

FALSE MAPS: Stages &/ Step Christianities

1 Peter 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, **1 Peter 2:2** As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, **that ye may grow thereby:** **1 Peter 2:3** If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

2 Peter 3:18 But **grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.** To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Eating:	Breathing:	Moving:
Sleeping / resting:	Interacting:	Teaching / training:
Trials / testing:	Time:	

But then the stages / steps begin:

1. 3 Kinds of Christians / the 3 estates:

Those who pray (clergy)

Those who fight (nobility)

Those who labor (common man)

(This started to come apart with the advent of large cities and the guilds)

Active life: people who can follow the lesser commands of the Bible

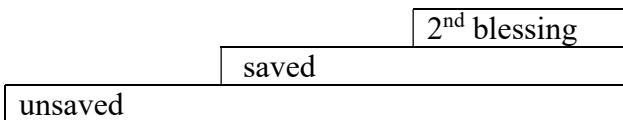
Contemplative life: people who can spend time praying

What was common for the nobility (especially widows) to do?

This sent shockwaves and then ripples throughout Christianity:

- Marriage
- Marital intimacy
- Work

2. 2-stage Christianity



** or 2nd work of grace, sinless perfection,
entire sanctification, perfect love

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them **which are sanctified.**

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, **and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.**

2 Corinthians 1:15 And in this confidence I was minded to come unto you before, that ye might have **a second benefit** (*ινα δευτέρων χάριν ἔχητε;*)

[2 Corinthians 1:15] Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have **a second experience of grace.** (ESV)]

Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, **and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:**

Names associated with this: Oberlin Perfectionism, Charles Finney, Asa Mahan, Wesleyans

Thoughts:

Methodists: Perfect Love

Holiness groups: entire sanctification &/ sinless perfections

This, of course, requires a redefinition of sin : sin is any willful disobedience to a known law. (Everything else is an accident)

Nazarenes: 2nd blessing

Small, splinter groups: Pentecostal Holiness, Church of God (came from Methodist movement)

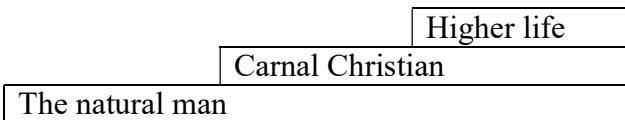
3. Keswick – both known and unknown, acknowledged and unacknowledged

Keswick is a movement from the 1870's → till the present, that dominates much of the Evangelical World

This was a movement oriented to the Bible conference movement, many Bible colleges, and much of Fundamentalism

This movement had many names:	
Higher life	Deeper life
Exchanged life	Victorious life
The Jesus life	The life of faith
Let go and let God	

Robert & Hannah W. Smith	William Boardman
FB Meyer	HCG Moule
AB Simpson	J. Hudson Taylor (much more so – his daughter and son-in-law)
R. A. Torrey (to some degree)	DTS and most of the Bible college movement in general
GARBC	G. Campbell Morgan



1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural (Ψυχικὸς δὲ ἀνθρωπος) man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. **1 Corinthians 2:15 But he that is spiritual (Ο δὲ πνευματικὸς)** judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. **1 Corinthians 3:1** And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual (πνευματικοῖς), but as unto carnal (σαρκικοῖς), even as unto babes in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. **1**

Corinthians 3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? **1 Corinthians 3:4** For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

Assumptions of this view:

➤ These are permanent stages / steps

➤ Most believers are carnal Christians and that is both normal and ok!

➤ We go from one stage to the other by an act of faith/surrender

The names / nomenclature / what people call this will vary → but the idea is always the same.

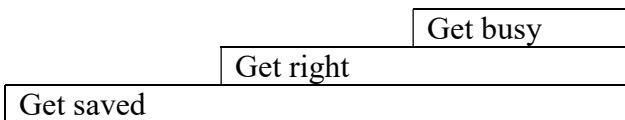
➤ To be / become “spiritual” is to cease striving / fighting / struggling and to simply start resting/ trusting / ceasing → letting go and letting God!

1 John 2:12 I write unto you, little children (τεκνία), because your sins are forgiven you for his name’s sake.

1 John 2:13 I write unto you, fathers (πατέρες), because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men (γεννιστοί), because ye have overcome (νευκήκατε) the wicked one. I write unto you, little children (παιδία), because ye have known the Father. **1 John 2:14** I have written unto you, fathers (πατέρες), because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men (γεννιστοί), because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome (νευκήκατε) the wicked one.

4. Revivalism – Keswick on steroids!

This view is almost never systematically explained or logically taught!



Regardless of the text – we always get back to 3 issues / 3 topics:

Get busy!

Get right!

Get saved!

