

New Life in Christ



by

Duane L. Anderson

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We were Created in the Image of God

The Creation of Man Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (NKJV)

God and Man in Fellowship

Holy Spirit	spirit
Father	soul
Son	body

When God said "Let Us make man in Our image," this was a conversation between the three members of the Trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As a result, we were created with a spirit, a soul and a body. Before Adam and Eve sinned, there was perfect fellowship between them and God because they had both physical life and spiritual life. There was no separation between God and man.

The Choices Facing Man Genesis 2:16-17

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (NKJV)

Choices and Consequences facing man

Eat the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil	Don't eat fruit of the knowledge of good and evil
Die	Live

God gave man the choice to obey and live or disobey and die. That choice involved both physical and spiritual death. Spiritual death is the separation of man from God. We will see that spiritual death happened immediately as soon as man sinned. Physical death is the separation of the body from the soul and spirit. That happens at the time of physical death. The soul and spirit go immediately to heaven or hell.

Man Chose to Sin

The Choice Man Made Genesis 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; "but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (NKJV)

Satan's Attacks

He questioned the Word of God
He called God a liar

Three ways we are tempted Genesis 3:6

1. **the lust of the flesh**
the woman saw that the tree was good for food
2. **the lust of the eyes**
and that it was pleasant to the eyes
3. **the pride of life**
and a tree to be desirable to make one wise

I John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that *is* in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world.

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (NKJV)

Man made the choice to sin and experience the consequences of sin

Man Experienced the Spiritual Consequences of Sin

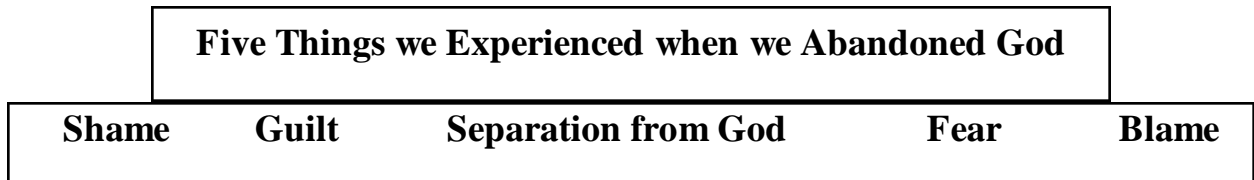
Separation from God Genesis 3:8

And they heard the sound 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 among the trees of the garden. (NKJV)



Isaiah 59:1-2

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, So that He will not hear. (NKJV)



Genesis 3:7-13

Shame Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. **Separation from God (and each other)** And they heard the sound 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 among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where *are* you?" **Fear** So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." **Guilt** And He said, "Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" **Blame** Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the LORD God said to the woman, "What *is* this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (NKJV)

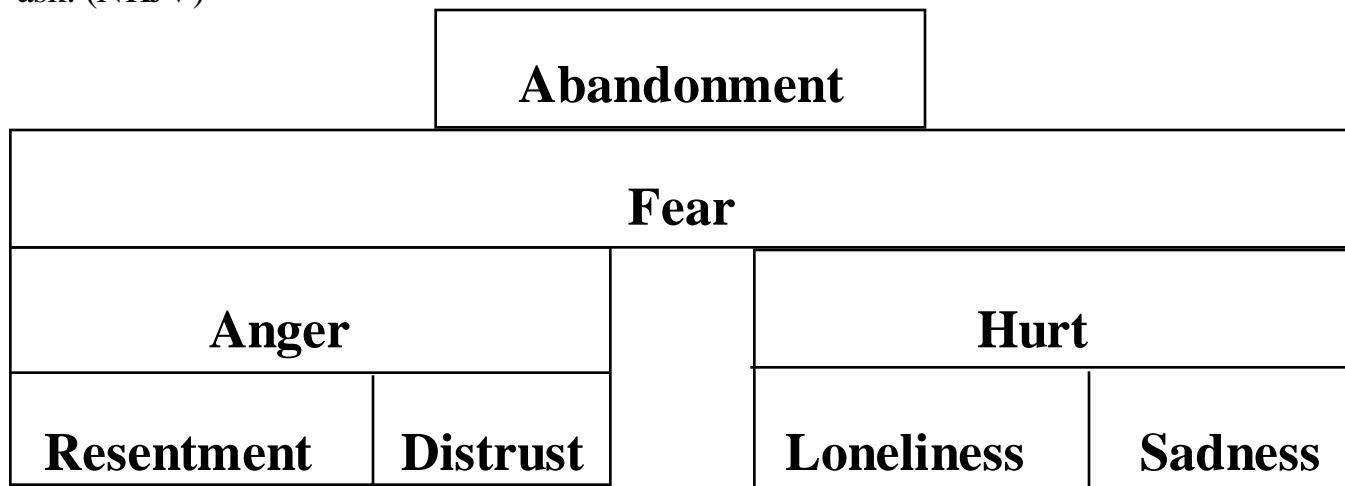
Sin also Caused Abandonment and Separation from One Another

Psalm 27:10

When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me. (NKJV)

James 4:1-2

Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires* for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. (NKJV)



One of the spiritual consequences of sin is the fact that it not only separated us from God, it also separated us from each other. This separation causes abandonment and fear. When we turn that fear outward, it becomes anger. When we turn our fear inward, it becomes hurt. Anger will produce resentment and distrust while hurt will produce loneliness and sadness. The following list gives us some common forms of abandonment.

Physical Abandonment	no one was there to be with us because of: absence abuse addictions
Mental Abandonment	no one was there to answer our questions
Social Abandonment	no one was there to show us how to develop good relationships with others
Emotional Abandonment	no one was there to listen and to understand us
Spiritual Abandonment	no one was there to lead us back to God

Man experienced the Physical Consequences of Sin

Physical Toil and Suffering

Toil and Suffering	
For Women	<p>Genesis 3:16</p> <p>To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire <i>shall be</i> for your husband, And he shall rule over you." (NKJV)</p>
For Men	<p>Genesis 3:17-19</p> <p>Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed <i>is</i> the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat <i>of</i> it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you <i>are</i>, And to dust you shall</p>

Physical Death

Genesis 5:5

So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. (NKJV)

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned -- (NKJV)

To the grave

body

To heaven or hell

spirit
soul

Christ Died to pay the Penalty for our Sin

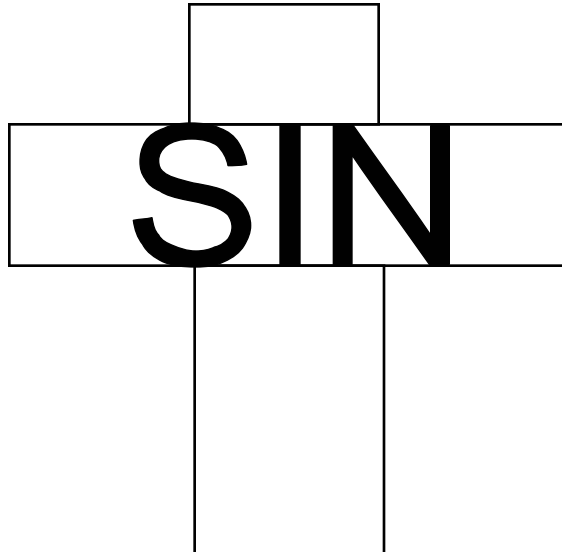
The penalty for our sin had to be paid to restore our relationship to God
Hebrews 9:22

And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. (NKJV)



The Father sent Christ to pay the penalty for our sin on the cross
John 3:16-17

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (NKJV)



John 3:18

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (NKJV)

The Father was Satisfied with the Payment

Propitiation means that which satisfies a Holy God

I John 4:10

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. (NKJV)

Hebrews 2:17

Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. (NKJV)

**The Father was satisfied with the blood of Christ
The Father showed He was satisfied with the blood
of Christ by raising Christ from the dead**

The Father had the stone rolled from the tomb to show that Christ is Risen

Luke 24:2-7

But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed *their* faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? "He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, "saying, "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' " (NKJV)

**Why do you seek the living among the dead?
He is not here, but is risen!**

**The
Tomb
was
Empty**

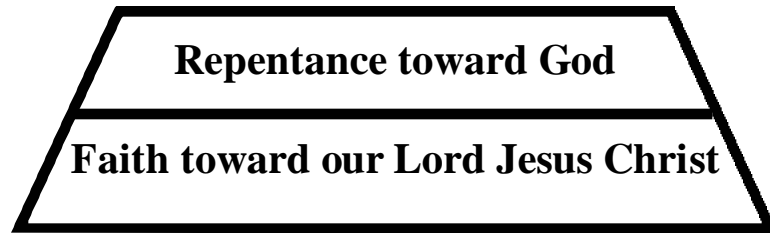
**The Stone
was
Rolled
Away**

To Accept Christ's Payment we must Repent of our Sin

Paul taught that salvation is based on repentance and faith

Acts 20:20-21

"How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, "testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

