

CHAPTER 28

A Graphic Look at Biblical Follow-Up

Introduction:

The Bible is rich in metaphors and terminology for spiritual growth. Some of these concepts have been illustrated in this section to give graphic representation of the walk with God.

The general instruction is as follows:

“So walk ye in Him”

Col 2:6, “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him, having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude”

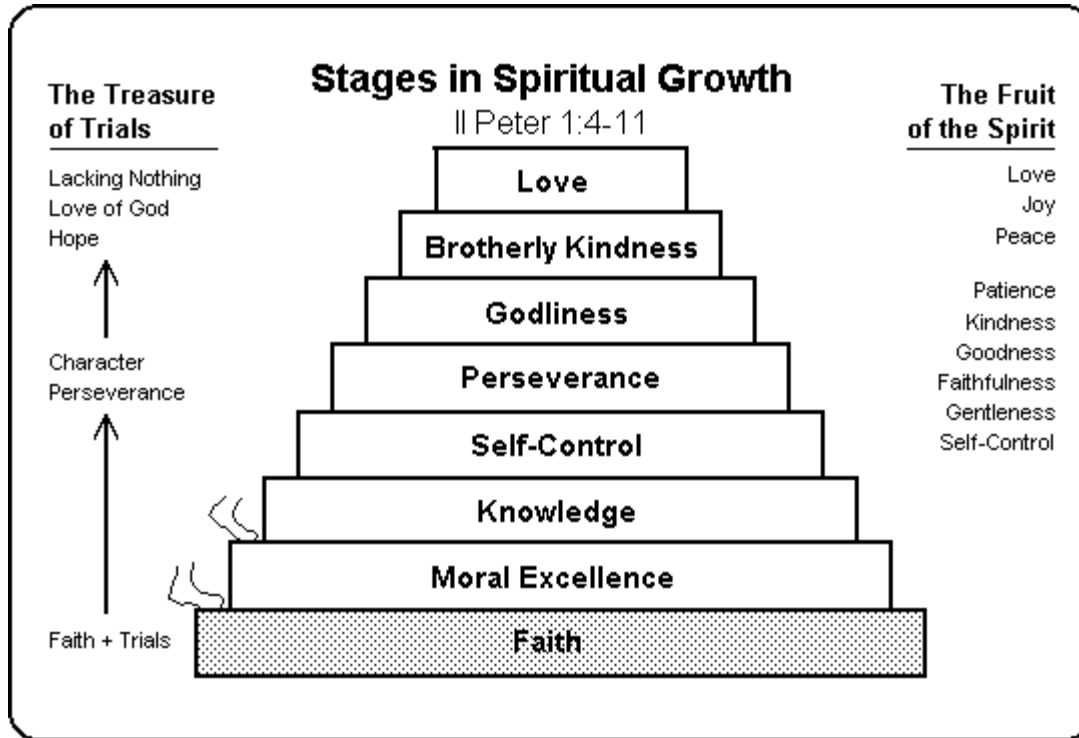
“Abound more and more”

1 Thess 4:1 [KJV], “Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, *so* ye would abound more and more”

Translations of ἵνα περισσεύητε μᾶλλον in 1 Thess 4:1

Wycliffe (1388) Young's (1862...)	English Revised (1885) American Standard (1901)	Tyndale (1534) Geneva (1560) Bishops (1595)	New King James (1982)	Darby (1885...)	King James (1611/1769) Webster's (1833)	Murdock (1852)	NAS (1977)	NJB [Ⓜ] (1985)	DRA [Ⓜ] (1899)	New American (1901/1991) Revised Standard (1952) Holman Christian Standard (2000) English Standard (2001) New Living Trans (2004) NET (2004)	New International (1984)	New Revised Version (1989)	God's Word for the Nations (1995)	Bible in Basic English (1949...)
Abounde /abound the more	Abound more and more	Ye increace/increase/encrease more and more	Should abound more and more	Would abound still more	Would abound more and more	Would make progress more and more	May excel still more	Make more progress still	May abound the more	Do so even more	Do this more and more	Should do so more and more	Even more than you already do	More and more
that ye abounde the more	that ye abound more and more	that ye increace more and more	that you should abound more and more	that ye would abound still more	so ye would abound more and more	so ye would make progress more and more	that you may excel still more	but make more progress still	that you may abound the more	you do so even more	to do this more and more	you should do so more and more	even more than you already do	but more and more

