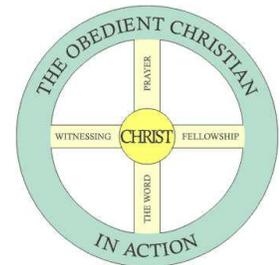


# THE WHEEL

EVERY PERSON HAS A PHYSICAL LIFE. THAT IS A LIFE WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST, BUT ONCE YOU HAVE RECEIVED JESUS AS SAVIOR AND LORD YOU POSSESS A NEW, SPIRITUAL LIFE, NO LESS THAN THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN US.

## I. THIS NEW LIFE MAY BE ILLUSTRATED BY A WHEEL.

The wheel example has been used for 55 years and illustrates functions necessary to produce a life of obedience and faithfulness, which are important, if I am to practice spirituality.



- A. **THE WORD** is the foundational spoke. When a person has a vital personal intake of the Word of God, they are usually spiritually healthy and growing. In practice, this spoke is crucial to a balanced Christian life. As God speaks to you through the Scriptures, you will be sensitized to important issues, you see how to put God's word into practice, and you recognize Christ as worthy of your love and allegiance. Verses: [2 Timothy 3:16](#); [Joshua 1:8](#)
- B. **PRAYER SHOULD** be the natural overflow of meaningful time in the Scriptures. The act of prayer to God completes the fellowship and companionship element in your relationship with Him. Respond back to God in prayer after He speaks to you through His word. In this manner, share your heart with the One who longs for your companionship. Personal battles and battles for others are won in prayer, and the cause of Christ is furthered. Verses: [John 15:7](#); [Philippians 4:6-7](#)
- C. **FELLOWSHIP**- All Christians have the wonderful privilege of being intimate members of God's family. We are to learn from each other and to encourage one another. This is impossible if we choose to operate independently and are isolated from other Christians. Verses: [1 John 1:3](#); [Hebrews 10:24,25](#)
- D. **WITNESSING** – The natural overflow of a rich and vibrant life in Christ should be sharing with others how they too can have this life. Effective sharing requires skills that can be learned and sharpened. God will use you in the lives of others as you gain experience and improve your skills in witnessing. Verses: [Matthew 4:19](#); [Romans 1:16](#)

## II. THE WHEEL ILLUSTRATES OBEDIENCE. IT IS ENDLESS AND ILLUSTRATES DYNAMICS OF LIFE.

- A. At the center of the wheel is the hub. Making Christ central in your life, that is, giving Him the place of true lordship in your life is really a decision of your will. Lordship is totally voluntary, and based on your own choices. As you pray and as others pray for you, God creates within you a desire to choose His way which expresses His lordship in our life. Verses: [2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [Galatians 2:20](#)
- B. The driving power or the motivating force comes from the hub. Christ is this Hub, the source of power and motivation for the Christian's life. John 15:5 says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." Christ lives in us in the person of the Holy Spirit, whose expressed purpose is to glorify Christ.
- C. The spokes show the means by which Christ's power reaches our lives. The vertical spokes concern our relationship to God and the horizontal spokes represent our

relationships to people - believers and unbelievers. The wheel functions smoothly only when all spokes are present and in proper balance. They are the instruments through which the driving power of the hub is conveyed to the rim of the wheel itself, enabling one to live a life of obedience. This translates into spirituality or a quality life.

- D. **THE OBEDIENT CHRISTIAN IN ACTION.** When you purposefully choose to walk in God's way, it shows in your outward lifestyle. People can see that Jesus is in you. Although obeying God starts internally and has to do with attitudes, habits, motives, values and day to day thoughts, it will eventually surface in our relationships with other people. The proof of our love for God is our obedience to Him especially in relationships. Verses: [Romans 12:1](#); [John 14:21](#)
- E. The wheel is a circle, an endless line. Our life in Jesus is eternal or an endless life.
- F. John 3:18a, "Whoever believes in him is not condemned." When the wheel moving the spokes vanishes and only the hub can be seen, ask yourself, "Do people see our spokes?" (Or do they notice the fact that I memorize 2 verses a week or that I am with them occasionally or do they see Christ in me?)
- F. The rim of the wheel represents you, the Christian, responding to Christ's Lordship through your wholehearted obedience to Him. Such obedience is linked with every other element of the Christ Centered life, represented by the wheel.

