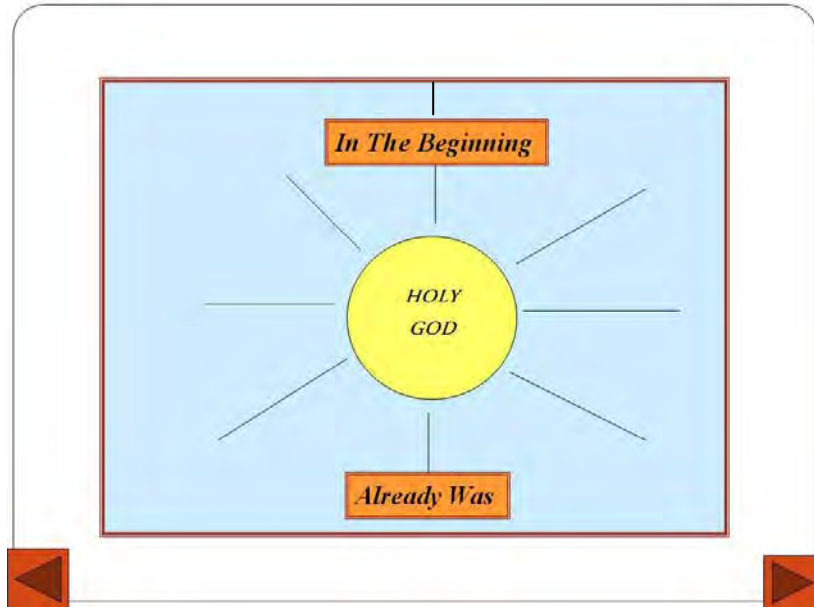
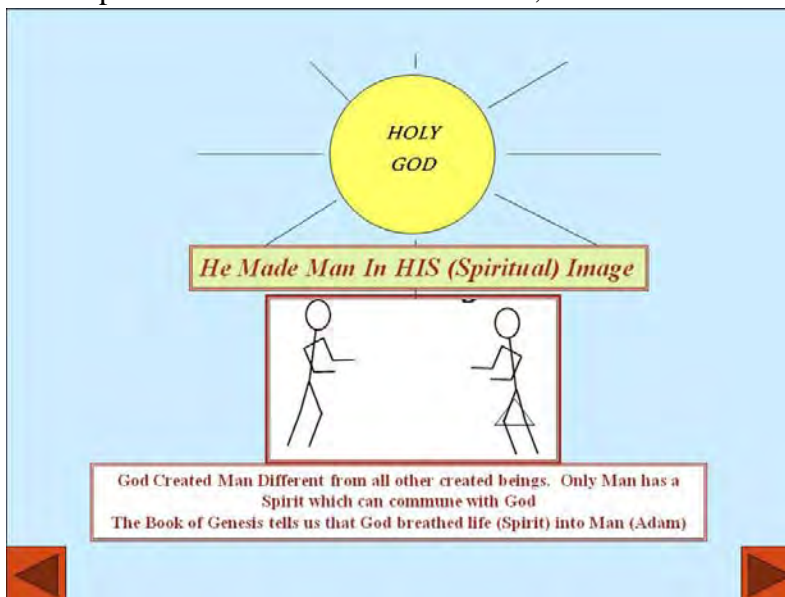


5. What About Us; How Do We Fit Into The Grand Scheme Of Things?

This may be the chapter you have been waiting for since most want to know how we fit into the grand plan of things. Recall earlier that we used the imagery of the sun to represent God. We said that the heat energy of the sun's rays would remind us of the love, grace and mercy radiated to all from God. Reset your minds to the beginning of time as we know it. Remember that God was already present along with the Son and the Holy Spirit and angels. Satan and his followers were already on the Earth when man was created!



Our great ancestors Adam and Eve were the first people that God created on Earth. The record of the creation of the Earth and human beings is briefly outlined in the first chapters of the first book of the Bible, Genesis.



God created soil, water, plants, fish, birds, and animals before he created man. Man was the only created being that God made in His spiritual image. Man was considered by God to be special. He called man *Very Good!*

It is very important for the reader to know that from the beginning of time, God has considered man to be special and still does. Too often we establish our self-image by what we perceive other

people think about us or what we think of ourselves. No matter what others think or even we think, God thinks that you are special because He created you to be special. He

created you for a special purpose. You may be seeking your purpose in life and Christianity is the way to discover that purpose. This is true because your Creator made you that way.

