

Living The Gospel

We've all heard that to be good Christians we must live the Gospel message to its fullest. But how do we go about living an ancient message that seems to be outdated and irrelevant?

"Every expression of true beauty can thus be acknowledged as a path leading to an encounter with the Lord Jesus." Pope Francis *Evangelii Gaudium*

First we must find out what it means to live something. *To live is to express with our entire being.* We not only hear God's word, but we take it to heart and put His message into daily practice.

**"When a society lacks God, even prosperity is joined by a terrible spiritual poverty."
Pope Francis**

God knows what life can become for us, He knows the joy in living truth...the truth of the Gospel. As do so many people, we strive to live the Gospel, so that the world may know true joy and sheer happiness. To go about living the Gospel is more than a checklist of things to do and say. We don't just simply spout scripture and expect to feel fulfilled, we must put the words of scripture into action. And we must do it with joy!

"If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing." Philippians 2:1-11

What good is it to attempt to practice the teachings of Jesus, unless we have joy in our hearts, and peace as our motto? ***Nothing good can be done in one who has no joy!*** We may appear to be doing a good deed, but if we complain about it and fail to give our whole heart to it, then it's meaningless and our art is worthless, if it is without joy.

"I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world." Pope Francis *Evangelii Gaudium*

The greatest joy in life is to live life with joyful, peaceful and humble heart. Nothing is impossible, no situation is hopeless and love knows no limits. This is the message of the Gospel. This is who we are called to be. The Gospel is not outdated, irrelevant and un-relatable, it's new and fresh, it's freedom and solace. Do we dare to have the courage to live the Gospel of love, peace and mercy, in every aspect of our lives, with such elated joy that all will witness the reality and richness of living God's dream?

"To speak from the heart means that our hearts must not just be on fire, but also enlightened by the fullness of revelation and by the path traveled by God's word in the heart of the church and our faithful people throughout history." Pope Francis *Evangelii Gaudium*

Why does God try to teach us how to live? Why do so many people devote their lives to spreading the message of the Gospel? What are they trying to convey to us?

Jesus,
open my heart to joy of living in the Father's Word.
Help me to see the immense beauty in living my life to its fullest potential the way God created me to be.
Teach me to live without complaint and to embrace each moment with love.
May the joy of the Gospel become my every word and may I live its message of love, peace and mercy, so that all may know and experience the love of God, through the actions of my life.
May I grow closer to You every day and in every way.
May every person I meet become an encounter with You.
Amen