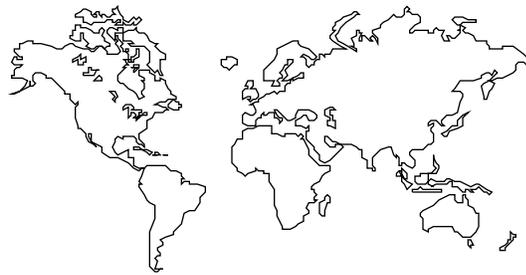


Basics of the Spiritual Life

2 DISCIPLESHIP



The Discipleship Ministry
“Reaching the World One Person at a Time”

DISCIPLESHIP



The Discipleship Ministry

The Discipleship Ministry exists to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ the Son of God to “*Make Disciples of All Nations*” by equipping Christians to *Win, Build and Send people for Christ!**

The Discipleship Ministry

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**Campus Crusade for Christ, Int'l*

Discipleship 2

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How to Use Discipleship 2

Purpose

Discipleship 2 is designed to help Christians *glorify Jesus Christ* and equip them to *disciple others!* It can be used for *Personal Study, New Christian Follow-Up, One on One Discipleship, Small Group Discipleship or Training Seminars.*

Using Discipleship 2

- ▶ **Share** the Lessons in **Discipleship 2** with Christians who have *already completed Discipleship I.*
- ▶ **Train** and **Challenge** those you are studying with to share **Discipleship 2** with others. Each time you share these *Lessons* with another person, you will not only *help them grow in their Christian Life*, but *you will grow in your own Christian Life* as you gain a greater understanding of God's Word. You will also be involved in **Spiritual Multiplication!**

Format

The **Main Section** on each page contains the *Lesson* while the **Right Column** contains *Thought Questions, Helpful Information, Related Verses and Memorization Directives.*

Procedure

Lessons can be done *without prior preparation* or they may be *assigned* and then *reviewed* during the study sessions.

Main Section

- ▶ **Read** through each *Lesson* paying careful attention to all **Scripture References.**
- ▶ **Instructions**, indicated by *bullets* ✓, include *directions* to Underline, Circle, Frame or Read specific sections of Scripture. They help the student discover *significant Truths* in the Bible!
- ▶ **Applications** are meant to be applied!
“The Purpose of Scripture is not simply to be Informed, but to be Transformed!”

Right Column ~ Cover this material for a *deeper* study.

- ▶ **Additional Information** supplement the *Lesson.*
- ▶ **Thought Questions**, designated by **arrows** ▶ in the Column, help the student focus on the *significant ideas* of the *Lesson* to gain a *deeper understanding.*
- ▶ **Related Verses**, indicated by the **Bible** , provide *additional Scriptures* to look up. These should be studied to gain a better understanding of what other Scriptures teach about the *Lesson.*
- ▶ **Memorization Directives**, designated by the arrow , point out *key Scriptures* to commit to memory.
- ▶ **Application Points** provide *practical steps* to take in light of the *Lesson.*
- ▶ **Affirmations** *summarize* key *Lesson* points that can be used to renew our thinking.
- ▶ **A Prayer** is provided to help us *respond to God's word* to us.

I. Spiritual Living

Introduction

Most of us are very comfortable living in our home town among our own people. But what happens when we're placed in a foreign country with a language and culture unfamiliar to us? Many people become confused, anxious and even depressed. The name for this *condition* is **Culture Shock**. *Culture Shock* occurs when we find ourselves in surroundings completely new to us. Familiar customs no longer apply and many things must be relearned.

Becoming a Christian can be a *Culture Shock* as we find ourselves having to learn to *live by the Spirit*. After living so much of our lives in the *Physical* world, we must now learn to live in the *Spiritual*.

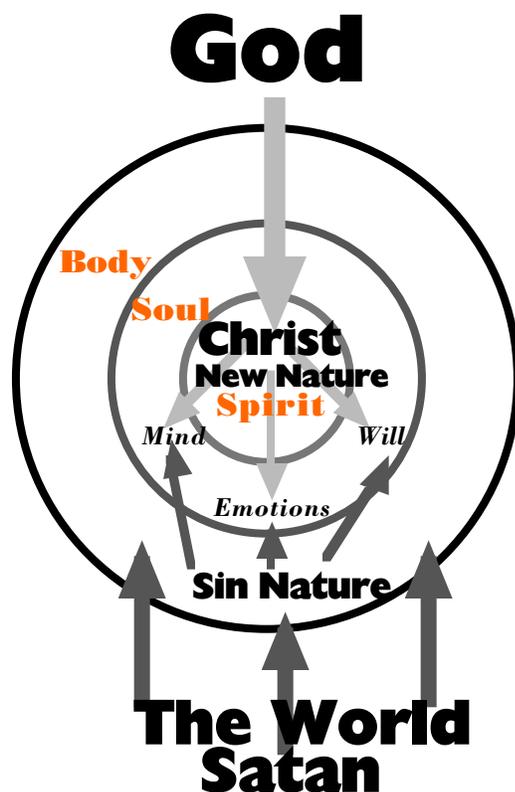
Spiritual Nature of the Christian

The Bible describes Man as a living **Soul**, existing in a **Body**, and having a **Spirit**. Our **Bodies** connect us to the *Physical World*, while our **Spirit** is our link to *God* and the *Spiritual World*. Our **Soul**, which includes our *mind, emotions and will*, is influenced both by our *Body* and our *Spirit*.

All men are born with a **Sin Nature**, but **Christians are Born Again** by God with a **New Nature** and possess the **Holy Spirit!**



1 Thessalonians 5:23



Spiritual Nature of People

The Bible describes **Three Kinds of People** in 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3.

▶ The Non-Christian

- ▶ Does Not Have Christ or Eternal Life.
- ▶ Life Dominated by Sin Nature.
- ▶ Life Influenced by Satan and the World.
- ▶ Has no Fellowship with God.
- ▶ Is an Enemy of God.
- ▶ Is Unable to Live a Life Pleasing to God.

The Non-Christian does not have Christ in his life and is *spiritually separated from God*. His *essential nature* is *sinful*, and because of this, he is strongly influenced by the **World** and **Satan**. He is *an enemy of God* and *cannot please God*.

▶ The Spiritual Christian

- ▶ Has Christ and Eternal Life.
- ▶ Life Dominated by Christ.
- ▶ Life Influenced by God and His Word
- ▶ Is a Child of God.
- ▶ Has Fellowship with God.
- ▶ Is Living a Life Pleasing to God.

The Spiritual Christian has Christ in his life and is *spiritually alive to God*. His *essential nature* is *holy*, and he is strongly influenced by **God** and His **Word**. He is a *child of God* and *pleases God* with his life.

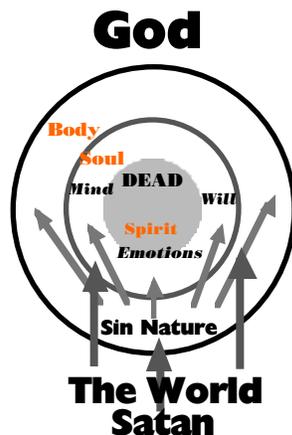
▶ The Worldly Christian

- ▶ Has Christ and Eternal Life.
- ▶ Life Dominated by Sin Nature.
- ▶ Life Influenced by Satan and the World .
- ▶ Is a Child of God.
- ▶ Has No Fellowship with God.
- ▶ Is Not Living a Life Pleasing to God.

The Worldly Christian has Christ in his life and is *spiritually alive to God*. His *essential nature* is *holy* and *pure*, **but** lives according to the **Sin Nature**, opening himself to the influence of the **World** and **Satan**. He is a *child of God*, but *does not please God* with his life.

Application:

- ▶ Which **Person** above best represents your life?
- ▶ If you are the **Non Christian**, receive Christ and let Him *fill* your life!
- ▶ If you are the **Worldly Christian**, allow Christ to *fill* your life.



- ▶ How is each kind of person in 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3 described? What is the significance of how the **Worldly Christian** is described in 1 Corinthians 3:3?

 1 Corinthians 2:14
Ephesians 2:1-3

The Non-Christian is described in Scripture as being "dead" in sin. He is without God's Life, and because of this, will spend eternity apart from God should he die without Christ and the forgiveness and life He brings.

 1 Corinthians 2:15
Galatians 2:20

The Spiritual Christian is alive to God with Christ in his life. He has learned to live by faith and yields his life to God. He is filled with the Spirit of Christ and empowered by Him to resist the influences of the World, Satan and the weakness of the Sin Nature.

 1 Corinthians 3:1-3
Acts 5:1-5

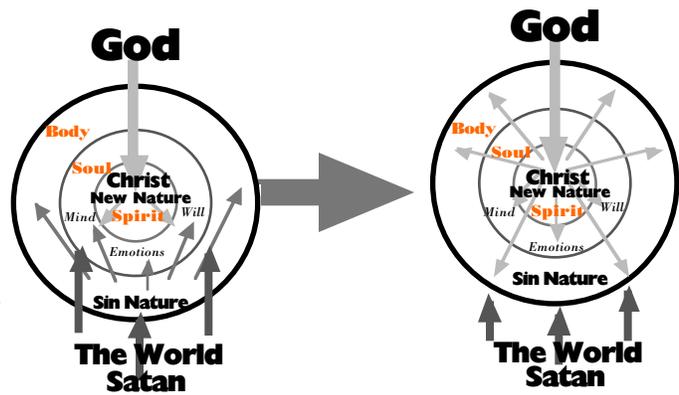
The Worldly Christian is often a new or young Christian who is not living by faith or yielding his life to God. He may also be an older Christian who has chosen to live according to the lusts of the Sin Nature opening himself up to the influences of the World and Satan.

