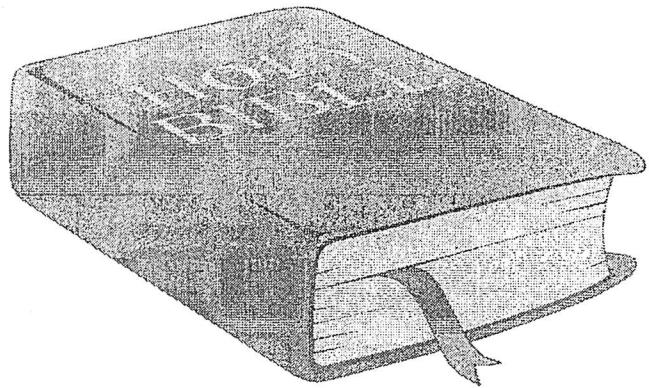


Salvation & Spirituality



by

Andrew J. Losier Jr.

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Salvation and Spirituality

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Introduction

Before you can study the Bible or understand its concepts, you must realize that spiritual phenomena cannot be comprehended without spiritual birth and spiritual birth cannot be obtained apart from Salvation.

(John 3:7) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

(1 Cor. 2:14) But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

(John 4:24) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Salvation is as simple as accepting what Christ has done. The work has been accomplished, Jesus Christ offers Eternal Life to everyone who will believe in Him.

(Acts 16:31) . . . Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, . . .

(John 1:12) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

No Christian can live an effective life for the Lord without knowledge of God's Word. Many people acknowledge the importance of the Bible but never spend much time studying it. Knowing Bible Doctrine is not just for preachers or pastors. It is for everyone.

(2 Tim. 2:15) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

Every Believer needs a working knowledge of the Scriptures. We must feed on God's Word if we are to grow spiritually. The Bible is the only

reliable source of information with regard to God's Plan for all ages. It points out our state of sinfulness and our need for Salvation through Jesus Christ. We learn about the character of God and how He deals with man throughout the ages. God reveals man's destiny and the ultimate destruction of this universe. The Bible is the revealed "*mind of Christ.*" (1 Cor. 2:16) The more we know about the Bible, the more we know about Christ.

This booklet is written to Believers for the purpose of building a better understanding of Basic Bible Doctrines and to provide Scripture References for the Spiritual Concepts being presented. Salvation and Spirituality are two of the most prominent Doctrines that Christians should be certain of. Yet, in Christian circles, these two Doctrines have such diverse presentation that they can hardly be recognized.

Much more detail could be entered into than is covered in this short review of these significant Doctrines. It is therefore recommended that additional study of the Word of God through the power of the Holy Spirit be undertaken whenever a more thorough understanding is required.

Salvation provided through Christ is the foundation Doctrine of Christianity. Without a proper understanding of the Gospel a Believer has no assurance and may not even be saved. Clarity of the Gospel is essential if a Believer is to witness. When presenting the Gospel, false issues make the choice unbelievers face difficult or unnecessarily unattractive. Among Believers, many distortions exist as a result of ignorance of the Word of God that is common among enthusiastic, over zealous and unprepared witnesses. If there is a desire for greater understanding, God the Holy Spirit can reveal truth to those who avail themselves of His revealing ministry.

The Spirituality of a Christian is a concept that is often ignored or blended into a requirement for Salvation. This misunderstood Doctrine gives rise to some of the strangest presentations of the Christian Life in Churches and Seminaries. Emphasis in motivational technique is extremely prevalent in today's Christian Organizations. External measuring sticks have replaced Divine Standards. The Spirit filled life is the only motivation that has Eternal Reward and at the same time is the only one that cannot be measured by man.

THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

The doctrine of Salvation is obviously the most critical doctrine that anyone should comprehend. Without Salvation, all other doctrines have little significance. The word “salvation” is derived from the Greek words *soteria* and *soterion* and has a basic meaning of “to rescue, to save, to deliver”. Salvation denotes preservation, and safety from a threatening circumstance. Personal Salvation involves God’s provision necessary to rescue man from his lost condition (Regeneration, Atonement, Justification). Whether we acknowledge it or not, everyone is in need of Salvation if we are to escape an Eternal Condemnation from God.

God’s Salvation for the Human Race is specific and is centered around the unique Person and Work of Jesus Christ. God’s provision through this Plan is not arbitrary but deliberate. Because the character of God can not change (Immutability), the plan must satisfy God’s Righteousness and Justice before His Love can give Eternal Life. In God’s plan, the penalty for sin for the entire world was paid by Christ’s death on the cross (God’s Justice was satisfied and the barrier was removed). Now through faith in Christ Jesus, God’s Love is able to give man Eternal Life and clothe him in the Righteousness of God. Apart from God’s provision, man cannot approach God or earn His respect. God is absolutely Righteous and cannot have fellowship with or accommodate anything less than Perfect Righteousness. There is no room for man’s imperfection in God’s character.

