



Senior Adult Community
Grace Fellowship Church

SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Differing Beliefs in the Local Church

SESSION 7 How Does a Believer Grow Spiritually?

REVIEW & REMINDERS



CLASS SESSIONS

1. How do we interpret the Bible?
2. What is God's role in salvation?
3. How do we find salvation?
4. How can I be sure of my salvation?



CLASS SESSIONS

5. What are Covenant theology distinctives?
6. What are Dispensational theology distinctives?
- 7. How does a believer grow spiritually?**
8. Summary & Discussion





Arminian
Weslyan

CHARLES WESLEY

Love divine, all **loves** excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy **faithful mercies** crown!
Jesus, Thou art **all compassion**,
Pure **unbounded love** Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit,
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find that promised rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.



Calvinism
Anglican

AUGUSTUS TOPLADY

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin **the double cure**,
Save me from its **guilt and power**.

Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All could never sin erase,
Thou must save, and save by grace.
Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling.



SESSION 7
HOW DOES A BELIEVER
GROW SPIRITUALLY?



SANCTIFICATION

Sanctify literally means "**to set apart** for special use," to make holy or sacred.

Sanctification refers to **the process of being made holy**, as a vessel, full of the Holy Spirit of God. It is the change into holiness brought about by God in a believer, begun at salvation and continuing throughout the life of the believer.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS NOT AUTOMATIC

I was a Christian for 22 years,
but instead of being a 22-year-old Christian,
I was a one-year-old Christian 22 times!

Peter Scazzero



FIRST QUESTION: **WHY** GROW
– WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL IT MAKE?

#1 Growth is the path to the Abundant Life

I came so that they would have life,
and have it abundantly. John 10:10

For whoever wants to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for My sake, this is the
one who will save it. Luke 9:24



FIRST QUESTION: **WHY** GROW
– WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL IT MAKE?

#2 Growth is the path to God's Rewards

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body. 2 Corinthians 5:10

Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to reward each one as his work deserves. Revelation 22:12



FIRST QUESTION: **WHY** GROW
– WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL IT MAKE?

#3 Growth is the path to Pleasing God

His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master.' Matthew 25:23



FIRST QUESTION: **WHY** GROW
– WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL IT MAKE?

#4 Growth is the path to Becoming Christlike

...for the building up of the body of Christ;
until we all attain to the unity of the faith,
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to a mature man, to the measure of the stature
which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:13



HOW DOES GROWTH HAPPEN?

COMMON ANSWERS

- Try Harder
- Trust and Obey
- Let go and Let God
- Be baptized by the Holy Spirit
- Speak in Tongues
- Study the Bible
- Pray a lot
- Give your life to God
- Isolate from the World
- Rededicate yourself



PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION

Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation. 1 Peter 2:2

As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted, now being built up in Him and established in your faith. Colossians 2:7



PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work among you will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus.

