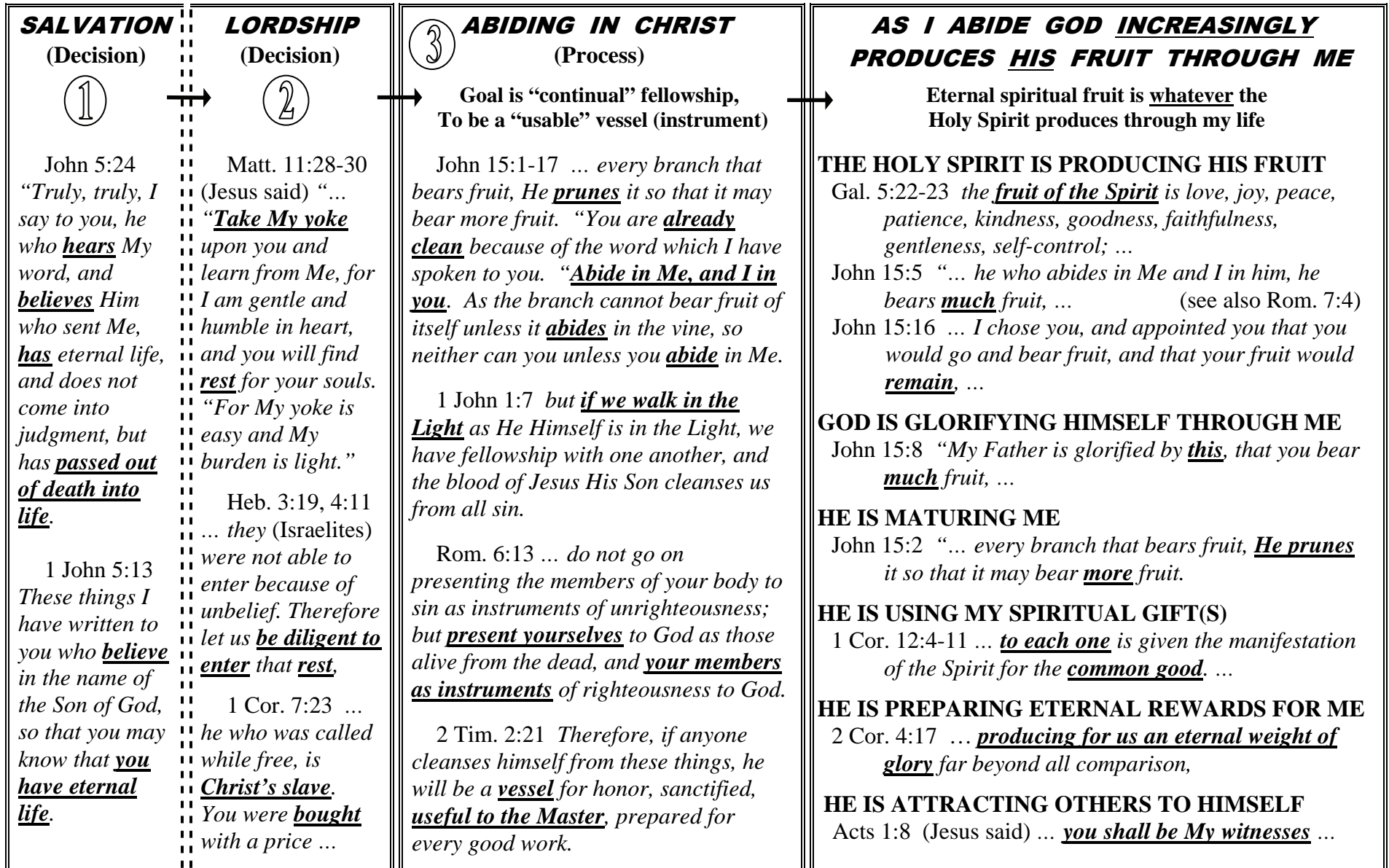


THE 3 MAJOR PHASES OF THE NORMAL HEALTHY CHRISTIAN LIFE



The following true story about “Vera”, illustrates the 3 Major Phases of the Christian life

- 1) Even though a Lordship decision should be made at conversion, sometimes it is not made until years later.
- 2) A true surrender of the will is followed by changes in behavior.

(This testimony is segmented to better demonstrate the major phases of the Christian life.)

<p>① SALVATION (Decision)</p> <p>CHRIST AS “SAVIOR”</p> <p><i>Vera recalls her <u>conversion</u> in a little church in Kansas: "When the invitation to receive Christ as Savior was given, I knew I should go forward.</i></p> <p><i>But my feet seemed glued to the floor. Finally on the last verse of 'Almost Persuaded,' I went and made my confession of faith."</i></p> <p><i>This new believer should have been personally disciplined at this critical time, which probably would have averted the following years of desert experience.</i></p>	<p>DESERT EXPERIENCE</p> <p><i>After <u>graduating</u> from high school, Vera <u>taught</u> in an elementary school. Her teaching career ended when she <u>married</u>.</i></p>	<p>② LORDSHIP (Decision)</p> <p>CHRIST AS “LORD” <i>(After some years of wandering)</i></p> <p><i>"I had been married <u>several</u> years when the Lord got my attention," Vera relates.</i></p> <p><i>"At home one day, I came under deep conviction, and knew I had to ask Jesus to be the <u>Lord</u> of my life."</i></p>	<p>③ ABIDING IN CHRIST (Process)</p> <p>CHANGED BEHAVIOR BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT’S TRANSFORMING POWER</p> <p><i>“<u>Changes</u> came that I can't explain, except that I know it was <u>the Lord's work</u> in me.”</i></p> <p><i>Vera <u>contacted</u> people she felt she might have wronged and <u>apologized</u> to them. She developed a <u>hunger</u> for Bible study. "As a child I'd learned John 3:16 and Psalm 23, but I hadn't been interested in learning anything else," she confesses. "Now I <u>wanted to learn</u> everything."</i></p> <p><i>To further her <u>search</u> for understanding of God's Word, she tuned in to Gospel programs on her radio. And she began to make <u>prayer</u> a part of her daily routine.</i></p> <p><i><u>Through the years</u>, as she helped with farming and raising their son, Vera continued to <u>study the Bible</u> and <u>maintain her prayer regimen</u>. When Vera and her husband decided to retire, they moved and joined a Bible-teaching church, where Vera was soon recognized for her Bible knowledge and her <u>faithfulness</u> in prayer.</i></p> <p><i>She didn't plan it, nor is her intercession organized, yet through telephone or personal visits she has <u>encouraged many lives</u>. Seekers have been <u>counseled</u> as Vera <u>shares spiritual truths</u> from a <u>lifetime relationship</u> with the Lord.</i></p>
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The source of this story is unknown.