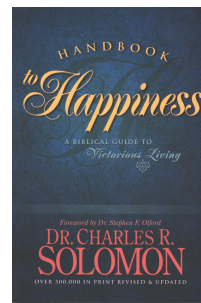


FOR ME
TO LIVE
IS
CHRIST
(Philippians 1:21)

A Primer On The
Life In Christ
For Group Study

A Companion Booklet to
Handbook to Happiness
(Tyndale House)



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For Me To Live Is Christ

(Philippians 1:21)

**For me to live is Christ;
In Him I have my being.
Contrary to sense data,
Believing now is seeing.**

**For me to live is Christ;
He is my only Source. (Colossians 3:4)
Allowing Him to live
Is life without remorse.**

**For me to live is Christ;
He is my Satisfaction.
Since I'm dead to sin, (Romans 6:7)
There's no other attraction.**

**For me to live is Christ;
He alone is my strength. (Philippians 4:13)
From sin and self to save me,
He'll go to any length.**

**For me to live is Christ;
He is my Supply. (Philippians 4:19)
He lives in Glory
And, in me, as I die. (Galatians 2:20)**

**For me to live is Christ;
He is my all in all. (Colossians 3:11)
My every need supplied
As on Him I call. (John 15:16b)**

**For me to live is Christ;
I've found in Him my rest. (Hebrews 4:9,10)
As I abide in Him, (John 15:5)
With peace and joy I'm blest. (John 14:27, 15:11)**

Preface

The forerunner of this booklet, utilizing Dr. Solomon's materials, was originally conceived and prepared for use by Rev. Richard Wiens at Woodbury Community Church near St. Paul, Minnesota. Rev. Stoney Shaw made additions and used it at Park Avenue Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Rev. John Shepherd made other changes and used it at Chilhowee Hills Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. Rev. John Woodward also edited and amended it. We believe that the Body of Christ will be blessed and enriched by their contributions and the consequent prompting of the Holy Spirit to make it widely available in its present form.

This edition has been pervasively edited by Dr. Solomon for use in this country and as a generic model for translation in other languages. It is suitable for use in a new members' class, new Christians' class, Sunday School class in a church or for group study, community Bible study, or cell group to lay the foundation for discipleship. "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:27)

When used with Handbook to Happiness (Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.), it can serve as a tool for a believer to use in helping others in spiritual growth.

Heart To Heart

When we come to the place of full retreat
And our heart cries out for God,
The only person whose heart ours can meet,
Is one who has likewise trod.

Others may offer a word of cheer
To lift us from despair,
But above the rest, the one we hear
Is the whisper, "I've been there".

Charles R. Solomon

FOR ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST

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PART I: MY NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Introduction

Who am I? What does it mean to be “in Christ”?

As Christians, it is possible for us to be operating under a “fake ID” (one we have learned from others or one we have developed ourselves) and be unaware of our real identity in Christ.

This study has been developed from the material presented in Dr. Charles Solomon’s Handbook to Happiness, and the Solomon Institute.

We pray “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the (deep and intimate) knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”. (Ephesians 1:17,18 KJV)

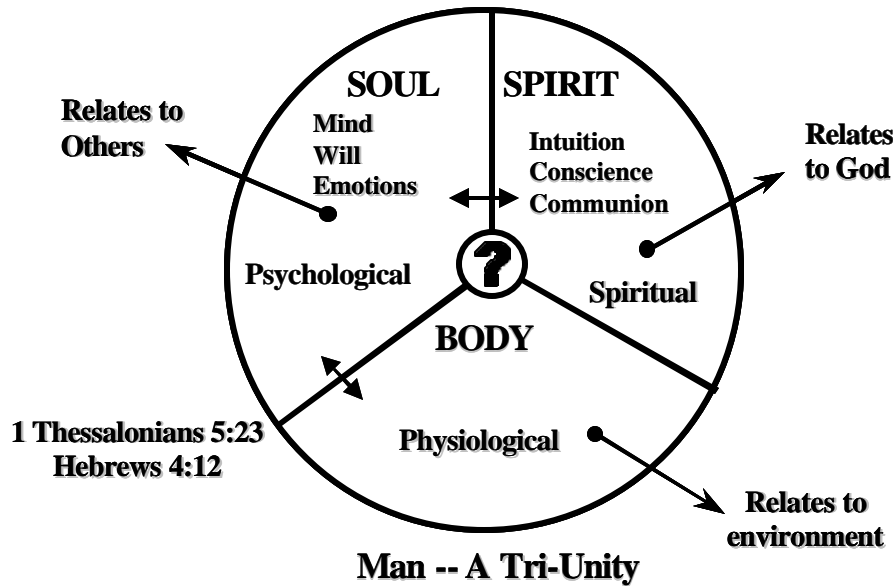
**“And you shall know the Truth
and the Truth shall set you Free.”
(John 8:32)**

This study guide is designed to be used in conjunction with Handbook to Happiness (Tyndale House) by Dr. Charles Solomon.

Lesson 1: God's Design For Man

Man: A Tri-Unity

The Bible says that God has created each of us as a "Tri-Unity" (made of three parts). What are these parts? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12.



Our Spirit relates to _____

Our Soul relates to _____

Mind	"Thinker"	} Our Personality
Will	"Chooser"	
Emotions	"Feeler"	

Our Body relates to _____



In addition to each part of man having a special function in relating to God, others, and the environment, each part also relates to the other parts of man (see inside arrows). The soul is the intermediary between the spirit and the body.

For example, physical conditions, such as a hormone imbalance in the body, may lead to emotional problems in the soul. The opposite is also true: the psychological symptoms in our soul can affect our bodies (e.g., tension may lead to headaches, ulcers, etc.).

Also, the psychological symptoms of our soul can affect our spiritual relationship to God, while spiritual problems may amplify existing psychological symptoms.

NOTE: Psychological symptoms and resulting physical symptoms have their root in a spiritual problem. Man is inadequate in coping with and solving psychological symptoms! The solution must deal with the root problem, and not just symptoms. The question mark (?) in the center of the diagram on the previous page represents what or who is controlling the life.

Lost Man's Spiritual Problem

What is lost man's spiritual problem?

Romans 3:23 _____

Romans 5:12 _____

I Corinthians 15:22 _____

Ephesians 2:1 _____

Our spirit and God's Spirit are separated, and our spirit has become "spiritually dead" (not able to relate) to God. (Note: although our spirits, as unbelievers, are "dead" to God, they still exist and are alive to Satan's spiritual domain.)



A New Spirit

When a person receives Christ, what happens in the spirit portion of our lives? Read:

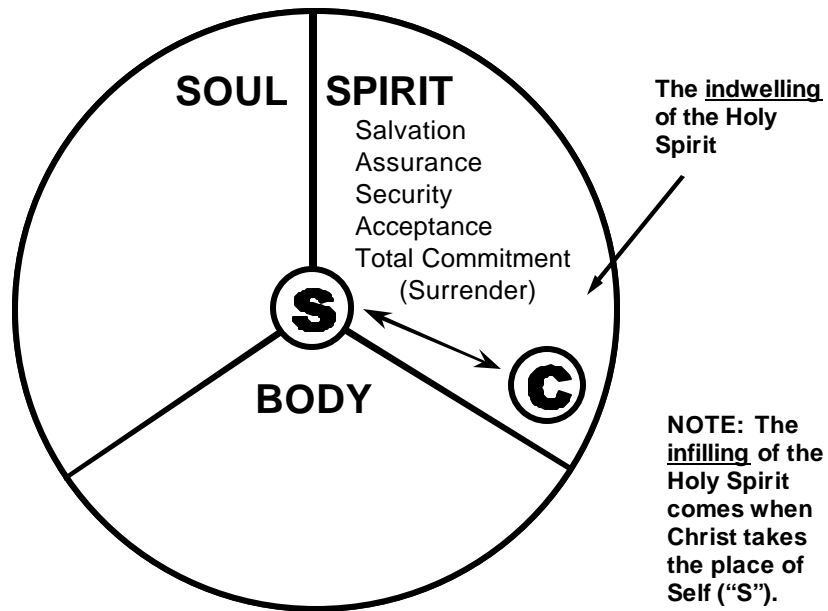
II Corinthians 5:17, 21

I Corinthians 6:17

Romans 8-9

Ezekiel 36:26, 27

Summarize what happens when you are born again:





Christ (represented in the previous diagram by “C”) comes into the spirit portion of the believer upon salvation and, joined with our new spirit, totally occupies it with His complete Person and Life. Our spirits are now complete, perfect, and righteous! Many important things must be understood as a result of this: Salvation, Assurance, and Total Commitment or Total Surrender. These exciting truths will be looked at in more detail.

The Center: Christ or Self

Is it possible for Christ to be in our lives, but not controlling as the Center of our lives?

We may choose “some-thing” else to be the center(s) - success, sports, sex, a home, a car, some person—father, mother, husband, wife, child, boyfriend, girlfriend—money, drugs, and, often, a job. It is also possible for one person we dislike to become central because by reacting to that person, we’re allowing such a person to control us.

Describe, in your own words, what it means to have one or all of the previously mentioned persons or things as the center of one’s life:

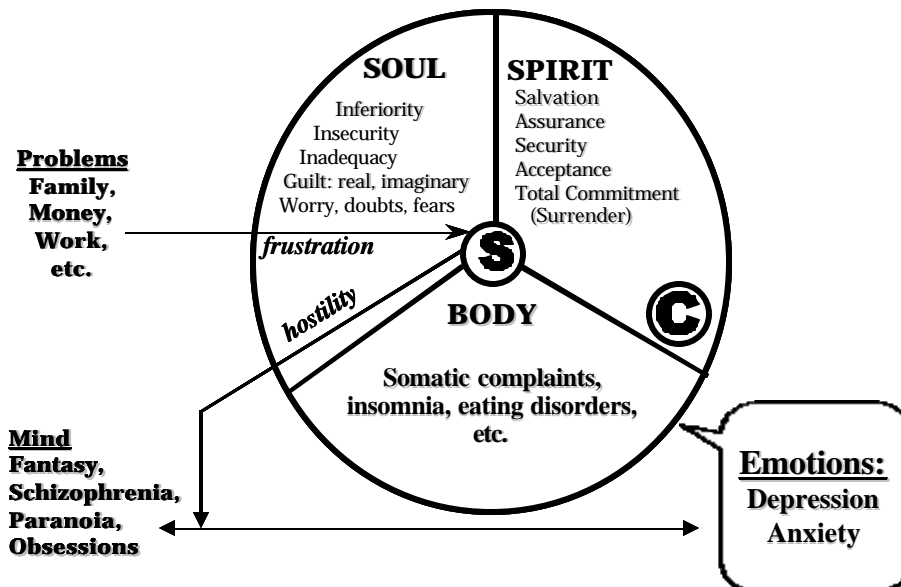
All of the symptoms listed in the “soul” area of the next diagram are indications of a deeper root problem that may be summed up in the term “self-life”. The Bible calls this condition of our lives as “walking after the flesh”. (This will be discussed in more detail in later sessions.) NOTE: The “self-life” is not the soul or personality, but is often a condition of it.



When “self” is at the center of our lives, we may experience feelings of inferiority, inadequacy, guilt, worry, doubts, and fears.

As the outside pressures of family, work, circumstances, etc., come into our lives, we are frustrated because of our inability to cope! We then respond to this frustration in hostility, which may be expressed either outwardly (e.g., blaming others or the situation) or inwardly (resulting in symptoms such as depression, anxiety, obsessive thoughts, etc.).

SAVED MAN’S SPIRITUAL PROBLEM





WHO IS THE CENTER OF YOUR LIFE?

When Christ is not the center of our lives, this can cause problems in the psychological or soul part of our being, which can, over a period of time, cause varying physical problems.

God's Plan

There's good news! It is not God's will that our lives look like the previous diagram! God never intended us merely to cope! He put His Spirit within us—His supernatural Life—to be victorious over the circumstances and pressures we face. (Many believers make the mistake of asking God to help them rather than yielding to His indwelling Spirit so that He can infill and live in and through them.)

What are the characteristics of Christ's Life we can claim when Christ is in the center of our lives?

Philippians 2:5 _____

Philippians 4:13 _____

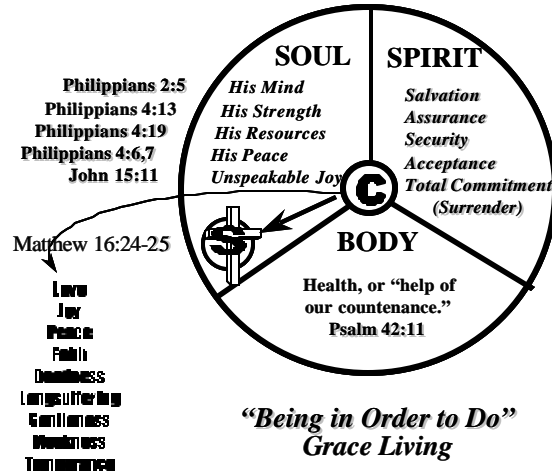
Philippians 4:19 _____

Philippians 4:6,7 _____

John 15:11 _____



CHRIST IS LORD (OWNER) OF OUR LIFE



We can experience Christ as the center of our lives and have His Mind, His Strength, His Provision, His Peace, His Joy, His Health (or help with our countenance).