A. Stages in Spiritual Growth (2 Peter 1:4-11):¹⁴⁴⁴



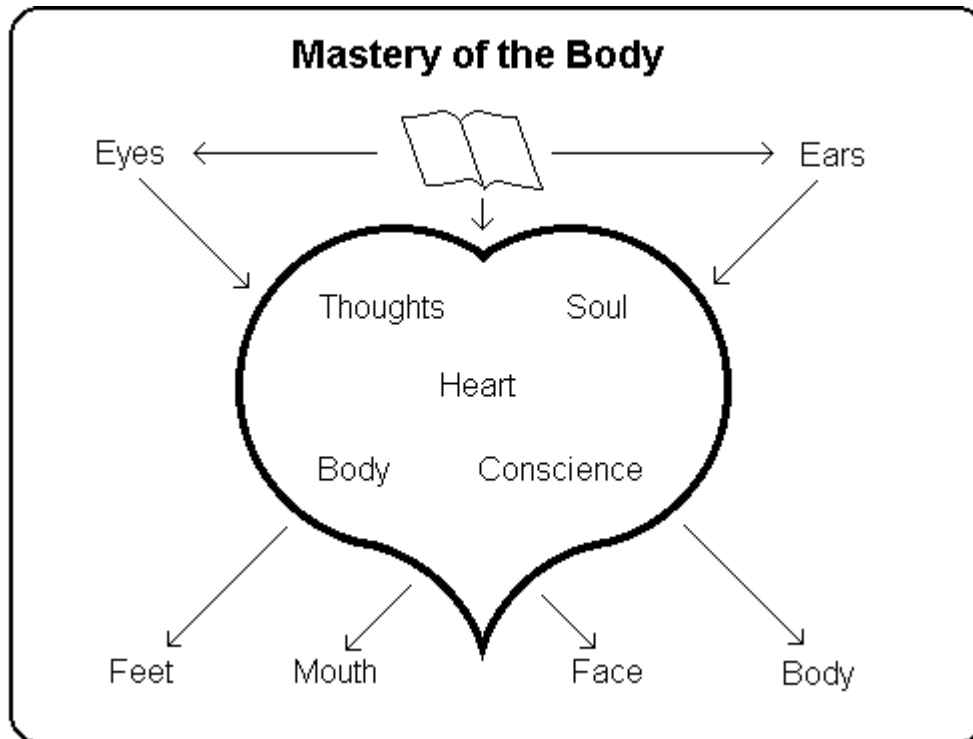
Introduction:

- a. The punctiliar: justification, Rom 3:30; 2 Cor 5:21; Col 1:22
 - b. The linear: sanctification, Rom 8:29; 1 Thess 4:3; Heb 12:14
1. The biblical context:
 - a. The trials of life, Rom 5:3-5; James 1:2-4 (e.g. Jer 20:7-18; Heb 5:8; cf. Jer 6:21; Heb 12:11; 1 Pet 4:19)
 - b. The beatitudes, Matt 5:3-10
 - c. Result: the fruit of the Spirit, Gal 5:22-23 (cf. 1 Cor 13:13)
 2. Looking at 2 Pet 1:4-11:
 - a. The Preceding Context, 2 Pet 1:2-4
 - b. The Command, “Applying all diligence supply,” 2 Pet 1:5
 - c. The Stages and Their Emphases, 2 Pet 1:5-7
 - 1) Spiritual Qualities:
 - a) Faith, Heb 11:6 (πίστις)
 - b) Moral Excellence (ἀρετή)
 - c) Knowledge (γνώσις), 1 Cor 8:1
 - 2) Character qualities:
 - a) Self-Control (ἐγκράτεια), Phil. 4:5 (ἐπιεικής)
 - b) Perseverance (ὑπομονή), Jms 1:3; Rom 5:3-5 (-> love, cf. 1 John 4:11)
 - 3) Motivational qualities:
 - a) Godliness (εὐσέβεια), 2 Cor 5:11
 - b) Brotherly Kindness (φιλαδελφία)

¹⁴⁴⁴This study was an expansion from a verbal illustration of Eileen Starr, a student at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1986, as she described her study of spiritual growth in relation to 2 Peter 1:4-11. The Treasure of Trials is expanded in the following section.