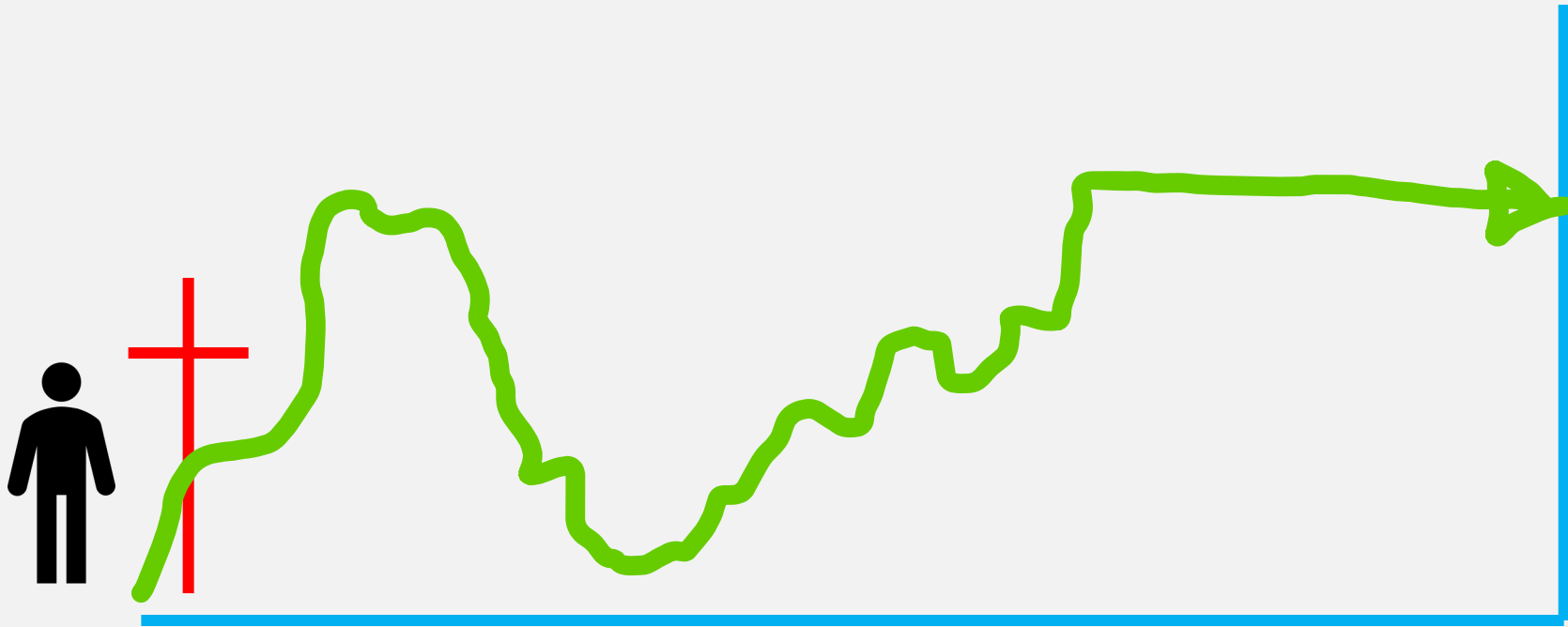
Philippians 1:6

...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure.

