

Are You Following Jesus - Part 5 - the Power to Follow Jesus

by Phil Beach Jr.

The key to a successful prayer life and following Jesus is to keep your eyes on him and recognize that he is the answer to every need and every problem.

Duration: 34:02

Scripture: Matthew 3:17, John 15:5, Romans 8:9

Topics: "Following Christ", "The New Covenant", "Prayer and Spiritual Growth"

Description

Phil Beach Jr. emphasizes the transformative power of prayer focused on Jesus Christ, urging believers to shift their attention from self to the revelation of Christ in their lives. He explains that through the new covenant, believers are not merely churchgoers but partakers of divine life, empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill God's law. The sermon highlights that everything God requires is found in Jesus, and true prayer involves thanking God for the qualities of Christ rather than relying on personal efforts. Beach encourages a deep reliance on Christ's perfection and character as the source of strength for living a godly life, ultimately leading to a more profound relationship with God. He concludes by reminding the congregation that all scripture points to Jesus, and understanding this is key to spiritual growth.

Transcript

Beloved, let's just keep an ear open to his Holy Spirit now. All right. Let's keep an ear open.

John, Chapter 15. Let me let me share with you a revolutionary way to pray. All right.

Listen, please let me share with you a revolutionary way to pray. Your life will never be the same if you will adopt this manner of prayer. The first thing we need to do when we begin to pray is we need to get our eyes off ourselves and we need to ask God to give us a revelation of his son, Jesus Christ.

Listen, everything that satisfies God is in his son, Jesus. When that revelation comes. There is such rest and peace that comes to those who are a part of the new covenant, and that's you and I, we who have trusted in Christ and God has made us one of his children through imparting to us divine life, not church membership, not religious activity.

You must be born again. It's got to be a spiritual, biological thing. You know, every everyone here, if you're truly the children of your mom and dad and not adopted, everyone here has got something of mom and

dad in them.

Why? Because biologically you're connected. Well, that's the way it is. A child of God is not simply a churchgoer, someone who goes to church.

We become partakers of the very life of God. The actual Greek word is sperm, which is where we get our word that defines the very biological stuff that's used in physical reproduction. It's no coincidence that God chooses to use that word.

He's wanting us to see that this is this. This is not just a transfer from one religion to another, from one belief to another. This is a deep, deep spiritual, biological thing where God takes his life and puts it in you.

That's the new covenant. The difference between the old and the new covenant, the old covenant was God demanded and then man tried and always failed. The new covenant is God places the same demands on us.

There is no dismissal of the law of God in the new covenant. Don't let any Christian tell you that now that you're a Christian, it doesn't matter if you keep God's moral law. It does matter.

But it's how we keep it, the power behind our keeping that makes the difference between the old and the new covenant. The old covenant was effort. I must obey God.

I'm going to try real hard. The new covenant is God says, I will take my law and write it on your heart and I will take my very son in the person of the Holy Spirit and I will place him in the shrine of your spirit so that the power to fulfill my law will be resident right inside your heart through the indwelling of my son. That's the new covenant.

And so when we come to the new covenant, we've got to keep our eyes on Jesus Christ. Everything, listen, everything that God requires is found in his son, his perfections, his moral perfections, his character. Everything that God expects is found in his son.

That is an issue that must be settled in your heart and my heart. We've got to come to God continuously on the basis of adoration and thanksgiving of his son, of his son. Thank you, father, that your son so perfectly pleases you.

Get your eyes off yourself. If you don't learn to do that, you're going to start coming to God. Thank you, God.

How well I'm doing or thank you, God, that I'm not as unspiritual as my friend. That's a bad place to be. Don't don't come to God like that, beloved.

Come to God, recognizing what did the father say regarding the son in Matthew chapter four, Matthew chapter three? He was baptized. He came up, a dove descended upon him. And what did you what did the father say? This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.

Listen, God never said that about any other human being. He never said it about anyone else. No one else could ever satisfy the heart of God the way his son, our Lord and Savior did.

No one else could do it. And so the new covenant hangs upon what Jesus Christ has done by his death, burial and resurrection. And it hangs upon who Jesus Christ is now in the heavens.

And so the revolutionary way I share this with Brian yesterday when he was over. The revolutionary way to pray, and I'm telling you, it will change your life forever. You go to God.

And you continuously recognize Christ as the one who satisfies father Christ. Listen, father, I thank you that Jesus has perfect love. Every husband needs to pray that prayer because we are commanded to love our wives like Christ loves the church.

I'd like to know which man can stand up and say, I can do that. I have that in myself. None of us.

See, I thank you. See, I thank you, father, that your son has perfect love. I thank you, father.