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Assumption of revivalism:

➤ The normal Christian life is one of decline / backsliding

- Christians oscillate / swing back and forth between moments of revival (getting right with God) and long periods of backsliding!
- Church services become **constant** calls to revival = getting right / getting busy / getting saved

The obvious results are devastating:

Nothing to do with Christ / a relationship with God

No ongoing, day-to-day following Christ

You can get yourself right with God [Baptist absolution] by an act of dedication, surrender and emotions

- Revival comes about by means of crisis / crisis decision
 - The pastor's main job is to produce (or create) this crisis
 - The pastor (usually called preacher) does this through hard preaching
- The preacher, of course, does not need to get right with God

Hard preaching has limited topics:

Hair...	Dress	No pants on women
KJVonlyism	Jewelry / makeup	Soul winning
More serving	More giving	More & enough are key words!

Strangely missing is Christ and Him Crucified, a day-to-day relationship, what we have in Christ...!!!

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with **all** spiritual blessings in heavenly places **in Christ**:

Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: **Colossians 2:7** Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

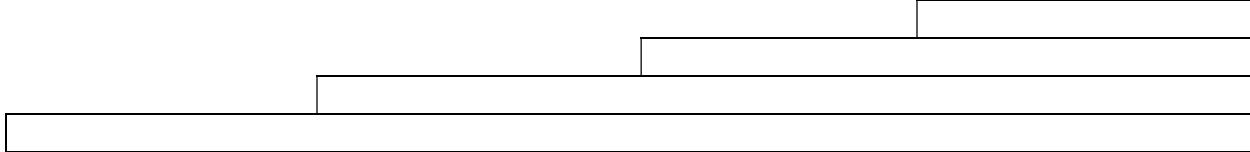
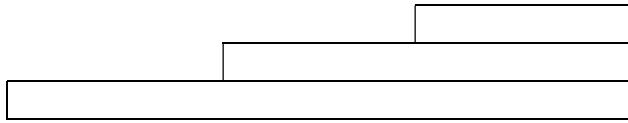
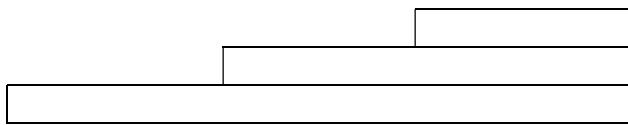
Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. **Colossians 2:10** And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

1 Peter 1:3 **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **1 Peter 1:4** To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **1 Peter 1:5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- Revival doesn't
- Some churches increase church services to nearly

- Revival services are usually added –

5. Charismmania – so many variations



Evaluation of all step / stage Christianities:

- 5 All miss the personal, relational, on-going relationship with the Living God!

Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Matthew 4:20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

Matthew 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you**: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.**

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed **from him** that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Galatians 1:15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, Galatians 1:16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

➤ All 5 divert our attention away from C
Holiness: to something else

Keswick:

Revivalism:

Charismania:

- All 5 have little to do with
- All 5 put us in the long hunt for “ ” and not Him!!!
- All 5 eliminate, in some way, the c
as a process! of growth in grace / sanctification

1 Peter 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, **1 Peter 2:2** As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 1 Peter 2:3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

2 Peter 3:18 **But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.** To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because **that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;** **2 Thessalonians 1:4** So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

Psalm 92:12 The righteous **shall flourish** like the palm tree: He **shall grow** like a cedar in Lebanon. **Psalm 92:13** Those that be planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God. **Psalm 92:14** They **shall still bring forth fruit** in old age; They shall be **fat** and **flourishing;**

2 Peter 1:5 And beside this, **giving all diligence,**
add to your faith virtue;

and to virtue knowledge;

2 Peter 1:6 And to knowledge temperance;

and to temperance patience;

and to patience godliness;

2 Peter 1:7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2 Peter 1:8 For if **these things** be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:9 But he that lacketh **these things** is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

2 Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: **for if** ye do **these things**, ye shall never fall:

2 Peter 1:11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

➤ All 5 attempt to find a s
This is actually the very nature of the concept! c to maturity!

➤ All 5 tend toward “more righteous than”...thinking!
Highly critical

Have and have

**Do and do
Have's and have
Know and know**

2 Peter 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; **but** our sufficiency is of God;

2 Corinthians 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we **all** baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been **all** made to drink into one Spirit.

➤ **All 5 make little / less of s**

and more / much of the

In fact, the next stage / step is often what seals the deal!

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: **Colossians 2:7** Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

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➤ **All 5 have stages / steps that are pe**

stages

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Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

➤ **All 5 miss the many different metaphors (word pictures) for**

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, **desire** the sincere milk of the word, **that ye may grow thereby**:

2 Peter 3:18 But **grow** in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk (**περιπατεῖτε**) in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk (**στοιχῶμεν**) in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye **walk** worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Ephesians 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth **walk not** as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Ephesians 5:2 And **walk** in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: **walk** as children of light:

Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye **walk** circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

Ephesians 6:12 For we **wrestle** not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Names:		
Fo	Ob	Tr
Wa	Pur	L
Ser	St	F
W	Ru	Wr
Gr	Add	

➤ All 5 make much of the n step / stage and little of s
(Obviously there is a spectrum)

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath **begun** a good work in you **will perform** it **until** the day of Jesus Christ:

Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: **for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.**

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author (**ἀρχηγὸν**) and finisher (**τελειωτὴν**) of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

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Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, **as ye have always obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.** **Philippians 2:13** **For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**