

GS19: Clarifying our Theological Vision

Part 5: Foundational insights and conclusion

Theme: Theological development and unity

1Pet3.14-18 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

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Important words

2

★ Union

- ★ Union vs. fusion
- ★ Ontological union
- ★ Hypostatic union
- ★ Spiritual union

★ Objective vs. subjective

★ Covenant

- ★ Indicatives (principles)
 - ★ At the universal level
 - ★ Objective
- ★ Imperatives (obligations)
 - ★ Response at the personal level
 - ★ Subjective
- ★ Bilateral, unilateral

★ Contract

- ★ Conditions / penalties, cancellation
- ★ Bi- / multi-lateral

★ Monism vs. Dualism

★ Old man / new man,

★ “all are included”

★ Relationship

- ★ Subjective
- ★ MUST include participation
- ★ Of the whole person
 - ★ Agency
 - ★ Mind
 - ★ Will
 - ★ Body
- ★ Obedience (2Cor10.3-5)

★ Person

- ★ God (as person)
- ★ Father, Son, Holy Spirit (as persons)
- ★ You, me (as whole persons)
- ★ All of humanity “Adam” (as person)
- ★ Made real by interaction
- ★ Analogy: natural and legal persons



Why covenant, not contract?

3

★ Contract

- ★ Imperatives precede indicatives
- ★ *Imperative* = condition
- ★ *Indicative* = benefits of contract
- ★ Tit for tat (IF ... THEN ...)
- ★ *Penalties* for infringement
- ★ Needs disputes process
- ★ Higher authority to appeal to
- ★ Contract is honoured, or breach
- ★ Non-compliance → cancellation
- ★ Thus is by nature conditional

★ Covenant

- ★ Indicatives precede imperatives
- ★ *Indicative* = benefits of covenant
- ★ *Imperative* = obligation
- ★ Has no conditions
- ★ *Consequences* for infringement
- ★ Usually involves new IDENTITY
- ★ We live a covenant
- ★ Can be bilateral (e.g. marriage)
- ★ Can be unilateral (e.g. agape love; God → Israel; Church)
- ★ No higher authority to appeal to
- ★ Thus must be unconditional

How do you turn a covenant into a contract?
By adding conditions.



Faith vs. trust

4

★ Faith (being)

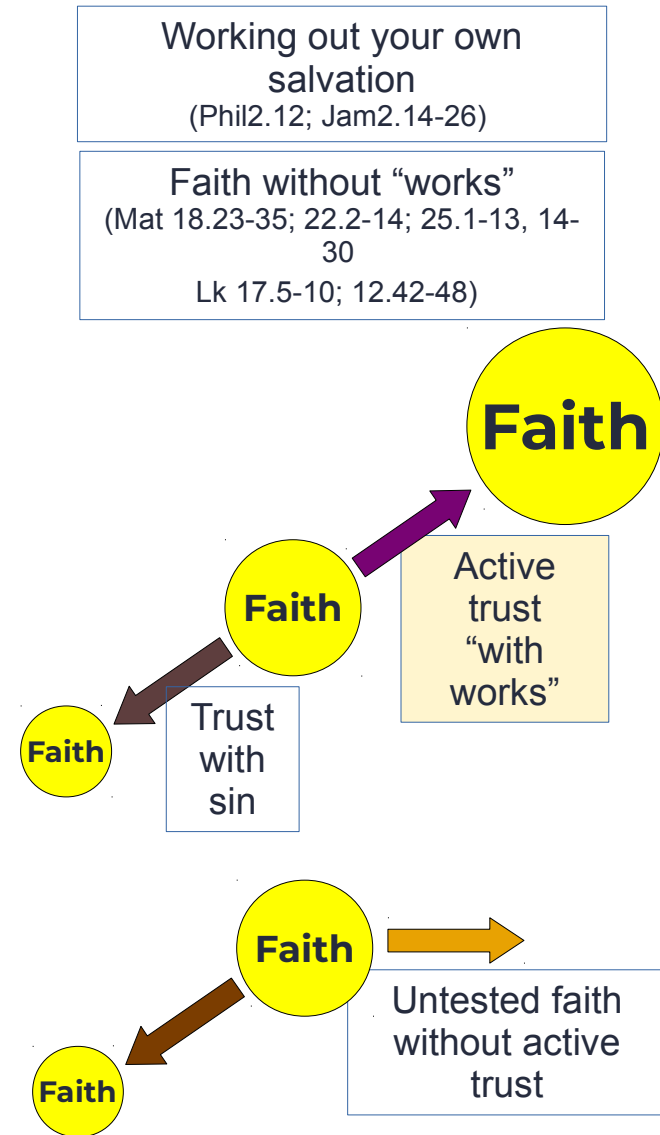
- ★ Noun
- ★ Is / Is not (being)