**Project:** Analyze the wheel and draw a picture of a wheel, which illustrates your life in terms of the balance coming from your four spokes. Study it and determine what you are going to do about it.

Now read Munger's, "My Heart Christ's Home", and the other book called Christ Likeness.

### **III. THERE ARE FOUR AREAS THAT MOVE US TO MORE OBEDIENCE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

- A. The word which can be compared to eating.
- B. Prayer which can be compared to breathing.
- C. Fellowship, which can be compared to sleeping, resting or restoration.
- D. Witnessing, which can be compared to exercising.

### **IV. DRAW AND VISUALIZE YOUR PERSONAL WHEEL.**

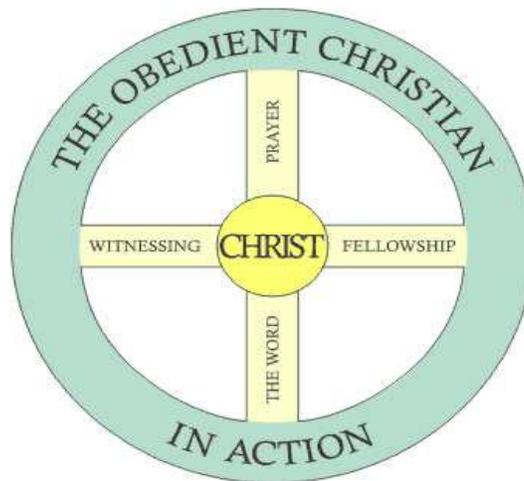
- A. What is the longest spoke for you? Which spoke is missing in your life? Which spoke is the skinniest?
- B. Notice that Christ is the Hub. As such,
  - 1. He bears the weight.
  - 2. He is the driving power. Or the driving power comes from the hub.
  - 3. Power from the hub goes into all four spokes.
- C. When the wheel moves, all you ever see is Christ. You do not see the spokes.

### **V. WE MEMORIZE THE TOPICS** because they help us to have mental hooks, which you can draw verses from when you need it easier. They also help us to understand the verses.

- A. How's your memory? Where do you live, what's your phone number, who do you work with?, etc. You have a good memory when you are really interested in the material, therefore you have a good memory. Attitude makes the difference. Memory is a skill that can be improved.

- B. You can count on God's help. Col 3:16 & Duet 6:6 shows He wants us to have His Word in our hearts.
- C. Memorization will give you confidence in witnessing.
- D. It will help you overcome worry. The word in your heart keeps your life from becoming dry.
- E. It will give you victory over sin. Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee.
- F. It is food for your soul. It is nourishment that keeps you spiritually fit...like filling the pantry of your heart.

## VI. THE OBEDIENT CHRISTIAN IN ACTION



The wheel illustration is helpful to remember basic truths of the Spirit filled life. It is Christ centered. The Holy Spirit focuses attention on Christ and empowers you to live a life of obedience to Him. God's word and prayer build you up in a relationship with Christ so He can live through you and reach others through fellowship and witnessing. Without drawing attention to Himself, the Holy Spirit shapes each activity into an avenue of spiritual blessing.

- A. Christ the Center - 2 Corinthians 5:17 & Galatians 2:20

Just as the driving force in a wheel comes from the hub, so the power to live the Christian life comes from Christ. It is not our resolve to "turn over a new leaf" but our active dependence upon Him that enables us to live pleasing to God.

II Cor. 5:17 - Life in Christ is completely new, and His presence gives an entirely new dimension. Our old ambitions, outlook and values are changed as we come to know Him and as His power becomes operative in our lives.

Gal. 2:20 - Not only are we in Christ, but He lives in us. These two truths teach us the closeness of the relationship we enjoy with Him. As believers, we are identified with Him in His death and in His resurrected life. By faith we rely on Him to live His life in and through us.

B. Obedience to Christ Romans 12:1 & John 14:21

Jesus inseparably links our obedience to His Lordship. Why call me Lord, Lord and do not do the things I say? Luke 6:46. By obeying His will in day to day living we acknowledge His authority in our lives.

Romans 12:1 - This urges us to submit to His Lordship by yielding control of ourselves to Him. He purchased us with His own blood and it seems reasonable for us to love and obey him. As we yield to Him and obey Him we will discover that His will is good and acceptable and perfect.

John 14:21 - Jesus said obedience to His word is the proof of our love for Him, but before we can keep his commandments we must have them. That is why we must know what He is saying to us in His word. This is why the word spoke is in the wheel.