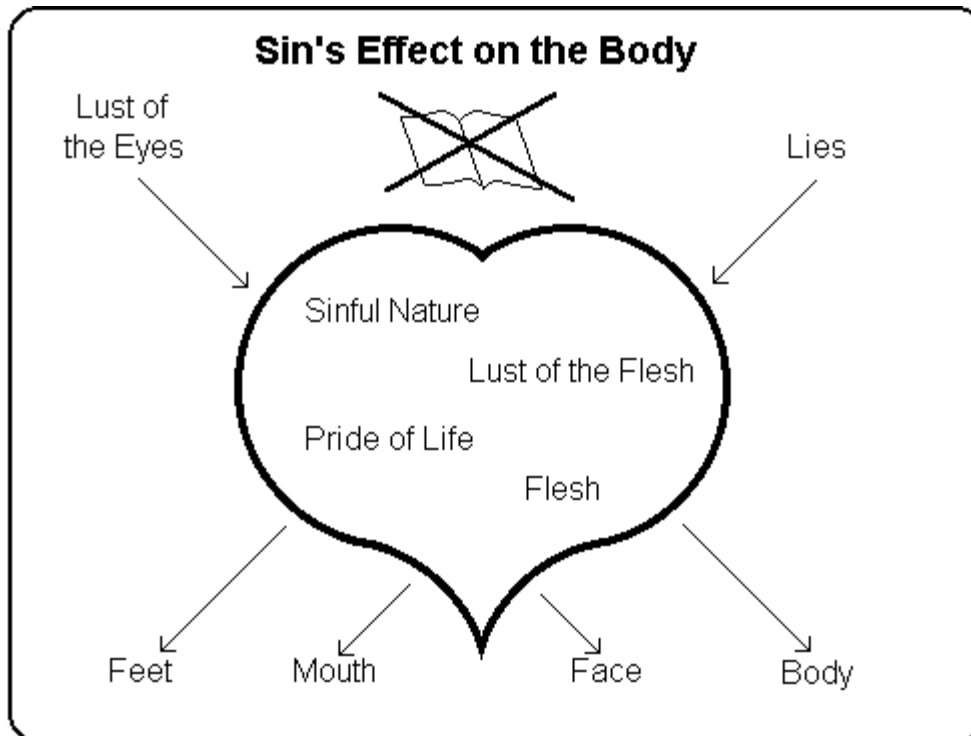
- c) Love (ἀγάπη), 1 Cor 13:13
- d. The results, 2 Pet 1:8-9:
 - 1) Obedience: growth and fruitfulness, 2 Pet 1:8
 - 2) Laziness: stagnancy and fruitlessness, 2 Pet 1:9:
 - a) Characteristics: blindness or shortsightedness
 - b) Reason: Forgetting the greatness of the cross of Christ
- e. The closing challenge, 2 Pet 1:10-11

B. The Mastery of the Body (1 Cor 9:27):



1. Introduction—the importance of the mastery of the body:
 - a. Principle of Mastering the Body, 1 Cor 6:12; 9:27; 1 Thess 4:4
 - b. The Goal of Mastering the Body:
 - 1) Living a holy life, Mark 7:14-23; 1 Thess 4:3
 - 2) Approval from God, 1 Cor 9:27; 1 Thess 4:1
 - 3) Keeping a pure heart, Psa 78:8; Prov 4:23 (cf. Prov 27:19; e.g. Deut 4:9)
 - c. Mastering the Body, Spiritual Health and Physical Vitality, Prov 3:1-10; 4:20-27
 - d. Mastering the Body and Freedom from Sexual Sin:
 - 1) 1 Cor 6:12-20
 - 2) 1 Thess 4:1-8
2. The Web Relationships:
 - a. The Input:
 - 1) The centrality of God's Word, Deut 30:14; Jos. 1:8; Psa 1:1-3; 19:7-8; 40:8; 119:11; Prov 2:1-5; 3:1; 4:1-2, 21; 5:1-5; 6:20-21; Isa 59:21; Jer 15:16; John 15:3; 17:17; 2 Tim 3:14-17; Heb 4:12.
 - 2) Input through the eyes, Psa 19:8; 101:3; 119:15, 18, 30, 37, 82, 123, 148; Prov 4:21-22, 25; 15:30; 16:2; 23:26; Psa 101:3; Matt 6:22-23; 1 John 2:11, 16
 - 3) Input through the ears, Prov 2:2; 4:20; 5:1; 15:30-31; 16:24; 17:4; 18:15; 22:17; 23:19; 26:22.

