

The Normal Christian

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Introduction

We live in a world that often labels Christians as “radical,” “extreme,” or even “fanatical” if they simply live out their faith in a consistent, biblical way. But the truth is, what the world calls “radical,” the Bible calls **normal**. A Christian who loves Jesus wholeheartedly, who serves faithfully, who endures trials courageously, and who is willing to suffer for the sake of Christ — that’s not the “super-spiritual elite,” that’s simply **a normal Christian**.

Too often, we have lowered the bar and accepted a watered-down version of Christianity where devotion is optional, dedication is rare, determination is unusual, and being imprisoned for our faith is unthinkable. Yet in the New Testament, these things were expected of every believer. In fact, if you were to ask the apostles what a “normal Christian life” looked like, they would describe exactly what we’ll see

today: a life devoted, a life dedicated, a life determined, and, yes, a life sometimes detained for Christ.

So today, I want us to examine what it really means to be a **normal Christian**. And as we walk through these four points together, I want us to ask honestly: *Am I living the normal Christian life? Or am I settling for something less?*

1. A NORMAL CHRISTIAN WILL BE DEVOTED

a. Devoted in Worship

Acts 2:42

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

The early church “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Worship wasn’t optional; it was their heartbeat. A devoted Christian doesn’t treat worship as an afterthought but as life itself.

Application: Do you hunger daily for God’s Word and prayer, or is it reserved for Sunday only?

Example 1: Prioritizing the Word and Prayer

A devoted Christian sets aside time each day to read Scripture and pray — not as a checklist, but as a lifeline. Just as the early church “*continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and prayers*,” the believer today hungers for God’s voice and speaks with Him regularly.

Illustration: Like a tree drawing daily nourishment from its roots, the Christian draws strength from steady communion with God.

Example 2: Faithful Gathering with God's People

The early believers met together for fellowship, teaching, and the breaking of bread. A devoted Christian sees corporate worship not as a burden but as a joy. Church is not optional — it's family.

Illustration: A coal taken out of the fire quickly dies out; but placed with the others, it glows brightly. Worship together keeps our hearts burning.

b. Devoted in Service

Galatians 5:13

13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use not* liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Paul said, "*by love serve one another.*" Service is the natural outflow of devotion to Christ. When a heart is captured by the Savior, it gladly stoops to wash feet, carry burdens, and meet needs.

Example 1 – Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet (John 13:3–15)

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus took a towel and basin and washed His disciples' feet — even Judas's. Though He was their Master and Lord, He stooped to serve.

Lesson: Devoted service follows the example of Christ — no task is too low when done in love.

Example 2 – The Good Samaritan's Compassion (Luke 10:30–37)

When others passed by the wounded man, the Samaritan stopped, tended his wounds, and paid for his care. His actions embodied love in motion.

Lesson: Devoted service crosses barriers and costs something; love acts even when it's inconvenient.

Lesson: Devoted service leaves behind tangible evidence of love — deeds that bless others and glorify God.

Application: How are you actively serving someone else in Christ's name this week?

c. Devoted in Loyalty

Luke 16:13

13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

“No man can serve two masters.” Devotion means single-hearted allegiance. A “normal” Christian doesn't flirt with the world while claiming Christ. Loyalty demands commitment even when it costs.

Example 1 – Daniel's Loyalty in Prayer (Daniel 6:10)

When King Darius signed a decree forbidding prayer to anyone but himself, Daniel refused to compromise. He continued praying three times a day, just as he always had — knowing it could cost him his life. His loyalty to God outweighed fear of men, and God delivered him from the lions.

Lesson: True loyalty stays faithful even when obedience brings danger or loss.

Example 2 – Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi and to God (Ruth 1:16–17)

When Naomi urged Ruth to return to her own people and gods, Ruth declared, *“Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.”* Ruth’s loyalty led her to leave her homeland and trust in the Lord of Israel — and God honored her devotion by making her part of the lineage of Christ.

Lesson: Loyalty to God often means leaving behind the familiar to walk by faith.

Lesson: Loyal hearts refuse to compromise truth, even under pressure or threat.

Application: Where in your life might you be torn between two masters?

2. A NORMAL CHRISTIAN WILL BE DEDICATED

a. Dedicated to Holiness

1 Peter 1:15–16

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

“As He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.” Dedication means separation from sin, not just in outward behavior but inward heart.

Example 1 – Joseph’s Purity in Egypt (Genesis 39:7–12)

When Potiphar’s wife tempted Joseph day after day, he refused to sin, saying, *“How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”* Even though resisting cost him his position and his freedom, Joseph chose holiness over pleasure.

Lesson: Dedication to holiness means doing right when no one is watching and when it costs everything.