This is what this study will help us discover: how to exchange the self-life for the Christ-Life and live a victorious Life in Christ!

The following poem addresses aspects of the makeup and functioning of the believer that have often been overlooked in the teaching ministry of the church.

As you read it, make notes on areas that you need the Holy Spirit to guide you into truth (John 14:26) as you begin this study of the life in Christ—sometimes known as:

- ♦ the Abiding Life
- ♦ the Exchanged Life
- ♦ the Spirit-Filled Life
- ♦ the Abundant Life
- ♦ the Crucified Life
- ♦ Victorious Christian Living
- ♦ the Life of Lordship
- ♦ Identification with Christ

Jesus Cross For Me?

Experience the Cross,
My Savior said;
To the power of sin
Reckon yourself dead.
But, Lord, I feel so alive
And my life doesn't square
With commands in Your Word;
They are too much to bear.

I desire to do Your will
But something inside protests;
Could it be an old nature?
Am I yet at its behest?
Or, is it as You say—
Flesh that yet holds sway?
And what of the power of sin
That continually gets its way?

I know I'm born again
That my heart is Your abode,
But how do I attain
To that high and holy road?
And where and what is my heart?
Are my soul and spirit the same?
What was really changed
When into my life You came?

I've been taught there is a fight
Between natures new and old,
And the conflict is very real
As in Romans 7 we are told.
And do I have a spirit
That is distinct from my soul?
If not, does regeneration only
Have changing attitudes as its goal?



**And while we're talking, Lord,
Your Church is teaching today
That the flesh and old man are one,
Causing confusion to hold sway.
Since the old man is crucified
The flesh would be gone, too:
For sin to show itself,
There would be no avenue.**

**Sinless perfection is the hue and cry
For those who the Cross oppose;
Not realizing that the power of sin
Will yet the flesh expose.
Jesus died unto sin once
But sin, it did not die;
Though the old man is gone
With sin we still must vie.**

**Yes, sin is missing the mark
Transgressing God's law is, too;
Sin is also a strong power —
Not just something that we do.
Confessing sins is admonished
That we might be cleansed;
Dealing with the power of sin
Likewise, must be sensed.**

**But, Lord, its all too simple
Is not education a must?
Will turmoil in my psyche
Dissolve as my Savior I trust?
And what of a chemical imbalance —
Is that yet in Your domain?
Are you grieved that man's answers
Are applied while sin yet reigns?**





**A new life You promised
As the old one I lose;
The turmoil increases as
Against myself I choose.
Man's answers are appealing
Since I can keep control,
But years of self effort
Have taken their toll.**

**Well, Lord, I've enjoyed talking
Over things not new to You;
Though in You I am complete
It's my mind You must renew.
Since I am crucified to the world
And it is crucified to me,
I'll reckon myself dead to sin
That You the world may see.**

Charles R. Solomon

NOTES:



Lesson 2: My Old Identity

Why is it important to know what our old identity is? Luke 9:23 states that we are to deny ourselves and take up the cross daily; we need to know what to deny.

The Identity Crisis

If all the questions of all times were summed up in one or two questions, what would they be?

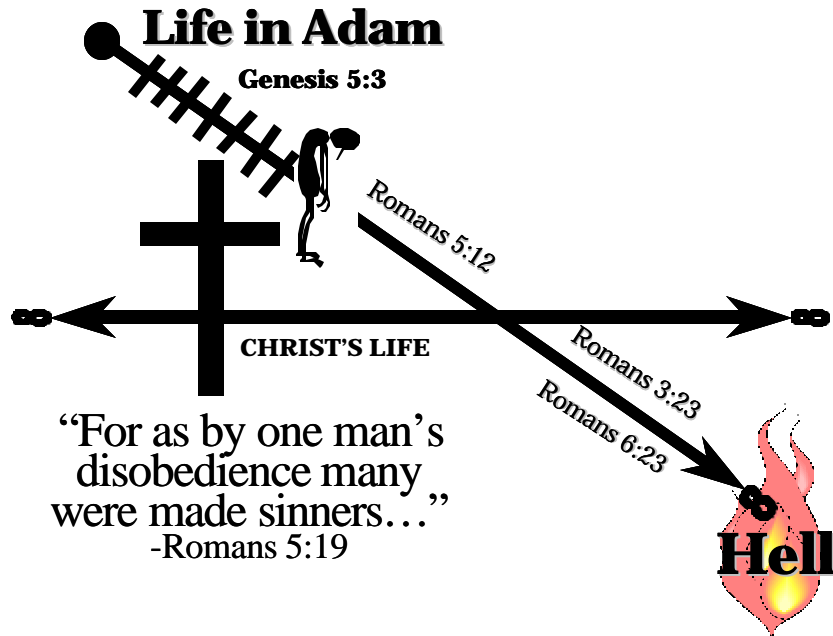
The resounding question we hear all over the world, as men seek for meaning and identity, is: “Who Am I?” (If not verbally, this question is evidenced by actions.)

Even Christians may experience an “identity crisis” due to ignorance or misunderstanding of their new identity in Christ.

The Need for Life

Our “Life in Adam” (“Who We Were”)

The following diagram contrasts the two ultimate identities which encompass all of humanity; we are either Adam people or Christ people with innumerable variations of each. Thus, the ultimate question that each of us must answer is: “Am I in Adam or in Christ, and how does my life portray that identity?”.



The Fact of Sin

When we were born physically into this world, we were able to trace our existence back through our parents, grandparents, and so on (see line diagram above—generations are indicated by hatch marks) back to its beginning. We can all trace it back to Adam (e.g., before we were born, we were “in” our father, just as before he was born, he was “in” his father). If Adam did not have children, would we have any problems today?

Therefore, if our existence began “in Adam”, where were we when Adam was in the Garden?



If we were “in Adam” in the Garden of Eden, where were we when Adam sinned? _____

Therefore, since we were in Adam, who also sinned? (Romans 5:12) _____

Read Genesis 2:16,17. What did God say would happen to Adam if he disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden tree? Explain, in your own words, what you think this means (e.g., what kind of “death” resulted?).

Eventual physical death was a result of sin. But Adam (after the Fall), and thus each one of us, was spiritually “dead” to God (separated from God). Summarize the following:

- I Corinthians 15:22a _____
- Romans 5:12, 19 _____
- Psalms 51:5 _____
- Ephesians 2:1 _____
- Romans 3:23 _____
- Isaiah 53:6 _____

According to the previous verses, we were (true or false):

- _____ Born with a sin nature
- _____ Sinners only the moment we first sinned in our lives.
- _____ Spiritually separated from God because Adam was our Father, and passed this spiritual death to us.
- _____ Sinners and in bondage to sin, because we were born with a sinful nature (spirit).

Our “life”, then in Adam, was not really life, but _____.





The Penalty of Sin

Read Ephesians 4:18, Hebrews 9:27 and Romans 6:23. Summarize the penalty of sin:

Is this eventually eternal death (Hell) if a person does not receive Christ? _____

Sin's Penalty Must Be Paid

What do the following verses declare concerning God's justice in dealing with sin?

Psalm 89:14 _____
John 5:30 _____
Luke 23:41 _____
Acts 17:31 _____
Hebrews 9:27 _____

Reflect on this question: If God did not judge sin, what would this imply concerning His nature?

What is the difference between God's justice and man's justice? _____





Christ Paid the Penalty For Sin

Read and summarize in a phrase:

I Peter 2:24 _____
 Romans 5:8 _____
 I Peter 3:18 _____
 II Corinthians 5:21 _____
 Isaiah 53:6b _____
 Hebrews 9:22b _____

NOTE: At the Cross, Christ died for all of our sins (past, present, and future). He took the penalty for sin (death) that we deserved.

At the same time, the old man or unregenerate spirit was crucified (Romans 6:6, Galatians 2:20) and replaced by the regenerate spirit or new man (Colossians 3:9, 10). This will be covered in more detail in later lessons.

Salvation is a Free Gift

Read and briefly summarize:

Ephesians 2:8,9 _____
 Titus 3:3-5 _____
 John 3:16 _____

We Must Receive Christ

Our greatest need, being in Adam, spiritually dead to God, is Life—we need to be born again spiritually. Read John 3:3.

When we receive Christ, we receive Him—His Life, which is Eternal Life. We are transferred out of the life of Adam into the Life of Christ (John 5:24; Colossians 1:13; Romans 8:1,2; I Corinthians 1:30).



John 1:12: “As many as received _____, to them He gave the power to become _____, even to those that believe on His Name”.

We must each receive Christ as Savior, Lord, and Life, and be reborn spiritually.

We received Christ, by faith, as an act of will. Faith is believing that what God has said concerning our need for life is true and then choosing to receive Him as our Savior, Lord, and Life.

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is the attitude of your heart. Romans 10:9 says “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved”.

If you have never received Christ into your life, the following is a suggested prayer:

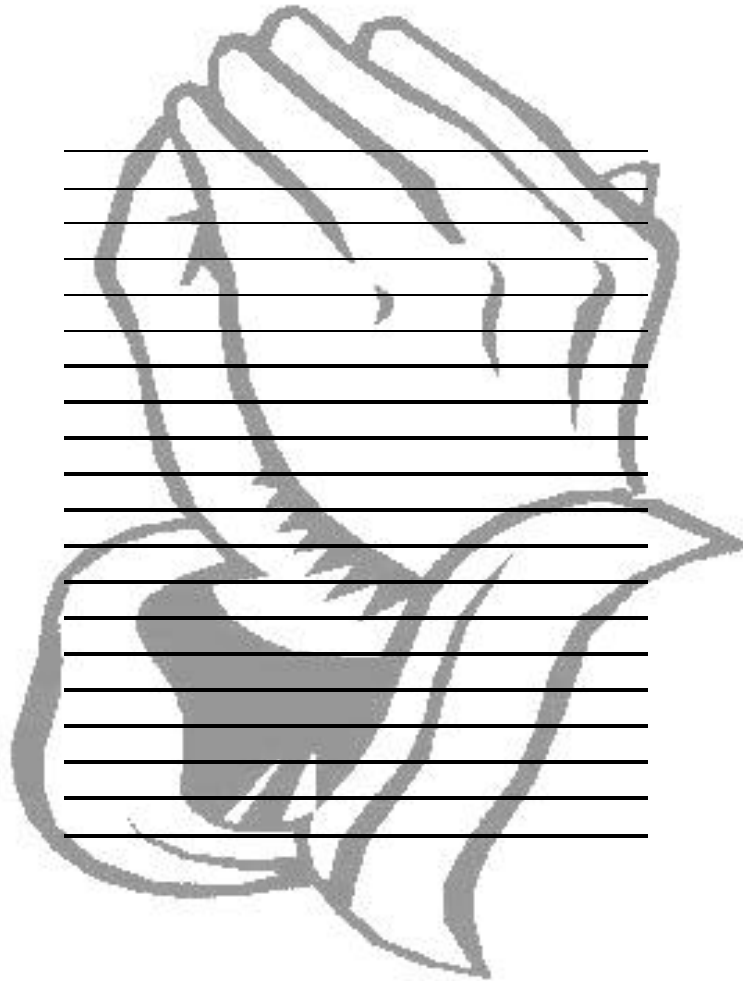
Dear God,

I know I am a sinner. I believe that You sent Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die in my place for my sins. I believe that He was buried, rose again, and now lives. I now receive Christ into my life as my Savior, and confess Him as my Lord. I turn from a life of sin and selfish ways and trust the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive my sins and to be my Life. Thank you for saving me out of the life of Adam, and for placing me into the Life of Christ.

Amen



If you know that you are a born again Christian, perhaps you would like to write a prayer of thanks to the Lord for all He has done for you!



To Do Or To Be?

Time is ours to waste or invest;
A precious commodity indeed;
If we live with eternity in view,
From sin's shackles we are freed. (Romans 6:7)
If our focus is time and space -
Looking to people and things for meaning,
Life becomes an incessant search,
Ever and always for acceptance gleaning.

When who we are, is what we do,
There is never an end to doing;
When meaning is derived from others,
There's continual need for wooing.
When who we are, comes from Whom we're in,
(I Corinthians 1:30)
Doing is replaced with dying; (Galatians 2:20)
As Jesus' life is made manifest, (II Corinthians 4:11)
The flesh and sin we're decrying. (Galatians 6:14)

When lived from an eternal perspective
And our life is viewed from above, (Ephesians 2:6)
Our wooing gives way to abiding; (John 15:5)
And from our inner being flows love. (John 7:38)
When we allow Christ, our Life, to live, (Colossians 3:4)
We're from bondage to others freed;
(II Corinthians 10:12)
When the truth has set us free, (Galatians 5:1)
From sin and self we're free, indeed. (John 8:32)

C. R. Solomon
April 27, 2000

Lesson 3: My New Identity

“Who Am I?”

