



A Love that Grows

THREE STAGES OF DEVOTION IN THE LIFE OF PAUL



“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

(Galatians 2:20)

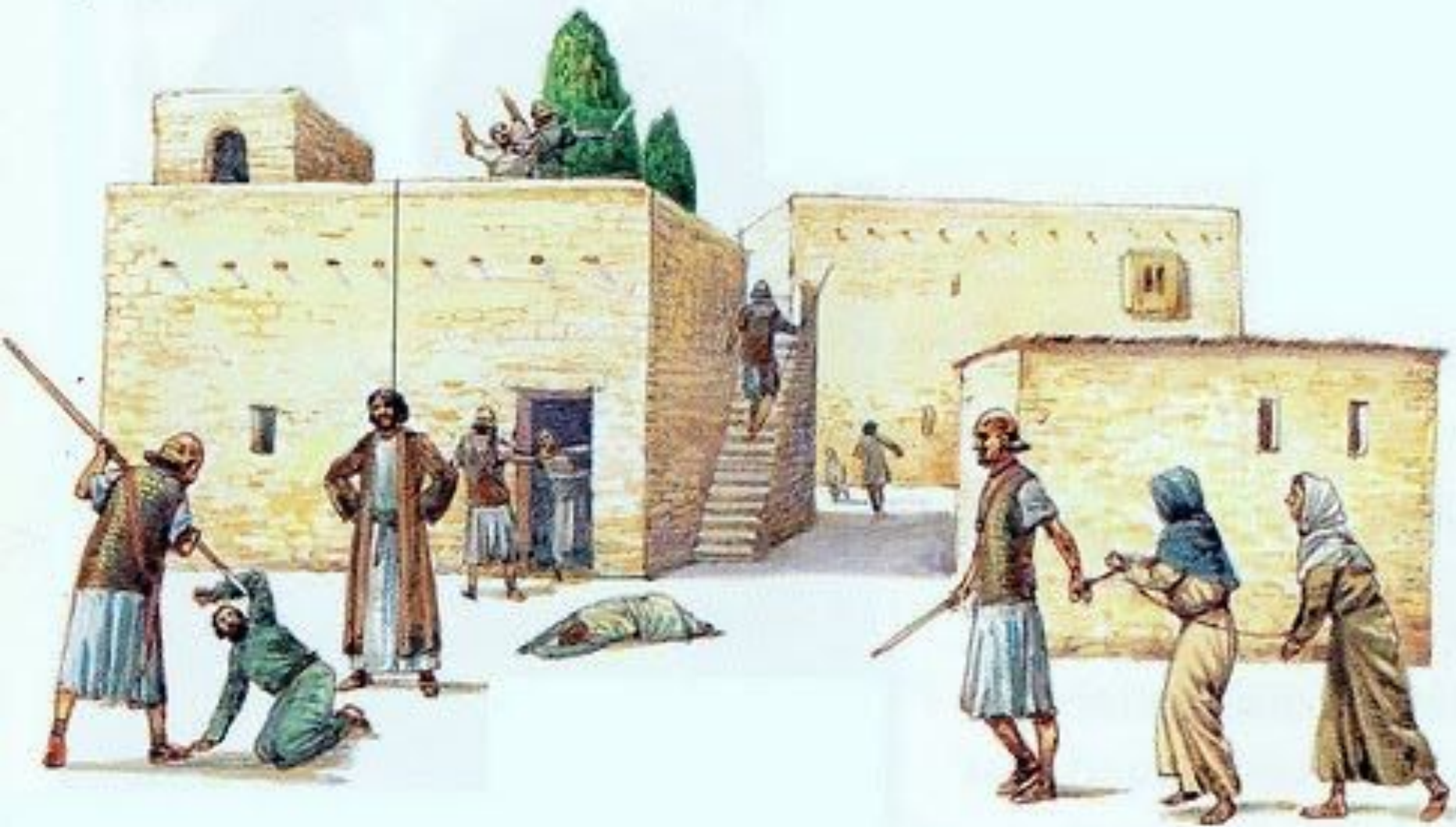




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THREE STAGES OF DEVOTION IN THE LIFE OF PAUL





Saul sets off for Damascus. When he got to the outskirts, he was suddenly dazed by a blinding flash of light. As he fell to the ground, he heard a voice: “Saul, Saul, why are you out to get me?”

