

Journey #4 Living The Life

Understanding What Is True of You as a Believer and Living Accordingly

When professional golfer Tiger Woods signed a 40 million dollar deal with Nike, one of the world's most competitive sports and fitness companies, many thought he would not live up to the hype. The media often said Nike got ripped off. However, the negative press did not phase Tiger.

One professional said of the golfer, "He's just so confident. He doesn't think he's going to lose." In sports, belief is critical. If a person believes he or she will lose, they will lose every time. In your new walk with God, belief is everything. If you don't believe the truth, you'll live out a lie.

The 411: *In this study, you will learn how to understand what is true of you as a Christian, so that you can live accordingly.*

Before Christ

"In the past you were dead because you sinned and fought against God. You followed the ways of this world and obeyed the devil. He rules the world, and his spirit has power over everyone who doesn't obey God." —Ephesians 2:1-2

Truth: Ephesians 2:1-3

These verses describe your old spiritual condition as dead. Can you discover three things that motivated your actions and beliefs during this time of being spiritually dead?

In Revelation 12:9, Satan is called the great deceiver. How did he try to deceive you from seeing your need for salvation through Jesus?

In 1 John 2:16, the world is described as having three characteristics: lust of the sinful nature, pride in one's life, and lust for everything we see. Before Christ, how did you live out these characteristics?

In Galatians 5:19-21, a number of things describe your sinful nature. Look up these verses and write down some characteristics that were evident in your life before receiving Christ.

In Christ

“Don’t be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to Him.” —Romans 12:2

The picture of your life before receiving Christ is pretty grim. Your entire belief system was controlled and influenced by Satan, the world, and your sinful nature. Now that you’re in Christ, it’s essential that you reprogram your mind so you can live out what is true about you in light of your new identity.

Truth: Romans 12:2

How will you learn to live in a way that honors God?

Being transformed by the “renewing of your mind” is not instantaneous. The process will take a lifetime of listening and responding to the Holy Spirit. There are times you’ll listen and respond, and times you’ll choose not to listen and respond. In those times of obedience, you will be empowered by God’s Spirit and will bear much fruit for His glory.

In those times of refusing to respond to the Holy Spirit (also known as sin), you will limit God’s power in your life and stifle your spiritual growth. Keep 1 John 1:9 in mind in such moments: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

When you confess your sin, what is God’s response?

Truth: Ephesians 5:18 and Galatians 5:22-24

How can you ensure that the process of renewing your mind will not become stifled?

“Don’t destroy yourself by getting drunk, but let the Spirit fill your life.” —Ephesians 5:18

What is the key to having a consistent walk with Jesus?

The Application

- Meditate on Romans 8:6-8.
- Think through ways that you tend to rely on your sinful nature and become deceived by the lies of Satan and the ways of the world, confess your actions to God and ask Him to empower you with His Spirit.
- For the next week, put into practice the truths of Romans 12:2, Ephesians 5:18 and Galatians 5:22-24.