Example 2 – Daniel’s Determination in Babylon (Daniel 1:8)

Taken captive into a pagan land, Daniel “*purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself*” with the king’s food and wine. Surrounded by compromise, he stood firm — and God honored his purity with wisdom and favor.

Lesson: Holiness begins with a settled heart decision before the moment of temptation arrives.

Application: What areas of compromise need surrender to God today?

b. Dedicated to the Mission

Matthew 28:19–20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Jesus’ command is not selective: “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.*” A dedicated believer takes the mission personally — praying, giving, going, or witnessing.

Example 1 – Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John 4:4–29)

Though weary from travel, Jesus “*must needs go through Samaria*” to reach a single outcast woman at the well. He crossed cultural and social barriers to share living water. That one encounter led many in her town to believe.

Lesson: Dedication to the mission means being willing to go out of our way to reach the lost.

Example 2 – Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26–39)

The Spirit told Philip to leave a successful revival in Samaria and go down a desert road — just for one man. Philip obeyed immediately, explained the Scriptures, and led the eunuch to Christ.

Lesson: A dedicated servant follows God’s leading, even when the assignment seems small or inconvenient.

Application: Who in your circle still needs to hear the Gospel through you?

c. Dedicated to Growth (2 Peter 3:18)

“Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” Dedication means we refuse spiritual stagnation. Daily disciplines, fellowship, and learning fuel growth.

Example 1 – The Disciples Learning from Jesus (Luke 11:1; Mark 4:34)

The disciples weren’t perfect men, but they had a teachable spirit. They asked, “*Lord, teach us to pray,*” and they listened as He explained the parables privately. Over time, these ordinary fishermen grew into bold preachers of the Gospel.

Lesson: Growth comes when we humbly ask to be taught and are willing to be corrected by the Master.

Example 2 – Apollos Receiving Correction (Acts 18:24–26)

Apollos was eloquent and mighty in the Scriptures, but he only knew John’s baptism. When Aquila and Priscilla took him aside and explained the Gospel more perfectly, he listened and grew — later becoming a

powerful preacher for Christ.

Lesson: Dedication to growth means being humble enough to receive instruction, even from those less experienced than ourselves.

Lesson: Spiritual growth often comes through repentance and restoration — failure doesn't disqualify us; it refines us.

Application: What spiritual habit can you strengthen this week — prayer, study, memorization, or accountability?

3. A NORMAL CHRISTIAN WILL BE DETERMINED

a. Determined in Trials (James 1:2–3)

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.” Trials prove faith and produce endurance. A determined believer doesn't quit when storms hit but leans harder on Christ.

Example 1 – Job's Perseverance in Suffering (Job 1–2; Job 23:10)

Job lost his children, wealth, and health, yet declared, “*Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.*” Even when he didn't understand God's ways, Job refused to curse Him. In the end, God restored him and deepened his understanding.

Lesson: Determination in trials means trusting God's character when His plan makes no sense.

Example 2 – Paul and Silas in Prison (Acts 16:22–25)

Beaten and chained in a Philippian jail, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises at midnight. Their joy in suffering led to a miraculous

deliverance and the salvation of the jailer's family.

Lesson: Determination turns trials into testimonies; praise in pain preaches louder than comfort ever could.

Application: Are you letting your trial grow you or break you?

b. Determined in Obedience (Acts 5:29)

“We ought to obey God rather than men.” Determination means choosing God's will over popular opinion, cultural pressure, or personal comfort.

Example 1 – Abraham's Obedience in Offering Isaac (Genesis 22:1–12)

When God tested Abraham by commanding him to offer Isaac — the very son of promise — Abraham obeyed immediately. He rose early, prepared the altar, and trusted that “*God was able to raise him up, even from the dead*” (Hebrews 11:19). His obedience revealed unshakable faith and complete surrender.

Lesson: Determined obedience doesn't wait for understanding; it acts in faith because God's word is enough.

Example 2 – Peter and John's Bold Witness (Acts 4:18–20)

When the religious leaders strictly commanded them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus, Peter and John replied, “*Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye...*”

for we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

Their obedience to God’s call outweighed the threat of persecution.

Lesson: Determined obedience stands firm when the world says, “Be quiet,” but God says, “Go and tell.”

Application: In what area do you need courage to obey God fully?

c. Determined in Hope

Example – The Apostle Paul’s Perseverance (2 Timothy 4:7–8)

Near the end of his life, after imprisonment, rejection, and hardship, Paul declared, *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”* His eyes were fixed on the eternal reward — *“a crown of righteousness, which the Lord... shall give me at that day.”*

Lesson: Determined hope keeps us pressing forward when the road grows hard, because we see beyond this life to the glory that awaits.

