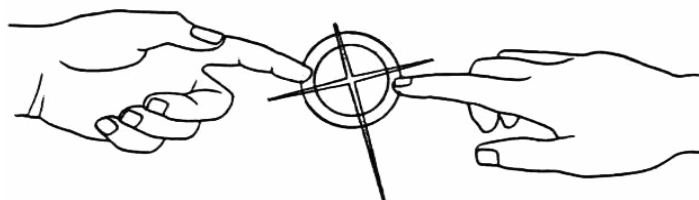


BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

A
DISCIPLESHIP SERIES
(Level Six of a multi-level discipleship education)



BY
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BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION

The born-again life seems to be very complicated to most Christians. There is a conflict within each saved person that is misunderstood regarding the power of sin and how it controls a Christian's life. Secular religions place this battle in the hands of people and not in the hands of God. Much teaching and preaching is centered on how to win over sin. What people do not realize is that the battle with sin is already won by the life and death of Jesus Christ.

Most of what is called "Christian" teaching renders a person 'half-saved'. Most Christians are taught that when a person is saved he is given a new eternal life, *but* he has to continue to live the old life or fleshly life until he dies.

The Bible clearly teaches that when a person gets saved God not only gives him eternal life, but He also gives him the Holy Spirit and the sinless life of God. II Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a *new creature*: old things are passed away; behold, *all things are become new.*" I John 3:9 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is *born of God.*"

Living the Christian life should not be a battle, but it should be a surrender. However, it is not in the human nature to surrender. A Christian fights his whole life trying to defeat sin without ever learning that Jesus has already won the victory over sin.

When studying the Bible, it is very important to recognize the difference between sin and sins. "Sins" are the acts of disobeying God, either physically, mentally, or spiritually. Most of the time, the word "sin" is making reference to the **human nature** of a person and not the acts of sin. Sin is *who* a person is (human nature) and not *what* the person *does*. The battle most Christians fight deals with the acts of sin while ignoring the person of sin (human nature). **Salvation does not change the acts; salvation changes the person.** When the person is changed inside, the acts change on the outside. When Christ paid for sin, it was for the *nature* of sinful man, not just the sinful *acts* committed.

In the book of Romans, Paul clearly identified the battle all Christians face between the life of sin and the spiritual life:

Rom. 7:14-25 “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”

Discipleship Six is a study to help Christians understand the works of Christ so they can live an effective spiritual life and overcome their sin nature (human nature). It is designed to help saved people understand *who* they are *in Christ* and why they have the actions they do. It is also designed to help Christians understand that the important issue to God is the godly *works* He wants Christians to do. God does not want Christians spending their lives, time, and effort trying to get victory over sin actions when they should have freedom to do godly works.

Most Christians believe the way to determine when a person has victory in his Christian life is when he stops sinning. But God identifies the victory as serving God with holy works. Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

The way sin and the world keeps a Christian from serving God is by getting the Christian to *focus on the temporary earthly actions instead of his eternal life*. Christ gave every saved person the victory over sin nature at the time of salvation. However, the world wants a saved

person to think *he* is the one who still has to battle to win. The world system seems to work with the Christian by trying to keep a saved person focused on his sin actions, thus keeping the Christian ineffective and not serving God. 1 Cor. 15:57 “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the *victory through* our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 John 5:4 “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and *this is the victory* that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

Many times a Christian will spend all his life trying to please mankind and never become a servant of Christ. The world always works to keep the saved from doing anything for Christ. It uses guilt, carnality, earthly possessions, health of the body or mind, sinful influences, carnal religious works, and many more things to keep a person from serving God. Also, many Christians spend their lives judging themselves by what others say instead of doing what God says. GAL 1:10 “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.” Working to defeat sin or to get the victory over sin makes a Christian a servant of the law, not a servant of God. God deals with the Christian based on His promises, and His promises are not based on sin with its condemnation. GAL 3:18-20 “For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise. Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.”

May this course help each participant understand that the *victory is in Jesus Christ* and the battle was finished on the cross. Christians have already won so they should learn what God's Word says and live effective lives for God. I trust this course will liberate every Christian from fighting the world and its sins to living the new born-again life of serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Fred Allen

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

Suggested Use

This course will not make an individual a disciple. The application of the Word of God to the saved person's life and the correct heart action that follows makes a person a disciple. If any individual wishes to become Christ's disciple, he must apply the Scripture to his life and not just gain knowledge. In I Corinthians 8:1, the Bible tells us that knowledge "puffeth up". In writing this material, it is not my desire to cause individuals to become puffed up, but rather to become sincere followers of Jesus Christ.

Because of the depravity of mankind, it is a necessity to copyright this material. I do not wish to hinder the use of this material in discipling others. Therefore, I give the freedom to anyone to copy or reproduce this material *except* for purposes of selling or making a profit. The copyright laws restrict changes or alterations in this material and prevent others from claiming authorship.

I strongly advise that all memorization and homework be done from the Authorized King James version of the Bible. There are many versions of the Bible on the market today and most of them with changes that devalue Christ and the doctrines of God. When I study the Bible, the King James Version is always my final authority and, consequently, I find no need for questionable translations.

Additional "homework" is recommended for each discipleship course. The homework for Discipleship Level Six is reading The Spiritual Man written by Watchman Nee. Also, to "graduate" from each discipleship course, the student must attend twelve (12) out of fourteen (14) lessons. Of course, if additional classes are missed due to unforeseen circumstances, arrangements can be made with the teacher to compensate for missed class time.

Please use this material as a tool to help others. I encourage experienced Christians to teach and train younger Christians to follow Christ with their spirit, soul and body. May God bless you as you make disciples.

Sincerely,

Fred Allen

Senior Pastor

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

Table of Contents

Division One

Lesson One	Understanding the Battle (Part One)	P. 1
Lesson Two	Understanding the Battle (Part Two)	P. 9
Lesson Three	The Human Man	P. 27
Lesson Four	New Life from Christ	P. 41

From Sin to Salvation

Division Two

Lesson Five	The Fleshly or Carnal Believer	P. 53
Lesson Six	Works of the Flesh	P. 69
Lesson Seven	Works of the Flesh (continued)	P. 83

Saved but Still Living in the Flesh

Division Three

Lesson Eight	Recognizing the Flesh as Dead	P. 97
Lesson Nine	God's Power	P. 107

Victory Over the Flesh

Division Four

Lesson Ten	The Holy Spirit Provides the Source of Power	P. 123
Lesson Eleven	Salvation Does not Eliminate the Flesh	P. 137
Lesson Twelve	Living a Sanctified Life	P. 153
Lesson Thirteen	The Believer and His Flesh	P. 165

In the Flesh – but not of the Flesh

Division Five

Lesson Fourteen	Walking in The Holy Spirit and Not in the Flesh	P. 177
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Living the Godly Life

Additional Homework

Read [The Spiritual Man](#) by Watchman Nee

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

Division I

From Sin To Salvation

Lesson One

Understanding The Battle

INTRODUCTION:

1CO 2:11-16 "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit, which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

Introduction: Understanding the Battle

Battle - acts of warfare - a general encounter or engagement between opposing forces.

One of the greatest problem with a saved person living the Christian life is he determines the battles in life by looking at the enemy instead of his Commanding Officer, Jesus.

A. There are continual battles in the life of each Christian regarding the earthly (temporary) and the heavenly (eternal). God wants every Christian to live a life dedicated to Him and His purposes. The devil works through the things of the world to pull and to attract a Christian toward the temporary. God wants a saved person to be set apart (sanctified) to Him - not just in his born again spirit, but with his whole life.

1TH 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

B. God also wants every person on the earth to be saved and has given mankind His Word that is able to divide the earthly from the heavenly. Probably the most common error in the Christian life is seeking to win the lost to Christ because they are lost, focusing on those who are dying and going to hell. The reason a Christian works to lead the lost to Christ is **because God commanded Christians to reach the lost**. This command is known as the Great Commission. The only way a Christian can lead a lost person to Christ is by using God's power - His Word, the Bible.

HEB 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Lessons One and Two are designed to help a Christian understand the battles in his life, which are between his earthly life and his eternal life. These two lessons are divided into three sections to help understand all three lives a Christian has within his own body:

Section One is the "natural" man

Section Two is the "sin" man

Section Three is the "spiritual" man.

SECTION ONE THE NATURAL MAN

1CO 15:44-48 "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly."

Introduction:

A natural man is controlled by his environment or earthly needs. Every person on this earth has to have the things of the earth (air, food, water, heat, etc.), but the natural man is controlled by these needs.

- A. Nature - The essential qualities or attributes of a thing which constitute what it is. When applied to man, it is the peculiar constitution of his body and mind, or qualities of the species which distinguish him from animals.
- B. Natural - A description of the earth and what it produces. 1CO 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

I. Identifiers of a natural man. The natural man is much like an animal and follows his self-preservation instincts. The Bible identifies a natural man by several attributes:

- A. A natural man is a ***child of wrath***. Wrath is the intense expression of anger or displeasure with circumstances.

EPH 2:3 "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were *by nature the children of wrath*, even as others."

- B. A natural man ***only sees his earthly existence***. The natural man is only concerned with his earthly body and lives for it. The earthly body is condemned with the earth and cannot have a permanent future.

JAM 1:23 "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:"

- C. A natural man ***speaks evil of things he does not understand***. The natural man sees those in authority as a hindrance to his health, happiness, and personal fulfillment.

- 1. The natural man despises government and presumes to know what is best for the preservation of his natural life.

2PE 2:10-12 "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled,

they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;"

2. The natural man corrupts himself because he thinks anything he chooses to do is right.

JUD 10 "But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves."

II. Once a person accepts Christ, that person should live his new Christian life (spiritual) and not continue being controlled by the natural man. After a saved person knows God and the Christian life and then departs from the knowledge of God, that person will not go back to being a natural man. That person will become something far worse.

- A. In the book of Romans, Chapter One identifies a person who accepts Christ and then tries to go back to being a "natural" man (human nature). Instead of returning to the natural human nature, that person becomes a degenerated misfit. (The word "knew" in verse 21 means to take, receive, or hold). It is the same word used in II Corinthians 5:21 which says that Jesus knew no sin. Jesus preached about the sins of others so He was certainly aware of sin, but never committed one.

Romans 1:21-32 "Because that, when they *knew* God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman,

burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

The book of Romans makes it clear that those who do know God and turn away from Him become something far worse than "natural". They become: (1) vain in their imagination (2) foolish in their dark hearts (3) fools (4) those who change the glory of God to be like animals (5) those who dishonor their own bodies (6) those who change the truth to a lie (7) those who worship creatures (8) those who have vile affections-homosexuals (9) unrighteous (10) fornicators (11) wicked (12) covetous (13) malicious (14) full of envy (15) murderers (16) contentious (17) deceitful (18) slanderers (19) whisperers (20) backbiters (21) haters of God (22) despiteful (23) proud (24) boasters (25) inventors of evil things (26) disobedient to parents (27) without understanding (28) covenantbreakers (29) unyielding (30) unmerciful (31) those who have pleasure in others who do such things.

B. The Bible tells us that in the last days men would go far beyond being "natural". It tells us that they would have a form of godliness, but what they have is far worse than being natural.

2TI 3:1-5 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, *Without natural affection*, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

- III. There are no "natural children" of God today. There are some who believe because their parents were Christians or Jewish, they are all right with God. God's children come from the supernatural, not the natural. JOH 1:12-13 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."
- A. Israel was the natural branch. (Branch - bough; limb; offshoot) God was the root or vine and the branches were the natural growth. Israel forsook God and He cut them off and grafted in the Gentiles. The heritage of the Gentiles is from a wild olive tree. ROM 11:20-24 "Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?"
- B. The natural branches had to keep "the law". God does His work inside the heart, (the spirit) rather than outwardly by the law. If there were such a thing as a "natural Christian" he would have to live by the law - all the law.

ROM 2:24-29 "For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written. For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one

inwardly; and circumcision is that of the *heart*, in the *spirit*, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."

- C. The branches (Israel) had the law (how God wanted His children to live and act). The Gentiles (who accept Christ) do not have the outward law; they have the law inside their hearts.

ROM 2:14-15 "For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)"

- IV. Every human being was born with a natural life (human nature). There cannot be a spiritual life unless there is first a natural life. One of the biggest problems saved people have is that their life is controlled by the natural life which only sees the world. The natural life keeps them from diligently serving God.

- A. The natural life is earthly and controlled by the fear of death. Once a person gets saved and is given the life of God, the saved person should depart from being controlled by his earthly life. Once a saved person knows he is not going to die, but will live for eternity, the natural life no longer has the controlling power.

1CO 15:46-55 "Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on

immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

- B. After a person accepts Christ, he should never go back to being controlled by his natural life. Why would a person want to go back to bondage (to be a slave) after he has been set free?

GAL 4:3, 8-11 "Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:... Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."

- C. Spiritual ministry necessitates taking care of the natural life because the human body contains the born-again spirit.

1CO 6:19-20 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

PHI 2:19-21 "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's." (State - condition; the circumstances or surroundings) (naturally - the force or impulse that come from birth)

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN

Division I

From Sin To Salvation

Lesson Two

Understanding The Battle (Part Two)

SECTION TWO (continued)

SIN MAN

JAM 5:19-20 "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

INTRODUCTION:

Adam and Eve trespassed against God by choosing with their souls to add sin to their natural bodies. All the natural descendants of Adam and Eve have inherited human souls with sin as part of its heritage. A human soul is "the rational and immortal substance in man that distinguishes him from beasts; it is the part of man which enables him to think and reason and renders him a subject of moral government. Such is the nature of the human soul that it must have a god, an object of supreme affection."

The only thing a person has to do to be a sinful person is to be a descendent of Adam and Eve. A "sin man" is one who continues in the lost state of Adam and does not get a new life; or is one who gets saved, but *chooses* to continue in the old sinful lifestyle.

What is sin?

A. Sin - The voluntary departure from the path of duty prescribed by God to man. It is a voluntary transgression of the divine law or the voluntary neglect to obey a positive divine command. Sin can be an action, neglect of known duty, or thoughts of evil purpose.

1. ROM 3:23, ""For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"
2. ROM 3:10 "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"

3. IJO 3:4, "'Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."
4. JAM 4:17, "'Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
5. PSA 51:5, "'Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

B. Original sin - The natural depravity of the soul that is inherited from Adam and Eve, with sin attached, and causes the soul to turn against the divine will of God. Original sin makes a person self-focused and makes the individualized person "god". Original sin manifests itself by acts of disobedience to the will of God. (The will of God is to love God with all the heart, soul, strength, and mind and show it by loving your neighbors as yourself.)

ROM 5:14, "'Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come." (Sin was active in man before the law came into existence.)

C. Unpardonable sin - The malicious and obstinate rejection of Christ and the gospel plan of salvation.

MAT 12:31, "'Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men."

Sin is part of a person's earthly life (human spirit) that is attached to his soul and controls his soul. The human spirit is "the life of the species called man and his soul is what separates him from other animal life." ECC 3:21, "'Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"

Sin takes the natural use of the body and directs it to greed or self-satisfaction (self-god). Sin causes the soul of a person to see only the things of this earth instead of the things of God. The penalty of a soul controlled by sin is death (separation from God).

When a person gets saved, (accepts Christ) his human spirit (life) and soul are divided and God gives him a new born-again spirit (life) which is separated from his old

human life. God gives salvation to the person's soul but his old human spirit remains, giving life to the human body and keeping sin attached to it.

HEB 4:12, ""For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." * see Chart at end of Lesson One *

- I. The lost soul has sin attached. The person who is not saved has sin connected to his soul and his soul will suffer the judgment that God places upon sin.
 - A. The person who is not saved and has sin attached to his soul is doomed to go to hell.
 1. At death, the soul departs from the body and either goes to Heaven or Hell.

GEN 35:18, ""And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin."
 2. Those who are not saved should fear God because He has the ability to send them to hell.

MAT 10:28, ""And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."
 3. The person who is not saved and has sin attached to his soul is doomed to tribulation and anguish.

ROM 2:8-10 "But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:"
 4. Jesus had a soul and it went to hell to pay for the sins of man. Jesus became sin for the sinner and His soul had to pay the price of the judgment of God.

ACT 2:27,31, ""Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.... He seeing this before

spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption."

- B. At death the soul departs from the body, and if sin has been removed from the soul, then it goes to heaven.

REV 6:9-10 "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" Sin works to keep a soul from God, and if a soul does not accept the salvation that God provides, then it will be condemned to hell.

- II. Evangelism is the process of saving or rescuing souls from hell. When a Christian leads someone to Christ, there is a spiritual surgery done by the Word of God that divides the person's soul and human life.

- A. The way a person gets his soul saved from hell is by receiving the Word of God. Evangelism is the process of taking the Word of God to those who will receive it.

JAM 1:21, "'Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the *engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.*"

- B. The way a person gets his soul saved from hell is by *having enough faith* to trust in God. Evangelism is the basic procedure of *helping someone believe* (to have faith) in God and His promises and provisions.

ROM 10:14-17, "'How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not *heard*? and how shall they *hear* without a *preacher*? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that *preach* the *gospel* of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*"

- C. The way a person gets his soul saved from hell is by *obeying the truth*. Evangelism is *strengthening a person's faith* to the point he believes in God's promises enough to take the simple action of doing what God tells him to do.

1PE 1:22, ""Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:"

1TH 2:13, ""For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

- D. The way a person gets his soul saved from hell is when believers understand and become wise enough to win souls.

PRO 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."

- E. The way a person gets his soul saved from hell is by *true witnesses* delivering God's word and promises.

PRO 14:25, ""A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies."

- III. Once a soul has been rescued from hell, it needs to be cared for. Ministering is caring for the souls of others. Jesus is The Shepherd of souls, and all those on this earth who take care or shepherd souls are undershepherds.

1PE 2:21-25, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

- A. Shepherds are to confirm souls. (confirm - to support further or set fast)

ACT 14:21-22, "And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."

- B. Shepherds are to establish hope in the promises of God, which is the anchor of a Christian's soul. (Hope - desire with expectation of obtaining what is desired.)

HEB 6:17-20 "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which *hope we have as an anchor of the soul*, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

- C. Shepherds are certain Christians that God has called to the ministry of pastoring, which is caring for the souls of others.

HEB 13:17, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

- D. A Shepherd cares about the souls of others and should be willing to give up his life or his own soul, if necessary, for the ministry.

1TH 2:8, "So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

- IV. There are dangers to the souls of Christians. Many times a saved person does not realize that his soul can still encounter danger. A saved person's soul faces great danger if he forsakes his church, rebels against God's authorities, or tries to live the "Christian" life his *own way*. There are many enemies of Christ that work continually to destroy the souls of the saved. Many saved people do not recognize enemies because they have no church or pastor who is responsible for identifying them. If a saved person does not remain faithful in church he becomes subject to the enemies of Christ without ever recognizing them.

HEB 10:25, "'Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

- A. A Christian needs to understand the value of his soul. When a Christian understands his soul's value, he will dedicate his time and energy to protecting and developing his soul.

MAT 16:26, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

- B. The soul of a Christian can be subverted. (subverting - to pack or box up). A Christian's soul can be ruined, overthrown, wrecked, or destroyed by returning to the law. A Christian can have his soul become worthless and unproductive for God.

ACT 15:24, "Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have *troubled you with words*, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

- C. The soul of a Christian wars against his sin nature with its fleshly lust for the control of his body and life.

1PE 2:11, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

- D. The soul of a Christian that spends too much time with the wicked can be vexed. (vexed - to work intending to wear or tear down.)

2PE 2:7-8, "And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)"

- V. Below are ways God tells Christians to take care of their souls:

- A. Get knowledge - PRO 2:10 ...knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;
- B. Get wisdom and discretion - PRO 3:21-24, "'My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet."

PRO 19:8, "He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

- C. Be diligent - PRO 13:4, "... the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.
- D. Hear reproof - PRO 15:32, "He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.
- E. Listen to pleasant words - PRO 16:24, "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.
- F. Control what is said - PRO 21:23, "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

SECTION THREE SPIRITUAL MAN

1CO 6:17-20 "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

INTRODUCTION:

The word "spirit" comes from the Latin word "spiro" which means to breathe or blow.

- A. All bodies that breathe have a spirit.
 - 1. The spirit of the Lord blows upon people like the wind upon grass.

ISA 40:7, "'The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass."
 - 2. When a man dies, his spirit goes up, but the spirits of animals go down to the earth.

ECC 3:21, "'Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?"
- B. The Bible makes it clear that life is the spirit or that a spirit is life.
 - 1. God created Adam from the dust of the ground and gave him the breath of life, which was a *natural spirit similar to animals*. However, God made

Adam different from the animals by giving him a living soul. Adam was given two separate existences: (1) the natural life of the body (human spirit), and (2) the special life called a soul.

GEN 2:7, "'And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (*spirit*); and man became a living soul." (Note the conjunction "and" which clearly indicates added to.)

