

Title: Victorious Christian Living

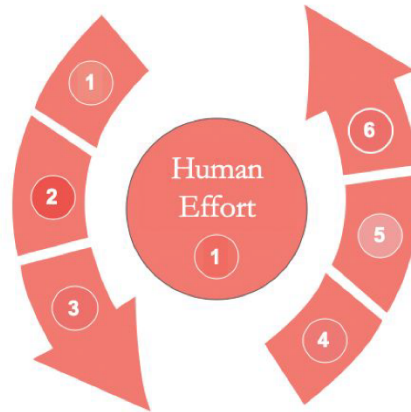
Passage: Ephesians 4:17-5:4

Series: Ephesians- Victory

Main Point: New life needs active spiritual renewal to grow into a righteous lifestyle

Self-Effort Cycle

- Resolution**
I make promises to myself and to God that I will do better.
- Success**
I experience a bit of success – because human effort can provide short term solution – and I start to feel a pride.
- Failure**
Inevitably, I fail and then I start to feel awful with myself. I began to wonder, “Have I not done enough? Do I need to do more?”

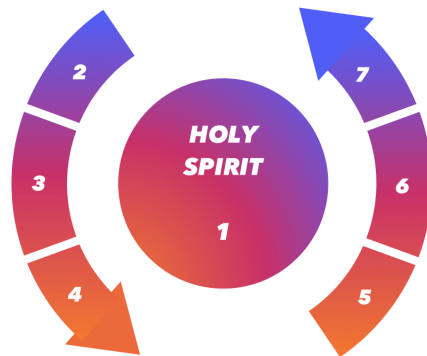


- Guilt and Shame**
We feel abject brokenness and self-condemnation. We wonder why we are the way we are. Or we give in to ungodly pride. We speak God-talk outwardly, but inwardly we grow hard-hearted and moralistic.
- Failure**
Again, we will inevitably fail. At this point, we become bitter with ourselves, or we become bitter with God, or we start justifying our actions.
- More Self-Effort**
Try harder to do better. Try harder to pray more. Try harder to push yourself through and be less sinful.

Double-Down on Human Effort

RENEWAL CYCLE

- PUT OFF OLD SELF**
“REPENTANCE”
- 2. Own Your Sin**
How are you living in your “former way of life”? (4:22)
- 3. Understand Your Heart**
What are the roots of your sin? Identify the “deceitful desires” you are seeking (4:22)
- 4. Confess & Turn from Sin**
What do you need to confess to God? How has this sin harmed you and those you love? How have you grieved the Holy Spirit? (4:30)



- 1. Open Your Heart to the Spirit**
How do you need the Spirit to help you? Is the person of the Spirit telling you that He is grieved? “...be renewed in the spirit of your mind” (4:23)

- PUT ON NEW SELF**
“FAITH”
- 7. Live in Hope and Trust**
What do we hope for Jesus to do? “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one...” (4:25)
- 6. Preach the Gospel**
What do you need to preach to your heart? “Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (4:15)
- 5. Meditate on the Gospel**
What has, is, and will Jesus do for you? “...be renewed in the spirit of your mind” (4:23)

