



Timeline of Potential Spiritual Growth Pattern of a Person **(A person does not automatically go step-by-step nor grow in a straight line without pausing or taking steps back.)**

A person begins life born with a sin nature and is spiritually dead. This status can change only if/when he/she...

- ▶ Becomes convicted by The Holy Spirit of one's own sin nature and either rejects or accepts the gospel truth presented by someone else
- ▶ He/she will remain in sin for all time, or until having a 'New Birth' experience that comes only through a confession of his/her personal belief that Jesus is now his/her Christ, thus becoming known as being a 'New Believer' in Jesus Christ (NOTE: This belief should be confirmed by a Disciple of Jesus so that the 'NB' can be rightly assured of his/her new status and can 'defend' it to others. If such confirmation cannot be made and/or cannot be defended, that Disciple needs to help this NB reevaluate his/her condition in order to personally and fully discover how the truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ apply to this 'inappropriately defined' NB's life.)
- ▶ This NB can choose to gain knowledge of Jesus' truths, beginning the transformation process of his/her mind/head by The Holy Spirit and could be described as being an 'infant' Disciple. (NOTE: A Disciple Maker should step in here to share life (model/invest time) with the NB.)
- ▶ The Disciple begins to apply that knowledge to his own life, beginning the transformation process of his/her heart as a 'child' Disciple as the Disciple Maker continues to connect him/her to God and opportunities within the church and outside the church.
- ▶ Develops a growing trust and willingness to take risks of vulnerability for Jesus as a 'young adult' Disciple, but from a self-centered logic
- ▶ Becomes available to transparently and intentionally share Jesus by relationally coming alongside other people
- ▶ Guides those people into NB positions and/or co-labors with The Holy Spirit to help Disciples with growing their spiritual lives and thus becomes a 'Disciple Maker' for Jesus
- ▶ The Disciple Maker continues to personally grow while helping other disciples grow into greater levels of spiritual maturity. The Disciple Maker stays alongside the progressively maturing disciple(s) up to the time to release them when they reach the point in maturity to go and make other Disciples. Then he/she remains available to the newer Disciple Maker(s) to ensure their success at making Disciples to where they too will go and do likewise.
- ▶ Finally, he/she will experience a physical death, and all of the maturing stops. Praise God, he/she is then glorified and will remain in the presence of Jesus throughout eternity.