



# The Flow

## Fostering Spiritual Growth in the Church

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Oakland International Fellowship

[bit.ly/SG-ST](http://bit.ly/SG-ST)

# Fostering Spiritual Growth in the Church

3 Stages of  
Spiritual Life

2 Lessons:  
Being like Jesus  
(Isaiah 54:4-9)

1 Lesson:  
Vision of Church

6-8 Lessons:  
Topical Analysis  
of Christian  
Growth

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0

Is 54

Is 54

1

1

2

2

2

3

3

Church

Growth

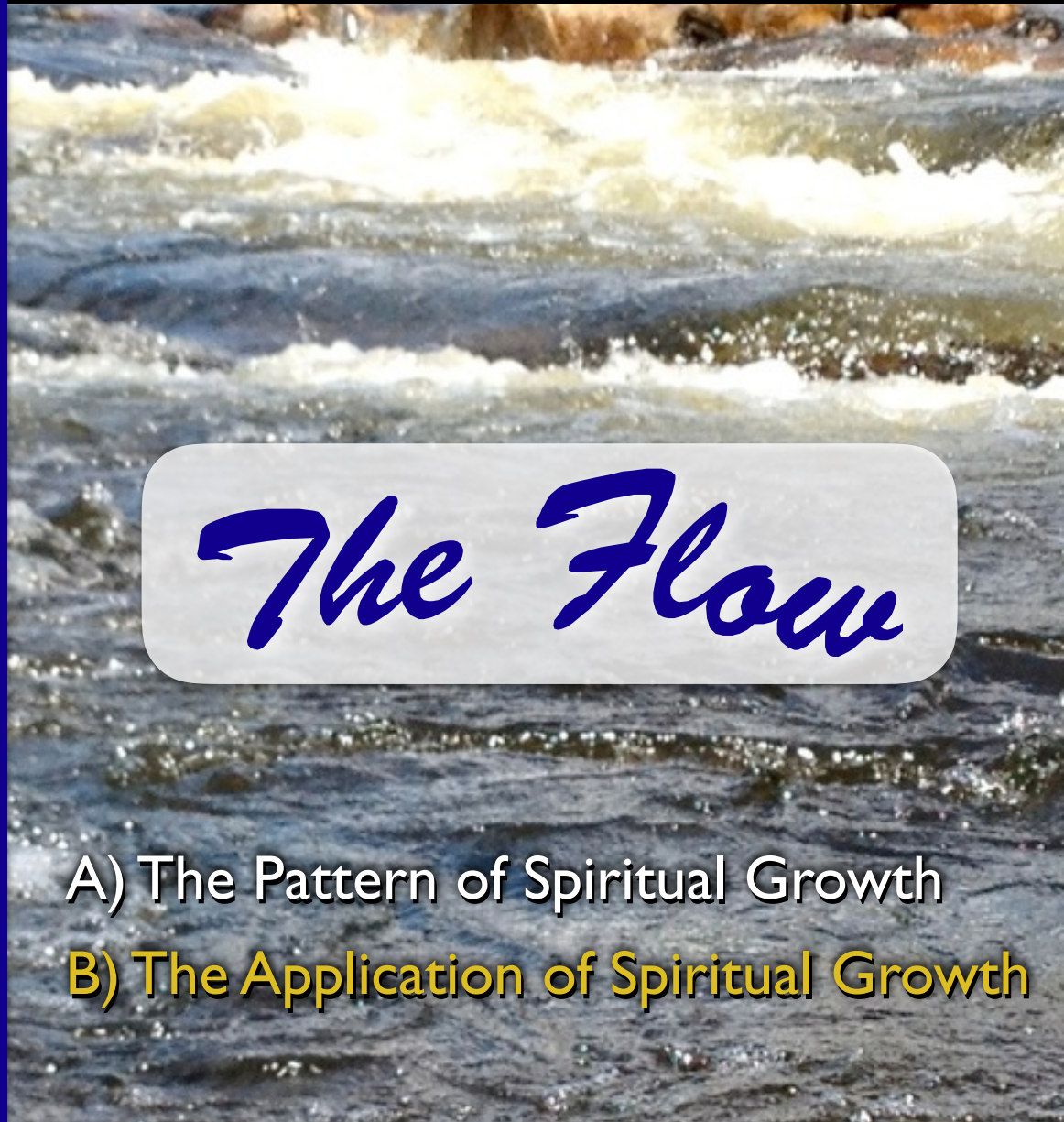
Growth

Growth

Growth

Growth

Growth



*The Flow*

A) The Pattern of Spiritual Growth

B) The Application of Spiritual Growth

# *The Flow*

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## Embracing God's Purposes for the Church

