

- Systemic Teaching about Christian Life -

# Always Walking in Direct Dependence on Christ

Series:  
Walking in  
Newness of Life

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The subject presented in this material aims to provide support to knowledge and an in-depth study of the Bible and the Christian life.

Based on the understanding that in the Christian Bible is contained the consolidation of fundamental and formal records of the writings inspired by God for humanity and each person of it, the contents exposed in this material are not intended to add, ever, anything to the Bible, nor ever remove anything from it. The aim through this subject is to contribute to the exploration of what already was registered and passed on to us over thousands of years of history by the One Creator and Lord of Heaven and Earth.

The contents presented on the next pages, of course, intend to address just a portion of the essential themes of life displayed with such great amplitude in the Bible. On the other hand, however, this subject is presented in a grouped, colligated, organized and systematized manner with the objective to serve as an aid to knowledge and understanding of the Christian life without losing sight of the main aspects of it.

*Ecclesiastes 12: 11 The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd.*

Related words put together, as told in the biblical text above, serve as goads and nails for fixing supports and help for the life of people that hear and receive them. Therefore, one objective of this material is to study and seek a broader understanding of the truths handed down to us by the Unique Pastor and God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

We would still like to suggest that the reading and studying of this material also should always be accompanied by prudence and proper investigation, believing that this is a very healthy habit to be practiced toward any material presented to a person.

The act of acceptance, rejection, or “retaining what is good,” is a personal and individual attribute given to those who receive the wisdom from God and which should be exercised or used by them toward all that comes into their hands.

*Proverbs 8: 12 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion.*

*Acts 17: 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

*Proverbs 16: 1 The preparations of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.*

*2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the spirits.*

*3 Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.*

More details about these initial considerations are posted at [www.zoominchristianlife.org](http://www.zoominchristianlife.org).

Ronald Gortz and Irmelin Gortz, servants of the Lord Jesus Christ!

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*Revelation 21: 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."  
6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*

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*1Timothy 2: 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,  
4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

More details about these initial considerations are posted at [www.zoominchristianlife.org](http://www.zoominchristianlife.org).

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## **C1. God's Gifts Are Given by the Lord Not to Replace the Lord Himself**

This new theme is a continuation of the Walking in Newness of Life series and is preceded by a sequence of subjects in which we address various aspects that are related to the proper support for a Christian to be able to walk effectively in the new life that is granted to him or her as a new creature in Christ Jesus, as well as we also address in them various practical aspects to which a Christian is called to be attentive in carrying out this same walking in the Lord.

Nevertheless, although the theme that we intend to address in this new material briefly has already been discussed in various ways and angles in the subjects referenced above, it seems beneficial to us to highlight it once again in a condensed form and before concluding the themes of this series also given the fact that this subject is so directly related to the central point of walking in newness of life.

In the various themes of the Systemic Teaching about Christian Life, we repeatedly stress that life according to God's will for people is in the Lord Jesus Christ. However, when this aspect is faced particularly with walking in the newness of life in Christ Jesus, in addition to living in Christ, a thought often resurfaces, even among Christians, that resists the point that the practical living of this affirmation, truth, or vital consideration of the Christian life is indeed part of God's calling for those who have been saved in Christ Jesus.

In Christ Jesus, the Christian has available one's reconciliation with God to live a life of fellowship with the Lord. However, when what a Christian learns from the Lord is faced with the possibility of also being applied in one's daily life in the present world, which reflects walking in newness of life, doubts may often arise that seek to make Christians end up being more inclined to decide and act based on their own understanding or the understanding of the world. And this, to prevent Christians from remaining in the wisdom that God gives them regarding their practical daily actions, whether they are small or large.

Although many Christians even adopt a life of seeking the Lord and some discipline in reading the Scriptures, it may happen that many of them do not pay attention or are even reluctant to understand that the wisdom or instruction that the Lord gives them is granted to them so that they may also practice it in their most diverse activities or actions in the present world.

Since the Christian's newness of life is more firmly established through one's abiding in the Lord or one's fellowship with Christ, this bond with the Lord will also be the target of the more intense attack and resistance from the powers of darkness and the world that oppose God, but often also channeled in a more specific way to resist the practical fulfillment of the instructions that a Christian receives from the Lord.