★ Trust (doing)

- ★ Verb
- ★ Involves action (agency)
- ★ Demonstrates faith

★ Word (saying)

- ★ Consistent with faith & trust
- ★ Words have wings





Relationship: a gift

5

★ **In Christ, all of humanity is able to be reconciled to God**

- ★ The Father **wishes** for it
- ★ Through Christ the **means** is made possible
- ★ By the Holy Spirit, it is **realised** (made real)

★ **CANNOT experience the full benefits if we do not participate**

- ★ ENTER into the relationship
- ★ STAY in the relationship
- ★ ENGAGE in the relationship
- ★ With all our efforts, hearts, wills, minds, and bodies

★ **ALL people**

- ★ Are potentially Christians
- ★ Can be considered “virtual” Christians
- ★ Have been saved in principle by Christ (de jure)
- ★ In the hypostatic union

★ **NOT all**

- ★ Have been saved in actuality (de facto)
- ★ Are believing
- ★ Are responding to the reality, or even receptive to it
- ★ Are worshipping God in Spirit
- ★ Are active witnesses to Jesus Christ
- ★ Are actual Christians
- ★ Are in spiritual union with Christ, experiencing the love of the Father, and in communion with the Holy Spirit
- ★

The **grace** of the **Lord Jesus Christ**,
the **love** of **God**,
and the **communion** of the **Holy Spirit**
be with all of you. (2Cor13.14)



2Cor 5.14-21

6

... we are convinced that one has died for all; *therefore all have died*. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

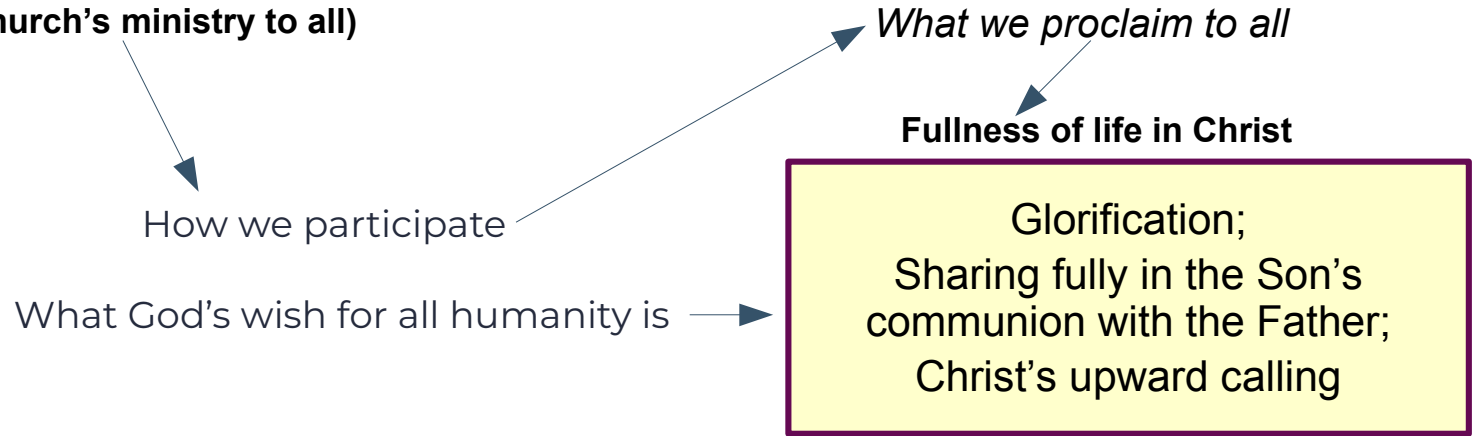
So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