2. Adam gave names to every living creature (spirits) because God gave them life.

GEN 2:19, "'And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof."

- C. When a person gets saved, he has the capacity to live a *new* spiritual life controlled by his new *born-again spirit*. Spiritual - Pertains to pure or holy affections of the heart. Godly affections make up true religion.

1. God gave new spiritual life (Godly spirit) to human beings and those spirits return to God.

ECC 12:7, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

2. God gave the human spirit (life) of Adam and that life (spirit) has been passed down to every one of Adam's offsprings. This is why the Bible usually refers to the spirits of men as the spirit of man.

ZEC 12:1, "'The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him."

- I. The spirit is life and the absence of a spirit is death.

- A. The body without the spirit is dead. A body must be able to breathe to have life, and when the spirit is departed, the body will no longer breathe.

JAM 2:26, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

- B. Jairus' daughter came back to life when her spirit returned. When Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead the Bible says that her spirit came again to her. It is evident that death is when the spirit or breath leaves a person.

LUK 8:41-42, 49-56, "And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him. ... While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done."

- C. When Stephen was stoned, just before he died he asked the Lord Jesus to receive his spirit, which was his life.

ACT 7:59, "And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

- II. God wants mankind to change from "the spirit of man" to the new "spirit of God." Mankind breathes the air of the earth, which keeps them alive earthly. God wants mankind to also have the spirit of God, which gets its life from the Holy Spirit of God. The breath of the born-again spirit comes from the life of God.
- A. God made Adam a living soul and Christ will also make believers living spirits. Jesus Christ gave mankind the ability to get saved and to have a new living spirit, which is connected to and gets its life from God.

1CO 15:45, “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.” Quickenings - to revitalize -to make a living thing.

1. Jesus gives life to those He chooses. The Bible tells us clearly to whom Jesus chose to give life—to those that believe on Him.

JOH 5:21, “For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.”

Romans 10:9-10. “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt *believe* in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man *believeth* unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

2. Jesus gives life through the new “holy” spirit, not through the soul or body.

JOH 6:63, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

- B. The only way a person can enter into the kingdom of God is to be born-again with a new spirit.

1. The mystery of being born-again. Jesus told Nicodemus that a man could not see the kingdom of God unless he was born-again. Nicodemus did not understand how a person could be born two times. The natural man can only see what is earthly.

JOH 3:3-4,7, “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born-again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ...Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born-again.”

2. The second birth is a spiritual birth. A man must have two births to go to heaven. The first is the natural (earthly) birth and the second is when the Holy Spirit of God gives him the life of God.

JOH 3:5-6,8 “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water *and of the Spirit*, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of

the Spirit is spirit.... The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

C. A person must be born-again of the seed of God that lives and abides forever. God's spiritual birth is compared to natural birth so it could be understood. Birth comes from the seed (DNA) of the parents. To live forever, the seed (DNA) must be God's seed.

1. A person must be born-again of incorruptible seed. The Bible does not say a person has to be reborn in his old life, but born-again, which is a second birth.

1PE 1:23, "'Being born-again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."
(Incorruptible - undecaying - will not deteriorate or diminish.)

2. A person must be born of seed that cannot sin. The only one who cannot sin is God and the new birth comes from the sinless one - God Himself.

1JO 3:9, "Whosoever is *born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him*: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

D. A person must become a new creation, which is a newly created spirit. ***Salvation does not change the old life into something acceptable to God. Salvation creates a new creation made by God Himself.*** This is why salvation can only come from God and can never come from any act done on this earth.

2CO 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (Creature - original formation - creation)

III. A Christian's relationship with God is through his born-again spirit. The old earthly spirit that lives from the earth will die and everything connected to it dies with it. The earthly sin of Adam separated the spirit of man from God, along with its entire works. The earthly spirit of man is already dead to God; however, the new born-again spirit is directly connected to God.

A. The only way a person can serve God is with a born-again spirit. All other works are earthly or carnal.

1. The way a Christian serves God is with his new spirit. God knows the works of the born-again spirit and witnesses those works.

ROM 1:9, "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;"

2. The new born-again spirit of a Christian is willing to serve God. The new born-again spirit is still restricted by the actions of the natural life of a Christian, with its weakness and temptations to live for the earth.

MAT 26:41, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

B. The way God communicates to Christians (God's children) is through their new born-again spirits. The Holy Spirit of God is in continual communication with each born-again spirit because that new spirit is God's.

ROM 8:16, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:" (Beareth witness comes from one Greek word which means to testify jointly or in union with).

C. When a Christian prays he should pray with his new born-again spirit and should understand what he is praying. Many who profess to be saved, pray and wonder if God is listening. In reality, He is not listening because their prayers are from their old spirit. These prayers are identifiable by the person being selfish and earthly, focusing only on self as the purpose for the prayers.

1CO 14:15-16, ""What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?"

IV. God instructed Christians to work at living their new born-again life. God wants Christians to battle for spiritual control of their life and not give in to their self-centered old life.

A. God wants born-again Christians to turn away from the filth of the flesh and the old spirit and go on to perfect holiness.

1. In chapter 6 of Second Corinthians, God told the Corinthians not to be yoked together with unbelievers because light and darkness will not mix. He told them in verse 17 to come out from among the idol worshipers because they were dirty (and the Christian is the temple of God). He told them to cleanse themselves from the filth of the flesh (human body) and spirit (human life) and perfect (fulfill completely) holiness.

2CO 7:1, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

2. God wants Christians to purge out (cleanse thoroughly) the old leaven (fermentation, corruption) and be a new lump (mass of dough) for God Himself to mold.

1CO 5:7, "Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:"

B. God wants Christians to be the circumcision (those who worship God in the spirit) and have no confidence in the flesh.

PHI 3:3, "For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."

C. God wants Christians to live a new life. God wants those who are born-again to have a new life and to put the old life behind them. The way a Christian lives a new life is by putting on a new way.

1. God wants Christians to walk in newness of life.

ROM 6:4, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

2. God wants Christians to serve in newness of spirit.

ROM 7:6, “But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.”

3. God wants the Christian to live as the new creature he became with his new spirit.

GAL 6:15, “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”

- D. God wants the Christian to put on the new man (or spirit) and live it.

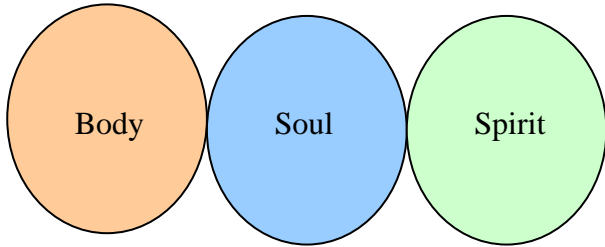
1. Christians have to put on the new man. Christians must make a choice in order to live the new life.

EPH 4:24, “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

2. The new man is renewed after the image of Christ.

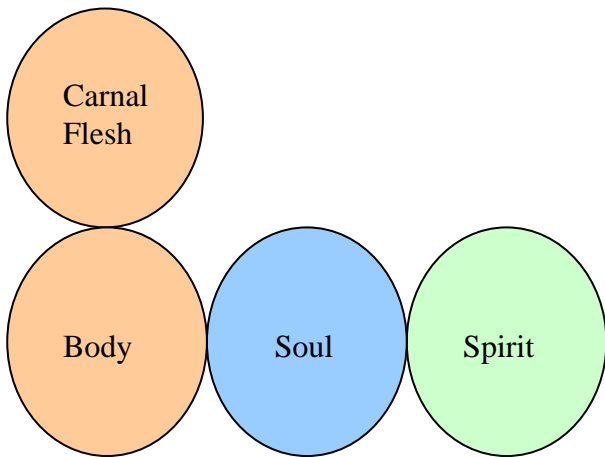
COL 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:”

Adam With God Before Sin



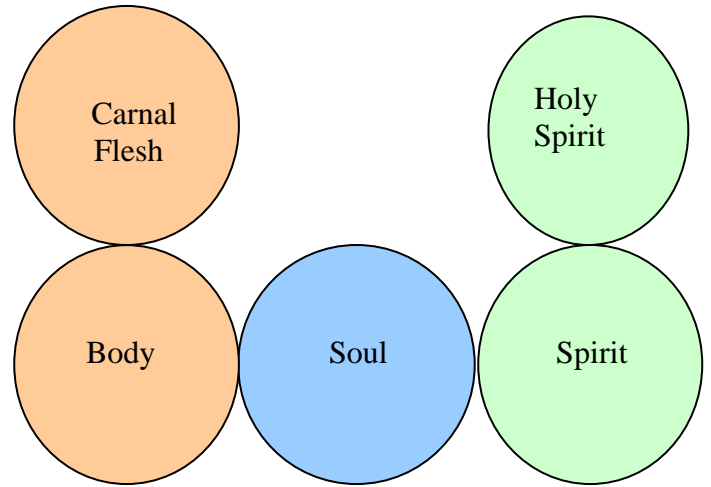
Walked With God
Made in the Image of God

Adam After the Fall



Separated From God
Became a Humanist (Self God)
Flesh Controlled - Spirit has no Identity

Christian After Salvation



Spirit Indwelt by the Holy Spirit
Division Made by Spiritual Circumcision
Sin (Carnal Flesh) Separated (Dead) From God
Flesh Verses the Spirit for Control of the Soul

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN

Division I

From Sin To Salvation

Lesson Three

The Human Man

INTRODUCTION:

1CO 15:45-54, "'And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."

Human life is a part of this earth, and the only way to live on the earth is with a human body. Some Christians work all their life to eliminate their human life instead of learning to separate from it (to be sanctified). The struggle in Christianity is not to eliminate human life, but to use it for the glory of God and His work.

- A. The things of God are contained in human bodies on this earth. God does most of His work through human bodies. God wants His saved children to use their human lives for *Him* instead of doing things that might destroy them.

2CO 4:7, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

- B. Christians have to live in their human body (earthly house) as long as they are on this earth. The day a person eliminates his human life, he departs from the earth and his work ends.

2CO 5:1-4, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house, which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life."

- C. There are some who profess to be saved but still worship their human life with its vile body (vile - dirty or wicked; depraved). Living the human life should not be the objective of a Christian. The purpose of a Christian's life should be *what is accomplished in his human life for eternity*.

PHI 3:17-21, "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

SECTION ONE THE FLESHLY MAN

ROM 7:15-25, "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

INTRODUCTION:

The dictionary says that flesh is: (1) the soft part of the body, mainly the muscle; (2) the human body as distinguished from the soul; (3) mankind; (4) human nature, in a good sense tenderness of feeling, in a bad sense carnality and sensuality.

Flesh in all its uses somehow implies human or earthly life. There is never any connection with human flesh and godliness. Flesh is always connected with the temporary life of the earth.

- I. The word "flesh" as used in the Bible. The dictionary's definitions of "flesh" are almost the same as the ways the Bible uses "flesh". The word "flesh" is always earthly and the temporary human life.
 - A. In the Bible the word "flesh" is used for the human body.

ROM 7:18, "For I know that in me (that is, in my *flesh*,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.
 - B. In the Bible the word "flesh" is used for the soft part of the body. (flesh, bones,

blood)

LUK 24:39, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not *flesh* and bones, as ye see me have."

C. In the Bible the word "flesh" is used for the totality of mankind.

EPH 2:3, "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the *flesh* and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

COL 2:18, "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his *fleshly* mind,"

1. All of mankind came from a common source. Flesh had no life until God breathed into it life.

GEN 2:7, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

2. Flesh is a combination of the sins of the body and the self of the soul. Man added sin to his body, which resulted in being separated from God.

GEN 3:1-13, "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD

God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

3. Flesh is always associated with being weak and temporary.

MAT 26:41, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- II. Every person is born a fleshly human being. Flesh comes into existence with human birth. Angels and heavenly creatures do not have flesh.

JOH 3:6, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

- A. A person's flesh is described in the Scripture. To understand the flesh, a Christian needs to look at how the Bible talks about it.

1. The flesh is everything a person naturally inherits from his parents. At birth a child does not receive anything spiritual from God; there is no natural spirituality. A child is born a fleshly person and the only eternal thing received is the soul.

JOH 3:31, "He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all."

2. The flesh itself makes no distinction between good, moral, clever, able, kind, bad, unholy, foolish, useless or cruel. A person's flesh is born without any character, which is developed during his life along with his value system.

PHI 1:22-24, "But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire

to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you."

3. The flesh consists of what a person is born with and what he naturally develops later. Even after a person gets saved, he still has all his flesh and lives in it. What a person's body does or becomes is from his natural parents.

2CO 10:2-3, "But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:"

- B. A person is born flesh—he does not become flesh later as a result of sin. It is not the actions of sin that makes a person fleshly: He is born with it.

1. A person does *not* gradually become flesh by a process of following the sins of his body until he is finally controlled by the passions of the body.

PSA 58:3, "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."

2. A person is born fleshly and naturally develops the thoughts and ways of the earth. *The flesh works for earthly existence and lives by it.*

JAM 3:14-16, "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."

3. A person does not become flesh by his conduct or character, but is flesh from his human parents.

GEN 6:3, "And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh; yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."

4. A person is flesh because he is born of blood, the will of the flesh, and the will of man, not because of how he lives or how his parents live. According to God's Word, when a person is saved (born-again) he is not born of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor the will of man.

JOH 1:11-13, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

C. A person has the nature of flesh from his birth and keeps it all his life. There are some who teach that a person grows spiritually until he reaches the point of sanctification (or holiness) and, at that point, loses his flesh. This is not true and every Christian should know that he will have to endure and live with his flesh as long as he is on this earth. We have the flesh with us always, but we can *choose* to walk in the spirit.

1. A person is born flesh from parents, which are of the flesh. Human birth gives a person his flesh, and as long as he has human life, the flesh is part of his life.

JOH 3:6, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

2. No exception or distinction. Every person has the difficulty of controlling his body (even if he is a mature Christian) because it contains or is the flesh. No matter how mature a Christian becomes, he still faces temptations from his earthly flesh. Paul was a good example of this in Romans 7.

1TH 4:3-4, "or this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;" (vessel – body;flesh)

JAM 1:14, "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."

3. No amount of education, improvement, cultivation, morality of religion, or anything on this earth can change a man from being fleshly. **Christian maturity is very important, but will not eliminate the flesh.** ** see Chart at end of lesson**

JOH 6:63, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Rom 7: 23-25, "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body

of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”

4. No matter how a person changes outwardly, all of mankind remains fleshly because of the human life that remains inside. **Mankind still judges a Christian by his earthly human life, not by his spirit life.**

1PE 4:6, “for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.”

SECTION TWO THE LOST MAN (The unregenerate man)

1CO 2:11-16, “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

INTRODUCTION:

The word "lost" means ruined or destroyed; unable to find the way. A lost person is someone who does not know the way to eternal life and has no relationship with God due to sin. 2CO 4:3, “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost.” A lost person is controlled by his earthly mind and cannot understand God's mind.

- I. A lost person has only been born once. The first birth produces human life and is earthly. This life lasts as long as a person lives on the earth, and then it ends. The Bible makes it clear that human life was started by God, but is no longer attached to Him.

A. Lost people are not children of God. Some teach that all people on the earth are children of God. But this is not what the Bible teaches.

1. Lost people (ones who are not saved) are referred to as the children of wrath. (wrath - desire; excitement of the mind; reach out after.)

EPH 2:3, "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

2. Lost people are the children of the flesh, not the children of God. Only those who trust in God's promise of eternal life are His children.

ROM 9:8, "That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed."

B. A lost person's soul yields to the lust of his body and commits many unmentionable sins. He can become so earthly that he has no consciousness of even being sinful.

EPH 2:1, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

C. A lost person is controlled by law. The lost person is not controlled by an internal spirit that directs him toward righteousness. He is only controlled by law, (whether it be God's or man's) and the fear of its enforcement.

ROM 7:5,14,25, "For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. ... For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. ... I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

II. A lost person is powerless to fulfill God's will. Many people spend their life praying, singing, preaching, or even building churches without fulfilling God's will. Their motive is earthly and selfish and seeks only fulfillment of their own desires.

A. The flesh of a lost person is exceedingly strong but is powerless to fulfill the will of God.

ROM 8:8, “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

- B. The flesh of a lost person will exert itself seeking to please God by observing the law. Many people follow the law of the Bible or religious law and believe they are pleasing God.

GAL 2:16, “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

- C. The lost are in the flesh and cannot please God.

ROM 3:28, “Therefore we conclude that a man is *justified by faith* without the deeds of the law.”

ROM 10:3, “For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”

- III. God Himself cannot transform the nature of the flesh (which is a lost person) into something pleasing to Himself. God cannot change sin into righteousness.

2PE 2:18-21, “For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.”

- A. The corruption of the flesh of a lost person is such that even the Holy Spirit cannot render it “unfleshly”.

1. All that is sown in the flesh will fall to corruption.

GAL 6:8, "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

2. The lost corrupt themselves because they only know the natural world and speak evil of the things they don't know.

JUD 4,8,10, "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.... Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.... But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves."

- B. Lost people are earthly and do not understand God's Word. They continually try to refine and reform their flesh so it will please God - but to no avail. They often become teachers of others while not understanding what they teach.

1TI 1:6-9, "From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient,..."

- C. God recognizes the impossibility of the flesh to be changed or improved. God warns Christians to depart from thinking or teaching the way of the flesh.

EPH 4:17-22, "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;"

- D. Any person who attempts to make the flesh acceptable to God is trying to do what God Himself cannot do.

GAL 3:2-3, "This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"

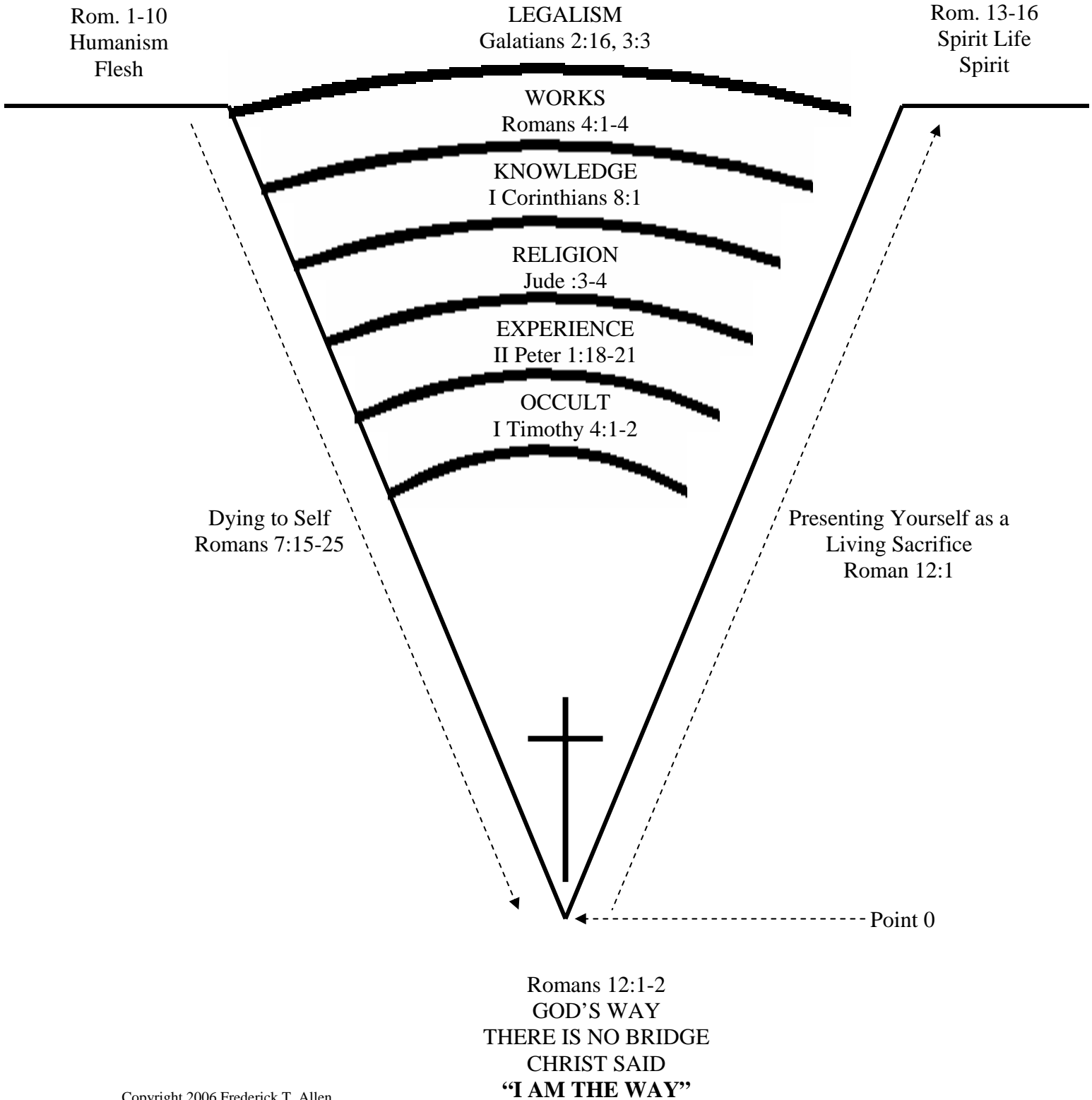
- E. When a lost person accepts God's gift of salvation, God gives him a completely new life. The flesh man is removed from God's records for eternity. **God recognizes only the new spirit life.**

2CO 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

ROM 8:1-8, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

**MAN'S WAY TO SPIRITUALITY
VERSES GOD'S WAY
JAMES 4:1-10**

Man's Bridges - Romans 11-12



BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

Division I

From Sin To Salvation

Lesson Four

New Life From Christ

INTRODUCTION:

2CO 3:3-11 “Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.”

