation, is being squelched and forbidden in society. Christians are mocked for believing; Churches are being abandoned by believers because they don't teach the Scripture. Christians are more involved in social issues than they are spiritual issues.

Believers are not assembling due to laziness. If you don't assemble, you miss like minds and encouragement. You are bombarded by evil at all other times. I want to tell you, you're only like-mindedness is in this church.

I can tell you this: our Lord had no fear and He left us His example of how to handle it. Was it fun to go to the cross? No, it wasn't; but He fulfilled His duty with NO FEAR so that by simple faith alone in Him alone, we can have eternal life.

The fear believers have of the present, and of the future, is a direct result of not inculcating and applying the Word of God in your soul.

So, every time you show up in this Bible class, and every time you listen Joe teach the Word of God, it is equipping you to handle whatever storm you may face in your life. By using the doctrine that you have in your soul, God is glorified to the max. You never have to be afraid. You never have to worry. You don't have to be stressed out.

But if you're going to apply it, you must have something to apply. So, you need to get here and sit down and shut up and fake it until you make it.