Application: What is pulling your eyes off the eternal prize?

4. A NORMAL CHRISTIAN WILL BE DETAINED

(Here “detained” means held, constrained, or bound — sometimes by God’s love, sometimes by His truth, sometimes by suffering for righteousness.)

a. Detained by the Love of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14)

“The love of Christ constraineth us.” His love holds us captive, directing our actions and motivations. We cannot go our own way when His love grips our hearts.

Application: Is Christ’s love the controlling influence in your choices?

Example 1 – Paul’s Transformed Life of Service (Acts 9:1–20; Galatians 2:20)

Before meeting Christ, Saul of Tarsus was a persecutor of the church. But after encountering the risen Lord on the Damascus Road, his entire life was constrained by Christ’s love. He declared, “*The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*”

Paul’s every step — his preaching, suffering, and sacrifices — flowed from being captured by that love.

Lesson: When Christ’s love becomes personal, it changes enemies into servants and self-seekers into soul-winners.

Example 2 – Peter’s Restoration and Calling (John 21:15–17)

After denying Jesus three times, Peter was lovingly restored by the risen Lord. Three times Jesus asked, “*Lovest thou me?*” and each time Peter answered, “*Thou knowest that I love thee.*”

That encounter transformed Peter’s shame into strength. From that day forward, love for Christ became the driving force behind his bold preaching and pastoral care.

Lesson: Christ’s love not only forgives our failures — it reclaims and redirects us for faithful service.

b. Detained by the Word of God (Jeremiah 20:9)

Jeremiah said, “*His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones... and I could not stay.*” God’s Word arrests us, keeps us from silence, and compels us to speak.

Example 1 – Jeremiah’s Unstoppable Message (Jeremiah 20:7–9)

After being mocked and beaten for preaching, Jeremiah decided, “*I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name.*” Yet God’s Word burned within him until he could not keep silent. Though it brought pain, he could not disobey the divine call.

Lesson: When God’s Word is alive in you, it won’t let you quit — it keeps pushing you to speak, even through tears.

Example 2 – Peter and John Before the Council (Acts 4:18–20)

The Sanhedrin commanded the apostles not to teach or speak in Jesus’ name. But Peter and John replied, “*We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*”

The Word of God, confirmed by what they had witnessed, constrained them to preach boldly despite threats of punishment.

Lesson: A heart filled with God’s Word cannot be silenced by worldly pressure; obedience to His truth outweighs fear of men.

Application: Is the Word so alive in you that you cannot keep it in?

c. Detained by the World’s Opposition (Acts 16:24–25)

Paul and Silas were literally detained in prison, yet they prayed and sang praises at midnight. Sometimes the world’s chains become pulpits of witness.

Example 1 – Paul and Silas in the Philippian Jail (Acts 16:22–34)

After being beaten and chained for preaching the Gospel, Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns at midnight. Their praise shook the prison, opened doors, and led the jailer and his household to salvation.

Lesson: Faith that worships in chains cannot be silenced. Even persecution becomes a platform for God's power and grace.

Example 2 – Stephen, the First Martyr (Acts 7:54–60)

When Stephen boldly preached Christ to the Jewish council, they gnashed their teeth and stoned him. As he died, he looked up and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. With his last breath, he prayed, “*Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.*”

Lesson: Even when the world's hatred ends a life, God's love and presence sustain the believer. Opposition cannot destroy a heart filled with Christ's peace.

Application: If opposition or persecution came, would your testimony remain joyful and steadfast?

Conclusion

When we look at the book of Acts and the letters of the New Testament, we don't see Christians who were half-hearted, casual, or indifferent. We see men and women who were **devoted** to their Lord, **dedicated** to His mission, **determined** in the face of trials, and often **detained** by the world — yet even then they sang, they prayed, and they witnessed for Christ.

This is not “extraordinary Christianity.” This is what the Bible calls *normal*.

The world today is desperate to see real believers — not Sunday-only spectators, but men and women whose lives are wholly given to Jesus

Christ. A devoted heart, a dedicated will, a determined spirit, and a detained body if necessary — all surrendered for the glory of God.

So the question is simple: **Am I living the normal Christian life?**

- Am I devoted — giving God my worship, service, and loyalty?
- Am I dedicated — to holiness, the mission, and growth in Christ?
- Am I determined — to endure trials, obey God, and press toward the prize?
- Am I willing, if it comes to it, to be detained — held by Christ's love, bound by His Word, and even opposed by the world for His sake?

Church Family, may we not settle for a shallow, comfortable version of faith. Let us rise up and embrace what God calls us to be. And when the world looks at us, may they not see “radicals,” but simply what the Bible calls **normal Christians**.