God provided life for anyone who would come to Him and receive it. There was no life given to mankind by the law because the law only brought death (separation from God). God sending His son Jesus brought life to man because no works of man could provide life. Many times doctors have extended a life, but they cannot produce life. Life comes from God.

SECTION ONE

GOD PAID THE PENALTY OF SIN (Salvation)

Romans 8:1-13

ROM 8:1-13 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ

Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."

INTRODUCTION:

The cost or penalty for sin was too great a cost for any sinful man to pay. Mankind sinned and because of it was separated from God. Sin causes an eternal separation from God and makes a person the servant of sin.

JOH 8:34 "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."

- I. The earthly man is condemned by the law. God gave the law to Israel so they could *identify* sin. *It was never given as the answer to going to Heaven.* The way a person recognizes that he has sinned against God is to look at the law.
 - A. A person has to keep the whole law or be condemned by it. The Bible makes it clear that if a person breaks one of the laws he has broken THE law - all of it.
 1. Mankind lives under the law because he lives in the flesh. Law and faith are not the same. As a matter of fact, they are opposites. Under the law, a person's righteousness is determined by those who enforce the law. Under faith, a

person must believe the promises of another. *Law's power is fear and faith's power is trust.*

GAL 3:11-12 "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them."

2. If a man offends in one point of the law he offends in all. A person cannot break the law up into parts and keep only the part he likes and ignore the rest. The law is a whole - it is all or none.

JAM 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

3. There is no flesh justified in God's sight. (Justified means to render just or innocent). Law does not reveal the righteousness of God; it only reveals the sins of man.

ROM 3:20-21 "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;"

- B. The law causes sin to have power over a person. When the law is in control, people spend most of their time planning and conniving how they can sin and not get caught instead of simply doing right. However, if the law is not present, lost people would not know they were sinners and answerable to God. Consequently, they would die and go to hell without knowing they must give account to God for their sins. Ignorance is not good. It is destructive and devastating.

1. The strength sin has to control mankind comes from the law. Many Christians do not realize what the application of law does to a saved person. They do not realize that the law strengthens sin and does not defeat it. Most saved people are controlled by guilt, fear, condemnation, and rejection that come from sin because of the law. If a Christian will realize that the law has been removed by the shed blood of Jesus Christ, then the Christian will be set free to serve the Lord with correct motives, with faith, with hope, and with charity.

1CO 15:56 "The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law."

2. If God does not hold a person (child) accountable to the law, He does not place sin on his account in Heaven. God takes into consideration whether or not a person is capable or old enough to *plan* to sin, which is rebellion. Rebellion is when a person knows an act is sin and still does it any way. This includes everyone who is old enough or has the mental capacity to recognize right and wrong and old enough to rebel against the law.

ROM 5:13 "For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law." (Imputed - charge to the account of; attributed)

ROM 7:7-14 "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin."

- II. God did what the law could not do. The law is applied to the flesh (earthly life) and does not apply to a Christian's born-again spirit. The law could not make a person righteous, so God provided righteousness for mankind through Jesus Christ.

ROM 8:2-4 "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the

flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

- A. Jesus Christ was condemned in the flesh (body). Jesus was cursed for us. The law puts a curse upon people and Jesus became cursed when He took upon Himself the sins of others. The law did not condemn Jesus for *His* actions, but for the actions of others.

GAL 3:11-13 "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"

- B. Jesus Christ took the sins of our flesh to the cross where it was put to death.

1. Jesus Christ was put to death in His flesh (body). Jesus was a just (lawful, right) man who never did anything worthy of punishment, let alone death. Because all of mankind is unjust (sinful; unfaithful), all are condemned by the law. Sin required a perfect sacrifice.

1PE 3:18 "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"

2. When Jesus Christ was put to death, it was not just sins, but *sin itself* that was judged. Many people battle individual sins and confess them to God seeking forgiveness, not realizing that Jesus did not die for individual sins. If this were the case, **Jesus would have to die over and over for each individual sin. Instead, he died to destroy the body of sin – the sin nature itself!**

ROM 5:21 "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

ROM 6:6 "Knowing this, that ***our old man is crucified with him***, that the ***body of sin might be destroyed***, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

3. Because Jesus Christ was put to death for the sin nature, *sin has no power upon those who are joined to the Lord's death and had their sin condemned in His flesh*. Sin no longer has dominion over a saved person because God removed the law and placed every believer under grace.

ROM 6:11,14 "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.... For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

SECTION TWO LIFE AFTER REGENERATION – THE NEW LIFE

JOH 3:1-12 “There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born-again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born-again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?”

INTRODUCTION

Regeneration: “the act or process of becoming formed again; to change radically and for the better.” Very few Christians understand regeneration and the new life it provides. Consequently, they spend all their time trying to make their **old** life (flesh) acceptable. God looks only at a saved person's regenerated life and **this new life is the one the world should see.**

- I. Without regeneration no flesh can please God. Before a person is saved, he cannot do anything to please God because of his flesh. After a person believes in Jesus Christ and is

saved, how can he please God? He is still on this earth with his human flesh (body) with sin attached to it, so how can God be a part of his life?

- A. God gives him something new - a spiritual life. God did not destroy a person's human body when he got saved. Instead he *added* (gave birth to) a new sinless life.

1PE 3:18 "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, *but quickened by the Spirit.*"

- B. The flesh in a saved person is still the same as in a lost person. *A saved person has the same capacity to sin as before. Salvation does not remove the capacity to sin, but it adds a new life with a new mind.* Some who get saved never feed their new mind, which will only receive the righteous knowledge of God (Bible), and wonder why they never function as godly Christians.

1PE 4:1-6 "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he *no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men*, but to the will of God. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, *that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.*"

- II. In regeneration, the flesh is not transformed. When a person gets saved there is no change in his flesh (body of sin). The transforming of a Christian's body will take place in the future at the Rapture.

- A. *The new birth does not change the flesh nor motivate it to do good. The flesh remains as is - flesh is flesh.* There are many Christians who think their earthly body is changed at salvation and that they will no longer desire to sin. The reality is that the sin (flesh) nature is not changed at all.

JOH 3:6 "*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*"

- B. The new life God imparts to us cannot educate or train the flesh to become good. It *overcomes* the flesh. Salvation provides *a new life* for each saved person and separates the sin (flesh) life from God. Christians are wasting their time when they are trying to change sin into good.

1CO 1:26-31 "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that *not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble*, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That *no flesh should glory in his presence*. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, *He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*"

- III. In regeneration we become related to God. When a person gets saved he is born of God and born into God's family.

- A. A person must be born-again to be saved (birth means to impart life). God gives a person a new life when he gets saved - a sinless and eternal new life. This new life comes from the Spirit of God, who is the father of eternal life. It has all the attributes and traits of God. That is why it is sinless and eternal.

1. The only way a person can enter into the kingdom of God is to be born-again of God.

JOH 3:3-8 "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, *Except a man be born-again, he cannot see the kingdom of God*. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto

thee, Ye must be born-again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

2. The only way a person can be born-again is by the spirit, not by anything on this earth.

JOH 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

- B. A person receives eternal life from God. When a person is born-again he receives God's life (seed) which cannot be corrupted (contaminated or desecrated), and cannot end.

IPE 1:23 "*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*"

- IV. In regeneration God puts His life into a Christian's earthly body. A person's earthly body still has his old dead spirit inside of it with all its cravings and desires. Regeneration does not eliminate - it originates.

- A. Regeneration is the beginning of the new spiritual life. God gave mankind the privilege to receive Him and become the sons of God by His power.

JOH 1:12-13 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: *Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*"

- B. A person cannot be godly or grow spiritually until he is born of God. The Jews claimed that God was their Father because they were the children of Abraham. But Jesus told them they were of their father the devil. There are many religious people on the earth today who claim that God is their Father. But they are like the Jews who claimed to be children of God through their earthly lineage and not through the lineage of the one who gives eternal life—Jesus Christ.

JOH 8:41-44 "Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my

speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

- C. When a person tries to repair and reform the flesh without regeneration, he is attempting to do what God Himself cannot do. Paul listed all the accomplishments of his earthly life but counted them all lost instead of being part of his new life.

PHI 3:3-14 "For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and *have no confidence in the flesh*. Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Lee's Summit Baptist Temple

Counseling Diagram #2

"God's Filter"

I Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

GOD

Ephesians 2:14-16 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Hebrews 9:27
And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

LOVE

JUDGMENT

JESUS CHRIST, THE CHRISTIAN'S FILTER

LOVE

SIN

I Timothy 2:5
Galatians 3:19-20
Hebrews 8:6
Hebrews 9:15
Hebrews 12:24
Isaiah 53:6
Isaiah 53:12
Romans 8:26-27
Romans 8:34
Hebrews 7:25
Hebrews 9:12
Hebrews 9:26
Psalms 103:12

Revelation 20:11-15

MAN

SAVED MAN

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

Division II

Saved But Still Living In The Flesh

Lesson Five

The Fleshly Or Carnal Believer

SECTION ONE

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FLESHLY CHRISTIAN

I Corinthians 3:1-3

1CO 3:1-3 “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”

INTRODUCTION:

Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit *at the moment of salvation*. When a person gets saved, he receives the Holy Spirit of God as part of his salvation. There is not a waiting period for a person to prove himself before the Holy Spirit enters in. Those who got saved *before* the Holy Spirit assumed His work position on the earth had to receive the Holy Spirit after He came.

ACT 9:17-18 “And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.”

Paul divides Christians into two classes: spiritual and fleshly. The distinction is determined by which a saved person follows, the Spirit of God or the flesh (self) of his earthly life.

I. Fleshly Christians are saved people who remain as babies for a long time. There are many who get saved but never grow. Even after many years they still act and work like babies. God established churches and Christian elders to nourish and train baby Christians so they can grow into adult Christians. God never intended for new Christians to remain babies.

A. Baby Christians should desire the milk of the Word. God provided the milk to give nourishment to baby Christians (Word of God). It is essential that new Christians get involved in taking the Word of God (Bible) into their lives. A saved person cannot die or lose his salvation, but he can remain a baby Christian for a long time, even for the remainder of his earthly life. God instructed baby Christians to desire the sincere milk of His Word so they might grow.

1PE 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

B. Baby Christians who take the milk of God into their lives will grow, and as they grow they will want more than a diet of milk. Milk will not provide enough nourishment for healthy growth to take place as a Christian grows. If a baby Christian does not grow so he can take in solid food, he will never be equipped to be skillful to share the Word of God with others.

HEB 5:13 “For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.”

C. Baby Christians think and act like children. They are not equipped to be adults. They believe their sins were atoned for at salvation, but do not understand or believe they are dead to sin. All Christians should grow until they can put away childish ways and become adults.

1CO 13:11 “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

II. Fleshly Christians are those who do not absorb spiritual teaching. Fleshly Christians can sit in church Sunday after Sunday and never put into their lives what is being preached or taught. They walk out of church the same as when they came in. They go where food is

present and even try to eat solid food, but their spiritual life cannot absorb it because they are only equipped for milk.

- A. Fleshly Christians may be rich in knowledge, but only in their mind. They are still spiritual babies even though they have knowledge because they do not know the love of Christ. **The power that works in the saved person does not come from knowledge but comes from faith and love.**

EPH 3:17-20 “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded *in love*, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And *to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God*. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

1CO 8:1-3 “Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any man love God, the same is known of him.”

- B. Fleshly Christians do not live real spiritual lives. The true Christian life is found in living a godly union of the believer's life with truth. The true Christian life is not having wonderful and mysterious thoughts. Fleshly Christians look for satisfaction or thrills in all kinds of earthly activities. The Christian life in the Bible cannot be found in anything except in truth.

GAL 3:1 “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?”

GAL 5:7 “Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?”

1. Cleverness or being cunning is useless with mature Christians. It is only effective with baby Christians. There are many religious organizations promoting Christians to join them and use craftiness to attract them. They use such craftiness as “secrets no one else knows”; “special understanding of the Scripture”; “miraculous outpourings of miracles”; “follow us and

God will bless you materially”; and many more unscriptural crafty devices trying to make their way better than God's way. God wants His children to grow above being fleshly Christians so they will not be deceived and will follow Him in truth.

EPH 4:14 “That we henceforth be *no more children*, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;” (Craftiness is the using of special resources, as knowledge, to attain a end.)

2. Eagerness for knowledge is insufficient because even a saved person cannot come to living the truth through learning. Faith is required to know the truth and that can only come through the Holy Spirit of God.

2TI 3:7-9 “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.”

- C. Fleshly Christians do not obey the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who directs a saved person in the way of righteousness. When obedience to God is not present, all acts of ministry are merely the transmission of knowledge from one human mind to another.

1. A fleshly Christian has a carnal life, which turns “spiritual” knowledge into that which is fleshly. A fleshly Christian applies the knowledge of God to his selfishness, only seeking self-gain, whether it be material or earthly praise.

2TI 3:5 “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

2. A fleshly Christian does not need more or increased spiritual teaching. He needs an *obedient heart*. A fleshly Christian only wants to gain or possess the teachings of God instead of using them for the work of the Lord. A mature Christian has pure love for other Christians that comes from his heart, not selfish greed that uses others.

1PE 1:22 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:”

ROM 6:17 “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”

3. A fleshly Christian's increased spiritual teaching only strengthens his carnality and deceives him into believing himself spiritual. He is not spiritual and will not be *until he submits* his life to Christ. A fleshly Christian thinks what he has makes him important instead of to what or to whom he gives (submits) himself.

ROM 10:3 “For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”

JAM 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

4. A fleshly Christian thinks, “How else could I possibly know so many spiritual things unless I am spiritual?” Like the Jews he claims to know God and seeks to guide those who do not know (those he considers to be babies) while blaspheming the name of God by his life and actions.

ROM 2:17-20, 24 “Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law. ... For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.”

- III. Fleshly Christians adhere to many sins, such as jealousy and strife, believing that these sins are right and godly. There are many life actions that God classifies as sin that fleshly Christian have and even give claim to be of God. These fleshly Christians commit sin actions such as; envy, whispering, backbiting, proud, boasting, contention, hating,

grudging, coveting, blaspheming, and others. They do not realize that these sins come from the flesh and violate the Word of God. Fleshly Christians revel in their actions and profess godliness while in reality they are of the flesh.

- A. Fleshly Christians cause divisions in their churches. Many churches are divided and unable to effectively do the work of the Lord because some Christians are fleshly and fight among themselves. They choose earthly sides instead of choosing the Lord Jesus Christ. These fleshly Christians continually work to be better than others instead of realizing that their own flesh is their downfall.

1CO 1:11-13 “For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?”

- B. Fleshly Christians act like ordinary worldly people and believe it is right. God instructs Christians to live a different life from the world with different motives. Fleshly Christians are ignorant of being different from the world because in their hearts they will not see the truth. They are deceived and lust after the things of the world believing that earthly gain is godliness.

EPH 4:17-19 “This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”

EPH 4:22-24 “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

1TI 6:5 “Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.”

- C. Fleshly Christians contend over positions and authority desiring to be labeled as spiritual. A fleshly Christian claims importance by his abilities and work and wants other Christians to see him as significant.

ROM 16:17-18 “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”

2CO 10:17-18 “But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.”

- D. A fleshly Christian is more concerned about what others think of him than what Christ says. A fleshly Christian will do things to get the approval of others because of self-glory and will not become the Christian God asked him to be.

JAM 3:13-16 “Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”

GAL 5:26 “Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”

- E. A fleshly Christian does not understand that all the works of the flesh are temporary and will not be acknowledged in Heaven. A fleshly Christian believes that Jesus Christ, the Judge, is recognizing his earthly accomplishments and is going to reward him instead of knowing that all the works of the flesh will fade away.

1PE 1:24 “For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:”

SECTION TWO SINS OF THE FLESHLY CHRISTIAN

ROM 7:11-25 “For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”

INTRODUCTION:

Sin has its control over a saved person in his body. The flesh seeks to control the body and, consequently, control the soul or life of the Christian.

- I. The sin in the body of a fleshly Christian works to control his body through nourishment or drugs, or alcohol. Very few Christians realize how much effect their diet has over their Christian life because their human body is in control.
 - A. A Christian should eat and drink to glorify God. The objective of life is still to glorify Jesus Christ. When the flesh convinces a Christian that what they eat or drink has nothing to do with Christianity, the flesh gains control over the Christian's body.

1CO 10:31 “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

- B. The first temptation brought upon mankind was food. The flesh still works to gain ownership of a Christian's life through his body. The flesh will tempt a Christian with almost anything, including drugs and alcohol, if it will please the body to gain control of the soul.

GEN 3:1-7 “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

- C. One of the evidences of a fleshly Christian is failure to control his own body. At the same time, one of the evidences of mature Christians (Biblical example: pastors and deacons) is that they are **not** to be controlled by the body. One example of a Christian's body being in control instead of his soul is what controls what he eats? Does the Christian eat to please his body or does he eat to take care of the house his soul lives in?

1TI 3:3,8 “Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; ... Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;”

- II. The sin in the body of a fleshly Christian works to control the body through the act of reproduction. The flesh works to make sex control the body so the soul will be under its

control instead of submitting to the Lord. Pornography and sexual promiscuity is used to control a saved person's life.

- A. After mankind fell the action of reproduction changed into lust. The Bible says that the men *took* their wives instead of God joining them together. (Example of cave man with a club knocking the woman on the head and taking her back to his cave.)

GEN 6:1-2 “And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.”

God gave Adam his wife, he did not take her.

GEN 2:21-25 “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

- B. After mankind fell sin began to work with sexual activity to control the person's life. Mankind believes that the human body is simply of the earth and not answerable to God, thus making sexual activity a “preference” that God has nothing to do with.

1CO 6:13-20 “Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. ***Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ?*** shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? *know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.* But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that

committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1.Verse 15: Fleshly Christian do not recognize that their bodies are the members of Christ.

2.Verse 16: Fleshly Christians do not recognize the importance of becoming one flesh. It is the example or illustration of being one with God.

III. The sin in the body of a fleshly Christian works to control the body through defending "self". Once self takes control, it strongly exhibits itself through many actions, particularly going into contention (doing battle to prove **you** are right instead of representing the righteousness of God). Self becomes the purpose for living and any attack or derogatory statements toward an individual becomes grounds to contend or fight the messenger.

A. Sin is selfish and **blames others for its sinful actions** (justification). It started with Adam and Eve when Adam blamed Eve for his fall and Eve blamed the serpent. Sin never willingly takes the blame for its actions and looks to find some excuse to make it right.

GEN 3:8-13 "And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

B. Sin works through the body by opposing anything which may interfere with its comfort and pleasure. The flesh seeks comfort and pleasure, not knowing the danger.

1TI 5:6 “But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.”

2TI 3:1-5 “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, *lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God*; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

C. Sin uses a fleshly Christian's temper to produce the fruits of anger and strife.

Anger and the loss of temper are sins of self-defense, which come from the flesh.

When a person loses his temper, he is completely turning his soul over to his body.

2PE 2:1-3, 9-10, 13-14, 17-19 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not....The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities....And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:...These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”

- D. Many of the world's most damaging sins come from self-interest, self-esteem, self-existence, self-glory, self-opinion, self-willed, and many other things that start with and focused on “self”. In verse ten above, these false workers were called self-willed. The reason for doing the things they do is their ‘self’.

2PE 2:10 “But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, **selfwilled**, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.”

- E. It is normal for a lost person to be ruled by these, because they have no choice. However born-again Christians should not remain under the control of the flesh (self), and should not fail to choose to die to the power of self and submit to the Lord. Unless the empowerment of self is denied or suppressed, the Christian will not live the abundant spiritual life manifesting Christ. They will always manifest their own self to the world and not Christ.

Rom 6:6,13, “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 13 “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

Gal. 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

- IV. The sin in the body of a fleshly Christian is recognized by the things that come out. A person's actions are not controlled by the things on the outside, nor do the things that come in from the outside defile a person. (defile - to make profane, dirty, or foul; tarnish.)

MAR 7:14-23 “And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand: There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable.