- b. The Inner Life (Prov 4:23):
- 1) Inner life of the heart, Deut 30:14; Psa 19:7-8; 40:8; 119:11; Prov 2:2; 4:21-23; 15:13, 30; 16:9, 23; 17:22; 19:3; 26:26; 27:19; Jer 15:16; 31:33; Matt 15:18-19
 - 2) Inner life of the thoughts, Gen. 4:5-8; Jos. 1:8; Psa 1:1-3; 19:7; 38:18; 119:33-40, 59, 72, 97, 127; Prov 2:11; 4:26-27; 5:2; 12:5; 15:31; 17:28; Rom 12:2; Phil. 4:8; 1 John 2:11
 - 3) Inner life and the body, Prov 15:30; 16:24; Matt 6:22-23; Rom 12:1; 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19; 9:27; 1 Thess 4:3-5
 - 4) Inner life of the soul, Prov 16:24
 - 5) Inner life of the conscience, Job 33:14-30; Prov 6:22 (cf. Rom 2:14-15)
- c. The Output:
- 1) The inner life's effect on the path of the feet, Jos. 1:7; Psa 17:5; 119:59, 101, 105, 133; Prov 1:15-16; 2:4; 4:14-15, 26-27; 7:25; 16:2, 9, 17; 19:3; Rom 12:2.
 - 2) The inner life's effect on what comes out of the mouth, Deut 30:14; Jos. 1:8; Psa 17:3; 33:1; Prov 2:3; 4:24; 10:32; 16:23; 17:27-28; Isa 59:21; Matt 12:36-37; 15:11, 18; James 3:2-12 (esp. v. 6).
 - 3) The inner life's effect on the face, Gen. 4:5-8; Psa 33:1; 147:1; Prov 15:13, 15; 21:29; 25:23; 26:26; Isa 3:9; Acts 6:15 (cf. Prov 27:19)
 - a) Link of the mouth to the countenance, Psa 43:5; Prov 25:23
 - 4) The inner life's effect on the body, Psa 38:3, 5-8; Prov 3:2, 8; 4:21-22; 16:24; 17:22; Rom 12:1.
3. Mastering the Body:
- a. Sin's Effect (Heb 3:13):
- 1) On the body, Psa 32:3-4; Prov 5:11
 - 2) On the conscience, 1 Tim 4:2
 - 3) "Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil," Prov 12:20 (NKJ)
 - 4) "For their heart continually went after their idols," Ezek 20:16



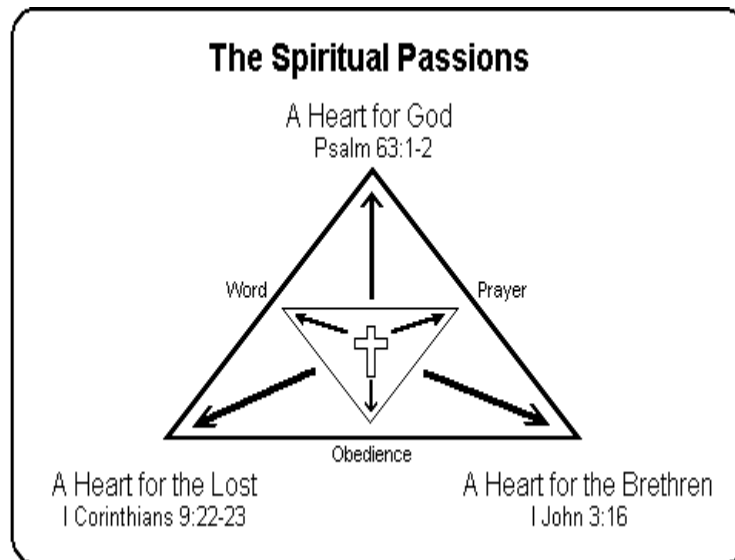
- b. Controlling the Input:
- 1) Recognizing attacks on the input:
 - a) The lust of the eye: greed, sexual lust, Matt 6:22-23
 - b) Attacks on the ear: gossip, Prov 26:22; immoral stories or jokes, Eph 5:3; listening to lies, John 8:44 (cf. Psa 120:2)

- 2) Discipline of input through the eyes, Job 31:1; Psa 119:82, 123
- 3) The discipline of input through the ears:
 - a) Focusing on the good, Prov 2:2; 4:20; 5:1; Isa 55:3; Phil. 4:8; Col 3:1-2
 - b) Avoiding and ignoring the bad, Prov 17:4 (cf. Eph 5:3-4)
- c. Mastering the Inner Life:
 - 1) Overcoming the fleshly nature:
 - a) The lust of the flesh, 1 Cor 6:10-11; 1 John 2:1-2
 - b) The boastful pride of life, Gen. 4:7; 1 Pet 5:5-7
 - 2) Cleansing of the inner life:
 - a) Through the blood of Jesus, 1 John 1:7; Tit. 3:5 (cf. Heb 10:22)
 - b) Through the cleansing of God's Word, John 15:3; 17:17
 - c) Through wisdom and knowledge from God's word, Prov 2:10-22 (cf. Psa 17:4)
 - d) Through controlling one's thought life, Prov 12:5; Phil. 4:8
- d. Considering the Output:
 - 1) In general:
 - a) The "fruits" of one's life, Psa 1:3-4; Matt. 7:15-20; John 15:1-6
 - b) The role of reflection, Prov 2:11; 4:23; 21:12
 - 2) Specifically:
 - a) Keeping the feet from evil, Psa 1:1; 17:5; Prov 4:27; 16:17; Jer 14:10
 - b) Setting a guard over our mouth, Psa 17:3; 120:2; 141:3; Prov 10:19; 30:8; Isa 59:21; Eph 4:29; 5:3-4
 - c) Offering our bodies as slaves to righteousness, Rom 6:11-14.