My Life “In Christ”

Review: Since we were “in Adam”, born spiritually dead to God, our greatest need is spiritual life. When we received Christ as our Savior, we received His Spirit and His Spirit is the source of life eternal.

What is Eternal Life?

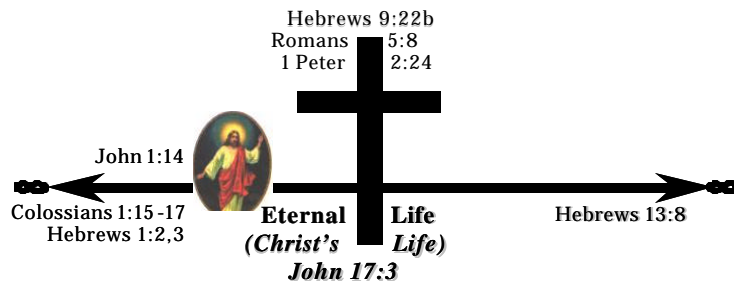
I John 1:2 _____
I John 2:25 _____
I John 5:11 _____
John 17:3 _____

When does it end? (Hebrews 13:8) _____

When did it begin? (I John 1:2; Colossians 1:15-17)

Read John 5:24-38 and I John 5:11. What is Eternal Life?

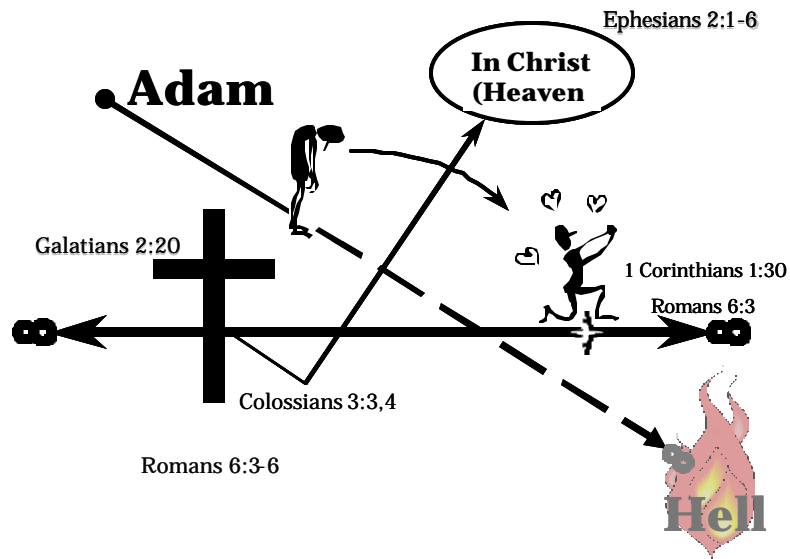
“... reconciled to God by the death of his son ...”
Romans 5:10



“... so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” **Romans 5:19b**

Before receiving Christ, we were “in Adam” — in his life in the Garden when he sinned — and became spiritually dead to God.

When we received Christ, we died out of the life of Adam and were born into the Life of Christ. We not only get a new future, but also a new past! Not only does Christ live in us, but we are also “in Christ” — in His Life (I Corinthians 12:12,13; Colossians 3:3,4; I Corinthians 1:30).



Since Christ’s Life is Eternal, and we are in Him, where were we spiritually, therefore, when:

Christ was born? (Romans 6:5) _____

The world was created? (Ephesians 1:4) _____

Christ died, was buried, rose again, and was seated at the Father’s right hand? _____



Where is Christ now? (Ephesians 1:19-23) _____

Where are we? (Read I Corinthians 6:17; Ephesians 2:5,6)

**How did Christ include us in His high priestly prayer?
(John 17:13-26)** _____

My Assurance

This is a miracle of God! We have been born again into a new life — into Christ’s Life, and are seated with Him in Heaven! (Ephesians 2:6) We can know we are in Christ and have eternal life—(although we cannot “see” it with our eyes, or may not “feel” it) — because the Word of God says so! (There is no better basis for confidence.)

Look up the following verses and summarize:

I John 5:11-13 _____

John 5:24 _____

John 6:47 _____

John 10:27-29 _____

Hebrews 6:19 _____





Isaiah 12:2 _____

Colossians 1:13 _____

Facts to put your faith in after salvation:

- ◆ **Christ came into your life. (Revelation 3:20; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16; Colossians 1:27)**
- ◆ **Your sins were forgiven. (Colossians 1:14)**
- ◆ **You became a Child of God. (John 1:12)**
- ◆ **You were placed into Christ’s Life and possess eternal life. (John 5:11-13)**
- ◆ **Your “old man” died and you received a “new man” (spirit). (II Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:3,4; Ezekiel 36:26,27; Galatians 2:20)**

NOTE: Even born again Christians may know the facts above are true, but still “doubt” their salvation. Most really are not doubting their salvation, but just “feeling” unsaved. We can’t base our salvation on our feelings because they often “lie” to us and are not true, but, by faith, we must claim the facts of God’s Word.

Assurance is based on God’s Word, not our feelings!

What are some dangers of living by our “feelings” (or emotions) instead of living by faith in God’s Word?



My Security

How were we transferred out of the life of Adam into Christ? (I Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 2:4-6; Colossians 1:13). _____

If God Himself were the one who transferred us into the Life of Christ, and seated us at the right hand of God in Him, who is greater than God to “de-seat” us? _____

Are we greater? _____ Read Romans 8:31-39, Ephesians 1:20-23, and John 10:27-29.

Our relationship with God is unbreakable—eternal. We are secure in that relationship because of what God has done. We cannot have assurance if we are not secure and know that this relationship is lasting.

Relationship versus Fellowship

Colossians 3:3 says that our life is “_____.”

If we do not realize this, our assurance cannot be solid because we are afraid we might lose our salvation. If we are afraid we will lose it, we will struggle to do something to maintain it, such as good works. We will begin to live on “performance” instead of who we are in Christ in order to be accepted (John 6:37 & 39).

NOTE: Good works will be a result of the believer who is walking in Christ, because Christ will be living through him (Ephesians 2:8-10). But good works done in our strength is fleshly (carnal) and nothing of the flesh pleases God (Romans 8:8).



- ◆ **If not secure, we will not fully trust God.**
- ◆ **If not secure in Christ, we will try many things of the world to make us secure.**
- ◆ **If not secure, we will not confidently serve God.**
- ◆ **If not secure, we will not be completely resting in God.**
- ◆ **If we do not realize that we have a new nature/ identity in Christ, we will be working out of the flesh and inadequate resources to prove ourselves and to seek our acceptance in what we do instead of who we are in Christ.**

Fact → Faith → Will

Count on it to be true and live like it!!!!

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



Identity

Not what we do
But who we are;
What we have
Does not empower.

Not where we are
Or where we've been —
What's of self (Romans 7:18)
Is surely sin.

Not what we gain
But what we lose — (Romans 6:6)
'Twith God and self
Is ours to choose. (Romans 6:11)

To live is Christ; (Philippians 1:21)
Self is but loss.
Identity in Him—(Colossians 3:4a)
Ours through the Cross.

Our life lost (Galatians 2:20a)
His life begun; (Galatians 2:20b)
As in Him
All is done. (John 19:30)

Ours to labor
To enter rest; (Hebrews 4:11)
Found in Him, (Colossians 2:9,10)
Lives truly blessed.

C. R. Solomon

Lesson 4: My Acceptance

My Acceptance in Christ

Some people accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior and then spend the rest of their lives trying to get Him to accept them. Read Ephesians 1:3-6. On what basis are we accepted/acceptable? _____

Does God accept His Son, Jesus Christ? _____

What is our position? Read Romans 15:7 _____

We are accepted in Him! Our acceptance is not dependent on our good works, our church attendance or membership, or from any effort we expend. God accepts us because we are in Christ, righteous, holy, and blameless. Regardless of behavior (good or bad), we are accepted for who we are, not what we do (or don't do)! Philippians 3:9. (For example, father/son relationship.)

Why, then, do we not "feel" accepted oftentimes?

What is the opposite of acceptance? _____

The Rejection Syndrome

My books, The Ins and Out of Rejection and The Rejection Syndrome and The Way To Acceptance, contain a common denominator to Christians' experiencing defeat in their lives; it is called the "Rejection Syndrome". I have dis-



covered that a key problem people face is rejection. They are always wanting to be accepted, and yet experience rejection in its various forms. Therefore, in their relationship with God, they are likely to conclude, “If people don’t accept me, why should a Holy God accept me?”.

With the use of a dictionary, define the following:

Rejection (Reject) _____

Overt _____

Covert _____

What would be an example of overt rejection? _____

What would be an example of covert rejection? _____

Everyone experiences rejection in one form or the other, in varying “degrees”. Rejection can even be the cause for the “chain reaction” in families (for example: a strict, over-protective father may unknowingly “reject” his son by not allowing him to be a person and learn to make decisions. When the son becomes a father, he then determines to give more freedom and rejects his children by being too lenient, thus causing his children to feel he doesn’t care about their welfare ... and so on.) We must realize that the



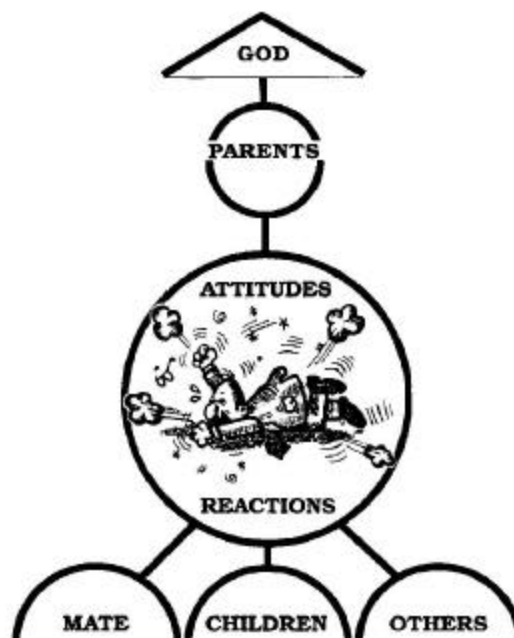
reason we experience rejection from many people in various ways is because they, too, are reacting out of the rejection they have experienced.

EMOTIONAL RESULTS IN THE REJECTED PERSON

Feelings of Worthlessness	Perfectionism
Wishing He Had Not Been Born	Little Self-Discipline
Feelings of Inferiority	Irresponsibility
Worries, Doubts, Fears	Depression
Inability to Express Feelings	Self-Condernation
Emotional Insulation	Self-Hatred
Subjectivity	Guilt
	Introspection

SUMMARY: Self-Rejection

The aforementioned emotions affect our attitudes and relationships with others (see diagram below).





Without becoming “introspective”, can you relate, in any way, to the facts of rejection? Have you experienced rejection? Has this affected your attitudes toward God? Family? Yourself?

Read Matthew 16:13-16. Applying this to your own life:

Who do people say/think you are? _____

Who do you say/think you are? _____

Who does God say you are? (II Corinthians 5:21; Matthew 16:24,25) _____

Whom do you choose, by faith, to believe? _____

Are you looking for acceptance? Only God accepts unconditionally. Are you looking for identity? Your true identity is found in a new life in Christ. Are you looking for worth? Christ paid the price of His Blood to redeem and purchase you, thus establishing your worth.

The worth of an object is determined by the price paid for it!

“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.”
 I Peter 1:18 & 19





My Response:

Read and summarize I Corinthians 6:19, 20: _____

Who “owns” your life? _____

Who controls your life? _____

“Our” lives are not our own! Have you given rightful ownership and Lordship to the One who has given His very Life to you?