Listen, how many of us want to really love righteousness and hate iniquity? That's something God wants. But don't go to God with your eyes on yourself, trying to measure how much you love God and how much you love for unrighteousness. Forget about it.

Go to God and say, father, I thank you that your son perfectly loves righteousness and perfectly hates all that is evil and all that is iniquity. Oh, this is liberating. The old old time Pentecostals would say, I feel a dance coming on.

This is liberating. Oh, I say away. The Holy Ghost is away with all of this self-centered, man-centered, church-centered, religious-centered, denominational-centered kind of praying.

Oh, God, I thank you that we're Pentecostals. Hallelujah. And that we got something the Baptists don't got away with such rubbish.

Away with it. Father, I thank you that your son perfectly pleases you. Everything that we have need of, everything that God requires us to be is found in his son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And so once we come to that realization, every need that we see, we will first and foremost go to father and thanking that his son is the answer to that need. His son is the answer to that need. Father, I thank you that Jesus has perfect forgiveness.

I thank you that Jesus has perfect love. I thank you that Jesus has perfect patience. I thank you that Jesus has perfect self-control.

How about this? I thank you, Father, that Jesus is so perfectly dedicated, listen, to living a life right now in the heavens, as well as when he lived on earth. Watch, of perfectly denying himself. Whoever lived such a life of self-denial than our blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

Stop trying to do it. Stop trying to muster up self-righteousness and self-effort. Acknowledge there was only one man who ever lived a life of self-denial and who currently lives, ever lives before God.

Do you know what Jesus spends 24-7 doing in heaven? Father, what is your will? What is your interest? What is your passion for the earth and for my people? It is that will that I am devoted to. You ever think Jesus goes and says, Father, you know, I've been thinking I'm a little tired of this. I want to do my own thing for a while.

No, he perfectly lives the life of self-denial. And so once we see that in Christ is the fulfillment of every command that God makes to the church in the new covenant, every command, thou shalt not commit adultery. Thank you, Father, that your son has such purity in his heart, that he has such purity that that he

alone is the man who was able to walk on the earth for three and a half years and never, ever, ever look at a woman wrongly.

Thank you, Father. Thou shalt not lie. Thank you, Father, that there was never a lying word in the lips of my Savior, Jesus Christ.

Isn't this liberating? I could do this all day just thanking God for Jesus, thanking God for Jesus. Thou shalt not covet. Thank you, Father.

That there is a God, there is a Savior who lives in and he's my Savior. Thank you, Lord, that he lived a life perfectly free from covetousness, perfectly free from greed, perfectly free from the love of money. Thank you, Father, that he lived a life and showed the world and pleased you how a man should live.

All right, we got this. We got this. I'm such an impatient person, Phil, I get so frustrated when pressures come and children and responsibilities, I just lose it.

Well, what do you do? Thank you, Father, that Jesus is able to maintain perfect peace in the midst of the most troublesome storm. Get your eyes off yourself, get off all your theology and all your religion, because you think your religion and theology is going to make you like Christ. You are wrong.

It's not going to do anything but make you religious if you don't keep it in its right place. You go ahead and read 101 books on how to be holy. And if those 101 books don't lead you to a revelation of Christ and cause you to fall down and acknowledge he alone is the holy one, then I would use them as kindling in your fires or give them away because they're not going to help you.

They're going to ruin you. They're going to destroy you, even the word itself. The Pharisees knew so well.

But Jesus said, you think eternal life is in the word. You think eternal life is by trying to keep the word, by trying to obey the word. But it's the word that testifies of me.

And you won't come to me. So you can go to the Bible and think that in learning scriptures, you're becoming like Jesus. You're not becoming like Jesus.

Only when the Bible reveals Christ to you and you come to him and ask father to put in you, listen, what's already in his son. So that you can truly be a body through whom his fullness is seen. OK, here's the revolutionary way to pray.

Settle it once and for all. Everything that father requires in this word that he commands you and I to be is found in his son. Now, number two.

Hallelujah to God, through the new birth and being born from above, we are now bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh. Now, listen, guys. It's all in Jesus, and now we are in him.

Which gives us the legal right to pray this father. Thank you. That all of your pleasure is found in your son.

Would you please take the patience that is in your son? And produce it in me. Father, will you take the perfect love that is in your son already? And put it in me, I love to pray like I pray like this every day, all day long, all day long in my heart. The thing I like to pray the most.

Is the part about Jesus that really touches my heart, there's a man, Norman, that is wholly selfless. Jesus is a man that has no interest, but those of his father. That's what I want in my life.

