

EXPECTING MORE FROM MY RELIGION

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I. WHY DO EXPECT LESS THAN GOD'S BEST FROM THEIR RELIGION?

1. SIMPLY ATTENDING SERVICES MAKES ME _____

2. SIMPLY ENJOYING "CHRISTIAN" FELLOWSHIP AT MY CONVENIENCE BRINGS _____

3. SIMPLY SERVING OTHERS OCCASIONALLY IN SOME MINISTRY BRINGS A MINUTE _____

4. SIMPLY LEARNING & APPLYING ANY BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES I DEEM ACCEPTABLE, WILL _____

5. SIMPLY INVITING A FEW PEOPLE TO CHURCH BRINGS A TINY _____

6. SIMPLY SINGING SONGS ABOUT A LOVING, POWERFUL GOD TAKES THE EDGE OFF _____

7. SIMPLY _____ CHRIST MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A BETTER PERSON

II. WHAT DO ALL OF THESE POSITIVE RESULTS HAVE IN COMMON?

1. ALL OF THEM CAN BE REALIZED _____ !

In Other Words:

- i. None Require An Actual Relationship With Jesus**
- ii. None Require A Major Commitment**
- iii. None Require A Major Change**
- iv. None Require A Significant Sacrifice**

2. THESE THINGS DO NOT _____

3. THESE ARE ALL _____

III. WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT FROM MY RELIGION?

1. A RADICAL CHANGE IN _____

“2 Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:2

2. AN UNPRECEDENTED, SUPERNATURAL _____

“7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love... 12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.” 1 John 4:7-8 & 12

3. AN OVERWHELMING DESIRE TO BE _____

“11 You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.” Psalm 16:11

“25 Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. 26 My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever. 27 Those who desert him will perish, for you destroy those who abandon you. 28 But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign LORD my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.” Psalm 73:21-28

“1 As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. 2 I thirst for God, the living God.” Psalm 42:1-2

4. A FUNDAMENTAL REPLACEMENT OF _____

“23 Then he said to the crowd, ‘If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.’” Luke 9:23

“10 For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10

“20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” Matthew 6:20-21

“18 One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. 19 Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” 20 And they left their nets at once and followed him. 21 A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. 22 They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.” Matthew 4:18-22

5. AN EXTREME SHIFT IN THE WAY I _____

“12 Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. 13 For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” Philippians 2:12-13

“14 And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.” 2 Peter 3:14

6. A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE _____

“27 I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.” John 14:27

“²² But when the Holy Spirit controls your life, he produces this kind of fruit in you: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!”
Galatians 5:22-23

7. A TREMENDOUS _____ FOR MY _____

“¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 1:19-20

8. TO _____ REGULARLY

“¹ I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! ² But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.”²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” John 10:1-5 & 27

9. GOD TO _____ THROUGH ME

“¹⁷ These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. ¹⁸ They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.” Mark 16:17-18

“¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” John 14:12

“²² It was now winter, and Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of Hanukkah, the Festival of Dedication. ²³ He was in the Temple, walking through the section known as Solomon’s Colonnade. ²⁴ The people surrounded him and asked, ‘How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’ ²⁵ Jesus replied, ‘I have already told you, and you don’t believe me. The proof is the work I do in my Father’s name.’”
John 10:22-25

10. A _____ !

“¹⁰ The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.”
John 10:10

“⁵ But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don’t be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.

⁶ As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸ And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.”