7

The Holy Spirit's ministry

(mirrored in the church's ministry to all)





The Holy Spirit's ministry

(mirrored in the church's ministry to all)

What we proclaim to all

Fullness of life in Christ

Glorification;
Sharing fully in the Son's
communion with the Father;
Christ's upward calling

Where humanity is, because of sin



Alienation from God

Passing away
death in sin

What the result is



Actions / attitudes
Resisting the Holy Spirit

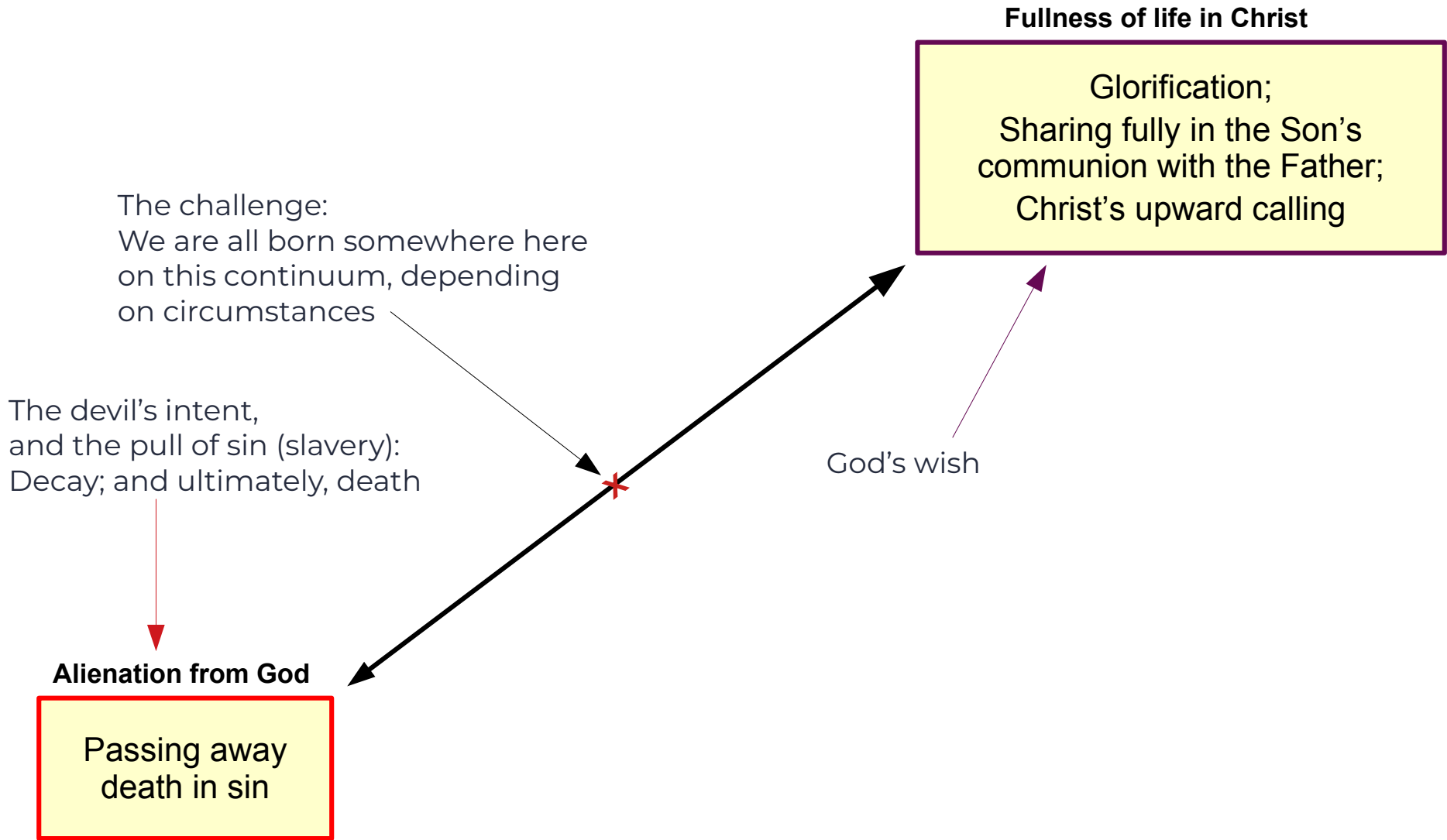
Rebellion
Pride
Self-will
Self-sufficiency