(Acts 9:3)



“Who are you, Lord?”

“I am Jesus, the One you’re hunting down. Go to the city and you’ll be told what to do next.”

Saul, picking himself up off the ground, found himself blind. His companions took him by the hand and led him into Damascus.

He was blind for three days.

He ate and drank nothing.

(Acts 9:4-9)



Ananias (instructed by the Lord) went and found Saul, placed his hands on him and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord sent me to you so you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Then something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes—he could see again! He got to his feet, and was baptized.

(Acts 9:17-19)



Phases of the Journey

Awakening

- Encounter with TRUTH - about God and Self.
- Awareness
- Invitation to Change

**ATTRACTION TO
GOD**

Purgation

**OBEDIENCE TO
GOD**

Illumination

**WALKING WITH
GOD**

Union

ONE WITH GOD





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New Research: Belief in Jesus Rises, Fueled by Younger Adults

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Something like scales fell from Saul's eyes.

(Acts 9:18)





Saul spends a few days with the Damascus disciples.

(Acts 9:19-21)





Phase One: **THE PURGATIVE WAY**

The Way of Cleansing the Heart & Will

Phases of the Journey

Awakening

**ATTRACTION TO
GOD**

Purgation

- Battle against Sin
- Old Self vs. New Self
- Spiritual Disciplines most important

**OBEDIENCE TO
GOD**

Illumination

**WALKING WITH
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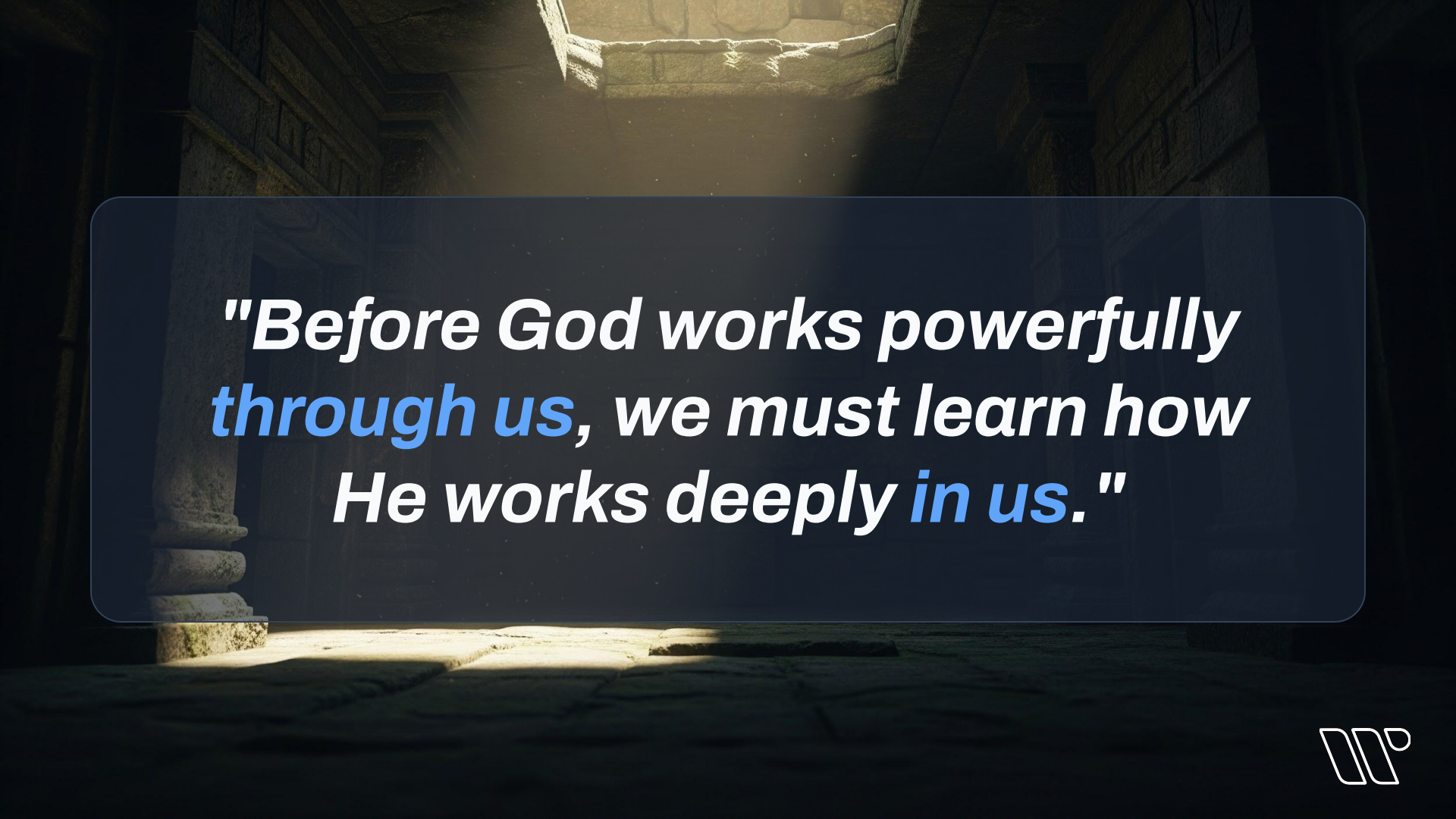
Phase One: **THE PURGATIVE WAY**