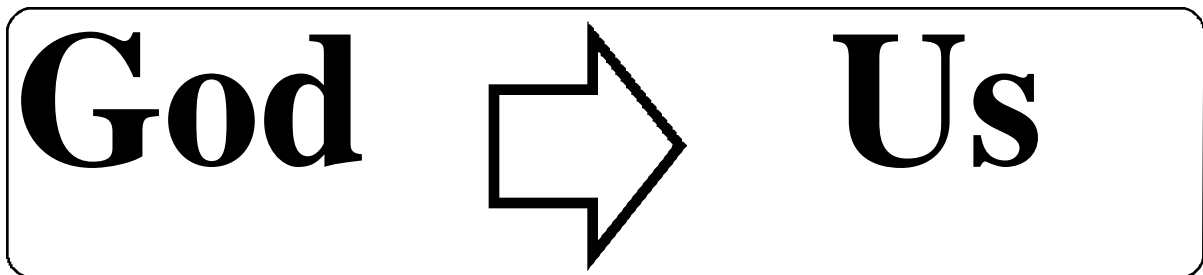


Repentance is a change of mind which produces a change of actions

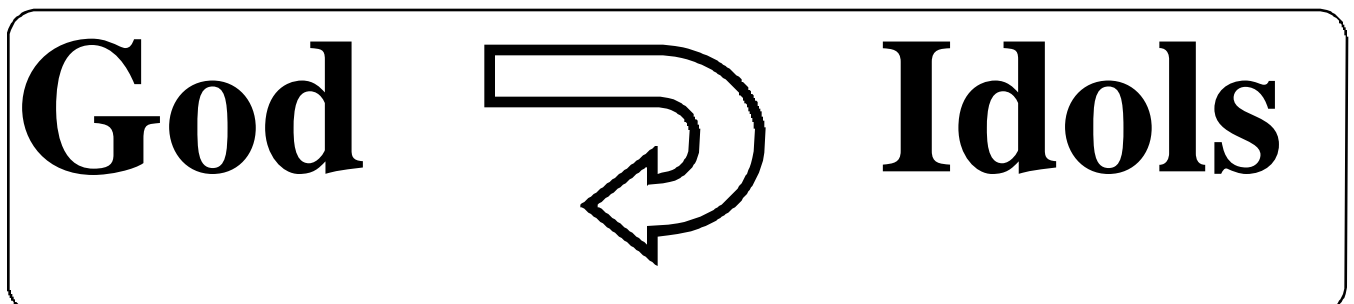
I Thessalonians 1:9

For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, (NKJV)

When Adam sinned we turned away from God and went our own way



In repentance we turn to God from idols to serve the living and true God



Understanding Saving Faith

Saving Faith is believing that Christ died for your sins, believing that God raised Christ from the dead and choosing to depend on Christ's payment for your sin and not your own efforts to be right with God. It includes three parts:

1. **A firm persuasion** based on hearing that what God has said about Christ and His death and resurrection are true. - I Corinthians 15:3-6

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. (NKJV)

2. **A personal surrender** to Him. - John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: (NKJV)

3. **A new walk** produced by such a surrender. - II Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight. (NKJV)

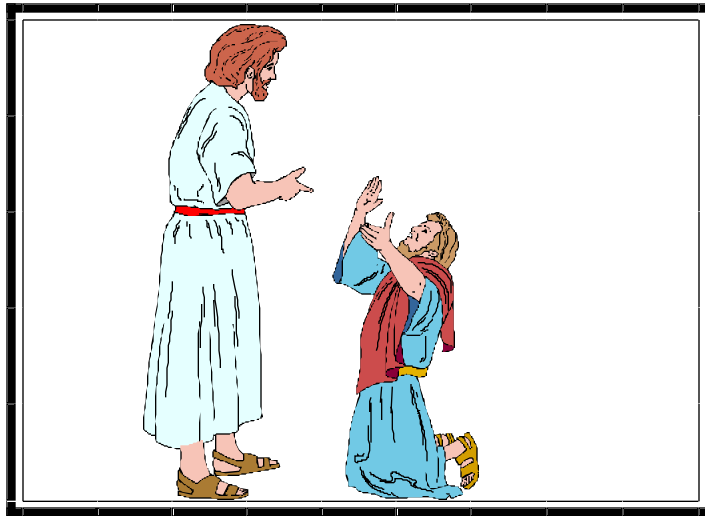
Believe	Surrender	New Walk
Do you believe: that Christ died for your sins that the Father was satisfied with Christ's payment and that the Father showed He was satisfied by raising Christ from the dead?	Have you surrendered: the control of your life to Christ so that He is now in charge instead of you?	Are you enjoying: a new walk in the strength that Christ provides instead of your own strength?

Repenting and placing our faith in Christ

We make the choice that the tax collector made

Luke 18:10-14

"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men -- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat 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 everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (NKJV)



What we do and believe

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (NKJV)

We confess with our mouth	Jesus is our Lord
We believe in our heart that	God raised Christ

We are promised salvation

Romans 10:13

For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." (NKJV)

We become a new Creation

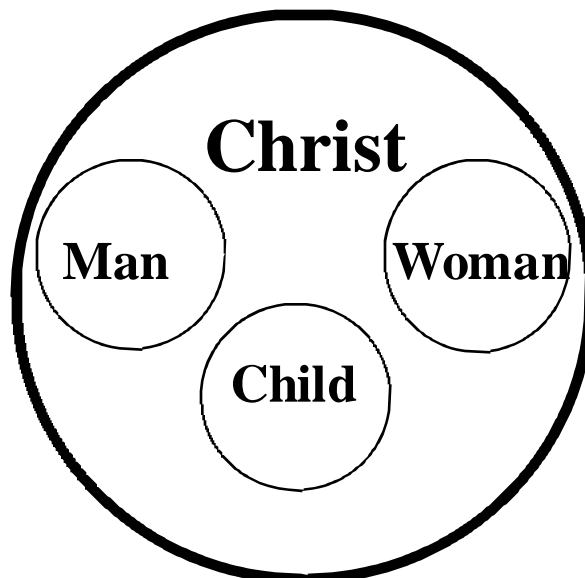
Before placing our faith in Christ, we were separated from God by sin
Isaiah 59:1-2

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, So that He will not hear. (NKJV)



When we placed our faith in Christ, we became a new Creation
2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (NKJV)



When we placed our trust in Christ, we received forgiveness of sins
Ephesians 1:7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (NKJV)

We are given spiritual life

Our Former Condition

Ephesians 2:1

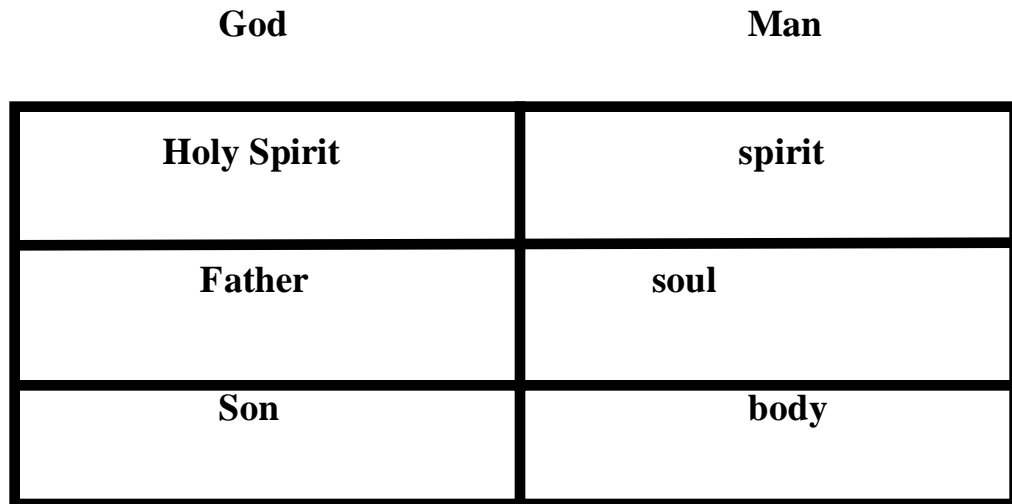
And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, (NKJV)



Our New Condition

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: (NKJV)



**We become children of God
We are made alive
We have our sins forgiven and blotted out**

Acts 3:19

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, (NKJV)

We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

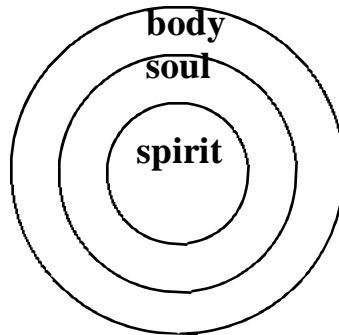
We lacked the Holy Spirit

II Peter 2:17

These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. (NKJV)

John 7:37-39

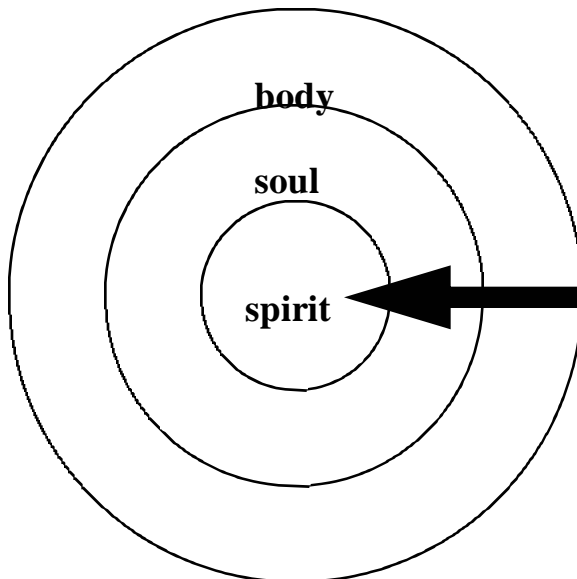
On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (NKJV)