If the powers of darkness and the world, in their subtleties, do not achieve progress in obstructing a person from searching the Lord, they still seek to lead this individual away from a clear understanding and faith in God regarding the practices of what the Lord teaches those who seek Him, trying to introduce a discrepancy or distance between what a person hears and what one practices. And they do this with the intention of weakening one's faith in God regarding one's practical actions in the present world.

If the powers of darkness and the world cannot interpose themselves in a person's search for the Lord, they seek to present a division between the search and the fulfillment of God's instruction in the practical aspects of everyday life, seeking, however, as a higher target, to introduce a division in people's hearts in their relationship with the Lord. That is why a Christian is also called to grow in a sober understanding of the fundamental aspects of one's relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ in all parts of one's life.

When God calls every Christian also to be attentive to the paths one chooses to walk in one's life in the world, as well as the actions one takes on these paths, the Lord's central purpose aims to call each Christian to be attentive to keeping what should be kept above all else, as exemplified in the following text:

- Proverbs 4: 23 **Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.***  
*24 **Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.***  
*25 **Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you.***  
*26 **Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established.***  
*27 **Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.***
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Thus, although we have already addressed this topic previously, we are reiterating it once again considering that the darkness, in its eagerness to interpose itself in the living and continuous relationship between Christians and their Lord, seeks to make use of even the attempts to distort people's understanding of their relationship with the gifts they have received from God. That is why, also in this sense, it is necessary for a Christian to have a firm understanding that the fundamental support of one's life is in the Lord Himself and not only in a set of some gifts that one received from God.

**Among human beings, there is a recurring tendency to think that they can live on the gifts that God has given them without, however, understanding that they need to “abide in God” so that they can actually live a life according to the Heavenly Father's will. Among human beings, there is an elevated recurring tendency to forget that each one constantly depends on the breath of life granted by God even to be able to use the other gifts that the Lord gives them.**

God, for example, can guide a person to the food supply, but the life and ability for an individual to be able to feed on this gift that the Lord grants also come from the Lord. And if the Lord withdraws His Spirit from a person, one will no longer have the possibility of enjoying any natural gift that one has received or obtained, as the following texts from the Book of Job remind us:

*Job 33: 4 **The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.***

*Job 34: 14 **If He should set His heart on it, If He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath,***

***15 All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust.***

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Many people repeatedly or even continually fall back into the thought that if they are supplied with food and natural resources, they are assured of the continuity and well-being of their lives. This, however, even by a slightly broader merely rational understanding, is demonstrated as a very fragile and incomplete thought in the face of so much diversity of adversities that may oppose an individual's life.

The idea of trying to “store life” rather than being connected to the source of life has always attracted humanity. However, although God grants part of the sustenance of life through His gifts that a person may even store, these gifts are not given by God so that people, because of them, should seek to replace the very Giver of all life with the gifts that the Lord grants them.

Therefore, regarding the matter addressed in this chapter and to keep Christians careful not to give excessive credit to the gifts they think they can store up for the security of their lives, we also find in the book of the prophet Jeremiah a description of two great evils that human beings may commit concerning the Giver of life and to the detriment of themselves, as follows:

*Jeremiah 2: 13* **"For My people have committed two evils: (1<sup>st</sup>) They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And (2<sup>nd</sup>) hewn themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water."**

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The text from the prophet Jeremiah mentioned above then explicitly displays the improper thinking that many people have regarding the Giver of life and His gifts, showing us two errors that add up or complement each other, which we repeat below once again:

- ⇒ 1<sup>st</sup>) **People leave their direct dependence on the Lord, who is the source of living waters;**
- ⇒ 2<sup>nd</sup>) **People leave their relationship with the Lord because they think they can store the waters of life in cisterns that they hew themselves.**

In this way, the attitude of digging cisterns to try to store God's living waters exposes different facets of the practical behavior that many people adopt regarding the different gifts that God gives them or promises to grant them.

For example, the attitude of digging cisterns, among others, demonstrates:

- ⇒ 1) A distrust regarding God's continual provision for true life;
- ⇒ 2) A desire for autonomy of life in case God no longer provides the living waters or the supply for life;
- ⇒ 3) A thought that human beings are capable of storing true life in cisterns or warehouses that they themselves create or build;
- ⇒ 4) An intention not to be tied to a continuous dependence on the Lord, which is also expressed as a calling to walk according to the will of the Lord.

On the other hand, we see that the Lord firmly rebukes His people by saying that the cisterns they hew are broken and cannot hold the living waters they need so much.