And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that

whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”

- A. The fleshly Christian does not appreciate the complete worthlessness, wickedness and defilement of the flesh unless he is shown by the Holy Spirit. **Only when Christians see the flesh as God sees it will he correctly deal with it.**
- B. The sin of the fleshly Christian manifests itself by certain actions in the Christian's life.
1. The flesh lusts and it becomes evident by the desires of body and mind.

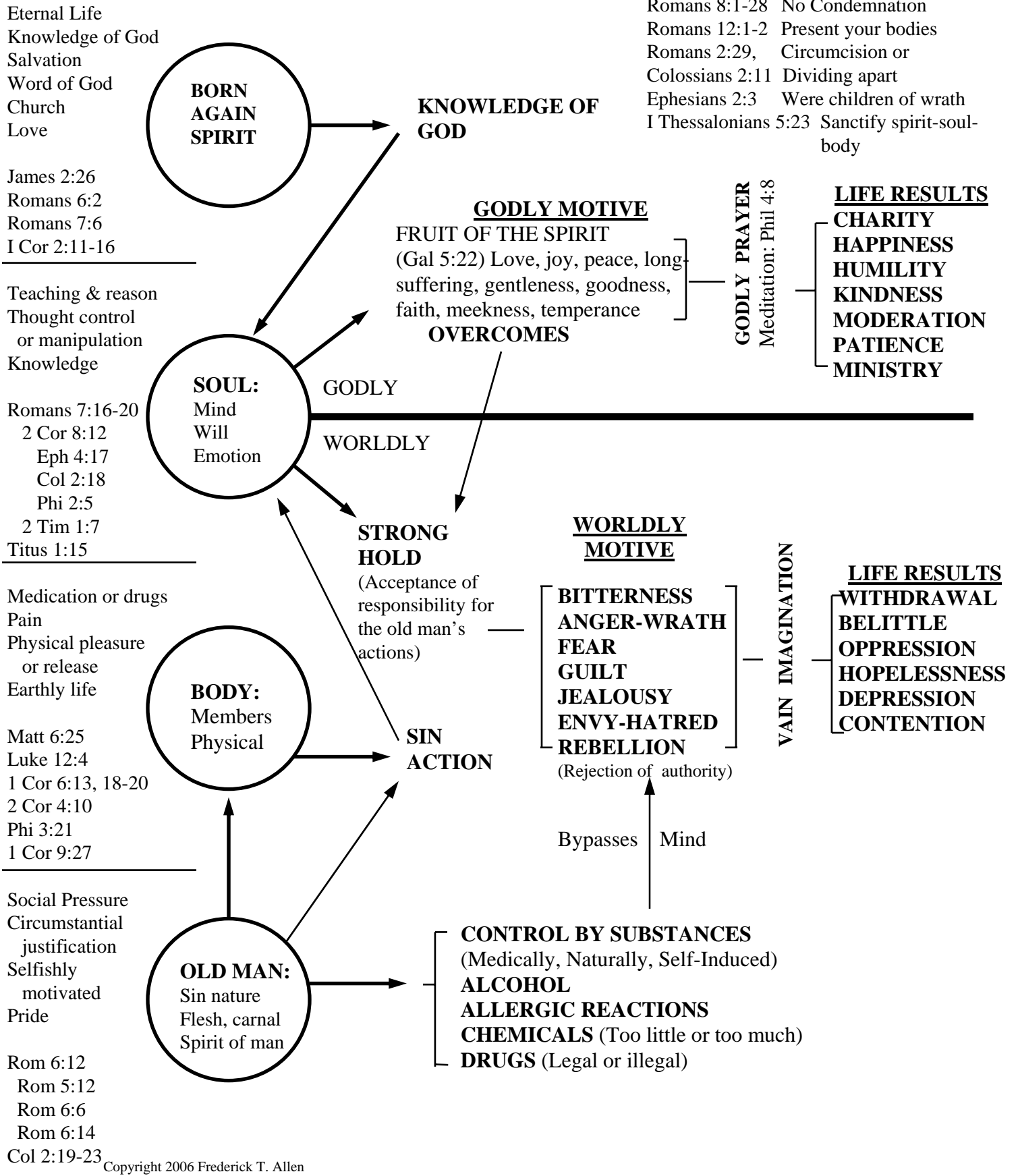
EPH 2:3 “Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”
 2. The works of the flesh are evidenced by numerous actions of sin. Galatians 5 lists seventeen manifestations of the flesh. If a Christian has any of these showing up in his life, it is evidence that the flesh is working.

GAL 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Works of sin are plain. If you are doing one or more, you are classified as “one of the flesh”.

VICTORY OVER WRONG BEHAVIOR

II CORINTHIANS 10:1-7



BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

Division II

Saved But Still Living In The Flesh

Lesson Six

The Works of the Flesh

SECTION ONE

SINS AGAINST A PERSON'S OWN LIFE

GAL 5:19-21 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; **Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance**, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

INTRODUCTION:

The book of Galatians lists seventeen works of the flesh, which try to control the life of a saved person. Often Christians think it strange or unheard of for a saved person to commit such sins, failing to realize that the sin itself is not the problem. The flesh nature is the problem and always works to control a person's life. The flesh of a person will work to find a controlling power over the saved person so it can retain its position of god.

The first section of this list of sins in Chapter 5 deals with the body of the saved person. Using the natural body (or life) to produce sins will ultimately control a person, giving the flesh dominance and authority.

- I. Sins of Immorality (defiles the body). Immorality is “action that goes against any divine precept; wicked or habitually violating God's laws.” There are four sins listed which control the body through the reproductive nature of the human body. God gave the human body the reproductive process. Under the Jewish law, God

gave specific guidelines for whom a person was to reproduce with and how to reproduce. The flesh uses the sexual desires of a person to divert a person from God and take the body into a wasted earthly life.

GAL 5:19 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,” These are classified as “sins of immorality”.

A. Adultery is “the violation of the marriage bed; a married person being sexually unfaithful to his or her spouse.” The flesh of a saved person works to make that person attracted to someone else that he or she is not married to. The flesh looks at the physical appearance of others and judges actions only by earthly desires.

1. The Bible commands Christians not to commit adultery. No matter how much society or the world approves sexual activity outside of what God has instructed—it is still sin.

EXO 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

2. Under the law, God saw the sin of adultery as being equal to murder. Consequently, the penalty for the sin of adultery was death. Mankind may see adultery as only a small wickedness, but God sees it as a major sin.

LEV 20:10 And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.”

3. The sin of adultery destroys a soul. Those who fall prey to their flesh do not realize how much harm adultery will do to their soul. People only see it as a body action or sin and do not recognize the impact it has on their soul.

Pro 6:32 But whoso committeth adultery with a woman

lacketh understanding: he that doeth it ***destroyeth his own soul***.”

B. Fornication is “sexual lewdness committed by an unmarried person whether it is with an unmarried person or with a married person.” Fornication

encompasses all kinds of forbidden sexual activity, including homosexuality and incest.

1. The sin of fornication should be put to death. God made it absolutely clear that fornication should be put away from saved people. But the flesh works to make it acceptable and normal so it can control the bodies of the saved.

COL 3:5 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:”

2. Part of being sanctified is to abstain from fornication. Sanctification means to set apart from the filth of the world and fornication is specifically listed as one of the things that must be rejected for a person to be sanctified.

1TH 4:3 “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:”

3. Impurity (uncleanness). Impurity means “obscene as impure language; lewd actions; defiling sins; unholy or unclean activities.” Unclean means “having a dirty or filthy mind or heart with inordinate affections; without morality.” The flesh works to make a saved person have impure thoughts and activities so it can keep the saved person from ever being separated from sin. It works to make the impure activities of others acceptable and non-condemning.

- C. Uncleanness (impurity). Unclean means "having a dirty or filthy mind or heart with inordinate affections; without morality." Impurity means "obscene as impure language; lewd actions; defiling sins; unholy or unclean activities." The flesh works to make a saved person have impure thoughts and activities so it can keep the saved person from ever being separated from sin. It works to make the impure activities of others acceptable and non-condemning

1. Uncleanness controls the bodies of many saved people. The flesh works causing a person to think sinful thoughts, including adultery

and fornication. Pornography is available to anyone who wants it and the flesh will use it to control a person's life.

ROM 6:19 “I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.”

2. Uncleanness is identified with homosexuality. God has always condemned homosexuality as sin and always will. The flesh works to make filth clean so it can control the saved person.

ROM 1:24 “Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:”

- D. Lasciviousness means “loose in behavior; lewd; lacking moral (particularly sexual) or legal restraints.” Licentious is “using freedom as a license to be loose from morality and unrestrained from law or godly etiquette; indulging in sensuality without restraint.” The flesh works to keep a person from submitting to the laws and instructions of God. The flesh works in the life of a saved person to make him individually independent so his life can be under the control of the flesh.

1. Many in the church at Corinth had not repented and turned from their sins, including lasciviousness. Just like the church at Corinth, many people in churches today want to be saved but not leave the ways of the world and of the flesh.

2CO 12:21 “And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.”

2. Lasciviousness is identified by being past having feelings for others. When a person cares about others, he will control his actions so he does not hurt or offend others. When a saved person does not care

about others, he will turn to a life of sensuality and not restrain his actions.

EPH 4:19 “Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”

- II. Sins of Communication with Satanic Forces. The next two works of the flesh listed in Galatians 5 are about allowing the works of the devil to control the individual life of a saved person. The primary way Satan works is to promote the individual rights of a person causing the person to worship self instead of God.

GAL 5:20 “Idolatry, witchcraft,…”

ISA 14:9-17 “Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?”

- A. Idolatry is “when a person sets his affections on anything which leads to indulgence with sinful attachments.” An idol is anything that usurps the place of God in a person's heart. The flesh works to make a person set his affections on the things of man or false gods. To do this, a person makes an individual choice not to place God in His rightful position of supreme authority. It is another way of retaining self-god and not submitting to God.

2KI 17:12-23 “For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing. Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against

Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only. Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers, until he had cast them out of his sight. For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drave Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin. For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.”

1. The gods of a nation are idols. A false god is “any person or thing exalted too much in estimation or deified and honored as the chief god.” There are many gods in the world, including evolution, which usurps the position of God.

PSA 96:5 “For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.”

2. Some idols are carved from silver and gold. There are many statues that people bow down and worship. They were created by man and have no power or authority. When a person places a carved image in a position above God, it is another way to retain the individual authority of self-god.

PSA 115:4 “Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands.”

3. Idols can be in our hearts just as much as a carved image. Many times the thing a person places over God is inside the heart. What a person thinks about others or things make them gods. What a person believes in his heart regarding what makes him important determines whether he has a false god in his heart.

EZE 14:3 “Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?”

4. Young children stay away from idols. The Bible cautions young Christians to stay away from idols so they might know the true God and Christ. The flesh works to keep a saved person from ever knowing the power and authority of Jesus Christ.

JO 5:20-21 “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”

- B. Witchcraft is “the practice of witches, sorcery, enchantments, intercourse with supernatural powers other than God.” Sorcery is “divination by the assistance of evil spirits or the power to command evil spirits.” The flesh will work to cause a person, even a saved person, to seek powers that can be controlled by the person and allow self to remain in control. There are some who even teach that God can be controlled by actions of the flesh by retaining the authority with self and even over God.

1. Christians need to be separated completely from any works of witchcraft. The early Christians did not want any articles or books that pertained to witchcraft,

so they burned their articles of witchcraft. Again, the flesh is willing to follow any religion that exalts self and allows the flesh to be the god of a person's life.

ACT 19:13-20 “Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.”

2. Witchcraft was used to provoke the Lord to anger. God had given strict instruction to Israel not to have any false gods in the nation. But they placed an idol in the temple of God causing Him to bring judgment upon them.

2CH 33:1-13 “Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem: But did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down, and he reared up altars for Baalim, and made groves, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. Also he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD had said, In Jerusalem shall my name be for ever. And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with

wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever: Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the Whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses. So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken. Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon. And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God.”

3. Rebellion and witchcraft are tied together. The flesh works to keep a person away from submission to God and works to cause the person to rebel against God. Witchcraft is a form of rebellion because it goes against the strict instructions of God.

1SA 15:23 “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”

- III. Sins of Isolation. Isolation is the process of removing oneself from all others. It causes a person to live a solitary existence, which produces a lonely and secluded life. There are two works of the flesh that will cause a Christian to pull away from others. Gal 5:20 “...hatred, variance,” Those who become “half-Christians” will be isolated from both the saved and the lost.

A. Hatred (enmity). Hatred is “to feel repulsive toward something or someone with a desire to avoid it.” Enmity is “unfriendly, hostile.” Hatred may spring from utter disapproval or condemnation. Extreme hatred is to abhor or detest. ***Hatred can be sin or it can be righteousness depending upon where a person gets his hatred and what it is directed toward. What a person does with hatred determines whether or not it is sin.*** Determining whether or not hatred is right does not prevent a person from staying away from another person. When a Christian allows hatred to be a controller of his heart, he will isolate himself from everyone.

1. God said that he would visit the iniquity of the father upon the third and fourth generations (of them that **hate** Him). Having hatred for God is passed down from one generation to the next. If the flesh can get a person to hate God, then God will be excluded from his life, allowing self to retain its position of self-god.

EXO 20:5 “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;”

2. The Psalmist hated them with perfect hatred that hated God. The psalmist stated that those who hate God were his enemies. Hating the Lord causes individuals to rise up against God and deny that He has the authority over them. The flesh hates God and works to get individuals, even saved individuals, to hate God so that the flesh can retain the position of god in the person's life.

PSA 139:21-22 “Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.”

3. God hates all the workers of iniquity. God has righteous hatred for all workers of iniquity that trespass against the instructions of God. There are many who work using iniquity as their guidelines instead

of God's instructions. God hates them because they cause others to accept iniquity as right, and prevent others from choosing salvation.

PSA 5:5 “The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.”

4. The Bible makes it clear that God hates seven things: (1) a proud look, (2) a lying tongue, (3) hands that shed innocent blood, (4) a heart that devises wicked imaginations, (5) feet that run to mischief, (6) a false witness that speaks lies, (7) someone that sows discord among brethren. There are many saved people who do one or more of these seven things and do not understand that they are following the flesh and rebelling against God.

PRO 6:16-19 “These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”

5. A disciple is to hate things or people that ***keep a Christian from submitting to God*** because they give the flesh the advantage to ***control his life***. It is essential that a Christian who wants to be a disciple of Jesus Christ hate anything the flesh can use to ***control him***.

LUK 14:26 “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

6. If a man says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar”. It is impossible to love God and hate another Christian. Hatred for other Christians comes from the flesh. Love and sinful hatred cannot abide together.”

I John 4:20 “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”

B. Variance (difference). Variance is “to alter in form, appearance, substance or position.

To make different by a partial change; to deviate from the original; to be in a state of

dissentation or controversy; to be in a state of enmity”. A person who puts variance in his heart will change the truth of statements. It only takes a small alteration of the original to make it completely different. For example, the six pound fish weighs ten pounds or the car actually going sixty becomes eighty or forty. Gossip almost always varies the truth.

If a Christian puts on “variance” he removes himself from others just by changing to be like Christ. Those of the world will never be able to understand the changes that take place in the life of a Christian.

1. Variance is when a person is “wishy-washy” and acts differently depending upon where that person is. Many times “half-Christians” act just like the lost people at work or at home, but at church they try to act like the Christians. Variance is playing on “both sides of the fence” and is looked upon as a hypocrite by both the saved and the lost, being rejected by all.

Rev. 3: 15-16, “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”

Luke 6: 42-43, “Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye. For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.”

2. It only takes a small alteration (variance) of the original to make it completely different. There are many who make small alterations in the Bible, and even with God, saying that it makes no difference. However, in reality the alterations can eliminate the absolute inspiration of the scripture, bringing doubts and gives freedom to sin.

Rom 1: 23-25, “And *changed the glory of the uncorruptible God* into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”

3. There is no variableness *with God Himself*. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God does not change even though many religions teach that God has changed and what He said about righteousness has changed.

JAM 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

HEB 13:8 “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”

HEB 1:10-12, “And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.”

4. Christ came to *cause variance* between people. When a person gets saved, his life changes from the life he previously had. This type of change (variance) means that he is not the same and he really has changed. Not only does a person change at salvation, but he starts a life of **continual** change, which is variance. Having a Christ-centered life joins a person’s life to others who have a Christ-centered life. But at the same time that life takes a Christian away from the world and those who are worldly. Every saved person has a

new and changed life, but the pride of the flesh works to keep a person from admitting he has changed.

2Co 5:17, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Matt 10:35 “For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.”

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

Division II

Saved But Still Living In The Flesh

Lesson Seven

The Works of the Flesh (continued)

SECTION TWO SINS AGAINST OTHERS

GAL 5:19-21 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, **emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like**: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

INTRODUCTION:

The flesh is identified by self or selfish and the only way it can retain the control of a person's life is to keep the Christian from having scriptural connections with other people. The flesh always works to offend others to keep them from becoming too close. The last ten things listed in Galatians 5 are the works of the flesh which keep people, including Christians, from having life building relationships with others. The reason so many professing Christians do not attend church is because their flesh wants them isolated so it can retain the control and continue to function as self-god.

III. Sins of divisions among the followers of God. The flesh works in the lives of the saved to keep them separated from other Christians. The flesh uses division to make a person different causing disunion and discord from others. There are three works of the flesh listed in Galatians 5 that directly work to divide saved people from others: emulations, wrath, strife.

A. Emulations are the "acts of attempting to be equal in qualities or actions seeking to obtain carnal favors or honors." It is “rivalry accompanied with a desire to suppress

another". Jealousy is the primary fleshly passion that causes emulations. Jealousy is when a person is "suspicious that he does not enjoy the affections or respect of others, or that another is more loved and respected than he." Jealousy is the perception of superiority. Jealousy, with its actions of emulations, will never allow a person to have personal attachments to others.

1. Jealousy controls a person and keeps that person from being satisfied with relationships with others. When a person is jealous of another, he can never be content with the other person no matter how many gifts the other person gives to him.

PRO 6:34-35 "For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts."

2. Israel was jealous of the Gentiles who received Christ and became the children of God. Their jealousy caused them to reject the way of Christianity and tried to make the Gentiles subject or at least equal to them.

ROM 10:17-21 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you. But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me. But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."

3. Paul knew the Jews were jealous because the gospel went to the Gentiles and worked to provoke them to emulations so that some of them might be saved. Paul used their carnal pride to cause them to seek to get what God had given to the Gentiles.

ROM 11:11-15 "I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. For if the

casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?"

B. Wrath is the "violent expression of anger; the fervent or passionate displeasure one expresses from being enraged by anger." Anger is "a passion of the mind excited by injury causing a person to become inflamed—many times leading to vengeance". The Bible says to "be angry and sin not". But when a person's anger produces flesh-centered wrath, it is always sin. It causes others to fear the person, dividing them apart, allowing the flesh to retain the number one position in a person's life.

1. A Christian is not to avenge himself, but rather give place unto wrath. Vengeance is the carrying out of anger, which is wrath. When someone wrongs another person, it does not give the person the right to also do wrong and carry out vengeance. The Bible instructs the person who had been wronged to give his wrath to someone else who has the right and authority to carry out vengeance. God has the right to avenge Christians and has ordained ministers who are responsible to carry out His vengeance without anger or wrath.

ROM 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

2. God ordained certain ministers who are to carry out the wrath of God. When a saved person fails to give his wrath to those in which God gave this ministry, that person is selfish and placing his flesh in the position of self-god instead of allowing God and His word to have authority.

ROM 13:4 "For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

3. A Christian should not let the sun go down upon his wrath. When a saved person holds his anger and wrath inside, it **will** give the flesh total control and his whole life will become selfish. God clearly instructed that a Christian was never to allow anger and wrath to stay inside more than one day.

EPH 4:26 "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:"

4. Before salvation, every person was a child of wrath. Everyone was controlled by the lust of the flesh seeking to fulfil the desires of the flesh, which gave them the right to carry out the actions of wrath that came from their anger. Once a person gets saved, he is to give up the rights of the flesh so he can be submitted to God and His authority.

EPH 2:3 “Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”

- C. Strife is "the exertion or contention for superiority either by intellectual or physical efforts. It is to struggle in opposition to another."

1. An angry man stirs up strife. Sinful anger leads to vengeance, which is carried out through strife. It makes a person want to get even with the one who hurt him by either belittling that person or making that person lower.

PRO 29:22 “An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.”

2. A man of wrath stirs up strife. Wrath causes a person to have passionate displeasure with someone else, which leads to the person looking for some way to become superior to him. Wrath leads to gossip and backbiting trying to devalue the person who is the object of the wrath. These are all actions of strife. Gossip and backbiting are ways people use to lower another person so a person can have superiority over them.

PRO 15:18 “A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.”

3. Strife is stirred up by hatred. Sinful hatred causes a person to detest and despise another, which causes him to make the other lower in value than God made him. If the flesh can retain the position of self-god, it will always see others as lower than self.

