Familiar Stranger, Part 2, What's Been Missing

November 8, 2026

It's very easy for Christianity to become:

1. Beliefs to adhere to.
2. Behaviors to conform to.
3. Knowledge to be obtained.
4. Spiritual disciplines to be maintained.
5. A mission to be completed.

Through the Holy Spirit, Christianity is…

1. A life to be experienced.
2. How we feel closer to God.

> *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.*
>
> *- Ephesians 1:17 NIV*

3. Supernatural power that can be accessed any time.

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. – 2 Timothy 1:7 NIV

Let's shift our perspective to recapture what's been missing…

Instead of Christianity simply being about beliefs I adhere to, I see it as…

1. An opportunity to let the Holy Spirit continue to teach me in the understanding of my beliefs.

As for you, the anointing you received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in Him. -1 John 2:27 NIV

Discussion Question:

Take a minute to think about the experiences you had in your life this last week. What stands out that might be an indicator that the Holy Spirit is trying to teach you something? What do you think the Holy Spirit is trying to teach you?

Instead of Christianity simply being about behaviors I conform to, I see it as…

2. An opportunity to daily walk in the Spirit and let that drive my behaviors.

"So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want." – Galatians 5:16-17 NIV

Discussion Question:

What behaviors in your life would you like to see changed through the power of the Holy Spirit?

Instead of Christianity simply being about obtaining more knowledge, I see it as…

3. An opportunity to let the Holy Spirit guide me into all the truth.

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come." John 16:13 NIV

Discussion Question:

Describe a time in your life when you believe the Holy Spirit guided you into truth. What was the truth that the Holy Spirit guided you into?

Instead of Christianity simply being about the spiritual disciplines I maintain, I see it as…

4. An opportunity for the Holy Spirit to produce positive attributes in my life.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. – Galatians 5:22-23 NIV

Discussion Question:

Name one or more positive attributes that you would like the Holy Spirit to produce in your life? What steps will you take to help enable that?

Instead of Christianity simply being about a mission to complete, I see it as…

5. An opportunity for the Holy Spirit to speak through me.

"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say." – Luke 12:11-12 NIV

Discussion Question:

Describe a time in your life when you believe the Holy Spirit spoke through you, or when you believe the Holy Spirit spoke to you through someone else. What did the Holy spirit say?

Discussion Question:

Which one of these five things resonated with you the most, and why?

How can you intentionally apply this to your life and live it out this week?