Given this, a crucial matter that every Christian should learn to dissociate is the difference between passing gifts and eternal gifts that God grants to a person.

In other words, **regarding the newness of life in Christ Jesus, also in the sense of walking in this novelty of life, the Lord does not only want to grant some portions of “living waters” to people, but He wants to grant them continuous access to the “fountain of living waters.” And this, in turn, is made possible by direct and continuous access to the Lord Himself, accomplished by believing and receiving Christ Jesus as Lord in the heart, as well as by living and walking under His Lordship.**

Unfortunately, many people have been content with a few portions that they think they can store in their barns or cisterns. They are satisfied with parts of what they received from God and believe that they will be able to support themselves with these portions for the rest of their lives even if they abstain from personal and direct dependence on the Lord.

Nevertheless, **the calling to life in God, also called Christian life, is a calling to a life that is renewed in the living and continuous relationship with the Lord Himself. A condition from which a Christian should never distance oneself or accept being moved away.**

**Although human beings can even build large buildings to store natural supplies, the most crucial supply, which is the nourishment of the inner man or the new creature in Christ Jesus, can only be provided through God's spiritual ways, which, in turn, have their source of supply only in God.**

*John 7: 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

*39(a) But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; ...*

*John 15: 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*

*5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."*

*2 Corinthians 4: 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*

*Ephesians 3: 14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*



***15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,  
16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to  
be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ...***

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Human cisterns, based on their institutions, denominations, temples, rules, precepts, sacrifices, and material offerings, cannot retain, in their natural or limited condition, that which is spiritual, which needs the freshness constantly renewed, and which can only be obtained at the source of eternal life.

Furthermore, similarly to the prophet Jeremiah, the prophet Ezekiel also gives an instruction that what has been stored or is already outside the living flow of God's movement also no longer serves to manifest and sustain life according to the newness that there is in the Lord, text partially recalled below:

***Ezekiel 47: 1 Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar.  
2 He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side.***

....

***8 Then he said to me: "This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed.  
9 And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.  
10 It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many.  
11 But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt.  
12 Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine."***

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Thus, when we see the last text above in conjunction with the perspective that (1) the Lord Jesus Christ was seated by the Heavenly Father at the right hand of His heavenly throne from which flow the living waters, that (2) in Christ Jesus it is revealed to us that the throne of God is in a high and sublime place, but also in the heart of the one in whom the Lord dwells and not in temples made by human hands, and further, that (3) the one who believes in Christ as the Lord also has in him or her the Holy Spirit to make the rivers of living water flow in one's life, we can also see that there is no reason for a person to want to build human cisterns to try to store what is available directly and always in a renewed way in the Lord or to seek the Lord in stagnant waters in swamps or marshes.

Although there may be situations in the natural aspects of a person's life in which stored resources contribute to one's supply at different times, and this if the Lord allows someone to do so and grants him or her the breath of life to make use of these stores, the Lord clearly does not accept the same principle regarding the spiritual life of a Christian or the living waters that come out of His throne either in Heaven or in the heart of an individual.

Before God, there is nothing that justifies a person not wanting to live and walk in continuous and direct dependence on the Lord, trying to store the living waters of the Lord as if one could be supported by them without continuous fellowship with one's Creator, or wanting to live and walk based on remnants of past movements of the Lord's activity in the world.

There are many people who spend their lives trying to know the details of the past and what they consider to be the great heavenly movements in which they seek to be inspired as if they were stocks to supply themselves with, but who, at the same time, do not adopt a contemporary and living position of going directly to the Lord Jesus Christ to obtain from Him the life and instruction for their lives in their own days. And by doing so, they do not position themselves in line with the fundamental aspects of faith in God and direct life in Christ Jesus to which they are called by the Lord.

*Habakkuk 2: 4 "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith."*

*Hebrews 11: 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

*John 5: 39 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.  
40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."*

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In this way, **until a person understands that the essential aspect of Christian life is having life in Christ, through faith in the Lord, and by personal and direct fellowship with Him, one has not yet understood the fundamental purpose of the entire Scripture.**

A Christian is called to imitate the "faith of the Christians" of the past and whose testimony is described in the Scriptures. However, a Christian is not called to seek to live "by the faith of one's ancestors," but by one's own faith in the Lord. Similarly, a Christian is also not called to want to reproduce the historical movements of God in the lives of one's ancestors, but, instead, to allow God to move in him or her according to the truth and the specific will of the Lord for one's life.

