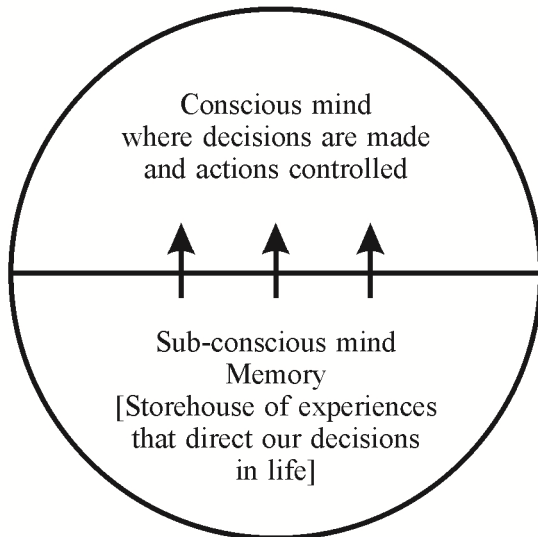
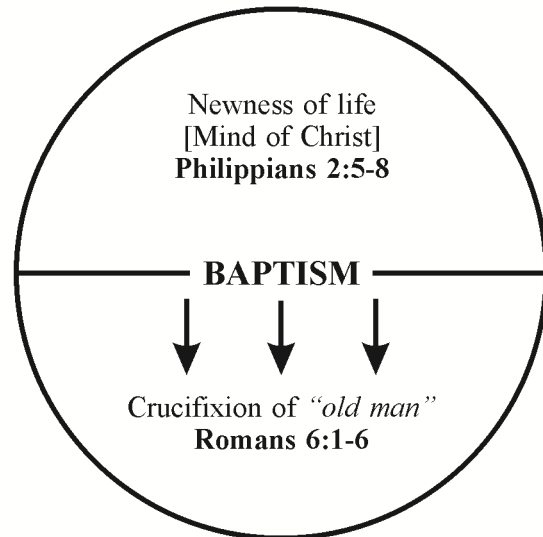


# The Spiritual Maturing Of The Human Mind

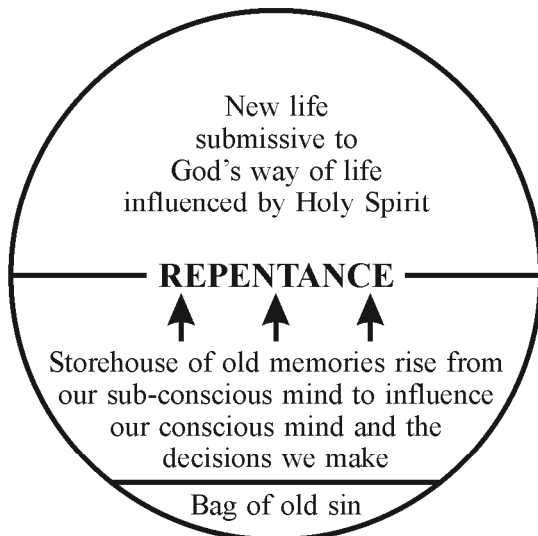
**Without God**



**Goal after Baptism**



**Reality after Baptism**



**Conversion Plan after Baptism**



God asks us to leave this sin (and guilt of it) here under the Blood of Christ. **John 3:16-17**

When anything comes from our sub-conscious mind we want it to be from our new memory of studying God's Word, and experience of living His way of life.

The above illustrates the plan that the Creator God has for all humanity as stated in **Genesis 1:26-27**.

The Hebrew word translated "*image*" is "*tselem*" meaning resemblance, shadow, outward form.

All human beings are created in the "*image*" of God and receive from God a "*human spirit*" that separates them from other animals, [**Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11**].

It is through this "*human spirit*" that God works out the second part of His plan for humanity, [**Proverbs 20:27**] that is to create the "*likeness*" of the Eternal God in us.

The Hebrew word translated “likeness” is “*demûwth*” meaning manner, attributes, character.

**Character can only be formed by spending time in the presence of the one whose character we wish to reflect, hence a period of physical life in which we can make these changes.**

Character is like a human muscle, it is strengthened by having to resist pressure or weight.

God in His perfect wisdom has allowed Satan to remain a powerful influence in the present world, [2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19].

**1 Peter 5:6-9** [New King James] “*Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*”

**It is the resisting the influence of Satan that will strengthen our character, [James 1:2-4].**

All the seven churches of Revelation were encouraged to “*overcome*” [Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; Revelation 3:3, 12, 21] and were told how this could be accomplished, [Revelation 12:11].

### Three Regions of Temptation

- 1 **Ourselves** – tempted through our physical senses ... touch ... taste ... sight ... sound ...
- 2 **Society** – having to swim against the current of this world’s society is **not** easy and we are tempted to give up at times – not be “*odd one out.*”
- 3 **Satan** – by him placing negative thoughts or attitudes in our mind (one reason why God encourages us to be thankful in our prayers. This helps us to avoid negative feelings.)

### Three Paths of Temptation [1 John 2:15-17]

- 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 ... **seeing**.
- 3 **Pride of Life** – **getting** recognition position of influence over others ... must have it **now** attitude.

### Three Reactions of Deceitful Mind to Proven Guilt

- 1 Try to **cover** it up.
- 2 **Blame** someone else.
- 3 Try to **justify** our actions (thus ourselves).

### Action List

- 1 Fill our minds with God’s Word. (**Psalm 119:9-16**)
  - a) Treasure it (**v11**)
  - b) Talk about it (**v13**)
  - c) Meditate on it (**v15**)
  - d) Delight in it (**v16**)
  - e) Never forget it (**v16**)
- 2 Remove the externals (any physical thing which may trigger off the temptation).
- 3 Remove ourselves from the environment (the place where we are confronted with the temptation).
- 4 Pray to God (move into His environment).

Our relationship with this Satan-influenced world is very clearly shown in God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

**John 17:16** [New King James] “*They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*”

**As Christians we are not to be a part of its customs or way of life.**

**John 17:15** [New King James] “*I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.*”

**Yet we are to remain physically in this world but remain as a witness to what is true, [verses 17-19].**

**James 4:4** [New King James] *“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”*

God looks on any loving friendship we have with this world as adulterous, making us an enemy of His.

**Acts 17:1-6** [New King James] *“Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, ‘This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.’ And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, ‘**These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.**’”*

The Jews in Thessalonica accused the Christians of “*turning the world upside down*” when they were really turning it “*the right way up.*”

**2 Corinthians 6:14** [New King James] *“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”*

We are workers together with God in giving this end time witness to this dying world, [**Matthew 24:3-14**].

Preparing for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, this time as “*King of kings and Lord of lords,*” [**Revelation 17:14; Revelation 19:11-16**].

It is to fulfil this task that we as true Christians have been called by God the Father at this time, [**John 6:44**], it being also our time to receive salvation that will end with the gift of eternal life, [**John 17:3; 2 Corinthians 6:2**].