C. Developing the Spiritual Passions:

Introduction:

- a. Jesus said that "we cannot serve two masters," Matt 6:24
- b. Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn wrote, "There is no room in us for two passions."¹⁴⁴⁵



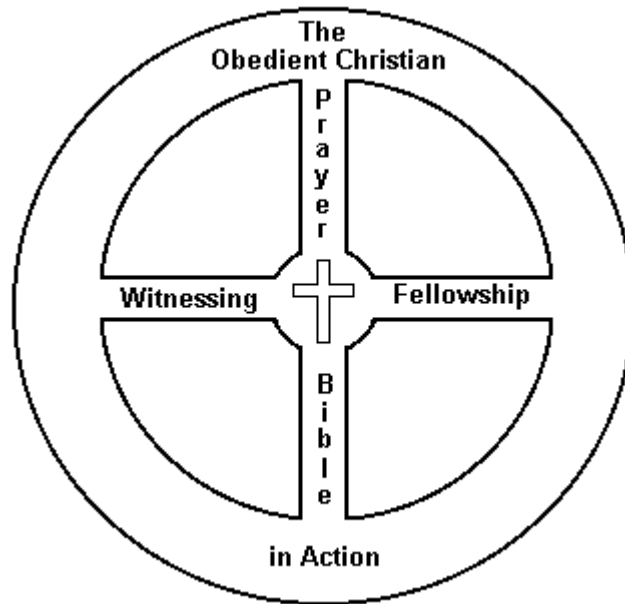
1. Christ is the center
 - a. A passion to know Christ, Phil 3:8-10
 - b. He is the focus, Rom 8:29; Heb 12:1-2
 - c. We must abide in Him, John 15:1-8; 1 John 2:27-28

¹⁴⁴⁵Alexander I. Solzhenitsyn, *The First Circle* (San Francisco, CA: Harper, 1966), 236.

2. Three central passions to Christian growth:
 - a. A passion for the Word, 1 Pet 2:2
 - 1) An intense searching in the Word, Prov 2:1-9 (Psa 119:82)
 - 2) Developing a heart for the Word, Psa 119:71-72
 - 3) The goal: a passion for the Word, Psa 119:40, 97, 105, 131, 147-148
 - b. A passion for Prayer, John 15:7
 - 1) Seeking the Lord in Prayer, Deut 4:29; Jer 29:12-13
 - c. A Passion for Obedience, 1 John 2:3
 - 1) The importance of obedience in the Old Testament, Deut 4:1-2, 5, 14, 40; Jos. 1:8; Psa 103:18; 119:57, 60 (see Jos 8:35; 11:15 for examples of obedience)
 - 2) The importance of obedience in the New Testament, John 3:36; 14:21; 1 John 2:3-6; 5:2; 2 John 6; Rev 2:5, 26; 3:10 (Christ as an example of obedience, Luke 2:51; Heb 5:7-10)
 - d. Complimentary passions:
 - 1) A passion for salvation, Psa 119:81
 - 2) A passion for righteousness, Matt 5:6
3. Growing in these spiritual passions:
 - a. A heart for God, Psa 63:1-2
 - 1) Drawing near to God, Jms 4:8
 - 2) Seeking God, 1 Chr 16:10-11; 2 Chr 7:14; Isa 55:6-7; Jer 29:12
 - 3) A thirsting for God, Psa 42:1-2; 63:1-2; 143:6; Isa 55:1-2; John 4:13-14
 - 4) Desiring nothing but God, Psa 73:25
 - 5) An intense love for God, Deut 6:5; Matt 22:36-37
 - 6) A fear of God, 2 Cor 5:11; 7:1; 1 Pet 2:17 (cf. Jer 2:19)
 - b. A heart for the lost, 1 Cor 9:19-23 (cf. Phil 3:18-19):¹⁴⁴⁶
 - 1) Following God's example, John 3:16; Rom 5:8
 - 2) Obeying God, Mark 1:17; 16:15
 - 3) Following Paul's example (e.g. 1 Cor 11:1), 1 Cor 9:19-23; Col 1:28-29
 - c. A heart for the brethren, 1 John 3:16¹⁴⁴⁷
 - 1) Learning to care for the brethren, 1 Thess 5:11
 - 2) "Through love serve one another," Gal 5:13
 - 3) Giving one's life for the brethren, John 15:12-13; 1 John 3:16
 - 4) Applying all one's efforts, Col 1:28-29

¹⁴⁴⁶This attitude is often exemplified in vibrant growth periods in the history of the churches. John Knox said, "Give me Scotland or I die!" John Wesley said, "The world is my parish." William Booth said, "My ambition is the souls of men!" Jim Elliot wrote, "I want to be a fork in the road of every man for or against Christ."

