

Ephesians

Transformed by Grace, Empowered by Peace

Study 6

Spiritual Death

Ephesians 2:1-3

A) Spiritual Condition

Ephesians 2:1-3 (ESV)

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

1) a) Objective question. Select the most appropriate answer. Ephesians 2:1 says “you were dead in your transgressions and sins”. What kind of death is this referring to?

- A. Physical death
- B. Brain death
- C. **Spiritual death**

b) Fill in the Blanks. According to the video lecture, which part of the verse reflects the following:

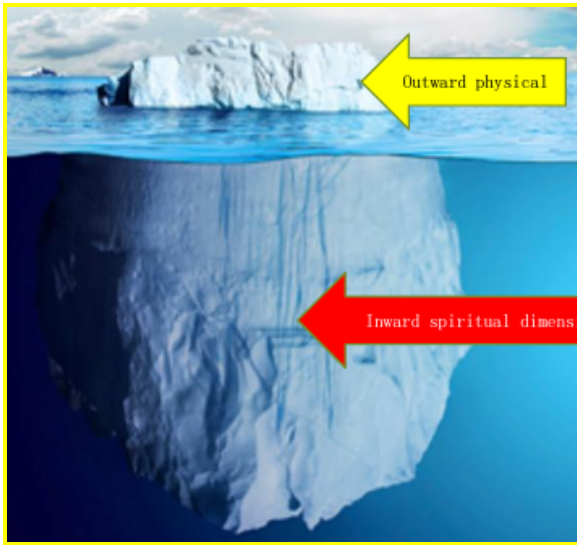
	Verse segments
1. Spiritual condition	And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked
2. How were we dead?	- following the course of this world, - following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind,
3. Consequences	and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

c) Fill in the Blanks. According to the video lecture, what is spiritual death?

Spiritual Death (Doctrine of Total Depravity)	
1.	Non-responsive to spiritual values
2.	No ability to do so
3.	No insight over his own death

B) How were we dead?

2) a) Fill in the blanks. How are we spiritually dead?

	Outward physical	We followed what everyone else was doing
		We followed our own ambitions and pursuit of happiness, doing what was natural
	Inward Spiritual Dimension	Influenced by Satan

b) Objective question. Select the most appropriate answer. What does the Demonic/Satanic influence typically look like most of the time?

A. Most of the time, it looks like something from the Exorcism movie, where a person looks crazy, cannot speak, and froths from the mouth (Luke 11:14, Matthew 17:15)

B. Most of the time, it is subtle, even Jesus looked at his disciple Peter and said "Satan" because Peter was influenced by the demon's logic, or Ananias and Saphira lying about their offerings (Mark 8:31-33, Acts 5:3)

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NIV)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (NLT)

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else.

Efesus 2:1-3 (BM, YouVersion)

Dahulu kamu mati secara rohani, kerana kamu tidak taat kepada perintah Allah dan kamu berdosa. Pada masa itu hidup kamu mengikut cara hidup yang jahat daripada orang di dunia ini. Kamu mentaati penguasa roh-roh jahat di angkasa, iaitu roh yang sekarang menguasai orang yang tidak taat kepada Allah. Sebenarnya dahulu kita semua seperti mereka. Kita hidup mengikut tabiat manusia dan melakukan segala sesuatu yang dikehendaki tubuh dan fikiran kita. Seperti orang lain, kita pun kena kemurkaan Allah.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (Kai Xian Translation)

You also last time spiritually dead, following Satan in being *noti*, Satan who is right now still very *rajin* in influencing those who are still disobedient towards God. We last time ALL also like that one, do whatever we want or feel like doing even if it means hurting others and destroying relationships in the process. Therefore just like others, we actually deserve to be *taruk* by God.

3) Reflection question. Read the different translations above and reflect on them. Below is a list of potential desires and temptations that we will desire more than or apart from God. Share which one you have previously or still currently struggling with.

Food	Love	Work	Responsibility	Friends	Integrity
Comfort	Affection	Career	Life	Happiness	Hard work
Sex	Power	Business	Health	Morality	Success
Competence	Glory	Performance	Family	Religiosity	Others

C) Consequence of Spiritual Death

4) a) Fill in the Blanks. One of the consequences of Spiritual Death is total depravity.

According to the video lecture, what is total depravity?

Total Depravity is where...	
1.	Sin corrupts the whole person: - emotions - will - intellect
2.	A person is extensively evil: -affects each in different ways
3.	A person is incapable of truly good acts
4.	A person is unable to turn to God

b) Fill in the Blanks. If all humans are totally depraved, what are the differences between a believer and a non-believer? Based on the video lecture, fill out the difference between common grace (which even non-believer receives) and special grace (which only believers receive).