Warning!

A Christian who continually lives in sin may not be a true Christian at all. see 1 John 2:3-6

Spiritual Growth

Spiritual Growth occurs as we yield more of our lives to Christ *until He fills every part: Will, Mind, Emotions and Body*. As we grow spiritually, we move from being predominantly **Worldly** in our lifestyle to being **Spiritual**.



► Our Minds Filled with Christ

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is his good, pleasing and perfect will."

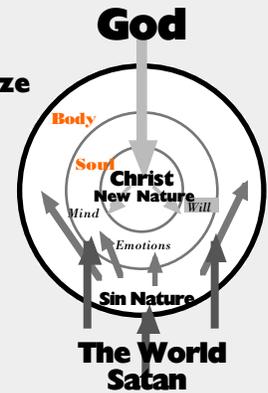
Romans 12:2

The word **conform** means to be 'squeezed in a mold'. We must resist being *squeezed* into the mold of the world's *values* and *patterns*. Instead we are to be '*transformed*' (Grk *metamorphosis*), or *changed* from the *inside* through the *renewing of our minds*!

Colossians 3:1-2

► In what ways are Christians squeezed into the pattern of this world? How does the renewing of our minds protect us from the world's influences? Explain each word that describes God's Will.

Memorize



► Our Wills Filled with Christ

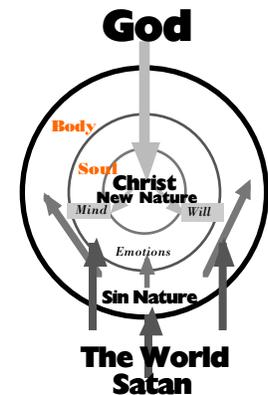
"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

Luke 22:42

In **Luke 22:42**, Jesus prays that if His Father were *willing*, He be somehow spared the suffering awaiting Him on the Cross. But He yields His Will to His Father's. Why? Because He is *convinced* that *God is all wise, all knowing, and all loving*, and that *God's Will is "good, pleasing and perfect"*!

John 4:34
Ezekiel 36:26-27
Hebrews 12:2

► How convinced are you that God is all "wise, all knowing and all loving" and that His Will is "good, pleasing and perfect"? How can we grow in our conviction that God's will is "good, pleasing and perfect"?



► Our Emotions Filled with Christ

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

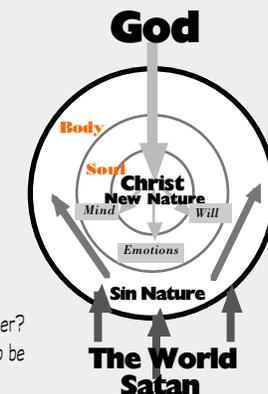
Colossians 3:12

Our Emotions can be one of the most difficult areas of our lives to control. Feelings are so often *dependent on circumstances which can change unexpectedly*. But we can experience *God's emotion* as we yield our lives to Him and live moment by moment in the Spirit.

Matthew 9:36

Christians & Anger

► Read John 2:13-17. What does this passage teach you about Jesus and anger? Can you think of times when it is right to be angry? When would those be?



► Our Bodies Filled with Christ

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.”

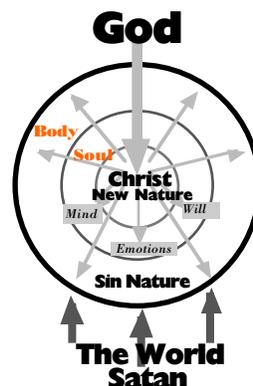
Romans 12:1

In Romans chapters 1-11 Paul describes God’s incredible Plan of Salvation by which He imparts His Righteousness upon all who believe in His Son. Part of His Plan includes the impartation of His Spirit in us to enable us to know and fulfill His will. In Romans 12:1, Paul draws the logical conclusion to this truth.

 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

► What does it mean to offer our bodies as living sacrifices to God? How is offering our bodies to God a ‘spiritual act of worship’?

◀ Memorize



Faith: The Only Way

“We live by faith, not by sight.”
2 Corinthians 5:7

In the Physical World, we live by our **Physical Senses: Sight, Touch, Hearing, Taste and Smell**. But how do we live in the *Spiritual realm* while still in this physical body? 2 Corinthians 5:7 provides the concise answer: **by Faith!**



Living by Faith in God and His Word is like flying a plane by instruments. Though you may **feel** like you’re flying *right side up*, your **instruments** may indicate the plane is really *upside down!* **The pilot** must *discipline himself* to **trust** the instruments and *not his own feelings!* In the same way, **Christians** must *discipline themselves* to **trust God’s Word**, and *not their feelings!*

Feelings versus the Truth of God’s Word.

1. I don’t feel God’s presence. *versus* (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5)
2. I don’t feel forgiven. *versus* (1 John 1:9)
3. I am afraid of dying. *versus* (John 14:1-3; Psalm 16:11)
4. I am anxious. *versus* (Philippians 4:6 & 19)

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”
Hebrews 11:6

 2 Corinthians 4:18
Galatians 2:20

Faith

We all live by faith everyday! We must trust people around us and a multitude of things to get through each day. Christians must learn to trust God and depend on Him as the source of all their needs.

Application

- Examine your life and evaluate your own Faith? What grade would you give yourself?
- How do you plan to grow in your Faith in God?

Affirmation

1. Christ lives in me!
2. My life belongs to God.
3. I am empowered by Christ.
4. I trust Christ with my life.

A Prayer

“Dear Lord, You have given me Life through Your Spirit in me. Fill me completely with the Spirit of Christ. I yield my mind, emotions, will and body to You that Your Life may penetrate every area of mine. Amen.”

For More Information Read “Birthright” by David Needham

2. Spiritual Fruitfulness

Introduction

What would you think if you planted a fruit tree *but it never bore any fruit*? At best you would be disappointed. At worst you would probably be thinking, *“Now where is that axe?!”* Fruit trees are supposed to bear fruit, and *those that don't fail to fulfill their intended purpose!*

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.”

John 15:16

- ✓ Underline the reason Christ chose us in *John 15:16* above.
- ✓ Frame (draw a box around) the kind of ‘fruit’ Christ wants us to bear.

Christians are new creations in Christ, recreated to glorify Him through *fruitful lives!*

Description of a Fruitful Life

Fruit has been described as *“The outward expression of the inward nature.”* In other words, *apple trees produce apples, not oranges!* So what kind of fruit are Christians supposed to produce?

Since the inward nature of Christians is Christ, the **fruit** of Christians is the expression of the *Person of Christ* and *His Work!*

I. Expressing the Person of Christ

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

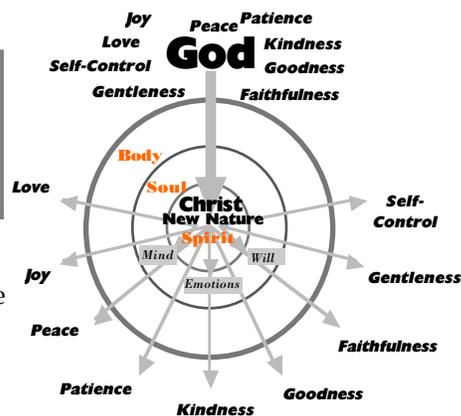
Galatians 5:22-23

The fruit of the Spirit is the expression of the **Person of Christ** in our lives! Note that the word *fruit* is singular indicating the unity of all the qualities.

- ✓ Circle and Recite each character quality listed in *Galatians 5:22-23*.

Examine each quality with their descriptions below .

- Love:** God's *unconditional love* characterized by *self-sacrifice* .
- Joy:** God's joy *not based on material things* but on *spiritual blessings*.
- Peace:** the *tranquility* based on *God's sovereign love* and *acceptance*.
- Patience:** *enduring unfair treatment* by other people, as Christ did.
- Kindness:** treating others with the same kindness *God has shown us*.
- Goodness:** expressing the *moral purity* and *righteousness* of God.
- Faithfulness:** being as *trustworthy* as God.
- Gentleness:** displaying *God's humility* in our dealing with others.
- Self-Control:** experiencing *God's control* over our fleshly desires.



📖 2 Corinthians 5:17
Ephesians 2:10

📖 Galatians 2:20

Definition of Love

📖 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

▶ What is significant about the phrase “against such things there is no law”? Examine each quality of the Fruit of the Spirit and ask yourself, “How evident is this quality in my life?”

Application:

Memorize *Galatians 5:22-23*.
Meditate on these character qualities.
Pray for each quality to become a reality in your life.

2. Expressing the Work of Christ

The Christian Faith is *not* a *Passive Faith* but an *Active one*. We are not only called to *Believe*, but also to *Obey!* **True Faith** produces **Loving Obedience**. So besides expressing the **Person** of Christ, Christians are to express His **Work!**

► Christ's Work

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Luke 19:10

"just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

John 10:10

- ✓ Underline the *Reasons Christ came*.

The primary reasons Jesus came was to *give His life as payment for sin, to rescue sinners from eternal death, and proclaim the Gospel of God's grace.*

► Our Work

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

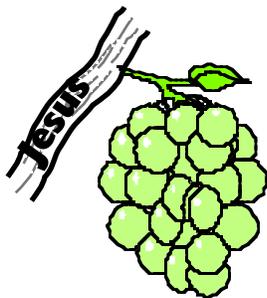
Mark 16:15

In Mark 16:15, Jesus gives us a job to do.

- ✓ Underline our *Job Description* from Jesus.
- ✓ Frame *two phrases* that describe the *extent* of our job.

We were born to live as God's children to glorify and obey Him. Our time on earth must be spent completing Christ's work of teaching others about God's forgiveness that they might escape the coming judgment.