For a Christian to find oneself in God's will for one's life every new day, one continually or in a renewed way needs the Lord and fellowship with Him. And this, both to live in the Lord and to walk in the Lord in newness of life or to practice what the Lord instructs him or her to do.

**Christ in the Christian and the Christian in Christ, both for living and for walking, cannot be replaced, in any way, by any type of cistern or storehouse of gifts that anyone tries to create, for there is nothing in the present world that can be equivalent to this matter eternally established by the Heavenly Father for everyone who desires to live and walk according to His good, perfect, and acceptable will.**

Finally, in this chapter, since this point has already been addressed several times in other themes, we would like to recall just a few more texts through which we can understand that, primarily and above all, a Christian always needs God to also be supplied with the life of the Lord towards him or her, for it is also for this purpose that the Lord grants him or her the heavenly salvation.

*Isaiah 57: 15* **For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, (and also) with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones. "**

*1 Corinthians 3: 16* **Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**

*Galatians 5: 16* **I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

**18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**

...  
**25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

*Colossians 1: 26* ... **the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.**

**27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

**28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.**

**29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.**

**2: 1 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh,**

**2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,**

**3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

**4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.**

## **C2. God's Gifts Are for Benefit and Purpose, Not for Idolatry**

In some themes of the Systemic Teaching about Christian Life, we address the fact that human beings are often pre-disposed to value the means by which they obtain life more than life itself.

There are people, for example, who dedicate themselves tirelessly to their work because they think that life's supply comes from it, but they often end up harming themselves in a very intense way precisely because of the excessive dedication they give to work.

So, the means to obtain resources for life and the very resources attained or received are to collaborate with the life that God desires for each person to live, but if there is no proper attention, the means and resources may become more important in the eyes of a person than the Lord Himself. A subject also covered more comprehensively in the theme *The Christian and the Riches*.

Nevertheless, the focus that we would like to highlight once again in this chapter is that attention to resources and the means to obtain them may even become idolatry if it is not carried out soberly in the Lord. And this, in turn, can be extremely harmful to those who give in to idolatry, for one of the prominent aspects of idolatry is that it seeks to shake a person's trust in God or tries to cause an individual to make a change in the central aspects in which one places one's trust.

There are aspects of a person's trust that should be exclusively directed towards God or that should only "be deposited" in the Lord, which idolatry, in turn, seeks to weaken so that a person exchanges trust in God for what is fleeting and weak or so that a person begins to divide one's trust in God with that which is not worthy of the same degree of trust.

Thus, in continuity with the previous chapter, when we observe idolatry more accurately, we can see that one of the main points with which it seeks to entangle people is precisely related to the understanding of the point from where or the source from which people received a gift from God.

The gifts given by God are all good and for the good. However, people do not always receive them as such and deal with them for the good of their own lives and those who live around them or in their generation.

Therefore, one of the factors that cause many gifts received from God not to be used for good is the fact that people exchange trust in God for trust in the gift they received. And this is because human beings, in their natural condition, tend to trust more in what is tangible to the eyes or what is palpable and concrete materially speaking, which, however, should not be like this in the life of a Christian.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ, for example, could place his trust in the calling of God and in the ministry he had received from the Lord. Paul could understand that the calling to be an apostle, teacher, and preacher automatically included all the items necessary for his victory in this ministry. However, Paul did not place his trust in the calling he had received, but he maintained his trust in the One who called him, showing us that there is a vast difference between these two positionings.

Although Paul was grateful to God and recognized the great privilege he had in being called to serve the Lord, he remained convinced that it was from the Lord that his

supply of life and strength for the ministry came, and not from the ministry itself, exemplified in the following texts:

*2 Timothy 1: 1 **Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, ...***

*2 Timothy 2: 1 **You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.***

*2 Corinthians 3: 4 **And we have such trust through Christ toward God.**  
**5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,**  
**6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.***

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If Paul would begin to trust in his very “calling” that had been granted to him by the grace of God or to trust his experience and the achievements he did in this “ministry,” he would be exchanging or dividing his confidence in God and directing it toward “his calling and his deeds or works,” which, in turn, would inevitably move him away from the source of grace that sustained his life and ministry.

If Paul started to trust in “his calling,” experience, and the deeds that he would accomplish in “his ministry,” this distorted attitude would lead Paul towards idolatry of “his calling and his ministry,” and would lead him to departure from a life of living and continuous faith and trust in the Lord.

