

THE COST

All of us have the ability to fulfill the cost of being a Christian: but does our heart want to fulfill the cost of being a Christian?

1. We are supposed to, as Christians, consider the cost!

Luke 14:27-28 NASB: (27) "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me (28) "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.

If we haven't fully paid the cost yet, we can get there. Don't take on condemnation, just make a change!

The cost is to give up all of ourselves, our:

1. Flesh
2. Thinking
3. Reputation
4. Actions
5. Thoughts

But we don't lose something in it, we're gaining something in it! We're gaining God!

NONE OF US have gotten it completely right. *Even Jesus was tempted.* We still live in a world that's corrupted, and we do have an enemy. Our job as Christians is to resist the devil and watch him flee! (**Example: Jesus being tempted in the wilderness [Matthew 4:1-11]**)

John 10:10 NASB: ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and ^[a] have it abundantly.

Junk may come: we need to ignore the junk and focus on God. *The wind and the waves are nothing to Jesus, because they're nothing to God!*

We can move through the storms because we know Jesus. We're connected to Him, every believer is made in God's image and likeness.

2. Why do we pay a cost? Why don't we just go to Heaven? *The cost is there so the kingdom may be advanced to fulfill the dream of a Father: to have His children and have fellowship.*

Luke 2:52 NASB: And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

God wants us to grow up. Jesus grew, we need to grow. The reason He doesn't just take us to Heaven once we get saved is because our life is about more than us. There has to be someone who pays the cost to grow up in God.

Jeremiah 24:7 NASB: (7)I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.

Jesus needs to reap what he sowed. He sowed all of Him into each of us, so what should He reap? A life. *If Jesus planted a life in me, then He should reap my life in return!*

3. The cost itself is the flesh, living by the spirit instead of living by the flesh. If we will pay the cost, we are designed to be the most influential people on this earth as children of God, the brothers and sisters of Christ.

Where the world has taught us to pay attention to our flesh, we need to throw our flesh away and decide to become more like God!

A believer will be known by their fruit! You can tell the root by the fruit that the tree produces!

Galatians 5:22-23 NASB: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Mark 16:17-18 NASB: ¹⁷These ^[a]signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly *poison*, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

The fruit of a Christian who has truly paid the cost is:

1. Winning souls
2. Praying *and* seeing prayers answered.
3. Being filled with the Holy Spirit
4. Living a life that's not beat up all the time
5. Walking in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

In other words: A Christian who has truly paid the cost will bring Heaven to earth!

A lot of times, the cost comes when you don't even believe you're capable of doing what it takes. But we know that we can by the Word! And when we make ourselves available to God and give Him what's in your hand, God becomes God in your life!

CONFESS THIS: I am an able and adequate minister of the good news of God!