

# ***LIVING FROM CHRIST IN THE WORKPLACE***



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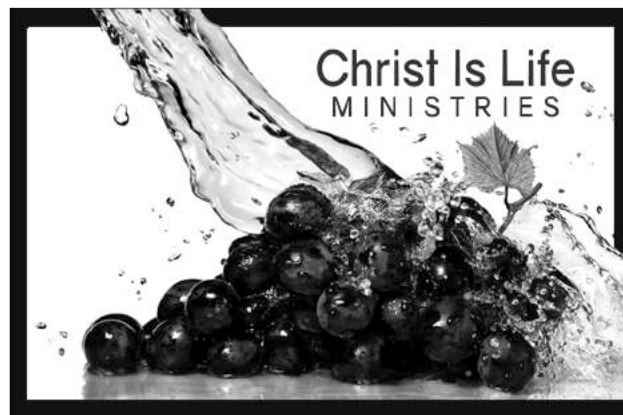
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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b><i>Layout of The Study.....</i></b>	<b><i>3</i></b>
<b><i>Lesson One - How Is Your Workplace Impacting Your Life? - Is It Possible That You Are Living “A” Life.....</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>
<b><i>Lesson Two - What Is “THE” Christian Life and What Are The Results Of Living “THE” Life?.....</i></b>	<b><i>14</i></b>
<b><i>Lesson Three – God’s Part and Your Part In Living “THE” Life Application Of Living From “THE” Life In The Workplace.....</i></b>	<b><i>33</i></b>
<b><i>Lesson Four – Do You Want To Walk By The Spirit Or Live From Your Flesh On Your Job?.....</i></b>	<b><i>47</i></b>
<b><i>Lesson Five – Your True Identity and The Workplace.....</i></b>	<b><i>63</i></b>
<b><i>Lesson Six – Living Above The Line In The Workplace.....</i></b>	<b><i>83</i></b>

## **The Layout of This Study**

I want to thank you for choosing to study *Living From Christ In The Workplace*. Before you begin, I believe it would be helpful to give you the layout of the study. The study contains six lessons, and each lesson has five daily readings (Day One, Day Two, etc.). If you are meeting weekly, this will give you seven days to complete the five daily readings. Throughout each lesson will be **Questions** and an **Engaging God** section.

### **Questions**

The questions are primarily designed for you to compare what you believe with the truth that you have just read. These questions are key to exposing any false beliefs that you may have.

### **Engaging God**

The “Engaging God” sections in each lesson are the **most** important parts of this study. This section is designed for you to ask the Holy Spirit to give you personal revelation, understanding, and application of what you have just read. This is especially crucial when you come to truths that contradict what you believe. (If we don’t seek God to reveal His truth, then we will never move beyond the false beliefs that we may be believing.) Therefore, be sure and take the time to engage God as you go through the study.

### **Revelation**

Since I will be using the word “revelation” throughout the study I want to define what I mean when I use this word. “Revelation” simply means that God **supernaturally** takes His truth and makes it personal to you and to your life situations. Revelation takes you from intellectual understanding to spiritual understanding of God’s truth.

## **Key Truth**

Please remember this key truth as you go through this study:

**You will not live beyond what you believe.  
If what you believe is a lie, then that is how you will live.**

This is key because what you believe affects what you think, your behavior, and the choices that you make. Therefore, one of God’s objectives through this study is to expose your false beliefs, renew your mind and set you free according to John 8:32. Therefore, my prayer for you is that you will seek Him throughout this study to set you free from your false beliefs and the adverse effects that those false beliefs are creating in your life.

# **Lesson One**

## ***How Is Your Workplace Impacting Your Life?***

### ***Is It Possible That You Are Living “A” Life?***

#### **DAY ONE**

##### **Introduction**

I believe one of the major disconnects concerning Christians is that they have a difficult time connecting their Christian walk to their job. As a result, many Christians are stressed out, not happy or not fulfilled in their jobs with the result that they are simply working for a paycheck. For those reasons and others I felt led to write this study.

However, what if God wants to use your job to do something more than provide a way of earning an income? What if there is something God wants to do in you and through you in your job that will affect you and every area of your life including your marriage, family, and your circumstances? I don't know if you have thought about these questions but I will be answering these questions and others during the study. Let me begin by asking you some personal questions about you and your job.

##### **Questions Concerning You and Your Job**

What is it you want out of your job other than earning an income?

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How do you deal with the stress associated with your job?

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How do you deal with the struggles you have had or are having with fellow employees or your employer?

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What is one change you would like to experience in your attitude towards your job?

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Is your Christian walk as it pertains to your job producing spiritual transformation? If not, why do you think that is?

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What do you believe God wants to do in and through you using your job?

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I would encourage you to keep the answers you wrote down in your mind as we go through this study.

### **Why Are You Working? What Are Your SUCCESS Markers?**

The obvious reason we work is for financial security for ourselves and/or our families. That being said, what are some other reasons we work? Fulfillment? Satisfaction? To feel productive? To be valued?

Are there any other reasons why you work?

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Do you find your job accomplishing the reasons why you work? \_\_\_\_\_

What I have discovered for most Christians is that the workplace doesn't really bring any real fulfillment or satisfaction other than when they do a good job. This may not be true of you but it does lead me to ask you a question: Should your job be a place where you experience spiritual fulfillment and satisfaction as well? How about spiritual value and worth? What would that look like?

Since part of working is being successful, I imagine you have success markers that if you meet those that you feel you are successful. If so, what are your success markers? Here are some success markers that business people have shared with me:

- Financial security
- Advancement/Promotions
- Feeling valued
- Job satisfaction
- Making a difference in their business

Do you have any additional success markers? If so what are they: \_\_\_\_\_

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I think success markers are important but the question is: Is there a difference between man-made success markers versus spiritual success markers? Let me explain by using the illustration of the "two walls."

## **DAY TWO**

## **The TWO Walls**

You probably have heard the story about climbing to the top of the ladder of success only to find out the ladder was on the wrong wall. Many Christians that I have discipled have confessed that their ladder was on the wrong wall. Why? Primarily because they didn't know there was "another" wall. You see there are two walls if you are a Christian when it comes to your workplace. One is what I call the "world view" wall and the other is the "in Christ" wall. Let's first look at the "world view" wall.

### **"World View" Wall**

The world says that you are a success or failure based on your performance. If you perform well you should succeed. If not, you are a failure. If Christians buy into this world view then you will base whether you are a success or failure on how well or how poorly you perform. I am not saying that you shouldn't work hard because according to Colossians 3:23 you should do your job "heartily as for the Lord."

*"Whatever you do, do your work **heartily**, as for the Lord rather than men."*

(We will discuss this verse more in depth in Lesson Six.) Let's take a minute to explore the results of worldly success and worldly failure.

#### **a. Results of Worldly Success**

One of the results that the "world view" wall promises if you meet your success markers is that you will be happy, feel fulfilled and be satisfied. Since I was "successful" in the world's eyes, let me share some of my personal experiences. What I have discovered in my own work career is that when I was meeting my success markers there was a "sense" of satisfaction. The truth is that the feeling of satisfaction and fulfillment was fleeting. Why? Because success from the world's perspective was not enough. By that I mean that I was never satisfied with my current level of success. I needed and wanted more. The truth is that my success eventually produced more stress and more driven-ness to succeed. Let me share another "success" story to prove my point.

A good friend of mine was raised in a very poor environment. He made a covenant with himself early on in his life that he would not end up being poor. As a result, he received two college degrees and starting working in the financial investment world. He became very successful and eventually started his own business. That too was very successful. However, one day he concluded that success as the world defines it was not fulfilling and was not making him happy. In fact, it left him very stressed out and discouraged. He couldn't understand because he was at the top of the ladder. That is when he realized that his ladder of success was on the wrong wall.

What are some other results of success? How about pride and self-commendation. As I mentioned, success contributed to my driven-ness to wanting greater success. Success can also lead to workaholicism. If you are married but are also married to your job, it can lead to your job becoming your "other lover." Let me share one more "success" story.

I recently heard a testimony from a Christian neurologist who was very successful. He listed all his success markers: great income, big house, trophy wife and kids, and all the man "toys" that money could buy. He had reached top of the ladder but he confessed that his success



markers were not enough. They brought him no real satisfaction. In fact, his success left him stressed out all the time. The result being is that his family bore the consequences of his stress. I believe this would be a good place to ask you some personal questions:

**Questions:** Have you attained some of your success markers? If so, are they bringing you the long-term happiness, fulfillment, satisfaction, etc. that you desire? If your success markers are not producing what you would like, why do you think that is?

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### **b. Results of Worldly Failure**

On the reverse side, if you don't work hard enough to meet your standards or the world's standards of success then you look at yourself and are looked on as a failure. This can result in feeling unfulfilled, feeling rejected, or living in self-condemnation. It could damage your feelings of self-worth as well. One of the tendencies is to try harder to climb the ladder. If this is the case for you, how are your stress levels?

How does it make you feel if you have not attained your success markers or the world's success markers?

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If your ladder is on the wrong wall, there might be some other consequences as well. Let's look at a few more.

### **c. Consequences With Co-workers and Employers**

As an employee, how do you see your co-workers? Are they competitors that you are competing with for a promotion? If they get in your way from attaining your success markers, are you frustrated and see them as an impediments to your success? What if you have a boss that is creating "roadblocks" to your success? How does that make you feel about them? What if you are not meeting your boss's standards for your particular job? Do you feel like a failure or you feel driven to meet those standards? If your employer is unfair or oppressive, how is that negatively impacting your attitude towards your job?

What if you are an employer? Do you see your employees as "stepping stones" to be manipulated and controlled to meet your success markers? How does it make you feel towards them if they fail to do so?

### **d. Taking Ownership of Stress**

Every job is stressful on some level. The question is: Are you taking ownership of your stress? In other words, are you feeling stressed out or are you feeling overwhelmed as a result of your stress?

**Question:** In what ways, is taking ownership of your stress negatively impacting you, your family, and your other relationships?

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**Question:** If your work ladder is on the “world view” wall what are some of the things that is creating in you? (i.e. stress, anxiety, driven-ness, etc.)

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***Is this the wall that God INTENDED for Christians to be on?***

## **DAY THREE**

### **“In Christ” Wall**

The question is: “Is my job about something more than worldly success?” Is it possible that God has a purpose(s) that have eternal significance concerning you and your job? The rest of this study is going to focus on answering this question. However, let me begin answering this question by looking at our “spiritual destiny” as Christians.

A key truth in living the Christian life is knowing that you, as a believer, have a spiritual destiny. Look at the following verses that bear this out.

*“For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined** to become **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the first-born among many brethren.” Romans 8:29*

*“And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, **are being transformed into His likeness** with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18*

Based on these two verses, I would sum up your spiritual destiny like this:

### ***YOUR SPIRITUAL DESTINY***

***To be transformed into CHRIST-LIKENESS means that you will THINK, FEEL, BELIEVE, BEHAVE, and CHOOSE like Christ.***

**Question:** In what ways do you think it might change your life if you were thinking, feeling, believing, behaving and choosing like Christ?

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Let's take this one step further. How might it change how you look at yourself in relationship to your job if you are thinking, feeling, believing, behaving and choosing like Christ?

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Knowing our spiritual destiny is at the core of understanding what I call the "in Christ" wall. Let me define what that means.

***"IN CHRIST" WALL***

***Means doing your job IN CHRIST with the result that you will do it thinking, feeling, choosing, believing and behaving LIKE Christ.***

**Results of Working On The "In Christ" wall:** You will see yourself and your job in a totally different light. You will experience rest, fulfillment, and even divine purpose through your job. You will experience something greater than success or failure. You will no longer be taking ownership of the stress of your job and you will experience God transforming your life using your job. These are the results of living on the "in Christ" wall because this is what God promises.

I am going to unpack these promises and how you can experience them in your job in the coming lessons. However, before we can do that it is important to first determine how you are living your Christian life. You see there are two ways that Christians live the Christian life. One way will lead you to buying into the world's view of success and the second way will lead you to a transformed life. The first way is called living "A" Christian life and the second way is to live "THE" Christian life. For the rest of this lesson let's first look at the characteristics of living "A" Christian life. As you go through the characteristics of "A" Christian life, compare how your living your Christian life with "A" Christian life.

***"A" Christian Life?***

Let me start by defining what I mean by "A" Christian life.

***"A" Christian Life:***

***What we need DO with God's HELP to live the Christian life in order to be loved, accepted and pleasing to God (and others).***

Since I lived "A" Christian life for 30 years, I thought it might be a good place to share some of my personal testimony about what I was taught and understood about living the Christian life. I became a Christian at age 18, but I did not get serious about my Christian walk until I was 22.

At that point, I asked the question, “What do I need to **do** to live the Christian life?”

I asked this question because everything in my life was something that I learned and then went out and accomplished. Therefore, I thought this “learn and do” mentality applied to living the Christian life. Doesn’t it make sense to you that what you need is for someone to just tell you what to **do**?

Here are some of the answers to my question that other Christians shared with me. See if any of them sound familiar to you.

1. “I was told to take what I learn from the Bible and go out and try to accomplish what it says.”
2. “I was taught that I need to try to stop sinning.”
3. “I was taught to try to keep God’s rules and commands.”
4. “It was up to me with God’s help to try to change myself.”
5. “I needed to try to become more righteous.”
6. “I needed to try to transform my fleshly behavior into godly behavior.”
7. “I could attain freedom and victory if I tried hard enough.”

Have you heard or do you believe any of these things to be true? I believed that if I could accomplish these things with God’s help then I would be a “successful” Christian and would be pleasing to God and others. By the way, did you pick up on the word “try” in each of the examples above?

Being a “Type A” guy, I tried very hard to accomplish all of those things for thirty years as a Christian. The problem is that the more I tried the worse things eventually became. Instead of experiencing the freedom, victory, and transformation that God promises, I was getting more frustrated with my Christian walk because nothing seemed to change. I felt more and more like a failure because I could not get done what everyone was telling me that I needed to get done. In addition, I had some very personal struggles that I wanted to be set free from.

### **My Personal Struggles**

During this 30 year period, I had great internal struggles with inadequacy, fear, anger, and unworthiness. These struggles were so strong in my life that they became like “dictators” within me ordering my feelings and my choices. The truth is that I wanted to be set free from the bondage of these struggles. After all, that is the promise in John 8:32:

***“You will know the truth, and the truth will set you FREE.”***

Here again, I was told that if I tried hard enough with God’s help that I could set myself free. As hard as I tried, I was never able to set myself free from the feelings and beliefs of fear, anger, inadequacy, and unworthiness. In fact, the feelings got worse. After several years of trying to be set free from these struggles, I came to the conclusion that what I was doing was not working (and was not ever going to work).

The truth be known, somewhere along that thirty year journey I gave up on the Christian life because it was not transforming me, it was not meeting my expectations, and it was not producing the promises of freedom and victory. I felt that God had let me down and that I was on my own. I was more miserable than before I was saved. In fact, I was so depressed that I had thoughts of suicide.

Was this the abundant life that God intended for me to live all those years? What was I doing wrong? Was there some key truth that I was missing in my understanding of the Christian life?

## **DAY FOUR**

### **How Living “A” Christian Life Impacted My Business**

I was a “Christian” commercial general contractor for 30 years. However, because I was living “A” life I had no clue how to connect running my business to my Christian walk. I was told that I needed to work hard and work hard for the Lord. The problem is that I had no clue what that meant. I thought it meant that if I worked hard enough that I would be successful and God would be pleased with me. So that is what I did. I worked hard and became successful in the world’s eyes. The problem is that the success was not fulfilling or satisfying. I had plenty of money to do what I wanted to do but I realized that there was something missing.

Another problem is that my internal struggles of inadequacy, unworthiness, and rejection negatively impacted how I treated my employees. Because of my struggles, I was controlling and manipulative. I would use manipulation and control to get my employees to meet my expectations of them. When they didn’t meet my expectations I would get angry and stay angry until they performed to my expectations. You see, in some way, their performance determined how I felt about myself as the owner. If they performed well and we were successful, I felt good about myself and my abilities. However, if they failed, then I felt inadequate and unworthy. I also felt that they were rejecting me by their poor performance.

How I would describe myself is that I was a “successful failure.” I was succeeding from the world’s perspective but I was failing as a Christian businessman. The question is “Why?” Let’s go back to the word “try” I used earlier concerning living the Christian life. I tried to not get angry when my employees failed. I tried to be a better boss. I tried to not live from my inadequacy, unworthiness and rejection (and I asked God to help me) but the harder I tried the worse it became. At some point in my 30 year business career I quit trying because I was exhausted and because God was not helping me. In fact, I began to give up on God and my Christian walk because I resigned myself to the fact that nothing was ever going to change.

Another result is that I became driven to succeed. My father had instilled in me that “failure was not an option. Succeed at all costs!” I brought that mindset into the workplace and expected all my employees to fall in line.

So on the outside I looked very successful but on the inside I was constantly stressed and on a never ending quest for adequacy, self-worth, and approval. The problem is that the more successful I became the emptier I felt. Here are some other results of me living “A” Christian life as a businessman.

1. I put my employees under the “Loveless” law of performance. (You better meet my standards!)
2. When I was convicted of my anger by the Spirit, I would try (for a short while) through my own willpower, to manage my anger but never attained victory over it.
3. The real consequence of living “A” life is that I was living a compartmentalized Christian life. On Sundays, it was all about God. The rest of the week it was all about me.
4. I could not be set free from my driven-ness which was literally killing me.
5. I never really experienced any real self-worth or satisfaction. (Unless you believe making a lot of money will produce those.)



The bottom line is that over the years I ended up living two separate lives: my business life and my Christian life. Is this what God intended for me? Or was there something I was missing?

### **Are You Possibly Living “A” Christian Life?**

#### **Your Personal Christian Walk**

To get a better idea of whether or not you are living “A” Christian life consider these questions:

- Have you been told it is up to you with God’s help to try and live the Christian life?
- If so, how is that working for you?
- Is what you believe about living the Christian life changing you, your marriage, how your parent, or how you do your job?
- God promises you victory, freedom and transformation. Are you experiencing ongoing victory over your sin, freedom from your strongholds and transformation into Christ-likeness in your life and at your job?

One final question: Do you believe that there is something missing or something more that you want out of your Christian life?

***If your Christian life is NOT really working, and there are NO real changes in your life and you are NOT experiencing the victory, freedom, and transformation is it possible that you are living “A” life?***

## **DAY FIVE**

#### **How About Your Business Life**

Let’s look at a few questions concerning your business life:

- Is your business life just about making money?
- Do you take ownership of the stress of your job?
- Are there work relationships that you have an ongoing struggle with?
- Is your job not giving you the fulfillment and satisfaction that you desire?
- Do you have ongoing going struggles on your job with such things as frustration, not feeling valued, rejection, self-confidence or pride in your accomplishments?
- Have you not been able to connect your job with God’s plan to transform your life?

If you answered “Yes” to one or more of these questions, it is possible that you, like I was, have been living “A” Christian life concerning your job.

The truth is that living “A” Christian life personally or at your workplace will never produce what God wants to produce in you. Living “A” life will only produce:

- More frustration
- More defeat
- More stress
- More disillusionment
- More inner turmoil
- More of the same or worse (i.e., no change or transformation)

***Living “A” Christian Life***

***will only produce MORE defeat, MORE bondage, and NO transformation.***

***Is this the life God intended, or is there ANOTHER life we are to experience?***

When you look at the list above, I hope you will agree with me that this is not the kind of life that God intends for us to live. Therefore, in Lesson Two we are going to learn about what it means to live “THE” Christian life.

**Summary of Lesson One**

I trust that from this lesson you have come to some conclusions about your job and especially about how you live the Christian life. Having lived “A” life for 30 years, I can emphatically say that “A” Christian life never produced any of God’s promises of victory, freedom, or transformation. As a result of living “A” Christian life, I never experienced the fulfillment and satisfaction that I worked so hard to attain. In Lesson Two we will look at “THE” Christian life and see the difference between it and living “A” life.

## **Lesson Two**

# What Is “THE” Christian Life and What Are The Results Of Living “THE” Life?

## DAY ONE

### Introduction

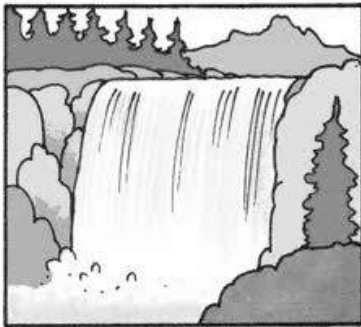
Now that we have looked at “A” life, and how it can impact you personally and your job, let’s look at what it means to live “THE” Christian life and how it will transform you and transform your attitude towards your job, your co-workers and your boss.

### What Is “THE” Christian Life?

I believe that we need to begin answering this question by understanding what Jesus and Paul had to say about “THE” life.

### What Jesus Says Is “THE” Christian Life

Jesus said:



*“...I AM the way, the truth, and **THE LIFE**...”*  
*John 14:6*

*“...I AM the resurrection and **THE LIFE**.”*  
*John 11:25*

What is Jesus saying in these two passages? I believe it is clear that Jesus is saying that He Himself is **THE** Life. What does He mean when He says that He is **THE** Life? For many years, I read these verses and concluded that they only meant that He was the source for my **eternal** life. However, is it possible that Jesus is telling us something more in these passages? Let’s further explore the answer to this question by looking at what Paul said.

### What Paul Said About Living “THE” Christian Life

Paul took the truth of Christ as “THE” Life to a more personal level when he said in Colossians 3:4:

*“..Christ who is **YOUR** life...”*

What is Paul saying in this verse? He is saying that the life of Christ is more than the eternal life that He gave you at salvation. He is saying that Christ is **your** life today, at this very moment. At this point you might be scratching your head and asking, “What is Paul talking about? What does it mean that Christ is my life? Is the life that Paul is referring to the Christian life?” I believe that the answer is found in Philippians 1:21 when Paul says:

***“For me, to live IS Christ....”***

Paul is saying that life for him is Christ being his life. Jesus and Paul are revealing to us an incredible truth, and that is:

***“THE” Christian Life is a PERSON:***

***It is Christ HIMSELF!***

Have you understood before now that Christ Himself is THE Christian life? Think about this for a moment. If “THE” Christian life is a Person, does that mean that “THE” Christian life is not about completing a checklist, trying to keep a set of rules, trying to keep from sinning, or trying to do your best to live for God? I believe what Jesus and Paul were saying is that THE Christian life is not a life that we are to produce. It is a life that only Christ can produce.

The truth is that the Christian life is not about living “A” life. It is about living “THE” life. The problem is that you and I cannot live “THE” life. Only Christ can do that. Let me share with you how I discovered “THE” life.

***I Finally Understood What It Meant To Live “THE” Life.***

Little did I know that during those first thirty years of my Christian life that God was in the process of bringing me to the end of myself trying to live the Christian life by my own efforts. On Sunday, October 4, 1998, while sitting in the parking lot of our church, a thought came rolling across my mind in the form of a question. The question was, “**Are you done trying, in your own strength and ability, to make the Christian life work?**” There was no doubt in my mind that the Spirit of God was asking the question. My response to God was, “**I am done! I can’t do it.**” God’s timing was perfect because on that day in church, God used a guest speaker named Ian Thomas to share the truth of “THE” life. When he got up to speak, the first words out of his mouth that Sunday were,

***“God never intended for you to live THE LIFE that***

***ONLY Christ can live in and through you.”***

I was stunned by these words because he was the first person in thirty years as a Christian to ever tell me that it was not up to me to try to live the Christian life. What the Holy Spirit was telling me through Ian Thomas was this key truth:

***KEY TRUTH:***

***There is only ONE Person who truly lived “THE” PERFECT Christian life,  
and that was Christ HIMSELF.***

This truth may be as startling to you as it was to me when I first heard it. However, isn't it true? No one other than Jesus has lived a perfect Christian life. You see, I was TRYING to live a life that only Christ can live. By trying, I mean that I would do such things as try to imitate what Christ would do or I would try to produce the fruit of the Spirit in my own ability. The wonderful, freeing, revelation is that only Christ can live "THE" life that I can't live (but that I want to live).

***All that we can do in our own strength and ability is live  
"A" FORM of the Christian life.***

***Only Christ can live "THE" Life.***

**Question:** Do the biblical truths about Christ being THE Christian life line up with what you believe? If not, how might it change how you live the Christian life I you believed that Christ is the only One who can live THE Life?

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**Meditate:** on the verses above and ask God to reveal to you if you have been living "A" life or allowing Christ to live "THE" life in you.

**Engaging God:** If this truth is new to you, please take a few moments to go to God and ask Him to make these truths real to you personally. Ask God to reveal to you in a deeper way what it means for Christ to be THE life. If this truth contradicts what you have believed about the Christian life so far, ask God to reveal to you if what you have just read is the truth or not. In this next section, we will look further into what it means that Christ is your life.

### **The Way That You Live THE Christian Life Is To Allow Christ THE LIFE To Live His Life In You**

Paul is telling us two things in the first part of Galatians 2:20:

***"I am crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ (THE LIFE)  
lives IN me..." (Parenthesis mine)***

1. First, when Paul says "I no longer live," he is admitting that he can't live THE Life. Think about what Paul is saying in this verse. When Paul says, "I no longer live," he in effect is saying that he CANNOT be the source for living the Christian life. This is amazing considering all of Paul's credentials, intellect, and capability. He clearly acknowledges that none of those things qualifies him to be the source.

2. Secondly, since Paul can't live The Life, he is going to allow Christ to live His life in and through Paul. Paul recognizes his absolute need for Christ to live THE Christian life in him.



This is exactly where God wants you and me. He wants us to admit we can't live THE Life that only Christ can live and He wants us to allow Christ to live His life in us.

***Since Christ put Himself in you, He wants to live THE LIFE  
that ONLY He can live IN you.***

Christ living His life in you may be a new concept for you. It was a radical concept for me, especially after trying (and failing) for thirty years to live the Christian life on my own. However, as the Lord gave me greater revelation of the meaning of Christ living in me, I became convinced that I cannot live THE life that only Christ can live.

***The KEY to living THE Christian life is for Christ to live HIS life in you.***

I hope even now that you will begin to ask the Lord to give you deeper revelation of this very crucial truth. For the rest of this study we will explore the practical meaning of Christ living His life in us.

**Questions:** Have you realized before now that the Christian life is about Christ living His life in you versus keeping rules or having checklists? How might this truth change the way you think about how you are to live the Christian life?

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**Meditate:** on the truth that you can't live the Christian life. Only Christ living in you will ever create true change your life.

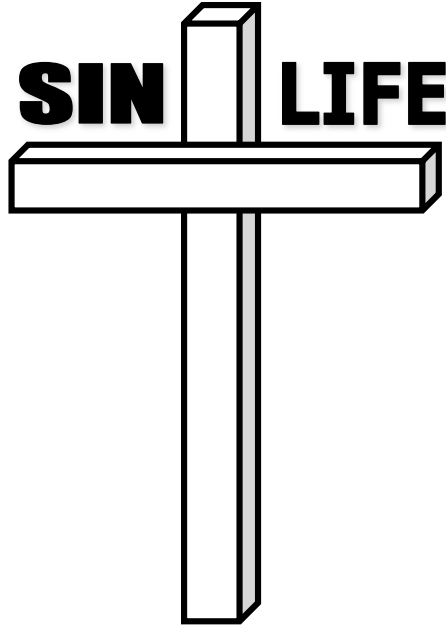
**Engaging God:** Ask God to give you revelation of what it means for Christ to live His life in you.

## **DAY TWO**

### **To Better Understand Christ Living His Life In Me Let's Look At The Two Sides of The Cross**

To give you a clearer understanding of what it means for Christ to live His life in you I want to use an illustration I call the Two Sides of The Cross. One side of the cross represents the SIN side, and the other represents the LIFE side.

# *The Two Sides of The Cross*



Let's first look at the SIN side of the cross to see what God accomplished in order to deal with our sin.

## **The SIN Side of the Cross – Christ Died For Our SINS To Give Us Eternal Life.**

The “good news” of the gospel is that Jesus came to bear our sins because we were in need of a Savior. Through His death the penalty of our sins was dealt with, and by trusting Christ for salvation we receive eternal life.

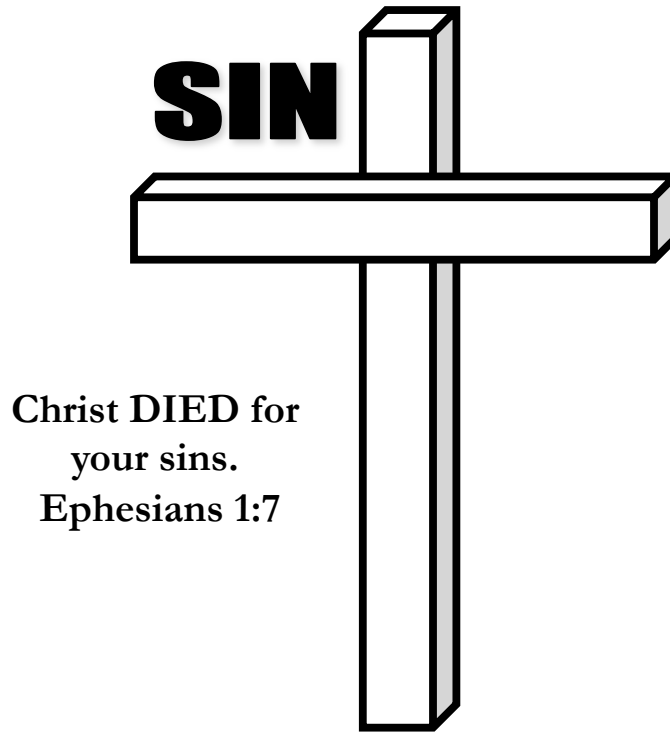
*“He is so rich in kindness that he purchased our freedom through the blood of his Son, and **our sins are forgiven.**” Ephesians 1:7 (NLT)*

*“He who **believes in the Son has eternal life...**” John 3:36a*

***Christ dying for our sins represents the SIN side of the cross.***

The following diagram illustrates the SIN side of the cross.

# *The SIN Side of The Cross*



Christ DIED for  
your sins.  
Ephesians 1:7

**Note:** If you are not sure that you have received Christ for salvation, you can do that right now. You can simply say the following prayer in faith and receive forgiveness and salvation. “Dear Lord, I recognize that I am a sinner in need of a Savior. As a result of You dying on the cross for my sins, I receive You by faith to be my Savior. Amen.”

The good news of the gospel is that you are now saved. However, after we are saved we still have to live life. Therefore, God did more than just save us from our sins. Let’s look at the LIFE side of the cross to learn what I call the “great news” of the gospel.

## **The LIFE Side Of The Cross - God Put Himself In Man To Be Man’s SOURCE For Living Life**

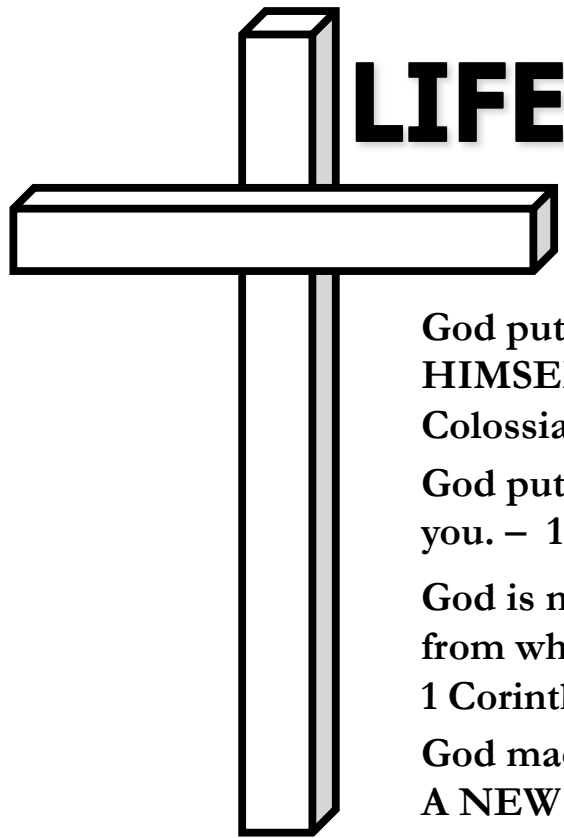
Before we talk about the Life side of the cross, we need to go back to the Garden of Eden after the fall. After Adam and Eve sinned they died spiritually. Spiritual death means that they were **separated** from God’s life and power. We see this in Ephesians 4:18.

*“Being darkened in their understanding, **separated** from the **life of God**...” Ephesians 4:18*

“Separation” means to “sever” or “cut off.” Therefore, spiritual death is defined as being severed or cut off from the life of God.

Since man was not designed to live separated from God and His life, He needed to accomplish four things that make up what I call the “LIFE” side of the cross.

## *The LIFE Side of The Cross*



God put the **FULLNESS** of  
**HIMSELF** back into man. –  
Colossians 2:9, 10

God put His **LIFE** and **POWER** in  
you. – 1 John 5:12; Acts 1:8

God is now the **SOURCE**  
from which you are to live life.  
1 Corinthians 1:30

God made you a **NEW** creation with  
A **NEW** Identity – 2 Corinthians 5:17

### **1. God put the FULLNESS of Himself back into man.**

At the moment of salvation, you not only received Jesus as your Savior, but you also received the complete Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). We see this in Colossians 2:9, 10:

***“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.”***

These verses are telling us that the fullness of the Godhead is in Christ and that Christ is now in you with the result that you have the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit within you. You no longer have a God Who is separated from you. You now have the complete Godhead **IN** you! One more thing. He will **always** be in you.

***It is critical to understand that if you have received Christ for salvation, you now  
CONTAIN the fullness of the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.***

**Question:** If you have not understood that you contain the entire Godhead, what impact might it have on your life if you understood this truth?

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**Meditate:** on Colossians 2:9, 10. Think about this question, “What am I lacking if I contain the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?”

**Engaging God:** Ask God to give you further revelation of the eternal significance of the fullness of Himself now being in you.

Why was it essential for God to put Himself in you at salvation? So that you would experience His life and power.

## **DAY THREE**

### **2. By God Putting Himself In You, You Now Contain His LIFE and POWER**

#### **A. You Have THE LIFE Within You**

*“God has given us eternal life, and this **life is in His Son**. He who has the **Son** has **THE LIFE**....” 1 John 5:12a (Emphasis mine)*

What does it mean practically that you have THE LIFE in you?

#### **THE LIFE**

***Are Christ-life characteristics that we contain IN Christ who is IN us.***

To give you some Biblical examples of Christ-life characteristics, let’s look at the following verses:



*“But the fruit of the Spirit is (Christ’s) **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** <sup>23</sup> **gentleness, and self-control**....” Galatians 5:22, 23a (Parenthesis mine)*

*“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with (Christ’s) **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.** <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and **forgive** whatever grievances you may have against one another. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.** <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on (Christ’s) **love**, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”*

*Colossians 3:12-14 (Parentheses mine)*

*“Finally, be **strong** in the Lord and in the strength of His might.” Ephesians 6:10*

The fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22, 23, what we are to clothe ourselves with in Colossians 3:12-14 (i.e., compassion, kindness, humility, etc.), and to be strong in Christ as



Ephesians 6:10 states are all examples of Christ-life characteristics. The following is an expanded list of what is available to you with Christ as your life:

Below is an expanded list of Christ-life characteristics.

**Christ as THE life means that you contain ALL of Christ's:**

Unconditional love	Victory	Worth	Acceptance	Faith
Freedom	Patience	Strength	Peace	Power
Forgiveness	Understanding	Security	Fearlessness	Wisdom
Discernment	Adequacy	Humility	Christ-confidence	Boldness
Righteousness	Selflessness	Rest	Compassion	Courage
Hope	Gentleness	Christ-control	Faithfulness	Joy

To better understand the meaning of Christ-life characteristics, we need to first understand that there is a **human** connotation to these characteristics as well as a **spiritual** one. We know that in the human realm we can also experience feelings of peace, patience, security, etc. Therefore, let's contrast human characteristics with Christ-life characteristics:

**HUMAN Characteristics** – feelings or attitudes generated by man that CAN be changed by our circumstances and/or our relationships.

For example, let's assume that you are having a good day. You are feeling a **human** peace, joy, and security. However, you come home to find that someone has broken into your house, your house is flooded due to a broken pipe, and your two-year old son is throwing a temper tantrum.



What quickly happens to your human feelings of peace, joy, and security? They evaporate quickly! What would this same situation look like living from Christ-life characteristics? Before I answer that question, let's define Christ-life characteristics.

**CHRIST-LIFE Characteristics** – SUPERNATURAL characteristics of Christ's life that are supplied by Christ and CANNOT be changed by circumstances or relationships.

*"I am overflowing with JOY in the midst of all our suffering...." Colossians 1:24*

Through Paul's walk of faith he came to a place where he was experiencing great joy even in the midst of his suffering. This was not a human joy because it is nearly impossible to experience human joy when we are suffering. Paul was experiencing a supernatural Christ-life joy that even suffering could not rob him of.



Using the same example as above, let's assume that when you are faced with the robbery, the flooding, and the crying child that you start feeling anger, frustration, or impatience. In that moment by faith, you can draw upon Christ-life characteristics of peace, joy, and patience. (Remember that since you contain the fullness of Christ, you have available to you all of the Christ-life characteristics.)

***The KEY difference between a HUMAN characteristic and a CHRIST-LIFE characteristic is that NEITHER relationships nor adverse circumstances can ROB you of experiencing Christ-life characteristics.***

We will discuss the definition and application of the word “supernatural” in the next lesson.

### **Application Of Living THE Life To The Workplace**

Let’s first look at an example of the difference between human characteristics and Christ-life characteristics concerning your job. Let’s assume that you are on your way to work today and are expecting to have a good day. You are feeling at peace, and you are feeling happy and content. However, when you get to the office you find out your boss has moved up the deadline to finish a project to the end of business today. You also find out that a key fellow employee who is essential to finish the project has called in sick. Then you get on your computer only to find that you have lost valuable data that is crucial to this project.

Now where is your human peace, happiness and contentment? I would assume it has evaporated. It has now been replaced by stress, anxiety, and possibly fear. At this point, what are some Christ-life characteristics that you need that moment? How about Christ’s peace, Christ-confidence, Christ’s discernment or Christ-control? These Christ-life characteristics and the others on the list are part of THE Life of Christ that resides in you. They are available to you 24/7/365.

Here are a few more examples of what Christ-life characteristics you might need on your job.

1. If you are feeling rejected in your job, you can draw on Christ’s acceptance.
2. If you are issues with a co-worker or your boss, you can draw on Christ’s patience, forgiveness, or unconditional love.
3. If you are feeling defeat concerning your performance, you can draw on Christ’s victory.

Let me end this section by asking you a few questions. How would it change how your feel about your job if:

- You could live from Christ’s rest versus the stress your job is creating?
- You could live from Christ’s courage versus any fears you might have about your job?
- You could live from Christ’s peace instead of your frustrations about your job?
- You could live from Christ’s security instead of your insecurities about your job?

I believe that it would drastically change how you feel about your job. I can promise you from experience that it is possible to experience all of the Christ-life characteristics that we have in Christ. We will discuss in the next lesson practical “faith” steps to live from these Christ-life characteristics. Think about the following question:

**Question:** In what ways might it change your attitude towards your job be different if you were living from Christ’s peace, rest, victory, etc. listed above?

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**Engaging God:** Pick one or two Christ-life characteristics above that you most want to experience at your job and begin seeking God to make the Christ-like characteristics an experiential reality in your life.

**B. You Now Have The Fullness Of God's POWER IN You.**

In addition to receiving Christ's life, you receive the fullness of God's power.

*"you will receive **POWER** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...." Acts 1:8*

*"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the **surpassing greatness of the POWER** will be of God and not from ourselves."*  
2 Corinthians 4:7

**What kind of power is God's power?**

To get a better sense of God's power in you, look at Ephesians 1:19, 20:

*"I pray that you will begin to understand the **incredible greatness of His power** for us who believe him. This is the **same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead** and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms."*



***Think of it!***

***The SAME power that RESURRECTED Jesus from the dead is IN YOU!***

God's power in you is the same power that:

- Created the heavens and the earth.
- Opened the Red Sea.
- Is holding the universe together.

Why was it necessary for God to put His power in us?

***God put His POWER in you to***

***do what you CANNOT do in your own WILLPOWER.***

Let me ask you a few questions concerning your willpower:

1. Can your own willpower consistently overpower your fleshly behaviors within you?
2. Is your willpower any match for Satan's power?
3. Can your willpower set you free from your defeating sin patterns?

4. Can your willpower transform your fleshly behavior into godly behavior?
5. Can your willpower transform you to think, choose, believe and behave like Christ?

Have you tried to do any of the above things using your willpower? How well did that work for you? I think it is safe to say that apart from God's power you can accomplish none of those things.

How about at your workplace?

1. Can your willpower change your fleshly behaviors that your work creates?
2. Can your willpower remove the stress you are experiencing on your job?
3. Can your willpower change the fleshly attitudes of your co-workers or boss?

If we are honest with each other, we must admit that we need a power greater than our own for any real change to take place. This is why God put His power in us.

***Therefore, it was necessary for God to His POWER in you  
to do in you what you cannot do for yourself and to transform YOUR life.***

**Questions:** What is it that you are trying to do in your own willpower to change you or change your workplace?

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**Engaging God:** Begin to seek God, in His power, to accomplish those things that you are trying to accomplish in your own power.

We will talk more in Lesson Three about what it looks like to appropriate God's power to transform your life.

## **DAY FOUR**

### **3. God Put The Fullness of Himself In You To Be Your SOURCE**

Let's go back to what Paul said in Colossians 3:4 when he said "Christ who is YOUR life." "What does it mean that Christ is your life?" I believe that God sums up the meaning in 1 Corinthians 1:30:

***"He is the SOURCE of your life in Christ Jesus, ..." (RSV)***

God gives us the answer in the first part of the verse when He says that He is the SOURCE of your life in Christ. One of the definitions for the word "source" is "**the one who produces.**" This may be a new truth for you because so many Christians have been taught falsely like I was that **we** are to be the source for living the Christian life with God's help and to produce the fruit of the Spirit. You see, there can only be ONE true source from which to live the Christian life and it is not you.

**The truth is that God, NOT you, is the SOURCE**  
**from which to live THE Christian life.**

How do we know God is to be our Source. Let's go back to the Garden of Eden before the Fall, to see who Adam and Eve's source was.



*“And the LORD God made **all** kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.”*  
Genesis 2:9

*“**He** is the **source** of your life **in Christ Jesus**, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”* 1 Corinthians 1:30

God's design from the beginning was for Adam and Eve to live FROM Him as the SOURCE. What does it mean that God was Adam and Eve's Source? God as the Source was the Provider of every one of Adam and Eve's physical, spiritual, and emotional needs. The reason they needed God to be the Source is that they could not meet their own needs. If God was the Source from the beginning with Adam and Eve, do you think that it is still God's purpose to be your Source or does God intend for you to be the source to meet your physical, spiritual and emotional needs? Let's look at two more verses that reveal to us the answer to this question.

*“**In Him** we **live** and **move** and have our **being**.”* Acts 17:28

*“For **from Him** and **through Him** and **to Him** are all things.....”* Romans 11:36



These are just two of many verses in the Bible that reveal to us that God is to be our Source for living the Christian life. You may be wondering what it means practically that God is your Source. Let's look at four examples of what it means for God to be your Source.

- **God is your Source to meet your needs. Philippians 4:19**
- **God is your Source of power over your sin. 1 John 3:6**
- **God is your Source to renew your mind to believe His truth. Romans 12:2**
- **God is your Source to make all His promises of transformation for you an experiential reality in your life. Philippians 1:6**

Have you tried to be the source to accomplish any of the four things listed above? If so, how is that working for you? If we are honest with ourselves, we would have to say that it is not working. The truth is that if we try to be the source for living the Christian life, then we are destined to fail. If He is not the Source in our Christian walk (and in all other areas of our life), then we will never experience God's truth and His promises in our lives.

***God as your SOURCE for living THE Christian life means that ONLY God can make His truth and His promises an EXPERIENTIAL reality in your life.***

### **Application of God Being Your Source In Your Workplace**

God is to be your Source at your workplace as well. What are some examples?

- He will be your Source to transform your fleshly behaviors that I assume that you don't want to exhibit at your job.
- He will be your Source to provide the Christ-life characteristics that you need in the moment.
- He will be your Source to remove the stress that you are taking ownership of.
- He will be your Source to give you "spiritual" eyes to see His divine work in you through your job to transform your life.

**Questions:** Have you believed up to this point that you are to be the source with God's help to live the Christian life? If so, then how would believing the truth that He is the Source change how you live the Christian life? Change how you see your job?

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**Meditate:** on 1 Corinthians 1:30, Acts 17:28 and Romans 11:36.

**Engaging God:** Using these three verses, ask the Spirit to give you a deeper understanding of what it means for Him to be your Source for living THE Christian life.

### **Key Truth: God Will NOT HELP You Be The Source?**



I hear many Christians say, "God is going to help me." What they are unconsciously saying is that "**God is going to help me be the source to solve my problems, change myself, etc.**" Another way of saying it is, "God will help me help myself." This is a false teaching because God never intended for man to be the source for living life or to be transformed. Think about this question, "If God is the Source, then why would He help you be the source?" You see, God has it rigged! If He is not your Source for living the Christian life, then the result in your life will be more defeat, more bondage, and no transformation. God's design only works one way, and that is with Him being your Source.

**Engaging God:** If you have believed to this point that it is up to you with God's help to live the Christian life, ask God to give you deeper revelation that only He can be the Source from which to live THE Christian life.

### **The #1 FALSE BELIEF of The Christian Life:**

***Man can SUCCESSFULLY live the Christian life by being the source and using his OWN intellect and ability with God's HELP.***

Now let's look at the last truth concerning the Life side of the cross.

#### **4. God Made You A New Creation And Gave You A NEW IDENTITY**

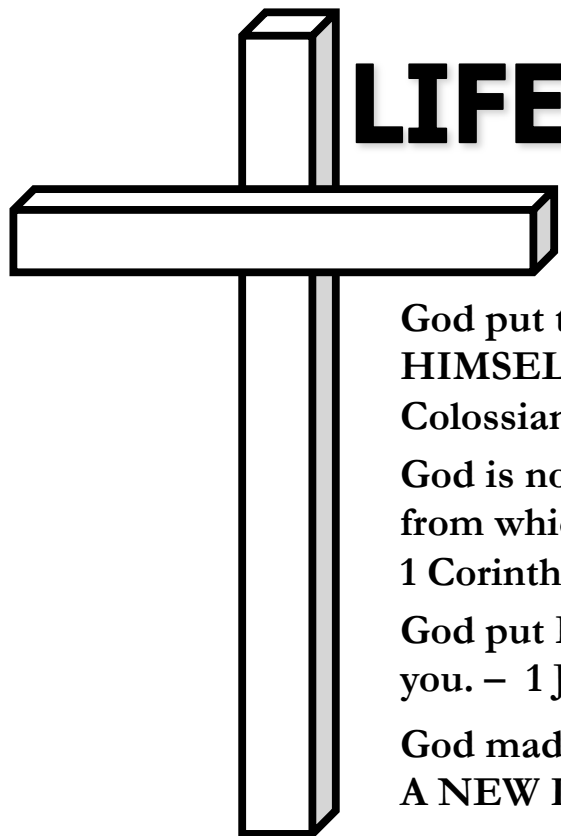
One of the most incredible truths is found in 2 Corinthians 5:17.

*"Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a **new creation (new identity)**; the old things (old identity) passed away; behold, new things (new identity) have come." 2 Corinthians 5:17*

This verse tells us that we receive a new identity when we trust in Christ for salvation. When I disciple individuals or couples, the one truth that most of them don't know is that they have a new identity. That is what Paul is referring to in 2 Corinthians 5:17 when he says that you are a "*new creation*." This truth that will radically change how you see yourself and you see your job. We will discuss your new identity in Lesson Five.

Let's take one more look at the SIN side and LIFE side of the cross.