The Holy Spirit's ministry

(mirrored in the church's ministry to all)

What we proclaim to all

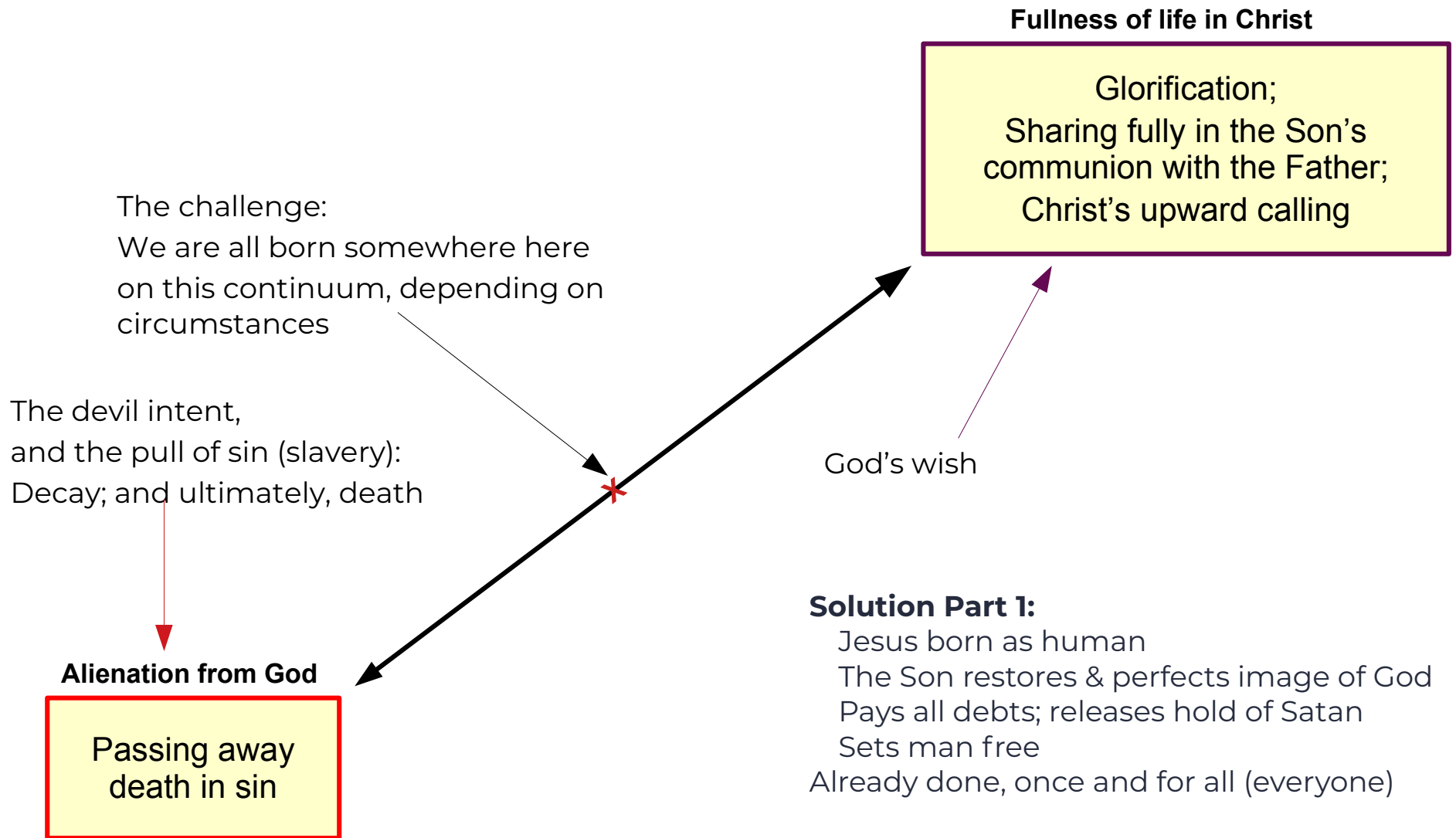




The Holy Spirit's ministry

(mirrored in the church's ministry to all)