But I never get my eyes on Phil, never, I don't want to look at me, I keep my eyes focused on Jesus. Oh, father, here's a man who has no self-interest, who walks and lives and moves and and all he cares about is that your glory would be realized in the earth. And then in exchange for that selfless attitude, what is the father do? The father says, I will glorify your name, son, so you seek honor and you're going to lose it, you seek honor and you're going to lose it.

But if you seek the honor of God, God will honor you. But it won't be you, he'll honor his son working through you and in you. So the revolutionary way to pray, and I pray to God that this will catch hold of everyone here, father, thank you for your son.

Thank you that I am in your son through the new birth. And now I have the legal right as a child of God, bone of his bone, flesh of his flesh. I have a legal right now to come to you and whatever your word says, let's let's keep it into the word of God, whatever your word says.

And this listen, this is the way you escape condemnation. People a lot of times people don't like to read the word because it convicts them too much and they see how far they fall short. And so they either put on a religious front and pretend that what they read is true in their life through and through, or they just say, forget it.

I'm not going to read that word. They become a hypocrite. You want to how many have experienced that bits and pieces? Sure, we all have.

This frees you from it. This frees you from it. I get in.

I tell you, I get in that word and I can't everything about the word. Now, everything Genesis to Revelation 22, 21, the whole thing. Now, all it does is bring me to Jesus.

And then I see in Jesus, God has found what he's looking for in the word, not in me, in Jesus. And then I say, oh, father, I'm in Jesus now. And I thank you that by the operation of faith and the power of the Holy Spirit and the word working together with the spirit.

I thank you, father, that you can take the virtues and the qualities that are in your son and you can make them real in my life. You can make them real in your church and then the church corporately and the individual members in particular become an expression of an exact duplicate of the moral perfections that are in the man, Jesus Christ in heaven, not as deity. We don't partake of his deity.

We don't become little gods. We become redeemed men manifesting the stature, the fullness, the character of our head, the Lord Jesus Christ. And then the whole process is God glorifying his son corporately in many people.

This perfectly frees us to enter boldly to the throne of grace. This is what the new covenant is all about. We can come boldly, Norman.

Now, ask yourself. Does your prayer, meditation and Bible reading. Result.

In a continuous, overwhelming revelation of the beauties of Jesus Christ. Most people, it doesn't. They get hung up with themselves and works and self-effort and trying to become what they realize God has called

them to be.

But you can be delivered from that. And see the joy of Jesus Christ. Let me warn you lovingly, brothers and sisters, if you ever get into this word, if God ever gives you a hunger for this word and you and you start to devour it and it doesn't lead you to Christ, you will be led to deception.

Now, I know that sounds ironic because you think, well, how can someone in the word be led into deception? It happens all the time. Listen to me closely or we're going to close because I know we're running out of time. Go to Luke.

Listen, beloved, let this let this be a testimony and to show you what happens when Jesus, the Holy Spirit, begins to minister to you. Luke chapter 24, Jesus appears. Verse 13, he appears to two disciples who were walking on the road to Emmaus.

He asked him what's going on. Verse 17. He listen.

He Luke 24, 17. He listen. He hid himself from them.

He disguised himself. And he comes up to him and says, hey, what's going on, guys? Well, what are you talking about? And their response was basically this. Are you a stranger in Jerusalem? Don't you know about what has happened over the past three years? How a man named Jesus of Nazareth was a great prophet, mighty indeed.

And the chief priests and the rulers delivered him over to be condemned, and he was put to death and he was crucified, and we trusted that he would be the one to redeem us. Don't you know in here they were talking to Jesus? Now, watch this. Watch this.

Verse number twenty five. Jesus says, oh, fools. And slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken.

Now, watch. Watch this. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into his glory? Verse twenty seven.

One of the most important scriptures in the entire Bible. I'm telling you, it's one of the most important scriptures. Watch and beginning at Moses, what is the Holy Spirit do when he starts opening up the Bible to us? He starts at Moses.

He starts at the beginning. What does he do? Let me tell you, someday you'll if you don't see this someday, you will. There is so much going on today in the church about so-called revelation from God.

And all I see is a bunch of men and ministries and churches being glorified and experiences and weird things being glorified. That is not the work of the Holy Spirit. That is not the work of Jesus in the Holy Spirit.

Watch what Jesus does when he comes to a individual or when he comes to a corporate group of people. I don't care if it's 10. I don't care if it's 30.

I don't care if it's two thousand or twenty thousand in a coliseum. This is what he does. And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, the Holy Spirit will open up the word of God.

Moses and the prophets is the Old Testament. He'll take the word and what will he do? He'll begin to expound. That word means to explain, to interpret.

