



Authentic Spirituality, Pt 9
Avoiding Sin's Downward Spiral
By Louie Marsh, 4-26-2020

1) Take God's _____!

¹⁴ *so that we may no longer be **children**, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.* ¹⁵ *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,* ¹⁶ *from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*
 Ephesians 4:14-16 (ESV)

- I'm learning to be _____.
- I'm _____ in love.
- I'm growing _____ to Christ.
- I'm _____ with Christ & His Community

2) Sin's Downward Spiral - Evil's adoptive process.

A) _____ – empty, ideas about God & Christ.

¹⁷ *Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.* Ephesians 4:17 (ESV)

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:21 (NIV)

B) Hardness of heart – _____

¹⁸ *They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.* Ephesians 4:18 (ESV)

C) Ignorance – _____ moral/spiritual blindness.

D) Darkened understanding – _____

E) Separated from the life of God – _____ from God.

F) Giving myself over – _____ to a godless lifestyle.

¹⁹ *They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.* Ephesians 4:19 (ESV)

3) How I can avoid all this –

²⁰ *But that is not the way you learned Christ!*— ²¹ *assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,* Ephesians 4:20-21 (ESV)

- **Think** _____

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8 (ASV)

- **Keep my heart** _____

¹¹ *We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open.*

¹² *You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections.* ¹³ *In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.* 2 Corinthians 6:11-13 (ESV)

- _____ **my old self**

²² *to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,* Ephesians 4:22 (ESV)

- _____ **my new self**

²⁴ *and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.* Ephesians 4:24 (ESV)

- **Renew myself** _____

²³ *and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,* Ephesians 4:23 (ESV)