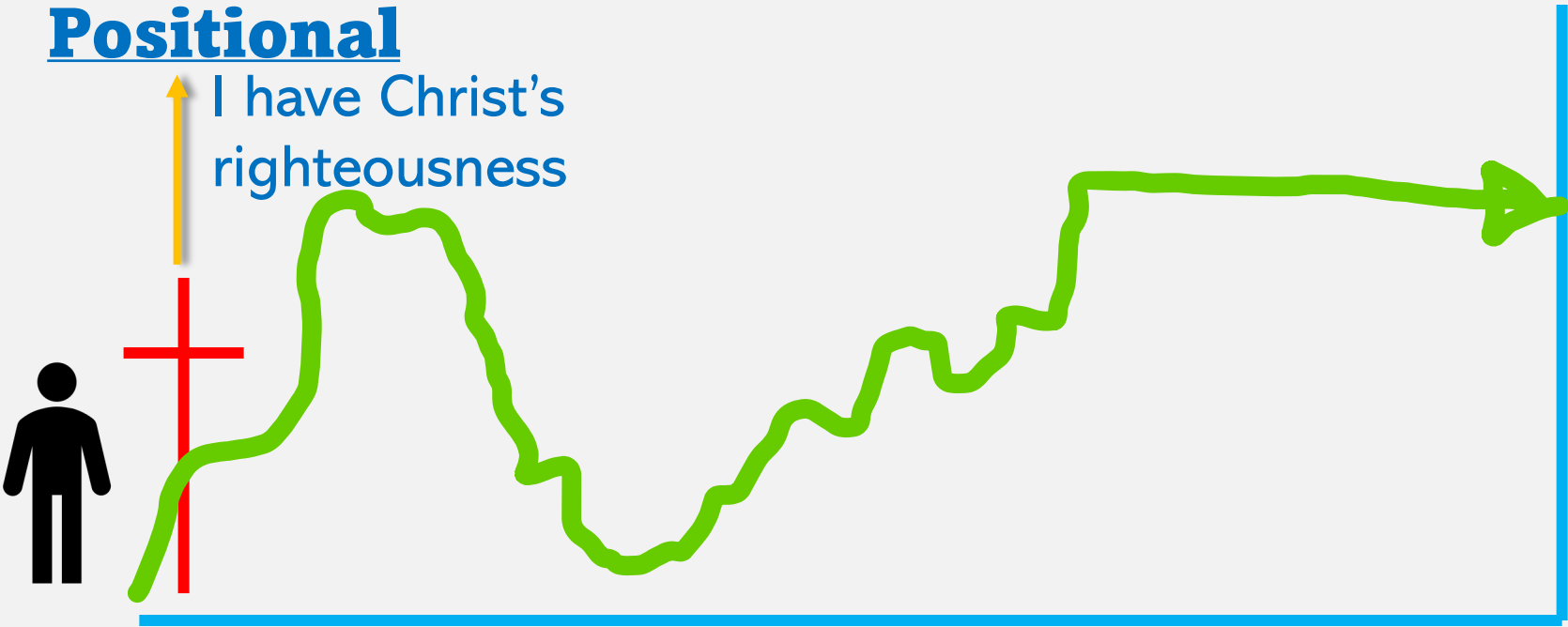
Philippians 2:12-13



BIBLICAL SANCTIFICATION



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APPROACHES TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The Try Harder Pattern



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The Try Harder Pattern

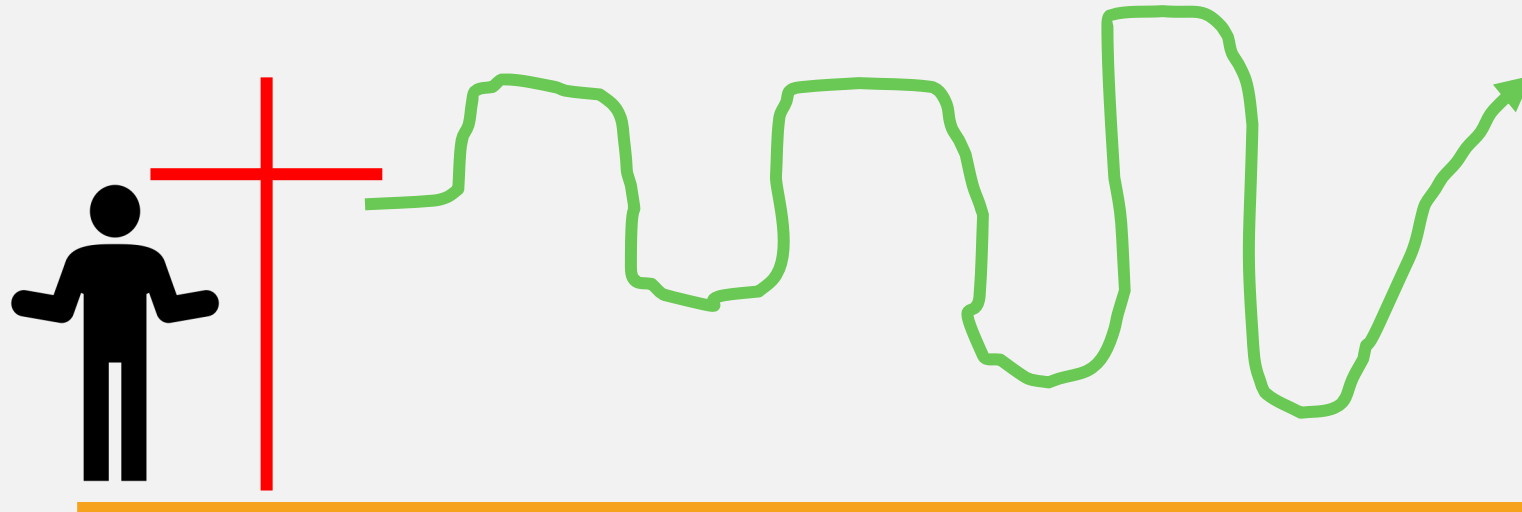
Philippians 2:12

So then, my beloved, **just as you have always obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling



APPROACHES TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The Rededication-Revival Pattern



APPROACHES TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The Rededication-Revival Pattern

Ephesians 4: 22-24

... you are to **rid yourselves of the old self**
... and you are to be renewed in the spirit of your
minds, and to **put on the new self.**



APPROACHES TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

**The Key: Secret knowledge
or Special Experience**



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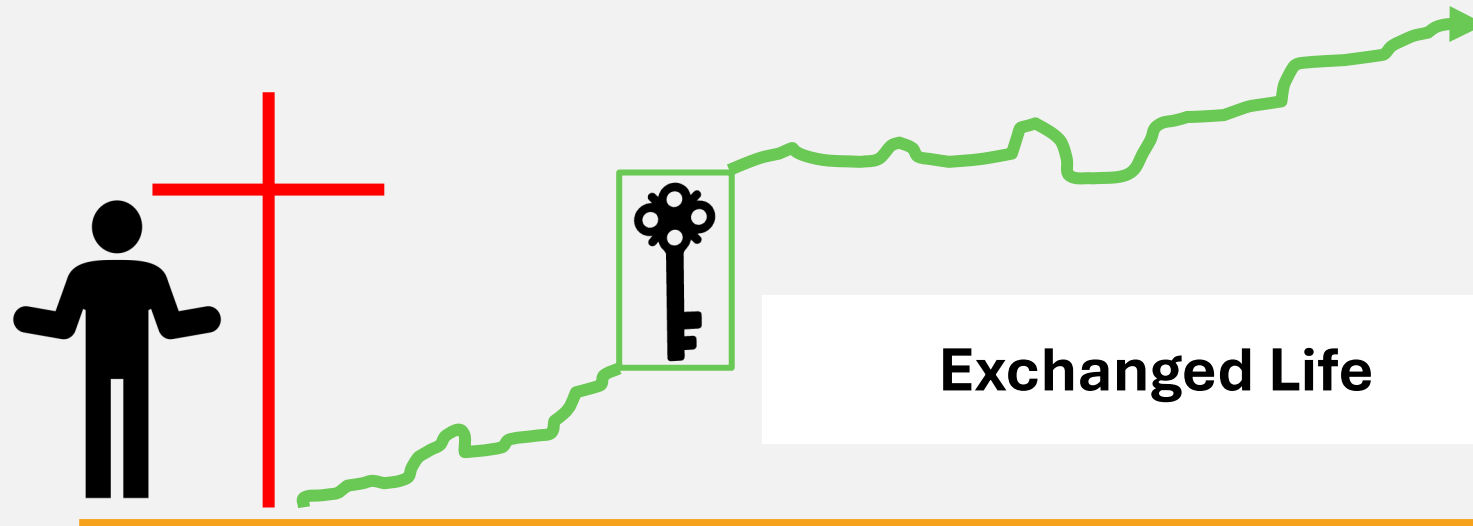
**Spirit
Baptism**

Acts 8:16-17 These people had been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, but **the Holy Spirit** had not yet come down on any of them. This is why Peter and John prayed. When the two apostles laid their hands on the people, they **received the Holy Spirit..**



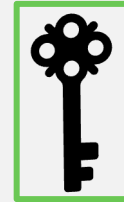
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**Exchanged
Life**