As spiritual beings, we live spiritual lives though we are presently in a physical body in a physical world. It is important to realize that Satan, who also is spirit, is also presently here on Earth. He remains a defeated enemy of God. Our problem with this arrangement is that Satan will try his very best to persuade us to follow after his way of life rather than God's. This will be

IN HIS IMAGE:

Genesis 1:27
Genesis 2:7

God Said that He was VERY PLEASED when He had completed the Creation of Man

Genesis 1: 27

So God created man in his own (spiritual) image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 2: 7

The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

We do not look like God in a physical way. We have a spiritual capacity to commune with Holy God in spirit. None of His other creations can do that. Thus we are all very special in God's sight.

covered in more detail later.

When God created us, he provided us with a free will. This feature means that God leaves all choices to us. Though He could, God has elected to not force us to make decisions. Further, He forbids Satan to make us do anything. As a result of this design

feature of all human beings, we are accountable for our decisions and actions. I Corinthians 10:13 tells us, *“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted He will also*

GOD Does Not Make Man Do Things

Satan Cannot Make People Do Things

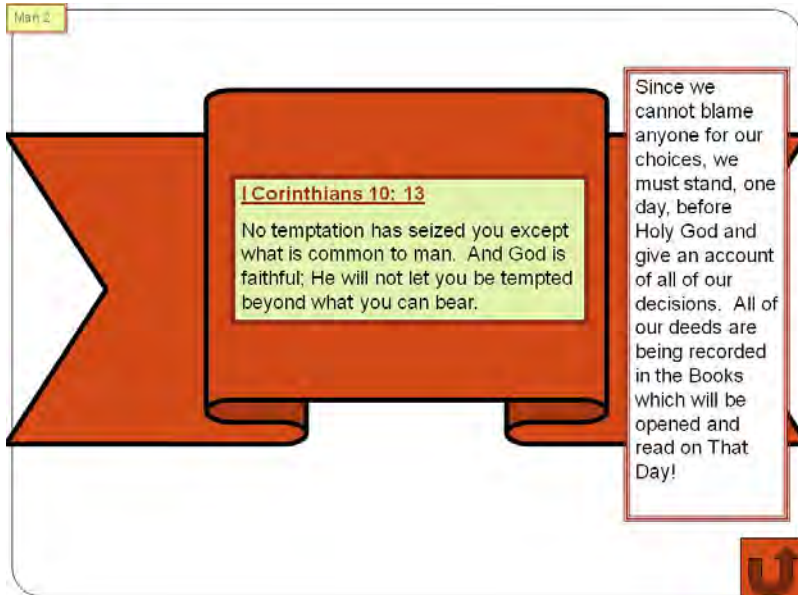
I Corinthians 10: 13

You Are Responsible For Your Decisions !!

- God Intended that Man have Control (Dominion) Over Lower Forms of Life
- We were Designed with a WILL with which to make Decisions.
- The Scriptures are Still Being Fulfilled When Men Discover New Things and Invent Devices that employ God's Natural Laws.

provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

Man 2



I Corinthians 10: 13
No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.

Since we cannot blame anyone for our choices, we must stand, one day, before Holy God and give an account of all of our decisions. All of our deeds are being recorded in the Books which will be opened and read on That Day!

If we can understand the setting we find ourselves in, we will be better able to understand many of the circumstances and events that we encounter and have to contend with.

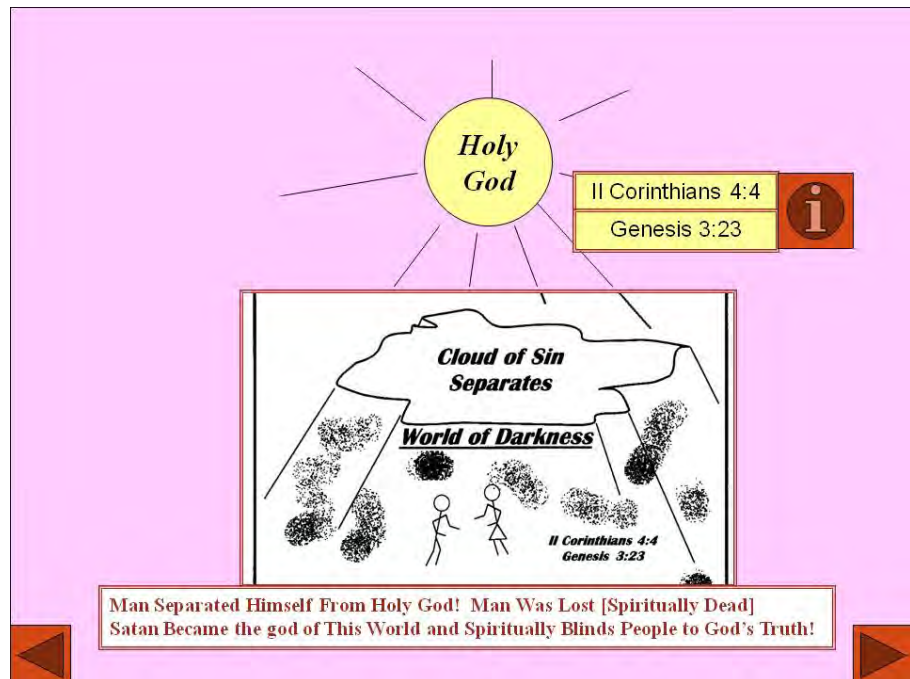
God never intended that we live forever here in this physical world.

