

Back to the Basics

LeRoy Eims

I. Why did God create people?

A. For Fellowship: Genesis 3:8-9

B. To Glorify him: Isaiah 43:7

C. We were created in the image of Him: Genesis 1:7

D. Then man sinned.

E. Christ came to save man from sin.

1. Instead of patching up the old, God made something brand new: II Corinthians 5:17

2. Our Purpose is to glorify Him - Ephesians 1:12

3. You and I should live lives that conform to the image of Christ: Romans 8:29

4. To be transformed by the Spirit: II Corinthians 3:18

5. We should fellowship with the Lord: I Corinthians 1:9

F. Jesus is the only man who glorified the Lord in every thought, word, and deed: John 17:4

1. We must figure out how to become more like the image of Jesus Christ - how do you begin? When you're living in close fellowship with Jesus you become more like Him.

G. What are the elements of fellowship with God? I John 1:3

1. The Word of God by which the Lord speaks to us: I Samuel 3:21; John 5:39; Psalm 65:2; John 15:7

2. Prayer by which we speak to God: Proverbs 28:9; I John 3:22

3. Christ the Center: Philippians 4:13; John 15:5; I Peter 5:7

3. Obedience - No fellowship with a superior outside obedience: Luke 6:46

4. Fellowship - Psalm 119:18; Hebrews 10:23-25

5. Be a Witness - witnessing is a matter of overflowing, not overworking. I Corinthians 15:34; I Peter 2:9

H. How to Grow in Grace in the Knowledge of Jesus Christ: I Peter 3:18; Hebrews 3:16



The Wheel Illustration *A Picture of the Christian Life*

The key to living a victorious, Spirit-filled Christian life is Jesus Christ as the Center and Lord of all we do. With Christ in control, life is balanced and effective. The Wheel illustrates this **Christ-centered Spirit-filled life**. Just as the driving force in a wheel comes from the hub; so the power to live the Christian life comes from Jesus Christ the Center. He lives in us in the Person of the Holy Spirit, whose expressed purpose is to glorify Christ.

The spokes show the means by which Christ's power becomes operative in our lives. We maintain personal contact with God through the vertical spokes - The Word and Prayer. **The Word** is our spiritual food as well as our sword for spiritual battle. It is the foundational spoke for effective Christian living. Opposite this is the spoke representing Prayer. Through **Prayer** we have direct communication with our heavenly Father and receive provision for our needs. As we pray we show our dependence upon and trust in Him.

The horizontal spokes concern our relationship to people-believers, through Christian fellowship; and unbelievers, through witnessing. **Fellowship** centered around the Lord Jesus Christ provides the mutual encouragement, admonition and stimulation we all need. The first three spokes prepare us for passing on to others all that we have received from the Lord. This is accomplished through **Witnessing**, sharing our own experience of Christ and declaring and explaining the Gospel, God's power to save.

The rim represents the Christian responding to Christ's Lordship through wholehearted, day-by-day **Obedience** to Him.

“The Man Illustration” – what the Christ-centered, Spirit-filled Christian looks like:

- His feet are planted firmly on **the Bible**.
- His head is turned to God in **prayer**.
- With one hand he is reaching out in **fellowship** to his brothers and sisters in Christ.
- With the other hand he is reaching out in **witness** to his non-Christian friends.
- In his heart is Jesus - **Christ the Center** of his life.