(1 Sam. 2:2) There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

(1 John 1:5) This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

In Salvation Jesus Christ bore the punishment for sin (Atonement) and God imputed Christ’s Perfect Character to those who believe in Christ (Justification).

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

Christ is the focal point for Salvation. We cannot become children of God apart from God's Plan which includes the Sacrificial Death of Jesus Christ on the cross, the Imputation of Righteousness to the Believer, and the Regeneration of the Human Spirit in each recipient of Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Everyone needs Salvation.

In Rom. 3:23, two of man's deficiencies are addressed. First "all have sinned" (Atonement is necessary) "and come short of the Glory of God" (Justification is needed). Each member of the human race is in bondage to sin and is born spiritually dead. Rom. 5:12 (Regeneration is needed)

(Rom. 3:23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

(Rom. 3:10) As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

(Isaiah 53:6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

(Rom. 5:12) By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

Salvation is received through Faith in Christ.

Faith requires no merit and is the most basic system of perception (no one is left out). The amount of faith is not the issue, but rather it is the object of the faith that is critical. The merit is in Christ not in the strength of man's faith. Even "the faith of a child" or as it were "the grain of a mustard seed" is adequate if it is directed toward Christ's work on the cross.

(Galatians 3:26) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

(John 6:47) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

(John 5:24) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

(Acts 16:31) Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved,

(John 1:12) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

(John 3:36) He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

(Rom 3:28) Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Salvation requires a Spiritual Birth.

When Adam sinned the spirit of man died and remains dead for all humanity born in Adam. If man is to regain fellowship with God man must be Spiritually Regenerated. This rebirth of the human spirit is accomplished by God the Holy Spirit at the moment of Salvation.

(John 3:3) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

(John 3:6,7) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Salvation is a gift Given in Grace.

Since man cannot work for Salvation (incapable of earning it), it is provided as a gift in Grace by God and is undeserved by anyone. In Grace we are undeserving and at God's mercy. In Grace God gets the glory not man. In Grace Salvation depends on God not on man.

(Rom. 6:23) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Eph. 2:8,9) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Salvation is the work of God.

In Salvation God does the work for man rather than man doing the work for God. Man is helpless and incapable of earning it. Salvation can only be accepted by faith in Christ's work on the cross. To work for Salvation would be relying on human ability or virtue rather than on God's provision. Consequently, human works added to faith is not faith in Christ but faith in human works, or human power, which is contrary to grace. Salvation is as simple as accepting what Christ has done. The work has been accomplished. Jesus Christ offers Eternal Life to everyone who will believe in Him.

(Titus 3:5,6) Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

Salvation is entirely the work of God. We are spiritually dead, totally depraved, separated from God, and totally helpless to do anything about it. We cannot even understand the Gospel apart from the revealing ministry of the Holy Spirit. A spiritually dead person can only respond to the invitation to Eternal Salvation. His response must be believing in Jesus Christ.

(1 Cor. 2:14) But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

(John 3:6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

(1 Cor. 2:10) But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

Salvation is an invitation from Christ.

We do not invite Christ to save us, we accept what He has offered. With Salvation Christ originated the offer. We must recognize and accept the gift. Christ is doing the giving. We are bankrupt and without assets to give or attract. Christ is in the position of authority, not us. His invitation is valid and real.

(John 6:37) All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

(Matt. 11:28) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

(Isa. 55:1) Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Salvation is only in Christ.

Christ is the Unique Person of the universe. He is fully God and fully man. In order for God to provide Salvation and die on the cross, God had to take on the form of man. God can not die (Eternal Life), God could not be confined on the cross (Omnipresence) and a man had to be the substitute. Jesus Christ became that man conceived by God the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin (outside of the curse of sin). There is no other person or solution that can provide for man's Redemption.

(Acts 4:12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

(1 Tim. 2:5) For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

(John 14:6) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Salvation is permanent.

God performed the work required for Salvation. Because Salvation does not depend on our performance or maintenance to survive, it is safe "reserved in heaven for you". We receive what God did by faith (no merit) and it is perfect and secure. It would take someone grater than God to undo what He has already done.

(1 Peter 1:4,5) To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(Rom. 8:38,39) 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 creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(John 10:28) And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Salvation is the starting point.

In order for us to have fellowship with God we must have spiritual capacity. The Spiritual Birth provided by God the Holy Spirit at the moment we believe in Christ gives us the Spiritual platform for fellowship with God. Our Spiritual growth proceeds through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and becomes a basis for Eternal Reward.

