

7. Carnality can exist temporarily while the believer is advancing in the protocol plan.
8. The believer is in an absolute state (spiritual or carnal) while growing, just as he is in an absolute state while declining.
9. Carnality can be either a temporary or permanent setback in the execution of God's will, purpose, and plan for your life.
10. **1 Corinthians 3:1** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual persons [believers filled with the Spirit], but as unto carnal [fleshly, belonging to the sin nature], as infants in Christ.
v. 2 I gave you milk [basic doctrine] to drink, not solid food [advanced doctrines], for you were not able to receive it, and you are still not able [to perceive it],
v. 3 for you are still carnal, belonging to the sin nature [self-fragmented]. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not carnal and keep walking in conformity with men?"
 - a. Carnality is manifest in implosion or self-fragmentation, and then in explosion or polarized fragmentation.
 - b. You walk in conformity with men when in the stages of reversionism, undistinguishable from unbelievers.
11. Categories of sinning related to reversionism:
 - a. Frequent sinning is the status quo of the believer who follows the pattern of implosion, explosion and the first four stages of reversionism. Frequent sinning is characterized by ignorance; therefore, failure to utilize the rebound technique.
 - b. Continuous sinning is the status quo of the believer who follows the pattern of implosion, explosion and the last four stages of reversionism.
 - c. Sporadic sinning is when the believer checks implosion, explosion, and reversion by consistent use of the rebound technique of 1 John 1:9, followed up with the use of the other problem-solving devices. This is the status of the believer on his way to spiritual adulthood.
 - d. Occasional sinning is when the believer checks implosion, explosion, and reversion through rebound and the other problem-solving devices. This is the status of the believer in spiritual adulthood.

(End JAS4-13. See JAS4-14 for the continuation of study at p. 131.)



C. The Eight Stages of Reversionism.

1. Reaction and Distraction.

- a. By the time the believer has gone through implosion followed by explosion, he has become negative toward the teaching of Bible doctrine resulting in fragmentation and into reversionism.
- b. There are two categories of negative volition in the first stage of reversionism: reaction and distraction.
- c. Negative volition from reaction is linked to polarized legalism, in which you react to the conflict between legalism and antinomianism.
- d. Other forms of fragmentation cause reaction to Bible doctrine.
 - (1) Subjective fragmentation includes unrealistic expectation which is arrogant preoccupation with self, and role model arrogance which is arrogant preoccupation with others.
 - (2) Human relationship fragmentation is illustrated by frustration in Christian fellowship and marriage.
- e. On the other hand, distraction from Bible doctrine can be caused by apathy, indifference, wrong priorities, and the arrogance complex of sins.
- f. Many people believed in Christ at an early age. But as they grew older and more sophisticated, they began to change their thinking due to peer pressure and education. Then they reacted to Christianity, Christian people, or a local church. They became distracted by something or someone. Distraction to the protocol plan of God is based upon reaction.
- g. This reaction and distraction leads to fragmentation. Every believer is a walking grenade, who pulls the pin of his grenade by the use of his own volition. Pulling the pin comes from committing a sin related to the arrogance complex in some form of reaction. Once you fragment your life, the first thing you do is react to everything that was once important to you spiritually.
- h. Arrogance is the number one distraction to Bible doctrine:

Romans 12:2 Stop being conformed to this world [peer pressure], but be transformed by the renovation of your thought, that you may prove what the will of God is, namely, the good of intrinsic value achievement [advance to spiritual maturity], well-pleasing to God [execution of the protocol plan], the mature status quo [manufacturing of the invisible hero].

v. 3 For I say through the grace which has been given to me to everyone who is among you, stop thinking of self in terms of arrogance beyond what you ought to think, but think in terms of sanity [absolute truth] for the purpose of being rational without illusion as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from doctrine.” (EXT)

