

# MY FLESH—GOD'S ENEMY

Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so . . . .

Romans 8:7

FLESH

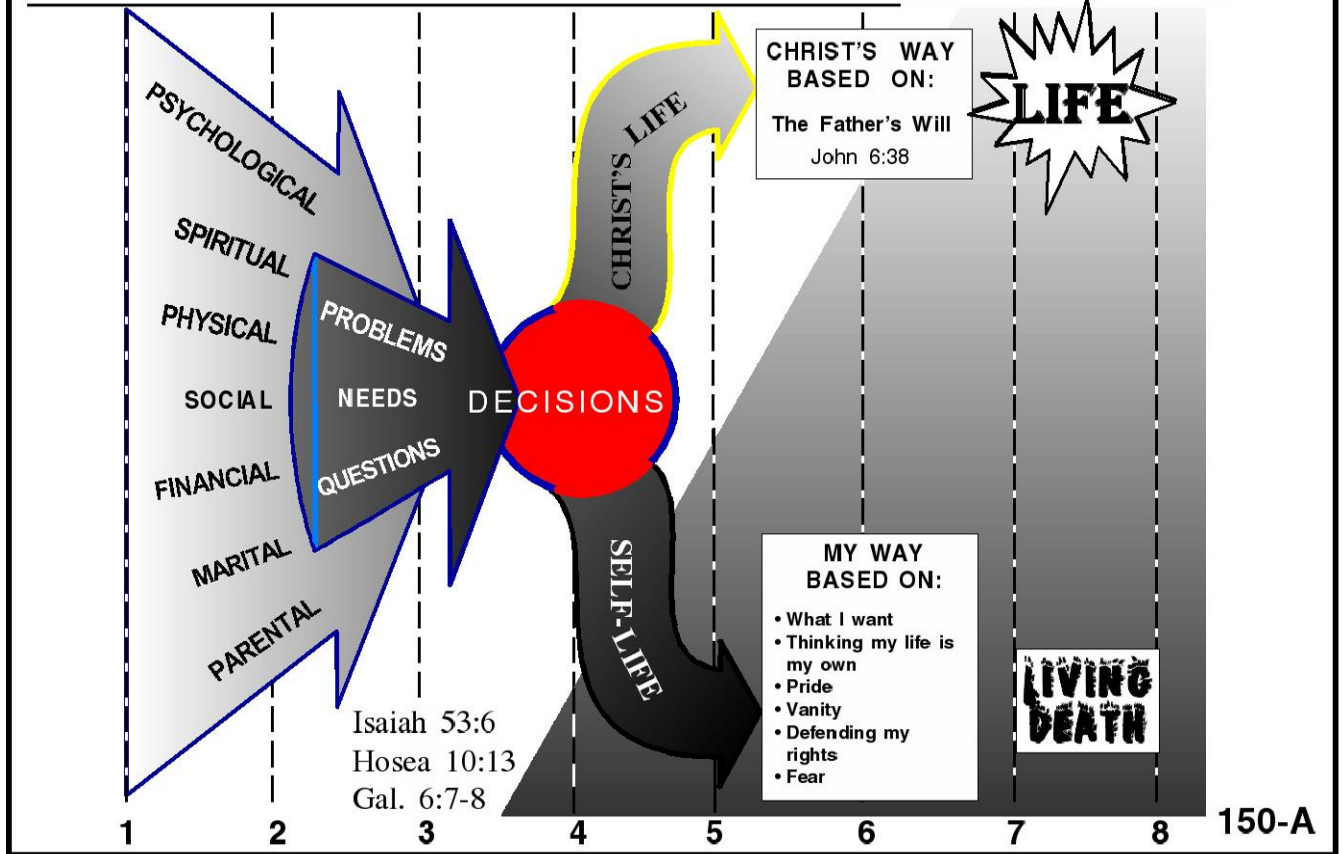
This lesson deals with the condition within each of us whereby we desire to operate in our own strength, reason, and selfish desires. This condition is called the flesh or the self-life. The flesh may be described as “my claim to my right to myself” (Oswald Chambers). Paul says in Romans 8:6 that “The mind set on the flesh is death.” This is a crucial lesson to uncover a basic reason Christians are not living in victory. They are choosing to walk after the flesh. There is good news—victory is possible because **I am not my flesh.**

Consider this quote to help clarify the “flesh.”

“We have all learned to rely on our own strategies for getting our needs met. The Bible calls this mechanism for servicing our own needs the *flesh*. Every person has developed his flesh-life in order to get what he wants out of life as much of the time as possible. Don't think of flesh as skin, but as personal *techniques* for meeting your own perceived needs, apart from Christ. . . .” From *Grace Walk* by Steve McVey, page 28.