## *The LIFE Side of The Cross*



God put the **FULLNESS** of  
**HIMSELF** back into man. –  
Colossians 2:9, 10

God is now the **SOURCE**  
from which you are to live life.  
1 Corinthians 1:30

God put His **LIFE** and **POWER** in  
you. – 1 John 5:12; Acts 1:8

God made you a **NEW** creation with  
A **NEW** Identity – 2 Corinthians 5:17



***The GREAT news of the gospel is that in addition to being saved, you have God within you to be your LIFE and SOURCE.***

***You NO LONGER have to be the Source to try to make life work!***

## **DAY FIVE**

### **What Will God Accomplish In Your Life As He Lives His Life In You?**

You may be asking, “What will be some of the results of Christ living His life IN me?” Part of the answer lies in what He promises to accomplish in your life. Let’s look at a few of those promises.



**VICTORY** – God will give you experiential victory over the power of sin, the flesh, the world, and the power of Satan.

*“but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57*

**FREEDOM** – God will set you free from your false beliefs, your defeating sin patterns, and your ongoing inner struggles.

*“So Christ has really set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law.” Galatians 5:1*

**HEALING** – God will heal you of your past and present woundedness.

*“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” Psalm 147:3*

**SUPPLY** - God will supply all of your needs.

*“My God shall supply all your needs.....in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19*

**TRANSFORMATION** – God will transform your life to think, feel, choose, behave, and believe like Christ.

*“Be not conformed to this world but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind...” Romans 12:2*

These are just a few of the promises for you as a Christian as Christ lives His life in you.

***God living His life in you results in you EXPERIENCING His promises!***

## **Application of God's Promises To The Workplace**

What are some examples of experiencing God's promises in the workplace:

- You can experience Christ's **victory** over the frustration(s) you have about your job.
- You can experience **freedom** from your negative attitudes towards your co-workers or your employer.
- God will **meet** your needs at your workplace.
- God will use your job to **fulfill your spiritual destiny** of being transformed into Christ-likeness and to think, feel, choose, and behave like Christ.

**Questions:** Are you experiencing the promised freedom, victory, healing, and transformation in your personal walk with the Lord? Are you experiencing these promises in your workplace? If not, do you want to experience them?

**Meditate:** on the promises listed above. Think about which of these promises you most want to experience personally and at your job.

**Engaging God:** If you are not experiencing these promises to the extent that you would like, ask God to begin making these promises an experiential reality in your life.

## **We Live FROM God And Not FOR Him.**

We have just learned that it is all about God living His life in us. However, as a result of living "A" life, I believed that the Christian life was about me living FOR God. By this I mean that I was taught that God needed me to evangelize, disciple, etc. Have you been taught this as well? The truth is that you are off the hook. God does not expect you to live THE life that only Christ can live. In other words, it is not up to you to do something FOR God. The truth is that God does not need anything from us since He is the provider and the producer according to Philippians 1:6:

*"For I am confident of this very thing, that **He who began a good work in you will perfect it** until the day of Christ Jesus."*

Since God is our provider and producer, then we are to live FROM Him and not FOR Him. Let's sum it up this way:

### **THE LIE:**

***We are to live FOR God because we NEED to do something for Him.***

### **THE TRUTH:**

***We are to live FROM God because He is our Source FROM which to live life.***

**Questions:** Do you believe that God needs for you to do something FOR Him? What do you think it means that you are to live from God as your Source? How would it change how you live your Christian life if you believed that you are to live from God versus living for Him?

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### **“A” Life Versus “THE” Life Overview**

To get an overview of what the difference is between “A” Life and “THE” Life look at the next page. We will be referring back to this page as we go through the rest of this study.

### **Summary Points Of Lesson Two**

- Christ **Himself** is **THE** Christian life. John 14:6
- The way you live THE Christian life is to **allow** Christ to live His life in you
- Christ as your life means that God is to be the **Source** for living life. Acts 17:28
- **God** was Adam’s and Eve’s Source for living life prior to the Fall. 1 Corinthians 1:30
- God not only dealt with our sins, but He **put His life back into man** to once again be man’s source from which to live life. Ephesians 1:7; 1 John 5:12
- God put His **life** and **power that is** in us to transform our lives personally and at our jobs. 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Christ as THE Life also means that you contain **supernatural** Christ-life characteristics.
- Now that you contain all of Christ’s life and power, you **no longer have to try** and make life work.

## **The Difference Between “A” Life And “THE” Life**

### **“A” LIFE (Living From Self As the Source)**

#### **Independent Life**

Living independently of God to try to live the Christian life and do your job.

#### **The Christian Life Is A Life Of Performance**

The Christian life is a set of rules to follow  
Or a checklist to complete.

#### **You Are The Source To Live The Christian Life**

It is up to you using your own strength and ability  
with God's help to live the Christian life and

to do your job.

#### **Living FOR God**

Trying in your own strength to please God and to  
earn something from God. (Love, acceptance, etc.)

#### **Self-Transformation With God's Help**

Trying by your own effort w/God's help to produce  
victory, freedom, healing, and transformation.

#### **Faith In Yourself With God's Help**

Faith in your intellect, ability, self-discipline, and  
willpower with God's help to produce the Christian  
life and to be fulfilled at your job.

#### **Results In:**

More flesh, sin, frustration, defeat, woundedness.  
Disillusionment and walking away from the  
Christian life or just trying harder to make life work  
No transformation  
Continuing to live a self-sufficient Christian life  
Ongoing turmoil and conflict  
No job satisfaction or fulfillment

### **“THE” LIFE (Living From Christ As The Source)**

#### **Dependent Life**

Living in moment by moment dependence on God as  
Your Source for living the Christian life. John 15:5

#### **The Christian Life Is Christ**

The Christian life is Christ Himself.  
John 14:6; Philippians 1:21

#### **God Is Source To Live The Christian Life**

You live from God's life and power as the Source to  
live the Christian life and do your job.

John 14:6; Acts 17:28

#### **Living FROM God**

Trusting Christ to live His life in and  
through you. Galatians 2:20

#### **God-Produced Transformation**

Depending on God as the Source to produce,  
Victory, freedom, healing, and transformation.  
1 Corinthians 1:30

#### **Faith In God**

Faith in God alone with the result that His life and  
power will flow in and through you to produce  
transformation into Christ-likeness. 1 John 5:12;  
Ephesians 1:19, 20; Hebrews 11:6

#### **Results In:**

**Freedom, victory, healing** – Galatians 5:1;  
1 Corinthians 15:57; Psalm 147:3  
**Greater dependence upon God** – John 15:5  
**Deeper intimacy with Him** – Philippians 3:8  
**Being transformed into Christ-likeness** -  
2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29  
**Abundant life** – John 10:10

## Lesson Three

### God's Part and Your Part In Living "THE" Life

### Application Of Living From "THE" Life In The Workplace

#### **DAY ONE**

##### **Introduction**

I trust by now you can see the difference between living "A" life and "THE" life. I hope you are gaining some understanding of how Christ as your life can impact you at your workplace. Remember as we go forward that God is using your job as His "potter's wheel" to transform you so that you will think, feel, choose, believe and behave like Christ. In this lesson, we are going to look at God's process of what it looks like to draw on His life and power to change you using your job. Let's begin by looking at God's part and your part in the transformation process.

##### **God Is The INITIATOR And The CAUSE and EFFECT of Making His Promises An Experiential Reality In Your Life.**

Remember the promises we read about in the last lesson. Promises reedom, victory, healing of woundedness, and transformation into Christ-likeness. We are to experience these and all other of God's promises. The first key truth that we need to understand in order to experience His promises is this:

##### **Key Truth**

**God is not only the INITIATOR but He is also the CAUSE and EFFECT  
of transforming your life.**

*"For I am confident of this very thing, that **He who began** a good work **in you...**"  
Philippians 1:6a*

What is Paul telling you in the first part of this verse? He is saying that God began the work that He wants to accomplish in you. He began or **initiated** this work in you at salvation. The Father accomplished this work by sending Jesus to die on the cross to save mankind from their sins. However, God promises to do much more than just save you. Look at the second part of Philippians 1:6:

*"...He who began a good work in you **will carry it on to completion** until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6b*

We see in the second part of Philippians 1:6 that God not only began the work but that He **WILL** complete the work that He began in you at salvation. This verse reveals to us that:

***God Is the INITIATOR and the CAUSE and EFFECT for real change in your life.***

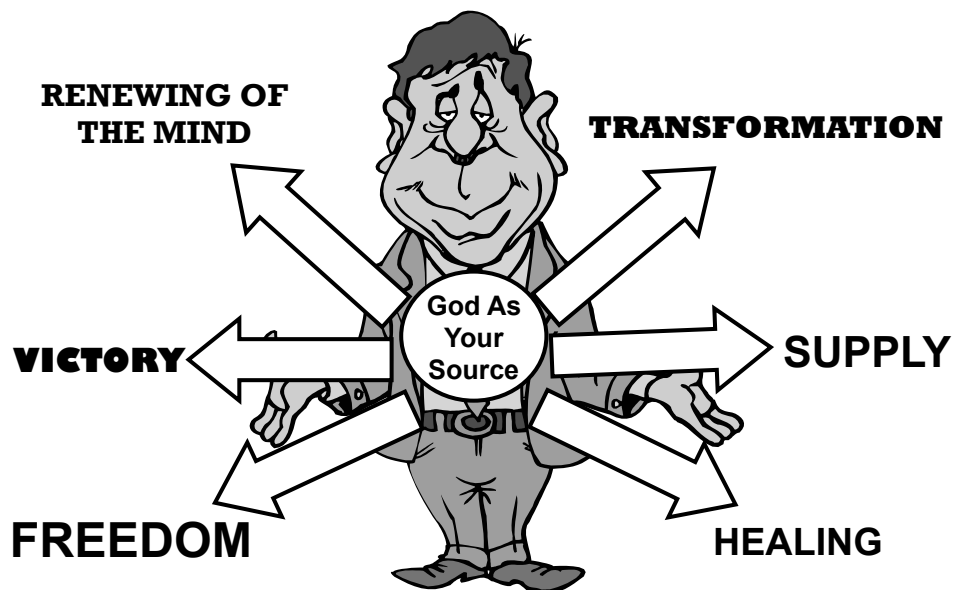
The false belief is that we are to be the initiator and the cause and effect of transformation in our lives. In other words if any change is to occur, it is up to **YOU** to transform yourself (with God's help). It is because of this false belief that so many believers have either given up or else keep trying harder to live the Christian life. The truth is that only God can be the cause and effect of change when it comes to fulfilling His promises. Another way of saying it is that God will be the Producer of what He promises for you.

What are some of the things that God wants to produce in you through your job? Let me give you some examples.

- Only God can supply His peace in the midst of your stress.
- Only God can transform any negative attitude you have towards your job.
- Only God can reveal to you what “true” success is concerning your job.
- Only God can move you to a place where you will no longer find identity and security from your job.

The next diagram illustrates that our life is to be lived from the inside out with God being the cause and effect to produce His promises of a renewed mind, victory, freedom, etc.

## Living From The INSIDE Out



**Question:** What are some of the things listed above that you want to experience more of?

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**Engaging God:** Ask God to begin accomplishing those things.

One other point that I want to share is that I have heard many believers ask the question, “Is God truly willing to transform my life?” Look again at Philippians 1:6 because it clearly shows that God initiated His work in you at salvation and that He is continuously willing to transform your life.

*“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you **WILL** carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6*

***What I have found to be true in many Christians’ lives is that it is NOT God who is unwilling. It is man’s UNWILLINGNESS to allow God to transform his life.***

**Question:** Have you believed that it is up to you to transform your life? How might it change how you live the Christian life if you believed that God is the cause and effect of your transformation?

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**Meditate:** on Philippians 1:6. Think about the determined God within you who is more than willing to radically change your life.

**Engaging God:** If you struggle with God being able or willing to change your life, ask Him to persuade you that He is more than able and is willing.

***Without GOD being the INITIATOR of His work in you as well as the PRODUCER of change, there will NEVER be any significant change in your life.***

## **DAY TWO**

### **What Is Your Part In Living FROM Christ As THE Life In The Workplace**

The reason I capitalized the word FROM is that the Christian life is not a life we live FOR Christ. It is a life we live FROM Him. Even though God is the initiator and the cause and effect for transforming your life, you have a vital part to play in God’s process.



To understand what your part is in God's transformation process, let's look at the first part of John 15:5:

***"I AM the VINE, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit..." John 15:5a***

Jesus is saying that as the physical branch is designed to be totally dependent upon the physical vine for life, you and your spouse, as spiritual branches, are designed to live totally dependent upon God, the spiritual Vine, for life. The word "abide" means "to remain, draw from, rely on." The key point to understand is that the branch receives life from the vine. When the branch is separated from the vine it dies. So, we too as Christians are designed to live **DEPENDENTLY** upon the vine for life.

It is important to understand at this point a very key truth:

**KEY TRUTH:**

***God created man to be **DEPENDENT** upon Him.***

***His **DESIGN** from the beginning was for you to depend upon Him.***

The key word is "design." God's design from the beginning was for Adam and Eve to live totally dependent on Him to meet their every need. God's design has not changed. You are designed to live totally dependent on God. Doesn't it stand to reason that if God is our Source that our part is to depend on Him to be our Source? That is why Jesus uses the perfect example of the branch being totally dependent on the vine for life.

Therefore, God's design for you in Christ living His life in you is:

***Living with an **ATTITUDE** of **TOTAL DEPENDENCE** upon God as your Source***

**Side note:** The word "bears" in John 15:5 does not mean "produce." The word "bears" means "to carry." The key point is that the branch does not produce the fruit. The vine is the source for producing the fruit while the branch is the agent through which the fruit is produced.

**KEY POINT**

***As you walk with an **ATTITUDE** of **DEPENDENCE** upon God as your Source,  
He will **PRODUCE** in you Christ-Like attitudes and will **TRANSFORM** you to think,  
feel, choose, behave and believe like Christ.***



**Question:** Do you believe that you have been living in a branch-vine relationship with God depending on Him to be the Source? If you are designed to live dependent on God what do you think might be the adverse effects in your workplace if you are living independent of God?

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**Meditate:** on John 15:5 and think about how an attitude of dependence is the key to a Christ-centered life.

**Engaging God:** Ask God to give you a deeper spiritual understanding of the implications of the branch-Vine relationship as it relates to you and your job.

### **What If You Choose To Live INDEPENDENTLY of Christ At Your Job?**

Let's go back to John 15:5 and look at the last few words in this verse where Jesus says:

*“...apart from Me you can do nothing.”*

Let me ask you a question. “What happens to a branch when it is separated from the vine?” It begins to die because it is no longer depending on the vine and is no longer drawing life from the vine. If you, as a spiritual branch, decide to try to live independently of Christ, the spiritual Vine, then what can you expect concerning your job?

**Apart from dependence upon God you will:**

- **Continue to believe the lie that the world's version of success will make you fulfilled and happy.**
- **Continue to take ownership of the pressure and stress of your job.**
- **Continue to live from the negative impact of your stress on you and your family.**
- **Continue to try to live from the fleshly behaviors you exhibit at your workplace.**
- **Continue to harbor critical and judgemental thoughts about your job, boss, or co-workers.**
- **Continue to be blinded to how God is using your job to transform you into Christ-likeness.**

Please take a minute and read back over this list. I hope that you see that the consequences are great if you choose to live independently of God.

**Question:** Do any of the consequences listed above apply to you and your job? If so, is it possible that you have been living independently of God?

### **Dependence ON God = FAITH IN God.**

*“Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Hebrews 11:6*

I equate depending **on** God with walking by faith **in** God. If you have been a Christian for any length of time, you know that our part in our Christian walk is faith. However, what I am finding out is that people have either some misunderstandings or false beliefs regarding the issue of faith.

The reason I say this is because what they believe about faith is not resulting in consistent freedom, victory, healing, or transformation. Therefore, as you go through the rest of this lesson, take a closer look at what you believe about faith and ask the Lord to reveal any false beliefs that you may have about faith. Here is the first question that you might ask yourself:

***Is what I BELIEVE about walking by faith TRANSFORMING my life?***



Why do I say that dependence = faith? Let me give you an example. When you have a dental problem, it creates a **need** for a dentist. You are totally dependent upon that dentist to deal with your problem. Another way of saying that you are dependent is that you have **faith** in your dentist's ability to do what you cannot do for yourself. It is the same with God. Faith is simply depending upon God to accomplish in your life what He promises to accomplish (and you cannot).

Take another look at Galatians 2:20 to see Paul's part in order for Christ to live in Him:

*"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God** who loved me and gave Himself up for me." Galatians 2:20*

Paul says that his part in allowing Christ to live in Him is by **faith**. In essence, what Paul is saying is that he must depend totally on Christ to do what only Christ can do. You see, many Christians have asked me, "How do **I** live the Christian life?" This is the wrong question. The truth is that since Christ is the One to live His life in you, the question should be,

***"How do I ALLOW Christ to live His life in me?"***

The answer is through depending upon or having faith in Christ. We are going to see toward the end of this lesson why so many Christians are not being transformed because of their false beliefs about faith.

***Walking by faith results in Christ living His life in you to produce  
the abundant life that He promises for you.  
Faith is the "HOW TO" for the Christian.***

## **DAY THREE**

## **Who Is The OBJECT Of Your Faith?**

Faith can have many objects. When you drive your car, you have faith in your brakes, or you have faith in the construction of the building that you work in every day, or faith in the chair that you sit in. It is not faith that is the key.

The key is the **object** of your faith. The object of our faith as Christians should be Jesus. We see this in the following verses:



*“We do this by keeping our eyes on **Jesus**, on Whom our faith depends from start to finish.” Hebrews 12:2 (NLT)*

*“And on the basis of **faith in His name**, it is the name of **Jesus...**” Acts 3:16*

I know that if you have been living the Christian life for some time, you know that the object of our faith should be Jesus Christ. As a result of ministering to many Christians (who have been Christians for 10, 20, 30+ years), I have personally experienced and witnessed that there is another object to their faith. That object is **their own IQ, ability, self-discipline, and willpower**. In light of that, think about this statement:

***If you believe that it is up to you with God’s help to live by faith,  
is it possible that the REAL object of your faith is YOU?***



Let me give some examples of this in the workplace. If you believe that it is up to you (with God’s help) to do your job, then it will be up to you to deal with your stress, to try to be in control of your employees, and to change any negative attitudes (frustration, envy, jealousy, fear, insecurity) that you have about yourself or your co-workers. Since we now know that God is not going to help us be the source then we end up putting faith in ourselves to try and accomplish what only God can accomplish.

Let me make it personal by asking you this question:

***If you are TRYING in your OWN strength and willpower to live the Christian life  
at your job, how well is that working for you?***

So many Christians today have been taught as I was that we must “apply” God’s truth to our jobs. While that sounds very spiritual, how I see it interpreted is that I must take God’s truth and try to make it work in my life using my own IQ, ability, self-discipline and willpower. The problem with this is that if it is up to me to make it work, and I will **fail** because I will not be able to make it work!

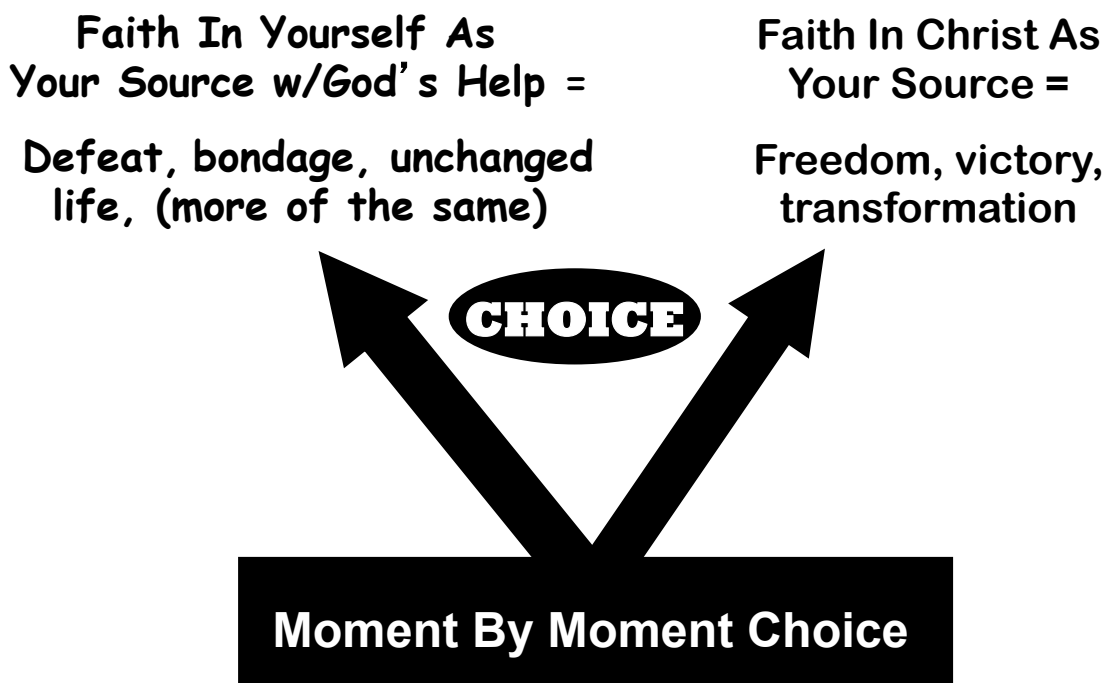
***The truth is that we are TOTALLY dependent upon God for HIM to take His truth  
and make it work in our lives.***

The following questions may help you determine how your walk of faith is going.

**Is your walk of faith in your life and your job producing:**

- **Ongoing victory over your defeating sin patterns and Satan?**
- **Ongoing freedom from your sinful behaviors?**
- **Ongoing healing of your past or present woundedness?**
- **Ongoing transformation into the likeness of Christ?**

If you can't answer "Yes" to each of the previous questions, is it possible that you have been putting faith in your own ability versus faith in God's ability? I am not asking this to guilt or shame you. The reason that I ask these questions is because when we walk by faith in Christ totally, He will produce and we will experience ongoing victory, freedom, healing, and transformation. Look at the following diagram to see the results of putting faith in your ability versus putting faith in God.



***What Choice Will You Make?***

The consequences of putting faith in yourself will mean that you will not experience Christ's life or His power and that real transformation will never take place in your life. However, living

by faith in Christ as your Source will result in experiencing Christ's life and power with the result that you will experience radical transformation.

**Engaging God:** Ask the Spirit to reveal to you whether or not the true object of your faith is in your ability and/or your willpower or in God's ability.

**Question:** What does the diagram above reveal as to what the consequences will be if you are the object of your faith at your job?

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**Engaging God:** If you discover that you are really walking by faith in your ability versus God's ability, then ask Him to give you the willingness to walk dependently upon Him as your Source.

## **DAY FOUR**

### **Taking Steps of Faith On The Job To Experience Christ As Life**

Let's begin applying what we have learned to your job. Remember in Lesson Two we talked about Christ-life characteristics that God wants you to appropriate while on the job. Let's look at the list again of the Christ-life characteristics. (Remember that these are supernatural and not human characteristics.)

**Christ as THE life means that you contain ALL of Christ's:**

Unconditional love	Victory	Worth	Acceptance	Faith
Freedom	Patience	Strength	Peace	Power
Forgiveness	Understanding	Security	Fearlessness	Wisdom
Discernment	Adequacy	Humility	Christ-confidence	Boldness
Righteousness	Selflessness	Rest	Compassion	Courage
Hope	Gentleness	Christ-control	Faithfulness	Joy

Pick three of these characteristics that you would most like to experience at work.

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### **Application Of Drawing On Christ-Life Characteristics In Your Workplace**

Let's look at some examples of steps of faith to draw on Christ-life characteristics. Before we do, I want to share with you what I call a very "active" faith word. That faith word is "entrust."

#### ***ENTRUST***

***Giving over something or someone you have been holding onto to  
God and leaving it with Him.***

I will be using this faith word in several of the examples below.

## **As An Employee**

**Example #1:** Let's assume that you have a stressful job. You get to work one day, and you find yourself taking ownership of the stress which is robbing you of your peace and rest in Christ.

**The Truth:** Every job is stressful. However, if you are living in Christ, you do not have to take ownership of the stress. You can entrust your stress to the Lord and walk in His peace and rest. A step of faith in drawing upon Christ as your life might look like this:

**Step of faith:** "Lord, I am taking ownership and being weighed down by the stress of my job. I am **trusting** You to **BE** my peace and rest." (Notice I didn't say: "Christ **help me** be peaceful and restful.")

**Step of faith:** "Lord, I am trusting You to **BE** my freedom from taking ownership of my stress at work."

**Step of faith:** "I am entrusting my stress to You Lord and asking you to exchange it for Your peace and rest."

**Key Truth:** It may take **several** steps of faith before you are able to truly offload the stress and begin to experience Christ's peace but eventually you will experience His peace.

**Example #2:** Let's assume you are fearful of losing your job.

**The Truth:** God is sovereign and in control of your job. You are under His protection and can walk in Christ's courage and control.

**Step of faith:** "Lord, I am fearful of losing my job. I am trusting You to **BE** my courage."

**Example #3:** Let's assume you have a fear of failure on a particular project or concerning your job as a whole.

**The Truth:** You can entrust your fear of failure to the Lord and draw on His victory, boldness and confidence.

**Step of faith:** "Lord, I am entrusting this fear of failure to You and I am trusting you to **BE** my victory and my confidence."

**Step of faith:** "Lord, I am trusting You to exchange my fear of failure with your boldness."

## **As An Employer**

**Example #1:** You are stressed out because your business is not meeting your objectives.

**The Truth:** Your business or department belongs to the Lord. God will sometimes not allow you to meet your man-made objectives so that you will depend on Him as your Source.

**Step of faith:** “Lord, I am stressed out because my business is not where I think it should be. I am entrusting that stress to you and I am trusting You to **BE** my peace. Remind me that this is Your business not mine.”

**Example #2:** You struggle with a fleshly attitude of impatience towards your employees.

**The Truth:** In you, you have all of Christ’s patience available in you in Christ.

**Step of faith:** “Lord, I am entrusting my impatience to You and trusting You to BE my patience.”

### **Key Truths To Remember As You Draw On Christ As Life**

#### **1. When you trust Christ to BE those things that you need in the moment, you receive the FULLNESS of Christ’s life.**

Remember that according to Colossians 2:9, 10 you have the fullness of Christ. Therefore, when you trust Christ to be your peace, patience, rest, etc. in that moment, you receive ALL of His peace, patience, etc.

#### **2. Christ pouring His life into you is SUPERNATURAL.**

Let’s first define the word “supernatural” as it pertains

#### ***SUPERNATURAL***

***What God accomplishes in and through you as you walk by faith  
for which there is NO natural or man-made explanation.***



It is probably safe to say that most Christians understand that God’s power is supernatural. However, when I say that Christ’s life pouring into them is supernatural, they tend to have a more difficult time understanding that concept.

As we mentioned in the last lesson, Christ-life characteristics are supernatural in that they are from Christ and there are no man-made words to describe them. Let’s look at two scriptures that bear this out. First, let’s look at how Paul describes Christ-life peace.

*“And the **peace of God** which **surpasses all understanding**, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7*

Look at how Peter describes Christ-life joy in 1 Peter 1:8:

*“You love Him even though you have not seen Him. Though you do not see Him now you trust Him and you rejoice with a glorious, **inexpressible joy**.”*

Even Paul and Peter had no words to describe these supernatural characteristics of Christ. This brings us to another truth.

## **DAY FIVE**

**3. Since Christ's life is supernatural, you MAY NOT immediately FEEL or EXPERIENCE what you are trusting Christ to BE (i.e. peace, adequacy, patience).**

One of the key things that we need to understand about God's supernatural work is:

***When you take a step of faith and ask Christ to be your acceptance, security, etc. you may not immediately FEEL or EXPERIENCE these Christ-life characteristics in you.***

There is no doubt that God can sometimes let you experience these Christ-life characteristics immediately. However, my experience and others has been that it may take some time before you actually feel or experience these characteristics. If you will participate with me for a moment, I think I can show you what I mean. Take a step of faith with me right now. Simply say, "Lord, I am trusting You this moment to be my peace." If you did that by faith, are you feeling His peace, you might conclude that nothing is truly happening. However, the promise is in Philippians 4:19 that God WILL supply all your needs. This means that whether you are feeling it or not His peace is pouring into you. However,

***If you CONTINUE taking steps of faith, you will EVENTUALLY EXPERIENCE these Christ-life characteristics.***

Another way of saying it is that you may have to "faith it" for some time before you feel or experience these Christ-life characteristics. Let's assume you are feeling insecure about your job or your performance. In that moment, you take a step of faith:

"Lord, I am trusting You to **BE** my security."

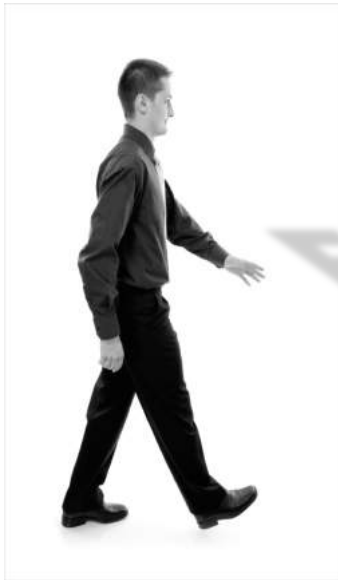
If you don't feel or experience His security in that moment, I call that "faith" security. By this I mean, that we know by faith that Christ is pouring His security into you but you don't feel it. However, if you take enough steps of faith you will move from "faithing it" to "experiencing it." Let me illustrate through the following diagram.



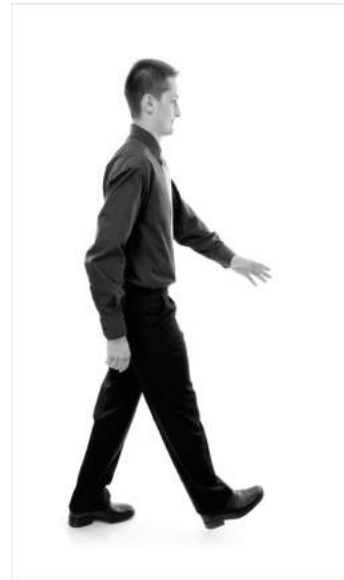
“Faith””””””””””  
Security



“Experiential”””””  
Security



**FAITH**

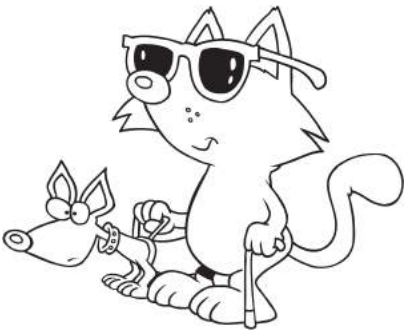


## The Process of Moving From Faith To Experience

This is why 2 Corinthians 5:7 says this:

*“For we walk by faith, not by sight (experience).”  
(Parenthesis mine)*

Paul is telling us in this verse that it is a walk of faith until at some point you will experience what you have been “faithing.”



Why can this be frustrating? As human beings we feel and experience life through one or more of our five senses every moment. Since feeling and experiencing are such integral parts of our life, it is easy to conclude that when we take a step of faith that we will feel or experience God’s work. However, the only way God can teach us faith is to give us opportunities to “faith it.” Therefore, a key truth concerning the walk of faith is this:

### ***The Key To the Walk of Faith:***

***BELIEVING that God is working in you the moment that you take a step of faith  
whether or not you feel or experience His life flowing in you.***

**Questions:** Have you tried to walk by faith in the past, but you got discouraged and quit walking because you were not feeling or experiencing God's work in your life and therefore concluded that He was not really working? Does it help you better understand the walk of faith by knowing the truth that you may not immediately **feel** or **experience** His life moving in you even though He is working?

**Meditate:** on the truth that we are to believe that God is working even though we don't experience Him working.

**Engaging God:** Ask God to give you a deeper revelation of the truth that you may not feel or experience His life and power in you the moment when you take a step of faith.

#### **4. God is not telling us HOW LONG we have to “faith it” before we “experience it.”**

I know that you did not want to hear this because we either want to experience it now or at least tell me how long it will be before I do experience His peace, security, etc. The key word in this process is “wait.” Since we don't know how long it will take before we experience these Christ-life characteristics, then we will learn how to wait. If you are like me, I don't like to wait. I want instant gratification. However, in God's process you will learn how to wait and in the meantime keep faithing it.

#### **5. When you do “experience it,” you will discover that it was WELL WORTH the wait.**

Paul could not describe Christ's peace but he was sure enjoying it. Peter couldn't put words to Christ's joy but he was truly experiencing it. I can tell you my friends that when you begin to experience these Christ-life characteristics you won't be able to describe it but you will know with certainty that it is real.

**Exercise:** Take the three Christ-life characteristics that you wrote down on page 41 that you most want to experience on your job and begin seeking Christ to BE those things.

#### **Summary of Lesson Three**

- God's part in living THE life is for Him to be the **cause** and **effect** of your transformation.
- Your part is to **depend on**, **rely on** and **draw from** the life of Christ within you.
- Without living **totally dependent** on Christ as your Source, there will be **no** transformation.
- We have two objects of faith: **ourselves with God's help** and **God alone**.
- Faith in ourselves will result in **no** freedom, victory and transformation.
- Faith in Christ alone will result in **freedom, victory and transformation**.
- **Throughout** the work day, you can draw on Christ-life characteristics to meet your needs.
- This is a faith process whereby you may have to **“faith it”** before you **“experience it.”**
- We don't know **how long** it will take to go from faith to experience it.
- It will be **worth the wait** when you to **experience** these Christ-life characteristics.

In Lesson Four we are going to learn what it looks like to walk by the Spirit on our jobs.

## Lesson Four

# Do You Want To Walk By The Spirit Or Live From Your Flesh On Your Job?

### DAY ONE

#### Introduction

We all face daily struggles in the workplace. We have already talked about some of these struggles and how we can draw on the life of Christ to exchange our human attitudes such stress, fear, insecurity, etc. for Christ-life attitudes of peace, rest, security, etc. Another crucial piece of living from Christ in the workplace, is understanding how we draw on Christ's power to overcome the struggles that tend to create more stress. The good news is that as Christians, Christ offers us (THE) way out of these struggles.

*"I am **THE WAY**, THE truth, and THE Life..." John 14:6*

#### Let Me Ask You A Few Questions

Before we talk about living from Christ's power to overcome the struggles you face, you need to acknowledge your struggles and the consequences of those struggles. Let's do that by answering the following questions.

What are some of the daily struggles that you face with people and circumstances at your job?

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What do these struggles create within you? (i.e. more stress, fear, insecurity, driven-ness, need to succeed, etc.)

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How do these struggles negatively impact your attitude towards your job or towards your co-workers/boss?

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Are you experiencing ongoing victory over these struggles? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Will You Live In The FLESH Or The SPIRIT?

*"But I say walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."*

*Galatians 5:16*

I trust that you know Galatians 5:16 and that your desire is to walk by the Spirit on your job. However, you also have the choice to walk in the flesh. The truth is that walking in the flesh is the default choice for every believer. In other words, walking in the flesh is like breathing. It comes naturally. The battle comes when we want to live by the Spirit but our flesh resists that desire. Therefore, let's look start by looking at what it means to walk in the flesh and how it negatively impacts our attitudes at work and apart from work as well.

### **What Is The FLESH?**

Paul admits to his struggle with his flesh in in Romans 7:

*"For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin."*  
Romans 7:14

*"For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not."* Romans 7:18

What is the definition of flesh that Paul refers to in Romans 7:14, 18?

***The biblical meaning of the word "flesh" is man's DESIRE to live life with HIMSELF as the source, INDEPENDENTLY or APART from God as the Source.***

Prior to salvation, we learned that we had no choice but to depend upon ourselves (our flesh) as the source for solving our problems, dealing with life, and becoming a success. We were living life out of our own resources (such as education, IQ, personality, looks, talents, abilities, capabilities, self-discipline, and self-strength) apart from God as our Source. As we did this, it reinforced our desire to BE the source for life.

When we were saved, God had two purposes in that salvation. He first wanted to save us from our sins. Secondly, He put His life and power in us to save us from ourselves or our "self-life," which the Bible calls the "flesh." I simply define our "self-life" as that attitude within us that says, "It is all about ME getting what I want when I want it."

(Note: It is worth noting at this point that God gave every one of us IQ, talents, abilities, etc. However, God never intended for us to live from those talents and abilities **independently** of Him.)

***Living from our flesh will ALWAYS create the desire to live independently of God. Since we were DESIGNED to live dependently upon God, we will NEVER produce THE life that God promises if we CHOOSE to live from our flesh.***

Let me ask you two questions, "Is it possible that you are using your God-given talents, abilities, strength, and willpower apart from God to deal with your problems and your struggles concerning your job? Is it possible that you are doing your job using your own self-effort? If so, I have another question:

## **“How well is it working for you?”**

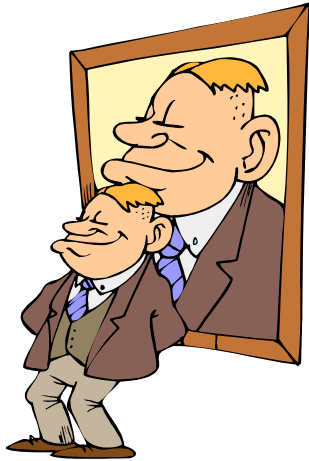
For some of us it may have the appearance that it is working. But, the truth is:

***God has it RIGGED in that your job and life will truly NEVER work unless you live in DEPENDENCE upon Him (i.e. walk in the Spirit).***

## **DAY TWO**

### **Characteristics of The Flesh**

To give us a better understanding of our flesh, let's explore some of the characteristics of the flesh as it pertains to your job.



The “**flesh**” is an **independent attitude** within us that says:

- I can be in control.
- I can meet my needs.
- I can handle or overcome all problems.
- I can deal with every circumstance concerning my job.
- I can be a success.
- I can be happy.

***Because the DESIRE to live in the flesh is so strong, fleshly desires always bring us to the place of “I CAN” live INDEPENDENTLY of God.***

### **Living From The Flesh Produces Fleshly BEHAVIORS**

*“Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these.....” Galatians 5:19-21a*

***The result of living from the flesh will be FLESHLY BEHAVIORS.***

There is another downside to living from the flesh. It will only produce the “works of the flesh” which are **fleshly attitudes** or **fleshly behaviors** like those listed in Galatians 5:19-21 above. I simply define fleshly behavior as follows:

### ***Fleshly Behavior:***

***Any behavior that we exhibit as a result of living life INDEPENDENTLY of God.***



Fleshly behaviors come in two forms: **positive** flesh or **negative** flesh. Below are some examples of negative and positive fleshly behaviors.

**Examples of negative fleshly behaviors:** anger, inadequacy, unforgiveness, envy, controlling, fear, worry.



**Examples of positive fleshly behaviors:** self-confidence, self-reliance, self-sufficiency, self-success, strong in self.

Most of us understand negative flesh but I have found that many Christians don't understand positive flesh. You would think that things like self-confidence, self-reliance, etc. would be good traits but look at the common word that describe all of them. The word is "self." Anything of "self" is the flesh.

**Exercise:** Go to the list of fleshly behaviors at the end of this lesson and write down five fleshly behaviors that most apply to you at your job.

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**Questions:** Write down what the five fleshly behaviors you picked are causing you internally and what they are causing with your co-workers?

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### **What Are The RESULTS From Living From Your Fleshly Behaviors?**

If we choose to live from our fleshly behaviors, the Bible tells us in Romans 8:6 that it results in "**death**."

*".. the **mind** set on the **flesh** is **DEATH**, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace."*

This "death" is defined in Strong's Lexicon as "**the misery of our soul as a result of sin.**" If you continue to live from your fleshly behaviors and attitudes, the inevitable result will be "misery" in your soul.

## What are some examples of “misery” of the soul?

Condemnation	Stress	Anxiety	Pride	Unforgiveness
Unhappiness	Anger	Guilt	Arrogance	Bitterness
Self-pity	Inadequacy	Fear	Worry	Frustration
Unworthiness	Blame	Rejection	Insecurity	Dissatisfaction

**Question:** As you read through this list, are you experiencing any of these characteristics of the misery of the soul on your job?

When I give in to my fleshly behaviors and live there for awhile, I call that going to the “prodigal pigpen.” Remember the prodigal son who decided to live independently and ended up in a pigpen? This is what happens to us when we go to the flesh. We end up like the prodigal son “wallowing” in the mud and muck of our flesh. Peter addresses this truth in 2 Peter 2:22:

*“Of them the proverbs are true: ‘A dog returns to its vomit’ and, ‘A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.’”*



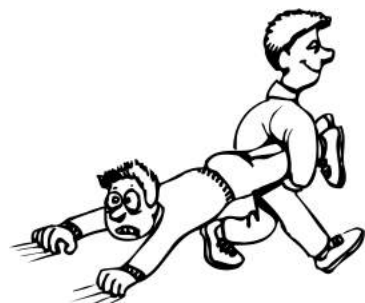
The dog returning to its vomit or a pig returning to wallowing in the mud are great pictures of what living from fleshly behaviors is like. If this is the case, why do we keep going back to the flesh? Here again, it is what we are used to. As sick as it sounds, we have learned to be at home and to be comfortable with the misery of our flesh. Does that sound troublesome to you? I hope so.

**God wants to set you FREE from your fleshly behaviors.**

***Walking by faith in His power is your only WAY out of the prodigal pigpen!***

## **KEY TRUTH: Your Flesh Will ALWAYS Resist Your Walk of Faith**

Your flesh will ALWAYS be resisting your walk of faith. We see this in Galatians 5:17:



*“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.” Galatians 5:17*

We will struggle for the rest of our life with the flesh and its desires. The bad news is that going back to our fleshly, independent living is the “default” position for all of us. In other words, it is easy to go back to the flesh because that is how we are used to living. However, now that we are Christians, we have another option. Since we have the fullness of God’s power in us, we can now choose to walk dependently upon God’s power (which ALWAYS overpowers the flesh).

***Since Christ’s POWER is in us, we can draw on His power to  
OVERCOME our fleshly behaviors.***

Here are some of the ways that the flesh resists your walk of faith on your job. The flesh wants you:

1. To use your own abilities to deal with your internal and external struggles at your workplace.
2. To doubt God and give up on Him and His ability to transform you.
3. To go back and to wallow in your “fleshly pigpen” behaviors your job is causing you.
4. To take ownership of the stress of your job and try to figure out how to cope with it.

**Questions:** Based on Romans 7:15, what are some things that you would like to be doing but are not doing or vice versa? Have you tried to not do or do these things using your own willpower? Is it working?

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## **DAY THREE**

### **Engaging Christ's Power To Overcome Your Fleshly Behaviors**

There are three things that God wants to accomplish concerning your fleshly behaviors.

#### **1. EXPOSE when your flesh is resisting your walk of faith.**

Since our default position is the flesh, we may not readily see when our flesh is resisting God's work in us. Therefore, what God wants to do is to expose that fleshly resistance. We see in the following verse how David sought God to expose His flesh.

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23, 24*

Therefore, let's look at what a step of faith might look like for God to expose our fleshly resistance.

**Step of faith:** “Lord, I am asking You to reveal how my flesh is resisting Your work in my life.”

#### **2. Show you the death OF your flesh.**

*“For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.” Romans 7:15*

The problem with the flesh is two-fold. First, we are unwilling to turn away from our flesh. Secondly, we don't have the power in and of ourselves to set ourselves free from the grip of our flesh. Therefore, God has to reveal the “death” of our flesh to us before we are willing to allow God to set us free from it. (Remember that the “death” of the flesh is the misery of the soul that results when our flesh resists God's transforming work in us.)



***Showing you the death OF your flesh is simply the Spirit revealing to you  
the MISERY that your fleshly resistance is causing within you.***



The problem for many Christians is that they have been living in the misery that their flesh causes for so long that they can't even see that it is misery. That is why we seek God to expose the misery. Otherwise, we continue to be like the dog in 2 Peter 2:22 returning to its vomit, lapping it up, and throwing it up. (Sorry about the graphic analogy, but it is an image that I hope that the Lord will use to make this point.)

For example, let's assume you, in your flesh, are resisting God's desire to set you free from the frustration your job is causing you. What God will do is reveal the "death" of your frustration and how it creates ongoing conflict within you and can spill over into your relationships with your co-workers. God, in His grace, will rub your nose in the "vomit" your frustration is creating so that you will find yourself turning away from your anger. A step of faith concerning asking God to show you the death of your flesh.

**Step of faith:** "Lord, I am asking You to show me the "death" my frustration is causing in me and in those around me."

### **3. Give you the desire to walk in the death TO your flesh.**

Once we see the death (smell the vomit) that our flesh is causing, we will turn away from it and will turn back to walking dependently on God. Look at 2 Corinthians 4:11:



*"For we who live **are constantly being delivered over to death (to our flesh)** for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh." 2 Corinthians 4:11*

What Paul is saying in this verse is that God is constantly exposing the death **OF** our flesh so that we will walk in the death **TO** our flesh. Walking in the death to our flesh means that we realize the misery that our fleshly resistance is causing us, and we turn back to God to continue His transforming work in us. When we walk in the death TO our flesh, it is like nailing our flesh (self-life) to the cross. Here is an example of a step of faith concerning walking in the death TO your flesh.

**Step of faith:** "Lord, I am asking you to give me the willingness to walk in the death **TO** my fleshly behavior of \_\_\_\_\_."

***Walking in death TO your flesh is another way of saying that  
you are walking in victory OVER your flesh.***

**Engaging God:** Ask God to expose the areas where your flesh is resisting His work in your life. Ask Him to show you the death and misery that is creating and trust Him to give you the desire to turn back to Him and continue walking by faith.

**Examples of What It Looks Like To ENGAGE God's Power To Experience Victory Over Your Flesh In The Workplace**

**EXAMPLE #1:** Let's assume you struggle with a fleshly behavior of being manipulative at work and the Spirit has convicted you of that fleshly behavior.

**Step of Faith:** "Lord, I confess my manipulative attitude. I am asking You to show me the "death" that my manipulation is causing. I trusting You to move me away from my fleshly desire to manipulate."

**EXAMPLE #2:** Let's assume you have been stabbed in the back by co-worker. In your flesh, you get angry and you want to get back at them.

**The Truth:** The truth is that you don't have to get angry or get even. Why? First of all, God is in control. Secondly, look at what Peter said about this situation in 1 Peter 2:23:

*"and while being reviled, He (Jesus) **did not revile in return**. While suffering, He uttered no threats but **kept entrusting Himself** to Him (The Father) who judges righteously."*

If this is what Jesus did when He was being reviled but kept entrusting Himself to the Father, what should you do? I assume your desire would be to respond in the same way that Jesus did. However, sometimes the power of a fleshly behavior is stronger than our "spiritual" will to change it. We see this with Paul when he said in Romans 7:15:

*"For what I am doing, I do not understand. For I am not practicing what I would like to do but I am doing the very thing I hate."*

What Paul is saying is that he knows what he should be doing in his "spiritual" will but the hold that his flesh has on him prevents him from doing what he would like to do. Can you identify with Paul? I believe we all can. If you have been a Christian long enough to learn some of God's truth then you know what you should be doing. However, depending on how much a stronghold a particular flesh pattern has over you will determine if you are willing to choose to walk in the Spirit or give into the flesh.

You see, part of why God allowed this event to occur in the first place is that it is a "spiritual" test to see whether or not you will walk in the Spirit for give into the flesh. Having said that let's look at some examples of some steps of faith in responding to this co-worker who has stabbed you in the back.

**Step of Faith:** "Lord, my flesh wants to get angry and get even. However, I know that is not a Christ-like response. I am asking You to give me a willingness not "revile in return" but keep trusting You to deal with this person."

**Step of Faith:** "You Lord are in control of this situation. You allowed it to happen and I am entrusting this person to You for You to deal with. Give me a heart of love for this person."

**Step of Faith:** “I know that I should not get angry or get even but my fleshly desires to do that are overwhelming me. I am asking You in Your power to give me the willingness not to give into the flesh.”

Let’s assume you give into your flesh and get angry at the co-worker who hurt you.

**Step of faith:** “I repent of my anger towards my co-worker. I am asking You to renew my mind and set me free from my fleshly desire to be angry.”

