
SOLA FIDE

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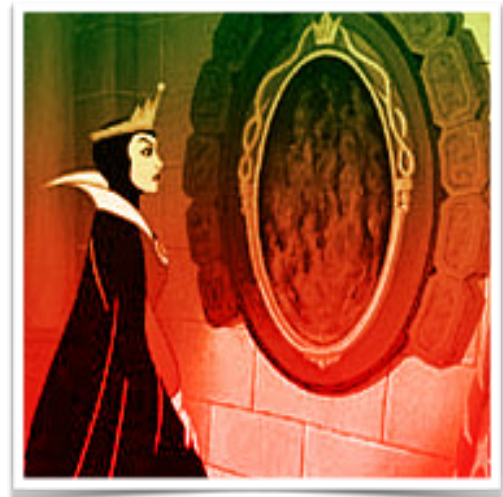
Zombie Christians

Ever look around the corporate worship on Sunday and see dead, lifeless faces? Many of these people profess repentance and submission to Jesus and bear fruit so their salvation is unquestioned, but they seemingly hit a roadblock in their Christian walk. They look like they don't want to be at there: bored, uninterested, and look...dead. They are physically present but not really there. Stale worship and prayers. Undesirous to serve. Hearing but not listening to the Word. It's as if people are spiritual zombies and they are filling up the pews. And the frightening consideration is that, just maybe, maybe this is you.

The Holy Spirit is within every believer (Ti. 3:6) and it's His work that sanctifies and transforms us to be like Christ. His work never fails. As sinners, saved but yet to be perfected (1 Jn 3:2), Christians may fail to respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit time to time. Often times, we fail and even resist the Holy Spirit's sanctifying work by falling into temptation and sinning, not paying attention to encumbrances, going back to our old way of life. And these failures can result in a believer, causing them to be "dead" - lacking vibrancy and excitement towards God and the things of God. Although the individual reasons for lacking spiritual vibrancy will vary, consider these immediate applications, either to actively engage in the Spirit's ongoing, transforming work.

1. Brutal Honesty

Truthfully, harshly, prayerfully ask and answer the question: WHY DO YOU COME TO CHURCH? Who are you there for? What or whom do you really worship? Neither the textbook answer you know is correct nor sounds good. What is the REAL reason? This needs to be confronted NOW. If you don't know, pray that the Holy Spirit graciously reveals this root. And if it's any other reason than the worshipping of Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-24), repent and pray that the Lord will show what a great and mighty God He is and the only possible response would be to worship on bended knee. Just being physically present is never enough (Jas. 1:22). The entirety of Psalms exclaims an *active* praise of the Lord, not an *idle* worship. The believer looks forward to, eagerly anticipates ETERNITY with our Lord (Ps. 145). Just in case you didn't know, eternity is a much longer period than the duration of a Sunday service!



2. Take Advantage of Accountability

As a believer is continually being sanctified to be like Christ, both in the celebrations and struggles in Christian life, meaningful, everlasting relationships are forged with other believers (1 Cor. 1:10; Col. 3:13-16). These relationships aren't just for laughs and memories, it is to challenge each other to grow in holiness (Pro. 27:17). So even though those zombies at your church may seem guarded, uninterested and unapproachable, we need to engage with them. All it takes is a question of "what's going on?" Sharing the ups and downs of your spiritual life can help open the eyes of another believer to see how God is indeed working in his or her life. Or simply ask how you can pray for them. I've found when others ask how they can pray for me, it makes me evaluate my walk with the Lord. Often, it gives me a few prayer topics to turn to later. Your fellow brother or sister may not even have realized he or she was struggling until you brought it up. These conversations can be initially awkward, but fortunately, none of this is dependent on our social skills; the Holy Spirit is at work in uniting believers (Ps. 133:1; Eph. 1:1-6; 1 Cor. 12). Don't be afraid to hold another believer accountable! On the flip side, don't be offended if someone else is being accountable with you!



3. Wake up!

Be physically awake! Physical fatigue plagues us all. Even the apostles were guilty (Mt. 26) and Eutychus paid the ultimate price for falling asleep during a sermon (Acts 20). Maybe you look like a spiritual zombie... because you kind of actually are a zombie: barely getting any sleep and always running on fumes. If that is the case, chances are your spiritual life is just as lifeless. Come home early that Saturday night and get a full night's rest. Nothing you do that Saturday night is worth sacrificing the next day's worship. If need be, consume a responsible amount of caffeine. We all have our liquid energy boosts to endure work, school and power through the gym. If we consider those prior responsibilities important enough to stay awake for, let's seriously value our time at church and be even more awake, attentive, and responsive.



Conclusion

Christians are sinners justified by Christ's blood but the ensuing sanctification will inevitably have its ebbs and flows. Spiritual growth does not occur without the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in us, so none of the three points stated above are magical solution for the inner transformation, but they are immediate and personal application that can aid us in faithfully responding to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, as you apply the points mentioned above, pray all the more that you will always rely upon the Holy Spirit and submit to His leading. What a cruel joke it would be if we looked around upon resurrection to find out we look like Hollywood zombies... walking, rotting corpses. Now we all know that's far from the truth (1 Cor. 15:35-55). We are new creations, alive in Christ (Gal. 2:20), then let us gather and worship as such (Rom. 12:11).