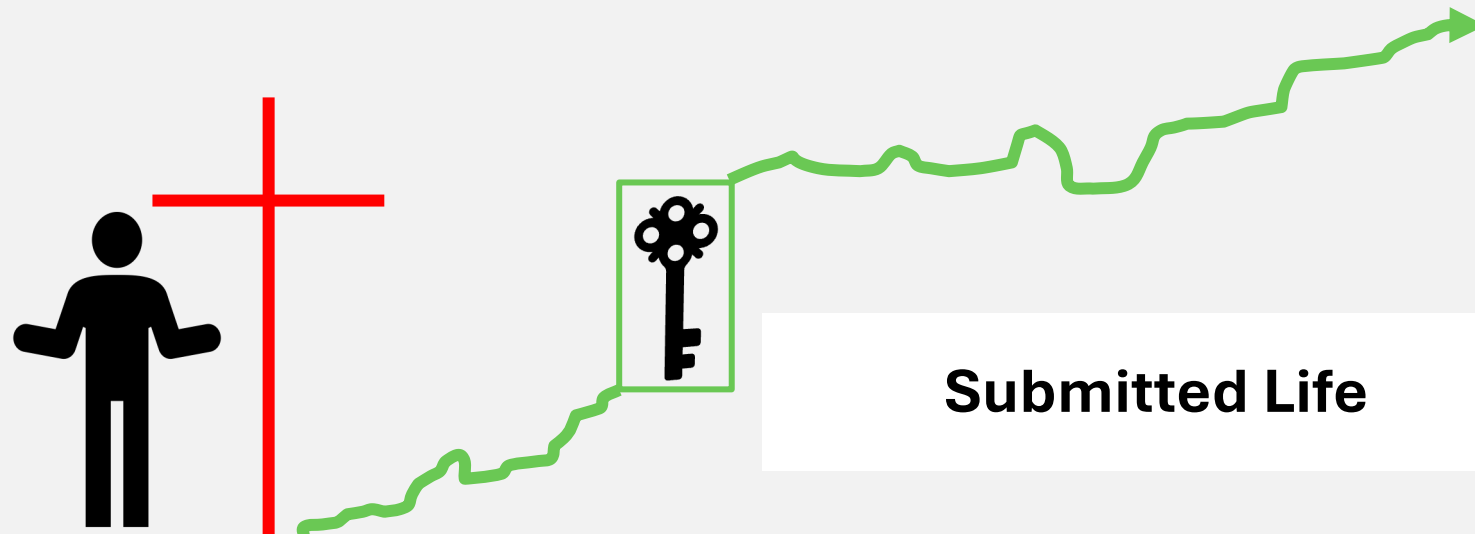
Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; and **it is no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.



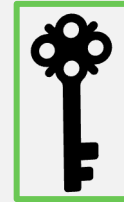
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**Submitted
Life**