The things concerning who? Who? The Holy Spirit will take you into the word of God and he'll explain and expound. And concerning the things that pertain to who you, how great you are, Norman, how wonderful you are, how you're God's man for the hour. Is that what he does? Huh? How special you are.

How you're going to be visited with angels. No, no, he doesn't do that. He doesn't do that.

He opens up the scriptures and teaches us from the whole word of God, from Genesis to Malachi and certainly the new covenant and all the scriptures we have. Just it just follows right through with this revelation here. He shows us the things that pertain to what himself.

All the Bible, all the Bible, all the stories in the Bible. Are intended to reveal to us the meaning and significance and place that God has give to his son, Jesus Christ. I agree.

That's that's worthy of a sigh. Oh, I'll tell you, anathema to the man centered religion that's going on in the church world today. It is anathema rejected of God.

Christ is not being glorified. Christ is not becoming bigger. He's actually outside knocking, saying, are you all done yet? You're all done making a big fuss about yourselves.

You're going to let me back in so so I can shine light and get you all back down on your knees where you belong. You think you're hearing from God and it doesn't bring you down? You're not hearing from God. You're hearing from your own thoughts.

You got a lying spirit that's on you. I don't know what it is, but it's not when God talks, you hear Christ, you see him. You're humbled.

You're brought down. He's given his place now. Verse 32.

And they said one to another, this is after Jesus revealed himself and disappeared. Did not our heart burn within us while he talked with us, by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures concerning himself? There's a lot of heart burning going on in the church today, but when you rip the veneer from it and you get to what's going on, it's not about Jesus. It's about the prospect, Norman, of becoming wealthy and rich and successful.

It's about the idea of power and control. God's going to make me the head, not the tail. I'm going to be something in this world.

That's what people are getting excited about. Nothing to do with Christ. That's right, that's when that's that's our time in the world to come, the age to come.

So let me ask a question, brothers and sisters, as we wrap this thing up. And I just sensed the need to cover this today because I know we've been covering some difficult truth, difficult, hard sayings. The veneers being ripped off, God's words exposing.

We're called to follow Jesus. We're called to deny ourself. We're called to forsake all things or else we can't be his disciple.

And I just sense the need that God would want to remind us in the midst of all these commandments and all these demands, which are valid. They're valid today as they were in the Old Testament. We can't lose sight over the truth that all that God requires of us has been fulfilled in his son.

And now the key to growing and being obedient to the word of God is seeing God's son and asking father. Father. Your son was perfectly obedient in all things to you.

I want to be obedient, father, because the spirit of your the Holy Spirit in my heart gives me the desire to be obedient. But I can't generate it. I can't manufacture it.

But, Lord, I can ask you to take the power of obedience that's in your son and put that in my heart. Now, this isn't an excuse. Well, God, I thank you that Jesus is perfectly righteous, so I don't have to be.

I thank you, Lord, that Jesus is perfectly obedient, so I don't have to obey you because Jesus is my obedience. No, it's not the abuse of the truth. That's that's a lie.

It's God reproducing in the church. The same qualities that are in his son. Oh, how our hearts did burn within.

As he opened up the scriptures to us and so beloved in these final moments, I want to encourage you to remember. Everything that God is doing in our midst in your lives in the church abroad, if the Holy Spirit is the author of it, it's going to turn men and women to see Jesus. If God is teaching you out of the Bible, he is not going to be giving you weird, crazy, far out.

Out of the ballpark revelations about all kinds of crazy things that are coming down the pike. If God is talking to you, he's going to talk to you about his son. He's going to convict you of your sin and how you fall short of God's son.

And then he's going to invite you to go to his son and pray, Father, put in my heart the perfections that are in your son. That's how God talks. That's the pattern in the whole Bible.

So stay away from weird stuff, stay in the word. And pray, oh, Holy Spirit, open up your word to me so I can see Jesus and be changed by your Holy Spirit into his very image and likeness. Let's just bow our hearts for a moment, pray.

We're going to continue as God enables along this theme here of following Jesus now that we have been given a reminder that these things are only able to be fulfilled in us as we keep our eyes on the blessed son of God and let him do it. Father, we thank you for Jesus. We thank you for the precious work of your spirit today.

Inviting us to be free from rebellion and despising your authority, thank you for the work that you did in our heart. And we thank you, Lord, for the revelation in your word that. All the scriptures from Moses, the prophets and the whole new covenant all point us to the beauty of Jesus Christ.

God, I pray that you will make this revelation known to every heart here. Now we can see Jesus and in seeing him, we can be transformed and changed into his very image and likeness. We look to you, Father, for this.

We look to you. Thank you, Lord.

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