

What all is included in a balanced Christian life?

Well, that's a question I like to answer because I think a lot of Christians do have an unbalanced Christian life because they leave out one or another aspect of the Christian life or sometimes they over-emphasize certain aspects of the Christian life to the detriment of another important aspect. If I had to summarize all that's involved in a balanced Christian life, I would say there are at least four things. First of all, a Christian must be dedicated to the Lord if he is going to have a successful and God honoring life. This is not salvation I'm talking about, it's dedication, making the decision that Jesus Christ is going to run the affairs of his life as long as he lives. Now, having done that, that does not solve all the problems, so God asks us also to be disciplined and discipline is a very important ingredient in a successful, balanced, normal Christian life. And discipline is something which we are involved in, something we should do. We should form good habits, discipline is not only getting rid of things that are undesirable but it's also forming good habits of Bible study, of prayer, of Christian activity, of support of a local church, of getting yourself in the right company, all the things that are involved in wanting to win. If you want to be a winner, then discipline is no chore -- it's something that you gladly do because of the prize gained. I think, too, a Christian must remember, thirdly, that he must always be dependent on the power of God. The Holy Spirit lives within a Christian, Christ lives within a Christian, and a Christian needs to be dependent upon the power of the indwelling God in our lives. Without dependence we become simply self-asserting, those that go in the power of our own talents and abilities rather than depending upon God. Every day when I rise I have to ask the Lord to help me to remember that I need Him each day and to walk in dependence upon His wisdom and His judgment and His power. And then, fourthly, I think there has to be growth, there has to be development. We shouldn't stay where we are. A balanced Christian life will always be a growing life. There will be new things that we experience and new areas to be conquered and new opportunities to be seized and new habits to be formed and new decisions to be made as we go through life. And all that development ought to lead us more and more into a likeness of Christ which is really the goal of all Christians, I think, and that's to be like our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ.