

I. Spiritual Living

Introduction

Most of us are very comfortable living in our home town among our own people. But what happens when we're placed in a foreign country with a language and culture unfamiliar to us? Many people become confused, anxious and even depressed. The name for this *condition* is **Culture Shock**. *Culture Shock* occurs when we find ourselves in surroundings completely new to us. Familiar customs no longer apply and many things must be relearned.

Becoming a Christian can be a *Culture Shock* as we find ourselves having to learn to *live by the Spirit*. After living so much of our lives in the *Physical* world, we must now learn to live in the *Spiritual*.

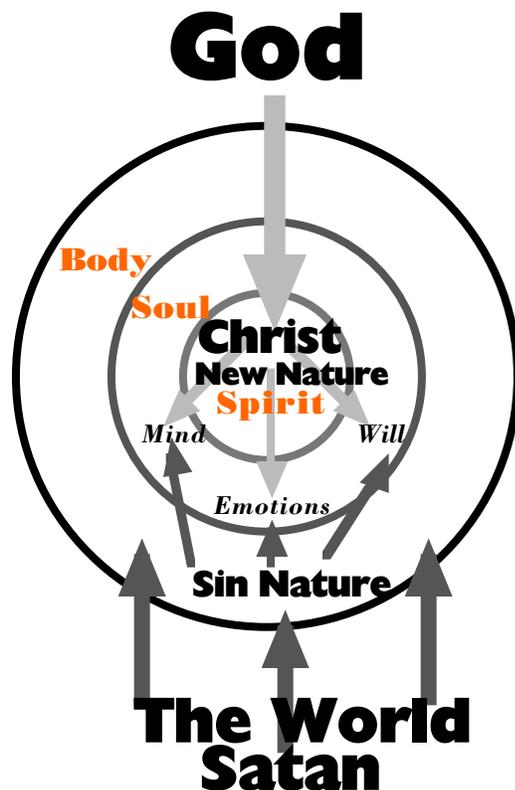
Spiritual Nature of the Christian

The Bible describes Man as a living **Soul**, existing in a **Body**, and having a **Spirit**. Our **Bodies** connect us to the *Physical World*, while our **Spirit** is our link to *God* and the *Spiritual World*. Our **Soul**, which includes our *mind, emotions and will*, is influenced both by our *Body* and our *Spirit*.

All men are born with a **Sin Nature**, but **Christians are Born Again** by God with a **New Nature** and possess the **Holy Spirit!**



1 Thessalonians 5:23



Spiritual Nature of People

The Bible describes **Three Kinds of People** in *1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3*.

▶ The Non-Christian

- ▶ Does Not Have Christ or Eternal Life.
- ▶ Life Dominated by Sin Nature.
- ▶ Life Influenced by Satan and the World.
- ▶ Has no Fellowship with God.
- ▶ Is an Enemy of God.
- ▶ Is Unable to Live a Life Pleasing to God.

The Non-Christian does not have Christ in his life and is *spiritually separated from God*. His *essential nature* is *sinful*, and because of this, he is strongly influenced by the **World** and **Satan**. He is *an enemy of God* and *cannot please God*.

▶ The Spiritual Christian

- ▶ Has Christ and Eternal Life.
- ▶ Life Dominated by Christ.
- ▶ Life Influenced by God and His Word
- ▶ Is a Child of God.
- ▶ Has Fellowship with God.
- ▶ Is Living a Life Pleasing to God.

The Spiritual Christian has Christ in his life and is *spiritually alive to God*. His *essential nature* is *holy*, and he is strongly influenced by **God** and His **Word**. He is a *child of God* and *pleases God* with his life.

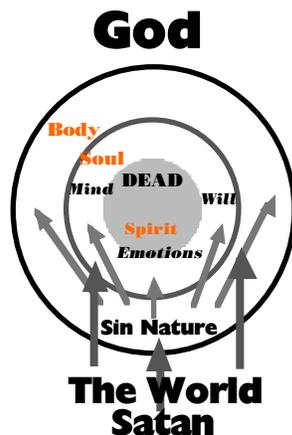
▶ The Worldly Christian

- ▶ Has Christ and Eternal Life.
- ▶ Life Dominated by Sin Nature.
- ▶ Life Influenced by Satan and the World .
- ▶ Is a Child of God.
- ▶ Has No Fellowship with God.
- ▶ Is Not Living a Life Pleasing to God.

The Worldly Christian has Christ in his life and is *spiritually alive to God*. His *essential nature* is *holy* and *pure*, **but** lives according to the **Sin Nature**, opening himself to the influence of the **World** and **Satan**. He is a *child of God*, but *does not please God* with his life.

Application:

- ▶ Which **Person** above best represents your life?
- ▶ If you are the **Non Christian**, receive Christ and let Him *fill* your life!
- ▶ If you are the **Worldly Christian**, allow Christ to *fill* your life.



- ▶ How is each kind of person in *1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3* described? What is the significance of how the **Worldly Christian** is described in *1 Corinthians 3:3*?

 *1 Corinthians 2:14*
Ephesians 2:1-3

The Non-Christian is described in Scripture as being "dead" in sin. He is without God's Life, and because of this, will spend eternity apart from God should he die without Christ and the forgiveness and life He brings.

 *1 Corinthians 2:15*
Galatians 2:20

The Spiritual Christian is alive to God with Christ in his life. He has learned to live by faith and yields his life to God. He is filled with the Spirit of Christ and empowered by Him to resist the influences of the World, Satan and the weakness of the Sin Nature.

 *1 Corinthians 3:1-3*
Acts 5:1-5

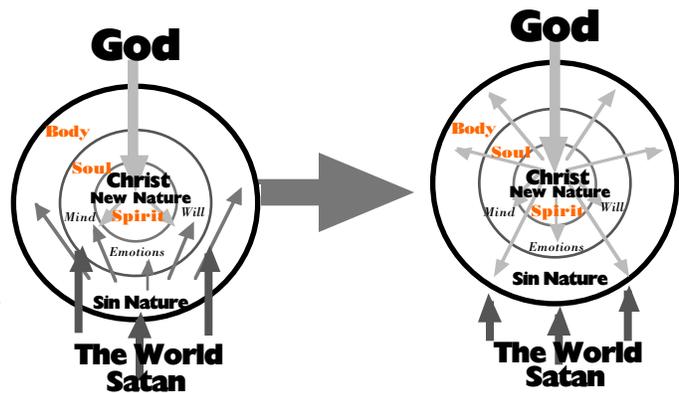
The Worldly Christian is often a new or young Christian who is not living by faith or yielding his life to God. He may also be an older Christian who has chosen to live according to the lusts of the Sin Nature opening himself up to the influences of the World and Satan.

Warning!

A Christian who continually lives in sin may not be a true Christian at all. see *1 John 2:3-6*

Spiritual Growth

Spiritual Growth occurs as we yield more of our lives to Christ *until He fills every part: Will, Mind, Emotions and Body*. As we grow spiritually, we move from being predominantly **Worldly** in our lifestyle to being **Spiritual**.



► Our Minds Filled with Christ

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is his good, pleasing and perfect will."

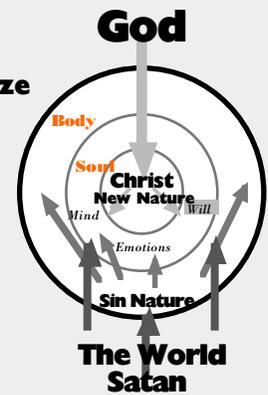
Romans 12:2

The word conform means to be 'squeezed in a mold'. We must resist being *squeezed* into the mold of the world's *values* and *patterns*. Instead we are to be '*transformed*' (Grk *metamorphosis*), or *changed* from the *inside* through the *renewing of our minds*!

Colossians 3:1-2

► In what ways are Christians squeezed into the pattern of this world? How does the renewing of our minds protect us from the world's influences? Explain each word that describes God's Will.

Memorize



► Our Wills Filled with Christ

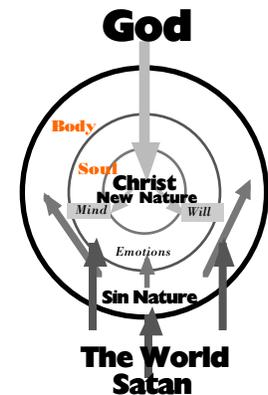
"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

Luke 22:42

In Luke 22:42, Jesus prays that if His Father were *willing*, He be somehow spared the suffering awaiting Him on the Cross. But He yields His Will to His Father's. Why? Because He is *convinced* that *God is all wise, all knowing, and all loving*, and that *God's Will is "good, pleasing and perfect"*!

John 4:34
Ezekiel 36:26-27
Hebrews 12:2

► How convinced are you that God is all "wise, all knowing and all loving" and that His Will is "good, pleasing and perfect"? How can we grow in our conviction that God's will is "good, pleasing and perfect"?



► Our Emotions Filled with Christ

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

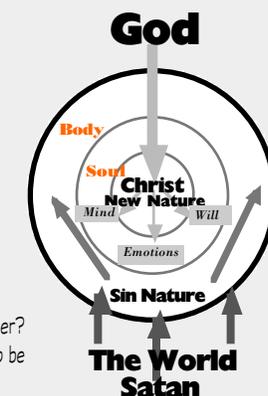
Colossians 3:12

Our Emotions can be one of the most difficult areas of our lives to control. Feelings are so often *dependent on circumstances which can change unexpectedly*. But we can experience *God's emotion* as we yield our lives to Him and live moment by moment in the Spirit.

Matthew 9:36

Christians & Anger

► Read John 2:13-17. What does this passage teach you about Jesus and anger? Can you think of times when it is right to be angry? When would those be?



► Our Bodies Filled with Christ

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.”

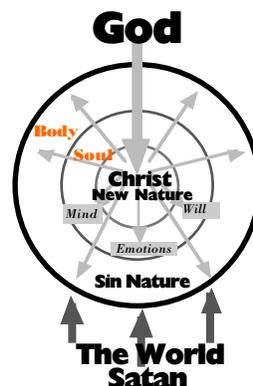
Romans 12:1

In Romans chapters 1-11 Paul describes God’s incredible Plan of Salvation by which He imparts His Righteousness upon all who believe in His Son. Part of His Plan includes the impartation of His Spirit in us to enable us to know and fulfill His will. In Romans 12:1, Paul draws the logical conclusion to this truth.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

► What does it mean to offer our bodies as living sacrifices to God? How is offering our bodies to God a ‘spiritual act of worship’?

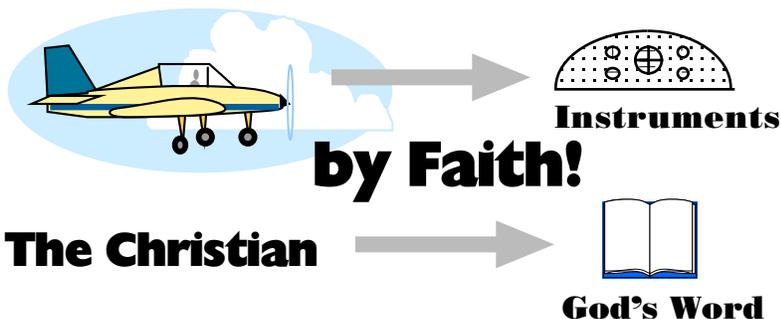
◀ Memorize



Faith: The Only Way

“We live by faith, not by sight.”
2 Corinthians 5:7

In the Physical World, we live by our **Physical Senses: Sight, Touch, Hearing, Taste and Smell.** But how do we live in the *Spiritual realm* while still in this physical body? 2 Corinthians 5:7 provides the concise answer: **by Faith!**



Living by Faith in God and His Word is like flying a plane by instruments. Though you may **feel** like you’re flying *right side up*, your **instruments** may indicate the plane is really *upside down!* **The pilot** must *discipline himself* to **trust** the instruments and *not his own feelings!* In the same way, **Christians** must *discipline themselves* to **trust God’s Word**, and *not their feelings!*

Feelings versus the Truth of God’s Word.

1. I don’t feel God’s presence. *versus* (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5)
2. I don’t feel forgiven. *versus* (1 John 1:9)
3. I am afraid of dying. *versus* (John 14:1-3; Psalm 16:11)
4. I am anxious. *versus* (Philippians 4:6 & 19)

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”
Hebrews 11:6

2 Corinthians 4:18
Galatians 2:20

Faith

We all live by faith everyday! We must trust people around us and a multitude of things to get through each day. Christians must learn to trust God and depend on Him as the source of all their needs.

Application

- Examine your life and evaluate your own Faith? What grade would you give yourself?
- How do you plan to grow in your Faith in God?

Affirmation

1. Christ lives in me!
2. My life belongs to God.
3. I am empowered by Christ.
4. I trust Christ with my life.

A Prayer

“Dear Lord, You have given me Life through Your Spirit in me. Fill me completely with the Spirit of Christ. I yield my mind, emotions, will and body to You that Your Life may penetrate every area of mine. Amen.”

For More Information Read “Birthright” by David Needham