Yes! _____ No! _____

NOTE:Read Romans 12:1,2

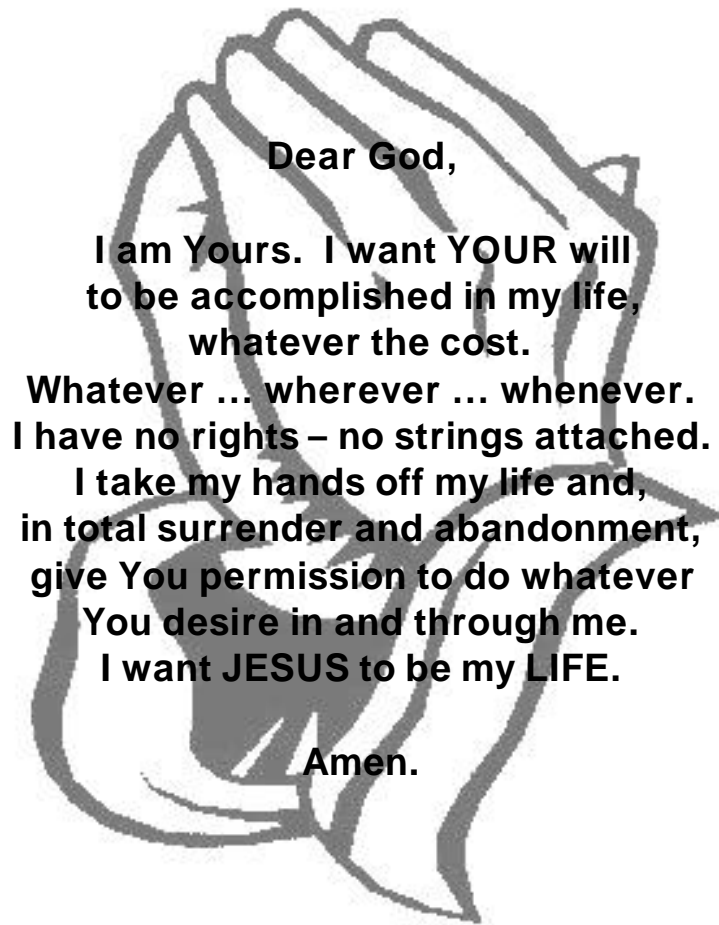
Total commitment won’t cost you anything. It will cost you everything! Total commitment (presenting our bodies a living sacrifice) does not mean I’ll do everything I can for the Lord; rather it means I’ll let God do anything He chooses in and through me.

Total commitment or surrender is not the ultimate, end-all of the Christian experience. In fact, it is really just a beginning, because we are giving God permission to “work on our case” — to bring us to the “end of ourselves” — so that Christ may be our LIFE and produce His fruit in our lives. Total surrender or commitment is not synonymous with the exchanged life, though it is possible that surrender (your part) and the transformed life (His part) could take place simultaneously.





TOTAL SURRENDER PRAYER



Dear God,

**I am Yours. I want YOUR will
to be accomplished in my life,
whatever the cost.**

**Whatever ... wherever ... whenever.
I have no rights – no strings attached.**

**I take my hands off my life and,
in total surrender and abandonment,
give You permission to do whatever
You desire in and through me.**

I want JESUS to be my LIFE.

Amen.



Acceptance

Oh, to know acceptance
In a feeling sort of way;
To be known for who I am -
Not what I do or say.
Its nice to be loved and wanted
For the person I seem to be;
But my heart cries out to be loved
For the person who is really me!

To be able to drop all the fronts
And share with another my fears,
Would bring such relief to my soul,
Though accompanied by many tears.
When I find this can be done
Without the pain of rejection,
Then will my joy be complete
And feelings toward self know correction.

The path to feeling acceptance of God
Is paved with acceptance on Earth;
Being valued by others I love
Enhances my own feeling of worth.
Oh, the release and freedom He gives
As I behold His wonderful face;
As Jesus makes real my acceptance in Him,
And I learn the true meaning of grace.

A pity it is that so late we find
His love need not be earned;
As we yield to Him all manner of strife
A precious truth has been learned.
Then, as we share with others who search
For love, acceptance, and rest;
They'll find in us the Savior's love
And experience the end of their quest.

Charles R. Solomon
1975

PART II: CHRIST'S LIFE IN ME

In Part I of this study, we have examined “My New Life In Christ” - what our true identity and position of security and acceptance in Him really means.

“To be in Christ—that is redemption; but for Christ to be in you—that is sanctification! To be in Christ—that makes you fit for heaven; but for Christ to be in you—that makes you fit for earth! To be in Christ—that changes your destination; but for Christ to be in you—that changes your destiny! The one makes heaven your home—the other makes this world His workshop.” (The Saving Life of Christ by Ian Thomas, Zondervan Publishing, page 18).

Upon receiving Christ, we received His Life. How can we experience the reality of Christ living His Life through us? How can we experience His Victory in our daily walk? Where is the battle won? What does it mean to exchange our self-life (flesh) for the Christ Life?

These are the exciting truths we will discover in Part II—Christ’s Life in Me!

Lest we be misunderstood: The truth of our being in Christ and His being in us are both true at regeneration; however, we may not understand and try to live Christ’s life for Him. Rather, Christ’s life is to be expressed through us.

Lesson 5: My Identification With Christ

**(My Co-Death, Co-Burial,
Co-Resurrection, and Co-Ascension)**

**Recommended Reading:
April 10, 11, and 12 in
“MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST”
(by: Oswald Chambers)**

Let's review our Spiritual Identity:

Salvation (Romans 6:23)

Our greatest need, when we were in Adam and spiritually dead to God, was life. We needed to be born again, spiritually (John 3:3). When we received Christ, we received Him and His Life, which is Eternal Life. We were transferred out of the life of Adam into the Life of Christ. Or, to put it another way, we died out of Adam and were born, or baptized, into Christ.

Assurance (I John 5:13)

We can know, on the basis of God's Word (not our feelings) that we are truly children of God, and that we have eternal life because we have Christ's Life (Christ = Eternal Life). However, damaged emotions may tell us exactly the opposite.



Security (Colossians 3:3)

Not only does Christ live in us, but our life is in Christ, seated in heavenly places! (Ephesians 2:6). God Himself put us into Christ (I Corinthians 1:30; Colossians 1:13), and no power can remove us (Romans 8:28, Ephesians 1:20-23). We are eternally secure in our relationship with Christ (I John 5:13).

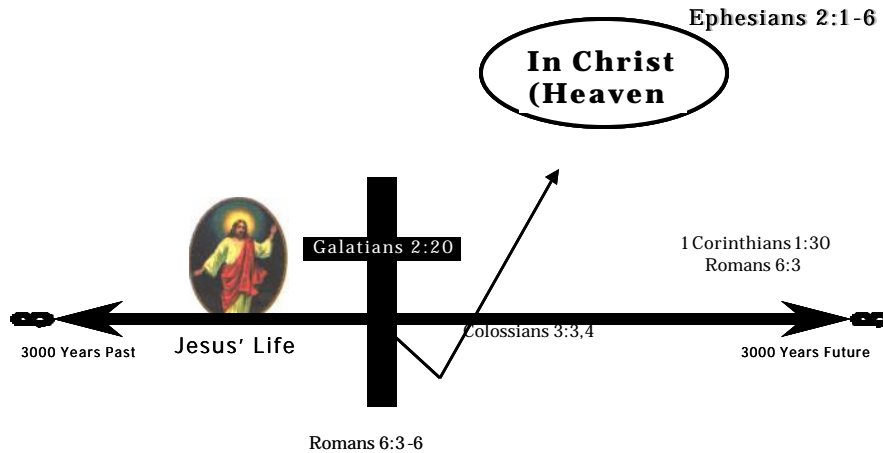
Acceptance (Ephesians 1:6)

We are accepted in Christ, not on the basis of works (works are a result—Ephesians 2:10). God accepts us because we are in Christ and He accepts His Son. We have been spiritually justified and made to be the righteousness of God in Christ (II Corinthians 5:21). We need to find our acceptance in God, rather than people. Even the best of them are not dependable; they will die and leave you!

Total Commitment (Surrender) Romans 12:1,2

In view of all God has done for us, and His purchasing us with the life of His own Son, our response should be to acknowledge God's rightful (and wonderful) ownership and plan for our lives. By a choice of our will (not emotions), we give God permission to do whatever He chooses in and through us, to bring us to the "end of ourself" so that Christ might produce His fruit through us by His Life.





My Co-Death, Co-Burial, Co-Resurrection, and Co-Ascension

What does it mean to be “identified with Christ” in co-death, co-burial, co-resurrection, and co-ascension?

In our discovery of our new identity in Christ, we realized that in order to receive Christ’s life in our Spirit, our old spirit had to die (a sinful spirit could not be joined with God’s Holy Spirit. We were given a new spirit—perfect and righteous). We had to die out of the life of Adam in order to be born into the life of Christ (we cannot be in two lives at once!). Though a believer is identified with Christ at the new birth, he may not appropriate the results of such identification.

This can be a source of confusion for Christians, if not clearly understood; and understanding what happened at the cross enlightens our understanding of how we can experience Christ as our Life.

For example, how would you respond to this statement: “We have two natures in us—a sin nature and a new nature, warring against each other”. True or false? _____



Why? _____

Our essential nature is new (II Corinthians 5:17; I Peter 1:4; Romans 7:22). What is often called the “old nature” or “old man” in the believer is Biblically identified as the “flesh” (Galatians 5:16,17). The flesh is in us, but is not us, though it causes the conflict described in Romans 7.

We will look into the why very closely and discover what God accomplished at the cross.

CRUCIFIED CHRISTIAN

My Co-Death

Read Romans 5:8, I Peter 2:24, and Hebrews 9:22b. What did Christ accomplish on the Cross? _____

Read Galatians 2:20a, and Romans 6:6. What happened to us (our old nature, “old man”) at the Cross? _____

In your own words, what does it mean that you were “crucified with Christ” and when did this take place?





Because of your crucifixion with Christ, you are free from condemnation (Romans 8:1).

Please note: Your old nature or old man was crucified, not your soul, which is your mind, will, and emotions—or your personality. You still have your same mind, will, and emotions, which are only a moldable vehicle through which our true identity may be expressed. The power of sin yet functions through the flesh which is the ally of the world and Devil.

My Co-Burial

Romans 6:4a _____

When Christ was buried, who was buried with Him?

Because of your burial with Christ, you are free from sin's authority (Romans 6:1-7).

My Co-Resurrection

Romans 6:4b _____

Ephesians 2:6 _____

Read Romans 5:10. Whose resurrection life can save the believer from the struggle of the self-life? _____



Since we have been resurrected with Christ (in His Life), what/who is our new Life? Read Galatians 2:20, I Corinthians 6:17, II Corinthians 5:17, and Colossians 3:4.

Because of your resurrection with Christ, you are a partaker of God's power for living (Ephesians 1:19).

My Co-Ascension

Where is Christ seated now? (Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 1:1-3)

Who is spiritually seated with Christ in the heavenlies? (Ephesians 2:6)

Colossians 3:1-3

Because you are seated with Christ, you are a partaker of His authority over the world, the flesh, and the devil (Matthew 28:18-20; Galatians 6:14; James 4:7).

These are the facts of God's Word for every believer. This has already happened to each of us, even though we may not have been aware of this identity in Christ.

To realize the full impact of this, suppose you were to be in a car accident and die. You then would be buried. If you were dead and buried, you would no longer need to worry and struggle over the sin and temptations you were facing. It is impossible for a dead person to respond to temptation.

Read Romans 6:6,7 carefully. Who died to what?



See the definition of “sin” in Appendix I.

Why are we free from the power of sin? _____

NOTE: The power of sin wasn’t crucified, we were. Jesus died to sin, but sin didn’t die (Romans 6:10).

Now imagine that after you died and were buried, God miraculously resurrected you and gave you a new life (new spirit). Remember the old life with all of its inability to cope is dead (I John 4:17). Within this new spirit, God Himself, by His Holy Spirit, indwells in His total Person. He now will be your Life, your strength, your peace, your sufficiency!!!

What does this mean to you? _____



Praying an “identification prayer” may help you to experience Christ’s Life of Victory and Peace. Before this prayer can be effective, you must be under conviction by the Holy Spirit that you are trying to live the Christian life (Christ’s Life) in your own strength for Him. You must be ready to give up control of your life. Brokenness is a pre-condition to recognizing the corruptness of the flesh and, generally, is the result of suffering (Philippians 1:29,30). If this is so in your life, pray the following prayer:

Father,

Thank you for forgiving my sins and taking me out of the life of Adam and grafting me into the Life of Christ. Now that I am in Christ, I believe that I was crucified with Him, buried with Him, raised with Him, and that I am seated with Him at Your right hand. From this moment on, I choose, by faith, to have Your Son, Jesus Christ, live His life in me and through me. I am trusting You to do what I can’t do, quit what I can’t quit, and, most of all, be what I can’t be. I am trusting You to renew my mind, transform my life, heal my damaged emotions, and to live Your life through me – instead of me. I consider myself dead to sin and alive to You and I am counting on the Holy Spirit to make me aware when I forget my death with Christ and try to live His life for Him in my own human wisdom and energy. I choose to yield my total being to You as an instrument of righteousness, allowing no part of me to be used for sin. Thank you for making Christ and His Life real to me. Glorify Yourself through me, in Jesus’ name I pray,

Amen.

Living To Die or Dying to Live?

“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.”