**At the moment of salvation
we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Holy Spirit

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

Romans 8:16

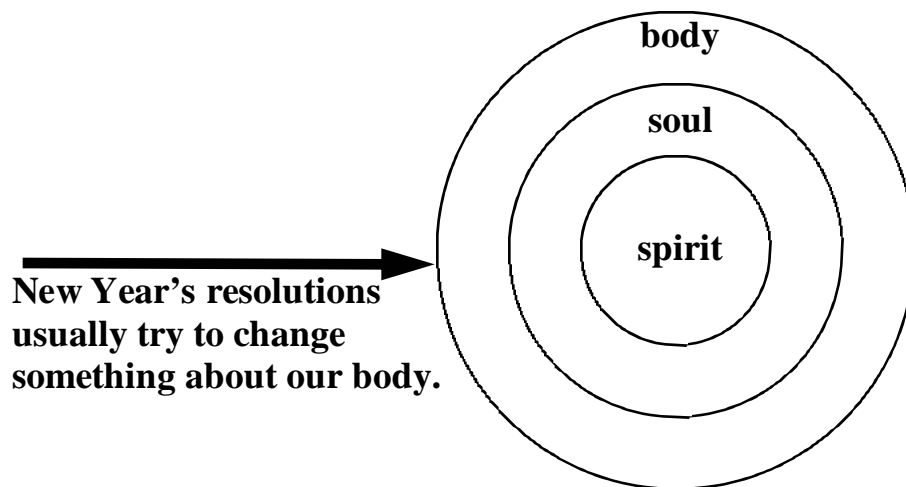
Trying to change before we became Christians

Most of the time

Occasionally (like New Year's)

no desire to change	a small desire to change (made New Year's resolutions)
no power to change	no power to change (broke New Year's resolutions)

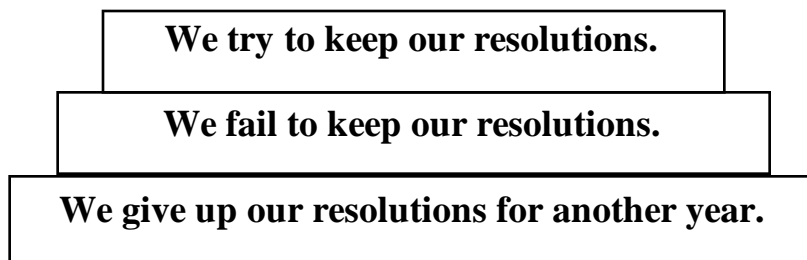
New Year's resolutions were usually about outside change



Typical New Year's Resolutions

We are going to go on a diet.
We are going to stop some bad habit.
We are going to start to exercise.

Typical results of New Year's Resolutions



Change is possible for Christians

Non-Christians	Carnal Christians	Growing Christians
no desire to change	desire to change	desire to change
no power to change	no power to change	power to change

Reason why non-Christians have little or no desire to change

Ephesians 2:1

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, (NKJV)

A spiritually dead person

has no desire to change	has no power to change
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Carnal Christians have a desire to change but no power to change

Romans 7:14-25

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. ¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good. ¹⁷ But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹ For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. ²⁰ Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ 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. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 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. (NKJV)

A Christian depending on his or her own strength

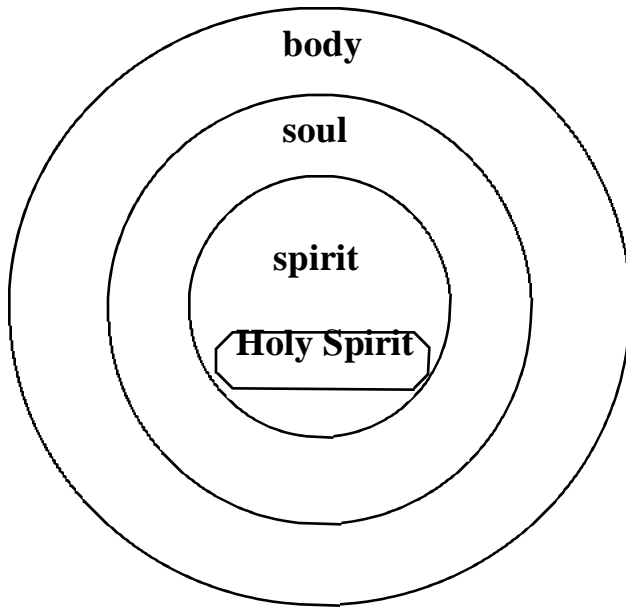
has a desire to change	has no power to change
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Change happens through the power of the Holy Spirit

Change cannot happen through our own strength

John 15:5

"I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (NKJV)



We grieve and quench the Holy Spirit when we depend on our own strength.

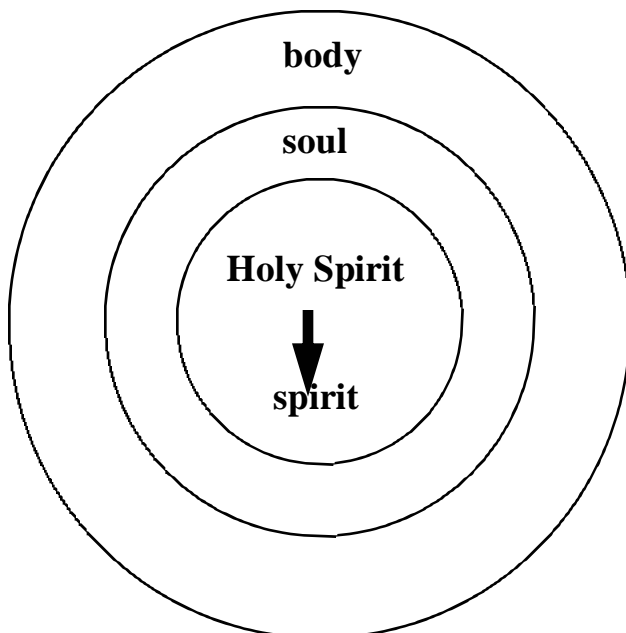
Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (NKJV)

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit. (NKJV)

Change happens as we learn to yield to the Holy Spirit

Romans 6:16

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? (NKJV)



Changes happen as we are led by the Spirit.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (NKJV)

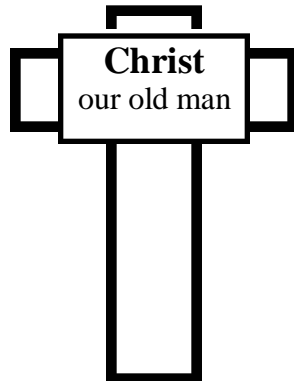
Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (NKJV)

Change happens as we Know, Reckon and Yield

We must know that our old man is crucified with Christ

Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. (NKJV)



1 Peter 2:24

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed.

We must reckon (rely on) the fact that we are dead to the control of sin and alive to the control of God in Christ

Romans 6:11

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NKJV) (to reckon means to know our sins were put to the account of Christ and He paid for them on the cross)

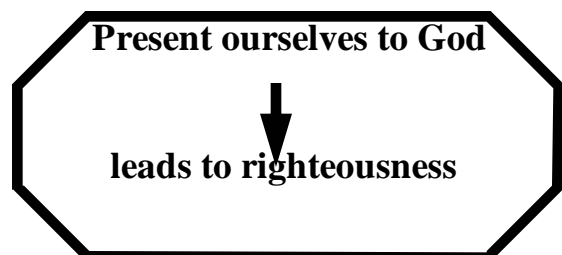
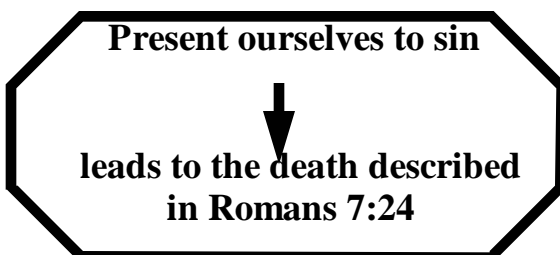
Dead to the power of sin	through Christ	Alive to the power of God
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We are now free to yield to the control of God