(1 Cor. 3:11) For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

(2 Cor. 5:12) For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

(Rom. 8:16) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

(Peter 2:2) As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

(2 Tim. 2:15) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Salvation Separates Humanity.

No issue in life has more impact than our attitude toward Christ. It is in this regard we are urged to repent (change our minds about Christ). On the basis of our attitude toward the Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ, we are separated for eternity. Everyone that has the capacity to choose, selects their destiny based on their attitude of Christ's death on the cross. Man does not pay for it, Christ payed the debt. Man must recognize his helplessness and receive the wonderful provision given in Grace through Christ Jesus.

(1 John 5:12) He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

(Matt. 10:34,35) Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

(Matt. 13:38) The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

God Desires Salvation for Everyone.

It is God's wish that everyone be saved, yet God honors the free will of man.

(2 Peter 3:9) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

(John 6:40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

(Ezekiel 33:11) . . . As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; . . .

(John 3:17,18) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

(1 John 3:23) And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ,

Salvation is Available to Everyone.

When Christ died on the cross He paid the sin debt of the entire world. For Salvation, the issue is no longer sin, but rather our attitude toward Christ. Christ removed the barrier and in its place Christ stands as the object in whom we must trust for Salvation. Since Christ paid the debt, sin is no longer the basis for going to Hell. It is the rejection of Jesus Christ's provision and the attitude of self-sufficiency by man that becomes the indictment.

(1 John 2:2) And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

(Col. 2:14) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

(Eph. 2:14) For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

(1 Tim. 2:6) Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

(Rom. 1:16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

(John 3:16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Provision for Salvation is Complete.

As Christ hung on the cross, taking our place, He was judged by God the Father. The sins of the world, past, present and future, were laid on Him. While the Lord Jesus Christ never once opened His mouth in response to the physical abuse He received, He screamed out under the Judgement of the Father for sin. When the Judgement was complete Christ uttered these words "it is finished". In the Greek it is "TETELESTAI" which means "paid in full" and was used when a debt was completely satisfied .

It is therefore in arrogance or in ignorance that we might try to earn Salvation through some effort on our part. Human effort directed at Salvation is an insult to God. We can only receive what He completed on the cross.

(Rom. 4:4,5) Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

The harder you work for Salvation the further you go from it. Christ completed the work on the cross. Accept the payment Christ made and begin your Christian Way of Life.

THE DOCTRINE OF SPIRITUALITY

The Plan of God for man is made up of three parts. Salvation is the point where man gains entrance into God's Plan. Following Salvation is the Christian way of life in time. This second phase continues until death or the Rapture and involves growth and exercise of spiritual muscle. The final segment is Eternity and involves God's provision for our Eternal well being. In Salvation, in Time and in Eternity, God has provided the assets necessary to function and He has avoided any dependance on the work of man. Salvation was accomplished by Christ and provided in Grace, provision in time is through the power of the Holy Spirit, and Eternity is provided by God the Father.

The Christian way of life is supernatural and can only be accomplished through the power of God the Holy Spirit. Man is imperfect and cannot have fellowship with God unless compatibility is established. It is through Regeneration (Spiritual Birth) and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that man can fellowship with God. The Holy Spirit is provided at the moment of Salvation to indwell and empower every Believer. Therefore, Spirituality is a relationship with the Holy Spirit whereby God controls the Believer's life. This empowerment is called the filling of the Spirit. While every Believer is indwelt by the Spirit, every Believer is not always controlled or filled by the Holy Spirit. It is through this relationship with the Holy Spirit that Divinely motivated behavior and production can result. Exterior behavior is of little value. If the Holy Spirit does not control your life the result is empty production (wood, hay & stubble).

(1 Cor. 3:12-14) Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

Every Believer gets the Holy Spirit as the result of Salvation.

(1 Cor. 3:16) Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

(Rom. 8:9) But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

(1 Cor. 6:19) What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Believers are Commanded to be filled with the Spirit.

It is to our benefit to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Our growth depends on the Holy Spirit. We cannot function Spiritually without Divine Power.

(Galations 5:16) This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

(Rom. 8:4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

(1 John 1:7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Fellowship with God is only possible through the Spirit filled life.

The Character of God demands Perfect Holiness. If fellowship is to exist with God, we must be free of sin. Without the control of the Holy Spirit in the Believer's life, Spiritual fellowship with God is impossible. God's Standard can only be met or achieved through the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Rom. 8:8) So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

(Isaiah 59:2) But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Christians still sin after they are Saved.

