

# HOW TO LIVE AN AUTHENTIC GODLY LIFE

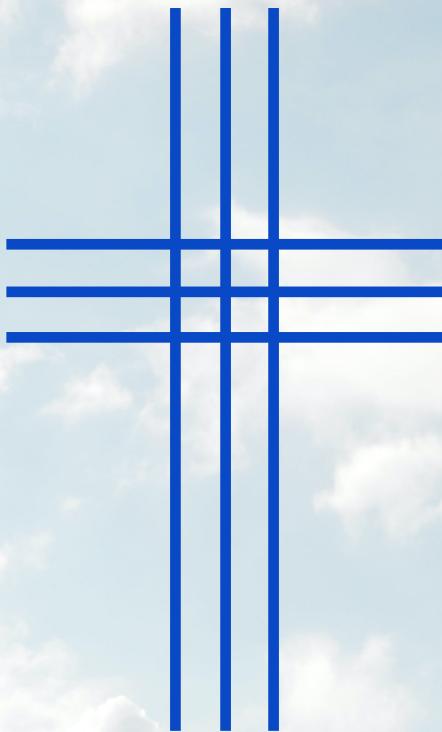


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*“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”*

**I Corinthians 15:10**

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# Introduction

Have you ever thought about how to live an authentic godly life? It seems like an unusual pairing of words doesn't it?

If you're already living a godly life, wouldn't it naturally be authentic? Shouldn't a godly life *already* be authentic in nature? One would think so. But there can also be hindrances that get in the way.

**We all face challenges to our faith from time to time.** We start out with good intentions of doing the right things, but something happens and we find ourselves stuck. Sometimes we find that we are not as committed to a life of faith as when we started out.

Most individuals want to live a good life. They want to live a life that is healthy, both mentally and spiritually. Most people want to live at peace with others – and with themselves – but sometimes they don't know how to get there.

**They want to live a life of faith, but may not be sure what that looks like going forward.**

Sometimes people struggle to be at peace with themselves and others. Sometimes they struggle with their faith depending on how they were raised. Other times it's just the culture or people around them that cause them to struggle.

Faith can mean different things to different people. So clarifying spiritual words helps a great deal.

The phrase “authentic godly life” is *not* about how you live your life or live a life pleasing to God. Rather, it’s pointing to how Christ and the Holy Spirit are living in you.

When you understand this phrase in its entirety, you will gain a deeper understanding on how to live *without* so much struggle.

**In this guide, you will discover how you can live authentically without a difficult struggle**



# Authentic Life

Let's talk about what it means to be "authentic". The meaning of this word must be paired with the meaning of godliness to get a clear understanding of what it means.

Authentic means: **you are true to your own personality, values, and spirit or essence, no matter what pressures you are under to act differently.**

**Living an authentic life could mean:**

- That you're living true to your own personality and spirit
- You're not mimicking someone else as you live your life
- You're being true to yourself and your values

But as a Christian, that meaning is much deeper. As a Christian, you don't live out *your* values. You live the way God values because He

is in you. It is His strength in and through you. That's what you are true to if you're authentic and godly.

**Why is this important? So much of the world follows each other.** It's very rare that you meet people that aren't trying to be original. It's a wonderful thing to be inspired by others, but you need to be who you were created to be.

If you're a follower of Christ, you will live a life that's true to your faith in Christ. The faith of a believer should be very important to them.

When you have a strong belief you follow the edicts of that faith. You live a life that pleases God, which is a true life of faith in Him.

**As a Christ follower, the Bible is the guide or roadmap you follow.** It's the book where you learn how to live your life - a life that pleases God.

A person of faith isn't trying to live two different lives. If you believe in something you want to follow that belief. If you're a believer in

Christ and He's living in you, as the Bible says, then you live from that perspective.

You live true to His values in you. This understanding should cause you to live a life of authenticity.

Now let's look at the word godly and what it means to live a godly life.



# Godly Life

Your life should reflect what you believe about God and the Bible. When you live this way, the world can see what you believe, and this makes Christ known to the world.