► Key to Fruitfulness



"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

- ✓ Visualize the metaphor Jesus presents in *John 15:5*.
- ✓ Underline Jesus' *condition* for fruitfulness.
- ✓ Circle the word that describes what we can *do without* Christ.

Application

Remain in Christ by :

- ✓ **Confessing** all sins and claiming 1 John 1:9.
- ✓ **Allowing Christ to fill every part of your life!**



John 1:29

Christ was born to die as God's sacrifice for our sins,

and to bridge the gap between a Holy God and Sinful Man. His time on earth was spent teaching others about the good news of God's salvation, and warning them of the judgment to come.

◀ Memorize



Ephesians 2:10

- How does fulfilling the work of Mark 16:15 glorify God?

◀ Memorize

- How is the Vine and Branches a good illustration of our relationship with Christ?

Hindrances to a Fruitful Life

2 He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: 3 " Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times."9 Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

13 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? 14 The farmer sows the word. 15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. 16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. 20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."

Mark 4:2-8, 13-20

In the **Parable of the Sower**, Jesus uses the image of a farmer scattering seeds to illustrate the various responses of people to **God's Word**.

- ✓ Frame what the farmer sows in vs 14.
- ✓ Frame *each place* on which the farmer's seeds fell from *verses 13-20*.
- ✓ Underline the *interpretation* of each soil in *verses 13-20*.

The Four Soils

1. **The Path** ▶ **A Hard Heart:** A Person *hardened by sin* so that God's Word is not received.
2. **The Rocky Soil** ▶ **A Superficial Heart:** A Person who relates to God *superficially*, with *no depth of faith* in His Word.
3. **The Thorny Soil** ▶ **A Distracted Heart:** A Person *preoccupied* by the *cares* and *worries* of the world.
4. **The Good Soil** ▶ **A Devoted Heart:** A Person who *Receives, Trusts and Obeys* God's Word!

**"Only One Life Will Soon Be Past,
Only What's Done for Christ Will Last!"**

- ▶ How is a *seed* a good illustration of the Word of God?
- ▶ How does Satan take away God's Word from us? Why does he do this? Describe the person in vs 15.
- ▶ What does it mean that some do not have roots? Describe the person in vs 16-17.
- ▶ How do the things mentioned in vs 19 hinder a fruitful life for God? Describe the person in vs 18-19.
- ▶ What do you think the 'crop' is? How does your explanation relate to 'thirty, sixty or even a hundred times'? Describe the person in vs 20.

Application

- ▶ Examine your life in terms of the Parable of the Sower.
- ▶ Which soil best represents your life right now.
- ▶ What must be done for your life to become like The Good Soil.
- ▶ Trust God to make your life a Fruitful one!

Affirmation

1. My life is an expression of the Person of Christ!
2. I live to do Christ's work.
3. Christ's life flows through me.
4. I am the good soil and bear much fruit.

A Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the Vine and I am a branch. You alone possess life, and all that is good flows from You. May Your life flow through mine that I may display You, and Your works, through me.
Amen"

3. Spiritual Fulfillment

“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing, but only by God the Creator made known through Jesus Christ.”
Pascal - French Physicist and Philosopher

French Physicist Blaise Pascal expressed the idea that there is more to life than simply fulfilling our physical needs. *God created Man for a spiritual relationship with Himself.* And until Christ fills our hearts, *we will constantly search for something in this World to fill that vacuum and make life worth living!*

What makes life worth living? Our local newspaper addressed that question several years ago in an article on *Teen Suicide*. What caught my attention was the comment of a Psychologist who shared that *the reason many teens are losing their desire to live is the lack of one or more of three essential qualities that make life worth living: Faith, Hope and Love.* You may recognize these as the same three qualities found in *1 Corinthians 13:13!* But what do they mean?

Each quality not only meets a basic spiritual need in our life, but answers one of three ageless questions.

QUALITY	SPIRITUAL NEED	DESCRIBED	QUESTION ANSWERED
Faith	Significance	A Meaningful Life	“Why Am I Here?”
Hope	Security	A Confident Life	“Where Am I Going?”
Love	Self-Worth	A Valuable Life	“Who Am I?”

Significance: **God created us** with a need to live **Meaningful Lives**. We want our lives to *count* for something! We want to *believe* in something ... to answer the question, “*Why am I here?*”. God’s answer is a *relationship with Himself* based on *Faith in Him* and *His Faithfulness to us*.

Security: **God created us** with a need to live **Confident Lives**. We want to *know* that our lives are *safe* and our futures *secure* ... to answer the question “*Where am I going?*”. God responds by giving us *His Promises of Hope* to ensure our future.

Self-Worth: **God created us** with a need to live **Valuable Lives**. We want to be *valued* as persons and to be *accepted* as we are ... to answer the question, “*Who am I?*” God responds by giving us *His Love* and *calling us His Children!*

A Woman Thirsty for Spiritual Fulfillment

5 So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; 6 and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."⁸ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.⁹ Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

11 She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water?¹² "You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?"

13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again;¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw."

16 He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here."

17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband';¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly."

John 4:5-18

Jesus regularly used *everyday objects* to illustrate *eternal truths*.

He used *water* and *thirst* to illustrate our desire for a fulfilling Life.

- ☑ Circle the word "*water*" each time you think it refers to *literal* water.
- ☑ Frame the word "*water*" each time you think it is used to refer to something *more* than literal water.

Though the woman of Samaria had come to draw water from the well to quench her *physical thirst*, Jesus discerned that she also had a *spiritual thirst* which the things of the world could not quench.

- ☑ Underline Jesus' statement in verses 13 & 14 and contemplate what He is saying there.

Jesus observes that physical water quenches thirst only *temporarily*.

Eventually, *we will thirst again!* When the woman shows interest in obtaining the *water* that quenches thirst once and for all, *Jesus confronts her with a request intended to show her what she is really thirsting for (self-worth, security and significance)* and the *inadequate* source she was "*drinking*" from (*the various men in her life*). These men fulfilled her need for *Self-Worth, Significance and Security* only *temporarily*.

- ☑ Underline Jesus' request in *verse 16*.
- ☑ Circle *how many times* the woman had gone to this "*well*" that only offered her *temporary fulfillment*.

▶ Paraphrase Jesus' statement in vs 13-14

▶ How did the woman's husbands provide *Significance? Security? Self-Worth?*

▶ How else do we try to quench our thirst for these three needs in the world? Why do these worldly sources give only temporary fulfillment?

True vs False Fulfillment

Where are you finding **YOUR** Significance, Security or Self-Worth?

My Work	My Husband	My Children
My Boyfriend	My Girlfriend	My Wife
My Money	My Good Deeds	My Investments
My Children's Success	My Awards	My Appearance
My Friends	My Degrees	My Accomplishments
My Possessions	My Abilities	My Parents

- Circle each item above where you might be finding your **Significance**.
- Frame each item above where you might be finding your **Security**.
- Underline each item above where you might be finding your **Self-Worth**.

When we find our fulfillment in the world, we soon discover that it is *only temporary*. Eventually we need *more* and find ourselves back where we started. *Things get old, people fail us, accomplishments are forgotten, and the applause fades.*

When we find fulfillment in God, it is *complete* and *permanent*. Being fulfilled in Christ *frees us* from craving fulfillment in the things of the world, and instead, releases us to give of ourselves *without needing anything in return!*

Are You Finding Fulfillment in God or in the World?

To determine if you are finding Fulfillment in God or in the World, ask yourself, **“How would I react if someone took away any of the above items from me?”** Those who find their *Fulfillment* in any of the above will react with *anger* or *anxiety*. Why? *Because taking these things is like taking Life itself from them!* That is why many even become violent when a loved one leaves them, or when they lose their possessions, or their jobs. For them, *it is the lost of their Significance, their Security and their Self-Worth!*

But those who find their fulfillment in God will never experience lost for **nothing can separate us from God and His Love!** (Romans 8:38-39)

The Blessed Man

- 1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.
- 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.
- 3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Psalm 1:1-3

- Frame each of the qualities of a *“blessed man”*.
- Frame what he *delights* in.
- Underline what he is *compared* to.

Idolatry

Whenever we find our *Significance, Security or Self-Worth* in anything other than God, we are in danger of making that thing an **Idol**. An **Idol** is **any created thing that takes the place of the one true God in our life.**

Emotional Impact of Worldly Idols

We become **anxious** when we are unsure the World will meet our need.

We become **angry** at anyone or anything that keeps us from our Worldly idol.

We **despair** when our Worldly idols fails to meet our need.

We feel **guilt** when we are unable to measure up to the World's standard.

For More Information Read:

“Basic Principles of Biblical Counseling” & “Effective Biblical Counseling” by Dr. Lawrence J. Crabb Jr.

- ▶ Compare how a person finding Life in the World and a person finding Life in God would react to the lost of:
 - ▶ **their jobs**
 - ▶ **their girlfriend or boyfriend**
 - ▶ **their possessions**

▶ How does Psalm 1:1-3 illustrate this Lesson?

► Real Significance

God Provides the Greatest Significance We Can Experience!

"For so the Lord has commanded us, 'I have placed you as a light for the Gentiles, that you might bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" *Acts 13:47*

- ✓ Underline the purpose of the Christian according to Acts 13:4-7.

There is no more significant work than bringing Christ to the world! Every other work we do will pass away, but *that done for Christ lasts forever!*

"There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever."
Revelation 22:5

- ✓ Underline what is in store for the Christian's future.

Christians will reign with Christ forever in the coming Kingdom!
What can be more significant than that!

► Real Self-Worth

God Values Us Beyond Imagination

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."
1 John 4:10

- ✓ Frame God's attitude toward us according to 1 John 4:10.
- ✓ Underline how much God values us.

