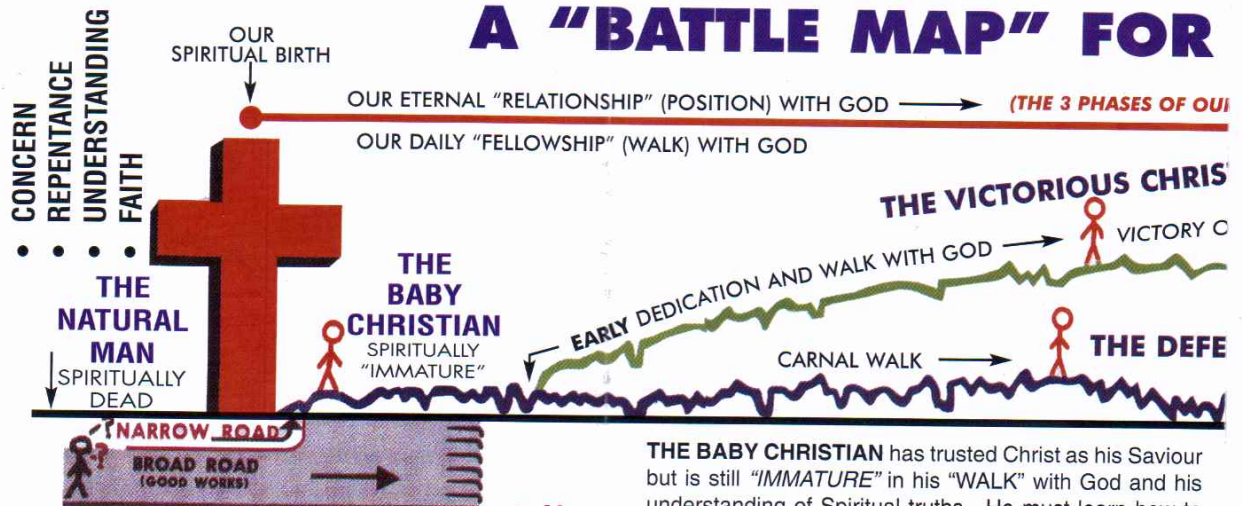


A "BATTLE MAP" FOR



The **NATURAL (unsaved) man** CAN NOT live a Christian life because he is DEAD in sin. Most people are NATURAL (unsaved) and on the BROAD ROAD to destruction. They are trusting their good works to earn their salvation. In contrast, few people take the NARROW ROAD. This is FAITH IN THE SHED BLOOD (DEATH) OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS as the ONLY payment for their sins. Salvation is not even by a "combination of faith in Christ and good works." It must be by FAITH IN CHRIST ALONE! Good works should follow as our "thank you" to God for our salvation (1 Cor. 2:14; Matt. 7:13, 14, 21-23; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19; Eph. 2:8-10).

When we trust Christ ALONE as our Saviour, we are God's "children" by spiritual birth. This establishes our eternal "RELATIONSHIP" with God which is permanently guaranteed by God's written Word. Christ is our Saviour FOREVER (Gal. 3:26; John 5:24; Heb. 13:5).

In addition to saving us from the "penalty" of sin (the Lake of Fire), God also wants to save us from the "power" of sin in our present daily life. Our life, after we trust Christ as our Saviour, can be a daily "WALK" with God. Every day can be OVERFLOWING with the "JOY THAT JESUS GIVES." Satan will fight our daily "WALK" with God to steal this JOY. This study explains that "BATTLE" and is a "MAP" for our victory (John 10:10; 15:7-11).

The **BABY CHRISTIAN** has trusted Christ as his Saviour but is still "IMMATURE" in his "WALK" with God and his understanding of Spiritual truths. He must learn how to WALK BY FEEDING HIMSELF from the Bible, God's Word. All new Christians are "BABES" at birth which is normal. However, to REMAIN a "BABE," beyond the normal time of "BABYHOOD" will lead to a CARNAL WALK AND DEFEATED LIFE (1 Cor. 3:1-3).

Maximum JOY, PURPOSE and FULFILLMENT in life comes to the child of God only as he GROWS from "Spiritual Immaturity" (Babyhood) toward "Christ-likeness." This is God's goal for us. "Spiritual growth" is a gradual development just like "physical growth." As a "BABE," we should desire the "milk" of God's Word (simple truths). Then, as we grow we CAN take on a diet of the "strong meat" (deep truths) (Rom. 8:29; 1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:13, 14).

The "WISE" baby Christian will make an "EARLY DEDICATION" of his LIFE to Christ. As he had previously committed his soul to Christ, trusting Him as Saviour, he will also YIELD his LIFE to Christ, trusting Him as LORD (ruler). The "WISE" baby Christian will want God's very best for his life. Therefore, he will PRESENT HIS BODY to God for His use and glory, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER SALVATION. To make the most of his life, he will immediately seek to understand and obey the will of the Lord for his life from God's Word. The indwelling Holy Spirit can then fill (control) his life (Rom. 6:13; 12:1, 2; Eph. 5:15-20).

THE GOAL: Our growth toward Christ-likeness.

THE METHOD: Learning and obeying God's Word.

THE RESULTS: Our joy and God's glory.

THE CHRISTIAN WALK

2 SALVATION) 1. JUSTIFICATION: Salvation from the PENALTY of sin (past)



THE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN has trusted Christ as Saviour AND "LORD" (ruler). His WALK with God is growing from IMMATURETY TOWARD CHRIST-LIKE-NESS. The victorious Christian learns and claims the promises of God's Word for VICTORY over sin and Satan. His life will "SPARKLE WITH EXCITEMENT AND JOY UNSPEAKABLE" as he EXPERIENCES this victory (Rom. 6:17, 18; John 13:17; 1 Pet. 1:8).

We will all have "BATTLES" with the "WORLD," the "FLESH" and the "DEVIL". Here is how we can gain the victory!

THE "WORLD": We can overcome the world by a strong faith, which comes from knowing and believing God's Word (1 John 5:4; Rom. 10:17).

THE "FLESH": We should recognize the fact that our OLD SIN NATURE WAS CRUCIFIED with Christ on the cross and we need not be a slave to sin (Rom. 6:6; 11-13; Gal. 2:20; 5:16, 24).

THE "DEVIL": We should realize that the Holy Spirit lives in ALL of God's children and is MORE POWERFUL than Satan! Therefore, we can RESIST the devil and God says he will flee! (1 John 4:4; Eph. 6:10, 11; 1 Pet. 5:8, 9; James 4:7).

Just think, — YOU AND I CAN actually know, live harmoniously, and have daily fellowship with the God of the Universe and His Son, Jesus Christ! WE CAN have a fruitful life for His glory as we "walk worthy of the Lord" and "grow up into Christ in all things." This would allow God to give us HIS BEST in "all areas" of our lives — our home, school, church and social life, our love, marriage, sex and family life, our military, college, work and financial life (1 John 1:3, 4; Col. 1:10; Eph. 4:11-15).

THE DEFEATED CHRISTIAN has trusted Christ as Saviour, but he is NOT ALLOWING Christ to be the "LORD" (ruler) of his life. He is remaining Spiritually "immature". His daily WALK is CARNAL (fleshly) and controlled by his old sin nature. His diet has not progressed from MILK to MEAT Bible truths (1 Cor. 3:2, 3; Heb. 5:12).

The religious life of the carnal Christian is shallow and self-centered! Satan USES carnal Christians to bring division and confusion into the church to ruin its testimony of love and unity (1 Cor. 3:3, 4; 14:33; Eph. 4:1-3).

The defeated Christian has little (if any) genuine, lasting JOY. His life is empty of real PURPOSE and FULFILLMENT. He is a "SLAVE" to his sinful desires and habits. He is a DELIGHT to the devil, but he GRIEVES the Holy Spirit of God, within him (Rom. 6:12; Eph. 4:30).

A "delayed dedication" and WALK WITH the Lord would bring SOME growth, joy and fruitfulness for God's glory. However, the more delay, the more loss and shame for the carnal Christian both now and when he meets Christ face to face (Rom. 14:12; 1 Cor. 3:13-15; 1 John 2:28).

WHICH REPRESENTS YOUR PRESENT LIFE?

(Check one)

1. NATURAL (unsaved, trusting good works) _____
2. BABY (saved, but immature) _____
3. VICTORIOUS (saved, growing and fruitful) _____
4. DEFEATED (saved, but not victorious) _____