Romans 6:13, 16

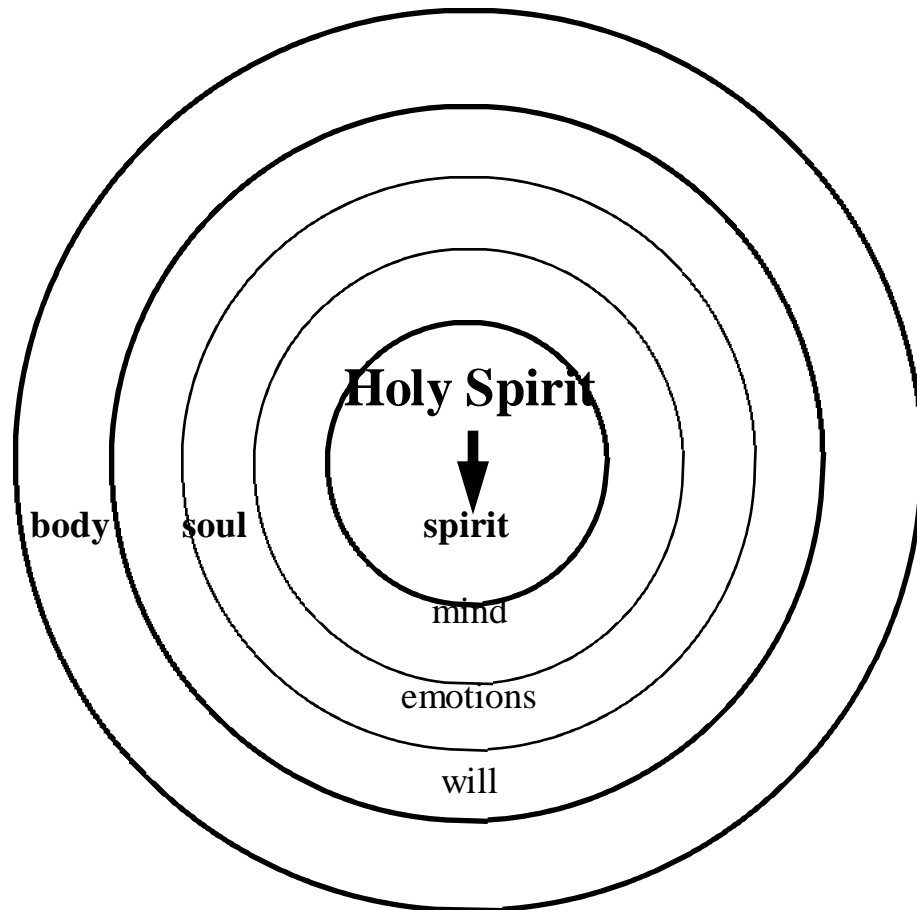
And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God...Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? (NKJV)

We are now free to present ourselves to God because we are alive from the dead



Understanding the Process of Spiritual Change

Change happens from the Inside Out



We are called to to walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (NKJV)

We are called to be led by the Spirit

Galatians 5:18

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (NKJV)

We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

We will see the Holy Spirit produce the fruit of the Spirit in our spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

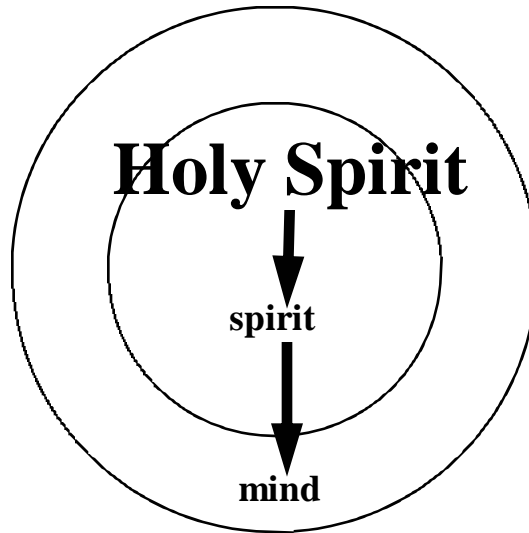
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (NKJV)

Spiritual Change transforms our minds and emotions

Change happens as we renew our minds

Romans 12:2

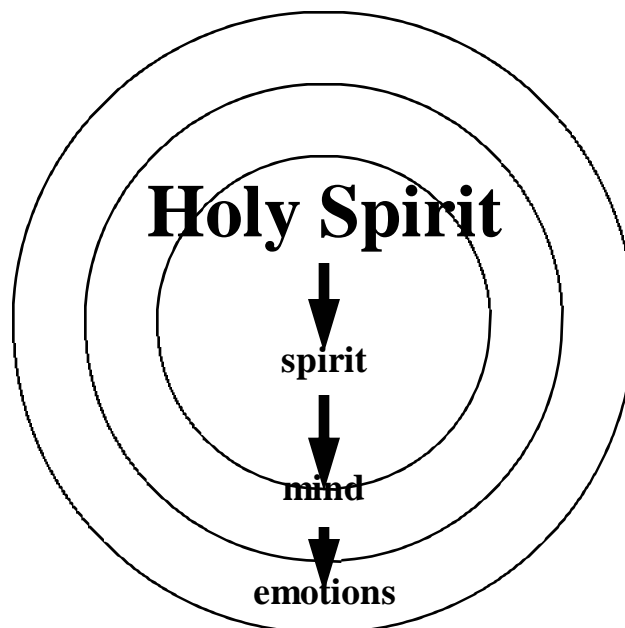
And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (NKJV)



Change happens as we are motivated by the love of Christ

II Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. (NKJV)

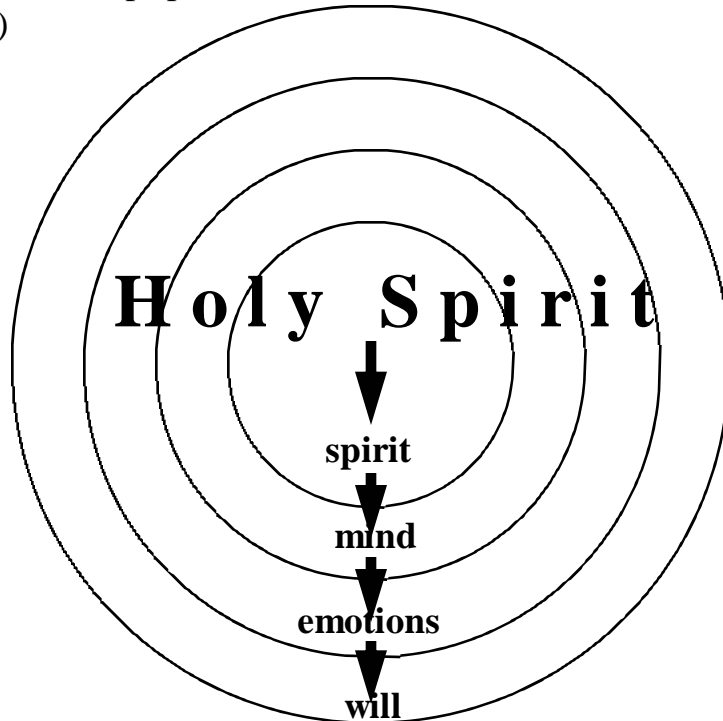


Spiritual Change transforms our wills and actions

Change happens as we submit our will to the will of God

Matthew 26:39

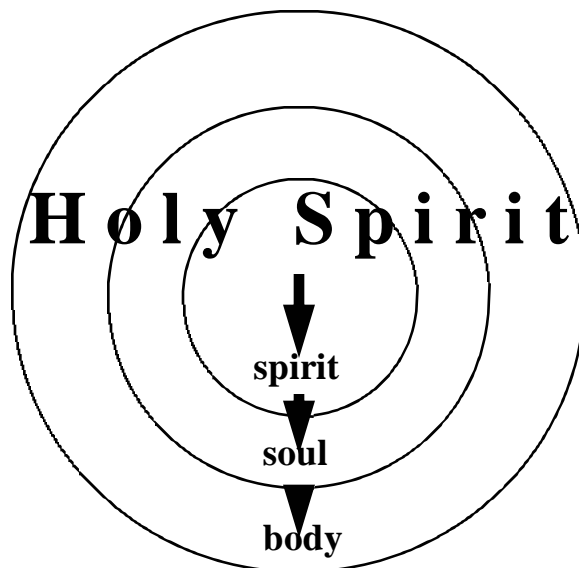
He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*." (NKJV)



Change happens as we yield our body to do the work of God

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (NKJV)



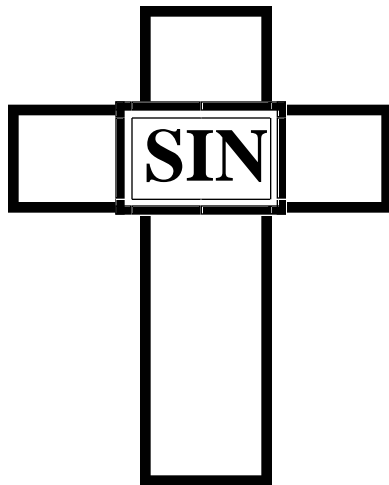
Why God forgives our sin

The meaning of forgiveness

the Greek word translated forgive
aphiemi - 863 # in Strong's Concordance
meaning:

to send away
to let go
to give up a debt
to forgive

Understanding what Christ did for us at the cross



1 Peter 2:24

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed. (NKJV)

Five things Christ did for us at the moment of salvation

He opened our eyes

He turned us from darkness to light

He turned us from the power of Satan to God

We received forgiveness of sins

We received an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Christ

Acts 26:18

"To open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in

What Christ does with our sins at the moment of salvation

Psalm 103:12

As far as the east is from the west, *So* far has He removed our transgressions from us. (NKJV)

He removes our sins as far as the east is from the west.

West ←————→ East

Micah 7:19

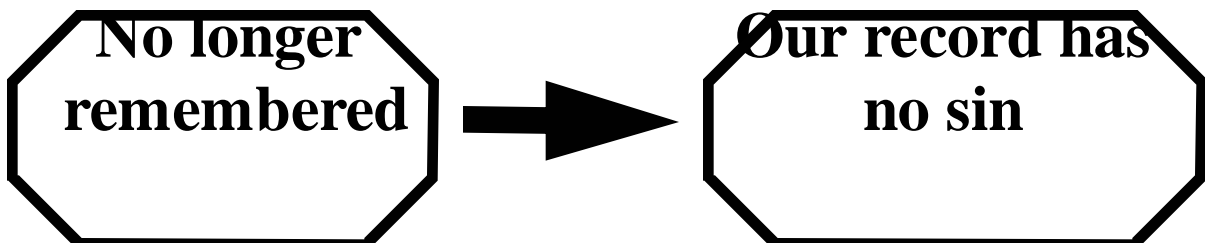
He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea. (NKJV)



Hebrews 10:15-17

But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, "This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," *then He adds*, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." (NKJV)

He no longer remember or holds our sins and lawless deeds against us



What about sins we will commit in the future?

