

COMMON OBJECTION

If I become a Christian, what changes will I see in my life?

If you have given your life to the Lord Jesus, you have entered an exciting new world. Things should be different for you. Your life will feel fresh and new. If God has really taken the throne of your heart, you will see these changes in your life.

First, *a desire for scripture*. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” As a true disciple, you will want to find out in His Word what God wants you to know. The Bible is your spiritual bread. It is your weapon to defeat the devil. It is the manual to show you how to live. True disciples are people of the Bible (Job 23:12; Jeremiah 15:16; Deuteronomy 6:5-7; Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 2:2).

Make a solemn vow to God to spend a certain amount of time or read a certain number of chapters a day of God’s Word (see Ecclesiastes 5:4-6). God will take you at your word on any promise you make to Him.

Second, *a difference in standards*. “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold all things are become new (2 Corinthians 5:17). A real (conversion) disciple is different in habits, actions and purpose; is different in word, thought and standards.

Becoming a Christian is like learning to drive on the other side of the road. You must be careful for a while until you learn to think and act by habit in this new way. In times of stress and sudden temptations you may strongly feel like going back to your old way of life. This is especially true if past habits have taken deep root in your memory. But here is the promise from scripture, “there is no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above that which you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Third, *a discipline of self*. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23). If you are a true child of God, you will begin to tighten up old areas where you used to let yourself “hang loose.” Once the (conversion) disciple of Jesus has asked Him to take his life, He will do it. And He will keep dealing with him until his life is like that of His Son. “Every man that has this hope in Him purifies himself, even as He is pure” (1 John 3:3; Matthew 16:24; Luke 3:11; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27)

Fourth, *a despising by society*. Jesus said, “Because you are not of this world the world will hate you.... If they have persecuted Me, they will persecute you” (John 15:19-20). A real disciple of Jesus will have trouble from the world. When the light of

Jesus shines on the selfish world, sinners caught in it can do only one of three things: run from it, try to put it out or destroy it, or surrender to it and give their lives to God. Make no mistake—if you will live for God, you can expect real trouble from the world around you. “All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12).

“Blessed are you when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in Heaven” (Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Timothy 2:12; John 15:18-21; Romans 8:18; 12:20-21; 1 Peter 2:20-21).

Fifth, a seeking of other disciples. “By this shall all men know that you are My disciples: if you have love one to another” (John 13:35). Find a true church with true faith. Go where you feel at home, where you feel the love of God, where truth is preached with compassion, then work with these disciples there for the Lord Jesus. The church is to be united around the goal of accomplishing the single mission of the church, namely, to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). You cannot be a Christian by not going to church. “And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Six, a serving of the Lord. “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain!” (Philippians 1:21). The task of world evangelism is not given only as a lifetime work to the preacher, missionary or evangelist; it is given to each of Christ’s true (conversion) disciples as a lifetime work. Jesus said, “You shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem (at home), and in all Judea (in the immediate neighborhood) and in Samaria (among the outcasts of society), and even to the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). All of us have a call to serve the Lord and help Him reach His world (1 John 3:16-24; 1 Peter 2:21; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Philippians 1:21; Matthew 10:32; John 14:12).

Seventh, a sticking to the task. “One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:13-14; homework: Psalm 37:23-24; Romans 6:1-14; 2 Peter 1:1-10; John 5:37-39). A true (conversion) disciple of Jesus must be determined to stay true to Christ. The express teaching of the Bible is that we live a life of habitual victory over sin out of love to God (Matthew 5:13-18; 7:12-27; Mark 12:28-34; John 15:8-14; Romans 13:9-11; 1 John 3:3-11). All of us will be confronted each day with temptation, weakness and possible failure; but God’s grace we can overcome (1 Corinthians 10:13).