**EXAMPLE #3:** You are a hard worker and one of your co-worker is a “slacker.” Every time you see them you have thoughts in your mind like “Why can’t you carry your weight? Why can’t you have the same work ethic I do?” In other words, you have a critical and judgemental attitude.

**The Truth:** Luke 6:37 says “*Do not judge*” and “*do not condemn.*” Therefore, God does not want us to judge or be critical of others. In my experience with discipling others, I have discovered that we judge or are critical to either puff ourselves up or to cover up our own inadequacy. Either way it is the flesh. Therefore, let’s look at some steps of faith that engage God’s supernatural power to deal with this situation.

**Step of Faith:** “I am asking You Lord to remove this critical and judgemental attitude away from me. Transform me so that I will no longer be critical or condemning.”

**Step of Faith:** “Lord, show me the “death” my critical attitude is creating in me and through me. I am trusting in Your to transform me so that I don’t go back the “vomit” of my critical attitude.

## **DAY FOUR**

**EXAMPLE #4:** Let’s assume that you are a people-pleaser. (I think in the workplace that we all struggle with that on some level.) However, because you are a people-pleaser you compromise your integrity in some small ways concerning your job so that you will always look good.

**The Truth:** 2 Corinthians 5:9 says that the only One we truly have to please is God. “*Therefore, we also have as our ambition....to be pleasing to Him.*” I am not saying you should not do a good job. However, don’t you think that if you are honoring God through your work that it will be not only pleasing to Him but pleasing to your superiors?

Secondly, if people-pleasing compromises your integrity then we know that is sin. Another key truth is found in John 12:23 which says, “*for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.*” Our heart should be to seek the approval of God before the approval of man. Therefore, let’s look at some steps of faith that will move us away from wanting to be people-pleaser.

Thirdly, folks are people-pleasers as a mask for their own inadequacy. They feel that if they can do enough for someone else that person will be pleased with them and they can feel adequate. However, our true adequacy can only come from Christ. Human adequacy will rise and fall according to how people respond to us.

**Step of Faith:** “Lord, I confess that my fleshly people-pleasing has resulted in many doing some things concerning my job that compromise my integrity as a Christian. I am asking You to renew my mind to the truth that my part is to be pleasing to You.”

**Step of Faith:** “Renew my mind to the truth Lord that I should be seeking your approval rather than the approval of man.”

**Step of Faith:** “Lord, remind me that my true adequacy can only come from You. I am trusting you to BE my adequacy in order that I can quit trying to find my adequacy in other people.”

**EXAMPLE #5:** Let’s assume you have a condescending/arrogant boss. He/she makes you feel rejected and unworthy. Your flesh reacts and you look for subtle ways to reject his or her authority.

**The Truth:** You are totally acceptable and totally worthy in Christ according to Psalm 139:14 and Romans 15:7.

*“I will give thanks to You for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made...**” Psalm 139:14*

*“Therefore, accept one another, just as **Christ also has accepted us.**” Romans 15:7*

The truth is that because you are totally accepted and worthy in Christ, you no longer have to take ownership of anyone’s else rejection. In turn, if you don’t take ownership of their rejection then you no longer have to look for ways to reject or subvert your boss’s authority.

**Step of Faith:** “Lord, I confess I am taking ownership of my boss’s rejection and it makes me feel unworthy. I am entrusting their rejection to you and I am asking You to BE my acceptance and worth.”

**Step of Faith:** “Lord, I realize that my boss is acting out of his/her flesh in rejecting me. In Your power, prevent me from wanting to reject them. Remind me that I am fearfully and wonderfully made and no one can rob that from me.”

**EXAMPLE #6:** Let’s assume you are dealing with a client or customer that is very difficult to deal with. You are experiencing impatience rising up in you and are tempted to react in anger.

**The Truth:** We all have people in our lives that knowingly or unknowingly want to push our buttons. The question is: Are we going to allow them to do that? Remember that we have the power within us that raised Jesus from the dead (Ephesians 1:19, 20). You can appropriate that power by faith and seek God to move you away from giving into your impatience and anger.

**Step of Faith:** “I am coming to You Lord and asking you to BE my patience. Secondly, I am drawing on Your power by faith to suppress my impatience and rising anger.”

**Step of Faith:** “I want to be a witness for You because I don’t know if my client/customer is saved or not. I am asking You to give me a heart of gentleness and grace towards this person.”

**EXAMPLE #6:** Let’s assume that you have a co-worker or boss that you struggling with forgiving because of how they continue to devalue you or demean you.

**The Truth:** First of all, you contain all of Christ’s forgiveness. Secondly, what right do you have not to forgive if Christ totally forgave you. Therefore, seek the Spirit to give you a heart or at least a willingness to forgive. Thirdly, unforgiveness only creates misery in you and not in the person you have not forgiven.

**Step of Faith:** “Lord, remind me that you forgave all my sins and that I have no right not to forgive my boss.”

**Step of Faith:** “I confess to You Lord that I am struggling with forgiving my co-worker. I am asking You in Your power to move me from unwillingness to willingness to forgive them.”

**Step of Faith:** “Lord, show me the “death” my unforgiveness is creating in me. Transform my heart so that I will forgive this person.”

**EXAMPLE #7:** Let’s assume that you are struggling with lust for a co-worker.

**The Truth:** We all know that lust is sin. We also know how powerful lust can be. It will take drawing on Christ’s power to resist acting on that lust.

**Step of Faith:** “I confess to You Lord that I am lusting for my co-worker. I am trusting in Your power to move me away from giving into my lust for him/her.”

**Step of Faith:** “Remind me that I am a righteous man/woman and that as such Your desire is for me to walk in Your righteousness.”

**Exercise:** List the five fleshly behaviors that you picked from the “Fleshly Behaviors” list at the end of this lesson.

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**Using these five fleshly behaviors, begin taking steps of faith, engaging Christ’s power to overcome, move away from or have victory over.**

### **Final Thoughts On Engaging God To Overpower Your Flesh**

1. Early on you are going to have to be INTENTIONALLY seeking Christ’s power to overcome or move away from your fleshly behaviors.
2. Early on as you are seeking victory, freedom, or healing in a particular area of your life, the resistance by your flesh will be very STRONG.
3. The more that you engage God’s power to defeat your flesh, the more you will find your fleshly resistance will LESSEN over time.
4. Some of your flesh patterns are stronger than others. So it may take longer to experience victory over those stronger flesh patterns.

#### **Key Truth:**

***You will choose to go back to the flesh many times during your walk of faith.***

***However, during those times God wants to expose the DEATH OF your flesh to you so that you will walk in the death TO it.***

## **DAY FIVE**

### **Desiring To Walk In The Spirit Will Create A FIGHT of Faith**

If you haven't already figured it out by now, when you begin to engage God to experience victory over the flesh, you are going to have a fight on your hands. Paul calls this the fight of faith in 1 Timothy 6:12:

***Fight the good fight of faith...***

I define the fight of faith as follows:

#### **FIGHT OF FAITH:**

***Is the result when you meet RESISTANCE from your flesh when you  
CHOOSE to walk in the Spirit.***



The truth is that from the first step of faith you will meet resistance. The question that I want to ask you at this point is two-fold:

- **Are you aware that there is a fight?**
- **Are you engaged in the fight?**

What I find is that many Christians do not truly understand that there is a huge battle being waged against them. Peter confirms this battle in 1 Peter 2:11:

***“Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.”***

The first thing that we must be aware of is that there is a battle. If we don't know that there is a battle, we will live as if no battle is taking place. In addition, if we know that there is a fight, and we don't fight the fight of faith according to 1 Timothy 6:12, three things will result:

***First, we will eventually GIVE UP on God and our walk of faith.***

***Secondly, we will TURN BACK to self as the source from which to live our life.***

***Thirdly, NO transformation will ever take place.***

Therefore, it is crucial that we fully understand the fight of faith and how to win the fight. Let's first talk about some key truths that we need to know about the fight of faith.

## **Truths About The Fight of Faith**

### **#1 - You Can't Fight This Fight.**

*"For the LORD your God is the One who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory." Deuteronomy 20:4*



The truth about the fight of faith is that you **can't** fight this fight apart from Christ's power. Why? It is because your strength and willpower is no match for the power of your flesh. You will lose the fight every time when you choose to engage the fight of faith **apart** from Christ's power. The good news is that God promises to fight the fight **FOR** you by overpowering every enemy that you face!

**God NEVER intended for you to fight a fight that you  
CANNOT win apart from Him.**

### **#2 - Your Part In The Fight of Faith**

*"The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:14*

Even though God must ultimately fight this fight, you do have a crucial part to play: "Be still." At first this may sound very passive, but the truth is that "be still" is a very active phrase in that you are to continue trusting the Lord by faith to fight the fight.

"Being still" means that you can rest because you are depending on God's ability and power to overcome your flesh. We see this same truth in Psalm 46:10: "**Be still and know that I am God...**" If I am persuaded in God's ability to be the Victor over my flesh, I can experience rest as He does battle for me.

**Your faith ACTIVATES Christ's power to OVERCOME the resistance your flesh  
is causing your walk of faith.**

### **#3 - Use God's Word As Part Of The Fight of Faith.**

*"My soul weeps because of grief. **Strengthen me according to Your word.**" Psalm 119:28*

*"You will **know the truth**, and the truth will set you **free**." John 8:32*

An essential part of fighting the fight of faith is knowing and engaging God with His truth. The word "knowing" in John 8:32 means more than intellectual knowledge. It means "to believe." We also know that Christ Himself is the truth according to John 14:6. Therefore, as we believe God's truth and engage God by faith, He will use His truth to the fleshly obstacles to your faith walk and to set you free.

### **#3 The Good News: IN Christ The Fight Has Already Been WON**

*“But thanks be to God, who gives us the **victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.”  
1 Corinthians 15:57*

Because of Christ’s victory over sin at the cross the victory over our flesh has already been won. This is good news because we no longer have to work towards victory. Rather, we can live from the victory that is already ours in Christ. The reason this is important is because many Christians don’t realize or believe that the victory has been won and they keep striving to be victorious. Therefore, walk by the Spirit with the Christ-confidence that the fight of faith that you are engaging in has already been won.

#### **Lesson Four Summary**

- The flesh is a strategy of living that says I can live independently of God.
- The overflow of living in the flesh is fleshly behaviors.
- The result of our flesh and fleshly behaviors is “death.” (i.e. misery of the soul)
- As we engage God and His power, God will:
  - a. Subdue our flesh.
  - b. Show us the death OF our flesh.
  - c. Give us a willingness to die TO our flesh.
  - d. Renew our minds to the truth.
  - e. Transform us so that we don’t go back to our fleshly behaviors.
  - f. Transform us into Christ-likeness.

In Lesson Five we are going to look at one of the most important truths that pertain to living from Christ in the workplace.



## ***Fleshly Behaviors***

### **Be self-absorbed**

become overly introspective  
feel sorry for myself  
get depressed  
beat up on myself  
play the role of victim/martyr  
focus on my suffering to get  
attention and sympathy  
be jealous of another's  
success and happiness

### **Withdraw** (isolate myself)

be aloof (pull away)  
distance myself from others  
avoid others (be a loner)  
go into a shell  
become unapproachable  
give them the silent  
treatment  
refuse to communicate

### **Escape** (pain/pressure) by using:

promiscuity	carousing
drugs and alcohol	talking
staying busy	school
hobbies/games	reading
computers	fantasy
television	movies
pornography	sleep
overeating	religion
work/career	sex

### **Be anxious** (worry and fret)

be fearful (apprehensive)  
lack peace and rest  
become paralyzed (numb)  
be paranoid (overly  
suspicious)  
refuse to see the positive  
assume the worst

### **Seek guidance from:**

astrology/horoscopes,  
fortune telling and/or  
the occult

### **Be self-disciplined** (self-reliant)

base acceptance of self and  
others on performance  
become a perfectionist  
try hard so as not to fail  
fear making mistakes  
be legalistic:  
live "by the book"  
feel obligated (have to,  
should, ought to)  
be too hard on  
myself/others  
set unrealistic standards  
for myself/others

### **Become obsessed with:**

accomplishments  
recognition/status  
acquiring material things  
what others think of me  
how I look physically  
my physical health  
the past (especially past hurts  
and failures)  
a devotion to a cause  
structure, order and  
regulations

### **Become dominant**

be dictatorial (bossy)  
be demanding (pushy)  
be overbearing (controlling)  
intimidate others  
refuse to give in

### **Stay in control** through:

blackmail (making threats)  
manipulation (use of guilt,  
pity, silence, flattery, etc.)  
coercion (physical threats)  
profanity (swearing)  
passivity (playing helpless)  
not eating (anorexia/bulimia)

### **Lack compassion, gentleness**

understanding, kindness, love,  
become defensive

### **Be self-righteous** (self- justifying)

make excuses (rationalize)  
cover up and hide mistakes  
have to prove my point  
assume I am never the  
problem  
blame someone or something  
else as the problem  
avoid taking responsibility  
for failure or problems  
have difficulty: apologizing,  
admitting I was wrong,  
asking for forgiveness,  
asking for help, and/or  
expressing gratitude  
have a superior attitude  
(saying in effect):  
"I know what is best"  
"My way is the right way"

### **Be critical** (judgmental)

find fault with others, myself  
and everything around me  
nit-pick things to death  
be prejudiced (intolerant)  
complain a lot (nothing is  
ever good enough)

### **Be self-assured** (self- confident)

depend on myself instead of  
God or others  
become proud (haughty)  
be egocentric (act pompous)  
brag (be boastful)  
become arrogant (cocky)  
become conceited (smug)

### **Come across as insensitive,**

uncaring, unsympathetic,  
indifferent or unconcerned

### **Be complacent** (nonchalant)

say things like, "it's okay" or  
"it doesn't matter."

## ***Fleshly Behaviors (Continued)***

**Be pessimistic** (negative)  
lack confidence and optimism  
be skeptical (suspicious)  
distrust others, myself, God,  
church and/or government  
expect the worst  
never pleased with self  
or others  
never be satisfied or content

**Become hostile**  
be unfriendly  
be sarcastic (caustic)  
be cynical (contemptuous)  
be hateful (mean-spirited)  
be cruel (malicious)  
have a quick temper  
rant and rave to vent my anger  
be physically abusive  
be verbally abusive  
break things

**Hold a grudge** (be resentful)  
become moody (sulk)  
harbor bitterness  
be unforgiving  
keep a scorecard of offenses  
try to get even (seek revenge)  
want others to fail or get hurt  
punish myself or others

**Fight unfair**  
be slanderous  
misrepresent the situation  
gossip (talk behind their back)  
engage in passive-aggressive  
behavior: use humor to hide  
real feelings, forget things,  
refuse to communicate, be  
late, procrastinate, etc.)

**Be self-deprecating**  
assume I am always the  
problem  
become overly apologetic  
be too hard on myself  
uncomfortable with success

have difficulty receiving: love,  
compliments, forgiveness  
be unable to forgive myself

**Challenge others**  
resist authority  
be uncooperative (inflexible)  
be unteachable (close-minded)  
cause dissention (strife)  
be irritating (aggravate others)  
be argumentative  
be stubborn (unyielding)  
be unreasonable

**Deny reality**  
ignore problems and hope they  
will go away  
deny anything is bad or wrong  
be subjective  
deceive others and myself  
lie to self and others  
exaggerate (overstate matters)  
play games to hide real intent

**Put up a front**  
hide what I really think  
pretend  
try to impress others  
and/or get attention  
fake it (act like I know  
something even when I don't)  
be pretentious (phony, unreal)  
be superficial (never let  
anyone  
get too close)

**Be passive** (lack initiative)  
quit too easily (give up)  
don't take chances  
wait for someone to tell me  
how to think and what to do  
vacillate (be too changeable)  
be indecisive  
avoid failure at all costs  
procrastinate (put things off)  
be irresponsible (unreliable)  
be lazy (apathetic, lethargic)

**Be tense** ("on guard")  
find it hard to relax  
be restless  
become impatient  
be easily agitated

**Become emotionally insulated**  
avoid intimacy  
have difficulty expressing  
feelings and opinions  
suppress (stuff) emotions  
be inhibited (restrained)

**Live by my feelings**  
believe that truth is what I feel  
be too sensitive to criticism  
be hypersensitive  
be touchy (irritable)  
be controlled by fear, anger,  
doubts and insecurities  
automatically read in rejection

**Be a pleaser** (be nice)  
try to keep everyone happy  
avoid conflict/keep the peace  
say what I think others want  
overly submissive  
have difficulty saying "no"  
can't stand up for myself  
afraid to disappoint others  
give in to others too easily

**Be a caretaker** (rescuer)  
be overprotective  
be overly responsible  
become too involved with  
other's affairs/concerns  
be possessive (too invested)  
talk too much and listen poorly  
make decisions for others

**Be too serious** (intense)  
be overly analytical  
not be able to have fun  
lack joy or life

# Lesson Five

## Your True Identity and The Workplace

### DAY ONE

#### Introduction

In this lesson, we are going to learn one of the most transforming truths in the word of God. Knowing, believing and walking in this truth will radically change your attitude about your job and every other area of your life. The truth is that you have a new identity in Christ. Look at 2 Corinthians 5:17:

*“Therefore if any man is **in Christ**, he is a **new creation**; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17*

#### **KEY TRUTH**

***Being a NEW CREATION means that you have NEW IDENTITY!***

I will be honest with you. Most Christians that I teach/disciple do not know the true meaning of 2 Corinthians 5:17. Most Christians have no idea that they have a new identity in Christ. If that is true for you, let's begin by defining what I mean by the word “identity?”

#### **YOUR IDENTITY**

***Is what you BELIEVE and/or how you FEEL about yourself.***

Proverbs 23:7 says

*“As a man **thinks** in his heart **so is he.**”*

We all have an identity. We have certain beliefs and feelings about ourselves that make up our identity. Also, part of our identity is based on our IQ, talents, and abilities. In addition to what we believe about ourselves, we also try to find our identity in other places.

The main place where I tried to find my identity was in my workplace as a business owner. When my business was going well it gave me a sense of confidence, adequacy, value/worth, and security. In addition to the workplace, there are other places where we can try and find our identity?

- Other relationships (Co-workers, wife, kids, or friends)
- Hobbies/Sports
- How much money we make?
- Where we live?
- What we do for others?

We can even try to get our identity for what we do for God. (i.e. Go to church, be involved in a home group, be involved in ministry.) Before we go any further, let me ask you some questions concerning your identity.

### **How About You?**

#### **1. What is your identity? What do you believe or how do you feel about yourself?**

If someone asked you to describe yourself what words would you use? Words like successful, self-confident, self-sufficient or words like anxious, insecure or inadequate? Write down a few words that you would use to describe you.

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#### **2. Does what you do or how well you do your job determine, in part, determine your identity? Where are some other places where you may try to find your identity?**

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**Question:** If your identity is largely determined by your job, what happens to your identity if you lose your job?

#### **3. Is part of what you believe about yourself based on your behavior?**

For example, If you have issues with being controlling, would you conclude: "I am a controlling person" or if you struggle with fear would you conclude "I am a fearful person." Do you base at least part of what you believe about yourself based on your behavior? Please write down any behaviors that you think might determine your identity.

I am a \_\_\_\_\_ person.

I am a \_\_\_\_\_ person.

I am a \_\_\_\_\_ person.

#### **3. Is what you believe about yourself the truth?**

This is the most important question of this whole lesson. Why?

***Because you will NOT live beyond what you BELIEVE and if  
what you believe is a LIE then that is how you will LIVE.***

What do I mean by that statement. Look at John 8:32 for a moment:

*"You will know the truth and the truth will set you FREE."*

However, what is the converse of this verse? If you continue to believe the lie then you will think, choose and behave based on that lie. How do we know if what we believe about ourselves is a lie? By learning the truth of your true identity. However, before we talk about your true

identity, I want to begin by looking at how we formed what I call a “false identity.” Let’s start with a definition of false identity.

### **FALSE IDENTITY**

***Any feelings or beliefs that you have about yourself that CONTRADICT God’s truth.***

#### **How We Developed Our FALSE Identity**

Let’s go back to 2 Corinthians 5:17 for a moment.

*“Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a **new creation (new identity)**; the old things (false identity) passed away; behold, new things (new identity) have come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17*

This is the key verse for the rest of the lesson. I want to start by focusing on the part of the verse that says, “*the old things have passed away.*” The “*old things*” in this passage is your “false” identity. Let’s begin by looking at how your false identity was formed.

From birth you started receiving messages about yourself. The messages usually came in two categories, **positive** and **negative** messages. For example:

**Negative** messages might have been: “**You are a failure.**” “**You will never measure up.**” “**Is this the best that you can do?**”

**Positive** messages might have been: “**I am proud of you.**” “**You can do it.**” “**You are special.**”

Some of you may have heard a mix of both messages. (Remember, these may be unspoken as well as spoken messages.)



**Exercise:** Write down some of the messages you heard growing up about yourself from parents, siblings, or friends.

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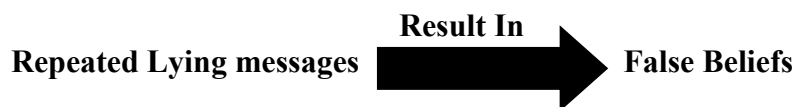
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I grew up hearing mostly negative messages such as “You need to try harder, You can do better, and I don’t love you (this was an unspoken message”).

As these messages were received and repeated enough times, you started forming **beliefs** concerning yourself around those messages. Remember this key truth before we go on.

***Whether it is a positive or a negative message, it is a FALSE belief if does NOT line up with God’s truth.***

If these repeated and reinforced negative and positive messages did not line up with God’s truth the result was that these **negative** and **positive** messages evolved into “**false**” **beliefs**.



Let’s look at a negative and a positive false belief.

**Negative false belief:** “I am a failure.”

**Positive false belief:** “I am self-sufficient.”

## **DAY TWO**

**Exercise:** Look at the list below and write down some of the beliefs that you believe are **true of you**. (Be honest with yourself. I don’t want theological answers. I want you to write down what you honestly believe or how you feel about yourself.)

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### **I Feel Or Believe I Am:**

Unworthy  
Unacceptable  
Rejected  
A failure  
Anxious  
Inadequate  
Weak  
Defeated  
Insecure  
Fearful

Secure in self  
Self-confident  
Self-sufficient  
Successful  
Self-reliant  
In control  
Resourceful in self  
Competent in self  
Fearless  
Strong in self

Did you find yourself choosing more beliefs from one column or another? If you chose beliefs primarily from the left column, would you like to experience more of the beliefs in the right column? I need to let you know at this point that every one of the beliefs listed above are **false** beliefs. The column on the left I call NEGATIVE false beliefs, and the column on the right I call POSITIVE false beliefs.

The positive false beliefs look appealing, but how do we know that they are false beliefs? The key word is “self.” Anything that you believe about yourself that has “self” attached to it is a false belief. Think about the following statement:

***When we don't want other people to SEE what we truly believe about ourselves,  
we began putting on MASKS and build what I call a “FALSE SELF.”***



What do I mean by “masks?” For me, I had false beliefs about myself such as, “I am inadequate, unworthy, and a failure.” The problem is that I did not know the truth about my true identity in Christ. In addition, I did not want you to see me as I saw myself, so I created a “new self.” I did this by putting on masks of self-sufficiency, self-confidence, and success. The problem was that the “new self” was just a new “false self” because the masks were just as much of a lie as what I believed about myself. In other words, I was covering up a false self with another false self.

How about you? Is it possible that you have false beliefs about yourself, and you are wearing a mask or masks so that other people won't see you as you see yourself? I believe this is the result of not knowing your true identity.

***If you do not know your TRUE identity, the tendency will be to  
put on MASKS to cover up your false self.***

The key point is that if we don't know the truth, we will cover up our false beliefs with more false beliefs. Without knowing and living from our true identity, we will never be set free from our false beliefs.

Would you take a few minutes and do the following exercise?

**Exercise:** Go back to the list where you wrote down your false beliefs. After each one of those add the word “Christian.” For example, a “rejected Christian” or a “self-reliant Christian.” My hope is that when you look back over your false beliefs with the word “Christian” that the Holy Spirit will use it to confirm that what you wrote down are truly false beliefs.

The next thing we need to understand about our false beliefs is what is produced as a result of living from our false beliefs.

