

LESSON 2

“Three Lives”



READING ASSIGNMENT

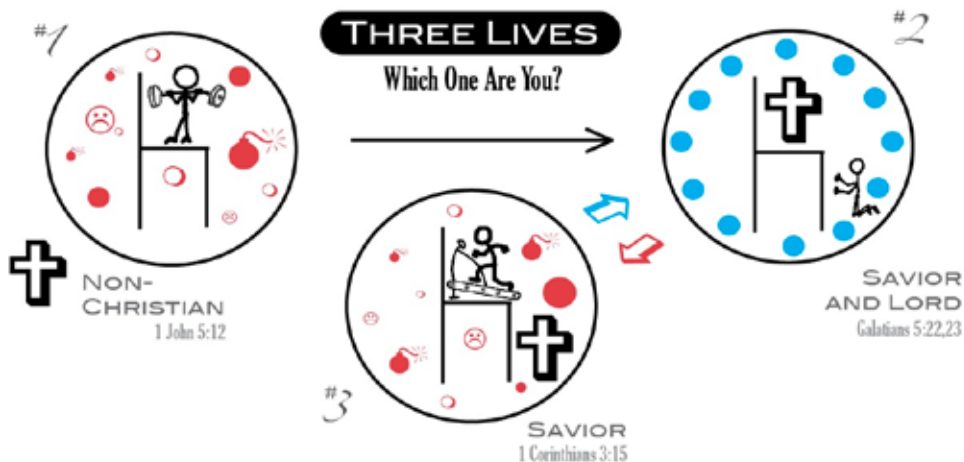


In order to learn from this study, you need to be walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. That's a phrase you may or may not have heard before. If you haven't heard of it,

it simply means that God needs to be in control of your life and that you are yielding to Him. To help you better understand this, and learn to walk in the power of God's Holy Spirit, we are going to be going over three lives in this lesson, the next lesson, and then in every lesson you do!

Below is a diagram of three lives. Each life represents a different type of person. Each day you start your Bible study, you are going to be asked "Which circle represents your life?" This is a part of the "repetition" talked about in Lesson 1, but it is also a challenge to you as a person to think through your life. If God is *not* in control of your life, odds are you aren't going to be learning the material.

This is not something we are asking you to do that we do not do ourselves. The simple concept shown in the circle diagram below has transformed our lives forever. We are so thankful for having been taught it while we were in college through the ministry of CRU, formerly Campus Crusade for Christ. Because it has been so foundational, we are teaching it to you as well.



Understanding the elements in the diagram for each life: ¹⁷

- Each circle represents a person's life.
- Each chair represents a "throne" which indicates who is in charge of the life.
- The colored icons represent what is going on in a person's life. Some people have "bombs" that are ready to explode in their lives. Some people have circumstances causing them to be unhappy. Life is full of events in each person's life.
- The cross represents Christ.

These three circles represent three types of lives in the world today.

Circle #1 represents the non-Christian life.

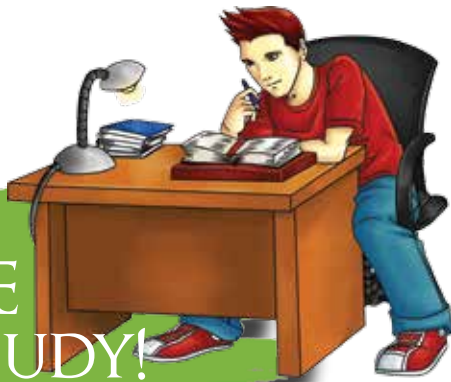
- "Self" is on the throne and thinks he/she is strong and can live life in his/her own power and strength.
- Christ is outside the life and has never been invited in.
- His/her life is out of balance.

Circle #2 represents a Christian life where Christ is both Savior and Lord.

- Christ is on the throne and in control of a person's life. Because of this, things are "pretty much in order."
- "Self" is off the throne and has not only yielded to Christ, but worships Christ.
- His/her life is pretty much in balance as he/she trusts God each and every day to guide them.

Circle #3 represents a "Carnal Christian" life where Christ is his/her Savior, but not their Lord. This is where *90%* of most Christians live.

- They have invited Christ into their lives.
- Christ is not on the throne of their lives, they are.
- Christ is taking a "back seat." They know Him as their Savior, but not their Lord.
- Their lives are out of balance as well.



BIBLE STUDY!

1. Write why you think 1 John 5:12 is used as a reference verse for life #1.

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2. Write why you think Galatians 5:22,23 is used as a reference verse for circle #2?

19

3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. The foundation Paul is talking about is Christ. As we live for Christ, there are two types of ways we can live for Him. One is with gold, precious stones and silver, or the other is with wood, hay or straw. Which circle represents gold, precious stones and silver, and which circle represents wood, hay or straw?