¹⁴⁴⁷For greater depth in the Christian's attitudes toward his brothers, please see in T. Johnston, *Mindset*, Chap 11, II.D., "The Special Dimension of Christian Relationships."

D. The Navigator Wheel:¹⁴⁴⁸

1. Christ the Center: 2 Cor 5:17; Gal 2:20
2. The Obedient Christian in Action: Rom 12:1; John 14:21
3. The Bible: 2 Tim 3:16; Joshua 1:8
4. Prayer: John 15:7; Phil 4:6-7
5. Fellowship (or discipleship): Matt 28:20; He. 10:24-25
6. Witnessing (or evangelism): Matt 4:19; Rom 1:16

E. The Battle Against Sin:

Introduction:

Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart;
 There is no fear of God before his eyes.
 For it flatters him in his own eyes,
 Concerning the discovery of his iniquity and the hatred of it.
 Psa 36:1-2

Surely these verses allude to the unctuous coaxing of temptation in the human heart. Man's mind may wander as these alluring invocations draw him into the Temptor's trap. Even so, James reminds us "and sin when it is accomplished brings forth death." (James 1:15) Sin is never worth its pining pleasure. It always destroys.

Billy Graham associate, Cliff Barrows, speaking at a Billy Graham School of Evangelism (Wheaton College, June 1990) cited five words describing the downward progression of sin. The following are his words with my addition of verses:

- a. Casualness, Jms 1:14
- b. Carelessness, Prov 14:16
- c. Callousness, Eph 4:18-19; Heb 3:13
- d. Compromise, 2 Pet 2:15
- e. Catastrophe, Prov 29:1

¹⁴⁴⁸Used by permission. For an expansion of "The Navigator Wheel" please contact NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO or call 1-800-366-7788.

Likewise:

“One evening, an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, ‘My son, the battle inside all people is between two wolves. One is bad. It is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego. The other is good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith.’ The grandson thought about it for a while and asked, ‘Which one wins?’ The old Cherokee answered, ‘The one you feed’”¹⁴⁴⁹

1. The Battle:

a. Iniquity can have dominion over us:

- 1) “Do not let any iniquity have dominion over us,” Psa 119:133
- 2) “Slaves of sin,” John 8:34; Rom 6:6, 12, 20
- 3) Rom 7:13-23, v. 19, “For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish.” (e.g. Psa 65:3)

b. Sin is in direct opposition to God’s working:

- 1) “For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.” Gal 5:17
- 2) “abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against your soul.” 1 Pet 2:10
- 3) “If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him.” 1 John 2:15

c. Examples of the battle’s outworking:

- 1) Fruit, Matt 7:16-17
- 2) Words, Gal 5:15; James 3:9-12; 4:1-3

d. The Christian and freedom from the dominion of sin:

- 1) Called to freedom, Gal 5:13
- 2) The Spirit giving freedom, 2 Cor 3:17

e) Working out that freedom:

- 1) Through abiding in the words of Christ, John 8:31-32
- 2) Through obeying the teaching of Christ, Rom 6:17-18
- 3) Through offering our members as instruments of righteousness, Rom 6:13, 18
- 4) Through becoming enslaved to God, Rom 6:22

2. The carnal nature:

a. The mindset:

Introduction: Psalm 106 exemplifies the pattern of disobedience found in man’s devotion to God.

1) Synonyms for the carnal mindset:

- a) Unbelieving, Psa 78:22
- b) Rebellious, Psa 78:17, 40, 56; Ezek 2:3-8
- c) Obstinate, Ezek 3:7-8

2) Results of the carnal mindset:

- a) Forgetting God’s deeds, Deut 4:23; 6:12; Psa 78:11, 42
- b) Wandering from the way, Prov 21:16
- c) Speaking against God, Psa 78:19
- d) Deceiving God with one’s lips, Psa 78:36
- e) Spiritual defection, Isa 31:6

3) The carnal mindset and the battle against sin:

- a) “The mind set on the flesh is hostile towards God,” Rom 8:7 (cf. 1 John 3:6)
- b) “Those who are in the flesh cannot please God,” Rom 8:8
- c) “For the mind set on the flesh is death,” Rom 8:6

¹⁴⁴⁹[From anonymous email].