PRO 10:12 “Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.”

4. A crooked man sows strife. A crook is someone who "bends or turns from moral conduct seeking to be better than someone else". A crook uses perversion to belittle or lower someone else.

PRO 16:28 “A froward (*crooked*) man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.”

5. Envy and strife can come from a Christian being carnal. Carnal is being earthly which makes a person see only the temporary things of this earth and determines his actions by earthly gain. A carnal Christian looks at every situation to see what **he** is going to get, resulting in pushing down or lowering of others.

1CO 3:3 “For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”

6. Paul feared that he would find strife when he went to Corinth. In First Corinthians Paul said that all the members were saying they were of a particular group, implying that all the others were less than they were. When he writes Second Corinthians, Paul stated he was still afraid there was strife among them, each one seeing himself as better than others and doing things that would lower other people.

2CO 12:20 “For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envying, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:”

7. A Christian should never glory because of bitter envying and strife in the heart. If a saved person thinks he is better than someone else, that person is glorying in himself, not in the truth. If a person is glorying in self, then the flesh is still his god and is in control of his life. JAM 3:14 “But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.”

IV. Sins of false religious teachings. False religions are "those who do not conform to fact or truth. They deceive by giving the appearance of something they are not—counterfeits." There has been a great number of saved people who have departed from the facts and truth of God, which come from the Bible. Any teaching that is not from the Bible is false teaching with the intent of deceiving others. This produces an air of superiority, which is a work of the flesh. Strife believes oneself to be better or higher than others, which is the purpose of false religions.

- A. Sedition means “rising or raging in opposition to the law, the administration of justice, or a lawful authority.” Those who rise up against authorities are referred to as being in anarchy. Anarchy is everyone doing what is right in their own eyes keeping the flesh in the position of self god. Sedition is more than just a feeling in the heart but openly stating opposition to authority.

1. The Jews chose Barabbas, a man who had committed sedition and murder, over Jesus. There are many today who make the same decision choosing seditions or anarchy, which leaves each one in self-control. There are many who openly oppose Jesus Christ and refuse to give Him the authority in their life. Someday everyone will bow and recognize Jesus is the Lord, but for many it will be too late.

LUK 23:14-25 "Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him. I will therefore chastise him, and release him. (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.) And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas: (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.) Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them. But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go. And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed. And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required. And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired; but he delivered Jesus to their will."

2. Mark them that cause divisions (same Greek word). Seditious causes divisions when some commit offenses that are different from the true doctrines. Those who reject the truth are looking for ways to exalt their own selves above others, thus causing division.

ROM 16:17 "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

- B. Heresies are the "fundamental errors in religion or an offense against Christianity by denial of some essential doctrines of the true faith." There have been many religions started by one person who turned from the true Biblical doctrines, making up some of their own doctrine, and sadly leading many to follow their pernicious ways. The reason there are over five thousand

"Christian" religions in the world is because many have chosen to invent their own doctrines instead of following the Word of God.

1. It is a must that heresies be in the world so those who are sanctioned by God can be made manifest. The church at Corinth had some among them who followed heresies, which made the members have to choose what was right. Heresies always exalt some belief that elevates people above others, which is a work of the flesh.

1CO 11:19 "For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you."

2. A Christian is to reject a heretic. (One who by choice causes division.) Heretics are to be reprov'd to give them the opportunity to repent. But when a person takes a stand against the doctrines of God then he is to be rejected. This is just what the flesh wants because it isolates a person and elevates him above others.

Titus 3:10 "A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject;"

3. False prophets bring in damnable heresies. Damnable heresies are those that cause a person to be condemned to hell while believing that what they are following is right. The flesh rejects anything that is not of this temporary earth and is willing to follow even damnable heresies if he can be exalted.

2PE 2:1 "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

V. Vices are "voluntary actions or course of conduct which deviates from the rules of moral rightness, or any moral corruption or unfitness of conduct." Vices come from choosing to follow immoral activities, which comes from the flesh. The flesh works to get a person to follow indulgences that satisfy or please the body and earthly life. The flesh has no respect for God or the ways of God; the flesh only cares about this earthly life.

- A. Envy is the "feeling of uneasiness or discontent at the sight of superior excellence, reputation, or happiness enjoyed by another and hate him on that account." Envy produces jealousy and ill will toward others. When envy is a part of a person's life it will cause him

to carry out animosity toward others wanting to lower the other person or take away what God has given him. Envy always makes a person want to be above or in a position of self-god.

1. The reason the Jews delivered Jesus to be crucified was because of envy. Jesus was the Son of God and had God's blessing and authority. The Jews envied Him so much they gave Him to the government to be prosecuted.

MAT 27:18 “For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.”

2. Jews were moved with envy because the multitudes followed Paul. When the people followed Paul it lowered the position of the Jews and removed them from being in the position of authority.

ACT 13:45 “But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming”

3. There is envying among those who are carnal. Those who are carnal envy others who are above them. Carnal Christians want to think there are none above them, so they reject authority because they want to retain the position of being self-god.

1CO 3:3 “For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”

4. Do not envy one another. The Bible makes it clear that vainglory will produce envying. Vain means that the glory has no substance or no merit was earned. Envying makes a person want to receive the same honor as someone else who has worked for it. The flesh wants glory but not from accomplishing something by works and submission.

GAL 5:26 “Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”

5. Envy comes from pride. Pride is a destroying force that makes a person think he is more than he is. The flesh thinks it is superior to all others and when the flesh does not get its glory, it envies those who receive it.

1TI 6:4 “He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,”

6. Where envying is there is confusion and every evil work. Envying is a powerful force that leads a person into all kinds of strife and lies.

JAM 3:14 “But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.”

7. Envy slays the silly. A silly person is one who is “weak in intellect, lacking in understanding or common judgment usually associated with folly.” A fleshly person does not seek intelligence and understanding and turns to folly, envying others for what they have and are destroyed by their carnal desires.

JOB 5:2 “For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one.”

8. Envy is rottenness to the bones. Rottenness means “defective in substance; not sound or hard.” Envy even causes physical deterioration and destruction.

PRO 14:30 “A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.”

- B. Murder is “the desire to want another person dead as well as the act of killing itself”. Murderers are “those who feel strong malice toward another person and possess in their person a desire to see the other person dead.” The flesh works to cause a person to *want others eliminated*, which falls under the category of murder.

NUM 35:16-17, 30-31 “And if he smite him with an instrument of iron, so that he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death. And if he smite him with throwing a stone, wherewith he may die, and he die, he is a murderer: the murderer shall surely be put to death. ...Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person to cause him to die. Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death.”

1. Murders come out of the heart. The heart is the “secret thoughts or feelings in the inner part or being of a man.” The flesh works on the inside or the heart to make a person want to be superior, even to the point of wanting another dead.

MAR 7:21 “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,”

2. The devil is the father of murder. The devil is "the chief of fallen angels who misrepresents and slanders the way of God." The devil has always worked to eliminate humans from God.

JOH 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

3. If you hate your brother you are a murderer. Hatred is to "detest or dislike greatly." God classifies a strong dislike for a person as murder. Even when a person has sinned greatly the proper feeling should be pity instead of hate because of the life that is being wasted.

1JO 3:15 "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

- C. Drunkenness is being in "a state in which a person is overwhelmed or overpowered with spiritual liquors or having a disorder of faculties so that his reason is disordered." This includes behavioral control substances. The flesh works to get control of a person's life any way the flesh can. It uses substances that cuts off or shuts out the soul so the flesh can have total control of the person's life.

1. Drunkenness is always associated with going against God. When a person becomes drunk his senses are in disorder, is easily controlled by others, and is certainly controlled by the flesh. When a person is intoxicated his flesh has free reign and is exposed to everyone.

- a. Under the law a son who was a drunkard was to be put to death. God sees drunkenness as a very severe sin because it removes a person from his God-given life. God knew that when a person becomes intoxicated all control by God or by the person's own conscience is eliminated.

DEU 21:20 "And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard."

- b. David made Uriah the Hittite (the husband of Bathsheba) drunk in an attempt to control him. David knew that if he could get Uriah drunk he could control his actions.

2SA 11:13 “And when David had called him, he did eat and drink before him; and he made him drunk: and a ,even hewent out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but went not down to his house.”

- c. God exclaimed grief regarding those who gives his neighbor alcoholic drink so sexual activity can be accomplished. In the world, the primary way a person gets his way sexually with another person is by giving that person an intoxicating drink. The majority of immoral sexual activity is preceded bydrinking alcohol.

HAB 2:15 “Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!”

- d. Drunkenness is associated with darkness. The Bible says that drinking alcohol takes place in the night, which is associated with the works of the devil.

1TH 5:7 “For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.”

2. Warnings for the Christian not to drink alcohol.

- a. God wants Christians to be honest, not walking in rioting and drunkenness. Drinking alcohol is listed as being opposite to honesty. Most do not realize that drinking an intoxicant causes them to become dishonest and do things they would not do if sober.

ROM 13:13 “Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.”

- b. Christians are not to even keep company with a drunkard. God instructed a saved person not to spend time with a brother that is a drunkard. When another person is drunk, his life or soul is hid behind the intoxicant and all that shows is the flesh nature.

1CO 5:11 “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a *brother* be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.”

- c. Drunkards shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Being drunk is clearly associated with those who are not saved and condemned as lost from God. A person cannot get saved when he is drunk because his soul is not in control of his life and his sinful flesh is what will respond.

1CO 6:9-10 “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.”

- d. Do not get drunk or your heart will be overcome. God warns that a person is not to allow his heart to be overloaded with excess of drinking alcohol which causes sickness (a headache) so that the person is not aware of the things of God.

LUK 21:34 “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.”

- 3. The alternative to getting drunk—be filled with the Spirit. A saved person is not to turn to alcohol when he has problems in his life, but instead, he should turn to the Holy Spirit of God. When a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, his flesh has no control and the person will follow God's instructions instead of following the world.

EPH 5:18 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

- D. Revellings means "to feast with loose and clamorous merriment or carousing. A wild party or celebration with deep and free drinking, a drunken party." Many live from one time of revellings to another. Some work so they can party on the weekends. Even people that are saved only live for partying.

1. When in times past we walked in revellings. Before a person is saved "partying" is the primary life of the person. The lost person lives to have a good time whether it be parties, sports, recreation, or entertainment.

1PE 4:3 "For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:"

2. In Romans the word revellings is translated rioting. Rioting is "indulging in excessive feasting, drinking, or other sensual indulgences." Again excessive partying is associated with not being honest.

ROM 13:13 "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."

- E. The sins of "such like" (18). Such like means "of the same kind that was specified." The flesh will seek a loophole in the statements of the Scripture so the flesh can justify the actions a person does and claim that it is okay. In His wisdom, God included the term "such like" to totally eliminate any justification the flesh might find.

1TH 5:22 "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

May all Christians study and pray over these verses until they realize what walking in the flesh really is, and they are willing to remove every carnal element. A Christian should realize that "self" is to blame for his sin and be willing to be convicted by the Holy Spirit.

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

Division III

Getting The Victory Over The Flesh

Lesson Eight

Recognizing The Flesh As Dead

GAL 2:17-21 “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”

INTRODUCTION:

A saved person is dead to the law. The word “dead” used in this passage means "to deprive of the power of enjoying the rights of possessions." It does not mean to cease to exist, but instead means that it no longer has any rights. When a person gets saved, the law no longer has any rights or power to possess the person.

This passage says the saved are crucified with Christ, which means "to become dead to the law and sin and have indwelling corruption conquered." When Christ was crucified he put the law to death and everyone who accepts Him as their personal Savior receives the crucifixion of the law as well. When a person gets saved, he gets all of what Christ did, including His crucifixion of the law.

When a person gets saved, God gives him the grace of God, which means the law will never again be applied to his life. When a saved person does not see his flesh as crucified with Christ, he frustrates God's grace by continuing to live a life controlled by the law, which produces no righteousness at all. God crucified the flesh but many saved people never recognize it as dead and spend all their lives trying to do what God has already done.

- I. Many saved people attempt to conquer the flesh by battling it. God put sin to death as part of a person's salvation. But some saved people continue to live in the flesh and are controlled by the effects of sin, allowing the flesh to be in control.

ROM 6:1-11 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

- A. The saved that do not recognize they are crucified with Christ believe that victory depends upon **their** measure of power. They believe that living a successful Christian life is in **their own power** and work throughout their life trying to do what only the crucifixion of Christ can accomplish.
- B. The saved that do not recognize they are crucified with Christ pray anticipating that God is going to grant them increased spiritual power enabling them to subdue their flesh. They think that some special action they do will give them the power to overcome their sin and flesh.
- C. The saved that do not recognize they are crucified with Christ finally realize they cannot have complete victory over the flesh. Many who are saved become defeated because they come to the conclusion they can never have complete victory over sin.
- II. The saved person who battles sin instead of recognizing flesh actions as already dead is carnal and works in the power of humanity, not by the power of God.

I Cor 15:36 "Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:"

Col. 2:21-23 “(Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using ;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.”

- A. The saved person who battles sin prays, searches the Bible, and sets up many rules— do not handle, taste, touch, etc. He thinks the power of God will be granted to him *if* he pleases God enough by *controlling his sin actions*. He tries to control his actions by the power or commandments of men and seeks legalism as a means to get the power of God.
 - B. The saved person who battles sin treats the wrong actions of his flesh like it is there due to lack of rules, education, or civilization. He finds excuses for his sinful condition such as AA, Co-dependency, sins of others, history, etc. He tries to explain through the wisdom of man the power of will worship, like “You can if you think you can.”
 - C. The saved person who battles sin tries to give his flesh spiritual training (religion as a substitute for Christianity). He tries to gain control and power in his life by fasting or other acts of depriving the body. He does not realize there are no actions of controlling the flesh that will satisfy the flesh.
- III. The saved person who tries to control or satisfy his flesh by his own power stays confused and defeated. The Bible tells us that God is not the author of confusion and, therefore, is not a part of this action.

COL 2:23 “Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh. “

- A. The saved person who tries to control his flesh, jointly tries to destroy the flesh and refine it at the same time. He hates his "self" and at the same time loves his "self". He just wants his "self" to be good.
- B. The saved person who tries to control his flesh suffers continual "self" accusation. He lives a life of self-condemnation looking at his earthly life instead of his born again spiritual life.

- C. The saved person who tries to control his flesh is defeated until he realizes his flesh is irredeemable and his human practice futile. He must realize he can't do a single thing that will change his flesh.
- D. The saved person who tries to control his flesh will hopefully search out another method besides "self"; hopefully he will turn to the Holy Spirit. The answer to his ability to live the Christian life is **in the cross**, not in any works of his flesh.
- IV. The only way a saved person can get the victory over the flesh is for the saved person to recognize it as dead. A saved person is to use the Bible to identify the flesh and the works of the flesh. A saved person should also take the proper Biblical actions to live a victorious Christian life, not be controlled by the flesh and the sin of the flesh.
- A. A saved person must recognize the characteristics of the defiled flesh. **There are many saved people who do not recognize they are walking in the flesh because they do not know how to identify it.** The Bible has a list of characteristics to show Christians the **way** of the flesh.
- 2PE 2:10-14, "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:"
1. Those that walk after the flesh walk in the lust of uncleanness. Uncleanness is "having moral impurity and contaminated by sin."
 - a. Those that walk after the flesh and are unclean despise government. They have the *lowest opinion of the authority, and work to restrain those in authority who exercise authority over the actions of men.*
 - b. Those that walk after the flesh and are unclean are presumptuous. They make decisions and proceed from excess confidence. They assume

they are right without getting all the information and often offend and harm others by *overstepping due bounds and taking liberties not given to them*. Many churches and ministries are destroyed this way.

- c. Those that walk after the flesh and are unclean are selfwilled. They are *governed by their own wills and do not yield to the will of others*.
 - d. Those that walk after the flesh and are unclean are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. They do not fear to *talk irreverently or with contempt for God's authorities*.
2. Those that walk after the flesh are natural brute beasts. Natural brute beasts are those that are like animals destitute of reason and acting in a manner unworthy of rational creatures.
- a. Those that walk after the flesh and are natural brute beasts speak evil of the things they do not understand. They promote ignorance by *talking irreverently or with contempt against having information*.
 - b. Those that walk after the flesh and are natural brute beasts count it pleasure to riot. *They go after indulgences that lead others astray through depravity, trying to render them ineffective*.
3. Those that walk after the flesh are spots and blemishes and sport themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with the saved. These are spots ("a stain on character or reputation that soils purity") and blemishes ("injure or impair something that is well formed") and sport themselves. Sporting means "full of jesting and indulging in mirth or play." They deceive themselves believing that what they are doing is right while they spend time with the saved.
- a. Those that walk after the flesh and are spots and blemishes have eyes full of adultery. They look at others with lust and desire to commit promiscuous activities with them.
 - b. Those that walk after the flesh and are spots and blemishes do not cease from sin. They do not stop sinning because they do not see sin as impure and destructive.

- c. Those that walk after the flesh and are spots and blemishes beguile (deceive) unstable souls. They trick and entrap those that are not steady and consistent in their Christian life.
 - d. Those that walk after the flesh and are spots and blemishes have hearts of covetous practices. They have hearts that are desirous of more and more and frequently have actions to gain more.
 - e. Those that walk after the flesh and are spots and blemishes are cursed children. They have been cursed ("invoking an evil on someone") as the offspring of mankind.
- B. The saved person must recognize the controlling power of the carnal flesh. Once a saved person identifies the character of the flesh, he must also understand where it gets its power. The flesh fights the way of the Lord seeking its own path, making its own ways seem right even to a saved person. The passage in Second Peter continues by identifying the ways the flesh works as it tries to control the life of a saved person.

2PE 2:15-22 “Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”

1. A saved person should recognize that the cursed children have forsaken the right way and love the wages of unrighteousness. They have turned away from the way of God and cherish the compensation they get for their wrongful labor.

2PE 2:15 “Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;”

2. A saved person should recognize that the cursed children are “wells without water”. These wells (a place of issuing forth) without water means what comes out from (issue forth) these cursed children does not give life.

2PE 2:17 “These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.”

3. A saved person should recognize that the cursed children are clouds that are carried with a tempest. These cursed children are moved by extreme movements of activities. The flesh follows the way the winds of the world blow.

2PE 2:17 “These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.”

4. A saved person should recognize that the cursed children speak great swelling words of vanity (emptiness). The cursed children try to elevate themselves in the world by uttering empty, fruitless, useless words.”

2PE 2:18 “For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.”

5. A saved person should recognize that the cursed children allure through the lust of the flesh. The cursed children are tempted by and tempt others by things that appear desirable, but in reality they are evil.”

2PE 2:18 “For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.”

6. A saved person should recognize that the cursed children work through much wantonness. The cursed children follow the temptations because they are negligent of restraining their lewd, sinful flesh.

2PE 2:18 “For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.”

7. A saved person should recognize that the cursed children live in error. The cursed children live (are busy) by deviating from truth, justice, or what is right.

2PE 2:18 “For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.”

8. A saved person should recognize that the cursed children promise liberty, but in reality they are the servants of corruption. The cursed children make false declarations of assurance that their actions will produce freedom from restraint.

2PE 2:19 “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”

9. A saved person should recognize that the cursed children are the servants of corruption. These cursed children bow down and serve ways that cause the destruction of others.

2PE 2:19 “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”

10. A saved person should recognize that the cursed children are brought into bondage by the things that overcome them. The cursed children voluntarily place their own selves in restraint and servitude to the flesh losing spiritual liberty by force.

2PE 2:19 “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”

11. A saved person should recognize that if a person is overcome and entangled again in the sins of the flesh, it will be worse for him than his life before he was saved. The cursed children are twisted together with the flesh in a confusing manner, never knowing what is righteous and godly.

2PE 2:20-22 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”

- C. The saved person should recognize that the way to have **victory over sin** is to realize that the **flesh is already dead**. God set the saved person free from sin at the point of salvation when the crucifixion of Jesus was applied to his/her life.

ROM 6:7 “For he that is dead is freed from sin.”

- D. The saved person must recognize that the **blood of Christ is what washes away “sin” flesh, but does not wash away the “self” flesh**. The “sin” flesh was crucified with Christ and the affections and lusts were put under the blood of Jesus Christ at the point of salvation.

GAL 5:24 “And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

- E. The saved person should never attempt to repair the flesh so it can cooperate with the Spirit of God. The flesh will never cooperate!

1CO 15:56-58 “The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

- F. The saved person must recognize that the Holy Spirit of God did not indwell a saved person for the purpose of improving the flesh, but to war against it. The Holy Spirit of God is against the flesh, and the flesh and Spirit are opposite and contradict each other.

GAL 5:17 “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”

- G. The saved person can only live a victorious Christian life by transferring the possession of the flesh to the cross. Once the ownership of the flesh is gone, a saved person can live a life set free from slavery to the flesh.