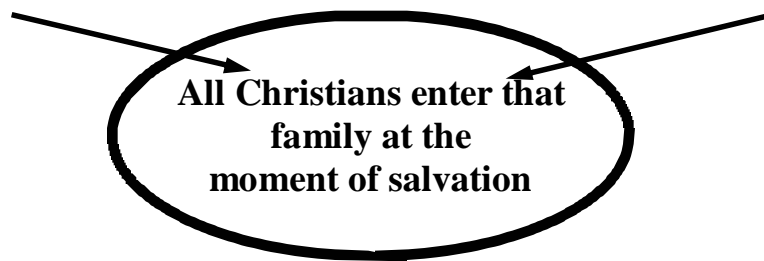
The difference between relationship and fellowship

At the moment of salvation we entered a new relationship with God

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together. (NKJV)

The family of Christ - The Church

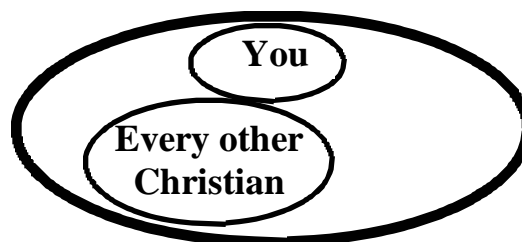


Nothing can separate us from that relationship because of the love of Christ

Romans 8:35-39

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 Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NKJV)

In Christ



II Corinthians 5:17

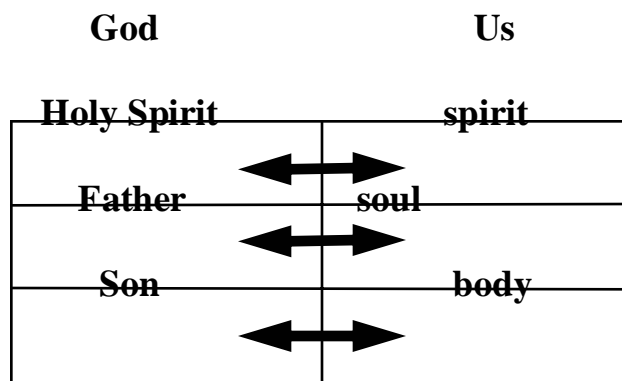
Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (NKJV)

Relationship and Fellowship

**God established our relationship with Him by putting us into the body of Christ.
Now we enjoy fellowship within that relationship
as we walk in the light and confess sin.**

**Fellowship happens as we share our life with God
I John 1:3-4**

That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. (NKJV)

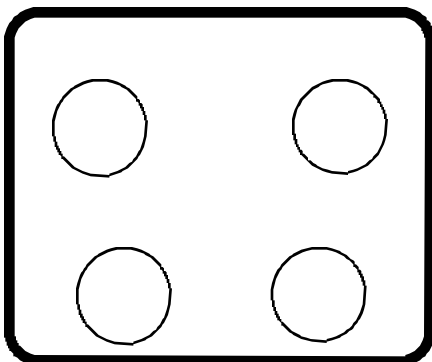


**Fellowship happens as we walk in the light
I John 1:5-6**

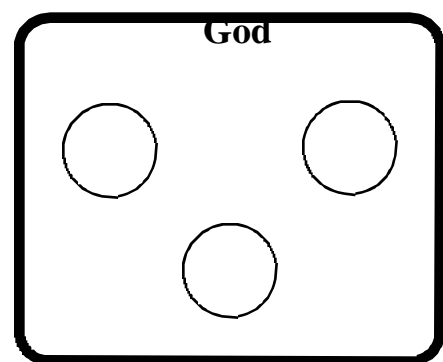
This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (NKJV)

God is Light

Those walking in darkness



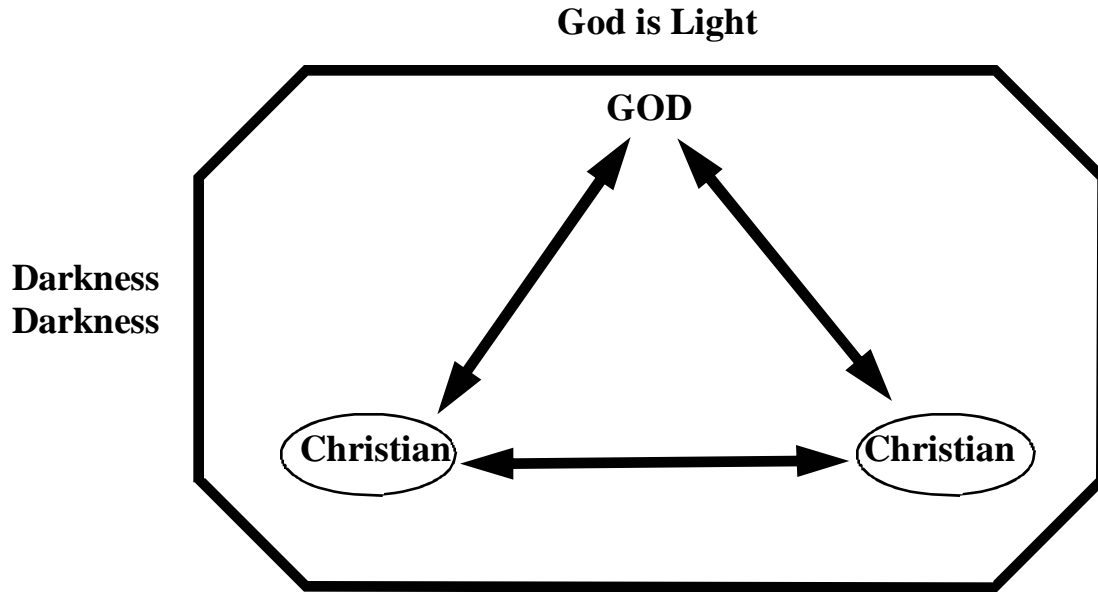
Those walking in the light



Fellowship happens with one another as well as with God

I John 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (NKJV)



Fellowship happens as we confess our sins

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (NKJV)

Our responsibility

Confess

our

sins

God's character

He is faithful - He will always do what He has promised.

He is just - it is right for Him to forgive because the penalty for sin was paid by Christ.

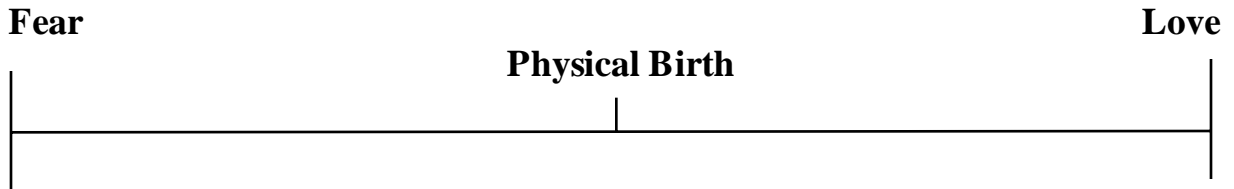
God's actions based on His character

He forgives

He cleanses

Why we were controlled by fear

At physical birth, we know neither fear or love.



However, two things caused us to begin moving toward fear.

1. Our own sin

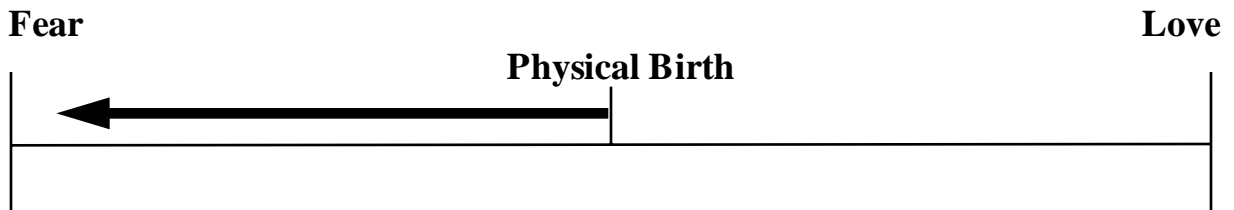
Genesis 8:21

And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. (NKJV)

2. The sins of others

Genesis 6:5

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (NKJV)



As a result, our lives became controlled by fear.