Galatians 2:20

**Born to die
The plight of all;
Man's just deserts
Since the Fall.
All life will die —
A common fate,
But only Man
For death doth wait.**

**When Adam sinned
To God He died;
Separated from God
He lived in pride.
When born again
New life is received;
The old man died
When we believed.**

**Fear of death
Its bondage brings; (Hebrews 2:15)
Through Christ's vict'ry (I Corinthians 15:54)
Death loses its sting. (I Corinthians 15:55)
To live is Christ;
To die is gain. (Philippians 1:21)
Precious in His sight
Is the death of His saints (Psalm 116:15)**

**Living to die —
A life of defeat,
Ignores the promise
Of the Mercy Seat.
Reconciled by His blood (Romans 5:10a)
But living in strife; (Romans 7:15)
Ended by the Cross — (Galatians 2:20)
Saved by His life. (Romans 5:10)**

**Dying to live (John 12:24,25)
A blessing divine;
His death to sin (Romans 6:10)
By faith reckoned mine. (Romans 6:11)
Self daily denied (Luke 9:23)
Is His injunction;
Delivered always to death (II Corinthians 4:11)
Gives the Spirit's unction.**

**The monster self
Is Satan's ally;
Our only hope
Is that we die. (Romans 6:6,11,13)
Ours to submit; (Romans 12:1,2)
His to forgive.
His death reckoned ours (Romans 6:11)
We are dying to live.**

**Charles R. Solomon
August 27, 1999**

Lesson 6: My Victory

What Is Victory?

What is “Victory”? How can we experience victory in our daily lives?

Have you ever said...

- “I just can’t get victory over this problem!”
- “Just keep praying and victory will come.”
- “Victory comes only after much hard work.”
- “I lost the victory.”
- “You can know you have victory when you feel good.”

These are very common, but erroneous statements about victory. God’s Word has many sure promises about victory.

Victory is not:

- ♦ Achieving
- ♦ Winning
- ♦ Being on top of it
- ♦ Something we have to do

This is working for Jesus.

Why are these not Victory? Because they direct us away from the One who is our Victory—we often work for victory instead of from Victory!

What is our position of victory in Christ and over what does this position exercise power? Ephesians 1:19-23



Faith IS the Victory! (I John 5:4)

Above all Rulers, Authority, Power, and Dominion! Now and Forever! God placed all things under Jesus' feet and appointed Him Head over the church.

Is Christ's Life in me able to be victorious over sin and temptation? _____

Read Romans 8:35-39 and I Corinthians 15:57. What is the source of our Victory? _____

The believer who is not aware of his freedom from having to obey the power of sin (gained through his death and resurrection with Christ) will continue to face temptations, and problems; he did not have victory in the old life. How is he to experience anything different now? Everything still seems the same—the old habits, the struggles, conflicts, and memories of failures. Pretty soon, the believer resigns himself to the idea that this is normal, and that he cannot experience victory in his life. After all, many of his Christian friends aren't experiencing victory either.

Read and summarize:

Romans 8:1,2 _____

Romans 6:6,7 _____





II Corinthians 2:14 _____

John 8:32-36 _____

Why did these hearers not act on their freedom in Christ, and, instead, choose bondage again?

Read Romans 6:11-14 and summarize in your own words.

Even though we have been set free from having to obey the power of sin, can we still choose to obey it, rather than walking after our new life of victory in Christ?

As a born-again Christian, what is your new identity?

Who is your new “master/owner”? (I Corinthians 6:19, 20; Romans 8:15) _____





“It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.” Galatians 5:1

The problem of walking in defeat is not that we don’t have victory (because we have been set free, and Christ’s life is victorious in us for whatever we face). But we can choose (consciously or subconsciously) not to claim our victory and continue to live as though we’re in bondage. This condition of our lives is called “walking after the flesh” rather than “walking in the Spirit”.

The world says we attain victory by doing; God says we obtain it by dying or counting ourselves dead to sin. It is exactly backwards from our world system training; the way up is down; we have to fail in order to succeed; we have to die in order to live.



Victory In The Victor

Sin was our master —
We, its willing slave; (Romans 6:20)
The “old man” triumphant
‘Tixt birth and the grave.
Its deathknell sounded
As the veil was rent; (Matthew 27:51)
Christ died on the cross, (Romans 5:8)
And sin’s fury was spent.

When He rose from the dead
Victorious o’er sin,
He offered new life (John 5:24)
To those of our kin.
He ascended to Heaven (Acts 1:9)
To the Father’s right hand; (Hebrews 12:2)
There to seat us in glory, (Ephesians 2:6)
Sin’s presence to remand.

In Christ we died to sin; (Romans 6:11)
But sin — it did not die,
And through our personalities
For control it still does vie.
When by permission or deceit
Our wills it does enmesh, (Romans 6:13a)
We have given reign
To an enemy called Flesh.

The “old man” died with Christ, (Romans 6:6)
But flesh (self) is with us still; (Galatians 5:17)
We acceded to sin’s behest
In the domain of our will. (Romans 6:12)
The flesh, too, is crucified —
Its affections and its lusts; (Galatians 5:24)
To bring its deeds to death, (Romans 8:13)
The Cross again we trust! (II Corinthians 4:11)

**Our Head's in the heavenlies (Ephesians 2:6)
And our feet on the Earth;
Our minds are renewed (Romans 12:2)
To know our true worth. (Ephesians 1:6)
Our talk is affected
By Christ our true Head; (Ephesians 5:23b)
Our walk is affected (Galatians 5:25)
As by Him we are led. (Romans 8:14)**

**Constant victory is promised (II Corinthians 2:14)
As in Christ we are placed; (I Corinthians 1:30)
It becomes our portion
As Self (flesh) is effaced.
As He lives His Life (Galatians 2:20b)
Which only is meet,
His joy in us — our joy is full; (John 15:11)
In Him we are complete! (Colossians 2:9,10)**

**Then, your life is hidden in God; (Colossians 3:3)
And all spiritual blessings you gain; (Ephesians 1:3)
Things of this world lose their pull,
And only things eternal remain. (Hebrews 12:27)
Together we look for the blessed hope —
(Titus 2:12,13)
And eagerly await that loud cry; (I Thessalonians 4:16)
His coming back will be as He went, (Acts 1:11)
And we will meet Him in the sky! (I Thessalonians 4:17)**

Charles R. Solomon

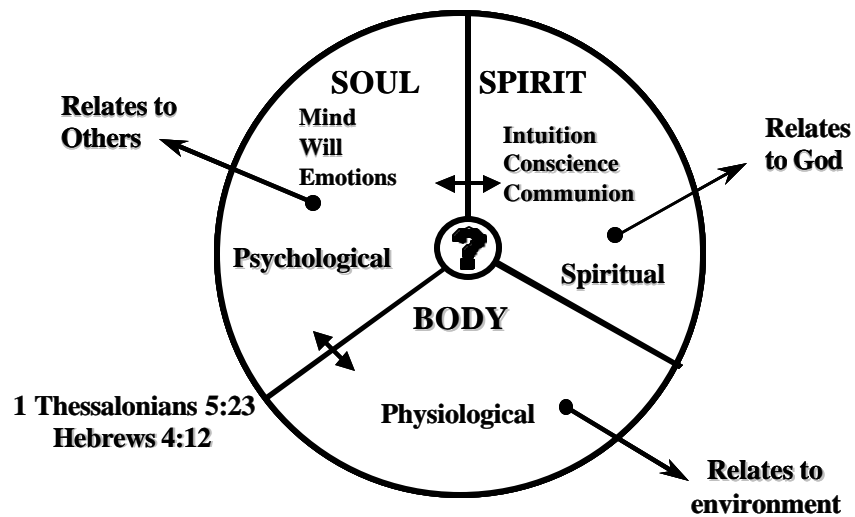
Lesson 7: My Choice

Why Do We Have A Choice?

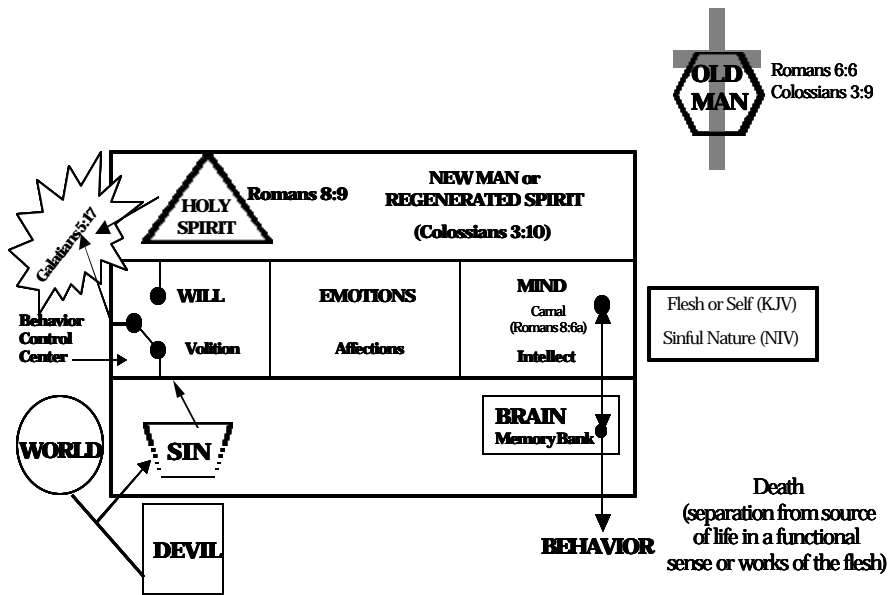
Even though we have been released from the power of sin (having to obey it) by the death of the “old man/spirit”, we realize that we have a choice of either “walking after the flesh” or “walking in the Spirit”.

My Will (Chooser)

Let's review the design of man:



Read: Galatians 5:17; Romans 8:9; Colossians 3:4; Colossians 3:9,10.



In this diagram, the “will” can be set on the “sin” position or a walk after the flesh or on the “Holy Spirit” position and a walk in the Spirit.

MIND	}	“THINKER”
WILL		“CHOOSER”
EMOTIONS		“FEELER”

We make decisions (choices) with the Will, not the Mind. We don’t “make up our minds” to do something; we decide with our Will. This should not be based on “feeling”, but on “fact” — truth from God’s Word.

NOTE: A more thorough explanation of this diagram is contained in Part 2 of Ins and Out of Rejection by Dr. Solomon.

Read the following verses, picking out the verb, which is



the action of the will:

Romans 6:11 “_____ yourselves to be dead to sin”.

Romans 6:13 “_____ yourselves to God...”

How can we “choose” Christ to be the center of our lives and exchange the “self-life” (walking after the flesh) for the Christ-Life (walking in the Spirit)?

Review Romans 6:11-14:

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord ...” (KJV). Determine to yield yourself to God’s indwelling Spirit and choose those things that are pleasing to God—no matter how you feel!

Why do some people feel they do not have a choice?

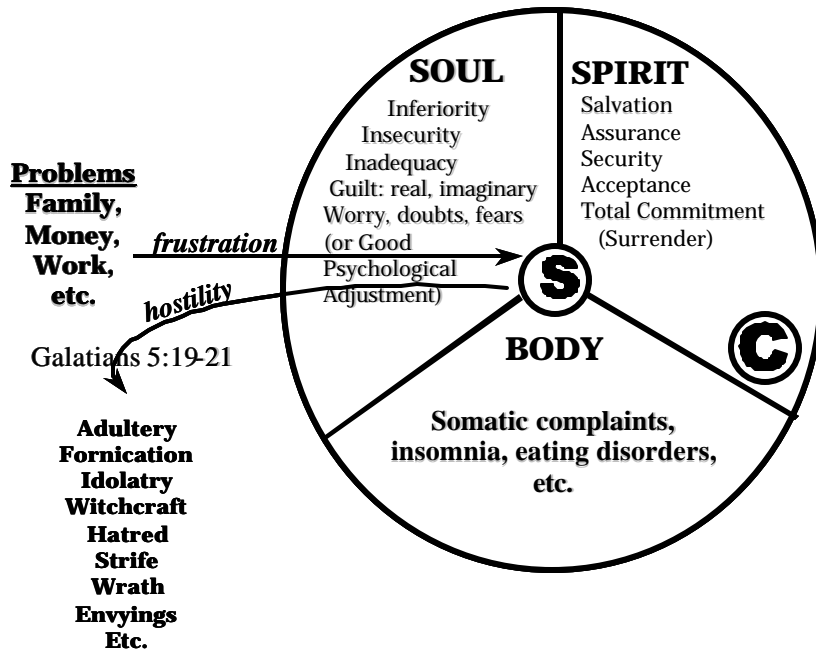
“Walking After The Flesh” (The Self-Life)

Galatians 5:16,17 (KJV): “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill 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.”

As shown on the next pages, we have the choice to “reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive unto God” (Romans 6:11) or we will, by choice or default, reckon ourselves dead to God and alive unto sin.



SELF-LIFE WALKING AFTER THE FLESH



The “S” in this diagram is self trusting in the ways we learned to cope apart from God—relying on how we learned to take care of ourselves (meet our own needs) without God in mind. We learn to live by idols. An idol is anything I turn to in order to meet my needs instead of, or outside of, Jesus Christ.

Even though we possess Christ’s Life and our new identity is righteous and victorious, we can choose not to have Christ controlling as center of our lives and thus not experience His life living through us. Are you aware of times when you have done this?

Of course, it is possible, as a believer, that you have done



nothing but this!