ROM 8:1-9 “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIAN

Division III

Getting The Victory Over The Flesh

Lesson Nine

God's Power

SECTION ONE

THE POWER OF GOD IS FOUND IN THE CROSS

INTRODUCTION:

Christians often work for years trying to overcome the flesh, believing that victory can be found in some action they perform. They do not realize they continue in sin while praying and confessing their sins trying to get the victory over the flesh. They eventually fail and end up living a defeated life surrendered to sin, while never understanding the power is not in their self-will power, but in the power of the cross.

ROM 6:1-23, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not

have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. ***Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey***; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now ***yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness***. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

- I. The "flesh" of a person consists of two parts.
- A. The "flesh" of a person contains sin, which means "the power of sin." "Flesh" has its own power that uses sin to control the actions of a person thus controlling that person.

ROM 7:17, "Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me."

- B. The "flesh" of a person contains "**me**", which means "self or selfish." The basic problem in the lives of Christians is not sin, but "me". ***Sin was defeated on the cross, but the "me" continues and is the problem.***

ROM 7:18, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

- II. Jesus dealt with the "**sin**" of the flesh on the cross.
- A. A Christian is not told to be crucified, but to ***die to self***. A saved person's crucifixion was done by Jesus Christ when He was crucified. A major misconception that many people have is that a person can be right with God

without overcoming sin. For a person to be right with God, he must overcome sin and the only way to overcome sin is by accepting Christ and His crucifixion.

Another major misconception that many people have is that the **person himself** has to **overcome sin** to be right with God. The only way a person can overcome sin and be right with God is by personally accepting Jesus Christ and His crucifixion and applying what Jesus did to his own life.

ROM 6:6, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth *we should not serve sin.*"

GAL 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh *I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*"

1. The problem with most saved people is that they do not *recognize* their sins as being crucified (dead, separated).

ROM 6:11, "Likewise reckon ye also *yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

2. A saved person has been crucified to the world and the world is crucified to him. (separated from the world)

GAL 6:14, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

- B. A saved person has been wholly delivered from the *power of sin*. A saved person was crucified at salvation (separated from sin and the world) and was also separated from the law, which is the power of sin.

1. When a person is not under the law there is no sin because sin is the transgression of the law. (transgression of the law - violation, trespass)

1JO 3:4-5, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."

2. When a person is not under the law, sin has no dominion. (Dominion - to rule or have authority over)

ROM 6:14, "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

3. When a person is not under the law, sin is not imputed. (Imputed - attributed, assigned, credited)

ROM 5:13, "(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law."

4. When a person is not under the law, sin has no strength. (Strength - force, miraculous power)

1CO 15:56, "The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law."

III. God instructed every saved person to take up the cross (crucifixion) so he can deny self.

A. God deals differently with the "sin" of a Christian's flesh than with the "self" of a Christian's flesh.

1. The "sin" of the flesh is permanently conquered in a moment at the point of salvation.

ROM 8:35-37, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

2. Even though the "sin" of the flesh is conquered at salvation, it takes a lifetime to triumph over "self". Jesus, our example, denied *Himself*.

JOH 7:17-18, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him."

B. The "sin" of the flesh is crucified, but the "self" of the flesh is still powerful and controlling.

1. Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Galatians used the word "flesh" to show a saved person's earthly affections and lusts.

GAL 5:24, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." ("sin" flesh)

2. Galatians 5:24 sounds like the flesh is no longer present, but it is. However, verses sixteen and seventeen make it clear that a saved person still has the lust of his flesh.

GAL 5:16-17, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." ("self" flesh)

3. The flesh is not only still present in a saved person - it is powerful. Does Galatians 5:24 contradict 5:17? NO. In verse 24 it is talking about the "sin" of the flesh and in verse 17 it is talking about the "self" of the flesh.

GAL 5:24, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." (sin)

GAL 5:17, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." (self)

When a person gets saved his "sin" is cut off from God, but he continues to battle "self" (selfishness) as long as he has the life of Adam in him.

4. Christ delivers a saved person **once**, completely, from the power and reign of "sin" through His crucifixion on the cross. Christ not only delivers the saved person from "sin", He also enables him to **overcome** "self" by giving him the power to **die daily**. God gives him the power of the Holy Spirit which indwells him and gives him the ability to **die daily** so he can obey God perfectly.

1CO 15:31, "I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily."

C. A saved person needs to understand the full implication of the cross. The saved person is *freed wholly from "sin" and its eternal consequence*. A saved person is in possession of a new life.

1. Most Christians render themselves "half-saved".

a. They understand that their sins are forgiven. God no longer takes inventory of a saved person's sins because they are forgiven and covered by the blood of Christ.

ROM 4:7-8, "Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." (Impute - to take an inventory)

COL 2:11-14, "In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you *all trespasses*; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;"

b. But most Christians do not understand their deliverance from the *power* of "sin". The power of sin is the law and a saved person is dead to the law by the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. A saved person cannot be condemned because there is no law to condemn him.

ROM 6:13-14, "Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

ROM 7:1-6, "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as

long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."

2. After a person is saved and God gives him a new life, ***he usually continues to battle "self". It is not "sin" he is battling, but "self" and its power.***

JAM 4:1-6, "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

3. The prolonged struggle with "sin" is unnecessary if the saved person will understand it is "self" not "sin" that causes the problems and failures in his life.

HEB 12:15, 22-24, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and

thereby many be defiled;... But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."

SECTION TWO THE HOLY SPIRIT PROVIDES THE POWER FOR VICTORY

INTRODUCTION:

When a person gets saved, the Holy Spirit resides inside each Christian (indwells).

John 14-16-17, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

However, most saved people did not get *filled* with the Holy Spirit at the moment they receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. Eph 5:17-18, "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but *be filled with the Spirit;*"

Even worse, many who are saved continue to be entangled by "self" with its sin actions and remain worldly, never realizing the victory they have over sin. GAL 5:16-26, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. **But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the

flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."

- I. A saved person needs to look for deliverance from the "self" of his flesh from God's position, not from religion or man's position.
 - A. A saved person often mourns over a particular sin action and longs for victory over it, but without success.

ROM 8:23, "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

GAL 5:19-21, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

- 1. A Christian should not trust in the power of his own self or his self ability to get the victory over sin.

2CO 1:9, "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:"

- a. A person's sin is like the fruit from a tree. A tree produces fruit according to what kind of tree it is. An apple tree produces apples—not peaches. A corrupt tree brings forth corrupt fruit.

MAT 7:18-19, "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire."

- b. If a saved person gets the victory over one sin action by his own power, another sin will grow in its place.

MAT 12:43-45, "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out;

and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation."

- c. As long as a saved person works in his own power to overcome sin, he will never get total victory.

1JO 5:4, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

- 2. A Bible-believing Christian will suffer reproach from the religious world because he trusts in the living God for spiritual victory. Almost all religions of the world teach that each person has to work to overcome the actions of sin in his own power. They teach that if a person is strong enough he will not sin.

1TI 4:10, "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

- B. When a person gets saved, he accepts Christ's death on the cross as payment for his sin. The way a person becomes "sin" is by willfully committing actions of sin, which makes him dead to God (separated). The only way a person can be alive to God is to have his sin put to death. That is what Jesus did when he died on the cross—He died for sin.

- 1. God made Jesus sin for us (but without any action of sins). When Jesus died, He took sin itself to the cross.

2CO 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

- 2. Jesus died for sin (what a person becomes who commits sin). He did not die for just actions of sin. Therefore, God deals with sin (flesh) at salvation and ***gives a new life that no future sin actions can kill***. This is the eternal

spiritual life that is received at salvation. Once a person is saved, his sin (flesh - state of being sin) cannot be resurrected from the dead.

EPH 2:4-9, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

- C. When God saves a person He deals with the "sin flesh" itself, not the *works* of the human life (actions of "self-flesh").

GAL 5:24, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

1. If a tree is dead, it cannot produce fruit. When a person gets saved his sin is put to death and it cannot produce any action or fruit.

ROM 6:1-13, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if *we have been planted together in the likeness of his death*, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, *that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin*. For *he that is dead is freed from sin*. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin*, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the

lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

2. When a person is led to Christ, his sin (flesh) is dealt with, not just his actions of sin.

ROM 8:1-3, 10. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who *walk not after the flesh*, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was *weak through the flesh*, God sending his own Son in the *likeness of sinful flesh*, and for sin, condemned *sin in the flesh*:... And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

3. God crucified the flesh (the source) with Christ, not just the sin.

ROM 6:6, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the *body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin*."

- D. Christ died on the cross to pay for the sinner's sin. When a person gets saved his "sin" life is gone (not recognized by God) and only his spiritual life lives with God and is recognized by God.

ROM 7:4, 6, "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.... But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."

1. The moment a person gets saved his sin life is put to death.

ROM 6:2, "God forbid. How shall we, that *are dead to sin*, live any longer therein?"

2. The moment a person gets saved his sin is put to death on the cross with Christ.

ROM 6:8, "Now if we be *dead with Christ*, we believe that we shall also live with him:"

3. The moment a person gets saved his sin is placed in a continuous state of death so that his flesh can no longer control him.

1PE 2:24, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, *being dead to sins*, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

COL 3:3, "For *ye are dead*, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

- II. "They that are Christ's" refers to every saved person. It means that Christ has bought them, by paying for them on the cross, and the saved belong to Jesus Christ.

GAL 5:24, "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

- A. All born-again Christians belong to Christ. The only way a person can belong to Christ is through birth. No amount of works or righteousness can take the place of spiritual birth.

1. You must be born again. Jesus made it clear that a person had to be born again to be one of His children.

JOH 3:1-8, "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but

canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

2. A person must be born again of an incorruptible seed. Anything that is corruptible (will decay or perish) cannot produce the birth that comes from God. Everything of this earth will pass away.

1PE 1:23, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

- B. Whether in victory or defeat, a saved person needs to understand that the flesh "has been crucified." In good times or bad times, the flesh is still dead. When the flesh does good things trying to please God, it is a waste of time because God doesn't recognize it. When the flesh does bad things, it is dead and God doesn't recognize it.

1. All saved people are crucified with Christ.

GAL 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

2. The world is crucified to every saved person.

GAL 6:14, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

3. Jesus died for sin *once* and *He cannot die for sin again*.

ROM 6:10, "For in that he died, *he died unto sin once*: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God."

HEB 6:6, "If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

- III. The foundation of a Christian knowing he is crucified with Christ can only be found in the Word of God (Bible). The education of the flesh cannot bring it to a point of accepting the death of the flesh. For a person to understand this, he must accept what the Bible says as fact, which is the foundation of faith.

- A. All Christians should respond to God's Word with “amen” and joy instead of doubts and fear.

2CO 1:9-10, "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, ***but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;***"

- B. All Christians should respond to God's Word by knowing his flesh has been crucified.

ROM 6:6-7, "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin."

- C. All Christians should respond to God's Word by simply trusting the Word of God and not trusting in the workings of the flesh.

PSA 119:42, "So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word."

ROM 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

- D. God's viewpoint is found in the Word of God. All who are saved should walk according to ***faith in the Word***, not by their own sight.

HEB 4:2, "For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

Division III

Getting The Victory Over The Flesh

Lesson Ten

The Holy Spirit Provides The Source of Power

INTRODUCTION:

The Holy Spirit always points a saved person to the truth, which is found in the Bible. The Bible makes it clear that when Jesus came to the earth, He came to fulfill the law, not to destroy or eliminate it. Everyone who chooses Jesus Christ as "THE WAY" is not only choosing to go to Heaven, but also choosing to have the law fulfilled and to put to death the flesh.

Before a person is saved, that person is married to the law and the law has dominion and control over him. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his Savior, he becomes the bride of Christ and is married to Christ's death to the law. ***It is a requirement that at the same time a person accepts Christ as his Savior that the law be put to death.*** When Jesus died on the cross he put the law to death for everyone who accepts Him. Everyone on the earth is married to either the law or married to Jesus Christ. No one can be married to both.

MAT 5:17-20, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

ROM 7:1-6, "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she

is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, *ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.* For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. *But now we are delivered from the law*, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.”

- I. A saved person should believe the Bible and acknowledge that God's Word is the absolute truth. The Holy Spirit's primary responsibility is to point the children of God to the truth.
 - A. Every saved person should realize the Bible makes it clear that it is God who does everything. The only thing a saved person needs to do is trust what God does *by faith*. Why do saved people not believe God's promises? Their sinful flesh (self) can never have the things of God because the only promise God has given to sin is that it is dead (crucified with Christ). Therefore, it is impossible for sinful flesh to understand what is spiritual because it is dead. A saved person must use faith (believing the promises of God) as the tool necessary to understand the truth.
 1. Why do saved people often doubt the ability of Jesus to give life and death?

MAT 21:18-23, "Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."
 2. Why do saved people often doubt when they pray? Their doubt results in fear, which comes from trusting their flesh (sin) nature *instead* of the power of God?

MAR 11:23, "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

3. Why do saved people often worry and fret about their daily existence instead of relying upon God's promises?

LUK 12:21-31, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you."

- B. Every saved person should desire to do the work of God, not by their own fleshly abilities, but by their born-again spirit. The flesh (self) wants to be "self-god" and will work to make things happen by its own ability.
 1. God promises that He will grant the desire of the righteous. Remember the righteousness of a saved person must be the righteousness of Jesus Christ, not the self-righteousness of the flesh life.

PRO 10:24, "The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted."

2. When a person's righteousness is the righteousness of Jesus Christ, desires are only good desires.

PRO 11:23, "The desire of the righteous is only good: but the expectation of the wicked is wrath."

3. God promises to give the righteous the desires of their hearts when their delight is in the LORD. The word "delight" used in this passage means "to be soft or pliable - delicate". A saved person must put his life in the hands of God and allow God to mold it to have his desires granted.

PSA 37:2-9, "For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth."

- C. Every saved person should *desire* to put his sinful flesh actions under the death of the cross. In order to recognize the death of the flesh, a saved person must first understand life from God's perspective, not the perspective of the flesh. ***The foundation for a Christian's actions should be the truth, which states the flesh is dead and all its actions are under the cross.***

1. When God identifies a saved person he sees the saved person through the death of Jesus Christ. Most of the prayers of the saved are connected to the sins or failures of the flesh. Instead of recognizing these actions as being under the death of the cross, most saved people pray and agonize trying to get God to deal with what He has already dealt with.

- a. Every saved person was baptized into Christ's death at the point of salvation. There is no additional death or forgiveness for sins. It all took place at the cross and was applied to the saved person at the point of salvation.

ROM 6:3-5, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that *like as* Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, *even so we also* should walk in *newness of life*. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the *likeness of his resurrection*:"

- b. Every saved person has already received the sentence of death (from sin). God places the works or actions of a saved person's sin nature (self) under the sentence of death at the point of salvation. All the sins of a saved person have already been put to death even before they are committed.

2CO 1:9-10, "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;"

2. Every saved person should accept the fact that the death of their sin is a part of their Christian life. God continues to deliver (to surrender; yield up) the saved person's sin life into Jesus Christ's death.

2CO 4:11-12, "For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you."

- D. Every saved person is united with Jesus by His crucifixion, and can *by faith* apply His death to every activity of life. The life of a saved person is the life of Christ. Everything that is of the flesh is not what Christ would do. The Holy Spirit guides a saved person to recognize and apply this principle so he can have a successful Christian life.

GAL 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

- E. Every saved person who is not diligent will lose his faith, which allows his flesh to go on a rampage. The Holy Spirit continually works in the life of all who are saved to conform (jointly formed) them to the death of Jesus Christ. There are many teachings about being conformed to the resurrected life of Christ. But there are very few teachings about a saved person being conformed to the death of Christ.

PHI 3:10, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"

- II. When the power of the Holy Spirit is applied to the life of a saved person, He always works to point the saved person to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and not to the law.

ROM 8:8-16, "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"

- A. The way a saved person overcomes sin is by ***walking in the Spirit of God and trusting Him***. When a saved person walks in the Spirit, the flesh does not have any power over the saved person because he recognizes his flesh as dead. The Spirit of God knows the power of the death of Jesus Christ. He works in the life of a saved person to produce death of the flesh, which allows the saved person to walk in the Spirit.

GAL 5:16, "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

- B. The Holy Spirit always takes a saved person to the cross for victory. The Holy Spirit does not take a person to the law with its condemnation because the Scripture makes it clear that a saved person is dead to the law.

1CO 15:56-57, "The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

- C. ***If a saved person fails to follow the Holy Spirit, he will immediately revert to following the flesh.*** The primary way a saved person *stays in the Spirit* is to continually be in a state of giving thanks to God for what He did on the cross.

EPH 5:1-4, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks."

- D. The moment a saved person ceases to heed the Holy Spirit, he falls back into the sinful flesh life pattern. It is imperative that a Christian understands being yielded to the Holy Spirit and not to the law, because if he doesn't he will turn back to condemnation and the power of guilt.

1. A saved person who falls back into the sinful flesh life and is controlled by the law is an adulterer. If a saved person (one who is married to Christ and His grace) has an affair with the law, he is committing spiritual adultery.

ROM 7:1-3, "Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man."

2. The saved person who falls back to the sinful flesh life falls back into condemnation. The saved person is dead to the law, but if he goes back to the flesh (sin life) the law again becomes the controller through its condemnation.

ROM 7:4-6, "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."

3. The saved person who falls back to the sinful flesh life sees *his* life as his reason to live and tries to correct it by applying law with its condemnation. Death (separation from God) comes from the law. Even though a person is saved and will go to Heaven when he dies, his life is again separated from God by following the law instead of Christ. No matter what he does, whether good or bad, his life in the flesh is separated from God.

ROM 7:7-10, "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death."

4. The saved person who falls back to the sinful flesh life exalts death and works. Therefore, convincing his saved spirit that it is separated from God (dead or loss of salvation). The law decrees that the penalty of sin is death (separation from God) so the person who puts himself under the law again sees himself as separated from God (self-condemnation). However, if the flesh is dead, then God does not recognize it at all or any of its works.

ROM 7:11-13, "For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful."

5. The saved person who falls back to the sinful flesh life does not recognize it is the law itself that declares all the acts of a saved person's human life separated from God. The law is right, and every action of sin or carnality is separated from God whether it was before salvation or after salvation.

ROM 7:14-20, "For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me."

6. The saved person who falls back to the sinful flesh life does not recognize the works of his born-again spiritual life. His born-again life desires to do righteousness as described by the law itself. God gave the law that everyone might know what God determines to be right. While a Christian's fleshly sinful life desires earthly, temporary, sinful things, his "spiritual" life desires eternal righteous acts.

ROM 7:21-24, "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

7. The saved person who falls back to the sinful flesh life does not realize his life is just like Paul's life who served the law of God with his *mind*, but with his *flesh* served the law of sin. A saved person is defeated when he believes he is the only person who ever experiences the battle between right and sin. Paul **chose** to serve God and do right, and Christians should make the same choice.

ROM 7:25, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

III. Flesh is still flesh, but the born again spirit is of God and is free from the oppression of the flesh. God put to death the wicked deeds of the human life and *enabled* a saved person to walk according to the Holy Spirit. Many saved people do not believe they can ever live a life consistent with Biblical Christianity. They have walked in the flesh so much that the flesh has convinced them they will never be able to walk in the Spirit.

A. God gives clear instructions that the saved are to walk in the Spirit. ***If it was impossible for Christians to walk in the Spirit, then God would not have told them to walk in the Spirit.***

1. God wants all who are saved to walk in newness of life. God's desire for every saved person is that they walk in their new life so He can work with them.

ROM 6:4, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

2. God ordained that every saved person walk in the Spirit. God calls every saved person to walk in their new life.

1CO 7:17, "But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches."

3. God ordained that the saved walk in good works. God works in the life of each saved person to cause them to do good works.

EPH 2:10, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

- B. God said that He would walk in (amongst) the saved who choose to separate from the world - which means they are walking in the Spirit.

2CO 6:14-18, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

THE TRINITY OF MAN
(I Thessalonians. 2:23)

Life Begun

Gen.2:7 Conception								→ No Life Without Spirit
Accountability Rom 7:7-25 ←								Law Applied (Sin Must Be Accounted For)
	Body	Soul	Spirit					
Salvation								Spirit Birth
Col. 2:9-14								(God Indwelled)
	Body		Soul			Spirit		
Physical Death								Physical Death United Soul and Spirit
II Cor 5:1-10								(In God's Presence)
	Body			Soul	Spirit			
Resurrection								Resurrection Total United
I Thes. 4:13-18 I Cor 15:44								(Spiritual Body) Example: Jesus John 20:17 John 20:25-29
Eternity			Body	Soul	Spirit			Eternity

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

Division IV

In The Flesh But Not of The Flesh

Lesson Eleven

Salvation Does Not Eliminate The Flesh

INTRODUCTION:

The Bible makes it clear that the penalty for one or many sins is death, which is separation from God. A person must apply the crucifixion (death) of Jesus Christ to his life as payment for his sins. **If a person has asked God for forgiveness of sins and has accepted the payment for his sin through the death of Jesus Christ, then the penalty for sin has been removed and he is no longer held accountable for his sins.** Col. 2: 13-14, “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened *together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses*; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that *was* against us, which was contrary to us, and took it *out of the way, nailing it to his cross*;” (Amen!)