Unfortunately, our great ancestors, Adam and Eve, did not make good choices and disobeyed the one thing God told them that they

should not do. This disobedience brought what we now call *sin* into the lives of Adam and Eve and their descendants. This is referred to as the Fall of Man. They were told that if they ate of the forbidden fruit, they would surely die. They did eat the forbidden fruit but did not immediately fall over physically dead. However they died spiritually. Spiritual death is separation from Holy God. Many today are spiritually dead because they have sin in their lives that prohibit close communion with God.

Think back to the chapter about God. God is Holy and cannot have sin in His presence. Though Adam and Eve were in a beautiful garden or paradise and enjoyed a close daily fellowship with Him, they were cast out! Not only were they cast out but an angel with a flaming sword was posted at the entrance to the garden and they were forbidden to re-

enter the presence of Holy God due to their sin.



Man 3

II Corinthians 4: 4

The god of this age (Satan) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God

Genesis 3: 23

So the LORD God banished him (Adam) from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After He drove the man out, He placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden Cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life

Sin separates you from Holy God. The cloud represents separation from God.

Satan is our spiritual enemy and he blinds the spiritual eyes of unbelievers.

God is Holy and Adam could not return with his sin where God was in the garden.

You cannot get into Heaven with your sin because Holy God is there!

Sin acts like a separating cloud whose dark shadow blocks the bright warmth of God's love, mercy and grace.

Satan actually controls the affairs of this world since the Fall of Man. II Corinthians 4:4 records; *"The god (Satan) of this age (now) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel (good news) of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*

Another way of expressing

this scripture is that Satan has taken over the control of this world that was intended for man before his spiritual death. The evil we presently experience in the world is a consequence of Satan and the sin of man.

There is an account in the book of Luke where Jesus, the Son of God, and Satan face one another. Luke 4:5, 7 is a scene where Satan tempts Jesus to

compromise by worshipping him. This is what the scripture says, *"Next the Devil led him up and showed him in a flash all the kingdoms of the world. 'All this dominion will I give you,' he said, 'and the glory that goes with it; for it has been put in my hands and I can give it to anyone I choose. You have only to do homage (worship) me and it shall be yours."* As the god of this world, Satan tempts us with the things of this world just like he tempted Jesus. It is very interesting that Satan has the ability to offer worldly rewards for compromising behavior. He places tempting thoughts into our minds and we often fall for it. Satan tells us to live now for self. Jesus says we should forsake self now and to think on heavenly things.

•Satan still uses the same methods with YOU today! He will promise you material things of this World if you will compromise your Christianity and obey him!!

- It has been given to him [Satan] to pass on to anyone he chooses!
- Ephesians 6: 10.20 instructs us to put on the full Armor of God.

Luke 4: 5 -7

Ephesians 6: 10 - 20

i

Man 4

Luke 4: 5 – 7

The devil led Him (Jesus) up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to Him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to."

Ephesians 6: 10

Finally, be strong in the LORD and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Satan uses the same temptations with you today. He offers you the things of this world if you will compromise your Christianity! You must be prepared to defend yourself against the temptations of this world

Notice in this illustration Satan is portrayed with horns. Recall that he is a fallen angel. He presents himself as an attractive person rather than the typical image of being red, having horns and a tail yielding a pitchfork. He blends in an attractive manner rather than by scaring people.

Self is the root of all sin.

Think of any sin and you will be able to trace the root cause of that sin back to selfishness. We are a culture of selfish people wanting instant gratification. Contrast the lifestyle of our model, Jesus. He lived a very humble life and was not eager for materialistic gain. Satan

All Sin Comes From Selfishness

Covetness, Greed, Pride, Anger, Gossip, etc.

Building Life Around Self
Rather Than GOD

James 2:8



The Humanist World Teaches Us to Insist on Our Rights!

*Adam Chose His Own Way
to Develop His Natural Life, to
Exercise His Rights to Freedom*

Jesus said, "If you are to be a follower of Mine, you must bear **YOUR** cross (Instrument of Death) daily."

Man 5

James 2: 8

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

Self is our biggest enemy. Self shows himself as pride, envy, jealousy, anger, frustration, bitterness, and hatred. We only hurt ourselves when we let self dominate our lives instead of Christ.