The Way of Cleansing the Heart & Will

My immediate response was not to consult any human being. I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days.

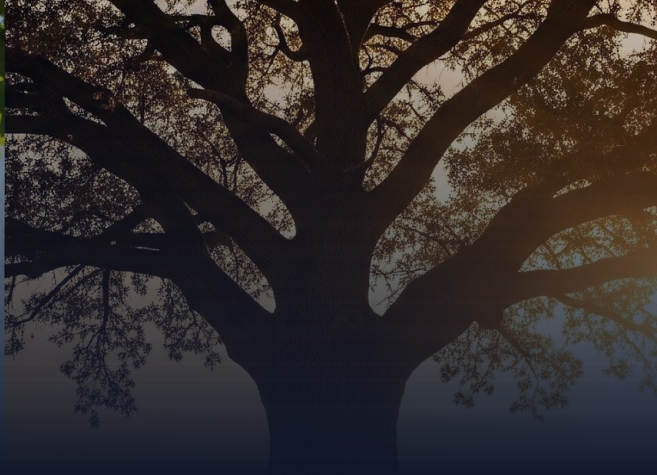
(Galatians 1:16b-18)



A dark, atmospheric photograph of an ancient stone interior, possibly a temple or a large hall. A beam of light from above illuminates a section of the floor and the base of a column on the left. The walls and ceiling are made of large, weathered stone blocks. The overall mood is mysterious and ancient.

***"Before God works powerfully
through us, we must learn how
He works deeply in us."***





Phase Two: **THE ILLUMINATIVE WAY**

The Way of the Spirit

Acts 9:26-30
Acts 11
Acts 13



“One day as they were worshiping God—they were also fasting as they waited for guidance—the Holy Spirit spoke: “Take Barnabas and Saul and commission them for the work I have called them to do.”