Wood, hay and straw represented by Circle # _____ .²⁰

Gold, silver and precious stones represented by Circle # _____ .²¹

4. What do you think “the Day” (NIV verse 13) is referring to?

22

5. How does 2 Corinthians 5:10 agree or disagree with “the Day” Paul is referencing in 1 Corinthians 3:13?

23

6. Circle which activities you think represent “wood, hay and straw.”

- A. Watching TV
- B. Playing video games
- C. Studying God’s Word
- D. Feeding the poor
- E. Doing chores ²⁴



7. Do you think Christians will get rewards based on “wood, hay or straw?”

25

8. Do you think Christians will get rewards based on “gold, precious stones and silver?”

26

9. Write why you think 1 Corinthians 3:15 is used as a reference verse for life #3?

27

The following question will be asked to you each time you open up this study (so get used to it! :) Which circle best represents your life **right now?** Check One:

Non-Christian
1 John 5:12

Savior and Lord
Galations 5: 22-23

Savior
1 Corinthians 3:15

Go to the parent who is homeschooling you (or follow your teacher’s directions) and without this curriculum, draw the three circles and explain to them what they mean. Place a check mark when this has been done. (Your parent/teacher will check up on you with this assignment.)

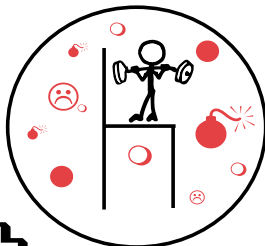


Yes, I did this! 28

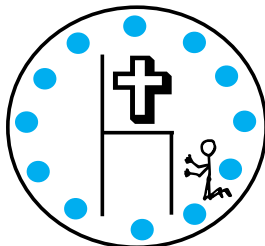


LESSON 3

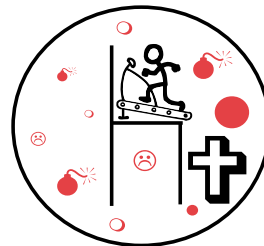
CHECK WHICH CIRCLE BEST REPRESENTS YOUR LIFE TODAY:



Non-Christian
1 John 5:12



Savior and Lord
Galations 5: 22-23



Savior
1 Corinthians 3:15



READING ASSIGNMENT



Living in life #2 becomes easier and easier the more you live in it. But for many, starting off in it is very difficult. This is because living a perfect life is impossible. Only

Jesus has done it. And because of our old nature, we sin. We are going to define “sinning” as taking back control of the throne of our lives. When we do this, we move from life #2 to life #3.

What does this “sinning” look like? Well, it is **doing something we know we should not do**. Circle the following items that you know would be sinning (as described above.)

- A. Having a quiet time.
- B. Talking back to your parents.
- C. Hitting a sibling.
- D. Lying to a friend.
- E. Being jealous of someone else’s success.
- F. Reading the Bible.
- G. Speaking poorly about one friend to another friend.
- H. Getting angry at your parents because they want you to do your chores.
- I. Purposefully missing your chores. ²⁹

There are a couple of key points we’d like to highlight in **moving from life #2 (the Spirit Filled life) to life #3 (the Carnal Life.)**

First, it is doing something you know you should not do. You know it is wrong to hit a sibling. You know it is wrong to talk back to your parents. You know it is wrong to lie. And if you do what you know is wrong and yet still do it, you are taking back control of the throne of your life and moving to life #3.

In the options above we talked about “purposefully” missing your chores. Why did we put the word “purposefully” in there? Because sometimes you forget to do them, but you were not purposefully forgetting them. It just happened because you forgot! This is not sin. (It should be worked on, but it is not sin.)



The best way I had all of this sin described to me was in what was called the “iceberg” theory. Look at the iceberg below.



10% of the iceberg is above the water. This 10% is what the Holy Spirit has allowed us to understand and know what is “right and wrong.” (You know hitting your sibling is wrong. That is in the 10% area. You know lying is wrong. That is in the 10% area. You know stealing is wrong. That is the 10% area.)

But there is another 90%. This represents things we do that are

sinful, but we are unaware of it. For someone, it could be watching too much T.V. For another it could be playing video games for too long. For another, it could be having an addiction to Social Media. But because the Spirit of God hasn’t convicted them of this yet, it is a part of the 90%. To them, it is not sin. God is basically saying, “You’re not ready to know this yet. As a result, I’m not going to make you aware of it so you don’t freak out each time you do it! For you right now, it is not sin.” (Though for someone else, it might be.) It moves from the 90% to the 10% once you are convicted of it. Then the Holy Spirit lets you know that it is wrong.

Explain how James 4:16,17 agrees or disagrees with this.

30

Explain how Luke 12:47,48 agrees or disagrees with this.

