

spiritualdirection

Matt 28:19 -20 NLT 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

How We Approach "Spiritual Direction"

(by Michele Oakland and Fred Nelson)

- Step #1 - we discuss what it means to "be saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit" (Spiritual Checkup page)**
- Step #2 - we secure an agreement that loving and obeying God will be their primary goal in life**
- Step #3 - we secure an agreement that the person wants *our* help in achieving the above goal**
- Step #4 - through discussion, prayer, and study of the Scriptures we help them discover and acknowledge the specific sins that have caused their pain and/or relational problems (*helping the person determine how and why a sin entered their life is often productive*)**
- Step #5 - we encourage them to *confess* their sins and *repent* (Repentance pages)**
- Step #6 - we encourage them to systematically *forgive* those who have hurt or offended them (Forgiveness by Foster)**
- Step #7 - we teach them the importance of the "spiritual triangle" of Bible study, listening prayer, and intimate fellowship with other believers. We strongly encourage small groups.**
- Step #8 - we instruct them regarding their new identity in Christ (My Identity in Christ pages)**
- Step #9 - we continue the discipleship process or pass them to another "1 Timothy 3 leader" who will do the same**

***It is important that we never put our new friend in a position where he is more worried about hurting our feelings than getting help for himself. (*Enabler - a person who provides *unhelpful help* with a good motive*)**

The Flesh Verses the Spirit

Our Goal - to help people understand and receive God's grace through Jesus Christ whereby they will gratefully comply to His teachings and enjoy and further His Kingdom.

Danger #1 - legalism (attempting to engender God's favor by the mere performance of acts and routines without true spiritual involvement)

Danger #2 - licentiousness (disregarding all moral restraint)

*** Both are examples of living according to the flesh.**

The Precarious Balance

SANCTIFICATION, SANCTIFY

A. Noun.

hagiasmos NT:38, "sanctification," is used of (a) separation to God, 1 Cor 1:30; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; (b) the course of life befitting those so separated, 1 Thess 4:3,4,7; Rom 6:19,22; 1 Tim 2:15; Heb 12:14. **"Sanctification is that relationship with God into which men enter by faith in Christ, Acts 26:18; 1 Cor 6:11, and to which their sole title is the death of Christ, Eph 5:25,26; Col 1:22; Heb 10:10,29; 13:12.**

"Sanctification is also used in NT of the separation of the believer from evil things and ways. This sanctification is God's will for the believer, 1 Thess 4:3, and His purpose in calling him by the gospel, v. 7; it must be learned from God, v. 4, as He teaches it by His Word, John 17:17,19, cf. Ps 17:4; 119:9, and it must be pursued by the believer, earnestly and undeviatingly, 1 Tim 2:15; Heb 12:14. For the holy character, hagiosune, 1 Thess 3:13, is not vicarious, i.e., it cannot be transferred or imputed, it is an individual possession, built up, little by little, as the result of obedience to the Word of God, and of following the example of Christ, Matt 11:29; John 13:15; Eph 4:20; Phil 2:5, in the power of the Holy Spirit, Rom 8:13; Eph 3:16.

From Notes on Thessalonians, by Hogg and Vine, pp. 115, 271.

(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright (c)1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

*Ps 37:30-31 NLT 30 The godly offer good counsel;
they know what is right from wrong.
31 They fill their hearts with God's law,
so they will never slip from his path.*