

## Doctrine of Movement towards Spiritual Maturity

1. Admit you are without inner strength to change your life, which has become unmanageable. Admit to self-destructive behavior.
  - *Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.*
  
2. Believe by faith that God can arrest the sinful impulses of the soul lest spiritual insanity continue.
  - *2 Peter 2:22 Of them the proverbs are true: A dog returns to its vomit, and a sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.”*
  
3. By the grace of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit come to Christ and present afresh your will and the totality of your life to the care of the Lord.
  - *John 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
  - *Jeremiah 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.*

Make a searching and fearless moral inventory of yourself—and the emphasis is upon yourself.
  
4. Become accountable to someone.
  - *James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins one to another and pray for each other that you may be healed.*
  
5. Be ready for cross work.
  - *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.*
  
6. As the cross work begins, pray for mercy while confessing all known sin.
  - *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
  
7. Become willing to make restitution and seek reconciliation with others as much as possible.

- *Luke 19:8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. 9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

8. Set a guard upon the heart by means of constant self-examination.

- *2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*
- *1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*
- *Psalms 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

9. Begin to seek first the kingdom of heaven.

- *Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

10. Remember that the key to spiritual recovery and freedom from sin is the Savior.

- *Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

Conclusion.

It is by not loving the world or the things that are in the world that we find a life that lasts for “*the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever*” (1 John 2:17).