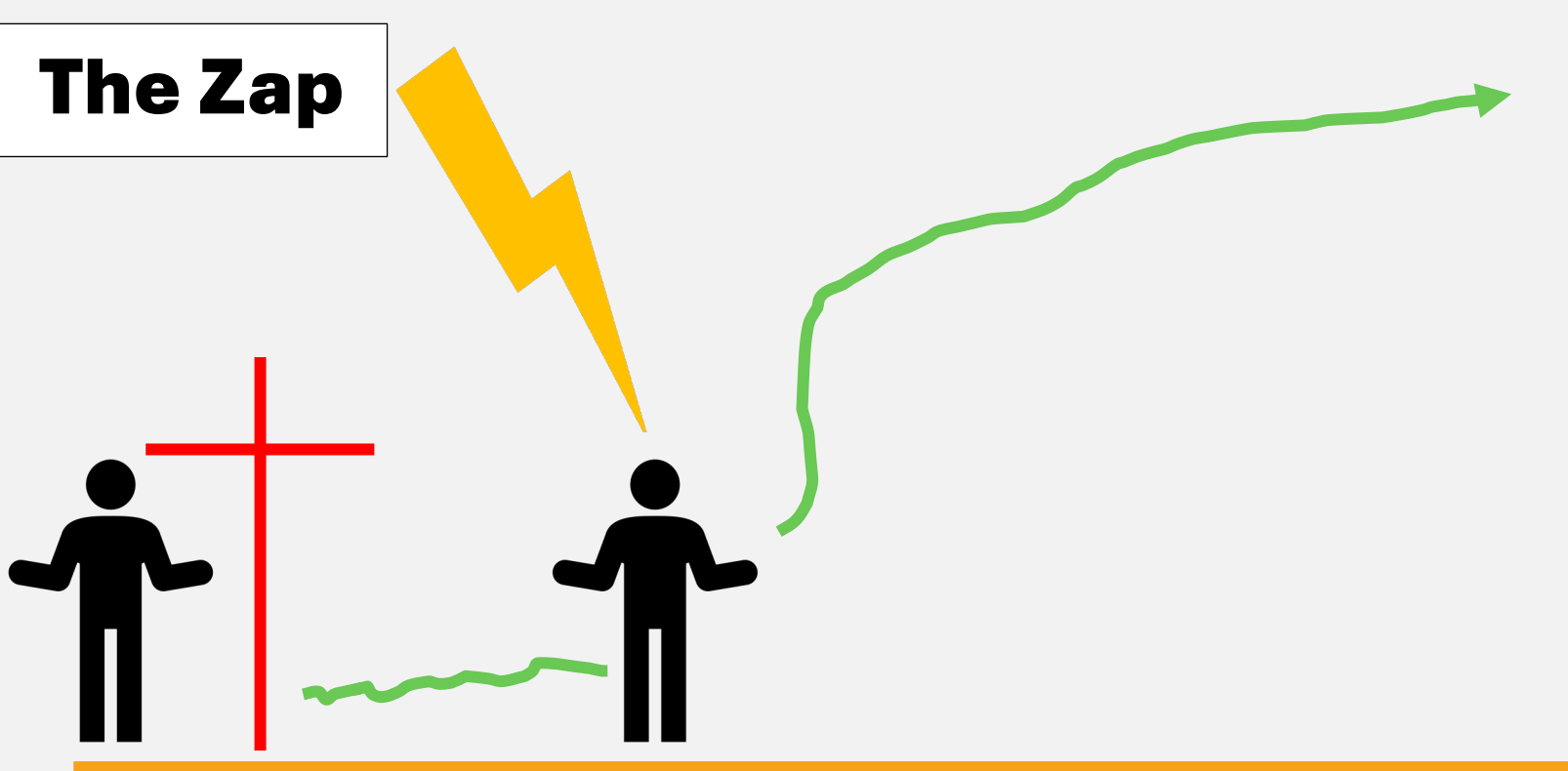
Romans 6:16

Don't you realize that you become the slave of **whatever you choose to obey?** You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.



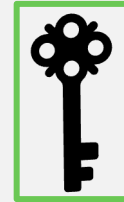
APPROACHES TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The Zap