The worth of anything is determined by what someone is willing to pay for it. God was willing to give His Son, Jesus Christ, for you! *Can you think of anyone who values you more?*

► Real Security

God Supplies the Best Security We Can Ever Have!

"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19

- ✓ Circle how many needs God will meet according to *Philippians 4:19*.

God not only knows our every need, *He is able, and willing, to meet them!*

"For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'
Jeremiah 29:11

- ✓ Underline what God knows about us in *Jeremiah 29:11*.
- ✓ Frame what *kind* of plans God has for us.

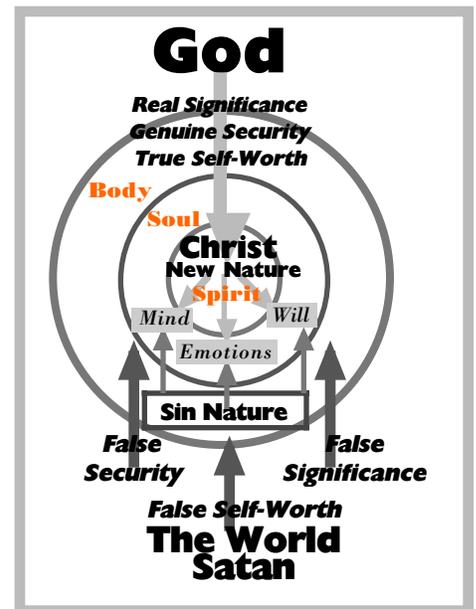
God alone knows our future, and *it's a good one!*

Real Life

**"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."
Philippians 1:21**

- Do you think Christians really know why they are here? Why or why not?

- In light of our future work of reigning with Christ in His Kingdom, what can we be doing now to prepare for it?



Application Points:

Read and reread each of the items on this page and allow the truths to change the way you see your life.

Memorize as many of the Scriptures as possible to transform your mind.

- How can these verses help you when you doubt your Significance, Self-Worth or Security?

Affirmation

Christ is my Significance.
Christ is my Self-Worth.
Christ is my Security.
Christ is my Life.

A Prayer

"Dear Lord, thank You for giving me Life and all that I need to experience it fully! Teach me to always draw my life from You. Amen"

4. Spiritual Warfare

Introduction

Successful fishermen know their fish. They know it is not just a matter of putting *Bait* on a hook and hoping for the best. No. They *study* their prey to determine the most enticing bait and how best to dangle that bait before their target. *Successful Fishermen* don't leave much to chance.

A similar thing happens in the *spiritual world*. There, **Christians** are the *Prey*, **Satan** the *Fisherman*, and the **World** his *Bait*. **Satan** knows the best *Bait* to use to ensnare each **Christian**, and how best to present it. Christians who understand *the Devil* and his schemes will be better equipped to withstand his attacks!

Our Adversaries

The Christian is Opposed by Three Enemies.

The World: *a system of thinking and values* that oppose **God's Truth**.

The Sinful Nature: that *nature* within us that opposes **God's Will**.

Satan: *a spirit being* who opposes **God's Rule**.

The World

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives for ever."

1 John 2:15-17

✓ Underline God's command concerning our relationship with the world.

Love means to *value* or *cherish* something or someone.

✓ Frame each of three things in the world.

✓ Underline why we should not value the world.

✓ Underline why we should value God instead.

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

1 Timothy 6:10

✓ Frame what is the *"root of all kinds of evils"* according to 1 Timothy 6:10.

✓ Underline what can happen when we *"love money"*.

Note: Money, *by itself*, is not the root of evil as many believe this verse to say, but rather it is the *love* of money!

When you became a Christian, you automatically made three enemies - The World, The Sinful Nature & Satan. You also allied yourself with the One True God who will one day destroy your adversaries and their power.



James 4:4

- ▶ How would you define each of the three things in the world?
- ▶ Why does the world present such a strong temptation for Christians?
- ▶ How are the things of the world temporary?

- ▶ What evil have people done for the love of money?
- ▶ How can the love of money affect our faith in God, and even bring us grief?

The Sinful Nature

“For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.”
Galatians 5:17

- ✓ Circle the *one* word that describes the *relationship* between the *Sinful Nature* and the *Spirit*.
- ✓ Underline the *result* of this conflict.

Resisting the Sinful Nature

“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”
Galatians 5:16

- ✓ Frame what we are commanded to do in *Galatians 5:16*.
- ✓ Underline the *result* of obeying this command.

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

Colossians 3:1-2

- ✓ Underline all we are to do according to *Colossians 3:1-2*.

Satan

Satan Described

“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”
1 Peter 5:8

- ✓ Circle the *one word* that describes the devil in relation to us.
- ✓ Underline what the devil is *compared* to.
- ✓ Frame *two attitudes* we must have when combating the devil.

“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”
2 Corinthians 11:14

- ✓ Frame Satan’s *disguise* in *2 Corinthians 11:14*.

As an ‘angel of light’ Satan is able to *deceive* and *seduce* Christians. That is why we must be “*self-controlled and alert*” to his schemes and deceptions!

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”
John 8:44

- ✓ Frame the ways Jesus describes the devil in *John 8:44*.

Jesus repeatedly calls the devil a liar. Satan’s *primary goal* is to *deceive* us and to *seduce* us to believe his lies. (See *Genesis 3:1-5* for examples of Satan’s deceptions.)

 Mark 14:38

- ▶ Describe a conflict between the sinful nature and the Spirit in your own life?

Live by the Spirit

When we live by the Spirit, it is **impossible** for the sinful nature to exert itself. But the choice is ours!

- ▶ How does who we are affect what we do? Christians are called “saints” in the Bible. What do saints do?
- ▶ What does it mean to set our hearts and minds on things above?

Satan = Adversary
Devil = Slanderer

Satan’s Origin

Read *Ezekiel 28:12-15*

Note all the superlatives God uses to describe Satan in this passage that most theologians believe is a description of Satan’s origin. In light of Satan’s beauty and perfection, what “wickedness” do you think was found in him?

Read *Isaiah 14:12-14*

Observe and Describe the desires that filled Satan’s heart before his fall from God’s heaven. Why do you think he had these desires? How do they relate to Sin?

- ▶ What were some lies Satan used to seduce Eve in *Genesis 3:1-5*?
- ▶ What are some lies Satan uses to deceive people today? How does Satan get us to doubt God?

► Resisting the Devil's Attacks

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:1-4

- ✓ Underline the devil's temptation in v 3.
- ✓ Underline how Jesus responded to the devil's temptation.

Notice that Jesus resists temptation by *declaring God's Word out loud*. God's Word is *God's Sword* (Ephesians 6:17) and *proclaiming* it shines God's light on Satan's lies and eliminates their power to seduce us!

► Guard Your Thoughts

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- ✓ Frame what *divinely empowered weapons* are for.
- ✓ Underline what it means to "*demolish stronghold*".

The word "stronghold" literally refers to a *fort* or *castle*. It also came to mean the "*arguments and reasons*" we use to *fortify* an opinion against an opposing idea.

- ✓ Underline what kind of *arguments* are referred to here.
- ✓ Frame *why* we are to take every thought captive.

"and do not give the devil a foothold."
Ephesians 4:27

Every time we sin against God, we give Satan an opening in which to gain a hold of our lives. The word "*foothold*" refers to a place or region marked off from the surrounding area. The devil is looking to control our lives a "*foothold*" at a time! *The secret is not to give him even an inch!*

Application

Parry Satan's temptations for us to doubt and disobey God by utilizing the *Sword of the Spirit ~ God's Word*. **Look up and match** the Scriptures on the right with the *lies* and *temptations* of Satan on the left:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. You really can't do it. | a. 1 Peter 5:6 |
| 2. You're worthless! | b. Philippians 4:19 |
| 3. You really can't trust God. | c. Romans 5:8 |
| 4. Sexual Immorality | d. 2 Timothy 2:13 |
| 5. Pride | e. Philippians 4:13 |
| 6. Material Needs | f. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 |

As you experience temptations to doubt or disobey God, search God's Word for *His Truth* so that you might draw *His Sword* to fend off Satan's attacks! *Memorize Scripture* in order to be ready the next time you're tempted!

 1 John 4:4

► From Jesus' response, what is the real reason behind Satan's temptation? How does Christ use God's Word in parrying Satan's temptation? How was Christ able to recite the appropriate Scripture, and do it so quickly?

► What does it mean to "demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God"?

► What are some *arguments and reasons* that oppose the *knowledge of God*?

► What does it mean to "*take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ*"?

► According to *Philippians 4:8*, what are the only types of thoughts we are allowed to pass through our minds?

► How do we do this?

"Foothold" = *topos* (Greek)
Where we get our English word *topography*.

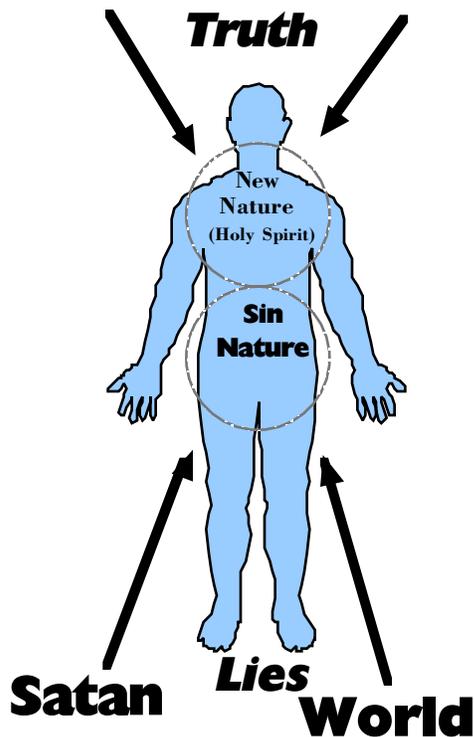
► What are some areas Satan tries to gain a "foothold" in our lives according to Ephesians 4:26 & 2 Corinthians 2:10-11?