- b. The deeds:
- 1) “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident”:
 - a) **Spiritual**: lawlessness, Matt 7:23; unrighteousness, wickedness, Rom 1:29; idolatry, Col 3:5
 - b) **Mental**: jealousy, envy, envyings, anger, wrath, malice, evil desire, desires, passion, greed, Rom 1:29; Gal 5:20, 24; Eph 4:19; Col 3:5, 8
 - c) **Verbal**: boastful, challenging (one another), murder (cf. Prov 18:21), strife, deceit, enmities, strife, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, slander, abusive speech, bite & devour, Exod 20:16; Gal 5:15, 20, 26, Col 3:8; 2 Tim 3:2
 - d) **Physical**: immorality, impurity, adultery, sensuality, murder, idolatry, drunkenness, carousings, every kind of impurity, Exod 20:13-15; Gal 5:19, 21; Eph 4:19; Col 3:5
 - e) **Other**: Disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful, Rom 1:30-31; 2 Tim 3:2
 - 2) Terms for those who do the above deeds:
 - a) **Spiritual**: Idolaters, Rom 6:9, haters of God, Rom 1:30, unbelieving, sorcerers, idolaters, Rev 21:8
 - b) **Mental**: insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, lovers of self, lovers of money, haters of good, conceited, lovers of pleasure, cowardly, Rom 1:30; 2 Tim 3:2-4; Rev 21:8
 - c) **Verbal**: Gossips, slanderers, malicious gossips, treacherous, liars, Rom 1:29-30; 2 Tim 3:3-4; Rev 21:8
 - d) **Physical**: Fornicators, adulterers, effeminate, homosexuals, murderers, immoral persons, Rom 6:9; Rev 21:8
- c. The result of living according to the carnal nature (Prov 11:31; Gal 6:7-8; Heb 2:2):¹⁴⁵⁰
Introduction: Remembering that... Sin is like a cancer that eats away at the soul.
- 1) No peace, Isa 48:22
 - 2) A hard life, Prov 13:15
 - 3) A troubled life, Prov 12:21; 15:6
 - 4) Strife, Prov 17:19
 - 5) Sorrows, Psa 32:10 (e.g. Ps 107:18; Prov 5:11)
 - 6) Adversity, Prov 15:21
 - 8) Brings the curse of God, Prov 3:33
 - 9) Become like chaff which the wind drives away, Psa 1:4
 - 10) Resting in the assembly of the dead, Prov 21:16
- d. The result of a “Christian” living in sin:
- 1) Living in sin for a time with repentance:
 - a) The word becomes unfruitful, Matt 13:22
 - b) No fruits of repentance, Matt 3:8; not doing the will of the Father, Matt 7:21
 - c) Stern discipline (from God), Prov 3:10-11; 15:10; Heb 12:5-8; Rev 3:19
 - d) “Repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place,” Rev 2:5
 - e) God giving His people over to their sin, Psa 81:12 (cf. 1 Tim 1:20)
 - f) “If any man’s work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.” 1 Cor 3:15
 - 2) Continuing in sin without repentance:
 - a) Deceitfulness of sin, Heb 3:13
 - b) “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths,” 2 Timothy 4:3-4
 - c) Falling away from the Lord due to an unbelieving heart, Heb 3:12

¹⁴⁵⁰Please note the information in T. Johnston, *Mindset*, Chap 3, III.A.-C., which take a look at the fallen nature of man.

- d) Falling away from the faith, 1 Tim 4:1; e.g. Matt 13:21
 - e) “You who have forsaken Me,” declares the Lord, “You keep going backward. So I will stretch out My hand against you and destroy you; I am tired of relenting!” Jer 15:6
 - f) “Impossible to renew them again to repentance,” Heb 6:4-6
 - g) Takes branch away, John 15:2, “if anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up, and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.” John 15:6
 - h) “I never knew you,” Matt 7:23
 - i) “I will spit you out of My mouth.” Rev 3:16
 - j) “It would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them.” 2 Pet 2:21 (cf. v. 20)
 - k) “When God heard, He was filled with wrath, and greatly abhorred Israel.” Psa 78:59
 - l) “How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God?” Heb 10:29
3. The spiritual nature:
- a. The mindset:
 - 1) “The mind set on the Spirit is life,” Rom 8:6
 - 2) Abiding in Christ, John 15:1-6
 - 3) Walking in the Spirit, Rom 8:14
 - b. The fruit of the Spirit, Gal 5:22-23; Col 3:12-14
4. Fighting the Battle:
- a. The work of Christ:
 - 1) The flesh has been crucified with Christ, Rom 6:6; Gal 2:20; 5:24
 - 2) “Consider yourself to be dead to sin,” Rom 6:10-11 (cf. Col 3:5; 1 John 2:29)
 - b. Putting to death the flesh:
 - 1) Lay aside the old self, Eph 4:22; Col .3:9
 - 2) Making no provision for the flesh, Rom 13:14
 - 3) “Putting to death the deeds of the body,” Rom 8:13
 - 4) Abstain from fleshly lusts, 1 Pet 2:11
 - 5) “Depart from evil,” Prov 16:17
 - c. Living in the Spirit:
 - 1) “be transformed by the renewing of your mind,” Rom 12:2
 - 2) “be renewed in the spirit of your mind,” Eph 4:23
 - 3) “Set your mind on things above,” Col 3:2
 - 4) “If we live by the Spirit, let us walk by the Spirit,” Gal 5:25
 - 5) “For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God,” Rom 8:14
 - 6) “Put on the new self,” Eph 4:24; Col 3:10, 12-14 (cf. 2 Cor 5:4)
 - 7) “Though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness,” Rom 8:10
 - 8) Pursuing righteousness, Prov 15:9
 - 9) Hungering and thirsting for righteousness, Matt 5:6
 - 10) “Slaves to righteousness,” Rom 6:18-19
 - d. Recommended prayer whenever temptation knocks at the door:

