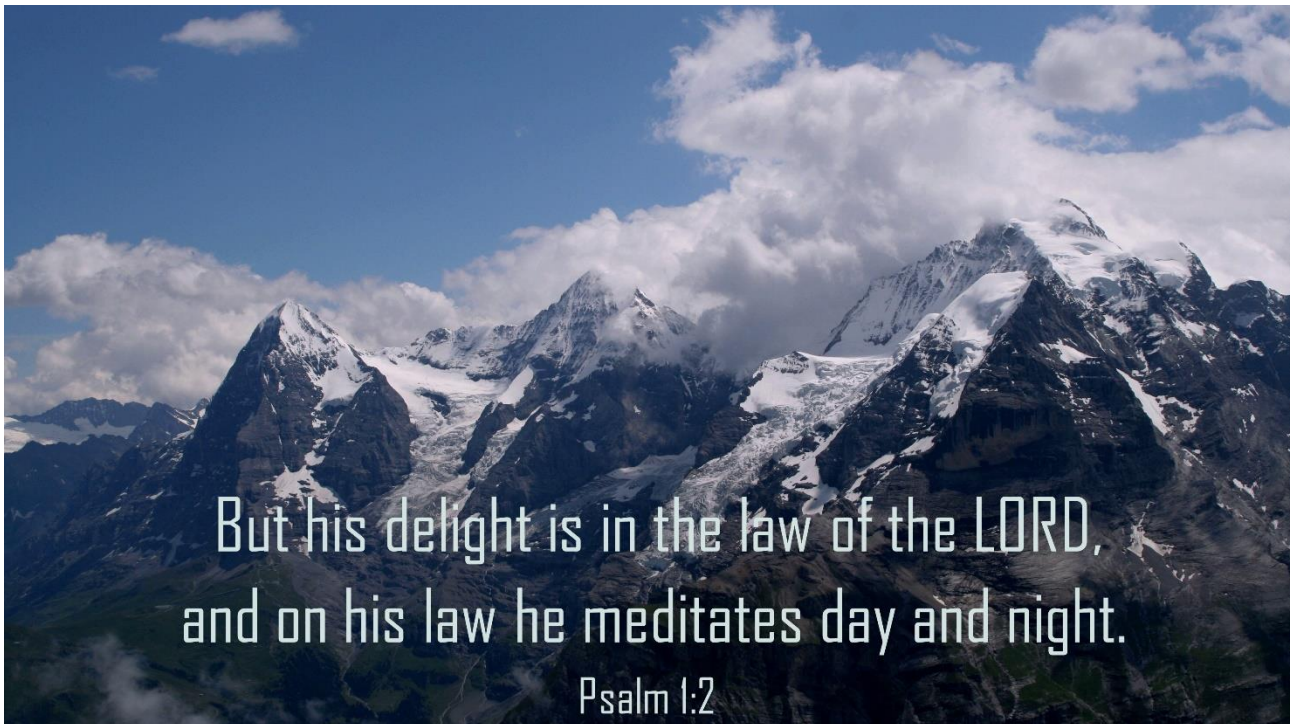

Practical Christianity

Christianity can be expressed practically in our everyday life events, whether out shopping, at work or school, with friends, at ecclesial activities, or whatever we may be doing. We reflect the image of Christ and the joy of our salvation to others by our words and behaviour.

Sunday School children often make bracelets with beads carrying the letters “WWJD”, to remind them in all circumstances to think, “[What Would Jesus Do](#)”. A simple but powerful tool for us all to use in our daily lives.

In contemporary society, the need for instant gratification is greater than ever and we are constantly bombarded by modern technologies forever tempting us with myriads of distractions. [Ensuring we keep our faith and prioritising our relationship with God and Jesus has never been more crucial](#). Counsellors often tell their clients that “communication is the key to a good relationship”. Look at the relationship that Jesus had with his Father. He often chose solitude with his Father alone, away from people. It gave him strength and helped him focus, and he needed private time to pray, meditate and give thanks without distraction. Matthew 6:6. To better mirror Jesus we also could use this approach and set time aside daily to lean into God’s presence and draw near to Him.



Psalm 1:2-3 speaks of meditating on God’s word day and night and likens us to a tree firmly planted beside streams of water. This tree produces fruit in season and the leaves do not wither. This healthy tree has all it needs to grow, drawing on the water of life. Just as we will be in the Lord, strong and healthy, if we absorb our nutrients from God’s word, meditate on them, and communicate regularly with Him. Jesus was the light of the world and if we follow after Him, we will be full of God’s light, and show His light in this dark world. A solid and lovingly nurtured relationship with our Father and His Son, forms the first step to a life that exhibits practical Christianity.

Jesus taught that followers must be ready to proclaim His name whenever opportunity arises: to share our joy and stand up for our Father and for Jesus. Be a true follower who says, “Yes! I know this man!” Mark 8:38. Be bold, be strong!!! Acts 28:31 “Proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.”

Jesus was our perfect example! He was a man who showed love through his actions to all, from those closest to him, even to his enemies. So, we must also fill our lives with love and pour out loving kindness and compassion to all, forgiving endlessly, just as Jesus demonstrated in his life. Matthew 5 and 18. Life sometimes can be cruel and we need to seek the love of Jesus and fellow disciples, just as **we share our care**. Serving others is an expression of our faith in God, and our imitation of Jesus. We are instructed to carry each other’s burdens, and in so doing fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

We live in a place of peace and relative prosperity, but it has been provided to us, **to use for God’s purposes**, in a practical way. How truly blessed we are to have a God who yearns to have a relationship with us, a Father who gave His Son, a life example to follow and live by. Practical discipleship is about all our actions and Jesus writes about the dangers of a tongue out of control. James 3:5-6. Unloving words once spoken, can never be erased, but can burn down forests. To be a true follower is to declare our salvation and our hope: to declare that we wait for our Saviour to return to transform this world.

What we do and what we say in our daily lives should be the perfect reflection of Jesus who provided us with the purest and most practical example of what love truly means. **Let us ensure our relationships, our words and our life actions reflect the children’s bracelets – “What Would Jesus Do”**, growing in love and faith, ready and prepared to stand up for Jesus, even in the face of persecution: ready to serve, eager to learn and overflowing with kindness and brotherly love for one another.

Norma Tuticci