The world is in chaos most of the time, yet there are people living in peace in the midst of all this turmoil. They are godly by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the world sees this.

There are times when we get inspired by the lives of other people. Great athletes, artists, musicians, actors, philanthropists, teachers, and friends, and more can all inspire us.

**A person living a godly life can be a great inspiration as well.**

Watching people live out their faith in the toughest of times is truly encouraging. It takes strength of character to live through adversity.

People who are true to their faith do that on a daily basis.

**In the midst of life's darkness, living godly is not always easy.** People have to be very firm and consistent in their faith and beliefs. It takes a lot of resolve to do the right thing when a lot of people are doing the wrong thing.

Adversity can be very hard to navigate. When you have a roadmap or a guide to help show you the way, you feel more confident that you can make it. You can get through anything when others encourage you forward.

Your godly life can be seen by your words, lifestyle, relationships, purity, life choices, and more. Everything about your life lines up with His way of instruction.

**Living a life of godliness is...**

- A strong belief in God
- A life where your faith is on display
- Proof of your faith



# Is an Authentic Godly Life Necessary?

Is an authentic godly life even necessary? Let's take a look at what the Bible says.

There are many scriptures in the Bible that tell us God has already given us everything we need to live a godly life. One helpful scripture is in 2 Peter 1, where God tells us that He has given us everything we need to live a godly life and to know Him.

**When you realize that it's not you living, but God living in you and giving you power, you will attain a godly life for others to see. Others will see God at work in you.**

Others need to see what you have overcome. They need to see that God is real, and they will see that by the godly life you live. **So yes, an authentic godly life is very necessary.**

Jesus faced rejection, fears, and loneliness just like we do. The religious people of His day didn't understand His message or that He was the Messiah. He was turned away by His own people and misunderstood.

Yet, He is our example. He lived the kind of life we are to live, and when we do that He is glorified. We are drawn to Him because of His life of godliness and true authenticity.

**He loved all people no matter what they did, and He loves you the same way.** He is our example of kindness, love, peace, power, strength, and godliness.

The point here is to live out your faith. Live what is true to your heart's beliefs and let no one deter you. When you face opposition, and you will, remember that others are watching you. People want to see true godliness lived out in this world, which is full of troubles.

**An authentic godly life is necessary because:**

- Your life is a light to a lost dark world
- Your life gives hope to others
- You shouldn't hide the light of Jesus from others
- You have already been equipped to live a life of faith

Now let's look at what hinders living a godly life. Because you must see and recognize what can hinder you before you can overcome those same obstacles.



# Hindrances to Living a Godly Life

There are many things that can hinder a believer from living a godly life. Things come that we don't expect. Other things come as a result of bad habits, lack of teaching, or other reasons.

So what are some of these hindrances?

## **Hindrance #1 - Busyness**

We all are busy. Life is moving at the speed of light it seems. Most days just rush by and run into the next day. We get up, get going, out the door, at work, go all day, come home, eat dinner, deal with kids, go to bed, all to do it again the next day.

**Not to mention life happens in the middle of all that. Who has time for a relationship with God? We are just too busy.**

**But to cultivate a life of authentic godly living you have to reduce your busyness.** One of the best things you can do is put some margin in your schedule and make time for God. Doing this will take effort and energy. But it's a necessary change that needs to be made.

- **Here is a verse of scripture to memorize:** “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” - Matthew 11:28-29

## **Hindrance #2 - Fear**

Fear will choke the life out of you. It will stop you dead in your tracks and keep you from

moving forward and living the life God wants you to have. Fear means that you are not trusting God.

**Where your energy goes, so goes your faith.** When you fear it usually means that you are focusing too much on your own strength and not on the strength of God. Trust Him in all things and watch them begin to change and work out.

- **Here is a verse of scripture to memorize:** “And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?” - Mark 4:40

## **Hindrance #3 - Doubt**

Doubt is the enemy of faith. Doubt will choke out anything you believe if you let it speak enough and long enough. Doubt will tell you things will never change, you will never have what you need, and more. Doubt is a liar.