APPROACHES TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

**The Key: Secret knowledge
or Special Experience**



**The
Zap!**

Acts 9:3-5

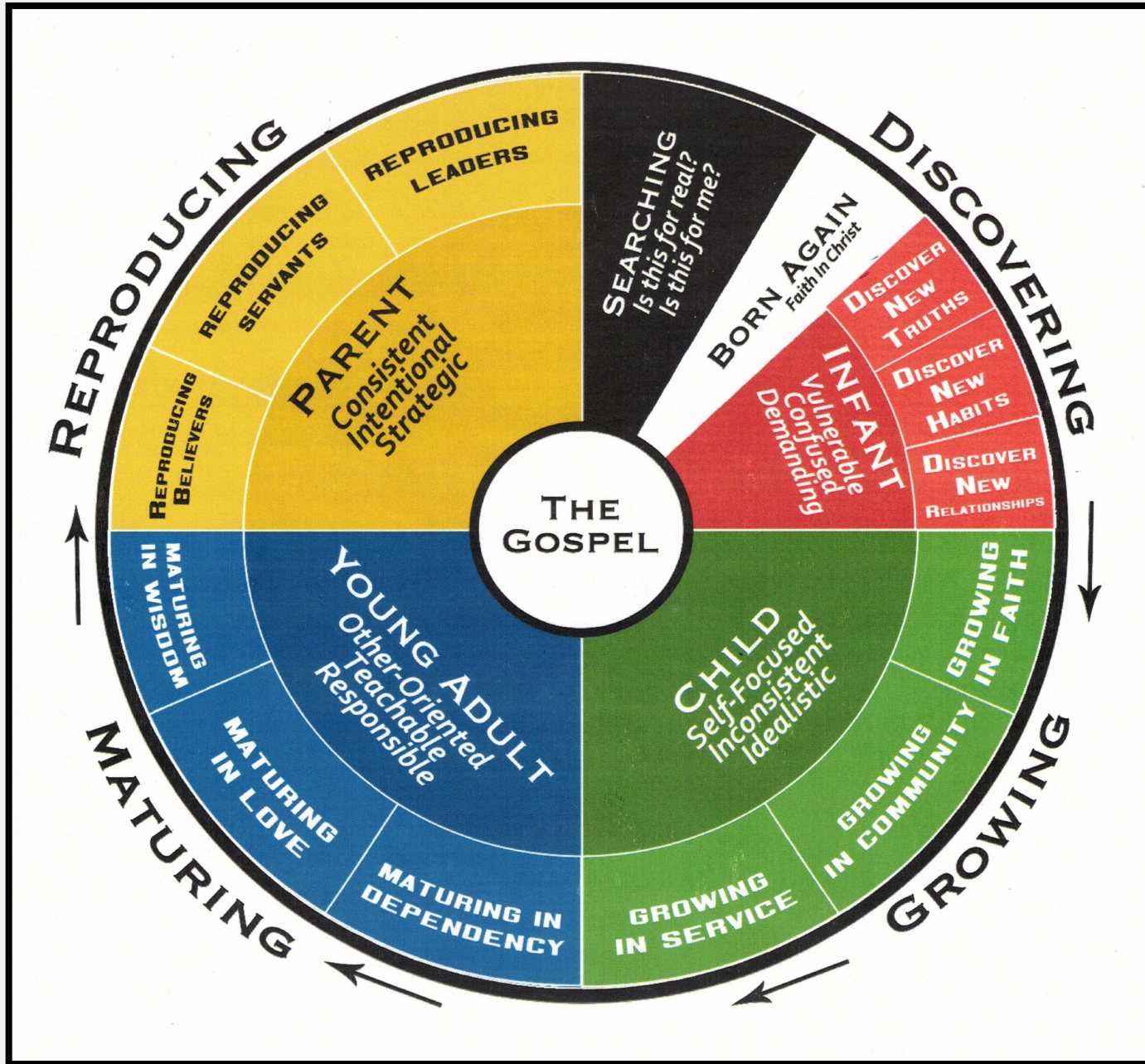
...suddenly **a light from heaven flashed** around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who are You, Lord?”



FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- Spiritual Growth is a Command.
- Spiritual Growth is a Process.
- Spiritual Growth is a Lifestyle
- Spiritual Growth is Intentional.





I THESSALONIANS 1:11

So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call.

May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.

REFLECTIONS

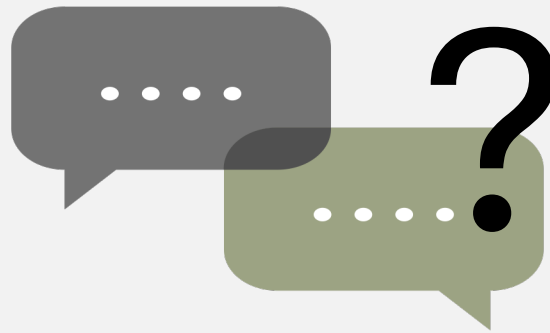


NEXT WEEK – SESSION 8

Summary and Dialog



QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION



THE END OF SESSION 7