We are walking under a “fake ID”, as though the “old man” were alive and still bound by the power of sin. As such, we are powerless to cope with life! As shown in the diagram on page 58, the switch is on the “sin” position. In effect, we have reckoned ourselves dead to God and alive to sin—the converse of Romans 6:11.

Recall a situation which reveals this in your life.

Read and summarize John 15:5: _____



WALKING IN THE SPIRIT (Personal Revival)



Notice the "S" with a cross over it represents the flesh "under the influence of the cross", as we reckon ourselves dead to sin. (The opposite of that shown on page 58.)

Read and summarize Galatians 2:22-25: _____



In the midst of difficulties, are you laying claim to this identity? Give an illustration of when and how you did it.

The Importance of Faith

Read Romans 1:17, Hebrews 11, and Galatians 2:20. What is the synonym for “choosing with our wills” to claim who we are in Christ?

Read Colossians 2:6,7. How did you receive Christ?

What is characteristic of believers when walking by faith?

What is characteristic of believers when walking “after the flesh”?





Rate Your Top Five

Self-Life

Stubbornness	Vanity
Pride	Inferiority Feelings
Bigotry	Egoism
Selfish Ambition	Impatience
Envy	Hypersensitivity
Dissension	Withdrawal
Loveless	Anxiety
Guilt	False Modesty
Fear	Self Justification
Indifference	Self Indulgence
Dominance	Self Reliance
Critical Spirit	Self Effort
Depression	Self Righteousness
Nervousness	Laziness
Hostility	Anger

NOTE: We cannot always believe our emotions! They may have been “damaged” as a result of the “programming” of the old life. We may be “feeling” good (e.g., I Corinthians 10:12), without being in fellowship with God, even if things “seem well”. The contrary is also true: times of trial—when everything seems to go wrong—can be times of real faith and dependence upon God (II Corinthians 4:7-11), but our feelings may tell us things are not going well.

We Must Claim Christ As Life

If, by faith, we claim Christ to be our Life—His Living Life through us—then His Life, His Character, His Fruit, will be ours in experience (Soul) only as we are conformed to the reality of His Life in our Spirit (Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:28,29; II Corinthians 3:17,18). The following are the characteristics of His Life, which, when claimed, become “Christ, My Life!”.

In Christ, everything that belongs to Jesus belongs to you.





Do you believe this? Are you living as if it is true?

**JESUS CHRIST
THE LORD
HAS BECOME
MY LIFE,**

Philippians 1:21
Colossians 3:4

THUS, HE IS:

- My Strength** Psalm 27:1, Philippians 4:13
- My Wisdom** I Corinthians 1:30
- My Sanctification** I Corinthians 1:30
- My Righteousness** I Cor. 1:30, II Cor, 5:21
- My Redemption** I Corinthians 1:30
- My Peace** John 16:33, Ephesians 2:14
- My Victor** ... I Corinthians 15:57, Colossians 2:15
- My Joy** John 15:11
- My Hope** Colossians 1:27
- My Obedience** Hebrews 10:7
- My Spiritual Fullness** Colossians 2:9,10
- My Goodness** Galatians 5:22
- My Source of Love** John 17:26, I John 4:8
- My Kindness** Galatians 5:22
- My Source of Forgiveness**..... Luke 23:34
- My Patience** Galatians 5:22
- My Rest** Matthew 11:28, Hebrews 4:10
- My Self-Control** Galatians 5:23
- My Freedom** Galatians 5:13a
- My Gentleness** Galatians 5:23
- My Spiritual Mind** I Corinthians 2:16
- My Faithfulness** Galatians 5:22
- My Access To God** John 14:8, Ephesians 2:18
- My Supply** Philippians 4:19



Come Unto Me

**“Come unto me”, the Savior says,
“And I will give you rest”, (Matthew 11:28)
To those living in death
And those alive but sore distressed.
Eternal life is the promise—(Romans 6:23)
A life abundant and free; (John 10:10, Galatians 5:1)
If we will but stop our doing
And let Him make us content to be.**

**The sin that came between us
Passed from Adam to us as death; (Romans 5:12)
As we repent of our sin
The Holy Spirit gives life by His breath.
The life that we had from below
In exchange for that from above —
The works of the flesh without measure
(Galatians 5:19-21)
Give way to the fruit of His love. (Galatians 5:22,23)**

**But you say, I am defeated so
That I almost despair of life;
While I desire to obey Him,
My daily lot is one of strife.
While I would do His will, (Romans 7:22)
I find myself following my own; (Romans 7:19b)
Instead of acts of righteousness
I do that which I can't condone.**

**“O wretched man that I am” (Romans 7:24a)
Suffering day to day defeat,
While I read in His Holy Word
That in Christ I am complete! (Colossians 2:10)
When I come to the end of self
In one mass of frustration,
I read those liberating words —
“There is no condemnation”. (Romans 8:1)**

**In my struggle to obey the Lord
I marshalled all my strength;
Only to find my gracious Father
Had patience to go any length.
No matter how hard I tried
Sin and defeat were the norm;
All my effort had to come to naught
If to His image I were to conform. (Romans 8:29)**

**When all my efforts proved futile
And the flesh was exposed to His light,
My trying gave way to dying and
I was forced to give up the fight.
“I am crucified with Christ” (Galatians 2:20) -
Five words the Spirit blessed;
I could now obey His pleading,
“Come unto me and rest”.**

**Charles R. Solomon
February 27, 2000**

Lesson 8: Paths To The Cross

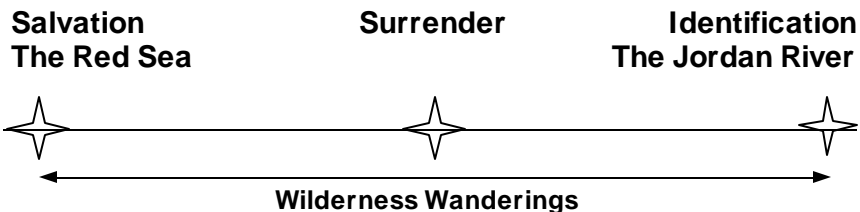
This chapter could be a check-up time—a time of finding out where you are so that you can see where the Holy Spirit needs to take you. Remember: spirituality is not attained (by works), it is obtained (by grace through faith). This lesson will provide an overview of the believer's progress in the appropriation of the Cross in experience. It will serve the purpose of a road map of the spiritual journey so that it might be possible to locate oneself and assess progress (if any) in the spiritual life. The first diagram will serve to relate the journey to that of the Children of Israel and to lay down three significant events in the believer's life so that progress can be measured in light of them.

The first is salvation; the second is surrender; and the third is identification or the experiential understanding of the Cross as has been explained in the foregoing material. It is in the form of a timeline, with the significant events taking place simultaneously or in series with varying amounts of time between them.

Can you put an "X" on your road map at the point of salvation? _____

Do you know in your heart of hearts that you have been born from above? Born spiritually? _____

What is the basis of your certainty? _____





God would have us make a total surrender at our new birth, the time of salvation or crossing the Red Sea as depicted above, and to experience the victory of crossing the Jordan River into Canaan (a symbol of abundant life) as one faith transaction. However, in practical experience, few are instructed in the crossing of the Jordan at the time of trusting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, which necessitates learning or appropriating it at a later point in time.

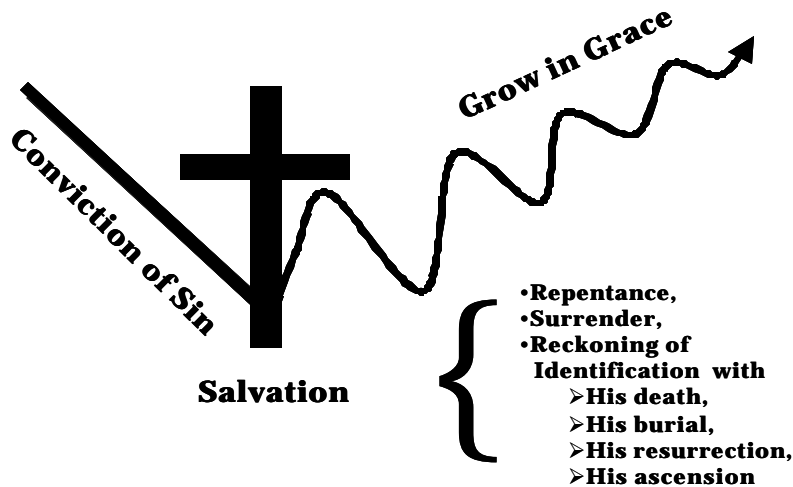
Are you absolutely certain that you have relinquished control of your life to the Lord by an act of your will? How and when? _____

Have you come to the end of your self where the Holy Spirit has transformed your life (at least for a period of time)? How and when? _____

Can you place yourself — as the Holy Spirit witnesses with your spirit — at some point on this line? If not, let's move on to the explanation of the following diagrams:



CHRIST AS SAVIOR, LORD, AND LIFE



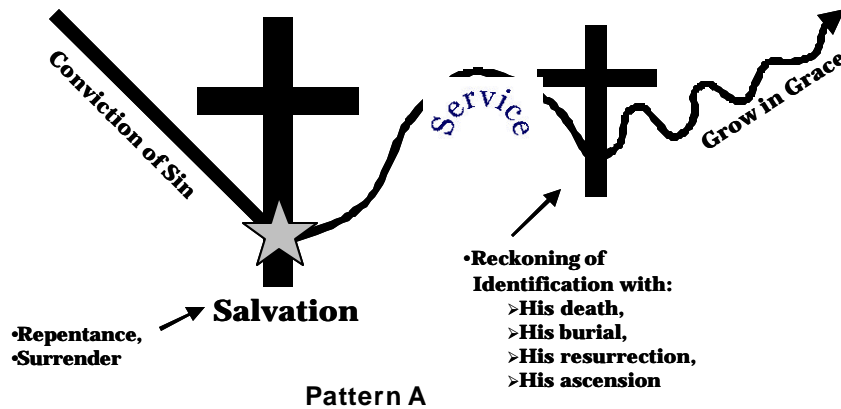
This diagram shows the infrequent case of the believer who experiences and appropriates all of the above events at the time of salvation. Afterward, there is spiritual growth, but the subsequent ups and downs are indicative of the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit (Galatians 5:17) which will be the believer's plight until he sheds the physical body. Luke 9:23 says that we must deny ourselves and take up our Cross daily, and II Corinthians 4:11 indicates that we must always be delivered to death for Jesus' sake; therefore, the Cross is not a one time event in the life of the believer. Entering into the blessing of our identification with Christ is merely the beginning of the life of denying ourselves and taking up the Cross.

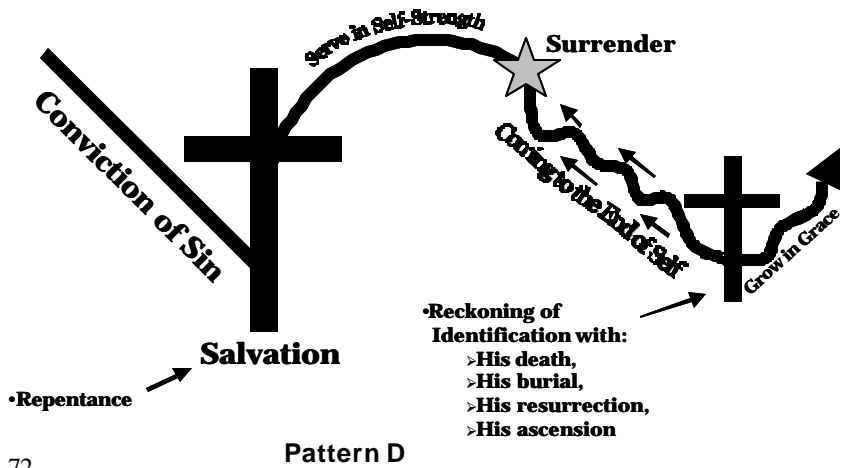
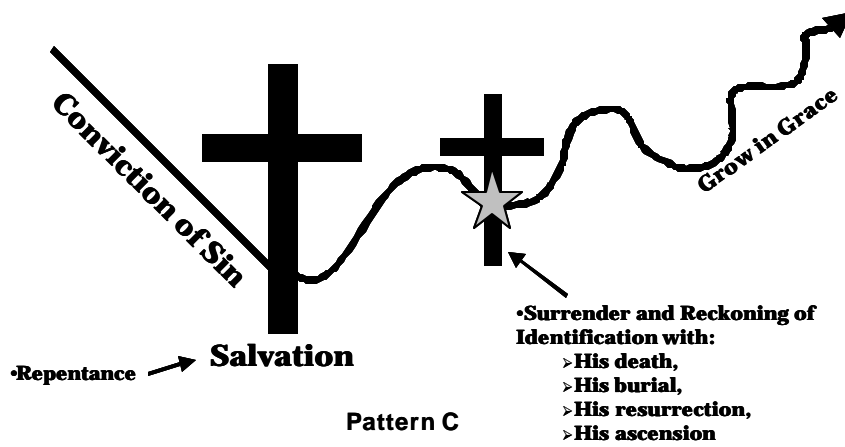
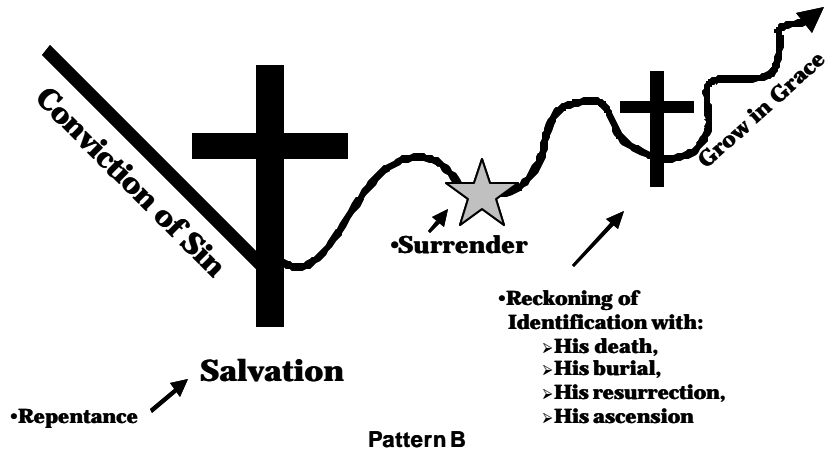
Are you one of those in whom all three events took place simultaneously? Is Christ your Lord and Life, as well as your Savior? Did you know that to be the case or has the foregoing material given you intellectual understanding of spiritual reality, which was previously experienced?