**To conquer doubt you must recognize doubt as soon as it begins to speak and counter it with the promises of God.** To counter doubt you need to immerse yourself in the promises of God.

If you don't meet a lie with truth, doubt and confusion will cause you to grow weary.

- **Here is a verse of scripture to memorize:** “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.” - James 1:6

## **Hindrance #4 - Distraction**

A lot of people are distracted. We pursue too many things. Oftentimes we are over-scheduled and overindulge in things of the world that steal our time and energy. When worldly things consume us we get off track with God.

We can have days crammed with unnecessary activities and not realize it until we are running on empty. Distractions can be TV, technology, hobbies, relationships, and more. These are not bad, but if they are taking over your time with God then you could be distracted.

- **Here is a verse of scripture to memorize:** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” - I Peter 5:8

## **Hindrance #5 - Loving Sin**

Sin goes against everything that God is. Sin is one of the greatest hindrances to your faith walk with God. Sin was such a problem for us that God sent Jesus to die for us. You can't love sin and have a godly walk with God at the same time.

**You must hate sin as God hates sin.** If you don't hate sin, take a long look at why and what sins you're having trouble giving up. Those things will hinder you. Take time with God and give them up to Him.

- **Here is a verse of scripture to memorize:** "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not tell the truth." - I John 1:6

## **Hindrance #6 - Lukewarm Life**

Living a life where you are on the fence with God is not fun. Some days you live for Him and other days you don't. God is passionate and desires that we live passionately for Him every day.

**To be lukewarm means you are neither really living passionately for Him nor really rejecting Him either.** You are in the middle of

the road. God wants you to choose one side - hot or cold - and not live in the middle.

- **Here is a verse of scripture to memorize:** “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” - Revelation 3:15-16



# Overcoming the Hindrances to a Godly Life

There are many ways to overcome hindrances to your faith. You are not without help from God.

The Bible says that you are more than a conqueror and that when you are weak you are strong.

Let's go over some ways to overcome all the hindrances mentioned so far in this ebook.

## Overcoming the Hindrance of Busyness

Busyness is a part of all our lives. It's something we have to watch for and be careful to not let it take over. Sometimes though, it can't be helped because of the nature of what we are doing, family, jobs, etc.

Our culture right now seems to thrive on busyness and it's very easy to get sucked into that mentality.

**But there are times we need to slow down, take a step back, and breathe.**

Yes, there are times when we need to burn the candle at both ends.

**But God wants us to look to Him even in the midst of a busy, stressed-out world.** He has the answer to the world's busyness, and it's to keep your eyes on Him and step back from all that's going on around you. It takes courage to change how you live your life in relation to everyone around you.

**Tips to change this hindrance:**

- Fix your schedule to be less busy
- Be intentional about time with God
- Do things at a slower pace

# **Overcoming the Hindrance of Fear**

Fear is a problem for a lot of people. People have fears of all kinds that are depleting their energy for life and for their families.

Here are some examples of the fears that people are living with: fear of the future, fear they will be sick, fear something bad will happen to their children. You get the picture.

**Fears like these can be crippling and very destructive.** When you live with these fears, you make the fear big and God small. God is bigger than anything you face. He can handle it.

Every time you feel fear rising, push back against that fear. Don't let it take over your thoughts, feelings, or emotions. We serve a BIG God!

**Tips to change this hindrance:**

- Realize God is bigger than your fear
- Put your focus on Him, not the problem
- Trust Him for the outcome

## **Overcoming the Hindrance of Doubt**

Doubt is at war with faith. The two can't co-exist in your life at the same time. One will win out over the other. Doubt is also crippling when you're trying to reach a goal or dream in life. Doubt is a dream killer.

For example, let's say you start a business. You need to believe one hundred percent you can do it. You trust God. You step out. You get things going. Then you are hit with a big dose of doubt.

**You have to make the choice right there to either go for it or quit.** Doubt will make you stop every time if you don't push back against it. If you doubt long enough you'll stop believing that you can do what you want.

To overcome you have to see the real enemy isn't your limitations, it's the doubt.