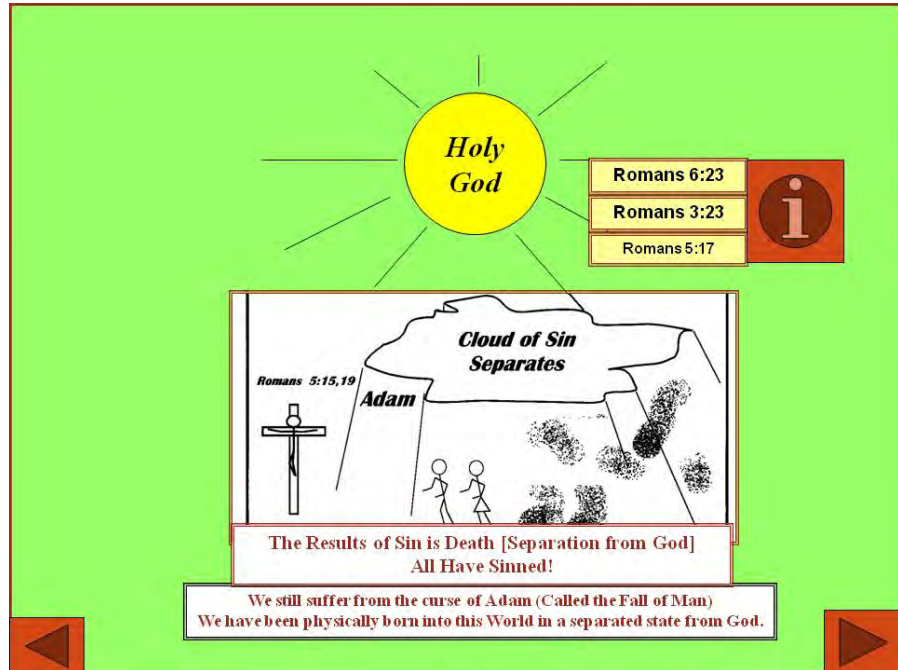
plays on this weakness of ours and with the prizes of this world system at his disposal is often very successful. The unsuspecting Christian often falls for this deception.



According to Romans 3:23, “All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God!” All pretty much includes all of us.

Romans 6:23 further states, “The penalty for sin is (spiritual) death!” We have inherited sin nature

from our great grand father Adam and are sinners by nature. The consequence of this state separates us from Holy God. To make matters even worse, there isn’t anything we can do about it! Left to our own devices, we are doomed to an eternal separation from God. We see selfishness vividly portrayed by children. Parents must assert much attention to teach their children to act right. No effort is required to teach a child to do wrong things. Watch the selfish little darlings take things that do not belong to them and refuse to share what they have.



Man 6

Romans 6: 23
For the wages (results) of sin is (spiritual) death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD.

Romans 3: 23 - 24
For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 5: 17
For if, by the trespass of the one man (Adam), how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

God loves you so much that He took it upon Himself (Jesus His Son) to die for you. But you must believe Him and agree to follow Jesus (Become His disciple.)

U

Have you ever thought of a child as having a rebellious spirit? They all do and they get it legitimately from ol’ Adam.


Fortunately for us, God realizes our situation and through His great mercy (grace), he has provided a covenant contract whereby our sin problem can be taken care of. Just like the Old Testament covenant whereby people who assert faith that their sins would be transferred to a sacrificial animal, our

covenant is to assert faith that our sins have been transferred to the sacrificial Lamb of God (Jesus) and that he has satisfied God's covenant requirements for us; our sins have been taken away and our Holy God sees us as righteous people! That is indeed *GOOD NEWS*.

We can only get out from under the shadow of the cloud of sin by trusting in the substitute death of Jesus, the Christ. Two conditions must

Adam Caused Many to Sin Because He Disobeyed GOD.

Christ Caused Many to be Made Acceptable to God Because He Obeyed GOD.