What we proclaim to all





The Holy Spirit's ministry

11

(mirrored in the church's ministry to all)

What we proclaim to all

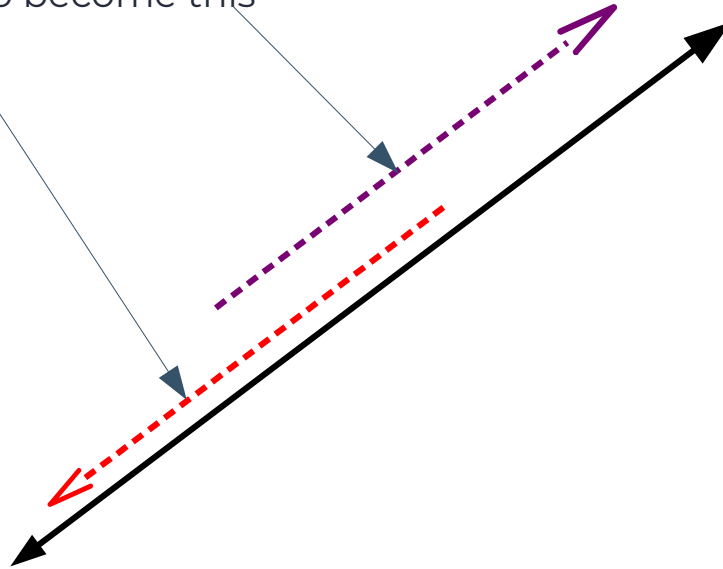
Fullness of life in Christ

Glorification;
Sharing fully in the Son's
communion with the Father;
Christ's upward calling

This to become this

Alienation from God

Passing away
death in sin





The Holy Spirit's ministry

12

(mirrored in the church's ministry to all)

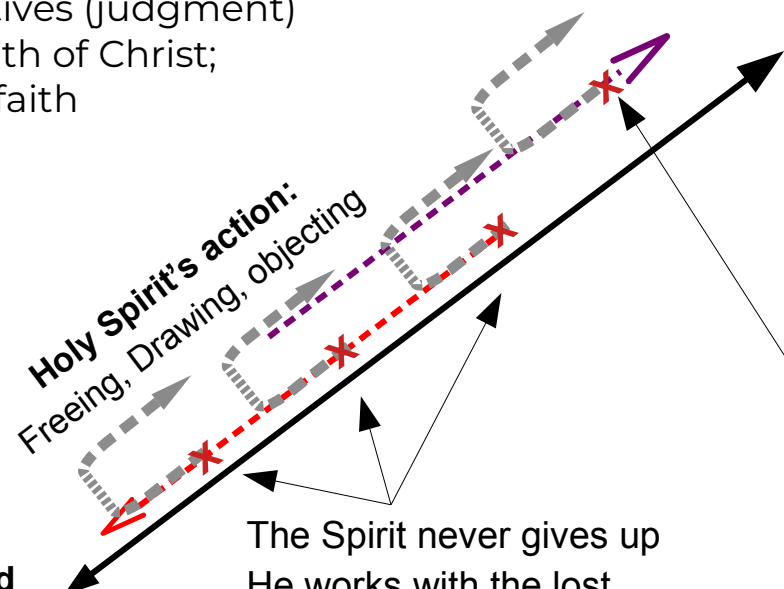
What we proclaim to all

Fullness of life in Christ

Glorification;
Sharing fully in the Son's
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Christ's upward calling

When we, born again Christians drift away,
He objects, and does the same with us

All the unsaved are potential Christians, thus
seen by God as "virtual" Christians because of
the hypostatic union



Alienation from God

Passing away
death in sin

The Spirit never gives up
He works with the lost,
prompting, holding back,
trying again, allows trials and
suffering
CS Lewis: "Trials as God's
megaphone"

Solution Part 2:

Enter, the Holy Spirit

Provides everything needed to reverse the slide

Opens our minds, so we can hear Father's call

Convicts us of our sinfulness

that we are righteous in Christ

warns of the alternatives (judgment)

Imbues us with the Faith of Christ;

converts this be our faith

leads us to maturity

Jn16.8; 2Pet1.1,5-8



The Holy Spirit's ministry

13

(mirrored in the church's ministry to all)

What we proclaim to all

Our participation in the personal work of the Spirit:

- be receptive
- to respond
- to be aware

Actions / attitudes
Receptive to the Holy Spirit

Press on
Strive to enter
Obedience of faith

Fullness of life in Christ

Glorification;
Sharing fully in the Son's
communion with the Father;
Christ's upward calling

Warning about resistance

- Rejection of Grace
- Presuming on Grace
- Unrepentance
- Self-justification
- Blasphemy of Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit's action:
Freeing, Drawing, objecting

Responses called for

- Faith / Trust
- Hope
- Love
- Repentance / Confession of sin

Alienation from God

Passing away
death in sin

Actions / attitudes
Resisting the Holy Spirit

Rebellion
Pride
Self-will
Self-sufficiency

Receptive to Word and Spirit

- Justification
- Sanctification
- Hope in glorification



The Holy Spirit's ministry

(mirrored in the church's ministry to all)

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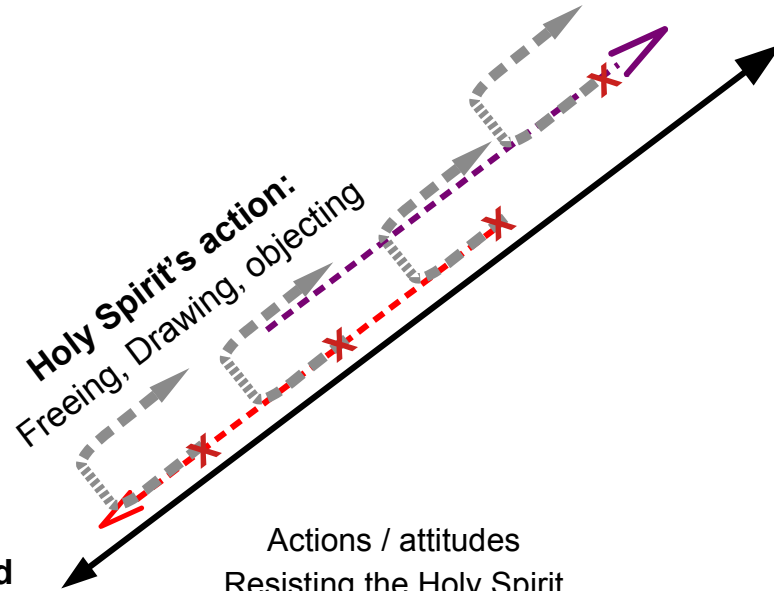
Justification
Sanctification
Hope in glorification

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Alienation from God

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Actions / attitudes
Resisting the Holy Spirit

Rebellion
Pride
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Just what is Jesus saying?

15

Act 9.1-6 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, **“Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”** He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, **“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.** But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”



The result

16

★ Those who follow Jesus will want to

- ★ be with other believers
- ★ join in the work of the Church
 - ★ Witnessing to Jesus (say & do)
- ★ grow in relationship with God
- ★ know God more and more
- ★ dig into His Word and ways
- ★ follow Christ wherever He goes
 - ★ exploring where He leads them
 - ★ enjoying the relationship
 - ★ deepening the communion



Implications for teaching and preaching

17

★ You heard that it was said...