► What are some other areas Satan tries to gain a "foothold"?

We Belong to God

One basis for guarding our thoughts is the fact that God owns us (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)! We are simply stewards of our minds and bodies. We do not have the right to allow either Satan or the Sin Nature to dictate what we can think or do! God, who possesses us and loves us as no other, has dictated the limits, and by His love, we are constrained to obey Him!

GOD Word



Under the Influence!

Victory in Spiritual Warfare depends on our *awareness* of the forces that seek to dominate us.

Satan uses the World to entice the **Sin Nature** to bring us under its influence. Like the *Fisherman* we began with, **Satan** baits his hook with the empty promises of the **World** to tempt our **Sinful Nature**. *Once he gets us to bite and swallow his "line", we're hooked!*

God uses His Word and the **Holy Spirit** within us to enable our **New Nature** to live *victoriously for Christ*. When we trust God's Word and live by His Spirit, *we cut Satan's line and free ourselves from his deceptions!*

When Under Attack!

Stop & Pray!

Don't allow your *emotions* or *physical desires* to control your decisions when temptation strikes. Instead, **Stop** and **Pray!** *Focus your Mind and Heart on God!* Then allow Christ's Spirit to *Live* in you! (*Psalm 46:10 & Mark 14:33*)

Resist the Devil!

Draw the Sword of the Spirit, the *Word of God*, to cut through Satan's lies. **Memorizing God's Word** allows you to bring it to bear quicker, and *the more you know, the bigger your Sword!* **Declare God's Word** out loud as you confront Satan's lies, and *fight back!* (*James 4:7, Ephesians 6:13-17 & Psalm 119:11*)

Stand Your Ground!

Determine to stand against Satan's quest to defeat you and turn you against God. *Affirm that your citizenship is in Heaven and declare your allegiance to the King of Kings!* (*Ephesians 6:10-13*)

Affirmation

1. God is Greater than all my enemies.
2. God is my Protector.
3. I will guard my heart and my mind.
4. I will stand my ground.
5. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (*Phillipians 4:13*)

A Prayer

"Lord, You are the omnipotent God and Your enemies are helpless before You! May your Spirit empower and enlighten me that I might resist the temptations of Satan, the deceptions of the World, and the lusts of the Sin Nature! Amen"

5. Spiritual Freedom

Introduction

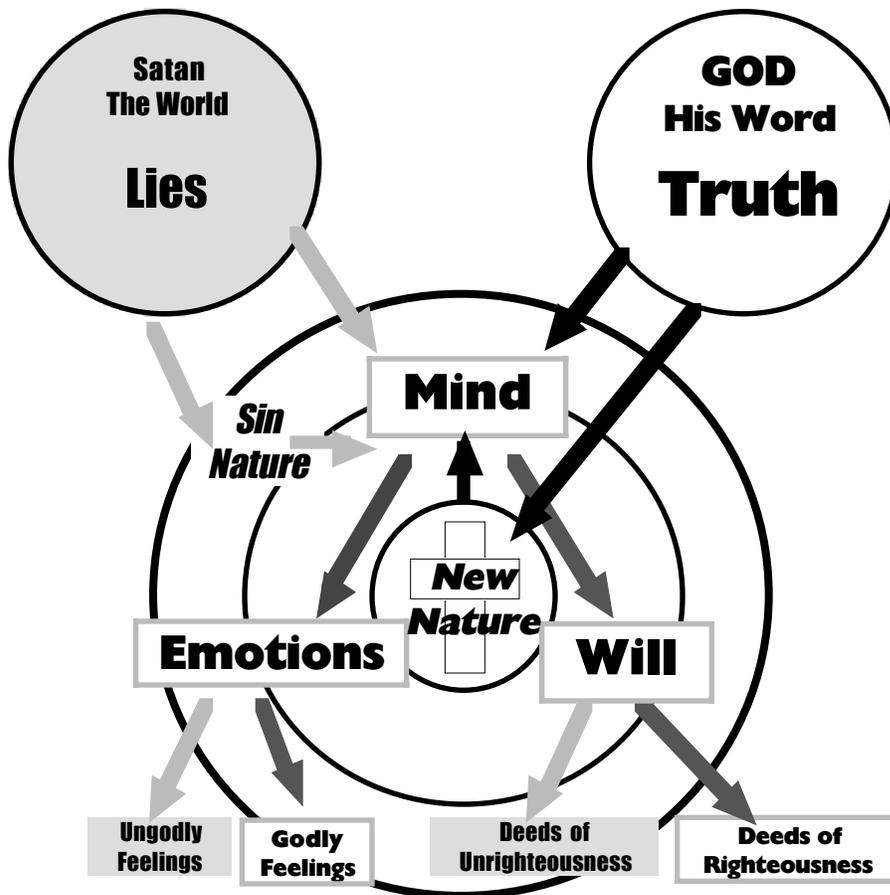
As you live in the Spirit, you may still find certain sins that cling to your life. They may be *habitual sins, ungodly thoughts, guilt inducing memories, bondage to fleshly lusts such as overeating, addictions, pornography, or sexual immorality, or a myriad of other things like these.* No matter how great your desire to follow Christ, these nagging sins entangle and weigh your spiritual life down like chains. Well, take heart, for *there is freedom through the resurrection power and authority of Jesus Christ!*

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

Galatians 5:11

- ☑ Circle the *reason* we have been set free in Christ.
- ☑ Underline what the alternative to freedom is.

This diagram helps us understand the Nature of Spiritual Bondage.



 Galatians 5:13

- ▶ What are some common areas of bondage Christians experience?

The Computer

Our Minds are like the *Central Processing Unit* of a Computer (an apt analogy since some of us operate at higher processing speeds than others!).

Satan's Lies and God's Truth are like the Program or Software that run the Computer. The Computer's operation depends on the Software being used.

If the Software is defective (*Satan's Lies*) the output will also be defective (ungodly feelings and deeds). But if the Software is perfect (*God's Truth*) the output will be as well (Godly Feelings and Deeds).

Beware of the 'Software' you put in your Mind!

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The Discipleship Ministry

The Nature of Spiritual Bondage

From the diagram on page 19

The TWO SMALLER CIRCLES represent two Spiritual Kingdoms under which we live. Make no mistake about it, *you live either in subjection to Satan's Kingdom of Lies, or God's Kingdom of Truth.* All of us were born under Satan's Kingdom (*Ephesians 2:1-3*), but were transformed and transferred to God's Kingdom the moment we trusted Christ to forgive our sins and give us eternal Life (*Colossians 1:13-14*)!

The ARROWS emanating from the circles represent their influencing forces upon our lives. Satan enslaves us through *Lies and Fear*, while God liberates us by *His Truth and Grace*. From the moment of our birth, *these forces influence what we Think, Feel, and Do.* **Spiritual Bondage** occurs when *Satan's Lies gain a "foothold", or area of control, in our Minds and Bodies.* Like *barbed harpoons*, they enslave our thoughts and actions. These *"harpoons", or "fiery darts"* of Satan, must be *identified and removed* before we can be **Spiritually Free in Christ.**

Note ~ Temptations in themselves are not Spiritual Bondage. It is the continual surrendering to them through Sin that creates our bondage to Satan's Kingdom. Like ruts on a worn road, Habitual Sins and False Beliefs become entrenched in our Lives making it difficult to escape.

OUR MIND is the center of the Battle for control of our lives, for it is the Mind that determines how we Feel and what we Do! That is the reason Satan targets us with his Lies, for if he can get us to believe them, he will have gained control of our lives completely unawares. This is why we are exhorted to set our Minds on things Godly!

OUR EMOTIONS are automatic responses to our Thoughts, whether or not these thoughts conform to reality...How many times have you laughed, cried, and gotten angry in the space of a few minutes while watching a movie? As our Minds accept the movie's plot and characters, even though fictitious, they affect our Emotions as though real. Therefore, to govern our Emotions, we must be in control of what we think!

OUR WILL controls our Deliberate Actions. We choose to Act based on what we think in our Minds! *Ungodly Thoughts produce Deeds of Unrighteousness, while Godly Thoughts result in Deeds of Righteousness.* The advertisers got it wrong. It isn't *"You are what you eat."* Rather, it is *"You are what you Think!"*

"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."

(Proverbs 23:7 NKJV)

► How does Scripture describe us before we became a Christian in Ephesians 2:1-3?

► What happens when a person becomes a Christian according to Colossians 1:13-14?



2 Timothy 2:25-26

► How does 2 Timothy 2:25-26 describe Spiritual Bondage?

► What are the things we are told to think about in Colossians 3:1-2 & Philippians 4:8?

► Give examples of these things.

► How is television, movies, and other mass media harmful to our Minds? How can they be beneficial?

► How might a person Feel and Act if he is convinced in his Mind that::

- There is no God, no heaven or hell.
- Man is a product of the naturalistic process of Evolution.
- He is a good for nothing idiot who can do nothing right.
- There is a God who created all things and who is Sovereign over His Creation.
- God loves us and created us for a purpose.
- Jesus is the only way to God.
- Christians have been given authority and power over Satan.
- God and His Word is the ultimate source of Truth.

The Road to Spiritual Freedom

Dr. Neil Anderson writes that **Spiritual Freedom is “the result of what [we] choose to believe, confess, forgive, renounce and forsake.”**

Recall

Ask God to bring to your Mind areas of your life where Satan and his Lies may have taken hold. This Step is like *pulling weeds*. Unless you pull out the roots, the weed will grow back! Too often we confess the **Ungodly Emotions** and **Actions of Sin** (the parts we can see), but fail to deal with the **Wrong Thinking** that produced those emotions and actions (the roots). **Ask God to show you the ‘root’ of your problem!** (Pray for God’s protection from Satan’s influence as you begin this exercise.)