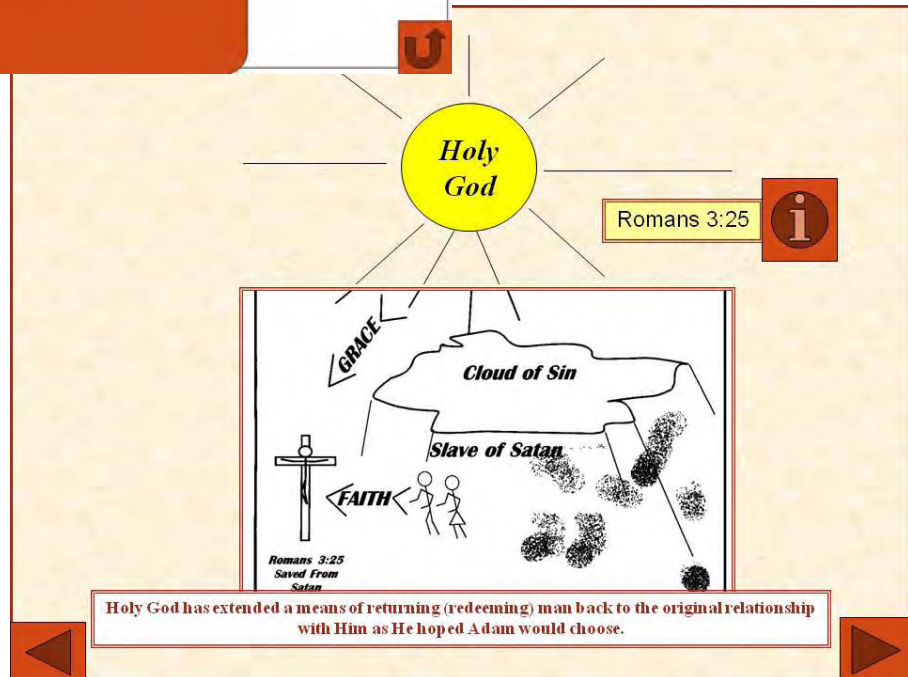
Romans 5:19 

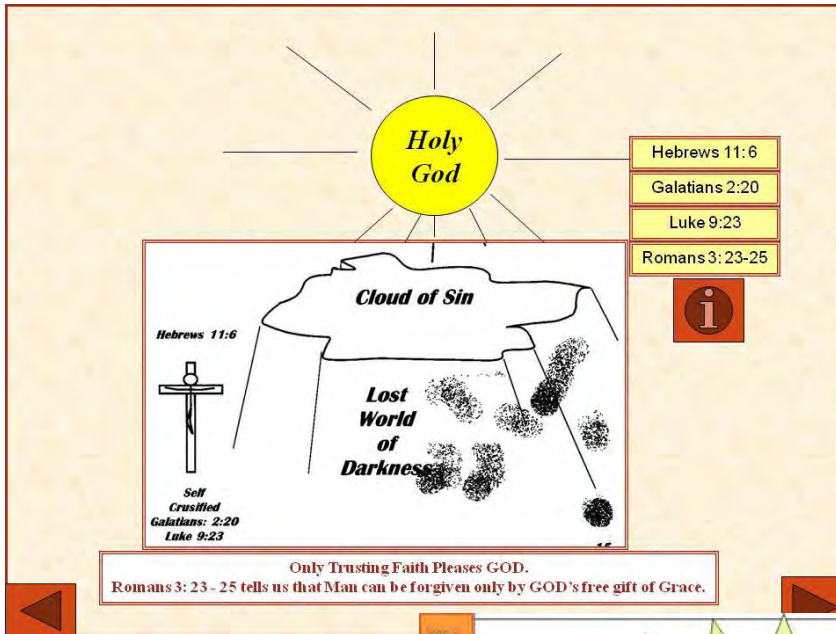
Romans 5: 19

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.

be met for us to rid ourselves of our sin problem. This brings us back to our contract with God. He has already provided one condition which is His forgiving Grace. We must take action to satisfy the second condition and that is Faith or Trust. It is far more, however, than just mental agreement. It is a volitional act of committing faith that is required. Repentance

means an overt change in life's direction away from the former lifestyle of Adam and the daily practice of a new lifestyle in Christ.





Though this covenant arrangement is free to all people, there is a cost. We must be willing to give up our selfishness. Jesus said, *“If you want to become a disciple of mine (become a Christian) you must bear your cross daily (execute self each day) and follow me.”* This requires trusting faith and there is no

way to please God other than by faith according to Hebrews 11:6, *“And without Faith, it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”* This is the covenant or contract agreement we have with God. How about you? Do you believe (trust) that God exists?

Hebrews 11: 6
And without Faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

Galatians 2:20
I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Luke 9: 29
As He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

Romans 3: 23 – 25
For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement (covering), through faith in His blood (life). He did this to demonstrate His justice, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.

You must recon your old carnal nature to have been crucified with Christ. The stick figure on the Cross is YOU!
Recon this to be so every day.

Though we may become a Christian the sinful world we live in is still here with its evil temptations. Satan remains active in trying to lure the Christian back into a worldly lifestyle with his promises of instant (but very temporary) gratification. There are many spiritually dead people still under the sin cloud separated from Holy God.

The following set of three slides resulted in the turning point in Papaw’s spiritual life during his one year sabbatical. For the first time he understood how God designed him and how he functioned as a spiritual being.

This first slide illustrates all people as they are initially born physically. They have a body, soul and spirit. In this illustration they are represented by the three dashed circles.