## **Living From Your False Beliefs Produces FLESHLY Behavior.**

***The major problem with false beliefs is that FLESHLY BEHAVIORS flow OUT from your false beliefs.***



*“Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these.....”*  
*Galatians 5:19-21a*

Living from your false beliefs about yourself will result in **fleshly attitudes** or **fleshly behaviors** like those listed in Galatians 5:19-21 above.

Let’s look at some examples of fleshly behaviors that result from negative and positive lying beliefs and how they might play out in the workplace.

**Example of fleshly behaviors from a NEGATIVE false belief:** If you believe that you are an **inadequate** person, some of the fleshly behaviors that can result are being critical and judgmental of your co-workers/boss, being a people-pleaser to win approval from co-workers/boss, or get angry when you don’t win that approval.

**Example of fleshly behaviors from a POSITIVE false belief:** If you believe that you are a **self-confident** person, then some of the fleshly behaviors that can result are boasting about your abilities or accomplishments, being self-promoting at your job, and using your self-confidence to try and control those around you.

Below are some other examples of fleshly behaviors that flow from your negative and positive false beliefs:

### **NEGATIVE False Beliefs and Fleshly Behaviors**

- **Unworthy** - overly introspective, self-condemning, being critical of others to build yourself up
- **Rejected** - angry, become defensive, reject others
- **A failure** - fear of making mistakes, become introspective, being envious of others’ successes, become a loner
- **Inadequate** - critical and judgmental of others, denial, people-pleaser, escape through such things as your job, hobbies, alcohol, pornography, etc.
- **Insecure** - depression, stay in control, obsessed with accomplishments

### **POSITIVE False Beliefs and Fleshly Behaviors**

- **Secure in self** – focus on material things, take pride in your intellect or looks, being critical of others
- **Self-sufficient** – driven by performance, controlling, boastful
- **Successful in self** – dictatorial, demanding, manipulation of others
- **Self in control** – perfectionist, not tolerant of others, do whatever it takes to stay in control
- **Competent in self** – argumentative, stubborn, intimidating



**Exercise:** Go to the two pages at the end of this lesson titled “Fleshly Behaviors” and pick out five fleshly behaviors that most apply to you.

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**Question:** In what ways do you think your fleshly behaviors are negatively impacting you and your co-workers/boss at your workplace?

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The good news for you as a Christian is that God dealt with your old identity at salvation and gave you a new identity. We will see the Biblical basis for this in the next section.

### **All Of Your False Beliefs Made Up Your OLD-FALSE Identity**

Before you were saved what you believed about yourself was your “**old-false identity**.” All of your positive and negative false beliefs made up your old-false identity. You had no choice but to live from your false beliefs and to stay in bondage to the fleshly behaviors that flowed from those false beliefs. Think about this statement:

***Before you were saved, your OLD-FALSE identity is who you really WERE.***

What you believed about yourself before you were saved is really who you “were.” It is not who you “are” because you now have a new identity. What that meant for me before I was saved is that I was (because that is no longer who I am) an inadequate, unworthy, and rejected person. The good news is that God accomplished a supernatural work in us concerning our old-false identity.

### **What God Accomplished At Salvation To Give You A NEW Identity**

#### **1. God CRUCIFIED Your Old-False Identity**

God knew that you needed a new identity, and in order to give you a new one, He had to deal with the old one. We see in Romans 6:6 that God **crucified** your old identity:

*“knowing this, that our **old self (old-false identity) was CRUCIFIED with Him**, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.” Romans 6:6 (Parenthesis and emphasis mine)*

Think about it for a moment. Every false belief you had about yourself that made up your old identity was crucified with Christ on the cross.

**Note:** You may be asking, “How can my old identity be crucified with Christ since the crucifixion of Jesus took place over 2000 years ago?” The answer to that is that in the eternal realm with God there is no time. Everything is present with God so that regardless of when you were saved, God sees your old identity being crucified with Christ on the cross. This is truly beyond man’s comprehension. Like the rest of scripture, this is a place where we must believe it by faith.

## **2. God EXCHANGED Your Old-False Identity For A New Identity.**

*“Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a **new creation (new identity)**; the *old things (old-false identity)* passed away; behold, **new things (new identity)** have come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17*

In addition to crucifying your old identity, He exchanged your old identity for a new one. Let’s take another look at 2 Corinthians 5:17. The “old things” in 2 Corinthians 5:17 refers to your old-false identity which was crucified (passed away), and was exchanged for “new things” which is your new identity. As a result of this exchange, you became a **new creation**. Becoming a new creation means that you now have a **new identity in Christ**. Not only is it a new identity, it is your true identity.

I believe that you are going to discover that the good news of the gospel is that you were saved but the great news of the gospel is that you have a new-true identity. How do I define “new-true identity?”

### **YOUR NEW-TRUE IDENTITY**

***Your NEW identity is what God gave you at salvation.***

***Your TRUE identity is who God says you are as a new creation.***

Having said that, let’s look at some of the characteristics of your new identity.

## **DAY THREE**

### **3. You are now a PARTAKER of Christ’s divine nature**

*“For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become **partakers of the divine nature**.....” 2 Peter 1:4*

***Having a new identity means that you are a PARTAKER of God’s divine nature.***

Another way to define your true identity is based on 2 Peter 1:4 above. Let’s focus on the word “partaker” for a moment. **“Partaker”** in the Greek means “one who shares.” Therefore, you having a new identity means you share part of God’s divine nature. Another way of saying it is that there are some “Christ-life characteristics” that God is sharing with you. This does not mean that you are becoming deity. It means that there is a part of God’s divine nature that He is sharing with you or is imparting to you.

***Partaker of God's divine nature means that you SHARE with God CHRIST-LIFE characteristics that He imparts to you as part of your new identity.***

Remember the definition of the Christ-life characteristics that are a part of Christ being our life that we learned in Lesson Two?

**CHRIST-LIFE Characteristics** – SUPERNATURAL characteristics of Christ's life that are supplied by Christ and CANNOT be changed by circumstances or relationships.

Not only are these characteristics available to you in Christ but they now make up your new identity. Let's look at a few of those.

### **Characteristics of Your True Identity In Christ**

Here is a list of some of the characteristics of your new identity in Christ. When you read through this list, remember that "in Christ" refers to who you are in your true identity. For example, you might read each characteristic like this: "In my true identity in Christ, I am victorious."

1 Kings 2:3	In Christ, I am a success.
Psalms 139:14	In Christ, I am worthy.
Psalms 71:5	In Christ, I am confident.
Psalms 139:5	In Christ, I am secure.
1 Corinthians 15:57	In Christ, I am victorious.
2 Corinthians 3:5	In Christ, I am adequate.
Romans 15:7	In Christ, I am accepted and acceptable.
Psalms 71:5	In Christ, I am confident.
Psalms 56:4	In Christ, I am fearless.
2 Corinthians 9:8	In Christ, I am sufficient.
Ephesians 4:24	In Christ, I am righteous and holy.
Ephesians 6:10	In Christ, I am strong.
Colossians 3:13	In Christ, I am a forgiving person.
Romans 8:37	In Christ, I am more than a conqueror.
Romans 8:35, 38-39	In Christ, I am unconditionally loved.
Colossians 2:10	In Christ, I am complete in Him.
Galatians 5:1	In Christ, I am free.
Colossians 3:12	In Christ, I am compassionate, humble, kind, patient.
Ephesians 1:1	In Christ, I am a saint. (See 1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2)
John 15:13	In Christ, I am sacrificial.
Philippians 2:3	In Christ, I am others-focused.
Galatians 5:22, 23	In Christ, I am joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle.
John 1:12	In Christ, I am a child of God (part of His family).
1 Corinthians 2:16	In Christ, I am in possession of the mind of Christ.
John 15:15	In Christ, I am Christ's friend.
Colossians 3:12	In Christ, I am chosen of God, holy, and dearly loved.
Hebrews 3:14	In Christ, I am a partaker of Christ.

**Exercise:** Read each of the characteristics of your true identity out loud. From that list, write down five of the characteristics below that you would most like to experience either personally or at your job. Take some time to look up the verses for each of those characteristics.

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**Question:** What are some of the characteristics listed above that you do not believe or feel are true of you?

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**Engaging God:** Specifically ask God to persuade you of the scriptural truth of those five characteristics that you would most like to experience. If you are struggling with believing that some of these characteristics are true of you, begin asking God to renew your mind and move you from unbelief to belief.

**Question:** Are there any of those characteristics listed above about your true identity that you don't believe are true of you? Please write those specific characteristics down.

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Is it possible that the reason that you wrote some of the things down is because you are still believing the lies about yourself? If so, let me ask you this question?

**KEY QUESTION:**

***Since your false beliefs are part of your old identity that was CRUCIFIED at the cross, then do you NEED to continue believing your false beliefs any longer?***

The answer is NO! Now that you know the truth, you no longer have to keep believing the lie. However, you may say that you can't possibly believe that these things are true of you. Perhaps you look at yourself and your behavior and say that I can't be righteous or worthy. If so, please keep the following truth in mind.

***How you FEEL or what you BELIEVE about the truth does NOT  
change the fact that God's truth is TRUE.***

In the beginning of our understanding that we have a new identity, we all struggle with believing that we are who God says we are. Therefore, we will be talking later in this lesson about how God moves us from unbelief to belief about our true identity. Let's dig deeper into some of these characteristics of your new identity and look at how they apply to the workplace.

## **Understanding and Application of Your New Identity To Your Workplace**

I want to cover some of these characteristics that I believe are crucial to understand and to know how they apply to your job.

### **In Christ, You Are A SUCCESS**



*“So I answered them and said to them, “The God of heaven will give us **success**.....” Nehemiah 2:20*

*“Now, my son, the Lord be with you that you may be **successful**...”  
1 Chronicles 22:11*

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is (Christ’s) **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** <sup>23</sup> **gentleness, and self-control....”**  
Galatians 5:22, 23a (Parenthesis mine)*

You know the world’s definition of success. Christian and non-Christian can both attain worldly success. What you may not have experienced is that true success comes only from the Lord. True success in Christ means that your success is based on your dependence on Christ versus your performance on your job. Your success in Christ is experiencing the fruit of the Spirit, transformed behaviors and attitudes, and not relying on worldly success to determine whether or not you are a success. Success is also learning, believing, and walking in the truths of your true identity.

**Question:** How would it change your outlook if you believed that you are a success in Christ versus trying to be successful in the world’s eyes?

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**Engaging God:** If you are buying into the world’s definition of success, then ask the Lord to give you revelation that you are a success in Christ whether or not you succeed in the world’s eyes or not.

### **In Christ, You Are Totally WORTHY**

*“I will give thanks to You, for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made....”** Psalm 139:14*

In your true identity in Christ, you are totally worthy. This is good news because at our job we tend to evaluate our value or worthiness based on our performance. Your worth does not depend on how well or poorly you do your work. This does not mean that God doesn’t want you to work “heartily as unto the Lord” (Colossians 3:23) However, the key to your true worth is based on who God says you are in your true identity as opposed to how well you perform. Think about this for a moment

**Question:** How would it impact you concerning your job if you believed you are totally worthy in Christ and not your performance?

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**Engaging God:** If you believe that your worth concerning your job is determined by your performance then ask God to renew your mind that you are totally worthy in Christ regardless of your performance.

## **DAY FOUR**

### **In Christ, You Are CONFIDENT**

*“For You are my hope; O Lord God, **You are my confidence** from my youth.” Psalm 71:5*

*“**I am confident of this very thing**, He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6*

You may believe that you are a self-confident person but we know that circumstances and people can rob you of your self-confidence. The kind of confidence that Paul is talking about is a Christ-confidence. It is a confidence that says, “No matter what happens at my job today, I am going in with a Christ-confidence that God is in control and He will be my Source to deal with all that I have on my plate.” Christ-confidence says that, “Whether I succeed or fail at my job, that will not rob me of my Christ-confidence.” As you continue to walk by faith and experience supernatural changes in your life, your Christ-confidence will grow concerning who God is and what He promises.

Remember, that if you walk in Christ-confidence, no one or nothing can rob you of that confidence.

**Question:** How would it impact you concerning your job if you did your job with Christ-confidence versus self-confidence?

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**Engaging God:** If you are leaning on your self-confidence, seek God to show you the unreliability of self-confidence and to replace your self-confidence with Christ-confidence.

### **In Christ, You Are SECURE**

*Psalm 91:14 - “Because he has loved Me; therefore, I will deliver him; **I will set him securely** on high because he has known my name.”*

*Ezekiel 24:38 - “They will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them; but they will live **securely**, and no one will make them afraid.*

*Job 24:23 - “He provides them with **security**...”*

Do you in some way look at your job as a source of your security? If so, what happens to your security if you lose your job? The truth is that in Christ you are totally secure even if you lost your job. Why? Think about this for a moment. Who brought you the job you have now? The truth is that God did. Therefore, if you lose your job whose responsibility will it be to bring you a new job? You see, if we put our security in anything other than Christ, that security can be taken away. However, if you believe that you are secure in Christ then nothing or no one can rob you of that security.

**Question:** How do you think it might affect your view of your job if you weren't concerned about job security? Rather, you were living from Christ's-security?

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**Engaging God:** If you struggle with insecurity about your job or anything else, ask the Holy Spirit to persuade you that you are totally secure in Christ.

### **In Christ You Are Totally ACCEPTED and Are ACCEPTABLE.**

Romans 15:7 - "Accept one another, then, just as **Christ accepted you...**"



The reason why a holy God can totally accept us is because He has made us acceptable. You may feel or experience rejection coming from co-workers or your boss but that does not change the truth that you are accepted by God unconditionally! As you walk in a greater belief of your acceptance you become "unrejectable." In other words, people can try to reject you but you no longer have to take ownership of their rejection.

As a result, you no longer have to earn (or perform for) God's acceptance or the acceptance of others. You can walk in your Christ-acceptance as part of your true identity. Believing that you are accepted in Christ will give you the freedom to accept others unconditionally.

**Questions:** Since God unconditionally accepts you, can He ever reject you? If you really believe that you are accepted in Christ, do you have to take ownership of any rejection directed toward you by others (or even by yourself)?

**Engaging God:** If you struggle with rejection, ask the Holy Spirit to persuade you that you are totally acceptable and that you no longer have to take ownership of someone else's rejection of you.

### **In Christ You Are Totally ADEQUATE.**

2 Corinthians 3:5 - "Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God."

Many believers feel or believe that they are inadequate. We look at ourselves, and we don't measure up to the world's standards of adequacy. We may seek our adequacy in relationships, our job, or in "things." However, these will never bring us the adequacy that we can only find in Christ. Here's the good news: believing and living from your adequacy in Christ relieves you of the pressure of trying to find your adequacy in some one or some thing.

**Questions:** Even though you feel or believe that you are inadequate, does that change the truth that you are totally adequate in Christ? How do you believe that it would change your behavior if you truly believe that you are adequate in Christ?

**Engaging God:** If you struggle with inadequacy, begin entrusting your inadequacy to God and take steps of faith for Him to renew your mind to the truth that you are totally adequate in your new identity.

### **In Christ, You Are Righteous**

There is another critical way that you became identified with Christ. When God crucified your old unrighteous identity within you, He exchanged it for a **righteous** new identity. You are no longer under condemnation. God made you RIGHTEOUS in your new identity! Warning: You may have a struggle with this truth, but look at God's word concerning your righteousness:

*"for with the heart a **person believes, resulting in righteousness**..." Romans 8:10*

*"Consequently, just as the result of one trespass (sin) was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man (Adam) the many were made sinners, so also through the **obedience of the One man (Jesus) the many will be made righteous**." Romans 5:18-19 (Parentheses mine)*

Most Christians struggle with this truth because they base their righteousness on their behavior. In other words, if I am critical of or I am trying to control my co-workers then those sinful behaviors prove that I am not righteous. God certainly does not condone unrighteous or sinful behavior but you need to remember that your righteousness is not based on your good or bad behavior. It is based on what God did to make you righteous in your new identity.

Let me ask you a question: How might it change your behavior if God persuaded you that you are righteous? In my experience, as I am persuaded more and more of my righteousness, I sin less and less. Don't get me wrong. I do sin but it is much less than it used to be.

Many Christians are taught that you need to try and become more righteous. My question to you is that if you are totally righteous in Christ why are you trying to become to become something you already are? To save you some time in trying to become righteous, you can never do enough in your own ability to become more righteous.

**Question:** In regards to your fleshly behaviors that you exhibit at the your job, how might it change those behaviors if the Holy Spirit was persuading you that you are righteous?

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**Questions:** What difference might it make in your life if you no longer had to work or strive to be righteous?

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**Engaging God:** Meditate on the two verses above and ask God to persuade you that you are righteous based on your new identity and not what you do or don't do.

### **In Christ You Are VICTORIOUS And Are More Than A CONQUEROR**

1 Corinthians 15:57 - *"but thanks be to God, Who gives us the **victory** through ... Christ."*



Romans 8:37 - “But in all these things we overwhelmingly **conquer through Him** who loved us”



You may see yourself as a failure at your job or elsewhere, but in Christ you are victorious and a conqueror. You may feel like a failure because you have not met the goals and/or expectations you have about yourself concerning your job. Or you may feel like a failure because you have not been promoted. In your true identity, you are a victor and conqueror regardless if you feel like a failure.

On the other hand, you may see yourself as a “self-sufficient” victor or conqueror in life apart from Christ. Since the truth is that apart from God you can do **nothing** (John 15:5), God loves you enough that He will bring impossible circumstances (or relationships) at your workplace to reveal to you your inability to overcome that situation. Recognizing your weakness and inability to resolve a situation will be how God will persuade you that you are victorious in Christ not yourself.

**Questions:** If you feel like a failure, does that change the truth that in Christ you are more than a conqueror? How would it change how you see yourself at your job if you believed that you are victorious h

**Engaging God:** Look at the areas where you think you are failing in life. In those areas, ask God to give you revelation of what it looks like to walk in victory in those areas.

### **In Christ You Have The MIND OF CHRIST.**

1 Corinthians 2:16b - “...we have the ***mind of Christ.***”

What does it mean that you have the mind of Christ? It means that you no longer have to rely on your limited and finite wisdom, understanding, discernment, and intellect at your job. Aren't you faced with situations or relationships that you struggle with figuring out? Having the mind of Christ means that you have Christ's infinite knowledge, wisdom, understanding, and discernment as part of your true identity. Therefore, when you need a wisdom or knowledge greater than your own then you can draw on the wisdom and knowledge of Christ in you. God will sometimes put you in situations where your human wisdom and understanding will fall short in order that you will come to Him for His wisdom and understanding.

**Question:** Could it be that God allows difficult situations at your job so that you will see your need to draw on Him as your Source for divine wisdom, discernment and understanding? What are the situations that you are facing at your job or in life where you need the mind of Christ?

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**Engaging God:** In those situations, ask God to stop you from continuing to draw on your limited wisdom, discernment, or understanding, and begin to draw on His wisdom, discernment, or understanding

## **DAY FIVE**

### **In Christ You Are A FORGIVING Person.**

Ephesians 4:32 - “Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, **forgiving each other**, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”



You may have been offended by a co-worker or boss, and you don't feel that you have to forgive them (or you believe that you have the right **not** to forgive). The truth is that you have no excuse for not forgiving others. Why? It is because in your true identity you **are** a forgiving person. Whether or not you feel like forgiving is not the issue. You can choose to forgive because that is your true identity in Christ. If you are unwilling to forgive, ask God to move your heart to be willing to forgive.

**Questions:** Is there some co-worker or boss that has offended you and you are harboring something against them? Since you are a forgiving person in Christ, do you still have the right not to forgive that person?

**Engaging God:** If you struggle with forgiving someone, begin entrusting your unforgiveness to God and diligently seek Him to renew your mind to the truth that you are a forgiving person. Ask Him to set you free from your unforgiving attitude.

### **KEY TRUTH: Your Behavior Does NOT Determine Your Identity In Christ.**

I have alluded to this truth earlier in this lesson but I want to spend some time giving you a deeper understanding that your behavior does determine your true identity. You may be asking, “Even though God’s truth says that I am righteous, accepted, forgiving, etc., my fleshly attitudes and behaviors tell me just the opposite. Which is true, what my behavior or what God’s truth says?”

Even though your behavior may not always line up with what God says is true about you does it change the truth of your identity in Christ? The answer is NO! As believers, God has given you a new identity that is separate and apart from your sinful behavior. Before salvation what you believed and how you behaved revealed your identity.

However, now that you have a new identity your fleshly, sinful behavior no longer determines who you really ARE. Consider this illustration. When I was born into the Loveless family, I became a Loveless. It doesn't make any difference if I am a good Loveless or a bad Loveless; my behavior doesn't change my identity as a Loveless. In the same way, your identity in Christ remains unchanged by your behavior.

Let's look at some examples:

#1 - Even though you may choose fleshly behavior and commit an unrighteous act of being critical or judgmental, it does not change the truth that in your new identity in Christ you are righteous.

#2 - Your sinful behavior may lead you to an unforgiving attitude toward your co-workers who have offended you. This does not change the truth that since you are a forgiving person in Christ, you can forgive.

Does the fact that your fleshly behavior does not determine your identity give you license to live from your fleshly behavior? Of course not! God is never pleased with your sin in any form. However, it is essential to understand that because of what God has done in giving you a new identity, you have the choice to no longer live from your sinful behavior.

**Questions:** How do your sinful behaviors affect what you think about yourself ?

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**Engage God:** If you are struggling with understanding this key truth, ask the Holy Spirit to give you revelation.

Just like with any of our unbelief, we must seek God to renew our minds and persuade us of His truth. As you begin to believe the truth, your behavior will change to line up with your true identity. This will take time but you will eventually experience new behaviors that fall in line with God's truth. We will see some steps of faith later in the next section of this lesson that will help you better understand God's process.

***In the transformation process, God will renew your mind to the truth of your true identity and as He does, your behavior will LINE UP with your true identity.***

### **Steps Of Faith To MOVE AWAY From Believing Your False Beliefs and To Experience Your True Identity**

**Note:** As you go through this part of the study, please refer to the characteristics of your true identity on page 71.

#### **Your Inadequacy Versus Your True Adequacy In Christ**

**Example #1:** "Lord, I am believing the lie that I am inadequate. Your word says in 2 Corinthians 3:5 that I am totally adequate in You. I am trusting You to renew my mind to the truth."

**Key Point:** I believe that it is important to use and verbalize God's truth as you take steps of faith.

**Example #2:** "I am believing the lie that I am adequate because of my accomplishments at work and because of my IQ or ability. Persuade me that my adequacy can only be in You and not in myself as I walk in my true identity."

### **Your Value/Worth Versus Your True Worth In Christ**

**Example:** You are trying to find your identity or worth from your job.

**Step of faith:** “Lord, I am trying to find my identity and sense of worth in my workplace. I am trusting You to renew my mind to the truth that my identity and worth can only be found in my true identity in You.”

### **Your Rejection Versus Your Total Acceptance In Christ**

**Example:** You are taking ownership of your co-worker’s or boss’s rejection which leads you to believe you are rejectable.

**Step of faith:** “Lord, I am trusting You to persuade me that I am totally accepted and acceptable in my true identity. Renew my mind to the truth that I am unrejectable and I no longer have to take ownership of anyone’s rejection.”

### **Your Success Versus Your True Success In Christ**

**Example:** Let’s assume you are buying into the world’s view of success.

**Step of faith:** “Lord, persuade me that success in the world is subjective and fleeting. Reveal and transform me so that I will believe that my true success is in You.”

### **Your Self-Confidence Versus Your True Confidence In Christ**

**Example:** You are relying on your self-confidence at your workplace.

**Step of faith:** “Lord, I am asking you to move me away from relying on my self-confidence. Reveal to me that my true confidence is in you.”

### **Your Unrighteous, Fleshly Behavior Versus Your True Righteousness In Christ**

**Example:** You believe that all the fleshly behaviors you exhibit at work (or elsewhere) negate your righteousness in Christ.

**Step of faith:** “Lord, because of all my fleshly behaviors at work, I am struggling with believing that I am righteous in Christ. Persuade me that my fleshly behavior does not determine my identity and renew my mind that I am righteous.”

### **Moving Away From Fleshly Behaviors That Result From Your False Beliefs**

**Example #1:** Let’s assume that as a result of feeling inadequate you have fleshly behaviors of people-pleasing and being a controller.

