

#1 The Spirit of the Overcomer



The importance of hope and how to gain it!

Missing Answers to Important Questions

- One area of my life holds me back. How can I make a breakthrough in my spiritual life?
- I want to grow spiritually but need to figure out what to do next.
- Are there any particular things to help me grow in my quiet times with God?
- I want to disciple others but need to learn how to begin. Can you help me?

Two Goals:

- (1) Move believers from stage 2 to stage 3 of spiritual maturity, and
- (2) Provide insight on how to disciple others at the second stage of spiritual life.

The Foundation of Overcoming

"I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one" (1 John 2:14).

- 1) Hope brings inspiration: Never need to _____ .
- 2) Believe what you choose: Never be a _____ .
- 3) Strength from God's Word: Never fight _____ .
- 4) Light over darkness: Never have to _____ .



Topics

- Anxiety => _____
- Pride => _____
- Lusts => _____
- Anger => _____
- Depression => _____

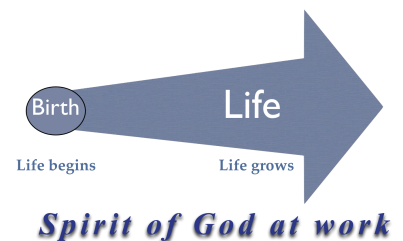
- Not just rejecting the old but adopting the new.
- In each case, faith is needed to surge forward.
- Each lesson has critical exercises to deepen one's faith.

The Spiritual Life Process

- The Spirit of God actively works from birth (salvation) to complete growth (sanctification)!

"He who began a good work in you will _____ it until the day of Christ Jesus." (Phil 1:6 NASB)

- 'Eternal life' is used 41 times in the Bible.



Spiritual Life Begins: Born Again

“For you have been **born again** not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, **through the living and abiding word of God**. For, “All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the **word of the Lord** abides forever. And this is the word which was preached to you”(1 Peter 1:23-25).

**HOPE
BRINGS
INSPIRATION**



**Never need
to give up**

- As a seed needs _____ for life, so spiritual life needs the _____.
- Life assumes birth
- Be born again (gain a spiritual nature)
- Hope is in God's work in us through His Spirit

Spiritual Growth Facts

- Spiritual life starts from the seed of _____ .
- New spiritual life starts small and grows large.
- The Holy Spirit's presence is vital to our new life.
- Frustration builds if we do not grow as _____.
- God's Word is living and wonderfully shapes our whole spiritual life.
- God wants us to grow in our relationship with Him.

1 John 2:12-14

- Underline the family groupings found below.

“I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”
- What do these terms mean?
- What observations of spiritual life do you find?
 - John wants them to attach great hope to the growth of their spiritual lives.
 - Young believers use the love and trust they gained in the first stage of discipleship.
 - Challenges and temptations await young believers.
 - God has significantly equipped them so that they need not fall.
 - Truth and faith are essential for growth.
 - There needs to be a clear division between the 2nd and 3rd levels of growth.

The Path of Spiritual Life

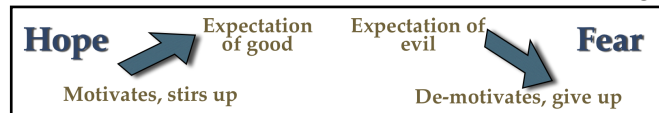
- Starts with new life in Christ (Born again - John 3:4-8)
- Three stages: Each holds unique challenges and needs:
 - #1
 - #2
 - #3



Strengthening our Hope (Romans 8:24-25)

“For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we **wait eagerly for it.**”

- “In hope against hope he believed” (Abraham - Romans 4:18).
- “Hope for what we do not see” (Romans 8:25)
- Hope motivates, takes action, and persists even in difficult times. (“Fix ...hope” 1 Pe 1:13).
- Fears de-motivate and, therefore, cause us to avoid (fears of doing evil are good).



False hopes (1 Timothy 6:17)

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix **their hope** on the uncertainty of riches, but **on God**, who **richly supplies** us with all things **to enjoy**” (1 Tim 6:17).

- “If I had more _____, I could _____ and _____.”
- Contentment
- Greatest good
- Purposefully given

Finding Treasures in God’s Word

- Note the Psalmist’s attitude or expectation towards God and His Word.
“I rejoice at Thy word, as one who finds great spoil.” (Ps 119:162)

The Flow: The Power of Spiritual Life

- Physical life serves as an analogy for spiritual life and growth.
- Like a strong, ongoing current, the Spirit relentlessly ushers into spiritual growth. This is The Flow of spiritual **life**.
- The Flow, a strong, powerful, ongoing current, illustrates God’s fixed purpose in developing our spiritual life toward its total growth.



Life Application

- God has given us new life and outlined how we are to develop spiritually!
- There are 3 stages to spiritual life, analogous to physical growth: child, teen, and adult.
- Hope for Christian growth connects us to God’s purposes for our lives, even in difficult times.
- Hope can always be found in God’s Word!
- **If we are a genuine believer, then we know God is actively working to grow us**

Life sharing & exercises

- What is The Flow? What aspect of spiritual life does it illustrate?
- What stage of spiritual growth do you think you are at? Where do you tend to get stuck in your growth?
- Share one verse that God used to bring you hope. How did it help you?



Assignments:

- Daily, find hope from one Bible verse, then share it! How did it help you?
- Complete the evaluation. Circle two of the highest (weak) and lowest (strong) answers. Share your answers with God and another person.
Strong area: _____ Weak area: _____
- Complete Exercise #1: *Discovering Hope* and Exercise #2: *Implanting Hope*.