- ▶ Any False Beliefs or Worldly Values adopted through other people, television, advertising, our culture, our upbringing, our education, etc.
- ▶ Involvement in any Occult or Cult activities in the past or present. (Satanic Rituals, Witchcraft, Fortune Telling, Secret Ceremonies, etc.)
- ▶ Anything you are habitually doing that is sinful. (Sexual Immorality, Addictions, Eating Disorders, etc.)
- ▶ Anything others have said to you, or about you, that have created False Perceptions that are not in line with what God says to be True about you. (“You’re Stupid”, “You’re Ugly”, “You’re Good for Nothing”, etc.)
- ▶ Any Attitude that you are presently harboring that is displeasing to God (Pride, Rebelliousness, Unforgiveness, Critical Spirit, Jealousy, etc.)

Renounce

Individually Renounce each False Belief/Thought or Sinful Activity we are committing with our Bodies that God brings to your Mind. By the Authority you have in Christ, **Renounce** Satan’s hold on your life! (Note: We cannot completely rid Sin’s presence from our lives because of the Sinful Nature within us. Until Christ returns and transforms our mortal bodies into spiritual bodies, we will always have a natural vulnerability and propensity toward Sin.)

Release

Release any Anger, Bitterness or Malice you may have toward another by **making a list** of people whom you believe have wronged you, and forgive each person **individually!** **Our Anger only gives Satan a “foothold”, or an area of control, in our lives and enslaves us to bitterness!** It is important not to give Satan a “foothold” in our lives for they eventually become **“strongholds”** from which he seeks to control us!

Renew

Transformed lives do not come from getting more Emotional or having more Willpower. Rather **Transformed Lives** come from **Renewed Minds**. **Only by Renewing our Minds to how God thinks** can we ever be assured of responding with Godly Emotions and Actions! **Remember this:**

**We can either believe Satan’s Lies or God’s Truth.
THE CHOICE IS OURS!**



Matthew 28:18

- ▶ How much authority do we possess in Christ according to Matthew 28:18?
- ▶ If we possess “all authority” in Christ, how much authority does Satan have against us who are in Christ?



Psalms 129:23-24

- ▶ Why is it important to ask God to protect us as we “Recall” areas of our lives under Spiritual bondage?
- ▶ How does Satan’s hold on each of these areas of our lives impact our Spiritual lives?
- ▶ How and Why do False Beliefs, Values and Perceptions gain such a strong hold in our Minds?



Matthew 16:21-23
Matthew 28:18
Romans 12:1
1 Corinthians 15:35-44
2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- ▶ Why is it important to specifically renounce False Beliefs and Sinful Activities?



Ephesians 4:26-27
2 Timothy 2:25-26
2 Corinthians 2:10-11
2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- ▶ How does Satan “outwit us in 2 Corinthians 2:10-11?
- ▶ Why is it so hard to forgive others?
- ▶ How can God forgiving our sins help us in forgiving others?



2 Corinthians 10:3-5
Romans 12:2

- ▶ Using the chart on page 19, explain how renewing our Minds is the key to Transforming our lives.

Maintaining Your Spiritual Freedom

Dealing with entrenched sinful thoughts and actions is only the *beginning* of a lifelong journey to experience *Spiritual Freedom in Christ*. The enemy is ever seeking ways to enslave us in sin in order to destroy our witness and, ultimately, the witness of Christ's Church of which we are all a part! Below are some suggestions to help maintain your Spiritual Freedom!

Walk in the Light of God!

The Schemes and Lies of the Enemy cannot overcome the **"Light" of God**. When tempted by *False Beliefs* or *Sin*, immediately shine the Light of God's Truth on them and expose them for the Lies they are. **Renounce the Lie and Affirm God's Truth!** For example, if someone puts you down, immediately renounce that putdown and affirm that you are a Child of God (John 1:12)! If you are tempted by sexual thoughts, immediately renounce those thoughts and affirm that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit belonging to God (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)! **Respond with God's Truth to all attempts by Satan to enslave you, and capture every sinful thought to make it obedient to Christ!**

Walk in the Armor of God!

Make no mistake about it, we are at war! T-shirts, shorts and rubber slippers may be sufficient for a stroll on Maui's beaches, but Spiritual Warfare demands Spiritual Weapons, able to repel every "fiery dart" of our enemy. *Our battle armor is the Helmet of Salvation, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Shield of Faith, the Belt of Truth, the Shoes of the Gospel, the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and Prayer!*

Walk in the Grace of God!

One of Satan's most effective schemes is *accusing Believers of their failures*. He seeks to replace our *Spiritual Freedom* with *Spiritual Guilt* by deceiving us into believing we are unworthy of God's acceptance. The Truth is "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"! What does this mean? It means that *when we trust Jesus to forgive our sins, God clothes us with the righteousness of Christ Himself, adopting us as His own child, and now forever loves us with the same love He has for His own Beloved Son!* When God looks at us, He sees us as He does His own Son! **THAT IS GRACE!**

**"Then you will know the TRUTH, and the TRUTH will set you free."
"Sanctify Them by the TRUTH; Your Word is TRUTH."
(John 8:32 & 17:17)**

This Lesson may prove difficult for some people. If you require help in applying these principles, see your Pastor and share your desire to be Spiritually Free in Christ.

Excellent Reading

"Victory Over the Darkness" & "The Bondage Breaker" by Neal T. Anderson
"The Steps to Freedom in Christ" by Neal T. Anderson



1 John 1:5-10
Matthew 4:1-11
Philippians 4:8
2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- ▶ What Truth would you have responded with in Genesis 3:4-5?
- ▶ Describe your life if you Walked in God's light continually and made your every thought obedient to Christ.



Ephesians 6:10-18
1 Peter 5:8

- ▶ Describe how each piece of armor protects us from being ensnared by Satan.



Romans 8:1
John 17:23
2 Corinthians 5:21

- ▶ What kind of life results from believing we are "unworthy of God's acceptance"? How might this person view others?
- ▶ How does God's Grace protect us from being ensnared by Satan?

A Prayer
"Father God, thank you for the freedom we have through Christ, and for the authority we have in Christ to renounce every work of Satan in our lives. I affirm the Truth of Your Word, and commit myself to renew my Mind continually that I might think Your thoughts and do Your Will! In Christ's Name, Amen!"

6. Spiritual Direction

***“My food,” said Jesus,
“is to do the will of Him who sent me
and to finish His work.”
John 4:34***

One of the marks of Jesus’ life was His **obedience** to God His Father. It is also to be a mark of our lives as followers of Christ. As *Christians, one of our most important tasks is to determine the Will of God and fulfill it!* But how do we determine God’s Will for us? We will examine three aspects to God’s Will and how each can be known.

God’s Sovereign Will

God’s Sovereign Will is the exercise of *His supremacy as Creator* over His Creation. **God is in control of everything** whether we believe in Him or not.

“I (God) make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.”
Isaiah 46:10

“The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. ... They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.”
Acts 4:26 & 28

✓ Underline the phrases in each verse that describe *God’s Sovereignty*.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.”
Romans 8:28

✓ Underline God’s Sovereign Will for Believers.

The Sovereign Will of God is the easiest to know and fulfill for it encompasses **all** that comes to past... Where we were born, how we were raised, and who we married. To discover God’s Sovereign Will, you need only look in the *past* at what has taken place, be it a minute or a millennium ago. **All that has taken place has been done according to God’s Sovereign Will!** As they say, hind sight is 20/20, and so it is with God’s Sovereign Will. It can be known 100% *as far as the past is concerned*. However, *comprehending what God’s Sovereign Will is for the future is a mystery only God knows!*

What is God’s Sovereign Will for your life in the following areas?

- 1. My parents are:**
- 2. I was born in (time & place):**
- 3. I am (race):**

These are things that you have no control over and which God has sovereignly ordained for your life.

► Based on the Scriptures shown here, how would you describe God’s Sovereign Will?



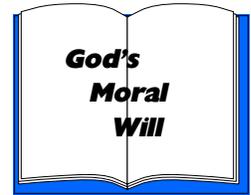
Psalms 135:6
Psalm 115:3
Psalm 33:9
Job 42:2



Romans 11:33-34
Isaiah 40:28

God's Moral Will

God's Moral Will is **His moral instruction revealed in His Law and Scripture**. Unlike God's Sovereign Will, *God's Moral Will is easier to know than it is to fulfill*. Christians who regularly study Scripture are sometimes faced with the predicament of *knowing more Scripture than they apply!* Examine the following Scriptures that describe God's Moral Will.



"Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path." *Psalm 119:105*

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness," *2 Timothy 3:16*

"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." *Joshua 1:8*

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." *John 17:17*

✓ Underline all the descriptions and applications of God's Word.