- ★ that an effective speech has
 - ★ an introduction;
 - ★ an SPS;
 - ★ a body; and
 - ★ a conclusion;

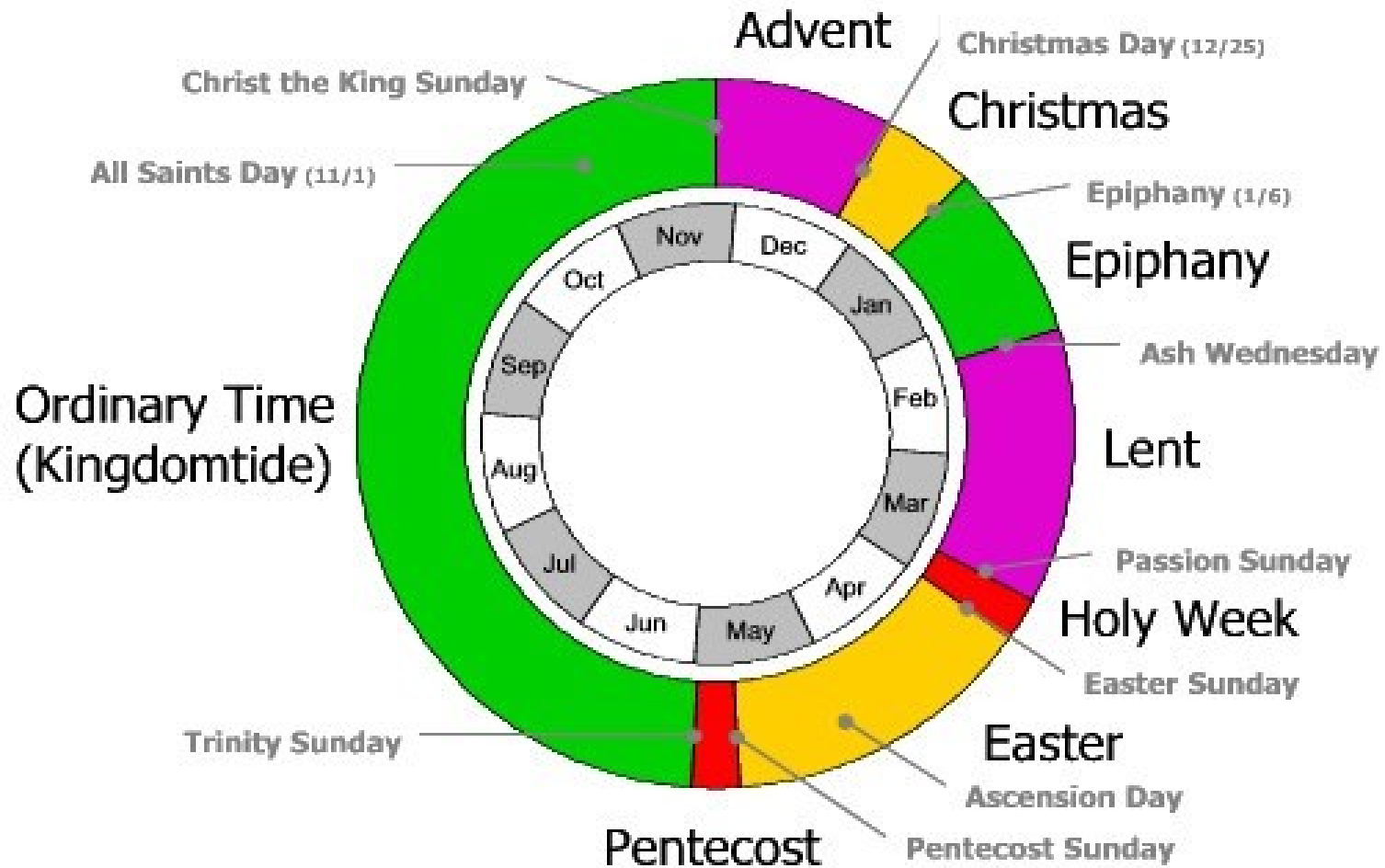
★ But, I say unto you,

- ★ to this add
 - ★ The indicatives of grace
 - ★ Who God is
 - ★ Why He may be trusted
 - ★ Why anyone should trust Him
 - ★ The advantages of a relationship with God (but, take care)
 - ★ That He wants us to live life fully
 - ★ He will answer any call
 - ★ Why He is ready to do so
 - ★ Only then tell them what He requires in return
 - ★ To trust Him
 - ★ To love Him
 - ★ To obey Him
 - ★ To love everyone else as you do yourself
 - ★ Then explain how this may be achieved
 - ★ Do so, in season, and out of season



The liturgical year: preaching in season

18



Do we know what some of these even mean?

Find out more here:
<https://resources.gci.org/worship>