

WALKING IN
THE SPIRIT AND
GROWING IN
THE LORDSHIP
OF JESUS CHRIST

SECTION IX

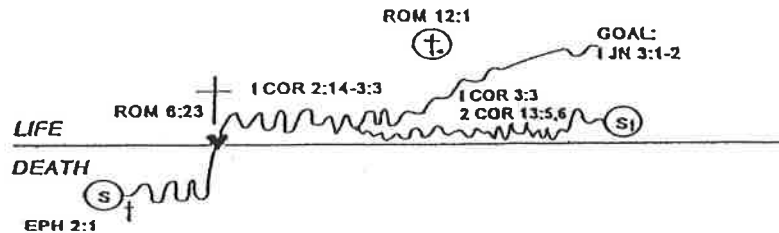
APPOINTMENT IX: WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Objectives:

1. To explain to the person the challenge of growing in the Lordship of Christ.
2. To stress the place of maturity in the Christian life.
3. To solidify the concept of “spiritual breathing”.

I. CHRISTIAN LIFE DIAGRAM

- A. Explain that you will be trying a lot of things together today, especially the two aspects of confession and being filled with the Spirit that you hit upon the last two weeks.
- B. Show your new Christian the diagram below, explaining it and looking up the verses as you go.

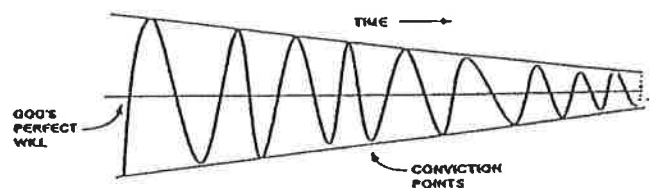


1. Refer to the line dividing spiritual life and death. Draw the “natural man” below the line, and read Ephesians 2:1, which talks about existing death.
2. Draw the person’s “life line”, crossing into life at the point of the cross. Read Romans 6:23.
3. Read I Corinthians 2:14-3:3 stressing that after a “natural man” crosses into life, he has two choices.
 - a. Draw out the carnal “life line”, explaining that although Christ (represented by the cross) is in the life, Christ is not empowering it.
 - b. Read Romans 12:1-2 and Galatians 2:20. Paul, in these two passages, is instructing us how we continually need to entrust our life to the Lord. Explain that our life inevitably will bring us to the point of confrontation between the Lord’s will and purpose and our own. This is not a one-time decision but a series of decisions through all of life that we will need to make, in whatever area the Holy Spirit is convicting us about. Romans chapters 6 and 7 makes it clear that this is an ongoing process and not a perfected state (See also I John 1:8). A Christian’s growth, in other words, won’t be a matter of perfect development but of dealing with personal weakness and sin throughout our lives.

II. GOD’S PERFECT WILL

A. Draw the following diagram for your new Christian.

B. Explain that the middle line represents God’s perfect will for our lives, and the outer lines are “conviction points”. A Spirit-filled Christian will not always live according to the perfect will of God, but through faith, he will be able to stay within the “conviction points”. It is at these points that God impresses us with the need to turn back to Him. Failure to do so results in disobedience and carnality. As we mature, the convictions points get closer to God’s will.



- C. Explain that the Christian walk is a maturing process based on faith and that maturity doesn’t come immediately. Two analogies may help on this:
 1. Everybody is born with the same number of muscles, but the greatest athletes have theirs more fully developed. We Christians have all the faith that we need, but like our muscles, we need to develop it more fully.

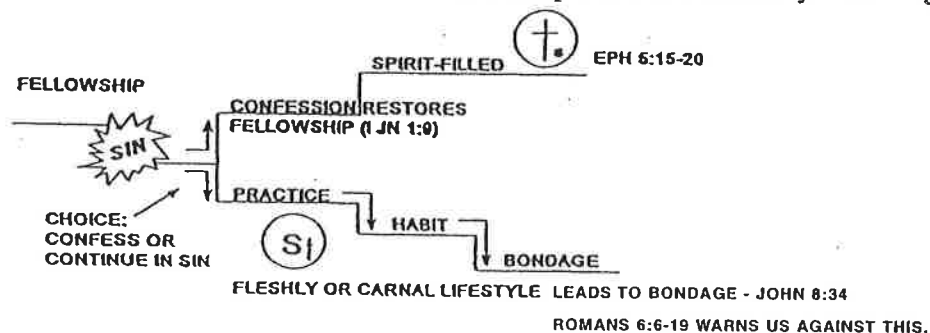
2. Just as a 3 year old shouldn't feel badly if he/she can't run as fast as a 10 year old, so a younger Christian shouldn't feel badly if he/she isn't as mature as Christians who have been experiencing the Spirit-filled life for a longer period. As with the 3 year old, the important thing is that there is healthy development.