**Tips to change this hindrance:**

- Remember doubt is the enemy
- Quote the promises of God
- Stay hopeful

## **Overcoming the Hindrance of Distraction**

There is nothing harder than trying to finish a project when distraction is all around you. You can't focus, you can't concentrate, etc. Before long, you're off course.

Distraction is another enemy in your life. It's one that steals time and dreams. It gets you so far off course that sometimes it may take weeks to get back to where you need to be.

**God never wants you distracted. He doesn't want you to lose precious time because you focused on something else.** To finish a job, you must stay focused. To keep your walk with God strong you must stay focused on Him as well.

You may have to take inventory of your life and see what things are keeping you from doing the most important things.

**Tips to change this hindrance:**

- Reduce your schedule
- Only do what is necessary
- Refocus on Christ and the Bible

## **Overcoming the Hindrance of Loving Sin**

Loving sin will bring nothing good to your life. Jesus died so we would not be governed and ruled by our sinful natures. Sin is the enemy of your life and goes against the very nature of God.

**Sin has major negative consequences for your life and for those connected to you, especially your family.** When you love sin more than you love living for God, you will reap those negative consequences. When your heart is full of loving sin, you can't love God.

You can't love both God and sin. You have to choose which one you will serve.

**Tips to change this hindrance:**

- Repent of all sin in your life
- Ask God to help you to live sin free
- Choose righteous over sin

## **Overcoming the Hindrance of Living a Lukewarm Life**

Nobody likes lukewarm coffee. People either like coffee really hot or iced. But something about it being lukewarm is just not refreshing or inviting.

When you're half in and half out with God, it's the same as that lukewarm coffee. It's not appealing to the world. People will not be drawn to your life and see God when you're living a lukewarm life.

God wants you hot and on fire for Him. Your goal should be that the world sees your passion for Christ. So find a way to heat up your life and never let it get cold again.

### **Tips to change this hindrance:**

- Decide to live for him with your whole heart
- Look at possible reasons for a lukewarm heart



# What Can You Do?

You can make decisions that will help you overcome any obstacles to your faith. But in the long run, you simply need to make up your mind about how you want to live. Here are three decisions you can choose to make to help you on this journey.

## Ask God for Help

God loves when we come to Him. He's a God that meets our needs. He knows that we struggle and that things come against us, but He's more than ready to help us get things back on track.

He says in His word in Matthew 7:7, “**Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.**” He is just waiting for you to ask for help. You do not have to go it alone.

## **Read the Bible**

Reading the Bible is a great habit. It will help with struggles and times of doubt, fear, and pain. The Bible is filled with wisdom for any situation and can bring clarity to many situations you may face.

The Bible also gives you strength when you read it. Psalms 119:28 says, “My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.” There is no better place to go than to the Bible when you are feeling low on strength.

**Make a daily routine or habit to read the Bible.** Try to read it every day. It will benefit you greatly.

## **Stay in Prayer**

Finally, stay prayerful. Prayer is a very personal and powerful experience that all

believers participate in. Many find answers to life's questions in prayer.

**Make a point to set aside time to pray every day.** It doesn't matter when you pray as long as you have prayer time. Prayer is simple, so make sure that you don't overcomplicate it. Prayer is an invitation to be with God. It's a time for you to experience peace, away from the world and all its problems.

Just show up and God will be there with you. Pour out your heart to Him and trust that He will give you the answers you've been seeking. Trust that you'll be strengthened when your time of prayer is over.

You've learned much so far about how to live an authentic godly life.

**Let's sum it up by saying that living an authentic godly life is:**

- Living your life true to the values of God and true to your belief in what God wants
- Living for God by depending on His grace and His power
- Necessary, because it shows your life of faith so others can see God
- Asking God for help
- Reading your Bible daily and getting strength from the scriptures
- Living a life of prayer

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God said:

*“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”*

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- 2 Corinthians 12:9

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There is nothing you can't overcome. This scripture is the perfect verse for those times when adversity comes and you feel like caving in and giving up. God is telling you that no matter what you face, His grace is enough to keep you going strong.

So keep going strong!