- (1) Absolute truth is always related to reality. There are boundaries in which you must think.
- (2) To be rational without illusion is the fantastic result of the daily perception, metabolization, and application of Bible doctrine.
- (3) God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from two categories of doctrine: the absolute principles of theology, and the applications that are given from those principles.
- (4) Obviously, we cannot progress in the Christian life without the standard of thinking from doctrine. If we are not progressing through perception, metabolization, and application of doctrine, we are retrogressing. No one stands still in the Christian way of life.
 - i. In this stage, it is possible and even probable that the believer can recover through the use of the rebound technique. At the same time, something may challenge him back to right priorities, and learning and using the problem-solving devices. It may take divine discipline to wake him up.
 - j. The presence of reactor factors in the life result in distraction from doctrine. Reactor factors are closely related to the believer’s initial and subsequent distraction from Bible doctrine. The reactor factors include many antithetical concepts which follow the trends of the believer’s old sin nature. Reactor factors include the following:
 - (1) Wrong priorities, in which the believer places money, success, pleasure, loved ones, friends, social life, sex, material things, or normal things over God emphasis. When these things take priority over God emphasis, then the believer is in trouble. He develops a personal scale of values that excludes God, God relationship, love of God, and occupation with the person of Christ.

- (2) Rejection of authority in general or rejection of the authority of the pastor-teacher results in rejection of the Church Age message regarding God's will, plan, and purpose for his life.
 - (3) Personality conflict often comes from hypersensitivity and other forms of fragmentation.
 - (4) A lack of objectivity when reprimanded, either by the Scripture or by someone in authority.
 - (5) Reaction to gossip, maligning, or unjust treatment of one kind or another.
 - (6) Blaming self-fragmentation on others rather than on yourself. None of us ever grow up until we take the responsibility for our own bad decisions.
 - (7) Lack of concentration on Bible doctrine due to drug addiction, a drinking problem, mental illness, criminality, or grieving or quenching the Holy Spirit.
 - (8) Bad decisions from a position of weakness.
 - (9) Subjective arrogance fragmentation is arrogant preoccupation with self and others to the exclusion of reality.
 - (10) Lack of motivation from a personal sense of destiny, personal love for God the Father, or occupation with the person of Christ.
- k. In summary, reactor factors include the modus operandi of fragmentation, as well as boredom, disillusion, loneliness, self-pity, frustration, hypersensitivity, lack of enforced and genuine humility, objectivity, and teachability.
- l. Arrogance means lack of humility, objectivity, or teachability.
- m. All of this results in cosmic involvement and subsequent demon influence of the soul. Of course, demons cannot indwell the body of the believer because the believer is indwelt by all three persons of the Trinity. Therefore, demon possession is limited to unbelievers only. But demons can influence the thinking of believers, which is accomplished through reversionism in the soul.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (NASB)

- n. Once negative volition sets in, there is a vacuum in the soul, which is the beginning of reversionism. The beginning of reversionism is always related to reaction and distraction because of negative volition toward Bible doctrine.
- o. The first stage of reversionism includes not only the arrogance of cosmic one, but the acceptance of false doctrine as a result of rejecting true doctrine.

1 Timothy 4:1 But the same Holy Spirit explicitly communicates that in latter periods of time [between first and Second Advents of Christ], some believers will become apostate from doctrine, paying attention to deceitful spirits and concentrating on doctrines of demons.

1 Timothy 6:3 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not concur with sound doctrine, even doctrines pertaining to godliness,

1 Timothy 6:4 he has received arrogance, understanding nothing. Furthermore, he has a morbid obsession about controversies and verbal conflicts from which originate jealousy, discord, evil speculations.

- p. Therefore, in stage one, distractions to Bible doctrine result in negative volition. Negative volition creates the vacuum in the soul that sucks in all the false doctrine.

2. The Frantic Search for Happiness.

- a. Once you have become negative toward doctrine and created the vacuum of the soul, you begin to suck in false concepts which result in the frantic search for happiness.
- b. Once a believer goes negative toward doctrine, he becomes frantic in his search for happiness. The frantic search for happiness is described in one phrase in 2 Tim 3:4, "... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."
- c. The frantic search for happiness has many directions: power, influence, approbation, success, status symbols, money, pleasure, social life,