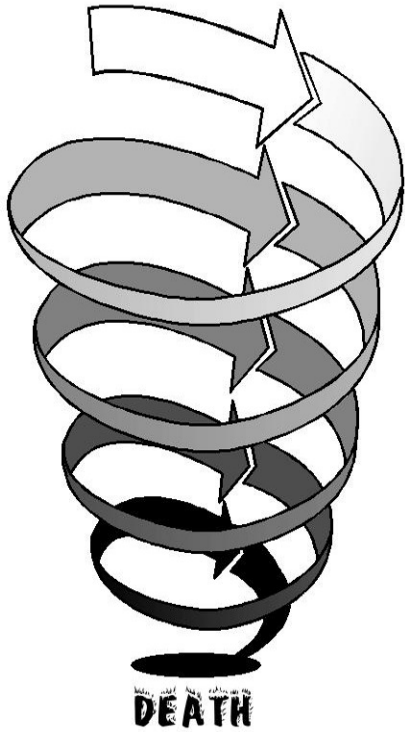
# MAKING LIFE OR DEATH DECISIONS

Deut. 30:19-20



## NOTES

## SELF-LIFE



### Matthew 16:25a

SELF-LIFE	<i>James 3:16</i>
SELF-COMMENDATION	<i>2 Cor. 10:17-18</i>
SELF-OCCUPATION	<i>Phil. 2:4</i>
SELF-PLEASING	<i>Rom. 15:1-3</i>
SELF-CONDEMNATION	<i>Rom. 8:1</i>
SELF-DEFENSIVENESS	<i>Gen. 3:11-13</i>
SELF-PITY	<i>Jonah 4:8</i>
SELF-DESTRUCTION	<i>Phil. 3:19</i>

**150-B**

## **NOTES**

# DISCERNING THE FLESH

Romans 8:5-8

## TEST YOUR MOTIVES

1.

Is my decision for the **FLESH**?

- Am I doing it for my self-interest? *Phil. 2:3-4*
- Is it against God's word? *Ps. 119:11*
- Is it contrary to those in authority? *Rom. 13:1; Heb. 13:17*
- Am I feeling frustrated, angry, or fearful? *Gal. 5:16-21*
- Is there a lack of contentment? *1 Tim. 6:6*

*If so, the result is **DEATH, LOSS, and CORRUPTION!***

2.

Is my decision for the **SPIRIT**?

- Am I doing it in recognition that my life is not my own? *2 Cor. 5:15*
- Am I acknowledging God's sovereign control in everything and trusting Him to work things out? *Rom. 8:28*

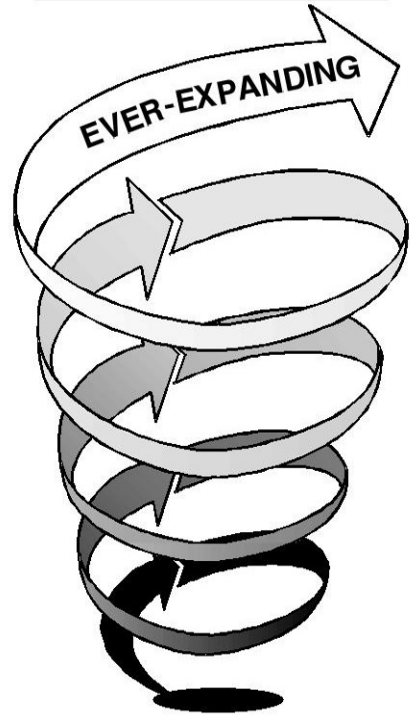
*If so, the result is **LIFE & PEACE!***

150-C

## NOTES

## CHRIST'S LIFE

<i>John 15:16</i>	MINISTRY to OTHERS
<i>Matt. 28:19-20</i>	OUTREACH
<i>Gal. 5:1</i>	SPIRITUAL FREEDOM
<i>1 John 4:11-12</i>	MATURE LOVE
<i>Psalms 62:5</i>	EXPECTATION From GOD
<i>Psalms 50:23</i>	WORSHIP & PRAISE
<i>Matt. 16:24</i>	DAILY CROSS-BEARING
<i>Luke 9:23</i>	DENY SELF



150-D

## **NOTES**

## **REVIEW**

- The flesh or self-life is a condition that exists within every person, believers and nonbelievers alike.
- A believer has been born of the Spirit and does not have to carry out the deeds of the flesh.
- However, when a believer chooses his or her own way over God's way that person is walking after the flesh and it will produce death.
- By checking my motives, I can determine if I am walking after the flesh or walking after the Spirit.



## ***NOTES***