Application

Discovering God's Moral Will is simply a matter of **reading** and **studying** God's Word, for in it is recorded *God's Will concerning right versus wrong, and good versus evil*. Find God's Moral Will in the following areas:

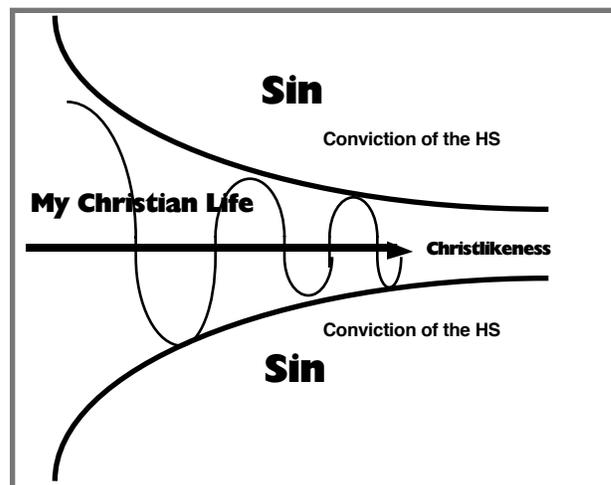
1. Is it right to cheat on my Tax return? (*Leviticus 19:11; Matthew 22:16-21; Romans 13:1-7*)
2. Is it right to have sex before or outside of marriage? (*Exodus 20:14; 1 Corinthians 6:13-20*)
3. Is it right to divorce my husband or wife? (*Malachi 2:16; Matthew 5:31-32; Mark 10:4-9*)
4. Is it right to hate my neighbor? (*Matthew 22:36-40; Luke 6:35*)
5. Is it right to not share Christ with those around me? (*Mark 16:15; Romans 10:9-15*)

Find Scriptures that reveal God's Moral Will on issues that concern you.

The Path to Christlikeness

As you apply God's Word to your life, you will conform more and more to His perfect Will! In other words, *you will become more and more Christlike!*

The diagram shows how the Holy Spirit uses God's Moral Will to *help* us to become more Christlike. *Each time we are Convicted of Sin, Confess and Turn from it, our lives conform closer to the life of Jesus!*



God's Individual Will

A question many Christians wonder about is the *extent* of God's Will for our lives. For example, does God's Will extend to whom we should marry or what occupation we should pursue? How about what kind of car we should drive, or where we should live, or even what brand of soap we should purchase? *Many Christians agonize over these decisions*, afraid that they might be missing God's "best" for their lives.

► Discovering God's Will in the Book of Acts

The early Christians recorded in **Acts** give us an example on how to make personal decisions. **A study of Acts reveals that the entire narrative is the unfolding story of a single verse, Acts 1:8.**

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

A look at how decisions were made among the early Christians produces a varied list, including:

- **Decisions based on personal choice in light of God's Word or what was expedient in the circumstances** (4:36-37; 6:1-3, 5-6; 8:36-38; 9:26, 38-39; 14:5-6; 15:12-20, 22, 36-41; 16:4; 17:2,16-17; 18:3, 20-21; 19:21; 20:3, 24)
- **Chance** (1:24-26)
- **Visions & Dreams** (2:17; 9:3-7, 10-15; 10:1-3, 9-13; 16:9-10; 18:9-11)
- **Prophetic Announcements** (11:28; 13:1; 21:10-14)
- **Angelic Interventions** (1:10-11; 5:19-20; 8:26; 12:6-9; 27:23-24)
- **God's Sovereign Interventions through His Spirit** (8:29, 39; 13:2; 16:6-7; 20:22-23; 23:11))

The lesson learned from the early Christians is that **they sought to live their lives in obedience to God's Word** (Acts 1:8) and *not agonizing over an ideal, individual will of God for their lives; while at the same time being open to, and usually surprised by, supernatural interventions of God through Visions, Dreams, Prophecies, Angelic messengers, and the Holy Spirit in their lives.*

► The Extent of God's Will

Scripture does not clearly teach that God has an ideal and detailed plan for our lives that dictates only one choice for every decision we make. Instead, God gives us the freedom to choose, as long as our choices fall within His Will revealed in His Word!

- What is the significance of God's Word to Jeremiah in *Jeremiah 1:5*?
- Do you think this verse applies to our lives, too? Why or why not?
- Can you find Scriptures that indicate God has done a similar thing for you?

- Does *Ephesians 2:10* teach that God has a plan for our lives? Why or why not?
- How does this verse relate to *John 17:4*?

How to Know God's Will for Your Life

I. God's Word

The clearest communication of God's Will is **found in His Word**. There, we can be 100% certain that God is speaking to us. **In God's Word we find clear commands to obey, promises to claim, and spiritual truths to believe.** In areas where Scripture does not clearly speak, we are given **Scriptural Principles** that guide us to *wise decisions*. Some of these are found in the following verses:

"Everything is permissible for me" but not everything is beneficial.
"Everything is permissible for me" but I will not be mastered by anything."
"Everything is permissible" but not everything is beneficial."
"Everything is permissible" but not everything is constructive."
"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do,
do it all for the glory of God."
"Do not cause anyone to stumble" *1 Corinthians 6:12;10:23, 31-32*

✓ Underline the *principles* in the Scriptures above that can guide our decisions.

2. God's Spirit

Always be filled, empowered, and directed by the Holy Spirit. He will give us **His desires, thoughts** and **power** to do His Will! *As we are filled with the Holy Spirit, God is able to direct us as He moves us in the direction He wants us to go through His Spirit's work in our heart, mind and will!*

"For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey Him, and then helping you do what He wants." *Philippians 2:13 (TLB)*

3. God's Sovereign Work

Trust God who is able to Sovereignly keep you in His Will. As you follow God by keeping His Word and being filled with His Spirit, *you will see God's hand at work in your life, directing and leading in various ways (circumstances, abilities, opportunities, advice of others, "coincidences").*

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose." *Romans 8:28*

4. God's Supernatural Work

Be open to the possibility that God may direct you in Supernatural ways. However, **be alert** because Satan may come as an *"angel of light"* to lead you astray by appealing to the lusts of your flesh, eyes and ego. *(It is worth noting that all of the supernatural interventions in Acts, such as visions, angelic appearances, dreams, and divine interventions, came unsought by the recipient. Be careful when seeking an experience, or sign, as a basis for decision making because Satan, the master counterfeiter, will be more than happy to oblige.)*

For more information, read **Decision Making and the Will of God** by Dr. Garry Friesen.



Psalms 19:7
John 17:17

Using Scriptural Principles

How would you use the Scriptural Principles to decide the following:

1. What kind of clothes should I wear?
2. Can I drink alcoholic beverages?
3. Is it okay to smoke?
4. What kind of:
 - TV programs should I watch?
 - Movies should I see?
 - Music should I listen to?
5. Is it okay to take drugs?
6. Is it okay to gamble?



God's Spirit
Ezekiel 36:26-27
Philippians 2:13



God's Sovereignty
Romans 8:28-29
Philippians 1:6
1 Thessalonians 5:24



God's Supernatural Work
Deuteronomy 13:1-4
Proverbs 14:15
Acts 2:17
1 Thessalonians 5:19-21
1 John 4:1

Affirmation

1. God has a Purpose & Plan for My Life
2. God Leads Me by His Word, His Spirit, His Sovereign Work, and even His Supernatural Work.
3. I will follow God no matter what.

A Prayer

"O Lord, I thank You for revealing Your Will to me, and putting Your Spirit in my heart. Grant me wisdom to know Your Will in Your Word of Truth, and lead me by Your Spirit and Sovereign Work in my life. Amen"

7. Spiritual Relationships

You cannot help studying God's Word without concluding that **Relationships** are a high priority with God. *He cares about His creatures!* Love permeates His very Nature and every aspect of His Person. Indeed, *Love is the cornerstone of His Will for us!*

The Christian is one in whom God abides and is manifested. A major part of manifesting God in our lives is the expression of God's Love in our relationships with others. This study looks at various **Relationships** and how God's Love is expressed in each.

Man ~ God

► Know God

"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

John 17:3

✓ Underline Jesus' description of "eternal life".

Eternal Life to Christ meant knowing "*the only true God*" and His Son Jesus Christ. **Knowing God** is what gives life *meaning* and *fulfillment*.

► Love God

"Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment."

Matthew 22:37-38

✓ Underline Christ's command for us.

✓ Frame three descriptions of the extent of our love for God.

This passage describes the "*first and greatest commandment*" of our Lord. It establishes the basis for the premier Relationship in our lives ~ *our Relationship with God*. Our obligation is to **place God first and foremost in our lives!**

► Serve God

"Jesus answered, "It is written: `Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Luke 4:8

✓ Frame the requests Jesus recites from Scripture.

Responding to Satan's temptation to get Christ to worship him, Jesus quotes *Deuteronomy 6:13*. There, we are *commanded to worship and serve* God only.

Service to God is an expression of our Worship of Him!

"When you come to KNOW God, you will LOVE Him. And when you come to Love Him, you will want to SERVE Him. If you don't want to Serve God, maybe it is because you don't really Love Him. And if you don't Love God, maybe it is because you don't really Know Him"

► Why does Christ define Eternal Life in this way? How does "knowing God" relate to experiencing His life? Are you growing in your knowledge of God? How do we do this?

► What does each of the following mean:
~ with all your heart?
~ with all your soul?
~ with all your mind?

Serving God must always be done in conjunction with **Knowing** and **Loving** Him. **Service, by itself**, is not pleasing to God (1 Corinthians 13:1-3 & Matthew 7:21-23)). It only becomes pleasing when done by one who truly Knows God, and done with genuine Love.

Man ~ Man

"The entire law is summed up in a single command:
"Love your neighbor as yourself."
Galatians 5:14

- ✓ Frame the words "entire law" and "single command", and draw an arrow from the first frame to the second.
- ✓ Underline the command that encompasses all of God's Law.

For those of us who cannot remember all of God's Laws, we need only remember this one. **We are to love** (*value, cherish, respect and honor*) **others as ourselves**. Note that it is a variation of the **Golden Rule** to "**do to others what you would have them do to you.**" Note also that this **Law** can be broken *not only* by *doing* something bad, but by *not doing* something good! We all have a *standard* on how we *expect* others to treat us. **God will hold us accountable for treating others according to that same standard!**

Husband ~ Wife

"Husbands, love your wives,
just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"
Ephesians 5:25

- ✓ Frame God's command for husbands.
- ✓ Underline God's standard for a husband's love for his wife.