The Christian way of life is a continuous battle between Human Viewpoint and Divine Viewpoint, between Carnality and Spirituality, and between the Old Sin Nature and the Power of the Holy Spirit. Salvation is an accomplished fact through faith and is Eternally settled, but Spirituality is a moment by moment battle that requires constant vigilance and provision through the Holy Spirit. Much confusion exists for Christians if these two concepts are not properly understood.

(1 John 2:1) My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

(1 John 1:10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Christians must recognize their sin and rebound.

Spirituality can only function in a spiritually sanitary environment. Because sin destroys the spiritual status of the Believer, self examination must be continuous. If we acknowledge our condition to God, restitution is assured and spirituality resumes. Failure to recognize a state of carnality only compounds the situation and results in lost production and discipline for the Believer.

(1 Cor. 11:31) For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

(1 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.

(Psalms 51:10) Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Spirituality is absolute.

At any one moment you are either spiritual or carnal. Spirituality is not a relative process. Either you are controlled by the Spirit or you are operating under the power of the flesh (the old sin nature).

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

(Matthew 6:24) No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

(Rom. 8:8) So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Personal sin grieves the Spirit and neutralizes the Believer's power.

If we are to operate by the power of the Holy Spirit, we must recognize that any sin will interrupt the spiritual state necessary for Spiritual control.

(Heb. 12:1) Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

(Rom. 8:4-6) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

The filling of the Spirit produces Spiritual Growth.

While the filling of the Spirit is absolute, spiritual growth comes in degrees. You start out as a baby and desirably you reach adulthood or spiritual maturity. Being filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit makes your spiritual at any given moment but does not necessarily mean that you are a mature Believer. Maturity results from a maximum amount of time spent under the control of the Holy Spirit studying and taking in the Word of God. Any studying apart from the guidance of the Holy Spirit results in confusion and frustration. Maturing is a growing process that requires time and study, but most of all requires the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

(Galatians 4:19) My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

(Phil. 2:2) Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

(Eph. 5:15-17) See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

(1Cor. 3:1) And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

Doctrine can only be understood through the filling of the Spirit.

(John 16:13) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

(John 14:26) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

(1 John 2:27) But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

(1 Cor. 2:14-16) But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

(Proverbs 1:23) Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Sin brings temporal Spiritual Death or Spiritual Sleep.

Since sin breaks any continuity our Human Spirit has with the Holy Spirit, our spiritual life becomes dormant until we recover by confessing (acknowledgment) of our sins and regaining our spiritual standing.

(Eph. 5:14,15) Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

(Rom. 8:6) For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

(1 Thess. 5:19) Quench not the Spirit.

(Eph. 4:30) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Discipline can be reversed or become beneficial through the power of the Spirit.

For the Believer there is no activity in life that does not factor into our spiritual growth. Even discipline is directed our way for our benefit. Discipline from God is designed to turn us around. When we allow the Holy Spirit to regain control of our life through acknowledgment of our sins, the Holy Spirit takes suffering and turns it into blessing or may remove it according to God's desire.

(1 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.

(Rom. 8:28) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

(Heb. 12:5-7) And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

(Proverbs 1:23) Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

(1 Cor 10:13) There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

(1 Peter 1:7) That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Prayer is ineffective with sin in the life.

Communication with God is broken when we are in a carnal state. God's character will not interface with carnality. Harmony with God only exists in a state of Spirituality. All prayer offered while a Believer is in sin is without power. The only prayer that becomes appropriate is the confession of sin which reestablishes a Spiritual status.

(Psalms 66:18) If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

(Isaiah 59:2) But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

(Psalms 51:10) Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

All legitimate Christian service must be done through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Man's efforts no matter how noble fall short of God's standards. If we are to produce behavior acceptable to God, we must be controlled by God the Holy Spirit.

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

(Rom. 8:4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

(2 Cor. 3:3) Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.

(Galatians 5:22,23) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

(2 Cor. 4:6,7) For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

(Zech. 4:6) Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Spirituality is not what you do, it is how you think or are motivated.

Whether we worship, give, witness or pray, it is our attitude or motivation which determines the profitability of such activities. If we are motivated by the Holy Spirit we are spiritual. If we are falsely motivated we are carnal. Even unbelievers can put on a good show, but only Believers can be filled with the Spirit. Spiritual warfare is fought in the mind and it is only through the filling or control of the Spirit that a Believer can be spiritual.

(Proverbs 23:7) For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: . . .

(2 Cor. 9:7) Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

(Phil. 2:5) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

(Heb. 4:12) For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing

asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

(Psalms 139:23,24) Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

(Rom. 12:2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

(2 Cor. 10) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

(2 Tim. 1:7) For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

(Isa. 26:3) Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

(2 Cor. 10:5) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

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