The following diagrams are designed to encompass the experience of the vast majority of believers who find victory, but who find the events in the timeline separated by months or years. As I have already said, it is God's will that all three be experienced at the time of the new birth; but, the flesh being what it is, most experience a process with suffering and brokenness playing a vital role. We can learn from the Word (Plan A) or we can learn from experience (Plan B).

At salvation, did you make a conscious decision to allow the Lord Jesus Christ to be Lord of your life?

Patterns A, B, C, and D are typical varieties of the process of a delayed appropriation of Christ as Life. Note the differing locations of the star (surrender) and the smaller cross (reckoning identification).





In all of the diagrams showing the path to the Cross, conviction of sin is common. In these diagrams, salvation is restricted to the new birth, but should, and could, be accompanied by total surrender. If total surrender is made at the time of salvation, the next event on the timeline would be identification; if not, it would necessarily take place at a later point in time (patterns B, C, & D). Upon total surrender, a believer who is at the end of his resources may enter into the reality of the Cross at the same time with the concomitant ups and downs afterward (pattern C). However, there are those who make a firm total surrender who may take years to get to the Cross in experience, with suffering being common place until the point of identification (Philippians 1:29,30) (pattern D).

If there were not a transformation, did your life improve or quickly take a turn for the worse? Explain. _____

During the downward trek (pattern D), there are usually many attempts to prevent the downward progress which is essential to see the bankruptcy of the flesh. Some of these may even be scriptural disciplines which God can not honor for the purpose of strengthening the flesh and must allow them to come to naught. Eventually, the Holy Spirit can use them in the life for the purpose they were intended; but, prior to the Cross, they impede the progress to the Cross. Whether the Cross becomes a reality at the time of salvation or at any subsequent point, there will be the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit for the remainder of the time in the physical body with spiritual warfare also being the believer's plight.

Can you point to a time when you made a total surrender—a faith transaction between you and God? _____



Having done that, has there been a time in your life when you came to the end of yourself and the Holy Spirit made real to you your death and resurrection with Christ? Or, could it be that you are in conflict and spiritual warfare after the Cross? You could be looking ahead for something that is in the past. It is important to know where you are so that you will know where the Holy Spirit needs to take you.

If your life took a downhill slide (or crash) after surrender, describe what happened and the measures you took to fix it before the Holy Spirit had His way. _____

How and when did you decide (if you did) to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in the death/resurrection process. Describe.

To verify your understanding of who you are and where you are, make a variation of the above illustration to represent the path your life has taken with all three major events taken into consideration.





MY PERSONAL JOURNEY

If identification, or the Cross, has become a reality in your experience, describe the pattern of victory, defeat, and spiritual warfare that has typified your experience since that time, whether at a point in time or gradually.



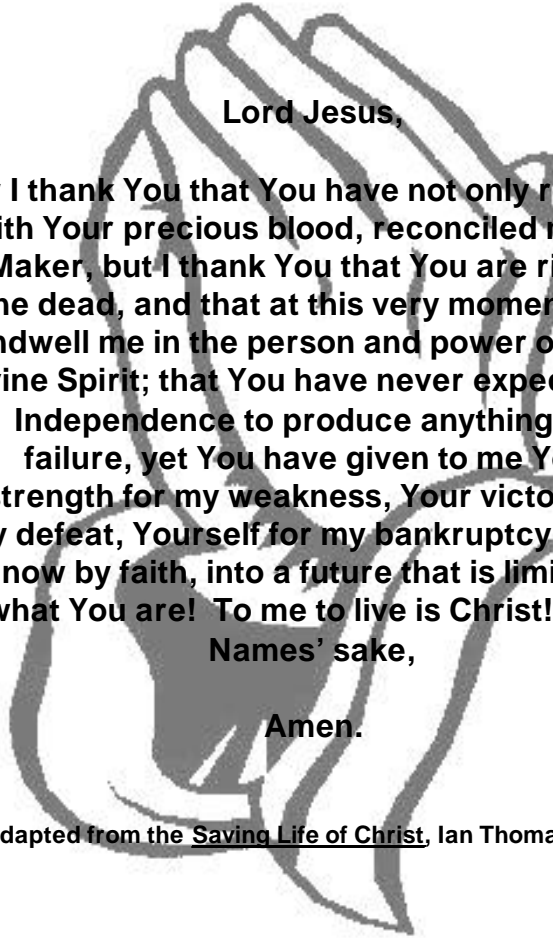


Lord Jesus,

How I thank You that You have not only redeemed me with Your precious blood, reconciled me to God, my Maker, but I thank You that You are risen from the dead, and that at this very moment, You indwell me in the person and power of Your divine Spirit; that You have never expected my Independence to produce anything but failure, yet You have given to me Your strength for my weakness, Your victory for my defeat, Yourself for my bankruptcy! I step out now by faith, into a future that is limited only by what You are! To me to live is Christ! For Thy Names' sake,

Amen.

(Adapted from the Saving Life of Christ, Ian Thomas, p. 19)



Journey To The End Of Self

When I came to Jesus
For the cleansing of my sin, (John 3:3)
My heart was set at peace
As the Savior came within. (II Corinthians 5:17)

Looking to His promise
Of a life of victory, (II Corinthians 2:14)
My faith was sadly taxed
As I struggled to be free. (Romans 7:24,25)

The burdens that I bore
Were heavier day by day;
It seemed God didn't care (Psalm 142:4)
As I labored in the way.

I searched for other means
For relief from trials sore;
No comfort could I find,
And I yielded to Him more. (Romans 12:1)

My Lord had heard my cry (Psalm 142)
And began to guide my way; (Psalm 37:5)
Tho' comfort was not giv'n,
He refused to let me stray.

My strength was well nigh gone
And continued to decrease;
Until there was no more
And He gave to me His peace. (John 14:27)

My heart was filled with peace
That passeth understanding. (Philippians 4:6,7)
I knelt in heartfelt awe;
My soul was not demanding.

Tho' pain had been my lot, (Philippians 1:29,30)
In His suff'ring I was blest; (Philippians 3:10)
Crucified with Christ, (Galatians 2:20)
I have found in Him my rest. (Matthew 11:28,29)

The Backward Look

**As I mount to view the Cross
From the vantage point of time,
My heart is overwhelmed
By love and grace sublime.**

**Sin is ever placed on Him (I Peter 2:24)
Who died that I might live; (Romans 5:10)
Even in His dying throes
He prayed, "Father, forgive". (Luke 23:24)**

**The wonder of forgiveness
Is a blessing all its own, (Psalm 32:1)
To know that all my guilt
Has taken wings and flown. (Isaiah 6:7)**

**And, then, to look to Heaven
And the bliss I long to know,
It all seems so unreal
As I struggle here below.**

**Tho' my heart would do His will (Romans 7:22)
With my body His abode, (I Corinthians 3:16)
The flesh resists His call (Romans 7:24)
To the high and holy road.**

**As the turmoil takes its toll,
And I cry, "Oh, wretched man", (Romans 7:24)
I take a backward look (Hebrews 12:2)
And see redemption's plan.**



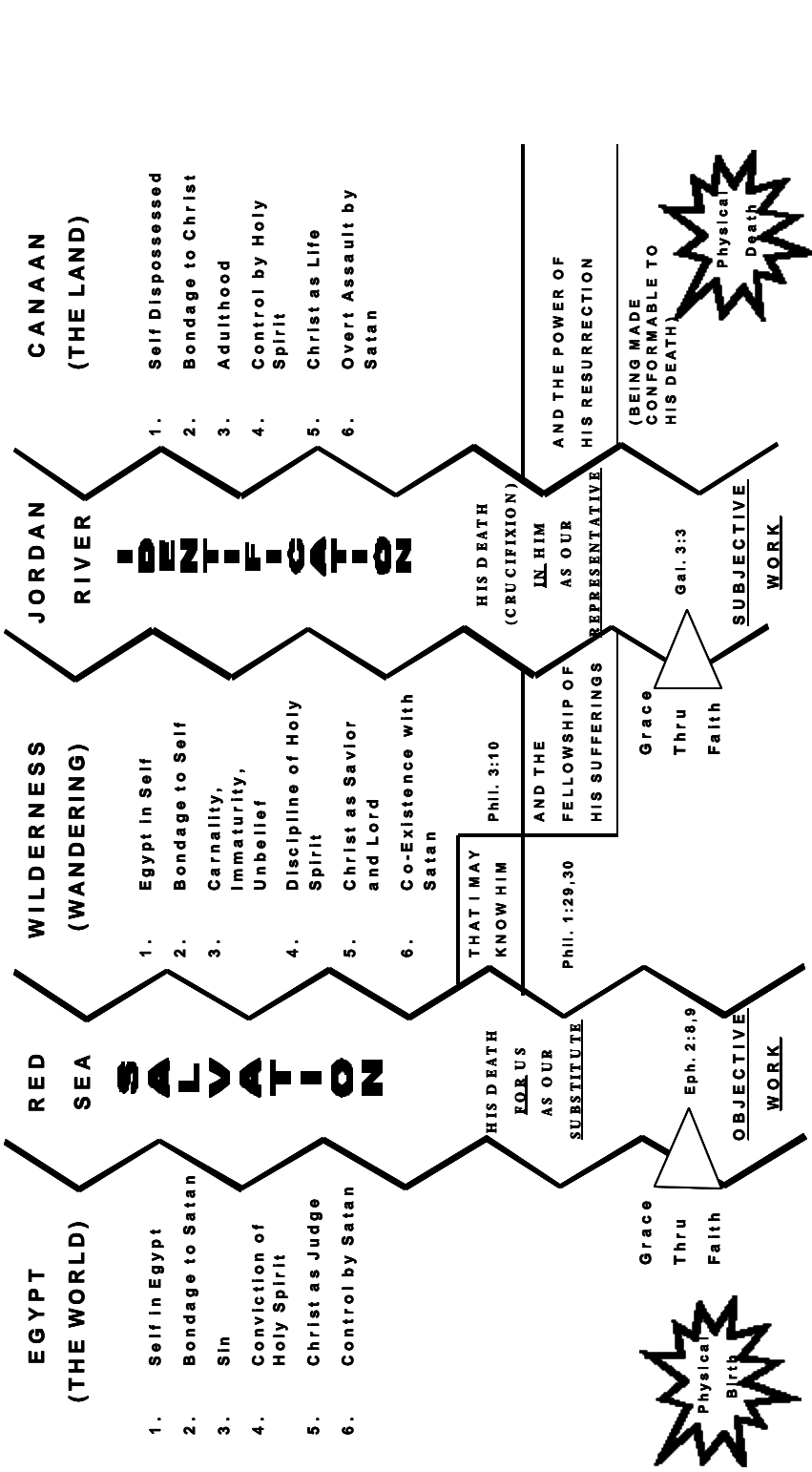
**I had seen the Cross as His,
As the substitute for sin: (Romans 5:8)
But this was not enough
To quell the storm within. (Romans 7:15)**

**Now, the picture comes to me —
The Spirit's revelation; (Ephesians 1:7)
I, too, have been crucified; (Galatians 2:20)
There is no condemnation! (Romans 8:1)**

**The joy of being dead to sin
And the law which long oppressed, (Romans 8:2)
Is now my daily portion: (Luke 9:23)
I have entered into rest. (Hebrews 4:10)**