Husbands are to love (*value, cherish, respect and honor*) their wives to the *same extent* that Christ loved the Church, having given His very life for her!

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.
For the husband is the head of the wife
as Christ is the head of the church, his body,
of which he is the Savior."
Ephesians 5:21-23

- ✓ Circle the word that describes how husbands and wives are to treat one another "out of reverence for Christ".

The word "submit" means to place oneself under another's authority, **not** that one is *inferior* to another. **Husbands submit to their wives by loving them.**

- ✓ Frame God's command to wives.
- ✓ Underline God's standard for a wife's submission to her husband.

Wives are to love (*value, cherish, respect and honor*) their husbands by submitting to them as "*head*" of the relationship, even as Christ is the "*head of the church*".

Husbands and Wives do well to remember that *it is God who holds each of them accountable* for fulfilling their responsibility in the Relationship. God *does not* hold husbands accountable for making sure their wives submit to them, but *husbands will be held accountable for loving their wives*. God *does not* hold wives accountable for making sure her husband loves them, but *wives will be held accountable for submitting to, and respecting, their husband's leadership*.

- ▶ Read the story of **The Good Samaritan** in *Luke 10:25-37*.
- ▶ What is the main lesson from this story? What impact do you think it made on Jesus' audience? Create a modern version of it.
- ▶ When was the last time you failed to treat another in a way you expect to be treated?
- ▶ What is the best thing someone can do for you?
- ▶ What is the best thing you can do for another?

- ▶ Why is this the primary commandment for the husband? What needs does a husband's love meet in a woman's life? According to Ephesians 5:25-31, how are husbands to express their love for their wives?



1 Peter 3:1

- ▶ What does it mean to submit "as to the Lord?" Why is this the primary commandment for a wife? What are the reasons for this command? What needs does a wife's submission meet in a man's life? How does one obey this command if a husband is abusive?

Parent ~ Child

- 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.
6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.
7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

- ✓ Frame where God's commands must reside with parents (verse 6).
 - ✓ Underline when parents should impress God's commands on their children.
- Notice that providing spiritual instruction** to our children is not just reserved for Sunday School. On the contrary, ***it is to occur every moment of the day!*** God's commands ought to fall from our lips as natural as a conversation!

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother' which is the first commandment with a promise "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."
Ephesians 6:1-3

- ✓ Frame the ways we are to relate to our parents.
- Notice God's promise** associated with the command.

Employer ~ Employee

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." *Colossians 3:24*

- ✓ Underline *how* we are to do our work.
 - ✓ Circle *who* we are really working for.
- Scripture teaches** that even our work can be an *act of worship* to Christ!

"Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven." *Colossians 4:1*

- ✓ Underline an employer's responsibility to his employees.
 - ✓ Frame what employers should know.
- God will hold employers accountable** for their *fair treatment* of their employees. He will hold employees accountable *to work for their employers as hard as they would for Jesus Christ Himself!*

In all our Relationships, what matters most is that we value and treat others as God in Christ would, for Love, *God's Love, is the greatest of all!*

**"God will never ask you if you worked no matter what, but He will ask you if you loved, no matter what."
"Touched by an Angel"**

Parents as Providers

1 Timothy 5:8

Children as Providers

1 Timothy 5:4



Colossians 3:21

- ▶ How can parents encourage and instruct their children spiritually? Why does God delegate the responsibility of spiritual instruction to the parents?



Colossians 3:20

- ▶ What does it mean to "honor your father and mother"? What is the significance of the promise in relation to the command?

- ▶ How would people's attitudes and work habits change if they worked for Christ rather than their employer?

- ▶ How would employers change the way they treated their employees if they knew God will hold them accountable?

Affirmation

1. I will seek to Know, Love and Serve God, first and foremost!
2. I will love my spouse, children, neighbor and fellow Christian as Christ loved me.
3. I will honor my parents and fulfill my responsibilities at work as unto Christ!

A Prayer

"Father, thank you for loving me and showing me how to love others. Help me to relate to those around me as You would. May Your Spirit make me a blessing to others, and may I fulfill your will to love others even as Christ has loved me! Amen."

8. JESUS: Our Spiritual Model

Has anyone ever told you they would believe in God if He would just **appear** to them? The fact is, *God has already revealed Himself to mankind* through the life of one man who lived two thousand years ago.

“The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,” *Hebrews 1:3*

If you really want to see what God is like, then take a good look at Jesus Christ His Son!

Jesus the Son of God

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made... and the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..”

John 1:1-3, 14

- ✓ Circle who the Word is identified as.
- ✓ Underline what the Word has done to confirm His identity.

The Word became a man and lived among us as the only begotten Son, *Jesus Christ!*

“He (*Jesus*) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ...For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,”

Colossians 1:15 & 2:9

- ✓ Frame each description of Christ in *Colossians 1:15 & 2:9*.

Christ is the visible representation of the *invisible* God. *In the person of Christ, God walked the earth in physical form!*

Jesus the Son of Man

5 “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:
6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.”

Philippians 2:5-7

- ✓ Circle who Christ is in verse 6.
- ✓ Underline what Christ did and what He became in verse 7.

Though Christ was truly God, He *willingly* laid aside His right to Deity and took upon Himself humanity, even the nature of a servant. **The Son of God was also the Son of Man.**

**“If Christ be God and died for me,
there is nothing too great that I would do for Him!”
C.T. Studd**

► How does Isaiah 44:24 further confirm that Jesus is God the Creator? See also Colossians 1:15-16.

 John 1:18
John 5:18

 Romans 8:3
John 5:17-18

► How does Jesus' willingness to become a servant/man affect the way we should live our lives? What does this act teach you about God? What does it indicate how God views mankind?

Jesus ~ Our Example to Live ...

► ... Compassionate Lives

17 For this reason he (*Jesus*) had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 2:17-18

- ☑ Frame the extent to which Christ was made “*like his brothers*”.
- ☑ Underline the reason He was made in this way (*verse 17*).
- ☑ Underline the result of Christ’s suffering (*verse 18*).

God the Son is able to understand *by experience* our own pain, which makes Him **a Compassionate Helper** in times of need.

► ... Obedient Lives

“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”

John 6:38

- ☑ Underline the reason Christ “*came down from heaven*”.

“For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.”

John 12:49

- ☑ Underline what Christ did not do.
- ☑ Frame how He obeyed God.

It is incredible to consider that Christ’s obedience extended to *what He said* and even *how He said it*.

► ... Surrendered Lives

“Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”

John 5:19

- ☑ Circle the word that describes what Christ was able to do by Himself.
- ☑ Underline what Christ is able to do.
- ☑ Frame Christ’s relationship with the Father.

While on earth, Christ gave up His independence and *completely surrendered His Life to God*. In short, *His Life was an exact representation of God’s will*.

► ... Spirit Filled Lives

“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.”

Acts 10:38

- ☑ Underline the results of Jesus’ anointing with the “*Holy Spirit and power*”.

We, as Christians, are also anointed with God’s Spirit and power *in order to go around “doing good” as Jesus did!*

► What is the significance of the truth that Christ was made like us “in every way”? Does this imply that we are able to live like Him in “every way”? Why or why not?



John 17:4
John 5:19

► In light of John 12:49, what does James 3:2 teach us about Christ? How are we to know what God wants us to say and do?

► If Christ was so dependent upon God the Father, what does that say about our own lives? What would happen if all Christians lived such surrendered lives to God as Christ did? Why don’t we?

▶ ... Prayerful Lives

“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.” *Hebrews 5:7*

- ✓ Underline how Christ prayed while on earth.

Notice the intensity of Christ’s prayer life. **Jesus’ prayers were real, personal and passionate. Can the same be said of ours?**

▶ ... Humble Lives

“And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross.” *Philippians 2:8*

- ✓ Circle who humbled Christ according to *Philippians 2:8*.
- ✓ Underline how Christ’s humility was expressed through his life.

Note that Christ “humbled Himself”. Others can humiliate us, but only we can humble ourselves, and there is a difference! If you are not a humble person, you need only to look in the mirror to see who’s preventing you.

▶ ... Servant Lives

“When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.” *Luke 4:40*

- ✓ Underline who was brought to Jesus.
- ✓ Underline what Jesus did with the people.

Christ’s life exemplified service to those in need around Him. What is amazing about His life is that **He never turned people away! Do we?**

▶ ... Confident Lives

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:2

- ✓ Circle what enabled Christ to endure the suffering of the cross.

When Christ looked at the cross, He saw the “joy” that would result and the *victory* that would be His in the end. **We too must look through our problems to the triumph that God can, and will, provide on the other side!**

Christ ~ Worthy of Praise!

“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
Philippians 2:9-11



Mark 1:35; 14:35

Application Points

Study the Life and Teachings of Christ in the Gospels and Research the following:

- What was important to Him?
- What was uppermost in His teachings?
- How did He relate to various people?
- How did He relate to His family?
- How did He minister to others?
- How did He honor God?

Affirmation

1. In Christ I am able to see the One True Invisible God.
2. As Christ’s disciple, I will live...
 - ... a Compassionate Life!
 - ... an Obedient Life!
 - ... a Surrendered Life!
 - ... a Spirit Filled Life!
 - ... a Prayerful Life!
 - ... a Humble Life!
 - ... a Servant Life!
 - ... a Confident Life!

A Prayer

“Lord Jesus, I bow before You in praise, for You are the Creator of Heaven and Earth, and the King of kings and the Lord of lords! I praise You and thank you for dying for me. May my life follow the example You have set, and may Your Spirit live through me, that You might receive glory! All praise and honor to You, and to God the Father, and to the Holy Spirit, Amen!”