“Father, I pray in the name of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, that you will rebuke the evil one, help me to resist the Devil and to say ‘no’ to my sinful nature...”¹⁴⁵¹

¹⁴⁵¹This prayer was a suggestion of Pastor Lester Nelson of the Crystal Evangelical Free Church, given in December, 1991. The verses listed following the prayer were also the suggestion of Pastor Nelson. This list can be expanded to meet any of a number of needs. He suggested that a list of these verses may be kept in one’s Bible for personal use, as well as for reference in “care giving” situations when encouraging other believers.

At this point a pertinent verse should be added, dealing with temptation in general or perhaps focusing on the particular temptation being faced.

1. Envy, 1 Cor 13:4; James 3:16
 2. Love, John 15:9
 3. Forgiveness, 1 Cor 10:13; Psa 25:11
 4. Self-worth, Eph 2:10; Luke 4:13
 5. Anxiety, Phil 4:6
5. Aspects of freedom from sin
- a. Renewed Desire:
 - 1) “Freedom from sin” the continual cry of the godly man, Psa 119:133 (cf. Psa 119:8, 176; 139:23-24)
 - 2) The place of the contrite heart, Psa 51:17; Matt 5:3-6
 - 3) God giving the desires of the heart, Psa 37:4
 - b. God’s Word:
 - 1) Freedom in the truth through abiding in the Word, Psa 17:4; 119:9; John 8:31-34 (cf. Prov 16:17)
 - 2) Freedom from the bondage of sin, through commitment to the truth, Rom 6:17-18
 - c. Ministry: Freedom from selfishness for the sake of ministry, 1 Cor 9:19-23; 10:31-33 (cf. 2 Cor 12:15)

F. The Way of Obedience:

1. The Way of Obedience:
 - a. A walk of faith, Heb 11:6
 - b. A walk of grace, Eph 2:8-10
 - c. A walk of obedience, Psa 119:1-3, 33-35, 44-48; James 1:22
 - d. The reward of obedience, Psa 18:20-24
2. The Way of Disobedience:¹⁴⁵²
 - a. Forgetting God’s Word: Deut 8:11, 14, 19; Psa 119:139 (e.g. Jer 18:15)
 - b. Wandering from God’s Word, Psa 119:118
 - c. Disobeying God’s Word, 1 Sam 15:19; 1 Chr 10:13-14
 - d. The Word of God becomes a reproach, Jer 6:10
 - e. Forsaking God’s Word, Psa 119:53
 - f. Rejecting God’s Word, Jer 6:19
 - g. Despising God’s Word, 2 Sam 12:9
3. The Path of repentance:

Introduction: Psa 119:58-60:

 - 1) The humble cry of the heart, Psa 119:58
 - 2) The turn of repentance, Psa 119:59
 - 3) The decision of the will, Psa 119:60
 - a. The discipline of God, Psa 107:17-18; 119:67, 75, 176; Prov 3:11-12; 15:10; Heb 12:5-7 (e.g. Exod 20:26, “that I might make them desolate”)
 - b. Discipline leading to the fear of the Lord, Psa 119:120, 161; Heb 12:9-11; cf. Psa 118:18, e.g. Psa 107:10-16
 - c. Plea of the heart to obey, Psa 119:8-10, 17, 33-34, 88,107:
 - 1) Repentance, Acts 2:38
 - 2) Forgiveness, 1 John 1:9
 - d. Decision of the will to obey, Psa 119:30, 44, 106, 112 (cf. 2 Pet 2:22)
 - e. The result: a deepened knowledge of God’s Word (Psa 119:72) allowing continued growth and obedience, Psa 119:67.

¹⁴⁵²T. Johnston, *Mindset*, Chap 1, IV.E.2.c., “Living out of fellowship with the Word,” portrays the decline in the believer’s relationship to the Word of God.