Charles R. Solomon





God's Processing Tunnel

EGYPT

**As we embark on the journey of life
And partake of its burdens and cares;
Ere long we loathe the turmoil and strife
And seek respite from its snares.**

**In vain we search for joy that endures
Among the pleasures and trinkets of Earth;
Only to find that which beckons and lures
Is empty and void of true worth.**

**On and on 'til the restless heart cries
For the relentless ache to cease;
Oh, for Someone to wipe tears from our eyes (Revelation
7:17)
And flood our beings with peace.
(John 16:33)**

**At length we see that He who died
Was acquainted with sorrow and grief;
(Isaiah 53:3,4)
And we come, confessing our sin and pride;
(Romans 10:9,10,13)
And, in coming, experience relief.
(John 5:24, 8:32)**

WILDERNESS

**In this new-found Friend all grace resides
That abounds to our every need; (II Corinthians 9:8)
The promise is to him who in Jesus abides,
(John 15:5-7)
To him who from Self has been freed.**



**But the monster Self is a dauntless foe
That insists on ruling the life;
(Romans 7:18,19)
So, instead of the peace we fain would know,
We encounter a new kind of strife.**

**As the battle rages and clouds are dark
And our way with heartaches is lined;
(Romans 7:24)
We almost give up; we almost give out; when hark —
A promise: "...I will bring the blind..."
(Isaiah 42:16)**

**Many are the doubts as He leads us along
By a path that we would not choose;
But, clinging to Him, we can't go wrong,
Since our life to save we must lose.
(Luke 9:23,24)**

**As in a tunnel whose center is black
We yearn for light on our path;
In the wall of despair we search for a crack
That we might walk by sight—not faith.
(II Corinthians 5:7)**

**The Spirit's discipline, reaching far and wide,
Denies the comfort we keep demanding;
But, as we take our place in the Crucified,
(Galatians 2:20)
We find peace past all understanding.
(Philippians 4:7)**





CANAAN

**Now, as before, a new battle begins
For which we are ill-prepared;
As Satan his fiery darts expends
(Ephesians 6:16
To tempt us again to despair.**

**When he launches his savage attack
(I Peter 5:8,9)
To regain the ground he has lost,
We are tempted to quit and turn our back
On the warfare and its ultimate cost.
(Ephesians 6:12)**

**In the battle fierce with strength bereft,
We realize that all is but loss,
And retrace our steps to the place we left
(I Corinthians 2:14)
As He delivers us away to the cross.
(II Corinthians 4:11)**

**As our mortal flesh shows our union with Him,
Jesus' life will be made manifest;
And the things of this world will ever grow dim,
As we enter into rest.
(Hebrews 4:3)**

**Though your way seems hopeless and full of fears,
God is handling you in love, dear friend;
No matter how dark your tunnel appears,
Take heart, there is light at the other end.**

Charles R. Solomon



APPENDICES



Appendix I: Definition of Terms

These terms are defined as Grace Fellowship International understands and uses them.

OLD MAN (Old Nature, Adamic Life, Sin Nature):
The unregenerate spirit or Adamic life prior to salvation. (Romans 6:6; Colossians 3:9)

NEW MAN:
The regenerate spirit, or new nature, consisting of a new human spirit indwelt by the Holy Spirit. (Colossians 3:10)

FLESH (SELF, SELF-LIFE):
A position of the non-Christian who is enslaved to the power of sin through the old man. A condition of the Christian where the personality is yielded, voluntarily or involuntarily, to the control of indwelling sin which results in living out of human resources.

FLESH (Alternate Definition)
The soul's selfish and distorted perceptions, values, identity messages, and coping mechanisms that have been learned independently of God.

SIN:
An unholy force or power which is in me but not me. Sometimes refers to individual acts of sin. (I John 1:7, 9; Romans 7:20)

SINS:
Falling short of the mark; violations of God's laws; acts of disobedience. (Romans 3:23; I John 3:4)

POSITION and CONDITION:
Position: My true standing. I have a position spiritually of being in Adam or in Christ. (Romans 5:1)

Condition: My condition or state. This condition may or may not reflect my position. It may or may not reflect the truth. (Hebrews 5:12-14)

IN THE FLESH:

A position of the unregenerate man who is in Adam.

AFTER THE FLESH:

A statement which may characterize the walk of a Christian. It is allowing sin to control or my living as though I am separated from Christ.

ETERNAL LIFE:

Christ's Life. The Life of God which is without beginning or end. (I John 1:1-2; I John 5:12)

EVERLASTING LIFE:

Life that begins with Adam and will have no end. (John 6:47)

IDENTIFICATION:

A process of participating in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection which results in an awareness of one's life in Christ as revealed by the Holy Spirit. Awareness comes after experiencing the reality of death or "co-crucifixion" with Christ sometime during one's lifetime. Every believer is identified with Christ at salvation but may not appropriate the results of such identification in experience. (Romans 6:11; II Corinthians 5:17)

TOTAL COMMITMENT (TOTAL SURRENDER):

A decision of the will, at a point in time, giving God permission to have complete control of one's life. Reckless abandonment of oneself to God (Hannah W. Smith). (Romans 12:1,2)

ACCEPTANCE:

The state of being received and totally loved, unconditionally, without personal merit, on the basis of the life and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:6)

SECURITY:

A sure persuasion that I have an eternal, unbreakable, spiritual relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 6:37, 39)

CARNAL (FLESHLY):

A position of the non-Christian who is in Adam and a slave to sin through the old man. A condition of the Christian when he lives by his own resources and has yielded his life, knowingly or unknowingly, to indwelling sin.

TRUTH:

What God says ... regardless of what I think, feel, or experience. (John 8:32)

CROSS:

In Redemption: Christ's death for us. Christ's substitutionary sacrifice that purchased the pardon for man's sin. (I Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:6)

In Regeneration: Our death with Christ. The believer's union with Christ involved the "old man" being crucified. Now the believer's spirit is the "new man" in Christ. (Romans 6:6; Galatians 2:20)

In Consecration: the believer's reckoning of his union with Christ. This results in practical freedom from the authority of sin and empowerment by Christ's life. (Romans 6:11; Romans 5:10)

In Dedication: the believers ongoing denial of self and his acceptance of God's will and ways. (Luke 9:23)

In Liberation: the believer's authority over the world system (Galatians 6:14), and demonic forces through Christ's victory at Calvary. (Colossians 2:13-15; James 4:7)

Appendix II: "Who Am I?"

MY IDENTITY—RELATING TO:

GOD:

His Creation—made in His Image (Genesis 1:26,27). His Child, my loving Heavenly Father (I John 3:1). An individual, one of a kind, handmade original with a God-given personality (Ephesians 2:10). Me: precious in His sight.

JESUS CHRIST:

I'm His—bought with a price—His Life (I Corinthians 6:18-20). Accepted in Him (Ephesians 1:6). Loved with an everlasting love—without reservation or qualification (John 3:16; Jeremiah 31:3).

THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Indwelt by Him (John 14:17). Regenerated by Him (Titus 3:5). Sealed by Him (Ephesians 1:13,14). Made safe and secure under God's ownership (John 10:27,28).

MY FAMILY:

I am responsible to respond and provide that which God's Word commands me to do (in love). To enjoy a Godly relationship with them.

GOD'S FAMILY:

A member of the greatest family in heaven and on earth! Joined to every other member of the Body of Christ, locally and worldwide. Enjoying the privilege of fellowship with many of God's own people.

OTHER PEOPLE:

Relating to folks in a loving church fellowship. Enjoying wonderful fellowship with workers (at church) and developing sharing relationships with friends, relatives, and associates (with witnessing as a goal).



IN TIME:

I'm a person under construction; in process, not a finished product, but growing in Grace and Knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Possessor of Eternal, Abundant Life in Christ, Joint Heir with Christ of all that's His.

IN ETERNITY:

I'll receive the fullness of my inheritance: a resurrection body, knowing as I am known—Glorified—experiencing the glorious liberty of the sons of God, conformed to the Image of God's Son.



Appendix III: My Identification With Christ

IN HIS DEATH—HE DIED FOR ME (Romans 5:8):
This means complete forgiveness/total acceptance.

I DIED WITH HIM (Romans 6:6):
This frees me from what I was in Adam, a slave to sin.

IN HIS BURIAL—I WAS BURIED WITH HIM (Romans 6:4):
This means that if I want to relate to the Old Man, I'll have to dig him up, clean him up, and make him presentable.

**IN HIS RESURRECTION—I LIVE WITH HIM IN NEW-
NESS OF LIFE (Romans 6:4b,5):**
The old way of sin and death no longer has claim on me.

**IN HIS GLORY—I SHARE THE SPLENDOR OF HIS
CHARACTER BY HIS INDWELLING LIFE (John 17:22; II
Corinthians 4:7; Romans 8:17,18):**
My humanity is fulfilled as He lives in me and makes me the
man/woman I want to be in His Grace.

**IN HIS CONCERN—I HAVE BEEN SENT AS HIS AM-
BASSADOR FOR THE LOST, TO SHARE HIS GOOD
NEWS WITH A WORLD THAT DOES NOT KNOW HIM
(John 17:18,20; II Corinthians 5:19-21):**

**IN HIS TRIUMPH—HE LEADS ME IN TRIUMPH (II Co-
rinthians 2:14):**

Over Sin	Romans 6:14
Over Circumstances	Romans 8:25-28
Over Satan	Colossians 2:15



IN HIS REIGN:

I reign in life through Him—now! Romans 5:17
II Timothy 2:12
I reign in life with Him—future! Revelation 5:10

AS JOINT HEIR—SHARING ALL THAT IS HIS (Romans 8:14,17):

This means “all things are yours, and you are Christ’s and Christ is God’s” (I Corinthians 3:21-23).

IN HIS SUFFERING

As “heirs”, we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him (Romans 8:17b; I Peter 4:12,13; II Timothy 2:12; Philippians 1:29,30).



Appendix IV: Review

The Exchanged Life does not mean passivity nor does it produce immunity to sin. It involves making active choices to walk in conformity with our identity in Christ. We must decide to walk in dependence upon the power of the Holy Spirit.

The old man was independent and disobedient to God. It had to die in order that “our body of sin might be done away with ...” (Romans 6:6). Death is the ending of a relationship, but not of existence. Sin hasn’t died; it is still strong and appealing. Sin and Satan are still around but by virtue of the crucifixion of the old man, sin’s power over you is broken (Romans 6:7). Satan is defeated. He has no authority over us, but he is committed to keeping us from realizing that fact. Our effectiveness as Christians can be blocked if he can deceive us into believing that we are nothing but a product of the past, prone to failure, and controlled by our habits. As long as he confuses us and blinds us with his lies, the way we learned to live life before Christ (still programmed into our minds) will dictate our choices. We must “be transformed by the renewing of our minds...” (Romans 12:2).

We are “a new creature (being, identity, nature): old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17).

Because the Life of Christ is eternal (no beginning/end), I have a new past, secure present, and a glorious future.

Everything that belongs to Him, belongs to us. Everything that happened to Him, happened to us (believers). Victory is experienced when we yield to His Life in us and respond to life from our new nature (daily, moment by moment).



As believers, we need to remember that with Christ in us, there will never be demands placed upon our lives that are not placed upon Christ. So, whatever knocks on the door of your life, don't answer it. Ask Jesus to answer it and rest in the Life that is Christ's.

**FREE IN CHRIST—
FREEDOM IS OUR INHERITANCE**



Appendix V: Additional Study Helps

Handbook to Happiness, Dr. Charles R. Solomon

Ins and Out of Rejection, Dr. Charles R. Solomon

Through Whom Shall He Then Live?, Dr. Charles R. Solomon

They Found The Secret, V. Raymond Edman

Classic Christianity, Bob George

The Complete Green Letters, Miles Stanford

The Key To Triumphant Living, Jack Taylor

The Normal Christian Life, Watchman Nee

The True Vine, Andrew Murray

Abide in Christ, Andrew Murray

Life-Time Guarantee, Bill Gillham

Life On The Highest Plane, Ruth Paxson

The Abiding Life Seminars, Michael Wells

Sidetracked in the Wilderness, Michael Wells

Calvary Road, Roy Hession

Bone of His Bone, F. J. Huegel

Born Crucified, L. E. Maxwell

Grace Walk, Steve McVey

Not I But Christ, Stephen Olford

The Centrality of the Cross, Jesse Penn-Lewis

The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life, Hannah W. Smith

Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret, Howard Taylor, Mary G. Taylor, and Gregg Lewis

The Saving Life of Christ, W. Ian Thomas

The Best of A. W. Tozer, A. W. Tozer

Victory in Christ, Charles Trumbull

Birthright, David Needham

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- ◆ Handbook to Happiness
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- ◆ Handbook to Happiness & You—A Spiritual Clinic
- ◆ Handbook for Christ-Centered Counseling
- ◆ Handbook to Happiness in Verse
- ◆ Ins and Out of Rejection
- ◆ Gems and Jargon
- ◆ Hacia La Felicidad (Spanish H to H)
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