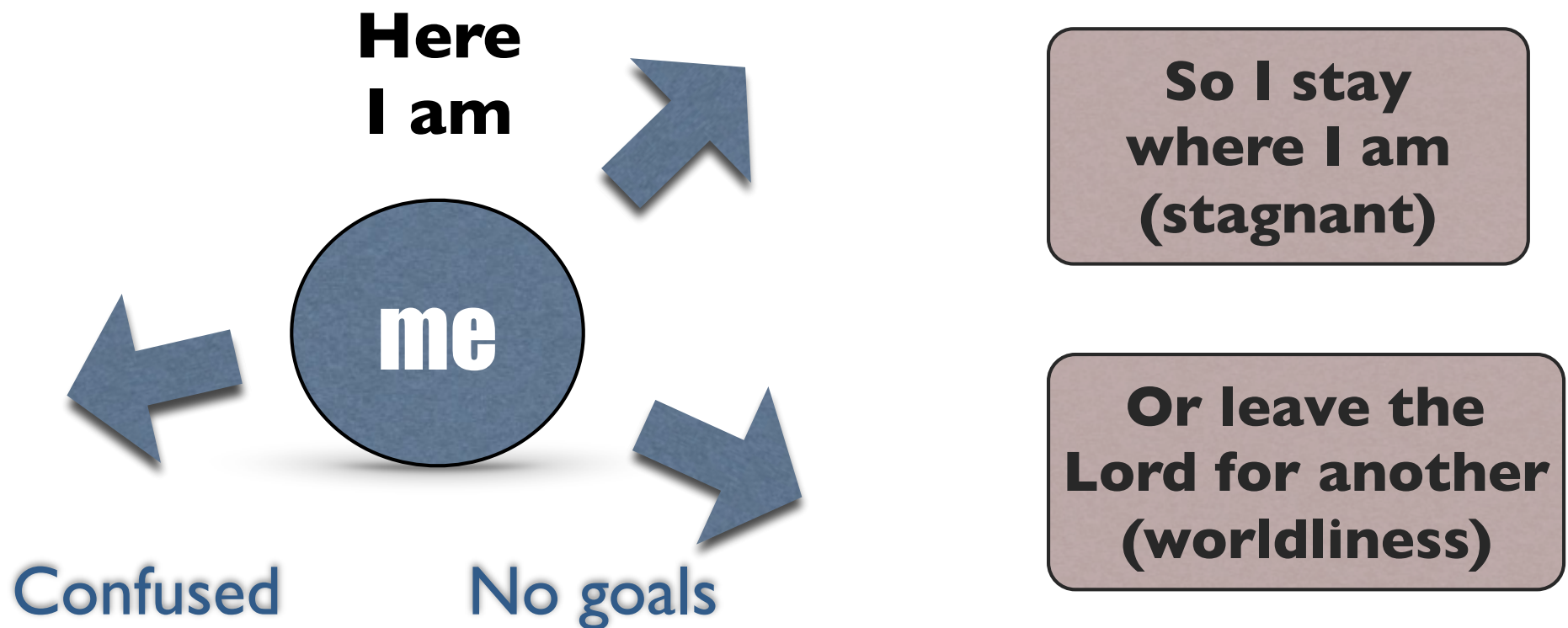
**1 Peter 1:23-25**

**Fostering Spiritual Growth in the Church**

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**Paul J. Bucknell**

# No spiritual map



# No life direction

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Embracing God's Purposes  
for the Church

# The Flow



A power

A direction

A force

**God's life-giving spiritual presence**



**Missions**  
**(the outward expansion)**

**Spiritual life**  
**(the inner transformation)**

# The Potential of a Seed



## 1 Peter 1:23-25 Born Again

“For you have been **born again** not of **seed** which is perishable but imperishable, that is, **through the living and abiding word of God**. For, “All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the Word of the Lord abides forever.” **And this is the word which was preached to you.**” (1 Peter 1:23-25).

- **New life**
- **Seed=Word of God**
- **Living**



## Signs of life & death

Alive	Dead
Breathing	Not breathing
Growing	Does not grow
Cry	Does not cry
Hungry	Is not hungry

**“Bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance! (Mat 3:8).**



## Spiritual Life Begins!

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is **born of God** and **knows God**. (1 John 4:7)

1. Gains faith – Evangelism (John 1:12–13)
2. Grows in faith – Sanctification (Phil 1:6)

**Spiritual life is that persistent force of God that drives us toward God, like light for a plant.**

# The Scriptures and Spiritual Life

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13).

**Spiritual life starts with being born of God. Tradition and ritual or even self-determination do not bring life.**

“Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit’” (John 3:5-6).

**This spiritual life begins with the Spirit of God's work!**

Jesus and scripture writers used analogies including the term ‘life’ to help us grasp and understand important truths for our Christian lives.

# Scriptures and Spiritual Life

“The Spirit gives life” (2 Corinthians 3:6).

**The Spirit of God begins our spiritual lives and continues to empower us to affect our whole beings.**

“But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life” (John 4:14).

**Spiritual life will abound and go on into eternity.**

“I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly” (John 10:10).

**Spiritual life is of such design to grow and be magnificent!**

“16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God” (Eph 3:16-19).

**The seed presents a great  
vision for our spiritual lives**

A silhouette of a vine with clusters of seed pods against a bright, hazy sunset or sunrise sky. The sun is a large, glowing orb in the center-left, partially obscured by the vine's branches. The background is a warm, golden-brown gradient, suggesting a clear but slightly hazy atmosphere. The vine's branches are dark and intricate, with several clusters of seed pods hanging from them. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

### **The Flow's Stream**

“And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it” (Micah 4:1-2; Is 2:1-3).



God's life pours out as a constant stream in the lives of His people.

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