When a person is forgiven, his sin is crucified and his sinful flesh is *cut off from God*—but it still exists. God will *not recognize any works or actions of the flesh nature* because it has been separated from God - **permanently**. At the same time, the flesh nature still works to be in control of the saved person's life. The flesh nature wants to glorify and serve “self” and tries to keep the saved person from serving or glorifying Jesus Christ.

There is so much wrong teaching regarding confessing of sins that the flesh commits. Many saved people believe that confessing sin is necessary in order to have our sins forgiven. Much of this comes from First John, Chapter 1. This scripture needs to be examined to “rightly divide the Word of God” and understand exactly what God means in this part of Scripture.

1JO 1:1-10, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the

Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

- I. First John, Chapter 1 needs to be interpreted in conjunction with the whole New Testament, not as an isolated portion. The only time confession of sins is mentioned in the New Testament is in this first chapter of First John.

A large number of Christian religions teach that I John 1:9 tells all who are saved that they must *confess (give assent) to each and every sin in order to have their sins forgiven*. With this mentality, it would be impossible for any person to remain saved who commits a sin and does not confess it (or all sins). Sins include any acts or thoughts that violate God's laws, including many sins Christians do not realize are sins. If a Christian had to confess each sin committed, then the work of confessing sins would be the deciding factor that would get a person to heaven – not the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

Gal 2:16, “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by

the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

A good question to ask is, “Why did Jesus Christ die once for all sins if it’s up to me to confess my sins to be forgiven?” Gal 2:21, “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”

A. To understand I John, Chapter 1, the pronouns “WE” and “YOU” must be identified. In proper language, pronouns must be identified and not assumed.

2 Tim. 2:15, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**” There are many heresies being taught because of improper application of pronouns. The two pronouns “WE” and “YOU” are often misused in this chapter.

1. The pronoun “WE” used in Chapter One represents those who were literally and physically in the presence of Jesus Christ while He was here on this earth.

1JO 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which *we have heard*, which *we have seen with our eyes*, which *we have looked upon*, and *our hands have handled*, of the Word of life;

2. The pronoun “YOU” used in First John 1 represents those to whom First John is written, those that are being shown the way of eternal life. The Book of First John was written to “YOU” from “WE”. “WE” is not referring to all Christians, but is referring to those who were actually *in the presence* of Jesus Christ, including both saved and lost.

1JO 1:2, “(For the life was manifested, and *we have seen it*, and bear witness, and *shew unto you that eternal life*, which was with the Father, and *was manifested unto us*;)”

3. The pronouns “WE” and “US” used in First John, Chapter 2 are those who declare the facts regarding Jesus bringing salvation and eternal life to “YOU”. “YOU” is making reference to all people who need to know about Jesus Christ.

1JO 1:3, “*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*”

4. The reason the pronouns “WE” and “US” make reference to those who wrote First John is so the “YOU” and “YOUR” (all people) may have the full joy of salvation.

1JO 1:4, “*And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*”

- B. John wrote First John and declares the message, which he literally heard from Jesus, *in person*, and writes to those he wants to join in the salvation of Christ.

- 1 John declared that the message God had given them was that God is light and there was no darkness in Him.

1JO 1:5, “*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*”

2. John declared that those who were with Christ and claimed to be part of the followers of Christ, *but walk in darkness instead of the light*, were liars and were not saved.

1JO 1:6, “*If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*”

3. John declared that if “WE” (those who had physically been with Christ) walked in the light (Jesus Christ) then “WE” have fellowship with each

another. John also declared that “US” who walked in the light had been cleansed by the blood of Christ.

1JO 1:7, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

4. John declared that those who had been with Christ and said that “WE” had not sinned were deceiving themselves and were not saved.

1JO 1:8, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

5. John declared that “WE” who were with Christ (but had not admitted that they were sinners) and were not saved should confess that they had sinned and Jesus would save them and cleanse them from all their unrighteousness.

1JO 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

6. John declared that “WE” who were with Christ and said that “WE” had not sinned were making Christ a liar and definitely were not saved.

1JO 1:10, “If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

- C. Once a person comes to Christ and is forgiven of his sins, can he lose it and get “saved again”? The Bible says if that could happen, Jesus would have to come back to earth *again*, be crucified *again* before that person could be saved *again*.

HEB 6:6, “If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God *afresh*, and put him to an open shame.”

- II. Everyone who is saved has victory over his or her sin through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. A saved person *does not* get the victory over sin by *any actions of his own*, even if it is reading and studying the Bible, confessing sins, or doing ministry. The only way a saved person can *have the victory over sin* is to go back to his salvation *and trust in what Christ did once, for all the sins* of every saved person.

1CO 15:55-58, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, *which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain *in the Lord*."

- A. Before a person gets saved, sin with the law puts him in bondage. After he is saved, sin tries to use the law again to put him back into bondage.

GAL 4:3-11, "Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain."

1. Before salvation, everyone is a slave to sin and to the world. Man has no way of breaking the bondage of sin on his own or through any power of

man. There are many programs and drugs to help a person *live with his bondage*, but none that will break it.

- a. Before salvation a person is under bondage to sin (to be a slave).
The lost are slaves to the weak and beggarly elements of the world.

GAL 4:9, “But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?”

- b. Before salvation, a person is under bondage and is a servant of corruption (decay; ruin). When a person gets saved, God gives him release from the pollution (foulness) of the world. Even though a saved person has been rescued, there are many who work to get a saved person to turn back to the bondage of his life.

2PE 2:18-20, “For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollution of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”

2. Christ bought salvation by paying the world the price required for souls. Once a person accepts the gift bought and paid for by Jesus Christ, he is owned by Christ, and Christ holds the authorization of his life. When a person's life is set free from the bondage of the world, he has to have another source of life or identity, or he will cease to exist.

1CO 6:20, “For ye are bought with a price: therefore *glorify God* in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.”

3. When Christ saves a person, He seals him until the day of redemption and sets the person free so he will be *able to serve Him*.
 - a. Even though a person is saved, he still has to deal with the sufferings of the world. God leaves his children on the earth so they can do His work.

ROM 8:20-23, “For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

- b. When a person gets saved, it is never by corruptible things of this earth. The blood of Jesus Christ is the only thing that can save a person.

1PE 1:18-19, “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”

- B. When a person gets saved, the power of his sin was destroyed (rendered ineffective). *God broke the control of sin, giving those that are saved a choice by freeing the saved person from having to serve sin.*

ROM 6:6, “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

1. The regenerated life of a saved person does not alter the sinful “self” flesh nature. Even God cannot take sinful “self” and make it good and acceptable. Instead, He gives a person a new life and *permanently separates* his old “sin” flesh from His presence.

- a. The flesh “self” nature of a saved person does not contain one single thing that is good.

ROM 7:18, “For I know that in *me* (that is, in my *flesh*,) *dwelleth no good thing*: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”

- b. The flesh “self” nature in a saved person is not to be listened to (minded - to exercise the mind). A saved person is not to think about the things of the flesh, but instead think on the things of the Spirit.

ROM 8:5, “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”

- c. The flesh “self” nature of a saved person wants to be taken care of instead of being recognized as dead. A person who is saved should not provide for his flesh nature.

ROM 13:14, “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and *make not provision for the flesh*, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

- d. The flesh “self” nature of a saved person wants to use the liberty given to a saved person for sinful carnal things. At the same time, God wants a saved person to use his liberty to love and serve God and each other.

GAL 5:13, “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”

2. When a person gets saved, the power of “sin” to condemn is crucified with Christ. But the crucifixion does not destroy the flesh “self” nature.

- a. Christ's crucifixion puts to death sin itself, and it also *gives a saved person the life of Christ*. This new life abides inside the earthly body of the saved person.

GAL 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live *by the faith* of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

- b. Christ's crucifixion applies to the flesh “sin” nature with its desires and works. After salvation a person's flesh “sin” nature is dead to Christ.

GAL 5:24, “And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

3. A saved person can still walk in the flesh (“self”) even though he is indwelled by the Holy Spirit. A person that is saved can still *choose* to live in the old life (flesh “self” nature) and be controlled by his sinful flesh. Why would a saved person choose to walk in the flesh when he has the power to walk in righteousness?

GAL 5:16, “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall *not fulfil* the lust of the flesh.”

Rom 6:12-14, “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace “

- III. The human body of a saved person is still earthly. The body of a saved person still has all its natural desires, which makes it easily controlled by the sinful “self” nature.

1CO 15:45-49, “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”

- A. The human body of a saved person is of the earth and has not yet been redeemed. A saved person still has the problems of the human body, which cause him to groan from the frustrations of dealing with the battle for control from his sinful “self” nature. (‘sin’ itself is conquered at salvation, but ‘self’ nature is always actively wanting control and influence). (see Lesson 9)

ROM 8:23, “And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

1. A saved person must still walk **in** human flesh, but does not have to walk **by** the flesh. A saved person does *not have to be controlled* by his human body. There is a choice for the saved person; a lost person has no choice.

ROM 8:4, “That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

2. The redemption of a saved person's body will be at the return of Jesus. At the return of Christ a saved person's body will become a glorified body like Jesus' body after His resurrection.

- a. Physical death comes to everyone because of sin itself, beginning with Adam. But at the coming of Christ, the bodies of those who are saved and have physically died will be raised and glorified.

1CO 15:22-23, “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.”

- b. When the physical body of a saved person dies, it is sown in corruption. But when it is raised, it will be raised with power and glory.

1CO 15:42-44, “So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.”

- c. When a saved person's physical body dies, his soul departs to be with God but his body will be reunited with the soul again when Jesus returns at the rapture. * see Chart *.

1TH 4:14-18, “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

- d. The physical body of a saved person is vile but will be changed to be like Christ's resurrected body.

PHI 3:20-21, “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”

- 3. Saved people must continue to live in their earthly bodies until they are set free by Christ. Until a saved person is set free from his human body, his ministry and service is based on the faith of Jesus, not the person's earthly life.

GAL 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

- 4. A saved person *does not have to* battle life with the flesh. Saved people possess the power of God, which is so far above the powers of human works. It is like comparing a professional boxer to the strength of a weak

child. Why be concerned about strengthening the weak child (flesh) when God has given sufficient strength for life's battles and for serving Christ.

2CO 10:3-5, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

B. The human life of a saved person is earthly and continues to battle with all its earthly affections, actions, and attributes. God (the Holy Spirit) works in the life of a saved person to help him do the things of God.

1. A saved person's human life was not taken away when he got saved. The saved person's human life ("self") will work to pull the saved person back into the doubts of the sin life and away from serving God.

2TI 4:1-5, "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ***For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts*** shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall ***turn away their ears from the truth***, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

2. A saved person's human life, with its sin nature, is still transferred to his natural children - a clear manifestation that it still exists. As long as a person has human life, human sin nature is still there.

GAL 4:3, “Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:”

3. A saved person's human life (“self”) can cause him to fall or sink into a sin life **IF** he fails to live his righteous new life.

2PE 2:7-9, “And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:”

Illustration - a piece of wood on water.

- a. Wood has a natural tendency to float.
- b. Wood will sink if it stays in the water and becomes fully saturated.
- c. Wood's nature is to float but it will sink if it dwells in the water.
- d. God gave salvation to sinners and also gave them a new nature with a tendency to stay above sin.
- e. Even though a person is saved he still has the ability to sin and become fleshly in his life. If a saved person allows sin to soak into his life, he will sink into the world.
- f. A saved person's new spirit is to not sin, but his new nature will sink if his new life is soaked with enough sin.

God continually works in the life of a saved person to feed, strengthen, and guide his new life. **It is up to the saved person to choose whether or not he will submit to the Lord instead**

of walking after his old flesh nature. God provides food through His Word and through local churches, which will strengthen a saved person's new spirit. At the same time, the world works to provide food to strengthen the human life with its sin nature. The important thing for a saved person to understand is **the life that is fed the most will be the strongest!**

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

Division IV

In The Flesh But Not Of The Flesh

Lesson Twelve

Living A Sanctified Life

INTRODUCTION:

It is very difficult for saved people to realize they are not of this world. When Jesus prayed for His disciples, He told His Father that the world hated His disciples because they were not of the world. He asked His Father not to take them out of the world but keep them from evil (hurtful). He then asked His Father to sanctify them through God's truth. (Sanctify - to separate from corruption by detaching from the affections of the world and its defilements and exalt to a supreme knowledge and love of God).

When Jesus prayed for His disciples, He also prayed for all who would get saved, including the saved people of today. This prayer of Jesus is recorded in the Bible for every saved person throughout history. What did Jesus think was so important to pray about for all believers while on His way to the cross? Jesus asked for sanctification for all people who would believe in His Gospel! It is very evident that Jesus thought this to be of utmost importance.

JOH 17:13-20, "And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ***Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*** As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be ***sanctified through the truth.*** Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;"

I. Jesus wants all who get saved to sanctify their life actions (set apart). There is the sanctification of the soul and body, and there is the sanctification of the life. The soul is sanctified at the point of salvation; the body sanctified and sealed to be resurrected some day in the future. But the actions and sanctification of life is a continual process.

Remember the sin nature still lives inside the body and works to live its own life.

A. Jesus Christ was sanctified and all who receive Christ are sanctified in His sanctification. This sanctification is the whole life of a person: soul, spirit, and body. It is not, however, the sanctification of the sin nature, which continues to fight with the new sanctified spirit, trying to cause the body to commit sinful (selfish) acts.

JOH 10:30-38, "I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him."

1. When Paul wrote to the church at Corinth he addressed his letter to those who had already been sanctified (saved). The book of First Corinthians makes it clear that the members of that church had not sanctified their lives. Paul writes many complaints about the sinful life actions of the members of the church at Corinth.

1CO 1:2, "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to *them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus*, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:"

1CO 6:8-11, “Nay, *ye do wrong*, and defraud, and that your brethren. Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such **were** some of you: but ye **are** washed, but ye **are sanctified**, but ye are **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

1CO 8:12, “But *when ye sin* so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, *ye sin against Christ.*”

2. Paul stated that the sanctification that the members of the church at Corinth had was in Christ Jesus. He stated that the saved are in Christ, but it is clear that their actions (human life) were not in Him.

1CO 1:30, “But *of him are ye in Christ Jesus*, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and *sanctification*, and redemption:”

- B. When a person gets saved, he is washed and sanctified. When a person gets saved he is given (born) a new sinless spirit (I John 3:9) so his new spirit does not need to be washed and sanctified. However, the body still contains the sin nature. Choosing a life that is sanctified has to be done by the person living inside the human body. When a person gets saved, his soul and body is washed once and forever, but his sin nature is not saved and certainly not sanctified. God gives a person salvation, cleansing, sanctification, and justification in the name of the Lord Jesus by the Holy Spirit of God.

1CO 6:9-11, “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

II. Jesus wants all who get saved to know that sanctification comes from God, not from the individual. Remember Jesus prayed and asked His Father to do the sanctifying.

A. Gentiles can get saved and be accepted by God because they are sanctified by the Holy Ghost. The Gentiles were not under the law and could not be sanctified by any acts of keeping the law or offering of sacrifices. It is clear that sanctification had to come from God.

ROM 15:16, “That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.”

B. God is able to sanctify a person completely. Paul prayed and asked God to sanctify the Christians' spirits, souls, and bodies. God's sanctification starts at salvation and continues during the whole life of the saved person.

1TH 5:21-24, “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace *sanctify you wholly*; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”

1. God calls a person to salvation. Salvation takes place when God (through the Holy Spirit) sanctifies someone who believes the truth of the gospel (death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ). It is the complete sanctification that gives a person the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please take note that if a person did not get sanctified, they did not get saved.

2TH 2:13-14, “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you *to salvation through sanctification* of the Spirit and *belief of the truth*: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2. When a person gets saved, the complete sanctification that takes place is done by the offering of the body of Christ—once forever.

HEB 10:8-10, “Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to

do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are *sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*”

3. Jesus was slain and His blood was offered up to God for the sanctification of all who are under His blood. The blood of Jesus cleanses (sanctifies) a person from all his sins, not just part of them (I John 1:7).

HEB 13:11-12, “For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.”

- C. Jesus also sanctifies His churches. Churches have the same decisions to make as an individual person and that decision is, “who will a church follow.” A saved person has to choose whether he will follow Christ or follow his own sin nature. A church has to decide whether to follow the sinful nature of the members or follow the Husband of the church, Jesus Christ. Jesus works in all His churches to continually have them live a sanctified life. He has already sanctified his churches, but still gives them the free choice to glorify Him or glorify the will of the members.

EPH 5:25-27, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

- D. The way a saved person lives a sanctified life is by thanksgiving. Every saved person and every church should realize everything they have came from the Lord Jesus Christ. When that realization takes place, there is nothing to do but say “Thank You”. What causes a saved person's life to fail to be sanctified is when a Christian or a Christian church thinks that some way, some how, *they* are responsible for the things they have. Individual ownership then takes place and self-centeredness results. Even daily food is provided by God.

1TI 4:4-5, “For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”

- III. Jesus wants all who receive salvation to sanctify their human lives, but it is a ***choice each saved person must make***. There is a continual battle between the eternal spiritual life and the temporary earthly life. The flesh (self) only cares about the earthly life and always works to cause a person to follow the world. The born-again spirit inside a saved person always wants to do the eternal things that will go to Heaven, such as: the eternal versus the temporary, the heavenly versus the earthly, the giving versus the selfish, the God-accepted versus the earthly-accepted, the glorification versus the condemnation.

MAT 6:19-21, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

A saved person ***should follow*** the Holy Spirit with his life and ***maintain*** an attitude of ***not letting sin reign*** in his body. A saved person has ***to continually decide*** which ‘spirit’ he will follow—the Holy Spirit or the human spirit (sinful self).

ROM 6:12, “***Let not*** (choice) sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”

- A. A sanctified life can only take place when a saved person ***yields his body to the Lord instead of his sinful flesh***.

ROM 6:13, “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

- B. Each saved person has God in his heart, which is inside his earthly body. A saved person must maintain a positive attitude toward God and a negative response toward the flesh. It is imperative that each saved person sees the things of God as positive and the things of their earthly sinful life as negative. The decisions of life are much easier when a saved person has ***predetermined*** what is good (positive) and bad (negative).

1. Each saved person has the light of God (Jesus) living inside his earthly body. It is the sanctification of his actions with his earthly body that *shows* others the glory of Jesus Christ. The world is looking for the Lord in all the wrong places. ***The Lord can only be seen in the lives of sanctified Christians who show the actions (life) of Jesus to others.***

2CO 4:6-11, “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; ***Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*** For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.”

2. God wants each saved person to sanctify his heart to the Lord. Each saved person should set his heart on the Lord and be ready to show the actions of the Lord to everyone. People around a saved person try to control his life, family, friends, employers, enemies, etc. Consequently, the human life (sinful “self” flesh) of a saved person is often controlled by others a person comes in contact with, whether they give praise or condemnation. It is important to remember that a person is controlled by whomever or whatever he *yields* his life to.

Rom 6:16-18, “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

PE 3:15-16, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.”

- C. If a saved person persists in living by his sinful flesh, it is because he *wants* so to live, not because he *must* so live. God gives every person the right to choose (free will) whether or not to serve God. *A person chooses based on the desire or cravings of his own heart.*
1. Paul stated that he was caught between two different constraints, his spiritual life (which wanted to give up the hardships of the human life and go to Heaven), and his earthly life, (which wanted to stay and help others). Paul made it clear that he didn't know what to choose, making it clear it was his choice.

PHI 1:20-25, “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;”

2. Moses made the choice to suffer with the children of God rather than to live the life of a king with Egypt. It is clear that Moses had the right to make the choice and God honored him because of it.

HEB 11:24-27, “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; *Choosing rather* to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”

IV. Jesus wants all who become saved to sanctify their lives. It is crucial that each saved person work toward sanctification. Each saved person should desire to serve God and direct his life toward serving God. ***If a saved person gives his life to the sinful flesh, then his life is not pleasing to God, even when it is doing the work of God.***

A. Each saved person should know how to possess his vessel (body) in sanctification. Again, the body is the home of the born-again spirit of God and at the same time the old sin spirit of Adam. The body can be used for sinful or spiritual actions. The body itself does neither good or bad—it does what it is told or led to do. God wants each saved person to set his body apart (sanctified) to the work of the Lord and not surrender to the cravings and sins of the flesh (sinful self).

1TH 4:3-4, “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;”

B. If a saved person will cleanse himself from the things of the world, he will become a vessel unto honor that is sanctified and fit for the work of God.