Hebrews 2:14-15

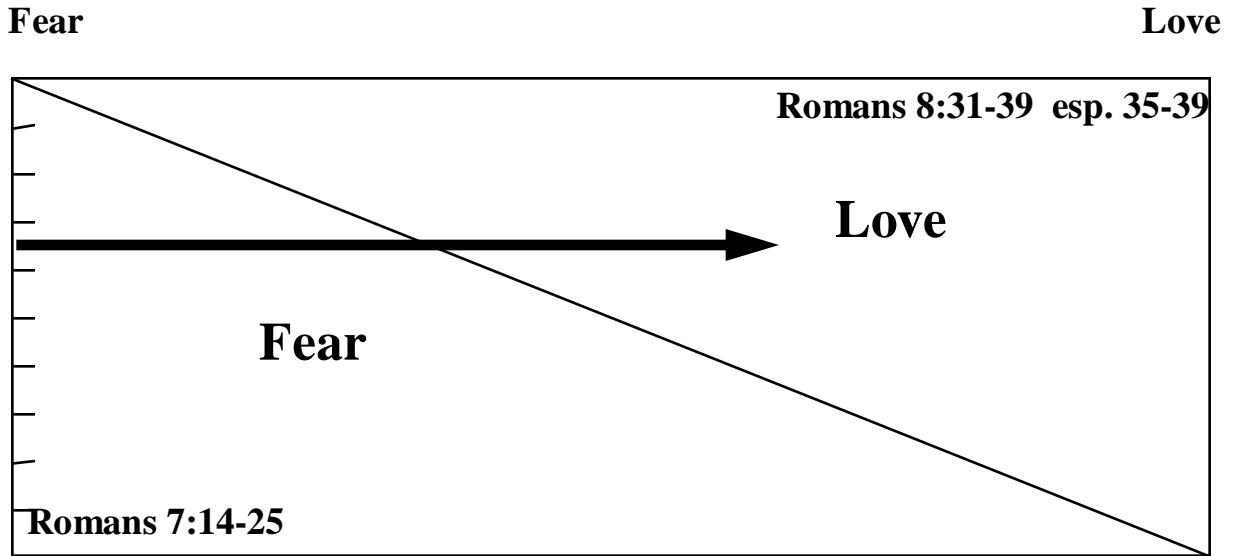
Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (NKJV)

This fear can only be cast out by love.

I John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. (NKJV)

How we begin to move from fear to love



We begin to move toward love as we:

Grow in our understanding of the love of the Father for us
I John 4:10

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (NKJV)

Grow in our understanding of the love of Christ for us
Romans 8:35-39

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 Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NKJV)

Grow in our understanding of our position in Christ
Ephesians 1:3-6

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. (NKJV)

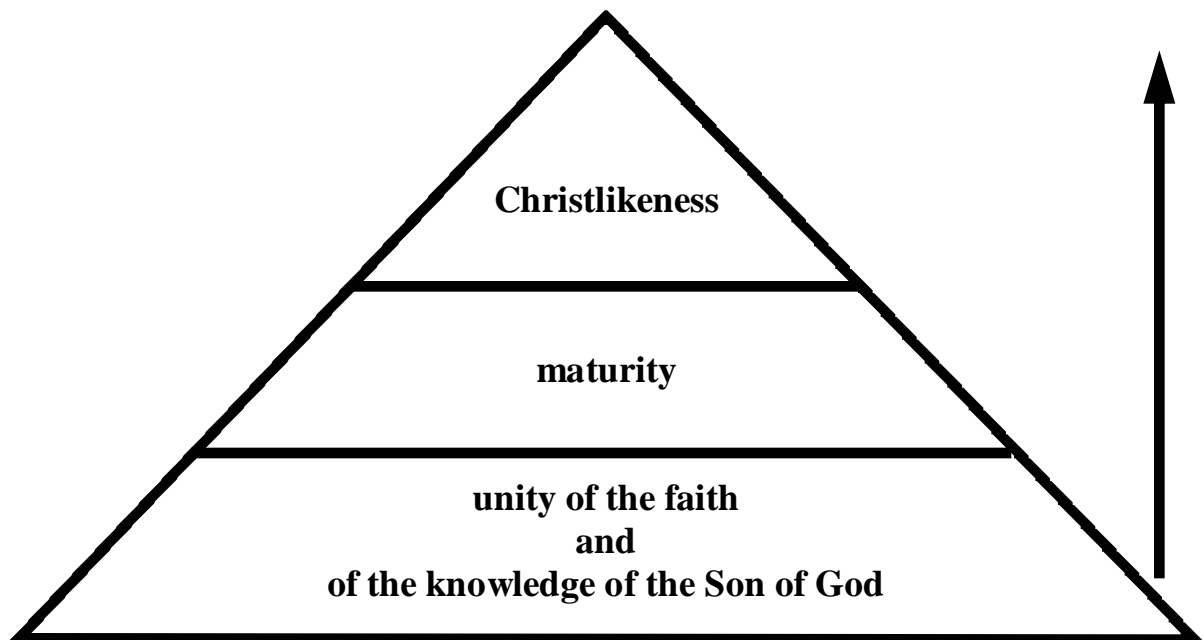
The desire and power to change and move toward love

summary of pages 14 and 15

	Desire to change	Power to change
The Non-Christian	little or no desire to change	no power to change
The Carnal Christian	desire to change	no power to change (depends on his own power)
The Growing Christian	desire to change	power to change (depends on the power of the Holy Spirit)

**Change for the Christian is actually growing in love and Christlikeness
Ephesians 4:13**

Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; (NKJV)



Change does not happen through our own efforts

Change cannot happen through outward effort

Colossians 2:20-23

Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as *though* living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations -- "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," which all concern things which perish with the using -- according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body, *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh. (NKJV)

Ways the world tries to change

Regulations	Commandments	Doctrines of Men
Do not touch Do not taste Do not handle	Self-imposed religion	False humility Neglect of the body
These have no value against the indulgence (satisfying) of the flesh.		



Ways some Christians try to change

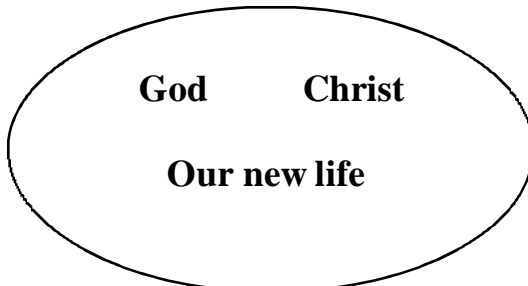
Regulations	Commandments	Doctrines of Men
Such false Christianity is based on things people do not do	Such false Christianity is based on keeping many rules	Such false Christianity is phony humility outward appearance
THESE HAVE NO VALUE IN PREVENTING THE CHRISTIAN FROM INDULGING OR SATISFYING THE FLESH.		

Change does happen through resurrection power

**We were raised with Christ at the moment of salvation
Colossians 3:1-4**

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (NKJV)

The things which are above



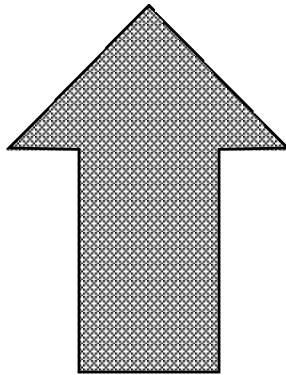
Seek the things above

Set your mind on the things above

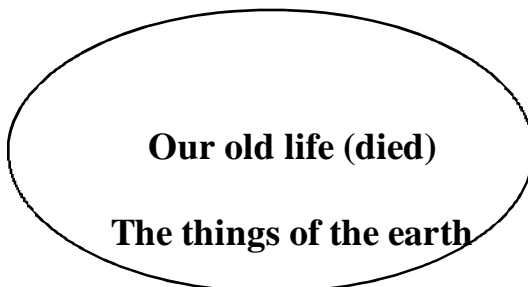
Isaiah 55:8-9

"For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (NKJV)

Thoughts

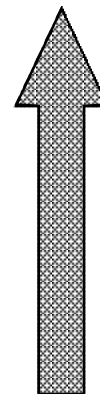


You as a Christian



God's

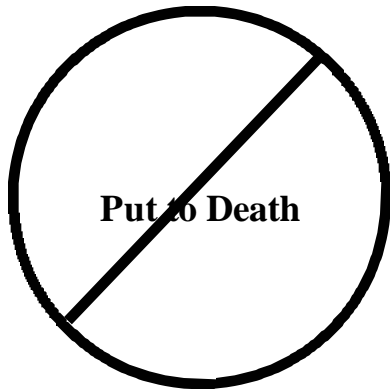
God's Ways



Man's thoughts

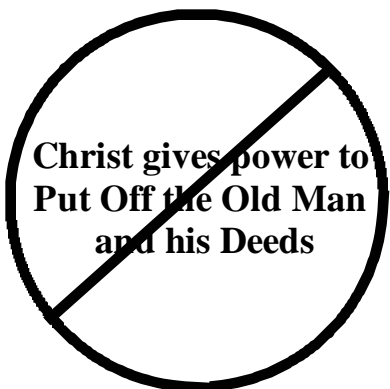
Man's ways

Resurrection power gives us power to put off and put on



Colossians 3:5-7

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. (NKJV)



Colossians 3:8-9

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his



Colossians 3:10-11

and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ *is* all and in all. (NKJV)



Colossians 3:12-13

Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. (NKJV)



Colossians 3:14

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (NKJV)

Understanding why worldly change is limited

The world can only deal with the body and soul because the human spirit is separated from the Holy Spirit by sin

Ephesians 2:1

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, (NKJV)

As a result, the world can only focus on the body and soul and cannot understand the sin nature

Mankind		What mankind sees
Body	Surface symptoms	Actions
Soul	Surface causes	Attitudes
spirit	Roots	Sin nature

How the world deals with sinful actions and attitudes

Mankind	What mankind sees	How mankind treats
Body	sinful actions	ignores, punishes or calls sin a disease and focuses on medical care
Soul	sinful attitudes	isolates or focuses on psychological care
spirit	sin nature	ignores

Understanding why roots are the key to change

Scripture lists two root symptoms of sin

Hebrews 12:15 - Bitterness

Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; (NKJV)

I Timothy 6:10 - Love of money

For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (NKJV)