D. Finally, explain how dealing with sin immediately through confession is necessary for healthy growth in the Christian life.

1. *Spiritual Breathing*: Go over a personal example of "spiritual breathing":
 - a. A sincere desire to restore fellowship with God.
 - b. Confession which is:
 - i. "A" = Agreeing with God concerning your sin
"B" = Not begging for forgiveness, but thanking Him for His forgiveness
"C" = Change - an attitude of repentance
 - ii. Surrendering control to Christ.

2. *Consequences and pattern of unconfessed sin in our life.*

- a. Using the following diagram, explain that sin breaks fellowship with God. Unconfessed sin leads from a simple act to eventually a bondage to sin.

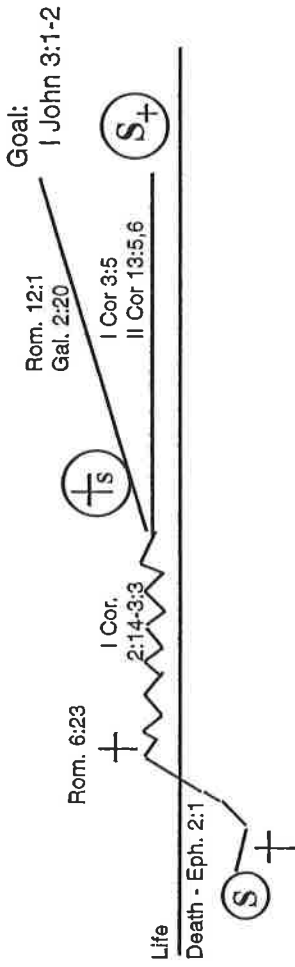


III. BACK TO CHRISTIAN LIFE DIAGRAM

- A. Reread Romans 12:1-2 and Galatians 2:20.
- B. Stress again that Paul is talking about a continual presentation of our bodies and that he is talking to people ("brothers") who already know Christ.
- C. Ask the new Christian what he thinks this means. Explain that this is a description of a man (Paul) growing in the Lordship of Christ. In short, it's a commitment to make Christ his #1 priority in life (to go anywhere, do or say anything, give away anything God wants them to)
- D. Ask them if they've made the decision.
 1. If they say "yes", ask them to tell you about it.
 2. If they say "no", ask them if they think that they are ready. If so, encourage them to do so--silently, later that day, out loud, or however they feel most comfortable.
 3. If they say that they're not ready, look at Romans 12:2, stressing the idea that "renewing their minds" is the way to get to that point of commitment. Review spending time with God.
- E. Regardless of their previous answers, if they are open, challenge them to something you feel will be most beneficial to them, like a Bible Study or attending Sunday School and the morning service on a regular basis. (You need to know what you plan on challenging them to before you meet.)

ASSIGNMENT

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT



Ephesians 2:1 _____

Romans 6:23 _____

I Corinthians 2:14-3:3 _____

Romans 12:1-2 _____

Galatians 2:20 _____

I Corinthians 3:3 _____

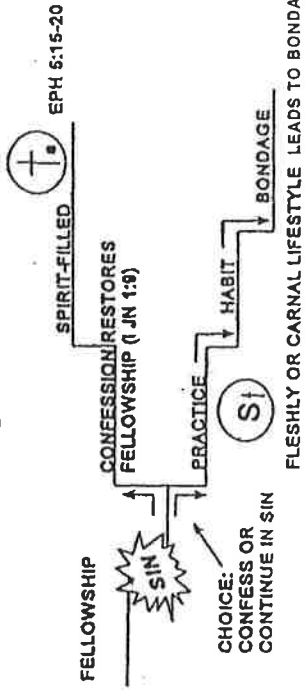
II Corinthians 13:5,6 _____

I John 3:1-2 _____

Where are you?

Were do you want to be?

Sin breaks fellowship with God.



John 8:34 _____

Romans 6:16-22 _____

I John 1:9 _____

Ephesians 5:15-20 _____

Romans 12:1-2 _____

Galatians 2:20 _____

What does it mean to continually present ourselves to God?

Is commitment to Christ your #1 priority in life? _____

ACTION PLAN

1. Share the bridge with a non-Christian this week.
2. Involve yourself in something new this week that will allow you to meet a new person. Who have you met this week?
3. List two or three people who have significantly influenced your life and why.