

# Build Your Christian Life



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NEW MERCIES CHRISTIAN CHURCH | JOHN 4: 28-30

Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2  
(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 559–562.

# **Jude 20–21 (NKJV)**

**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.

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# Most Holy Faith

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- The foundation for our Christian life is our “most holy faith” (*Jude 20*), which is the same as “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (*Jude 3*).
- There is a sense, of course, in which our faith in Jesus Christ is the basis for our growth, but even that faith depends on what God has revealed to us in His Word.

**Subjective faith depends on objective revelation of truth.**

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- The Word of God is certainly central in spiritual growth.
- I have yet to meet a strong, fruitful Christian who ignores his Bible.

## **Psalm 119:9–10** (NKJV)

9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments.

**We Must Daily  
Spend Devotional  
Time In The Word,  
Seeking The Mind  
Of God.**

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The mind of God is God's pattern of thought and attitude of heart is holy, righteous and good. It is expressed in his law and his word, and also in the outworking of his mercy, but it is, ultimately, beyond human understanding.

- We must also study the Word regularly, in a disciplined way, so that we better understand what it teaches.

# Praying In The Holy Ghost

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- The power for building the Christian life comes from prayer: “praying in the Holy Ghost” (*Jude 20*).
- The Word of God and prayer go together in spiritual growth.
- If all we do is read and study the Bible, we will have a great deal of light, but not much power.
- However, if we concentrate on prayer and ignore the Bible, we may be guilty of zeal without knowledge.

- We read the Word to grow in faith, then we use that faith to ask God for what we need and what His Word tells us we may have.

## **2 Timothy 2:15** (KJV 1900)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.



# The Word Of God And Prayer Certainly Go Together

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## Acts 6:4 (NKJV)

but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

- Evangelist Billy Sunday used to give his converts three rules for success in the Christian life.

# The Word Of God And Prayer Certainly Go Together

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1. Each day they were to read the Bible and let God talk to them.
2. They were to pray; in other words, they were to talk to God.
3. They were to witness and talk to others about God.

**It would be difficult to improve on  
those rules.**

# What Does It Mean To “Pray In The Holy Spirit”?

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- It means to pray according to the leading of the Spirit.
- It has well been said, “Prayer is not getting man’s will done in heaven—it is getting God’s will done on earth.”

# What Does It Mean To “Pray In The Holy Spirit”?

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## 1 John 5:14–15 (NKJV)

**14** Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

**15** And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

# The Holy Spirit Is With Us In Prayer

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- As Christians, we may pray in solitude (*Matt. 6:6*), but we never pray alone.
- The Spirit of God joins with us as we pray (*Rom. 8:26–28*) because He knows the mind of God and can direct us.
- He can give us wisdom and knowledge from the Word (*Eph. 1:15ff*).

# The Holy Spirit Is With Us In Prayer

- He can also help us approach the Father through the access we have in Jesus Christ (*Eph. 2:18*).
- We worship God “in the Spirit” (*Phil. 3:3*).
- The Spirit motivates us to pray, for He is “the Spirit of grace and of supplications” (*Zech. 12:10*).
- When the believer is yielded to the Spirit, then the Spirit will assist him in his prayer life, and God will answer prayer.

**This “Building  
Process” In The  
Christian Life Involves  
The Word Of God,  
The Spirit Of God,  
And Prayer.**

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- These as precious as they are, can become somewhat routine; so Jude added another factor: **abiding in God's love** (*Jude 21*).
- He did not write, *“Keep yourselves saved!”* because he had already assured them that they were *“preserved in Jesus Christ”* (*Jude 1*).



- He wrote, “*Keep yourselves in the love of God.*” Our Lord made a similar statement .

## **John 15:9 (NKJV)**

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

# To Love God Means Much More Than To Enjoy A Special Kind Of Feeling

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- As we grow in grace, we do experience deeper fellowship with the Father, and we do have times when He seems very near.

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## **John 14:21–24 (NKJV)**

21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”

23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.

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- The Bible compares this to the love of a husband and wife (*Eph. 5:22ff*).
- Any happily married couple can tell you that love deepens over the years.
- But it takes more than ecstatic feelings to make a successful marriage—or a successful Christian life!

- There must also be obedience and mutual concern.

## **1 John 2:5** (NKJV)

But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

## **John 15:10** (NKJV)

If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

**We Grow In Our Love  
For God As We Listen  
To His Word, Obey It,  
And Delight In Doing  
What Pleases Him.**

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# Psalm 37:3–5 (NKJV)

3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

**That is how we keep ourselves in  
God's love.**

# God's Love Is A Holy Love; It Is Not Shallow Sentiment

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## Psalm 97:10 (NKJV)

You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.

- To love God is to love what He loves and hate what He hates!
- We please Him by doing those things that He commands.

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**It Is The Dedicated,  
Separated Christian Who  
Enjoys The Deepest  
Fellowship With The  
Father In The Family.**

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## **2 Corinthians 6:14–18 (NKJV)**

**14** Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

**15** And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

**16** And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”

**17** Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.”

**18** “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”

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# **We Build Our Christian Life On The Foundation Of Faith And Through The Motivation Of Love.**

But we also need hope!

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- Jude 21 “looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”
- The believer’s eyes must be lifted heavenward.

## **Titus 2:13 (NKJV)**

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

## **2 Peter 3:12 (NKJV)**

looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

# The Word Translated “Looking” Means “Earnestly Expecting.”

(Jude 21)

- It describes an attitude of life that is motivated by the promise of our Lord’s return.
- The apostates can only look for judgment, but God’s people are looking for mercy.
- Not only is our salvation from sin the gift of God’s mercy, but so also is the deliverance of His church from this evil world. In His mercy, He will come for us and take us to Himself.

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**We Have Already Noted  
That Looking For The  
Coming Of The Lord Is A  
Great Encouragement To  
Christian Living.**

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- It makes us want to keep pure (*1 John 3:3*) and to avoid the things of the flesh and the world, and everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

## **Philippians 3:17–21 (NKJV)**

**17** Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

**18** For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

**19** whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

**20** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

**21** who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

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**Our Hope In Christ Is Like  
An Anchor That Holds Us  
In The Storms Of Life, And  
Like A Helmet That  
Protects Us In The Battles  
Of Life.**

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## **Hebrews 6:19 (NKJV)**

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

## **1 Thessalonians 5:28 (NKJV)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
Amen.

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**The Three “*Christian  
Graces*” Of Faith,  
Hope, And Love  
Enable Us To Grow  
In Our Spiritual Walk.**

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- We are able to build on a solid foundation with materials that will not decay.
- Mere profession with the lips will not suffice.

## **Matthew 7:21 (NKJV)**

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.