



# Life Principles Notes™

## Living the Extraordinary Life

### Part 1: The Characteristics

#### Summary:

**What are the true standards for the Christian life?** The apostle Paul describes the life which God planned for us: “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20). The old Paul was becoming a new expression of Christ.

You and I should have that same life. However, many believers today have settled for far less than

the righteous, vibrant pattern set out in Scripture. As a result, the standards God had in mind for us have been lowered.

The great evangelist George Whitefield sought a biblical transformation. His daily prayer was, “Lord, make me an extraordinary Christian.” That would mean a life in which Christ dwells—one where He is seen in our actions, heard in our words, and felt in our presence. It is also a life that leaves a lasting impact on others.

#### Scriptural Principles:

**1 A divine life.** The extraordinary life has been sealed with the Holy Spirit. We are no longer our own, for now Christ lives within us through the power of God’s Spirit. As He abides in us and we in Him (John 15:4), the world can see the difference.

**2 A life with purpose.** Many people live from day to day with no real goal other than to get by, earn money, or make it to the weekend. Committed Christians, on the other hand, are directed by a powerful sense of purpose: to walk in God’s will. His presence fills every moment of every day with potential.

**3 A life of faith.** We receive Christ by faith and then live by faith, trusting in His promises. There are times when we lack answers, but we hear the Lord’s voice saying, “Just trust Me.” As we trust and obey, we learn that He is trustworthy. In that way, our faith level continues to grow, and our anxieties fade.

**4 A life of continuing surrender.** It is human nature to want to be in charge. But for the believer, Jesus Christ is Lord. We acknowledge that He has the right to govern, guide, and lead in every single area of life. That means His wisdom, love, and power are in control, which makes for an extraordinary life.

**5 A life of joyful obedience.** Obedience is not always comfortable, but a Christian living the extraordinary life continues to obey with a spirit of joy. He knows that regardless of the situation, obedience is the wisest course of action, and it brings the most reward. Psalm 119:67-68 tells us that living by the Word of God keeps us from going astray.

**6 A life of prayer and praise.** The mature believer is always praying and listening for the Lord’s voice. He spends more and more time with God, saying, “Lord, speak to my heart. Let me feel the joy of Your presence.” Non-praying believers will find that every area of life comes up short. We should talk to our Father about everything, for prayer provides the power to live the extraordinary Christian life.

**7 A life filled with the Holy Spirit.** Every believer is saved, but salvation is different from being filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), which refers to surrender. The Holy Spirit is our guide, our enabler, and our interpreter of God's Word. The extraordinary life is only possible through His work.

**8 A life of total dependence.** Are we weak? Yes, we admit it! We are dependent upon our faith, which is the wisest way to live as well as a sign of spiritual strength, not weakness. The prideful heart avoids every form of dependence, but a godly spirit of humility recognizes the need for God. He gives us limitations to bring us to absolute reliance upon Him, through whom we can do all things.

**9 A disciplined life.** A lack of discipline is a sure sign that a believer is not walking in the Spirit. Such a lifestyle will result in failure to pray, to study the Bible, and to live as God desires. A wise, committed Christian, however, sees discipline not as an obstruction but as the doorway to an extraordinary life.

**10 A challenging life.** Someone may ask, "Shouldn't the extraordinary life eliminate hardships and challenges?" Jesus Himself continued to face trials, and He warned that difficulties are part of everyone's life. (John 16:33) Through challenges, however, we become more disciplined, mature, wise, and capable of service; we also develop in Christlikeness. Romans 8:28 assures us that God uses all things for our good.

**11 An unshakable life.** When we live in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, we are anchored in God's Word and strengthened by His promises and biblical examples. Then we find that we can withstand opposition of all kinds, and we gain the confidence of unshakable faith.

**12 A fruitful life.** Most people live their lives selfishly, focused upon their own needs. Extraordinary lives reflect John 15:8, which tells us that God is glorified when we bear much fruit. We love Him, so as time goes on, we want nothing more than to express our devotion through service. Then our pride fades away, and we become more willing to perform the humble tasks that will bring Him the most glory.

**13 A rich life.** The Christian's life should be more than a process of constant accumulation. Believers living an extraordinary life have greater treasure than mere worldly goods: they are wealthy in God's principles and promises; they are prosperous in their relationship with the Lord and the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit; they are also rich in opportunities as well as in things money can't buy and death can't take away.

**14 A life of love.** Believers with an extraordinary life love God—and themselves—in a healthy and godly way. The Lord has placed in their lives a love so wide and so deep that it overflows to others. Although we will not accept ungodliness in another person's lifestyle, we are nonetheless able to find in our hearts the love of God for anyone and everyone.

**15 A rewarding life.** Every area of life will have fulfilling rewards, such as wholeness, satisfaction, and peace. As we are gradually drawn away from things God doesn't want in our lives, we learn that His preferences for us bring far greater satisfaction. No matter how much we have grown, there is room to become more Christlike; at the same time, we feel deep satisfaction in the extraordinary life that Christ has provided.

## Conclusion:

My friend, after examining the characteristics of the extraordinary life, you might wonder if such a life is impossible. Yes, it is impossible—apart from the work of God's indwelling Spirit. Living within us, He enables us to realize all these results and more.

I pray that you will find yourself less and less willing to settle for a "settled-for" life, and that you will cultivate a genuine hunger for the Lord.

He longs for your life to be extraordinary—a life that will be characterized by every single one of these awesome traits.

Why continue to live a mundane, self-seeking life that goes nowhere? Set your eyes on Christ. Ask His Holy Spirit to take complete control, and you will find the richest rewards life has to offer. 🙏

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