2TI 2:16, 19, 21, “But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. ... Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ ***depart*** from iniquity.... If a man therefore ***purge himself from these***, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.” Again, it’s a choice!

V. The primary purpose for a saved person living a sanctified life is so others can see Christ—not the person’s sinful self. ***When so-called Christians do not live any differently than those of the world by displaying sin, hurtful actions, and contentious words, people who are not saved see no reason to come to Christ.*** There is great failure in evangelism today because there is great failure in Christians choosing to live sanctified from the carnal ways of the world.

- A. Jesus knew that the way to reach others was through the life He lived and the works He did. (sanctified) A person has to believe on Jesus or he cannot be saved. The primary way people believe is by *looking at the lives of sanctified people who show Christ to the world.*

JOH 3:18, “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

1. Jesus told the people to believe the works he did that they might know the Father was in Him.

JOH 10:37-38, “If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.”

2. The people believed on Jesus because of the works He did, and the priests and Pharisees knew they had to stop His works or all the people would believe on Him, therefore, losing their positions of authority.

JOH 11:45-48, “Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done. Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.”

3. When Jesus healed the blind man he had not accepted Christ and didn't even know who Jesus was. However, the blind man did believe and accept Christ because of the works Jesus did.

JOH 9:1-7, 25, 31-38, “And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in

the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. ... He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. ... Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.”

- B. For a person to be saved, someone must live a sanctified life that is fit to deliver the gospel. The main reason people do not believe and accept Christ is because they never see real sanctified Christians. The life many so-called Christians live turns people *away* from Christ instead of bringing them *to* Christ.

ROM 10:13-15, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

- C. When a saved person is married to someone who is not saved, the saved person should live a sanctified life. It will influence the person who is not saved to also live a sanctified life.

1CO 7:12-14, “But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her

away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.”

- D. God wants His children to be careful to maintain good works (sanctification) so their lives will be profitable to mankind.

TITUS 3:8-9, “This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.”

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

Division IV

In The Flesh—But Not Of The Flesh

Lesson Thirteen

The Believer And His Flesh

SECTION ONE

THE BELIEVER'S CORRECT ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS CARNAL FLESH

INTRODUCTION:

When a person gets saved, God saves his soul and gives him a new spirit. But unfortunately, that person still has his old mind. Everything that has been put into a person's mind is still there. There are many who get saved after many years in the world and all the lusts, desires, and memories are still dwelling inside their minds. When a person has a carnal mind, including a saved person, it is enmity with God. (enmity - hostility as an adversary). The carnal mind fights with God and even becomes hostile towards Him. If a saved person does not give God control of his carnal mind, he will remain carnal. Or if he departs from his carnality with his own will, he will soon find some fault with God and return to carnality.

ROM 8:1-10, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in

you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”

When a person becomes a believer, his mind is still set on the flesh which produces death (separation). If a person gets saved and continues to live for the things of this earth, his life actions remain separated from God and he will not produce anything that will last for eternity.

ROM 8:6, “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

I. Those who are lost (without Christ) have a carnal mind (of the world). Even after a person gets saved, his carnal mind often controls his actions and keeps him from serving God.

A. A lost person with his carnal mind is blinded by his mind (which is controlled by the ‘god’ of this world) and cannot see the light of God. It is necessary that someone who can see spiritually show the blind person the way of Christ.

2CO 4:3-4, “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

B. A lost person has a carnal mind and is blinded in his mind and heart by the veil of the Old Testament. Moses knew the ways of God, but the children of Israel could only see the acts of God. They lived under the law and experienced the condemnation and guilt the law produces.

1. Moses could see the ways of God but the people could only see the things God did. People who are lost can only see *what* God does and do not understand *why* He does them. When a lost man looks at God, he can only see the condemnation that comes from God's law.

PSA 103:7, “He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.”

2. Moses had to put a veil over his face because the people were afraid to look into his face. Their minds were blinded and they would not look to the end of the law. Even when they felt the condemnation of the law, which is eternity in hell, they would not look to the end of the law. That veil is still

in place today for all those who do not or will not look to the end of the law, which was and still is, Jesus Christ.

2CO 3:12-18, "Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

- C. A saved person who retains his carnal mind still walks as other gentiles walk, in the vanity of their carnal mind. Once a person gets saved he should also change his mind and put on the living mind of Christ so he can grow into a Christian who walks in the ways of Christ.

EPH 4:17, "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,"

- II. After a person is saved he should change his mind from the carnal thoughts of this world because his carnal mind is hostile to God.

- A. A saved person who chooses to retain his carnal mind will not recognize God or His authority. The results of keeping a carnal mind is a rejection of God, Christianity, and a moral life.

ROM 1:21, 28-32, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ... And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity;

whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

- B. A saved person who chooses to remain carnal is subject to the cunning craftiness of the devil and can be ruined the same way the serpent beguiled Eve—by corrupting the mind.

2CO 11:3, “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”

- C. A saved person who chooses to remain carnal will care for the things of the earth, which will destroy him because his god is still his belly. (belly - receptacle for food or requires food.) The carnal person will still seek to get his fulfillment from the things he can get from the world. He craves or lusts after the ‘things’ of God, but looks to the world to supply the things of God trying to fulfill his cravings.

PHI 3:17-19, “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)”

- D. A saved person who chooses to retain his carnal mind even sees God as his enemy and prefers the wicked works of this world to the eternal things of God.

COL 1:20-23, “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;”

- III. A person who gets saved but retains his carnal mind does not submit to God and cannot submit because the saved person is trying to fix the old, not change to the new.

ROM 8:7, “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”

A good illustration to help understand this battle is having two cars. A Christian is given a brand new car at the point of salvation and has an old one that came with his earthly life. Many people spend all their life trying to fix the old junker that has several hundreds of thousands of miles on it instead of driving the new one. They are affectionately attached to the old one and spend all their time trying to keep it running. They pray for it, replace parts, patch holes, deodorize it, try to keep it clean, and many other things. They waste all their time on the old car when they could simply get in the new one and drive it. Not only is it new, but it is renewed daily.

2CO 4:16-18, “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

- A. A saved person is instructed to love the Lord with his mind. When a person gets saved it is imperative that his mind be redirected toward God. Jesus gave strict instructions that a saved person was to follow the first commandment which is to love the Lord with all his heart, soul, and mind.

MAT 22:37-39, “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

- B. A saved person has been delivered from the law so he can serve God in newness of spirit. All the activities a lost person performs toward God are because of the law. When a person gets saved, God delivers him from the law and gives him a new way (mind and motive) through which he is to serve God.

ROM 7:6, “But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.”

- C. A saved person is not under the law because Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believes. Christ does not set a person free from the law so he can do whatever he chooses. Christ sets a person free from the law so he can do righteousness for God.

ROM 10:4, “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”

- D. A saved person is instructed to fulfill all the law by loving other Christians. If the saved person has a carnal mind, he will only look to see what he can get from other Christians. His acts of affection are self-centered seeking something from others instead of looking to give them the things of God.

ROM 13:8-10, “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

- IV. A saved person that has a carnal mind cannot please God. After a person is saved he should be spiritually-minded and motivated to please God. When a saved person works to please God he will have life and peace.

ROM 8:6-8, “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

- A. After a person is saved he should change his mind from living for his own life and choose to live to please God and others.

ROM 15:1-3, “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his

good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.”

- B. After a person is saved he should change his mind and live to be a servant of Christ, and not live to please men.

GAL 1:10, “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.”

SECTION ONE A BELIEVER’S PERCEPTION OF THE FLESH

INTRODUCTION:

When a person gets saved God gives him a new life. It is a major battle to get him to realize that his old earthly life is no longer his purpose for living. After a person is saved he should change lives and live his new sinless life. This is a major undertaking because his old sin life still wants to be the purpose of his existence. The battle is now between his old life and his new life to determine his purpose for living.

ROM 4:1-25, “What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also: And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our

father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised. For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”

- I. A saved person should reject the bad features contained in his old life and cling to the things of his new life. If a saved person will only look at his two lives, he will realize the character of Adam (sin life) and the character of Christ (spiritual life) and should choose Christ.
 - A. A saved person should give up his old life and choose his new life. His new life goes to God with a humble heart knowing that God sees him through mercy. His old life is self-righteous and proud and tries to do everything, including religious works, in its own power.

LUK 18:9-14, “And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I

give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

- B. A saved person should *not* look at the commandments of men, which are based on traditions, that renders the Word of God of no effect. He should choose to live his new life.

MAR 7:1-13, “Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, *teaching for doctrines the commandments of men*. For laying aside the commandment of God, *ye hold the tradition of men*, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; *Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.*”

- II. A saved person should not follow his old life which is governed by self-confidence and pride. The new saved life is in God's grace and capable of accomplishing righteous works.

- A. God challenges a saved person not to live his old life which has a form of godliness, while trusting in the power of man instead of God.

2TI 3:1-5, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

- B. God challenges a saved person to depart from his old life because it is controlled by proud people—whether they are saved or not. God resists the proud and when a saved person joins himself to those God resists, the saved person's life also receives a portion of God's resistance. It is amazing how quickly a carnally-minded person will join himself to another who is proud and self-righteous.

1PE 5:5, “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

- C. God challenges a saved person to depart from his old life because it adheres to ignorance about God's righteousness in order to maintain its own self-righteousness. A saved person should believe with all his heart the righteousness of God.

ROM 10:3-4, 10, “For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth....For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

- III. God allows saved people to fall in order to show them that they have no righteousness of their own. Christians who retain their old life with its self-righteousness continually fall; they do not realize God is allowing these times to help them turn from or reject their earthly life.

ROM 7:18, “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”

- A. A saved person should not surrender his human body to his old life of unrighteousness. A saved person has two lives inside his body, and when he allows his body to perform unrighteousness, he is yielding it to become a servant to sin and is doomed to fall.

ROM 6:13, 16, “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. ... Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

- B. A saved person should understand that righteousness comes from God and is given to a person with the new spiritual life and is guaranteed to succeed.

PHI 3:9, “And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:”

- IV. Many times a saved person does not realize that the sentence of death still applies to his fleshly carnal life. He assumes that the conviction or the sentence of sin (the act of finding someone guilty of an offense) only pertains to the lost people of the world. If a person continues in his old sin life he is continuing in the condemnation placed upon the sin.

- A. A saved person needs to recognize that the reason sinners are condemned is because of their sins. If God condemns the actions of sin, then a saved person will also suffer the consequences from God's condemnation when He condemns the sin actions.

1TI 5:19-20, “Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.”

1CO 11:28-32, “But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves,

we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.”

B. God rebukes and chastens those He loves in order to produce repentance.

Chastisement is what a parent does to a child to cause him to follow his instructions. Chastening and condemnation are not the same thing because chastisement works to cause a person to change *toward what is right*.

Condemnation is judgment or punishment for wrongdoing. When a saved person directs his heart toward God, he welcomes chastisement because it works to redirect his actions toward God.

REV 3:19, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”

V. If a saved person thinks he is stronger or better than others, he is elevating his carnal self-flesh, not realizing that his flesh is no better than the lost man. Salvation makes everyone children of God, but the old carnal life always sees itself as better than others.

A. The new life in every saved person esteems others better than themselves. Any time a saved person thinks he is better than others he is back in his old sin life.

PHI 2:3, “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

B. Every person (whether saved or lost) is under (controlled by) sin in their carnal life and one carnal life is no better than the another in the eyes of God.

ROM 3:9, “What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;”

BUILDING SPIRITUAL CHRISTIANS

Division V

Living The Godly Life

Lesson Fourteen

Walking In The Holy Spirit And Not The Flesh

Section One

INTRODUCTION

MAR 10:17-27, “And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? And Jesus looking upon them saith, ***With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.***”

The man was trusting in his own riches and was not able to give up the power the money had given him. Jesus made it clear that he was lacking one thing, which was the ability to get eternal life on his own. God is able to do what no man can do, which is to change the power in which a person trusts. Jesus said that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a man who trusts in the things of this earth to get eternal life.

Those who are saved have been given joint power to enable them to live the Christian life—the power of the cross and the power of the Holy Spirit.

- I. Jesus' death on the cross continually works in the life of a saved person. A saved person still has his sin nature that continues to do illicit (prohibited, unlawful) actions of sin. Every action of the sin nature is covered by the cross and gives a saved person the continued victory over all sin. To live a Christian life it is crucial that a saved person realize he is weak and has no power of God outside of the cross.

2CO 12:9-11, “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.”

- A. A saved person has ***God's power*** which is the same power that resurrected Jesus. God wants every one of His children to conform to the death of Jesus (submitted to God - die to self) so sin can no longer have control of them.
- PHI 3:10, “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”
- B. A saved person has ***peace with God*** through the blood of Jesus which was shed on the cross. Before salvation there is no peace between a person and God. Once a person personally accepts the blood of Jesus Christ, applying it to himself and is saved, that person can have peace by *continually remembering* it is the blood of Jesus Christ that produces peace with God.
- COL 1:20, “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.”
- C. A saved person's sinful flesh was put to death at the point of salvation. If a saved person recognizes that the sin nature with its deeds was put to death (mortified)

then he has been set free from control of sin and allows the Holy Spirit to give him the power to live a Christian life.

ROM 8:13, "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."

- II. The Holy Spirit has no instrument other than the cross to overcome the flesh. When a saved person commits actions of sin, there is nothing the Holy Spirit can do except point him back to his salvation. There is no additional power to overcome sin, so no matter how much a person prays and begs for the power of God to overcome sin, God always points him back to the cross.

CO 11:23-26, "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do *in remembrance of me*. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, *in remembrance of me*. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

PH 2:11-13, "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh *by the blood of Christ*."

- A. For a Christian to be a disciple of Christ he must deny himself and die to self by taking up his own cross (which is dying to self). Dying to self means a person has to give up all of his life, realizing that it stops existing at the point of salvation. Jesus made it clear that the only way to have a Christian life was for a person to lose or give up his own life. Jesus asked them what profit there was if a man gains the whole world but loses his own soul. The only way a saved person can live his new life is by realizing his old life has ended and is dead to God.

MAR 8:31-38, “And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for *thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men*. And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, *let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me*. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but *whosoever shall lose his life* for my sake and the gospel's, *the same shall save it*. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

- B. The preaching of the cross is the power of God to overcome sin for the saved person. There are no words of wisdom that can give a person the power or victory over sin. Only what Christ did on the cross will give true spiritual victory.

1CO 1:17-18, “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

- C. A Christian should glory in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. Once a saved person realizes the power of his salvation, he has nothing to glory in. His works are dead; his accomplishments are dead, his failures are dead; everything in his old life is dead. A saved person should realize the only thing he can do is give glory to what Jesus Christ did when He died on the cross.

GAL 6:14, “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”

- III. The Holy Spirit works with the spirit of a saved person, not his flesh. The Holy Spirit points a saved person to the cross to deal with sin, and at the same time gives a saved person the power of God to enable him to do the works of God. Every work of God is a miracle that takes place when God works through the spirit of a saved person to show Christ to others.

ROM 15:13, “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”

- A. A Christian must understand that what is born of the Spirit is spirit. The God part of a saved person is the born again spirit and is the part of a saved person God works with.

JOH 3:6, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

- B. Christians must understand that if they are truly worshiping God, they must worship Him in spirit and truth, not with the flesh. God does not accept worship from the sin nature because He knows that any worship the sin nature does has a selfish motive, not a pure motive of adoration.

JOH 4:23-24, “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

- C. A Christian's born-again spirit is willing to serve God, but his flesh is weak. Remember when Jesus was in the garden praying while his disciples went to sleep. He knew their flesh was weak and had taken control of their actions. He had told them to pray but their born-again spirits were overpowered by their human flesh. He knew their spirits were strong enough, but recognized that they had fallen into the flesh instead of doing what He had told them. MAT 26:38, “Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.”

MAT 26:41, “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

- IV. The Holy Spirit seeks to keep a saved person's sinful flesh under death. The power of sinful flesh is the law and always works to bring the law to life. If the flesh can bring the law to life, it has the power to control the saved person's life.
- A. When a Christian recognizes his "sin" flesh nature is dead, he can serve in newness of spirit and not in the letter of the law. The law puts a person's spirit in prison and completely restricts it from the freedom it needs to do the work of the Lord. The Holy Spirit works to keep a saved person free from sin. ***The battle every saved person fights is the battle between being free to sin and being free from sin.***
- ROM 7:6, "But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."
- B. A Christian should understand that his sinful flesh has fleshly wisdom. The truth of God is very simple and many times a saved person will reject it because it is simple. The sinful flesh tries to make everything complicated and confusing. The Holy Spirit brings godly sincerity to help others, not self-centeredness.
- 2CO 1:12, "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward."
- C. A Christian should understand that his earthly flesh has a strong dedication to be in control. The flesh makes new laws that have no purpose other than to satisfy itself. If a saved person keeps all the laws of men and God, that person will still not have peace with God. The Holy Spirit knows this and works to keep a saved person focusing on the cross of Jesus for a right relationship with God.
- COL 2:20-23, "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh."

V. The Holy Spirit will do a most holy and wonderful work in a saved person if the saved person chooses to live *by faith and obedience* to his salvation.

A. If a saved person lives in the Spirit it is evident because he will walk in the Spirit. Walking in the Spirit keeps a person from desiring vain glory or provoking and envying others. In the Spirit there is no fighting for power or authority.

GAL 5:25-26, “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.”

B. A saved person should search the Scripture that he might know the things that are freely given to the children of God. Please take note that the things of God are given freely from God's grace. If there is a cost, it didn't come from God. God has no need for anything from man.

1CO 2:12, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”

C. Christians are made ministers of the New Testament—not the law. Christians are to minister the things of the Spirit, not the letter (law) because the law puts a person back under death. Anytime a saved person ministers the law to others he is destroying their Christian life and sentencing them to death (put into death).

2CO 3:6-8, “Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?”

SECTION TWO CHOOSING NOT TO WALK IN THE FLESH

2CO 10:1-18, “Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For

though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's. For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed: That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters. For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present. For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ: Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand. But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.”

INTRODUCTION:

There are eight things listed in this chapter to help a saved person understand what it is to walk in the spirit. All who are saved need to discern the difference between religious flesh and godly spirit.

- A. A saved person should not walk in the flesh or he will think everyone is walking in the flesh.

Verse 2 “...which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.”

- B. A saved person should not try to fight flesh with flesh.
Verse 3 "...we do not war after the flesh:"
- C. A saved person should not try to revenge Christ.
Verse 6 "...when your obedience is fulfilled.
- D. A saved person should realize he is in Christ, which will cause him to look at others differently.
Verse 7 "Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's."
- E. A saved person should understand that all his spiritual authority is to be used for edification.
Verse 8 "For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:"
- F. A saved person should not compare himself with others because he will end up commending himself.
Verse 12 "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."
- G. A saved person should use God's measurement when comparing one with another.
Verse 13 "But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you."
- H. A saved person should glory in the Lord, not self.
Verse 17 "But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."
- I. The sinful flesh uses things to retain the control of a saved person. Sinful flesh wants to be free of restraint so it can sin and then capture the saved person with the law. It will make sure there is a supply of sinful articles to use in the process of controlling a saved person.

- A. A saved person should **not** use the liberty that God gave him to satisfy the flesh. Liberty was given so a saved person can serve the things of God to others, not to commit sin.

GAL 5:13, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."

- B. A saved person should not make provision for the flesh so that it can fulfill its lust. (provision - forethought, to consider in advance) The flesh will collect things for the future to make sure it has a support of its sin. (alcohol, drugs, pornography, food, etc.)

ROM 13:14, "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

- II. A saved person should purify himself from the pollution of the flesh and carnal spirit. A dead spirit worships self, which is humanism. There are many things on this earth that can be used by humanity and by Satan to take the control of a saved person's life. Every earthly thing works to keep a saved person from serving God or from getting the victory over his sinful flesh.

- A. A saved person's human flesh has a will. It wants to go to heaven and will not give up trying to find some way to believe it is going to Heaven. After someone gets saved, his sinful flesh becomes envious wanting to go with a saved person's soul. It cannot go to Heaven, no matter how good it is, how hard it works, how much education it gets, or wealth it gains. If a person's sinful flesh could accept this it would give up, knowing everything it does is hopeless. But the sinful flesh cannot and will not accept this.

JOH 1:12-13, "12 But as many as received him, to them gave *he power* to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the *will of the flesh*, nor of the will of man, but of God."

- B. A saved person's earthly life has a will. (It also works for salvation) A saved person's human will works to impress humanity and substitutes going to Heaven by pleasing mankind.

JOH 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the *will of man*, but of God.

- C. Satan has a will for man as well. Satan's will is to take captive the saved person and prevent him from serving God. *His tool is the flesh* and its adherence to earthly things. Satan will use anything and everything of the earth to control a saved person's life.

2TI 2:26, “And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”

- D. God has a will for every man (present yourself to God–Lordship). A saved person should understand what God wants is for the saved person to simply give his body (physical life) to God for God to use as it pleases Him.

ROM 12:1-2, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”