

A faithful Christian is a knowledgeable Christian.

James

Keep pressing on to spiritual maturity

The well-informed Christian

Successful Christianity

1. The dream job? being spiritually minded

a.

Romans 8:5 (NKJV)

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

2. Joyful in the midst of difficulties:

Job 5:7-9 (NKJV)

7 Yet man is born to trouble, As the sparks fly upward.

8 "But as for me, I would seek God, And to God I would commit my cause--

9 Who does great things, and unsearchable, Marvelous things without number.

3. Watchful / Sober Minded

1 Peter 1:13-15 (NKJV)

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

15 but as He who called you is holy, **you also be holy in all your conduct**

A universal statement that includes every area of our life

1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be **watchful** in your prayers.

3706 ὡφειλο (wphilo) vb.; 3 Str 3525, TDNT 4:936--1. LN 30:25 (most versions) be sober-minded, i.e., clear-headed, not drunk
 17 To 5:6, 8, 21:4-5, 1Pe 1:13, 4:7, 2:9e, Mt 6:28 v.t.

Luke 21:34 (NKJV)

34 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

Romans 13:11-13 (NKJV)

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

1 Thessalonians 5:6-8 (NKJV)

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us **watch** and be **sober**.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of **faith** and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

4. Christ our example:

i.

Though Christ did not have a sin nature, Satan attempted to influence Him nonetheless

Luke 4:3-12 (NKJV)

3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6 And the devil said to Him, "All the authority I will give You, and their glory, for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I will."

7 Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

8 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

9 Then He brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here."

10 For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you.'

11 and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

12 And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"

4. There is a satanic influence working in the area of our sin nature to keep us from learning Bible doctrine

a.

Satan great accuser:

Zechariah 3:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and **Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him**.

2 And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

Job 1:9-12 (NKJV)

9 So **Satan** answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

10 Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

11 **But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"**12 And the Lord said to **Satan**, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So **Satan** went out from the presence of the Lord.

God uses temptations testings and trials to perfect us:

1 Peter 5:5-11 (NKJV)

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil** walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom **he may devour**.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

10 **But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.**

11 To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV)

11 lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NKJV)

26 "Be angry, and do not sin"; do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

27 nor give place to the devil.

Key memory passage

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NKJV)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

11 **Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

The lies and deceptions of the evil one

16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of **the wicked one**

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all **perseverance** and supplication for all the saints--

i.

ii.