

# The Christian's Path Towards Spiritual Maturity

**Every Christian started with a life that was without God in it.**

Our subconscious mind and its memory of experiences directed the decisions and actions we made in day-to-day life.

**After repentance and baptism we had a new goal in life**

**Acts 2:38** [New King James] *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”*

**We “crucified” the old way of life and all its goals.**

**Romans 6:1-8** [New King James] *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,”*

**This new life was influenced by the Holy Spirit and we began to develop a new storehouse of memories from God's Word, the Christian Bible.**

When anything comes from our newly-constructed subconscious mind we want it to be from the new memory of God's Word and experiencing life in harmony with His Word.

But this is **not** always the reality because we still “*deep down*” have an old storehouse of memories, that cause us to be tempted to sin against our new way of life and God Himself.

**Three regions of temptation**

- 1) Ourselves – we are still human and are tempted through our physical senses, touch, taste, sight and sound.**
- 2) Society – we are now having to swim against the current of this world's society. This is not easy and we are tempted at times to give up and NOT be the “*odd one out*.”**
- 3) Satan – by him placing negative thoughts and attitudes in our minds.**

This is one reason why God encourages us to be thankful in our prayers, this helps us to avoid negative feelings, [**Colossians 2:6-7; Colossians 4:2**].

## Three paths to temptation

**1 John 2:15-17** [New King James] *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”*

- 1) **Lust of the flesh** – what gives sensual pleasure in feeling with our hands or body.
- 2) **Lust of the eyes** – what gives sensual pleasure through the eyes, what we focus on.
- 3) **Pride of life** – getting recognition, position of influence over other people, the “*must have it now*” attitude.

## Three reactions of our deceitful mind towards any proven guilt

**Jeremiah 17:9** [New King James] *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?”*

This is the natural reaction of the human heart or mind.

- 1) Tries to cover the sin.
- 2) Tries to blame someone else for what happened.
- 3) Tries to justify our actions, thus ourselves.

## Action list –

- 1) Fill our minds with God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

**Psalms 119:9-16** [New King James] *“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.”*

Treasure it [verse 11], talk about it [verse 13], meditate on it [verse 15], delight in it [verse 16], never forget it [verse 16].

- 2) Remove any physical thing that may trigger off the temptation.
- 3) Remove ourselves from any environment where we are confronted with the temptation.
- 4) Pray to the Creator God, by doing this we move into His righteous and holy environment.

As you can see we have a fight on our hands, this is why we are called Christian soldiers and constantly need the spiritual armour God has provided.

**Ephesians 6:10-18** [New King James] *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly*

*places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints,”*

[For an expanded study of ‘*The Armour Of God*’ please download and study the article with that title found under the sub-heading ‘*Satan*’.]