31

We move from life #2 (the Spirit Filled Life) to life #3 (the Carnal Life) by doing something you know is wrong (something in the 10% area.) So, the next time you lie, the next time you steal something, the next time you hit your sibling and you know it is wrong, you have “successfully” moved back on the throne of your life. You are now in control of your life.

The question is, how do we move from life #3 (the Carnal Life) back to life #2 (the Spirit Filled Life?)

Moving from life #3 to life #2 is actually quite easy and can be done in a matter of seconds. You practice something called “*Spiritual Breathing!*” Spiritual Breathing is based on exhaling and inhaling.

Exhale: In the exhale part of *Spiritual Breathing*, you are physically exhaling and in that moment, you are confessing your sin. While letting air out, you say, “Lord, I know that what I did was wrong. Please forgive me.”

When we ask for forgiveness, God does forgive us. How do we know? Because of 1 John 1:9. Look it up and answer the questions below:

1. What is the first step of 1 John 1:9?

_____ 32

2. Why do you think the word “faithful” is in there?

_____ 33

3. Why is He also just?

_____ 34

4. After confessing our sins, the text says that God will do two things. What are these?

A. _____

B. _____ 35

5. Though “forgiveness” and “cleansing” may sound similar in 1 John 1:9, they are very different. When God speaks about forgiving us our sins, which part of the

iceberg do you think he is talking about? (Hint, if you are confessing it, you already know about it.)

Circle One: 10% 90% ³⁶

God is saying, “If you confess your sins—that which you know you did wrong (in the 10%)—I am going to forgive you of that. But there is a lot more sin in the 90% that you are not aware of that you are doing and I want you to know that I forgive that as well.” This is where God takes it one step further by saying, “and cleanse you from all unrighteousness.” This is a cleansing of all of the things we didn’t know we had done in the 90% that were wrong.

6. Write in your own words what he is referencing regarding the 90%.

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Inhale: Now that you have “Exhaled” and confessed your sin and been forgiven, “Inhaling” is then saying to God, “Now that I have confessed and been forgiven, I want to yield to you and give you back control of my life.”

7. In Ephesians 5:17,18 it says to “not be unwise, but know what the will of the Lord is.” It then says to not get drunk. If it ended there, the command would be simple. “Don’t get drunk.” But it goes on from there, so it is not merely saying, “Don’t get drunk” but it is also communicating that there is a parallel here. What happens to the personality of an individual when they are drunk?

38

8. After saying, “Don’t get drunk,” it then tells you to be “filled with the Spirit.” Just as an individual’s personality changes when they are drunk, what happens to an individual’s personality when they are filled with the Spirit?

39

Being “filled with the Spirit” is what we are calling “putting Christ back on the throne of our lives.” As one student put in during our beta-test review, “Get high on God, not alcohol!” (It isn’t actually Christ Himself, but rather His Holy Spirit that will guide us and control us. It is His Spirit that lives inside of us. Jesus is seated right next to God the Father who is on His throne.)

The entire *Spiritual Breathing* process can be done in a matter of seconds. Right when you know you've done something wrong, you can spiritually breathe. And then in moments, the Holy Spirit can be in control of your life. You only have to live in life #3 (the Carnal Life) for a matter of seconds. The majority of your life can be lived in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Train Diagram



The above train diagram (originally taught to Debby and me by Campus Crusade for Christ when we were college students) illustrates how you *know* you can be walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the question I get asked the most, “How do I really know I am Spirit-filled?”

For the purpose of answering the previous question, let's learn how this “diagram train runs.” The coal car puts coal into the engine to heat up the water to make steam, which powers the engine. The engine then pulls both the coal car and the caboose. The train can run with or without the caboose, but it cannot run without the coal car.

The “engine” is labeled “Fact.” This represents the Word of God. The “coal car” is labeled “Faith,” and the “caboose” is labeled “Feelings.”

This helps us understand that we are to put our “faith” (coal) in God's Word (the engine). When we put our faith in God's Word, the train runs and our lives will run much more smoothly. As we do this, our feelings may come with us (great joy), but they may not come (we may still feel “without God” or “guilty.”)

Either way it doesn't matter, the train (our lives) are running the way they should. God will be in control of our lives because we asked Him for something we know He wants for us: to be “filled with the Spirit.”

Many Christians worry about how they “feel.” “Do I feel like God is answering my prayers? Do I feel close to God? Do I feel like God is in charge.” If they don't feel God's closeness, they assume God is not in control. This is not necessarily the case. If they have confessed their sins and asked God to forgive them and yielded back control of their lives to Christ, then God is on the throne of their lives (sitting on the throne), whether they feel it or not.