Mankind

What God sees

Body	Surface symptoms	Actions
Soul	Surface causes	Attitudes
spirit	Root symptoms	Bitterness and/or Love of money

Scripture also gives the root cause of sin

Unbelief which separates man from the love of God

John 3:16-18

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (NKJV)

Mankind

What man experiences

Body	Surface symptoms	Sinful actions
Soul	Surface causes	Sinful attitudes
spirit	Root symptoms	Bitterness and/or Love of money
	Root cause	Separation from God

The most important key for change

Change can only happen as we take root in the love of Christ

As we grow in Christ, we are rooted and built up in Him

Colossians 2:6-7

As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. (NKJV)

Before Christ → In Christ → Walking in Christ



As we grow in Christ, we grow in our understanding of His love for us

Ephesians 3:17-19

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height -- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (NKJV)

Understanding the love of Christ for us causes us to begin to understand

The greatness of His forgiveness of our sins

Luke 23:34

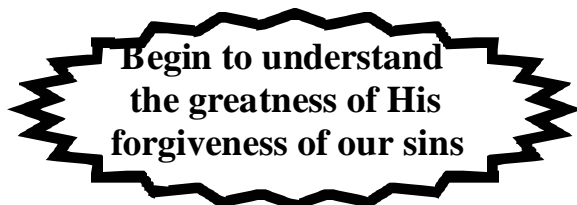
Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do..." (NKJV)

The greatness of His care for us

Philippians 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

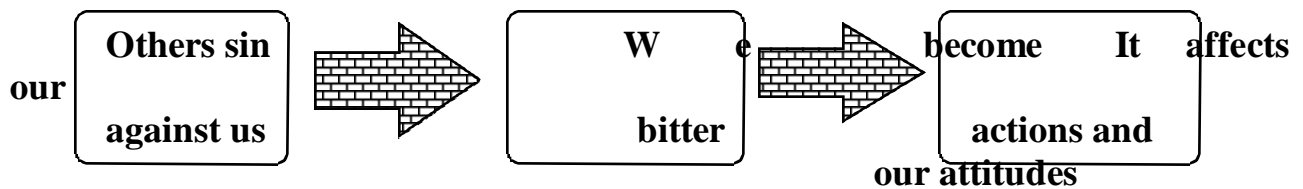
When we are rooted and grounded in Christ's love, we:



Understanding how a Root of Bitterness affects us

**Because of the sins of others toward us,
every one of us can develop bitterness
Romans 3:10-14**

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." "Their throat *is* an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps *is* under their lips"; "Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness." (NKJV)

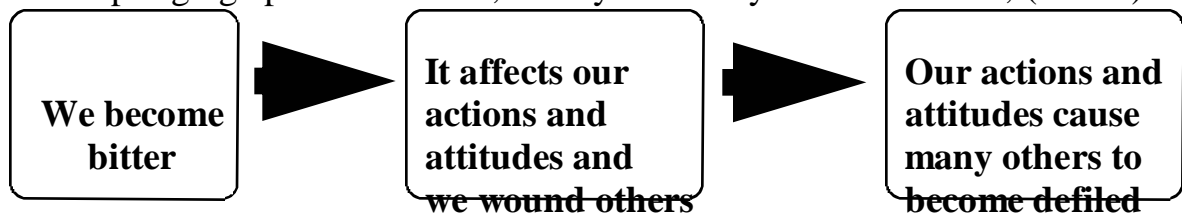


**This bitterness can even affect those who claim to be Christians
Acts 8:22-23**

"Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. "For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity." (NKJV)

Hebrews 12:15

Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; (NKJV)



**This causes us to wound the spirits of others
Proverbs 15:13**

A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. (NKJV)

Proverbs 17:22

A merry heart does good, *like* medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones. (NKJV)

Proverbs 18:14

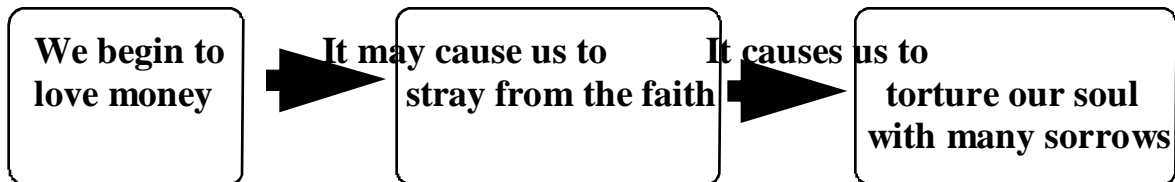
The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, But who can bear a broken spirit?

Understanding how a Root of Love of Money affects us

Because of our own greed, we often develop a love of money

I Timothy 6:10

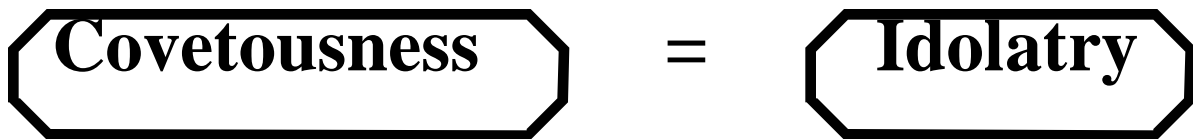
For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (NKJV)



Love of money becomes an idol that we worship

Colossians 3:5

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (NKJV)



Love of money and covetousness robs us of contentment

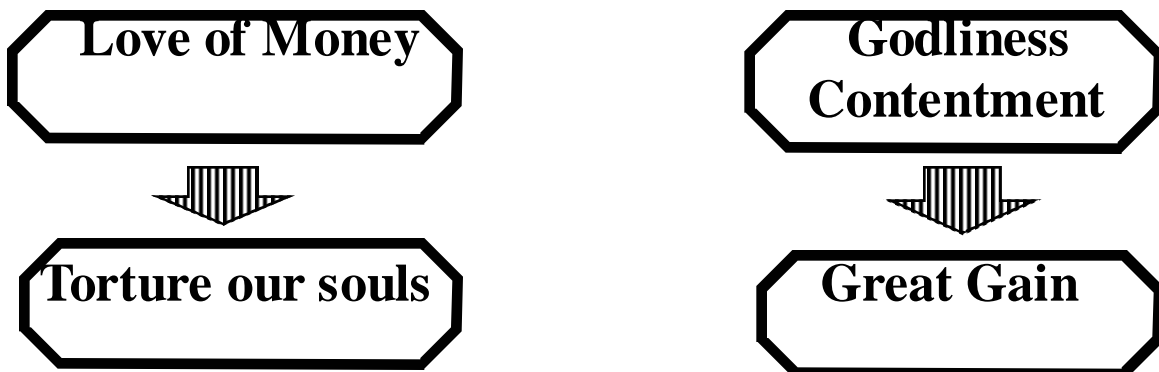
Hebrews 13:5

Let your conduct be without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (NKJV)

I Timothy 6:6-8

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. (NKJV)

Our choice



Roots and change

Our past roots produced fear and bondage

Hebrews 2:14-15

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (NKJV)

symptoms	Body	Sinful Actions	Surface
	Soul	Sinful Attitudes	Surface
symptoms	spirit	Bitterness and/or Love of Money	Root
		Fear and bondage Separation from God	

Root cause

New roots have the potential to change actions and attitudes

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (NKJV)

Body	New Actions	what others
	New Attitudes	
Soul ↑ inside	Forgiveness and Contentment	what we feel
	Christ's Love for us Fellowship with God	

Moving from bitterness to forgiveness

Remember what Christ did to break the power of sin over us

I Peter 2:24

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed. (NKJV)

Remember how Christ has forgiven us

Luke 23:34

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do..." (NKJV)

Realize that we have been commanded to forgive one another

Ephesians 4:30-32

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you. (NKJV)

Repent of our unwillingness to forgive

Acts 8:22-23

"Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. "For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity." (NKJV)

Remember that we have been given the power to forgive as we yield to God

Romans 6:16

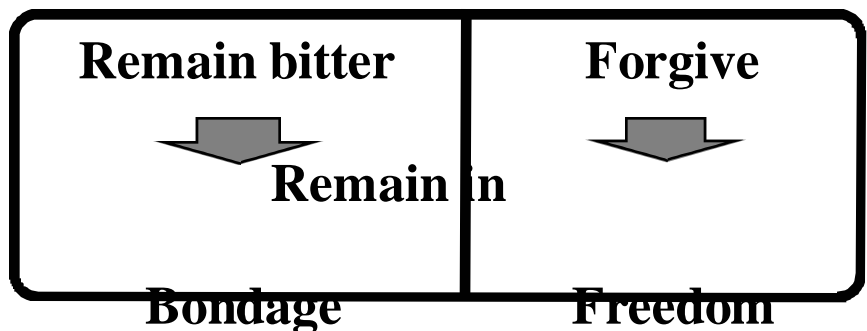
Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? (NKJV)

Choices and Consequences

Choices

Consequences

Experience



Moving from love of money to contentment

Remember that the love of money is a source of much sin

I Tim 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (NKJV)

Realize that God wants our character to be free from the love of money

Hebrews 13:5

Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you." (NASB)

Repent for letting the love of money control your life

Acts 8:17-22

Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! "You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. "Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. (NKJV)

Remember that contentment is the result Christian growth

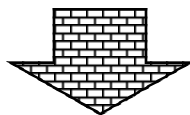
Philippians 4:10-11

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: (NKJV)

