

## The Barriers To A Normal Christian Life

### Introduction

- A. It is possible, with the best of intentions, to be mistaken in some important areas of belief and action. Such mistakes almost always serve as serious hindrances to a successful Christian life. They become barriers to the receiving and practice of the grace of God.
- B. If we are to be successful Christians we must honestly search out and destroy these barriers. God can only deliver us as we know and practice the truth, John 8:32.
- C. Satan, our enemy is called a Liar (John 8:44), a Hinderer (I Thess. 2:18) and a Deceiver (Rev. 12:9,10).
- I. That nan, and even the Christian, is unimportant to God.  
Cf. Deuteronomy 4:20; 7:6,7; 14:2; 26:18,19; 28:9; 29:13; 32:9; Psalm 33:12; Isaiah 43:1,7,21; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Eph. 1:18; Col. 1:16; Rev. 4:11.
- II. That there are some "second-rate\* Christians. God has not given Himself equally to all believers for a successful daily life.  
Cf. Matthew 11:28-30; John 7:37-39; 15:1-10; Rom. 8:13-17; I Cor. 1:24,30; Eph. 1:3,7-23; II Peter 1:3,4.
- III. That there is a hierarchy of calling in the church. Only the clergy are really called. If you don't feel called then you're not.  
Cf. Romans 8:28,29; I Cor. 1:9; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 1:18; 4:4; Phil. 3:14; I Thess. 4:7; II Timothy 1:9; Hebrews 3:1; I Peter 2:9.
- IV. That prayer and a knowledge of the Bible are not necessary to fulfill God's will.  
Cf. Matthew 6:10; Col. 4:12; Mark 11:24; Phil. 4:6,7; John 16:24; Rom. 15:30-32; Hebrews 4:1-3; I Peter 2:2.
- V. That inner thoughts and meditation can be a substitute for prayer.  
Cf. Matthew 6:6-13; 7:7; Luke 18:1; I John 5:13,14.
- VI. That knowledge is unimportant for faith and continual growth.  
Cf. Luke 19:42-44; John 5:24; Rom. 6:16-18; 10:17; Heb. 4:1-3; 11:1-40.
- VII. That religious feelings are a genuine criteria of truth. "If I don't feel guilty then I'm not."  
Cf. Jer. 8:5-12; Malachi 3:7; Matt. 3:7-9; 23:1-33; Acts 26;9; James 1:22-24.
- VIII. That since I'm a Christian I no longer need the Bible I have the truth within me.  
Cf. John 17:17,19; II Cor. 7:1; Hebrews 4:1-3; II Peter 3:18.
- IX. That the commandments of God are only "good advice.\* "I don't have to do anything."  
Cf. Jer. 7:21-28; 13:1-11; Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 6:46-49; I John 2:3-5; 3:4,9; 5:3.
- X. That since I am a Christian I now know the truth and therefore no longer resist God and His will for my life.  
Cf. Acts 5:1-11; Eph. 4:17-32; Col. 3:1-17; II Timothy 2:25,26.
- XI. That sanctification is not in the present tense: "I don't have to do anything now."  
Cf. II Cor. 7:1; Eph. 4:22-32; Col. 3:1-17; Hebrews 3:7-19; I Peter 1:13-25.

- XII. That surrendering to God results in passivity of the will and intellect.  
Cf. Romans 12:1-3; Eph. 4:22-32; Col. 3:1-17; Phil. 3:13,14; Hebrews 11.
- XIII. That faith is unimportant in sanctification, it is the work of God.  
Cf. Romans 14:23; 15:13; Hebrews 4:1-11; 11:6; I Peter 1:6-8.
- XIV. That faith is a feeling.  
Cf. Matthew 8:5-10; Romans 4:17-24; Hebrews 11:1-40.
- XV. That faith and love can be separated.  
Cf. I Cor. 13:13; Gal. 5:6; I Thess. 1:3; 3:6; I Timothy 1:5.
- XVI. That faith and love can exist without works.  
Cf. John 14:15,21,23; James 4:17-20; I John 5:3; II John 6.
- XVII. That God must break me with conviction before I can act.  
Cf. Jer. 5:3; 6:19; 7:13,14,23-28; 13:10,11; 14:10-12; Rom. 10:17; II Cor. 7:1.
- XVIII. That we can sanctify ourselves.  
Cf. John 15:5; Romans 6:16-18; 7:15-25; 8:13,14; II Peter 1:3.
- XIX. That sanctification has to do with my actions but not with me as a person.  
Cf. Mark 7:20-23; 8:34; II Cor. 7:1; Phil. 3:10; II Tim. 2:25; James 4:4.
- XX. That physical sins are worse than spiritual sins.  
Cf. Matthew 11:20-24; 22:34-40; 23:23; I Samuel 15:22,23; John 19:11; Rom. 13:14; Eph. 6:16; Col. 3:14; Hebrews 11:6; I Peter 4:8.
- XXI. That there is no difference between sins of ignorance, weakness and presumption.  
Cf. Lev. 4:2,13,22,27; 5:15-19; Numbers 15:30,31; Psalm 19:13; Matt. 11:20-24; Matt. 23:14; John 19:11.
- XXII. That "I can continue to pretend, cheat, and live a 'double life' - if I'm sincere in acknowledging it."  
Cf. Mark 7:18-23; Col. 3:5-10; I Thess. 4:1-7; I John 2:3-5; Jer. 2:13; 7:14-16; Hosea 13:9; James 1:22.
- XXIII. That the believer can knowingly sin, confess it and be totally free from its effects.  
Cf. Prov. 6:27,28; 14:14; Jer. 2:19; 4:18; 17:10; I Cor. 3:11-15; II Cor. 5:10.
- XXIV. That when I sin against God I'm back at zero and must start all over again.  
Cf. John 10:28,29; 12:24; 15:1-11; Romans 8:31-39; I Cor. 12:13-26.
- XXV. That we can go from failure to perfection in sanctification immediately.  
Cf. Eph. 4:11-16; Phil. 3:12-14; Heb. 5:12-14; I Peter 2:2; II Peter 3:18.
- XXVI. That Christianity will work in the lives of other people - but not in mine.  
Cf. Romans 1:16; Eph. 1:3; II Peter 1:3; Romans 15:13.

Now, list those hindrances which keep you from enjoying the Lord.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.