

LESSONS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“Obtaining victory in the Christian Life by Grace”

Grace Bible Institute

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INTRODUCTION

The Christian poet Annie Johnson Flint wrote a poem that captures the problem with spiritual growth in the Church today. She wrote:¹

“Some of us stay at the Cross, Some of us wait at the tomb, Quickened and raised with Christ Yet lingering still in the gloom. Some of us bide at the Passover Feast With Pentecost all unknown: The triumphs of grace in the heavenly place That our Lord has made our own. If Christ who had died had stopped at the Cross, His work had been incomplete. If Christ who was buried had stayed in the tomb, He had only known defeat. But the Way of the Cross never stops at the Cross, And the way of the tomb leads on To victorious Grace in the heavenly place, Where the Risen Lord has gone.”

God expects believers to leave the cross, where salvation has been secured (Heb. 6:1), and be borne on to spiritual maturity. God has laid a course for the lives of each believer; good works that he has for that believer to accomplish while upon the earth (Eph. 2:10). God also desires the believer be transformed into the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29; 2 Co. 2:18). The believer himself is incapable of accomplishing these and other desires of the Father. However, The Father has given the Holy Spirit who empowers the believer to live a victorious life. The Holy Spirit guides the believer (John 16:13); teaches the believer (1 John 2:27) and fills the believer (Eph. 5:18). It is hoped that this booklet exposes the believer to the Scriptural teaching on how to live the spiritual life. And, in so doing, the saint will gain an ability to do those things that are well-pleasing to the Father.

I. SCRIPTURE LISTS NINE TYPES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE CHARACTERIZED AS BELIEVERS.

A. **The Natural Man** (the wolf in sheep’s clothing) 1 Corinthians 2:14

1. The word for “natural” is *psuchikos* -- the one pertaining to or emanating from the soul.
2. He does not welcome the things pertaining to Spirit from God.
 - a) They are foolishness to him.
 - b) He is not able to experientially know them.
 - c) They are spiritually discerned.

B. **The Carnal Christian** (manifesting the works of the flesh) 1 Corinthians 3:1-4

1. The word “carnal” is *sarkikikoi* -- emanating things from the sin nature.

¹ The Way of the Cross

2. Carnal believers are as “babes” -- napios -- inarticulate babblers. Cf. Heb. 5:13; Eph. 4:14
 3. The evidences of carnality were evident.
 - a) Envy
 - b) Strife
 - c) Divisions
 4. They can receive no other teaching while in that state. 1st Co. 3:1
- C. **The Spiritual Christian** (the Holy Spirit is at ease) 1 Corinthians 2:15
1. The spiritual believer is emanating things from the Spirit.
 2. He is able to discern all things. Vs. 15
 3. The signs of spirituality. Eph. 5:18-19
 4. He is able to discern a believer who is in a trespass. Gal. 6:1
- D. **The Age Conformer** (Satanic Legalism) Romans 12: 1-2
1. An age conformer conforms outwardly to the legal age. Vs. 2 cf. 1st Pet. 1:14
 2. The believer is to be transformed by the renewedness of the mind. Vs. 2
- E. **The Galatianite** (Fleshly Legalism) The entire book of Galatians
1. They left the gospel for present tense salvation. Gal. 1:6-7
 2. A Galatianite is trying to prove to others their righteousness.
 - a) They were living life by grace. Gal. 5:7
 - b) They wanted to live life by law. Gal. 3:1-3
- F. **The Satanically Ensnared Christian** (The tool of Satan taken captive to the Devil’s will) 2 Timothy 2:25-26
1. An ensnared believer is one caught in a trap by Satan. 2 Tim. 2:26
 2. An ensnared believer is taken captive by Satan to do his desirous will. 2 Tim. 2:26
 3. There is the possibility that they can recover themselves. 2 Tim. 2:25
- G. **The World Lover** (misdirecting AGAPE love toward Satan’s COSMOS World System) 1 John 2: 15-17
1. The world lover misdirect his love for the brethren to the world. vs.15
 2. The world lover is at enmity with God. Ja. 4:14
- H. **The Age Lover** (misdirecting AGAPE love toward this Present Evil Age) 2 Timothy 4:10
1. The age lover is directing agape from this present evil age.
 2. A result of loving the age can forsake the work of God. 2 Tim. 4:10
- I. **The Maturing Christian** 1st Co. 2:6
1. The Abiding Christian: Christ is at ease in the believer and the believer feels at

ease in Christ.

2. The Fellowshiping Christian: The believer orders his life in the light as the Father is in the light)
3. The Maturing Christian:

II. UNDERSTANDING THOUGHTS AND THEIR PROCESS ARE CRUCIAL TO THE GROWTH OF THE BELIEVER.

A. There are various terms that translate the word “thoughts” in Scripture.

1. The primary Hebrew word that translate “thoughts” is Machashabah (52 times) which is used to describe what thoughts are:
 - a) ***“an idea or opinion produced by thinking or occurring suddenly in the mind.” -- Dictionary.com***
 - b) ***“Conceptions placed in the mind from good and bad or neutral (i.e. work; learning) sources, that could affect the inward processes of the mind and possibly lead to to some activity. K.D.J.***
 - (1) In a bad sense -- cf. Job 5:12 (God prevents those of the crafty); Gen. 6:5 (produces imaginations); Is. 55:7 (the unrighteous implored to forsake)
 - (2) In a good sense; Prov. 12:5 (affected by one’s relationship to God); Prov. 15:22; 20:18; (proper counsel aids); Pro. 21:5 (certain types of people produce certain kinds of thoughts)
2. The primary Greek words that describe the thoughts is noeo -- ***an ability to direct one’s mind to a subject.*** Cf. 1st Tim. 1:7 (the unsaved are unable to consider things said of a spiritual nature); Heb. 11:3 (part of the mind that involves faith)

GOVERNING THOUGHTS