**Step of faith:** “Lord, I know that my false belief of inadequacy is causing me to be a people-pleaser and a controller. I am trusting You to renew my mind to the truth that I am totally adequate in my true identity. I am asking You to move me away from my fleshly behavior of people-pleasing and controlling.”

**Example #2:** Let's assume because of your self-confidence you are critical of others that are not as capable as you.

**Step of faith:** "Lord, expose the death that my critical flesh is causing in me and others. Renew my mind to the truth that in my true identity I am righteous with the result that I don't have the right to be critical of others."

### **How About You?**

I hope these examples have been helpful in giving you an idea of what it looks like to take steps of faith in order to experience your true identity. It is not about the words you are saying as much as it is about your attitude. If you approach God with an attitude of dependence, then the Lord will give you the words to say. Therefore, I have given you two exercises to engage God to renew your mind and transform your behavior so that it begins to line up with your true identity.

**Exercise #1:** Take three characteristics of your true identity that you most want to experience. Begin taking intentional steps of faith and ask God to renew your mind to the truth so that you will begin believing the truth.

**Exercise #2:** Look at the top three fleshly behaviors that flow from your false beliefs and seek the Spirit to transform you so that you will no longer go back to those fleshly behaviors.

### **Key Truths To Remember As You Seek God To Renew Your Mind**

1. Depending upon how ENTRENCHED your false beliefs are, it may take some time before the Lord renews your mind to a place where you begin to BELIEVE the truth of your true identity in Christ.
2. Early on in seeking God to renew your mind to the truth of your true identity, you will DEFAULT to the fleshly behaviors associated with your false beliefs. When you do, REPENT of your fleshly behavior.
3. It is crucial to understand that being transformed to live out of your true identity is a PROCESS. It is a JOURNEY and not a sprint.
4. You will not necessarily FEEL or EXPERIENCE God's power flowing in you as you begin taking steps of faith, but you can know by faith that God IS working.
5. God is NOT telling you how He is working. We trust by faith that He is transforming us as we walk by faith.
6. There will be RESISTANCE to our walk of faith by your FLESH.
7. You may have to take SEVERAL steps of faith before you experience any changes in how you think or feel about yourself.
8. As you begin to walk in your true identity, you will find yourself LIVING from CHRIST-LIKE behavior instead of fleshly behavior.

### **Lesson Five Summary**

- We began forming false beliefs from the moment we were born.
- Fleshly behaviors began to flow from those false beliefs.
- When you became a Christian God exchanged your old-false identity for a new-true one.

- You new-true identity is who you are so you no longer have to continue believing the lies.
- As you engage God to renew your mind to the truth, your attitudes, beliefs and behavior will line up with the truth of your true identity.

# **Lesson Six**

## **Living Above The Line**

### **Ministry At The Workplace**

#### **DAY ONE**

##### **Introduction**

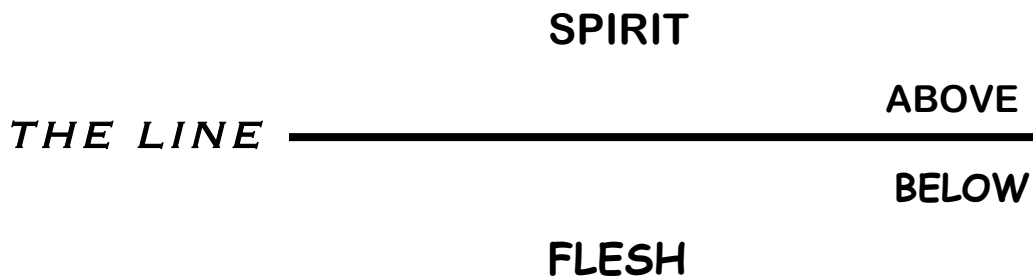
I hope by this lesson that the Holy Spirit has given you revelation of why living from Christ in the workplace is crucial to your Christian walk. Let me recap some of the reasons why.

- You will never find fulfillment and joy in your job apart from first experiencing joy and fulfillment in Christ.
- Your fleshly behaviors exhibited at work will never change apart from engaging the Holy Spirit to transform them.
- Your false beliefs about yourself will never change apart from believing and walking in your true identity.
- You will never fulfill your spiritual destiny of being transformed into Christ-likeness where you think, feel, choose, and behave like Christ.

I know the word “never” sounds pretty strong but the truth is the truth. If we walk in the truth, our lives will change, but if we don't then we must realize that nothing will change and it can get worse. Having said that let's look at what I call The Line illustration. I hope this illustration will help you better understand the walk of faith and what God promises to change as we walk by faith.

##### **“THE LINE” And Your Workplace**

I want to sum up all that we have been talking about through an illustration that I call “**The Line**.” The key word concerning this illustration is the word “choice.” The choice is that you will either choose to live “above” the line from the **Spirit** or you will choose to live “below” the line in your **flesh**.



I will be using several different examples of what living above and below the line looks like.

## **Where Does God Want You To Live?**

*“But I say, **walk by the SPIRIT** and you will **not carry out the desire of the FLESH**.” Galatians 5:16 (Emphasis mine)*

*“Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking** the things **above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your mind** on the things **above**, not on the things that are on earth.” Colossians 3:1, 2*

After looking at the previous diagram, where do you think that God wants us to live? Is it above “The Line” from the Spirit or below “The Line” from our flesh? It is obvious that God wants us to live above “The Line.”

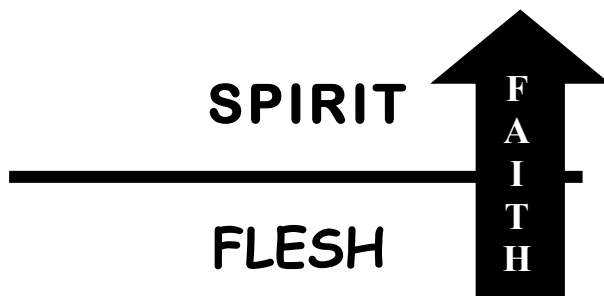
## **How Do We Live Above “The Line?”**

How do we live above “The Line” and set our mind on things above? How do we experience Christ’s life, truth, and promises? The answer is **faith**. Faith is also what moves us from living from our flesh to living from the Spirit. 1 John 5:4 says that our faith is the victory:

*“... And this is the **victory** that conquers the world, our **faith**.” 1 John 5:4*

*“And without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6*

The following diagram illustrates how faith takes us from living from our flesh to living in from the Spirit.



***FAITH** is what takes us from living below “The Line” in the soul to living above “The Line” from our true identity.*

## **Analogy #1 – CHRIST-LIFE Characteristics (THE LIFE) Versus FLESHLY Behaviors**

*“I am the way, the truth, and **THE LIFE**...” John 14:6*

*“He who has the Son has **THE LIFE**.....” 1 John 5:12*



# CHRIST-LIFE CHARACTERISTICS

**SPIRIT** (THE LIFE)

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**FLESH**  
**FLESHLY BEHAVIORS**

We learned in Lesson Two that living from Christ as THE Life allows us to draw on all the Christ-life characteristics that are ours in Christ. However, we can choose to continue to live out of our flesh below the line which produces fleshly behaviors. Let's look at that through the line illustration.

## **SPIRIT** **CHRIST-LIFE CHARACTERISTICS**

Unconditional Love	Righteous	Humble
Secure	Acceptable	Patient
Forgiving	Fearless	Complete
Compassionate	Discerning	Wise
Adequate	Thankful	Confident
Sacrificial	Sufficient	Selfless
Free	Victorious	Strong
Joyful	Peaceful	Good

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## **SOUL**

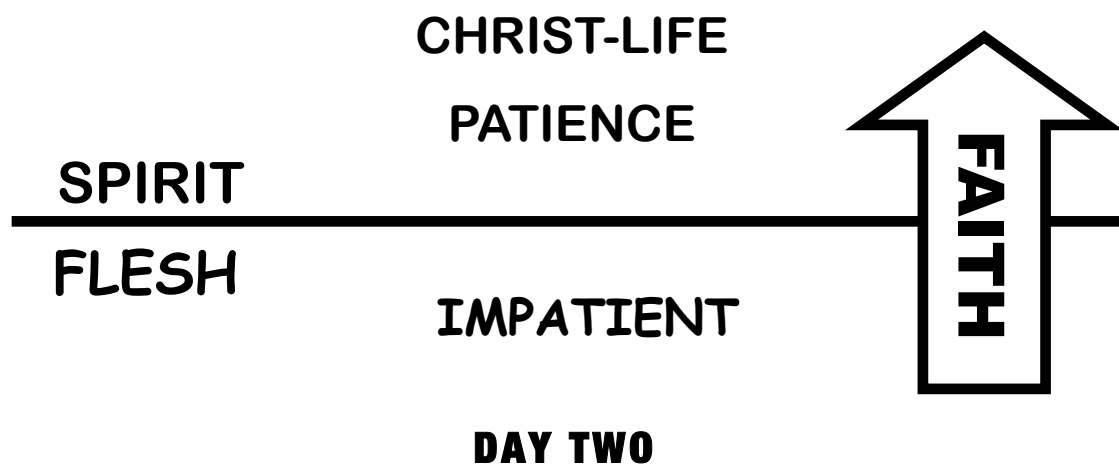
### **Fleshly Behavior**

*Anxious, angry, self-pity, self-confident, perfectionist, demanding, impatient, shame, self-sufficient, defensive, inflexible, critical, judgemental, self-righteous, controlling, unforgiving, prideful, reject others, pessimistic, passive, people-pleasing, indifference, uncaring*

The question is: Where do you want to live? Let's look at a practical illustration of what it looks like to live above the line in the Spirit versus living from the flesh. Let's assume that you struggle with the fleshly behavior of impatience. What do we know is true? In Christ, you contain all of His patience. Therefore, you take a step of faith and go above the line and draw on Christ's patience.

**Step of faith:** “Lord, I see the death my impatience is causing me and my co-workers. I repent of my impatience and I am trusting you to BE my patience.”

Below illustrates how we can draw on Christ’s patience by faith in a moment of time.

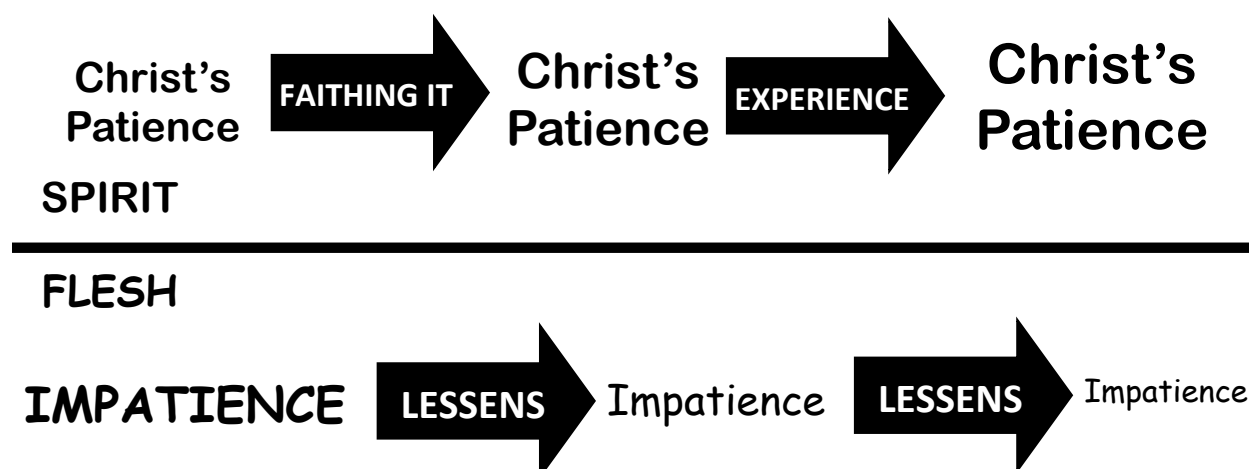


### **Analogy #2 - FAITH Versus EXPERIENCE**

*“for we walk by faith not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7*

We discussed that initially when we draw on Christ as Life that we may not initially experience that Christ-life characteristic. In other words, we may have to “faith it” (meaning we will not experience or feel it) for several steps of faith before we actually “experience it.” In addition to moving from faith to experience above the line, you will experience less and less impatience as you continue to walk by faith.

Let’s continue our previous analogy of impatience versus Christ’s patience. However, you may not feel or experience Christ’s patience in the moment. You may have to take several steps of faith before you experience Christ’s patience. The diagram below illustrates moving from impatience to experiencing Christ’s patience above the line and a lessening of your impatience below the line.



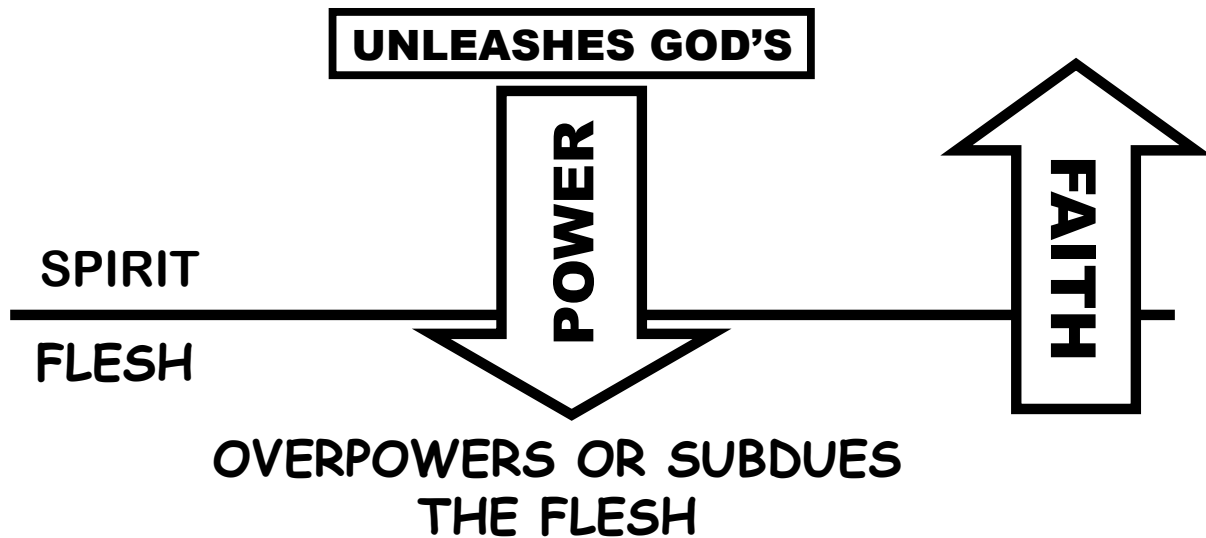
### **Analogy #3 - OBSTACLES To Our Walk of Faith**

There are two primary obstacles to our walk of faith. The flesh and Satan/demons. Let's illustrate using the line analogy how the flesh and Satan are obstacles to our walk of faith.

#### **Obstacle #1 – Our Flesh**

##### **a. Walking In God's Power Over The Flesh**

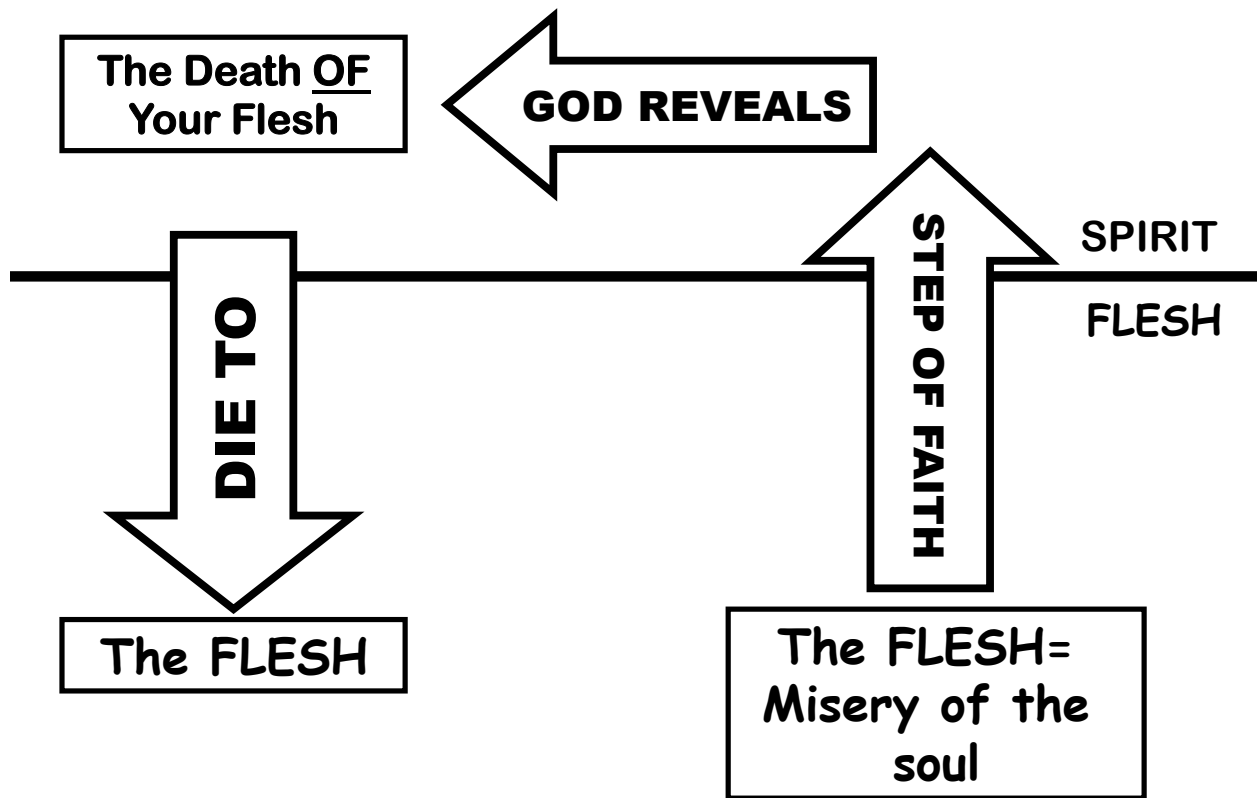
We have seen how the flesh is always resisting God's work in our lives. Therefore, we must walk by faith in God's power moment by moment to subdue the flesh. Let's look at this truth using the line.



##### **b. Walking In The Death OF Our Flesh So That We Will Walk In The Death TO Our Flesh**

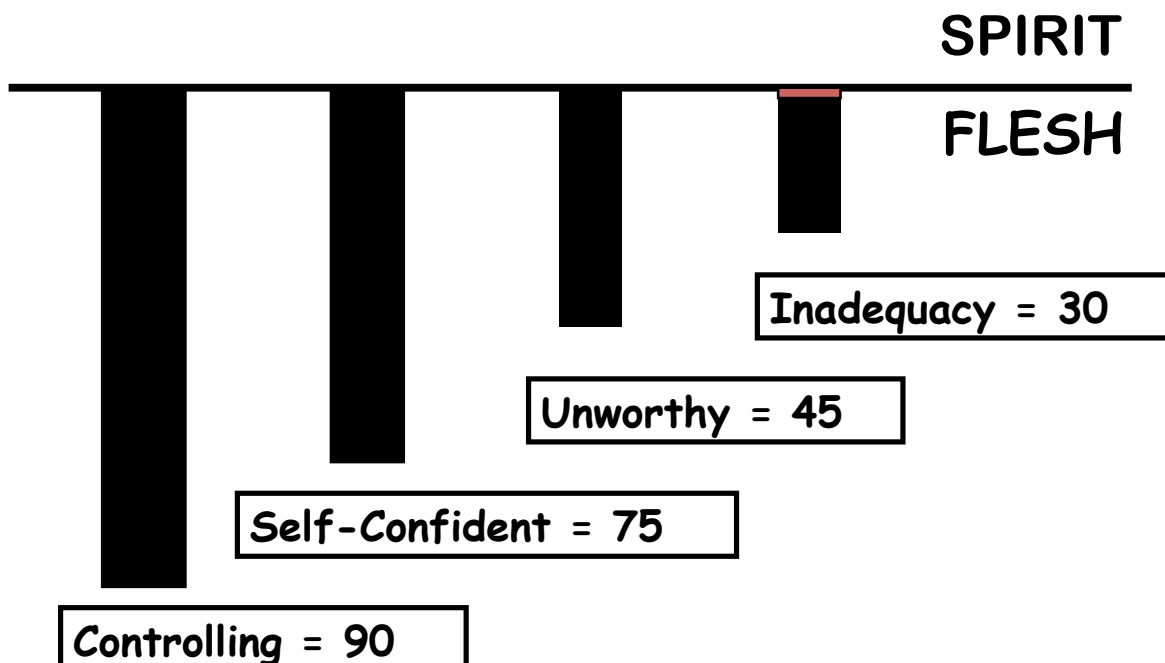
We previously discussed that until God reveals to us the death OF our flesh we will not walk in the death TO our flesh. The reason being is that we have been walking in a particular fleshly behavior so long we don't recognize the "death" it is creating.

Remember that "death" is defined as misery of the soul. We see in the following diagram that if we don't engage God by faith then we remain in the death/misery that our flesh causes. However, if we take steps of faith, then God will reveal the death OF our flesh, He will move us to a place where we die TO our flesh.



### c. Some Fleshly Behaviors Are More Entrenched Than Others

Not all fleshly behaviors are created equal. Some of your fleshly behaviors are more entrenched than others. Therefore, it will take less time to walk in the death to your fleshly behaviors that are not as entrenched as others. In the line illustration below, we see that the fleshly behavior of controlling is the strongest while inadequacy is the weakest. Therefore, most likely it will take more time to walk in the death TO your controlling versus your inadequacy.



## **DAY TWO**

### **Obstacle #2 - Satan/His Demonic Forces**

*“For our struggle is **not** against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers**, against the **powers**, against the **world forces of this darkness**, against the **spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places**.” Ephesians 6:12*

I must be honest with you that early on in my Christian life in my church we did not talk much about Satan. We spent even less time talking about demons. However, during these last several years, I have come to discover that Satan and his demons are very real and have an ONGOING strategy:

**To STEAL, KILL, and DESTROY your walk of faith.**

We see this in the first part of John 10:10:

*“The thief comes only to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**...” John 10:10a*

We are not going to go into an exhaustive study on Satan and the demonic, but I think that it is important that you understand at the very least how these enemies create resistance in our faith walk. Let's look at three of Satan's objectives for Christians: He wants to:



- 1. Keep you from going back to Christ as your source.**
- 2. Keep you going back to yourself as the source.**
- 3. Keep you from being set free by the truth.**
- 4. Keep you from being transformed into Christ-likeness.**

You see, Satan knows God's truth and what the result is if Christians begin to walk in it and be transformed by it. That is why he and his demonic forces will do everything in their power to keep you from knowing, believing, and being set free by God's truth.

***The GREATEST threat to Satan is God's truth!***

***The greatest threat to Satan concerning you is that you choose to***

***WALK IN and BELIEVE IN God's truth.***

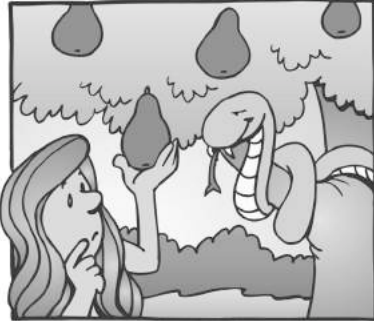
Therefore, Satan's and his demons' objective is to prevent us from walking by faith in God's power so that we will continue to live in the prison of our lying beliefs, fleshly behaviors, and the power of sin. Satan knows that if he can keep us believing the lies, we will never experience the transformation and the abundant life that God promises.

#### **a. Primary Strategy Of Satan/Demons Is Through Our Thought Life**

Here is primary strategy of Satan/demons:

**Satan/demon's primary strategy against us is to insert *FEARFUL, CONDEMNING, and DOUBTFUL THOUGHTS* into our minds.**  
**All of those thoughts are designed to *TEMPT* us to quit walking by faith and turn back to *SELF* as the source.**

*"But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." 2 Corinthians 11:3*



*"And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." 2 Corinthians 11:14*

Satan's objective is to insert these first person thoughts into your mind with the hope that you will take ownership of them by believing that they are your own thoughts. This is the great deception of Satan. This is where He is most dangerous. Why? If you take ownership of Satan's/demon's thoughts, they then can keep you in bondage to your false beliefs and your fleshly behaviors.