Nevertheless, when Paul continued to persevere in the principle that life comes from God including for the fulfillment of the ministry to which he had been called, and not vice versa, he reiterated that the fact that the Lord grants some gifts to a person does not make him or her capable of living and walking in God's will without continuing to depend on the Lord for everything.

Regarding his ability to accomplish something for God, Paul declared that his strength was not of himself but in his dependence on the Lord, thus teaching us what the Lord taught him by showing him that the greater his dependence on God, the greater his strength would also be to accomplish what the Lord has called him to do through heavenly grace, as follows:

*2 Corinthians 12: 9 **And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities (or weaknesses), that the power of Christ may rest upon me.***

***10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities (or weaknesses), in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.***

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In this way, **a person understanding that the calling to cooperate with God is a result of the Lord's grace is a part of the process, for a person can only accomplish what one has been called to do if one also remains in this eternal grace of the Lord that is available to him or her in Christ Jesus.**

**For the good of Christians, then, so that they do not incur distancing themselves from the source of living waters, the Lord instructs them to flee from any idolatry and greed, which, in turn, is also idolatry.**

*1 Corinthians 10: 14* ***Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.***

*Colossians 3: 5* ***Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.***

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Some individuals trust the good health they have received, others trust the intelligence and knowledge they have acquired, others trust their relationship skills, and still others trust the resources they have in their stores and cisterns.

**Nevertheless, a Christian's trust, whether one has little or a lot according to human standards, should always be in the Only Lord who can grant heavenly success in the present day and especially for all eternity.**

A Christian should not allow anything, not even gifts, to interfere with one's relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, just as one should not accept that anything in the present world becomes the target of the trust that is due exclusively to God.

*1 Corinthians 15: 57* ***But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

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God gives His children good things so they may rejoice in them and use them to walk in a way that is living, holy, and acceptable to the Lord, and even so that they become zealous for good works. However, God never grants gifts that help people in their lives so that the gifts become the central object of trust for those who have already known the Lord personally.

**Thus, direct and continuous dependence on Christ Jesus in everything is the Christian's singular and safe path for all aspects of one's life, including overcoming any form of idolatry or undue exaltation of any part of one's life that aims to elevate itself above the exclusive condition that a Christian is called to attribute to the Lord.**

*Luke 9: 23* ***Then He (Christ) said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.***

*24* ***For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."***

*John 12: 26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."*

### **C3. Reiterating once again: Every Christian is Called to Always Depend Directly on the Lord Jesus Christ**

Several Psalms and many other texts of the Scriptures show the essential condition that direct dependence on the Lord represents for a person who fears God.

And among these texts, there is a psalm that especially combines the aspect of the Lord's benefits and a clear perception of the source of the benefits, repeatedly and more sharply highlighting the Lord of the gifts, as follows:

*Psalms 103: 1 **Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!***

*2 **Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:***

*3 **Who** forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,*

*4 **Who** redeems your life from destruction, **Who** crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,*

*5 **Who** satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

*6 **The LORD** executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed.*

*7 **He** made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.*

*8 **The LORD is** merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.*

*9 **He** will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever.*

*10 **He** has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.*

*11 **For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;***

*12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

*13 **As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him.***

*14 For **He** knows our frame; **He** remembers that we are dust.*

*15 As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.*

*16 For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more.*

*17 **But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,***

*18 **To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them.***

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In the psalm cited above, we see, then, that the psalmist challenges the listeners of his song to pay attention to God's gifts and benefits, but this is not to seek first or only His gifts, but to desire, above all, the eternal Giver of gifts.

The psalmist uses the remembrance of gifts in a firm and growing way to warn listeners to keep their eyes focused on the Lord and to establish their trust in Him, for if He has done and does so many wonders, He is also worthy of all honor, obedience, and trust for the continuity of life.

Although the psalmist in reference wants to express his gratitude for what God has done for him, he aims even more to express the fact that benefits are not the central

point of life, but that the Lord who generates so many benefits is the essence of his entire existence, and should, therefore, also be the essence of all other people.