In **1 John 5:14,15**, we read these words, “This is the confidence we have in



approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” In applying this passage to *Spiritual Breathing* (specifically the “Inhaling Part”), answer the following questions.

1. What does the text say we can have in approaching God?

_____ 40

2. Is asking Him to fill us (take control of our lives) according to His will?

Circle One: Yes No ⁴¹

3. If we know it is His will, the text clearly says “God hears us.” And if we know that He hears us, what else do we know?

_____ 42

4. Would God ever give a promise like 1 John 5:14,15, then hear us ask Him to fill us, and then say, “Well, I really don’t feel like it today, sorry.”

Circle One: Yes No ⁴³

5. Write out what guarantee you have regarding the “Inhaling” part of *Spiritual Breathing*.

_____ 44

I have taught this principle to many people. And after they pray to ask God to take back control of their lives, I ask them, “How you do know you are filled with the Holy Spirit?”

They usually respond, “I don’t know, I don’t feel any different.” They are looking for a feeling, but it isn’t there. They aren’t suppose to “feel” God, they are to be assured by faith. So I walk them back referencing their faith and the train analogy and **1 John 5:14,15**. Then I ask them again. If they still aren’t sure, I go through it all again. I know when they have finally gotten it when they say, “I know by faith and faith alone that He is in control of my life.” That’s when they are walking by faith in the power of the Holy Spirit and are pleasing to God. This is why **2 Corinthians 5:7** says, “We live by faith and not by sight” (feelings).

There is the story of a couple in church that were given an altar call to be filled with the Spirit. As the wife saw her husband walk up front, she yelled, “Don’t do it Lord, he leaks!”

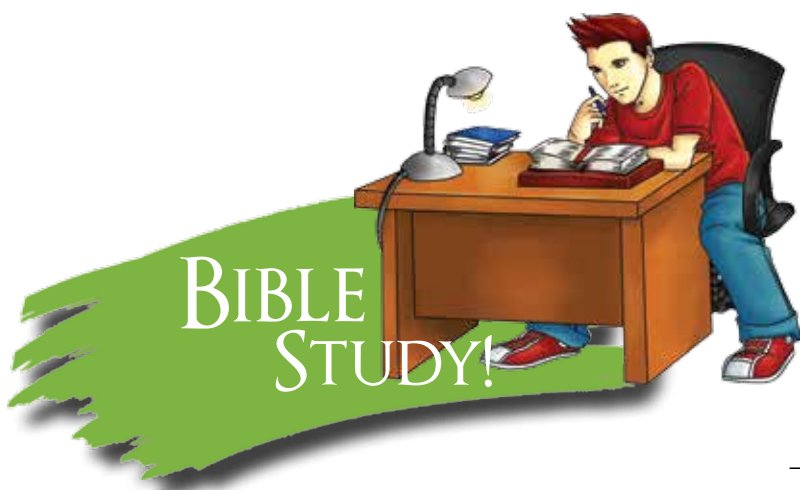
We all “leak.” We all have an old nature that wants to take back control of our lives.

But the beauty is that when it does, we can confess it and give back control immediately to God. Some people breathe spiritually multiple times a day. Others, multiple times in a week. Others, a few times a month. The more you learn to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, the less you'll find yourself having to spiritually breathe because you are learning more and more of how to give God control of your life.

When I (Debby) was 13 years old, I use to save up all my sins and confess them at the end of the night. I had no idea that I didn't need to carry those sins the entire day and that I could confess them immediately.

You only need to be in circle #3 for a matter of seconds. Once you are convicted, you can confess your sins and ask God to take back control of your life immediately!

Please note one clarification! In our beta-test one student asked, "Is life #3 the Cat?" Great question! No. Circle 3 is not necessarily a Cat Christian. A Cat Christian can be life 2 or 3. You can have Christ as Lord of your life, and be pursuing God, and what you are pursuing is not incorrect, but incomplete. This can be a Cat in circle #2.



1. Read Revelation 3:14-22.
2. Write down what you think the words "hot" and "cold" mean.

Hot:

45

Cold: _____

46



3. What would a Christian’s life look like if they were “lukewarm?”

_____ 47

4. What does God say He wants to do with lukewarm Christians?

_____ 48

5. These people not only had all of their needs met, but were rich in the world’s eyes. Though they were rich, God calls them _____,

_____, _____, _____ and _____.
49

6. In light of the statistics that you looked at earlier in Lesson One (pg. 3), how do you think this could apply to the American church?

_____ 50

7. Circle the following lessons we can learn from this passage:

- A. God isn’t impressed at all with those who are “playing the game of Christianity” but don’t really love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.
- B. God wants us passionate about Him, not just “kinda excited” about Him.
- C. God can get sick.
- D. Having our physical needs met generously can really blind us to our spiritual needs. ⁵¹