We know that Satan/demons have this capability because of what happened between Peter and Jesus in Matthew 16: 21-23. Peter was telling Jesus that He would never go to the cross. Jesus's response was, "Get behind me Satan." Jesus was talking directly to Satan because He knows that Satan inserted that lying thought into Peter's mind. Other than lying thoughts, let's look at some of the other kinds of thoughts that Satan can insert in our minds concerning the workplace.

**When Satan/demonic insert thoughts they will always be in *FIRST* person.**

Satan will never insert a thought that says: "You are a failure." It will always be in first person: "I am a failure." With that in mind let's look at some of the different kinds of thoughts the enemy can insert into our minds at our jobs.

## **DAY THREE**

### **1. Fearful Thoughts**



*"For God has **not** given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7*

I think that one of the main hindrances to the walk of faith is **fear**. Why? It is because it can so easily paralyze us and keep us from walking by faith. Therefore, let's look at some of the fears that we face concerning our jobs and how to engage God to do battle with those thoughts.

### **a. Fear of FAILURE**

Satan can insert such thoughts that sound like this: “I must be a failure because I am not meeting my expectations for success.” We know the truth that in our true identity that we are not failures but more than conquerors according to Romans 8:37.

### **b. Fear of REJECTION**

Concerning rejection, Satan might insert thoughts such as “They are rejecting me. I need to do a better job of people-pleasing to win back their favor.” Here again we fight the enemy with the truth. Your truth response to that thought is; “I am totally accepted in Christ. I am not going to take ownership of their rejection or turn to my fleshly behavior of people-pleasing.”

## **2. Self-Condemning Thoughts**



Satan/demons can insert condemning thoughts into our minds. An example might be: “Look at me. I call myself a Christian and yet I just threw my co-worker under the bus.” If we take ownership of those thoughts then we will live in self-condemnation. There is no doubt that we should repent of our sins but we don't have to live in self-condemnation. Why? Because in our true identity we are righteous. Remember Romans 8:1?

*“Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

## **3. Doubting Thoughts**

*“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘**Did God really say**, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” Genesis 3:1*



*“But when he asks, **he must believe and not doubt**, because **he who doubts is like a wave of the sea**, blown and tossed by the wind.” James 1:6*

I believe that doubt is the #1 killer of faith. Doubt was the first tactic of Satan in the Garden of Eden with Eve. He knew that if he could get Eve to doubt God, he could tempt her to make an independent decision to sin against God. In the workplace, Satan/demons can create doubt many ways. They can cause you to doubt your abilities, your wisdom or your judgement. However, the number one doubt the enemy wants to create in your mind is this:

***Cause you to DOUBT that GOD is really transforming your life.***

In those moments where you are “faithing” it and not experience, the enemy may insert thoughts like “I don't feel or experience any change, so God must not be working. I am going to give up on ever being transformed.” This is a very vulnerable time for almost all believers as they begin to truly walk by faith. This is why we continue to grow in the truth that in our true identity we have the mind of Christ. As we grow in faith, Christ's discernment grows as well. We will more and more be able to discern whether our thoughts are from ourselves, Satan/demons or from the Spirit. A spiritual response to the above thought is: “The Bible says it is a walk of faith and I am going to draw on Christ's perseverance and continue walking by faith.”

### **Truths To Remember In The Walk of Faith In Dealing With Satan/Demons**

1. Satan's greatest strategy is that he is a DECEIVER. When he inserts thoughts into your mind, he wants to deceive you by making you think that those are YOUR thoughts.
2. Early on in your walk of faith, you will CONTINUE to take ownership of thoughts that Satan/demons insert into your mind because your discernment is not that strong.
3. However, as you continue to walk by faith, your DISCERNMENT will GROW and you will have a greater sensitivity to where those thoughts are coming from.

### **“The Line” In Dealing With Satan/Demons**

Let's look at the choice we have to live below the line and buy into Satan's fearful, condemning, and doubting thoughts or live above the line by faith, God's truth, and Christ's discernment.

## **THE TRUTH**

<b>SPIRIT</b>	<b>CHRIST'S DISCERNMENT</b>
<b>FLESH</b>	<b>Satan/Demons Insert:</b>  <b>Fearful Thoughts</b> <b>Condemning Thoughts</b> <b>Doubting Thoughts</b>

Going back to our example of patience let's look at what happens above and below the line when Satan/demons insert doubting thoughts. You have the choice to buy into Satan/demon's thoughts and walk away from God or discern that those thoughts are not of God and you continue to walk by faith.



**FAITH says:**

**“I believe” whether or not  
I feel or experience Christ’s patience.**

**SPIRIT**

---

**FLESH**

**Satan/Demons says:**


**“I can’t feel or experience Christ's  
patience. Will I ever experience it?”**

**The Line and Your True Identity**

I assume in Lesson Five that you discovered or the Holy Spirit revealed to you're the false beliefs you have about yourself. We know from Lesson Five that God’s objective is to transform you so that you live from your true identity versus living from your false beliefs because living from our true identity will result in Christ-like behaviors whereas living from your false beliefs will lead to fleshly behaviors.

Therefore, living below the line will result in living from your false beliefs and fleshly behaviors. Whereas, living by faith above the line will result in you believing and being transformed by the truth of your true identity with the result that your behavior will line up with your true identity.

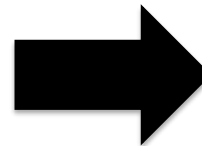
## **TRUE IDENTITY**

Christ-confident	Righteous	Humble		<div><b>Christ-Like Behaviors</b></div>
Secure	Acceptable	Patient		
Forgiving	Fearless	Complete		
Worthy	Discerning	Wise		
Adequate	Thankful	Confident		
Sacrificial	Sufficient	Selfless		
Free	Victorious	Strong		
Joyful	Christ-control	Good		
				<b>SPIRIT</b>

**SPIRIT**

### **FALSE BELIEFS**

Unworthy	Secure in self
Unacceptable	Self-confident
Rejected	Self-sufficient
A failure	Successful
Anxious	Self-reliant
Inadequate	In control
Weak	Resourceful in self
Defeated	Competent in self
Insecure	Fearless
Fearful	Strong in self

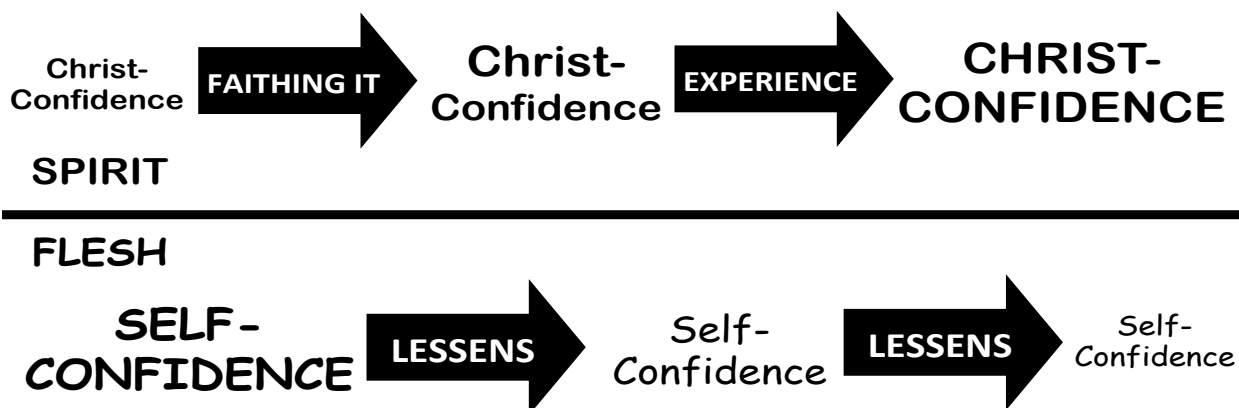


**Fleshly Behaviors**

**FLESH**

### **Moving From Living From Your False Beliefs To Experiencing Your True Identity**

I also want to use the Line illustration to show how God uses our walk of faith to move us from believing the lies about ourselves versus living from our true identity. In the following diagram, let's assume the false belief is that you are self-confident. The truth is that in your true identity you are Christ-confident. Therefore, as you take steps of faith above the line, you will begin to believe that you are Christ-confident and then you will eventually experience Christ-confidence. Whereas below the line, the more steps of faith that you take the false belief will continue to lessen it's grip on your mind.



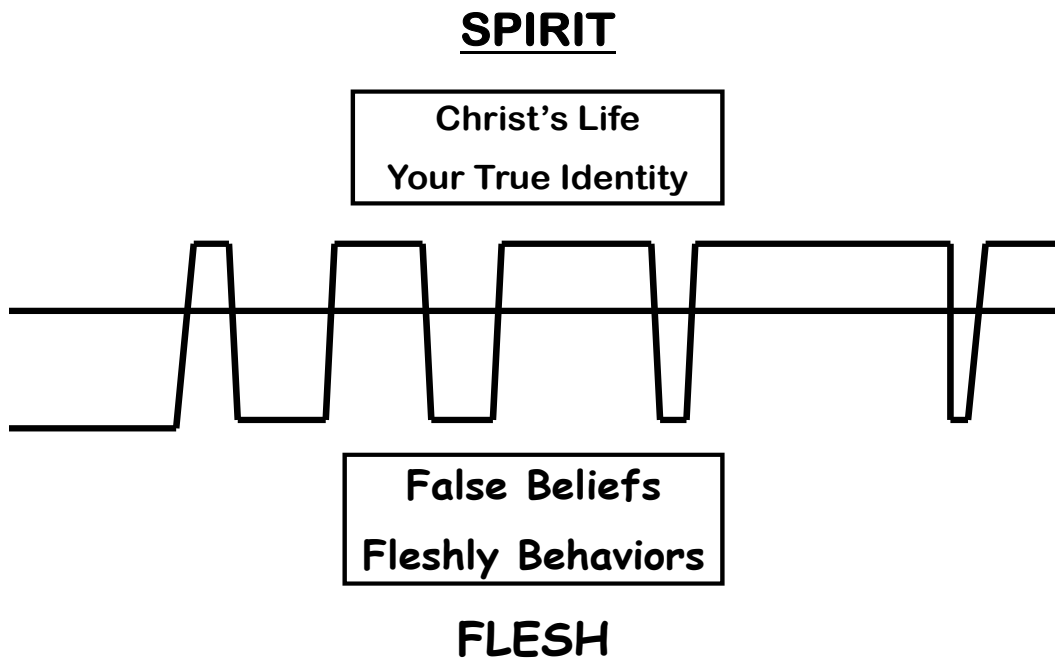
## **DAY FOUR**

### **What Does The NORMAL Faith Walk Look Like?**

As much as you do not want to go back to your false beliefs or your fleshly behaviors, early on in your walk of faith, you will go back to them. Why? First of all, it is your default position. By this I mean that living from your false beliefs and the flesh is what you have been familiar with.

In addition, as you begin to walk by faith, you have what I call a “weak” faith or what Jesus calls “little” faith. Your weak faith is a result of the level of your unbelief in who God is and what He can and will do. Along with your weak faith are your “strong” false beliefs and the accompanying fleshly behaviors. Your false beliefs and flesh will have a strong grip on you early on, but as you continue to exercise your faith, the truth will become stronger than the strength of your false beliefs and flesh.

Let’s look at these truths using “The Line” analogy. You will see (on the left side of the diagram) that early on in your walk of faith you will spend more time below “The Line” living from your false beliefs and fleshly behaviors. However, as you continue in your walk of faith, you will find yourself spending more and more time above “The Line” living from Christ’s life and your true identity. I hope this is an encouragement to you in your walk of faith.



***REMEMBER:***

***The truth is that you will turn back to the flesh as the source MANY times,  
but remember that in the NEXT MOMENT you can repent of living in your flesh  
and turn back to God as your Source.***

Even though you will return to the flesh many times, this does not make you a failure and is no reason to condemn yourself. Why? Romans 8:37 says that you are not a failure in God's eyes but are "more than a conqueror" in Christ.

***Even if you turn back to the flesh many times,  
the key is to NOT stop SEEKING God by faith.***

## **Final Truths Concerning Living From Christ In The Workplace**

### **Truth #1 – During Your Walk of Faith You Will Be TEMPTED TO:**

- **Doubt God's ability and willingness to transform your life.**
- **Get frustrated with God because He is moving to slow.**
- **Condemn yourself when you fail.**
- **Want to give up.**

Sadly, I have seen many people give up on their walk of faith. It grieves me greatly because when they do, they are turning away from the ONLY Person who can transform their lives. All that is left when we turn away from God is to try and "cope" with life. I define "coping" as what man tries to do to deny, cover up, or anesthetize the pain when his efforts to fix the problems in his life fail. Therefore, when you are tempted to give up:

***Take ANOTHER step of faith.***

When everything within you says, "turn back," take another step of faith. You will demand answers from God, and when you don't get them, take another step of faith. When you are in more pain than you can bear, take another step of faith. When you are perplexed, confused, and bewildered, take another step of faith. If you do, then you will experience all that God promises and much, much more. Part of the "much more" is found in Romans 5:17:

***"....much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness  
will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ."***

### ***KEY TRUTH***

***Remember that if you turn AWAY from walking by faith then you are turning back to  
YOURSELF as the source.***

***How well do you think that will work for you?***

**Engaging God:** When you are tempted to do any of the following listed above, seek God to remind you that the only place you will go back to is your false beliefs, fleshly behaviors, and to being “stuck.”

## **Truth #2 - God's Timing For Change Probably WON'T Meet Your Timetable.**

*“There is **an appointed time for everything**. And there is a **time for every event under heaven**.”*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1



As you walk down this path of transformation, your desire will be for God to renew your mind and to change your false beliefs quickly. However, you will soon discover that God's timetable and your timetable are not the same. For me, God always works slower than I want. However, we must keep in mind that God is all-knowing and that He has a perfect timetable.

Another reason for God's timing is that He is teaching you patience as you wait on His transformation. The most important thing that God is teaching you in waiting is faith. How else will we learn faith unless we have opportunities to wait on God? Someone described faith as, “How long can you believe without experiencing change in your life?”

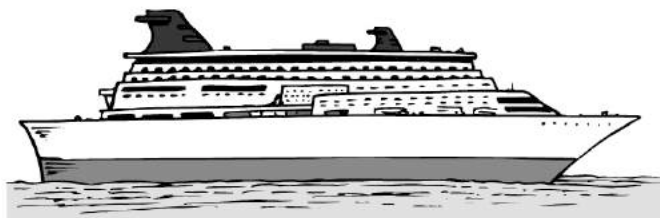
**Engaging God:** If you are struggling with God's timing concerning your transformation, ask Him to be your patience as you move down the path of transformation.

## **Truth #3 – The Temptation Will Be To MEASURE Your Progress. DON'T!**

I am afraid that we don't know how ingrained a “performance” mindset that we all have. By that I mean that in many areas of our lives we tend to measure or compare ourselves against some standard or someone else. In your walk of faith, you will be tempted to measure your progress and to compare your spiritual walk with that of others. Please don't do that. The reason is two-fold:

1. You can't really measure your spiritual progress. Only God can.
2. Each person's journey is unique to them. Therefore, you have no basis for comparing your journey with theirs.

Unfortunately, early on you most likely will give in to the temptation to start measuring and comparing your faith walk. The result will be that you will either go into self-condemnation if you are not progressing according to your timetable or else you will experience self-commendation (i.e. pride) if you think that you are progressing faster than others. You will soon figure out that measuring and comparing will only take you back to the fleshly pigpens of condemnation or pride. Therefore, put down your “spiritual” tape measure and enjoy the journey.



Even though you will not be able to measure your progress, think about your spiritual journey like being on a cruise ship. If you are on a cruise ship that is leaving the dock, and you are at the front of the ship, you cannot tell how far that you have traveled.

However, if you get at the back of the ship, you will see clearly how far away from the dock you have come. Therefore, as you walk by faith, look back to where you started, and you will begin to see how far you have traveled down the path of transformation. You will be amazed how quickly God moves you away from the dock.

Note: At some point, you will be able to look back and see where God has brought you.

**Engaging God:** Have you been tempted to measure your spiritual progress? If so, ask God to persuade you that you will never be able to measure it. As you walk by faith, go to the back of your boat and you will begin to see how far you have traveled in your journey of transformation.

#### **Truth #4 – As You Continue To Walk By Faith, You Will Look At Yourself and Others With SPIRITUAL Eyes**

*“because we are **not looking at what can be seen** but at **what cannot be seen**. For what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.” 2 Corinthians 4:18*



The blind man said, “once I was blind, but now I see” (John 9:25). When we begin this walk of faith, we are much like the blind man. All we can see is what our five senses tell us. However, much like eyeglasses give us clearer vision, as we continue to walk by faith God gives us “spiritual” eyeglasses from which to see our life and our job.

**What are some things that you will begin to see at your job through your “spiritual” glasses?**

- See supernatural transformation taking place.
- Seeing yourself in your true identity.
- See the workplace as a necessary “spiritual surgical” table for spiritual transformation.
- See your co-workers and employer through the eyes of Christ. (I will talk more about this a little further down.)

Another analogy I use is seeing your life from God’s perspective from 30,000 feet. Early on in your walk of faith it is like being on ground level. However, as you grow in your faith you gain altitude and can see more and more of what God is doing and why He is doing it. What is going on in your life will be much clearer to see at 30,000 feet.

***God will give you spiritual EYES to see what the natural man is blinded to.***

**Engaging God:** Intentionally seek the Holy Spirit to see yourself, your co-workers and your employer through the eyes of Christ.

**Truth #5– You Can’t Connect A Step of Faith TODAY To Experiencing Transformation TOMORROW.**

*“for we walk by **faith** not by **sight**.” 2 Corinthians 5:7*

Another key truth that we need to understand is that we can’t connect a step of faith with transformation tomorrow. This is a struggle because we want to connect the “spiritual” dots and figure out how everything that is going on in our lives is connected. This reminds me of when I was in the military and we used the phrase “need to know.” This meant that if you need to know you will know and if you don’t need to know you won’t know. It actually made military life easier in that I didn’t need to know what I didn’t need to know.

The same is true of our faith walk. All we “need to know” is that as we walk by faith God will renew our minds to His truth and transform our lives. The truth is that God knows what is going on, and He simply wants us to trust Him and rest in the fact that He knows what He is doing.

**DAY FIVE**

**Truth #6 – Transformation Will Come INCREMENTALLY.**

Since the process of transformation is primarily incremental, how will I know that change is taking place? In Romans 15:8, Paul tells us that God will confirm to us His promises:

*“For I tell you that Christ became a servant of the circumcised on behalf of God’s truth in order to **confirm** the promises given to our forefathers.”*

We know by faith that God is working in our lives. However, God wants to confirm the changes in your thinking, your choices, your behaviors, and your feelings. Therefore, I have listed some ways that God might use to confirm His work in your life at your job:

- 1. Your mind begins to think and believe God’s truth rather than believing your lies.**
- 2. Your will begins to make choices based upon His truth that you are now thinking and feeling. This will produce in you a greater willingness to come to God for Him to further renew your mind to His truth.**
- 3. You begin to experience a supernatural change in your attitudes and behaviors.**
- 4. You will begin to experience freedom and victory in areas where you had only experienced bondage and defeat previously.**
- 5. Your desire to walk by faith in God will grow, and your desire to turn back to self will decrease.**
- 6. You will find that your love and desire for God will grow.**
- 7. You will find yourself more and more being stunned, overwhelmed, and in awe of Who God is and what He has done in your life.**

**Truth #6 – Your Walk of Faith Will Your CHRIST-CONFIDENCE**

*“And **such confidence** we have **through Christ** toward God.” 2 Corinthians 3:4*

If you begin to experience all of the things listed above what do you think that will do to your Christ-confidence? I will definitely increase. The longer you walk by faith the greater your Christ-confidence. As your Christ-confidence grows, you gain spiritual momentum because your desire and willingness grows to experience more and more of God’s transformation. Here is the challenge:

***THE CHALLENGE:***

***To take enough steps of faith to experience SUPERNATURAL changes in order to build your CHRIST-CONFIDENCE in God’s ability and His desire to transform your life.***

**Truth #7 – The OVERFLOW Of Living THE Life Will Be A Desire To Minister To Those in Your Workplace**

**a. Your Life Will Become About OTHERS**

***As your life is being transformed, you will focus LESS and LESS on yourself and more on OTHERS.***

*“Greater love has no one than this, that **one lay down his life for his friends.**”  
John 15:13*

How does this verse apply to you in your workplace. When you have laid down your self-life then you can give Christ as THE Life to others. What do I mean? Let me answer this question with a question: If your co-workers/employer is not saved or is not living from Christ as The Life then what do they need? They need Christ for salvation and Christ for Life.

As you are being transformed and are becoming Christ-like, then God wants to minister Life to others through you. Your desire will be to lay down your self-life of fleshly behaviors and false beliefs and be a “vessel” of life to others. What are some ways that can happen?

1. You can pray for salvation for those who are not saved or pray that the Christians in your workplace will come to know The Life.
2. As you are led by the Spirit, you can bear witness of how God is working in you in a similar struggle that they may be going through.
3. Seek the Spirit for ways to encourage your co-workers and point them to Christ as The Life.

**b. The Ministry of BEING**

However, the most effective form of ministry to others is to “BE.” What do I mean by to “BE?” Let’s begin answering that question by looking at 2 Corinthians 2:24



*“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and **manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.**”*



For the most part, we feel that we must be actively talking and sharing God’s truth with others. However, there is another way to minister and I call it the ministry of BEING. Instead of being “overt” ministry, this is “covert” ministry.

As your life is being transformed, the overflow of that transformation will be seen by others. If you were mostly impatient and are now more patient, your co-workers will notice. If you were taking ownership of your stress and you are now living from Christ’s rest don’t you think others will take notice? Simply by walking by faith and living from The Life in Christ your life will change and your co-workers will notice those changes. Some may be turned off by them but there will be those who are drawn to you by the “fragrant aroma” of the changes Christ is brining about in you.

Think about this as well. As you go through your work day living dependently on Christ, what is it that the Spirit’s power is doing through you even though you may not be verbally ministering to others? He is pouring His life, love, grace, etc. through you. He is doing this even when you are not saying a word!

You see, ministry does not necessarily have to take place in the “seen” realm. If you are walking by faith ministry is ALWAYS taking place in the “unseen” realm. In the seen realm, “being” seems very passive. However, in the unseen realm the fullness of God’s life and power is pouring through you to others.

A great example of the ministry of “being” is in Mark 5:27-29 when the lady touched Jesus’s cloak.

*“When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,<sup>28</sup> because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.”<sup>29</sup> Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.” Mark 5:27-29*

Jesus was not intentionally ministering to her, but His healing power was flowing through Him to heal the woman. The same is true for us. There will be times that we will be overtly ministering, but covertly we are constantly ministering Christ’s life and power as we walk dependently upon Him.

As you allow Christ to minister through you, overtly or covertly, know with Christ-confidence that He is working through you to transform others. Meditate on this truth for a moment.

***God wants to flow THROUGH to change the DESTINY of at least  
one person that you work with.***

Therefore, I hope you see your workplace not only as a place to be transformed but see it as a place where God can transform others through you. You may be surprised when you get to heaven to find out how many destinies were changed because of what God did in you and through you.

### **Final Word of Encouragement**

I want to thank you for going through this study. I trust that the Holy Spirit is taking these truths and revealing and transforming your life. I do believe the work place is the hardest place to walk in Christ but the most critical place to do so. I pray that as you seek Christ to be more and more your life that you will be able to proclaim with Paul in Philippians 1:21

***“To live to me IS Christ”***

### **Where Can You Go From Here?**

On our website we have a four part discipleship series called ***Living A Transformed Live In Christ***. This four part study will further expand on the truths that you have learned in this study. If you would like view this study online, please go to our ministry website which is [www.christislifeministries.com](http://www.christislifeministries.com) and look under the **Discipleship** section. I hope you will take advantage of what our website has to offer to encourage you in your walk with Christ.

***Christ Is Life Ministries***

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