Grace	
Common Grace (for even non-believers)	Special Grace (for believers)
God's beneficial power given to underserving people	Saving grace in the work of Jesus Christ
Great gifts of wisdom Beauty and goodness on all mankind regardless of faith Restraints evil	New birth, Redemption

D) Application of Spiritual Death Theology

5) a) Objective question. Select all that apply. What does the bible teach us about the nature of man and evil?

A. Men are fundamentally good but corrupted by evil

B. Men are fundamentally evil

C. Sin is a sickness or addiction and the sinner is a victim of sin, the sinner takes no personal responsibility in committing the sin

D. Although men knew God, they did not honour Him as God or give thanks to Him. (Romans 1:21-23)

E. The mind on the natural human body (flesh) is hostile to God and His ways. (Romans 8:6-8)

b) Discussion question. What are signs that a person is spiritually dead?

- Faith is just a routine and concepts or abstraction, faith is like a duty, there is no personal relationship with God/ Jesus

- no sense of mission to serve God, only want to use God

- no passion for Jesus and his mission

- crisis will reveal our true spiritual state, where those with abstract faith will break down during crisis, because God's love, His sacrifice on the cross, our reconciliation to Him, and peace with God does not bring comfort to these people

- Another possible response is when put through the test of crisis, those with abstract faith suddenly develop solid faith during the time of crisis. Heavenly inheritance becomes real.

c) Objective question. Select all that apply. What are signs that a person is spiritually alive?

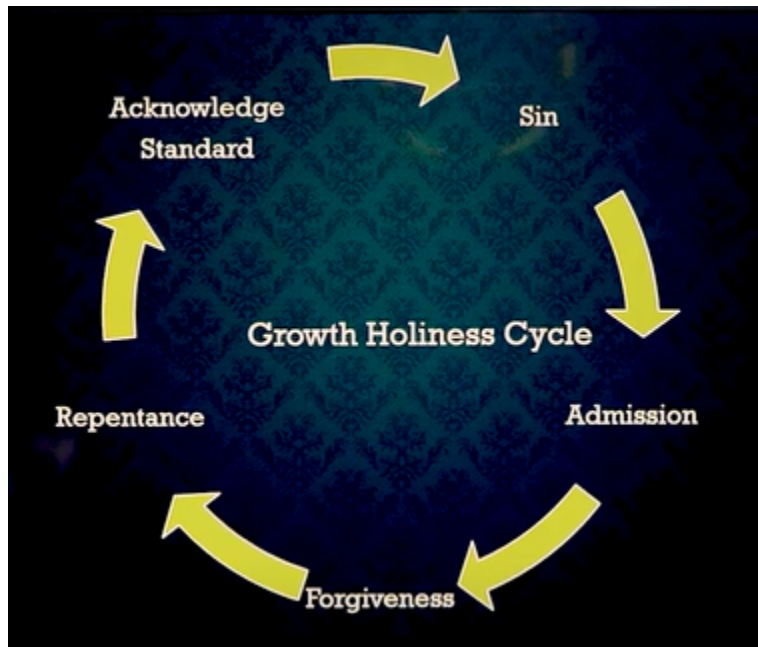
A. Thinking and agonizing over your own sin

B. Remorseful over own sin

C. Working through doubts

D. Wondering "How come I cannot give more time to God?"

d) Discussion question. Do you find your church more like a place to build self-esteems over all our good works or more like alcoholics anonymous?



e) Reflection question. Above is a picture of the Holiness Growth Cycle. Which part of the cycle is the hardest for you at this stage of your journey?

Takeaway

In Ephesians 2:1-3, apostle Paul reminds us that we are all deserving of death, we were extensively evil, however, God in His grace led us to repentance and belief in Him as our source of salvation and now we have a new way of life as well as a new responsibility to share this good news with others.

Case Study

Case 1 – Spiritually Dead

Roh Mah Tee attends Second Baptist Church. Mah Tee dutifully attends every Sunday service in church and gives his tithes consistently. He also serves in the Soup Kitchen every Wednesday and even went to last year's mission trip. He has pledged two months worth of salary into the charity fund-raising project and attends the monthly 6am prayer meetings.

He starts to think of those who contribute less than him as less spiritual, because if he can do it, why can't they? This kind of thinking made him irritable and annoyed at others who contribute less than him in the church. One day that irritation hit the maximum and he lost patience with one of the members in the Soup Kitchen and yelled at him, one of the church leader approach him to point out that we are to be more loving and patient towards brothers and sister in Christ,

he got angry at the church leader and said he has contributed so much for God and will leave the Soup Kitchen ministry if they didn't appreciate him.

1) a) Discussion question. Has Mah Tee made any mistakes? Does he have any wrong theology or the wrong way to think about things?

b) Reflection question. If you know Mah Tee in real life, would you talk to him?

c) Discussion question. How do we make a person "spiritually alive"? Refer to the verses below to help you.

Quick Verse Reference

2 Corinthians 4:3-5

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

Ephesians 2:4-5

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

John 4:23-24

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