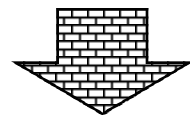
Choices and Consequences

Choices

**Let the love of money
control your life**



**Learn to be
content**



**Consequences
in the**

Remain in bondage

Rejoice

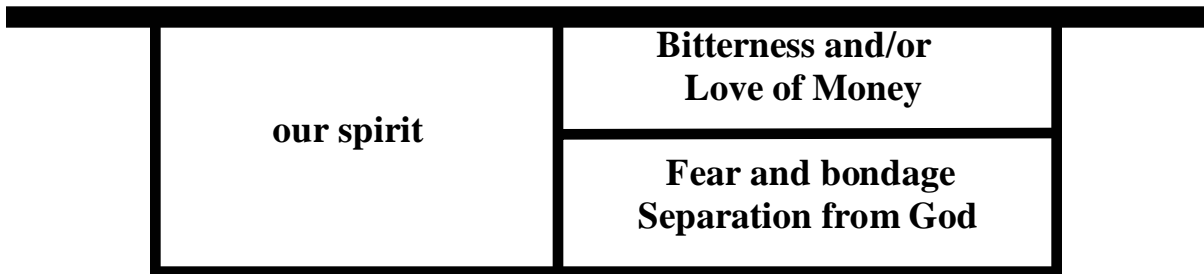
Results of dealing with roots in our lives

Old roots have passed away

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (NKJV)

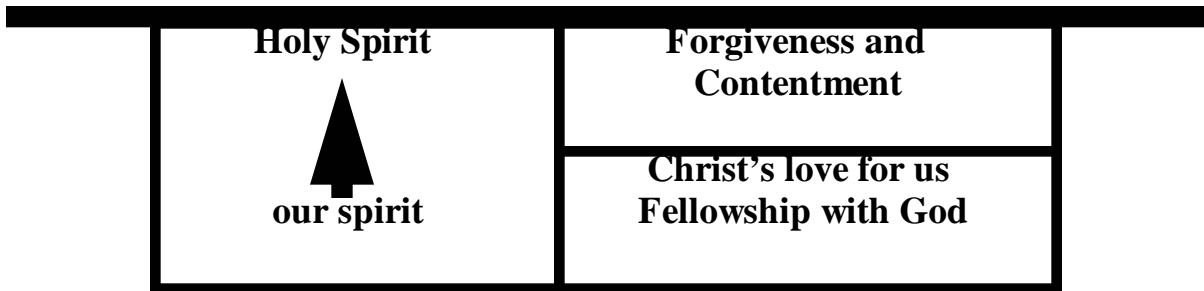
These roots no longer control our spirit



New roots develop in our spirit

Colossians 2:6-7

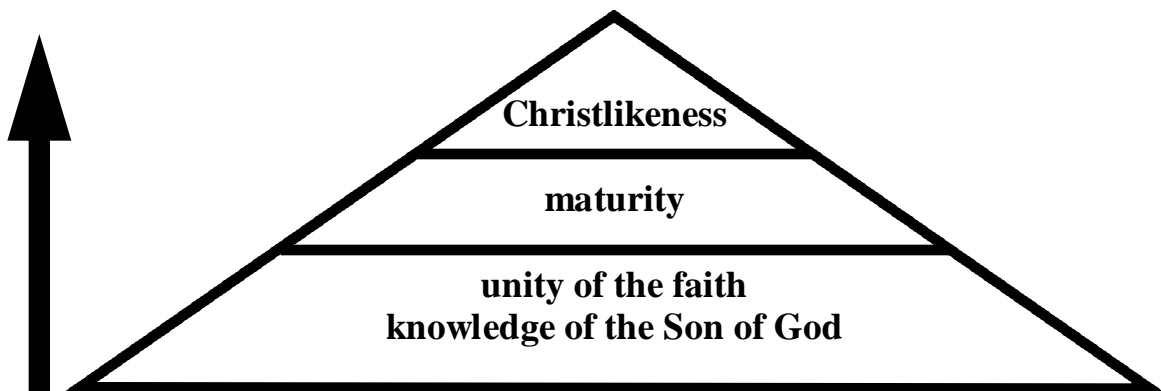
As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. (NKJV)



We grow in Christlikeness

Ephesians 4:13


Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; (NKJV)



Changed roots produce changed attitudes

**Growing in Christlikeness is developing the attitude of Christ in our lives
Philippians 2:5-8**

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. (NKJV)

our soul	an attitude of humbleness and obedience	our attitudes
Holy Spirit  our spirit	forgiveness and contentment	our root character
	Christ's love for us Fellowship with God	our root relationships

**Growing in Christlikeness is changing our attitudes toward others
Matthew 9:36-38**

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (NKJV)



We begin to see people as Christ saw people

**Christ saw the multitudes
and was moved with compassion**

Christ saw people

Christ saw people like sheep having no shepherd

Changed roots produce changed actions

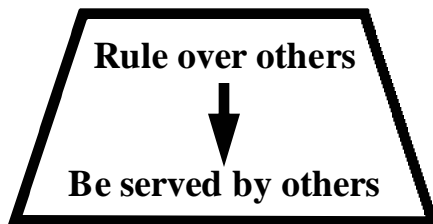
Growing in Christlikeness gives us a desire to serve others

Mark 10:42-45

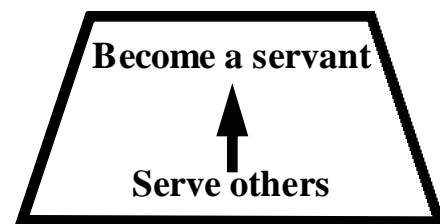
But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. "And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (NKJV)

Success and Greatness

From the world's viewpoint



From Christ's viewpoint



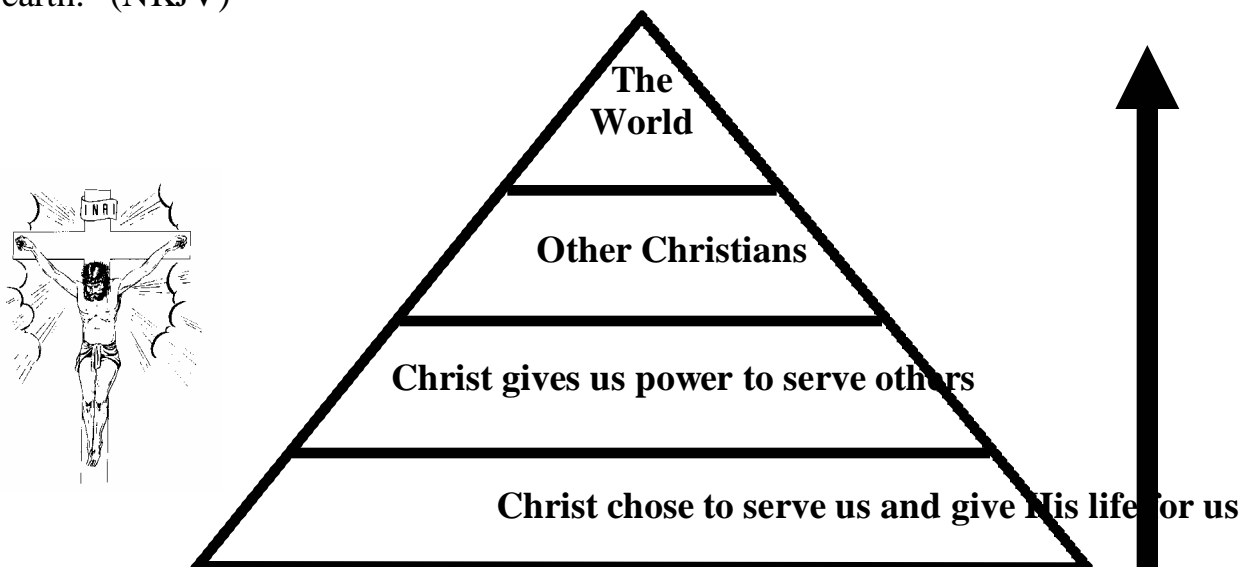
Growing in Christlikeness gives us the power to serve others

John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (NKJV)

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (NKJV)

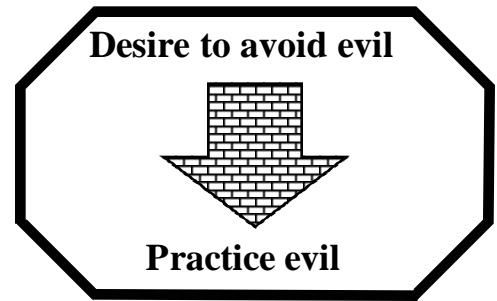
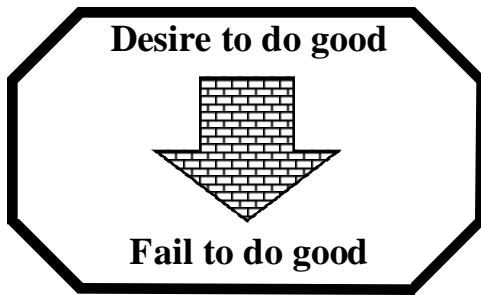


Dealing with stubborn sins and habits

Sometimes we struggle with a particular sin or habit

Romans 7:19-20

For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. (NKJV)



The Biblical way to deal with such a sin or habit

James 5:16-18

Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. (NKJV)

Realize that Christ can use other Christians to help us

**Realize the only requirement for answered prayer
is a right relationship with God**



Confess your sins to one another

Pray for one another

Trust God to give you victory