As we mentioned in the first chapter of this theme, Christians are not called to depend on the “great movements” or “great events” that occur in the world, just as they are not called to depend on the “great ones among men and women” according to their evaluations or the pacts that people make among themselves. Christians are also not called to depend on large buildings, large areas of refuge, large inheritances, resources, and highly elaborate systems that are created in the world, nor are they called to depend on those projects that call themselves Christian to support the Christians but which, covertly, want to divert people's hearts from the only foundation assigned to them by God, which is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore:

*Psalms 118: 8* ***It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man.***

***9 It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in princes.***

*Psalms 18: 2* ***The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.***

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Christians are called to depend always and directly on the Lord Jesus Christ and His instruction for a very direct or objective reason, presented once again by the Lord's very Scriptures, as follows:

*1 Corinthians 3: 11* ***For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.***

*Colossians 3: 4* ***When Christ who is our life appears (or will manifest Himself), then you also will appear (or be manifested) with Him in glory.***

*Romans 6: 23(b)* ***... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

*1 John 5: 11* ***And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.***

*1 John 5: 20* ***And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.***

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Thus, God's highest, essential, or fundamental gift offered to every person on Earth is eternal life, nothing less than that. What, however, we want to emphasize here once again, also regarding walking in newness of life, is that this gift of eternal life is granted or sustained by God always in the living person of the Lord Jesus Christ and the living relationship with Him, for dissociated from Christ Jesus, what the Scriptures call the gift of eternal life does not exist.

When the Lord exhorts people not to place their trust in the most diverse aspects of the creation itself, He does so because it is in Him that the abundant supply of eternal life is found, whether there is an abundance of natural provision or whether there is a scarcity of this provision.

When the Heavenly Father calls people to entrust their lives to Christ, He does so because the Lord Jesus, in the most diverse circumstances, is mighty to supply life to anyone who believes in Him. And even in times of drought in the natural world, the Lord can fully supply each one of those who trust in Him and fear Him. An aspect declared and repeated throughout the Lord's Scriptures and exemplified by some more texts below:

*Jeremiah 17: 7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD.*

*8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit."*

*2 Corinthians 4: 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*

*1 Samuel 2: 6 The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up.*

*7 The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up.*

*8 He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, And He has set the world upon them.*

*9 He will guard the feet of His saints, But the wicked shall be silent in darkness. For by strength no man shall prevail.*

*10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to His king, And exalt the horn of His anointed."*



*Nehemiah 9: 6 **You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.***

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In the Lord's Scriptures, we can see that nothing and no one can take the Lord's place, not even the Scriptures, other gifts that God gives to human beings, other people, and not even any angel. This is why a Christian should always hold firmly to the calling to remain grounded in Christ and fellowship with the Lord continually. An aspect about which the Lord warns us so that we do not adopt the stance that many have already adopted in the past, as follows:

*Galatians 1: 6 **I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,***  
**7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.**  
**8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.**

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What we have already mentioned so many times in the previous themes of this series is then what we want to highlight to conclude this brief material, that is:

⇒ **Walking in newness of life is newness of life, above all, because the Christian can walk in Him who is the eternal source of life, namely, the Lord who gave him or her life and who also bought or redeemed him or her from bondage to sin and the condemning law to offer the Christian the condition to be able to live and also walk in God.**

Thus, **only through direct dependence on Christ can a person remain alive and productive in the ways of the Lord.**

*Ephesians 2: 5 ... **even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ...***

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*Colossians 2: 6 **As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,***  
**7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.**  
**8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.**  
**9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;**  
**10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.**

*John 15: 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."*

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**The Lord Jesus Christ is irreplaceable; therefore, there is also nothing that can replace direct dependence on the Lord!**

Because he understood and believed that the "Lord Himself" was willing also to be his Shepherd, David had so much joy in his heart, to the point of declaring that, in the Lord, he would lack nothing for his life and would be guided in the paths of righteousness, love, and goodness of God even though he was in the present world with so much opposition to the Eternal Lord.

In yet other words, **the edification of each life in the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, through the Holy Spirit, is God's strategy for His children to receive life and be continually supplied with life, but also to walk in the newness of life to which they are called by the Lord.** An essential aspect that we believe will never be repeated excessively.

Therefore, **those who individually make up the people of God, the holy nation, are called to live and walk in Christ Jesus so that they do so in the very God who called them to His newness of eternal life.**

*Jude 1: 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,  
21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

*Ephesians 4: 15 But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ.*

## Bibliography

Note on Biblical Texts referenced:

- 1) The biblical texts without explicit indications of reference were drawn from NKJV Bible, as indicated below.
- 2) Highlights in the biblical texts, such as underline, bold, or similar were added by the author of this study.

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