Let’s call him the Natural man. His spiritual nature has not been initialized (It is DEAD!). He lives mostly with his emotions, which interacts with the external physical

Satan
II Cor.4:4

Satan Can Temp Man in his Mind

The Natural Man was born in Sin

He is Spiritually Blinded By Satan but Doesn't know it.

Self sits on the Throne of his Life.

II Corinthians 4: 4
1 Thessalonians 5:23

Natural Man

world. He uses his mind to make decisions and his body to take physical action. He is living in a spiritually dead state and Satan has blinded him to spiritual truth. Satan is free to implant thoughts in his mind. In fact, the dashed circles indicate that Satan is free to penetrate his innermost being.

The next slide represents what is called the Carnal Christian. This person has asserted faith and agreed to the covenant with God

for forgiveness of his sins. In the eyes of Holy God, he is forgiven and is saved from the penalty of his sins. His position is now with Christ in Heaven. He will spend eternity with Jesus in Heaven. Notice that the innermost circle is now solid and the arrow, which indicates the level to which Satan can penetrate, is shortened to the

II Corinthians 4: 4
The god of this age (Satan) has blinded the minds of unbelievers (Natural Man), so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God

I Thessalonians 5: 23
May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

The three circles illustrates how God designed man. Each person has a spirit, soul and body. Before becoming a Christian, This (Natural Man) has Self sitting on the throne of his life. He does not know how to give Christ the throne rights to his life because Satan has blinded him to the truth of the gospel

John 14:15,17 } Holy Spirit in You
John 15:26
John 16:6,7
John 16:13,14

Satan

Carnal Christian 1 Cor. 3:1,3

The Carnal Christian does not Allow Christ to be Lord of his life.

He is Saved but does not live a Victorious Christian life.

He tries to live the Christian life but does not employ the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

He does not wear the full Armor of God described in Ephesians

John 14: 15-17
John 15: 26
John 16: 6-7
John 16: 13 - 14
Ephesians 6: 10 - 13
1 Corinthians 3: 1 - 3

Soul level. Christ is pictured as still hanging on the cross and *Self* is still on the throne of his spirit.

The solid circle signifies that this person's salvation is sealed by the Holy Spirit and nothing will ever take it away from him.

He is called Carnal Christian because he still retains control of all aspects of his life. He has Jesus in his life as his *Savior* but refuses to let

Man 12 a

John 14: 15 – 17

If you love Me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor (Holy Spirit) to be with you forever – the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.

John 15: 26

When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about Me.

John 16: 6 - 7

Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

John 16: 13 – 14

But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak of His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me (Jesus) by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

The Carnal Christian is a new Christian or one that has never matured in Christ. In either case, this person is just a babe in Christ and has not yet made Christ the Lord of his life. Self still sits on the throne of his life.

This person is saved but still runs his life without Christ!

The Carnal Christian acts much like the Natural Man. He usually leads a frustrated Christian life.

Man 12 b

Ephesians 6: 10 – 13

Finally be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

1 Corinthians 3: 1 – 3

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly (carnal) – mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

The Carnal Christian still acts like an unbeliever. He controls his life the best he knows how but is usually very frustrated because he does not experience the victorious life that he hears being preached and reads about in the Bible.

Many ineffective Churches are filled with Carnal Christians!!

Jesus be the *Lord* of his life. Often Christians live in a Carnal state because they are ignorant of how to mature in spirituality. This was Papaw's case; he was living in this state and did not know it. The Carnal Christian may be regular in Church attendance, give liberally and hold offices of responsibility. Papaw had been a Carnal Christian for twenty-six years and

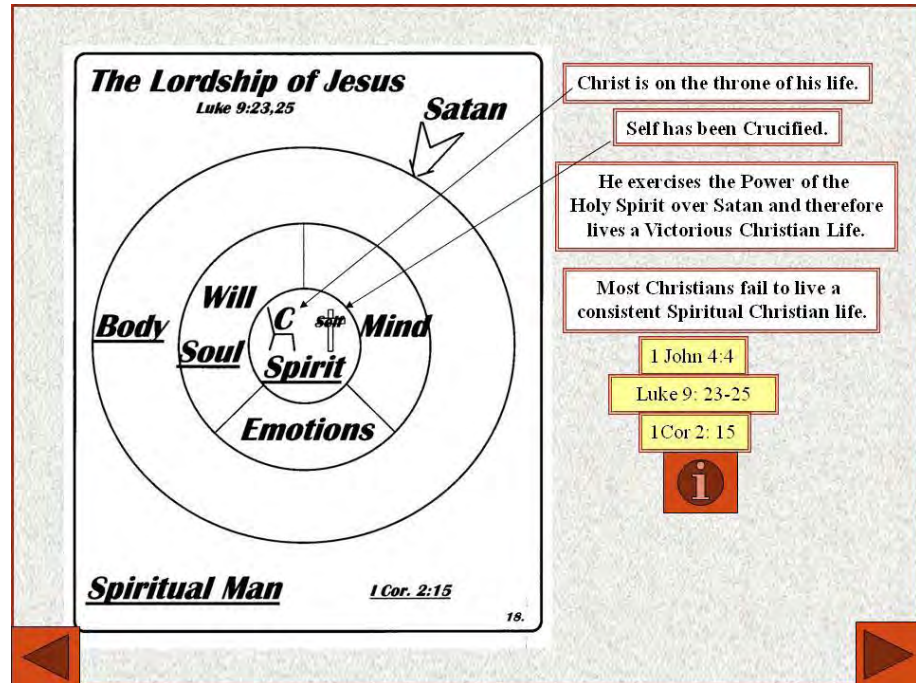
was not aware of it!!