(Acts 13:2)



Phases of the Journey

Awakening

ATTRACTION TO
GOD

Purgation

OBEDIENCE TO
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Illumination

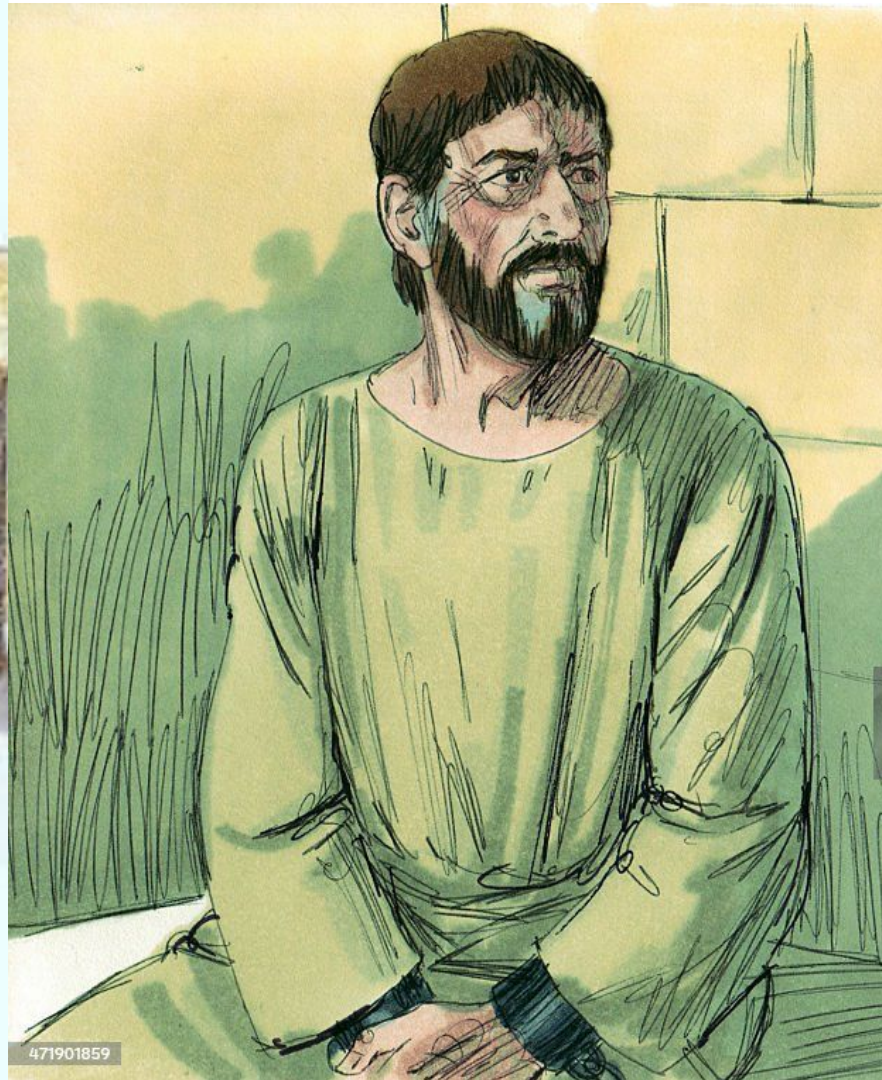
- Bearing fruit - "good works" come naturally
- Aware of God in everything
- Experience gratification

WALKING WITH
GOD

Union

ONE WITH GOD





Phases of the Journey

Awakening

ATTRACTION TO
GOD

Purgation

OBEDIENCE TO
GOD

Illumination

WALKING WITH
GOD

Union

- Quiet peace
- No need for human reinforcement or approval
- Loss of Self

ONE WITH GOD



***I have fought the good fight, I have finished
the race, I have kept the faith.***

(2 Timothy 4:7)



Where are you on this Journey?

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- Encounter with TRUTH - about God and Self.
- Awareness
- Invitation to Change

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GOD**

Purgation

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GOD**

Illumination

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**WALKING WITH
GOD**

Union

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ONE WITH GOD



Three Stages of Discipleship

- Read article
- Assess self
- Pray