Carnal Christians live a sub-par Christian life. There is no joy in their lives and they do not experience the lifestyle they read about in the Bible nor hear from the pulpit.

The third slide of circles show that all three circles are solid and Satan cannot infiltrate this life. Christ is now pictured on the throne of the Spiritual Man and Self is on the cross of execution. This person lives the life of a victorious, joy filled, mature Christian. Jesus is the *Lord* of this life. The illustration of the Spiritual Man is of an Ideal Christian. Though possible, few actually reach this level of maturity while here on Earth.

The Natural Man has a birth date. There was an instant in time when he was physically born and on each anniversary year, he celebrates birthdays. This is called an event.

The Carnal Christian has a spiritual birth date. There was an instant in time when he was spiritually *reborn*. This is also called an event.



Man 9

Hebrews 11: 6

And without Faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Luke 9: 29

As He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

Romans 3: 23 – 25

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a sacrifice of atonement (covering), through faith in His blood (life). He did this to demonstrate His justice, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.

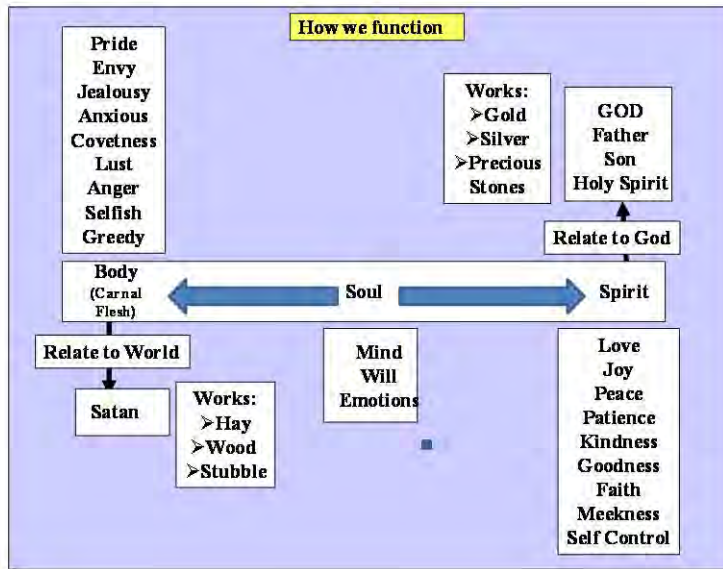
You must recon your old carnal nature to have been crucified with Christ. The stick figure on the Cross is YOU!
Recon this to be so every day.

The Spiritual Man does not attain full spirituality instantly. It is a *process* rather than an *event*. He will become fully spiritually mature when he arrives in Heaven. It takes time to grow spiritually just like it takes time to grow physically.

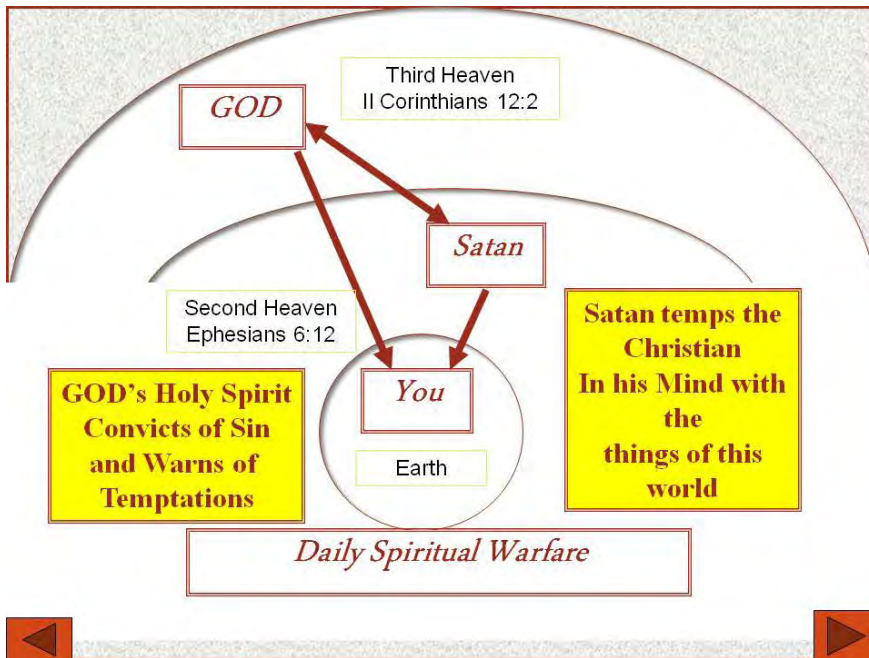
A physical baby is dependent on others to feed him, clothe him and teach him to

walk and talk. With time the baby matures into an adult person. The same is true of a spiritual baby. If left to his own devices, the spiritual babe will remain a baby. He will not mature. He must be enrolled as a disciple of Christ to grow.

This chart is also used to summarize the way humans function. The bar across the center represents a person. The Soul is in the center of the bar with Spirit on the left and Body on the right. Each person uses the Will at the Soul level to choose



at which end of the bar he will live. Some make decisions as Carnal Christians and others as Spiritual Christians. God can only relate to the Spirit. All Christians are saved to serve God. No Christian serves to be saved. Service follows salvation. Those service deeds performed in the Spirit will be counted as Gold, Silver and Precious Stones when tested by fire at the time of Judgment. In other words, they will survive and result in rewards in Heaven. Those service deeds performed in the Carnal flesh will be counted as hay, wood and stubble and will NOT survive the test of fire at Judgment. They will

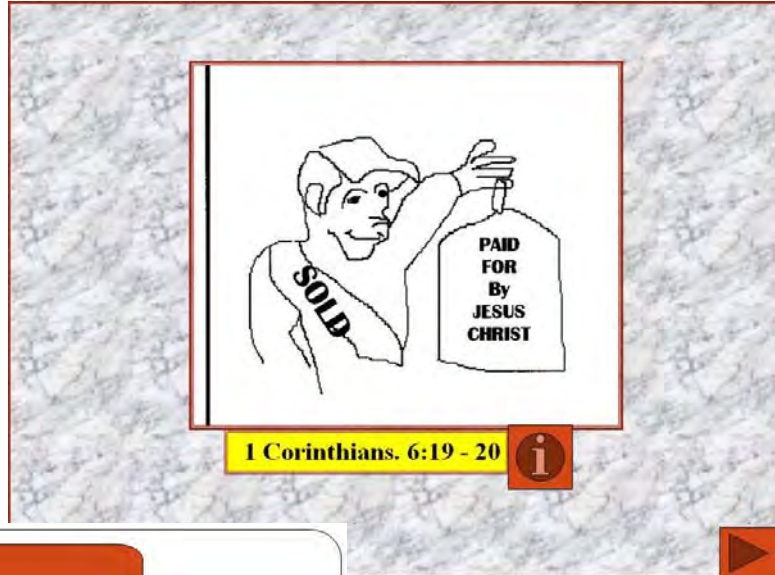


count as nothing according to I Corinthians 3:8 – 15. This scripture also points out that a man's work has nothing to do with his salvation; only the rewards he will receive in Heaven.

As mentioned in the chapter about Angels, Satan is an enemy of God and spiritual warfare is still going on today. Whereas the principle struggle is between God and

Satan, the Christian gets caught up in the warfare too. The Christian is not immune to tough times and struggles while living in this world.

There are two spiritual entities providing suggestive thoughts to the Christian. The Holy Spirit guides the Christian in a life of righteousness and godliness. Satan offers



1 Corinthians. 6:19 - 20



1 Cor. 6

1 Corinthians 6: 19 - 20

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

U

tempting thoughts to lure him away from righteousness and godliness. The tough part of this struggle is that the Christian must discern who to listen to. He can quench the urging of the Holy Spirit since God does not force him to be obedient. Though a Christian, he can respond to the tempting suggestions of Satan. The Christian should remember that he will be held accountable for his choices.

The way to develop Godly discernment is through daily prayer and Bible study. The spiritually mature Christian gladly seeks the Lordship of Jesus and lives a life with full awareness that he has sold out to Him. He has sacrificed self and lives in close fellowship with God and other people.

Following the session on Mankind purposefully



God wants us to Grow Up!
Feed upon His Word.
Commune with Him

perform a kind deed for someone in your neighborhood. Continue daily Bible reading and prayer; Confess known sin in your life; selfishness, judging others, pride, lust, etc. Ask His help in overcoming your sins (This is a prayer of confession.)