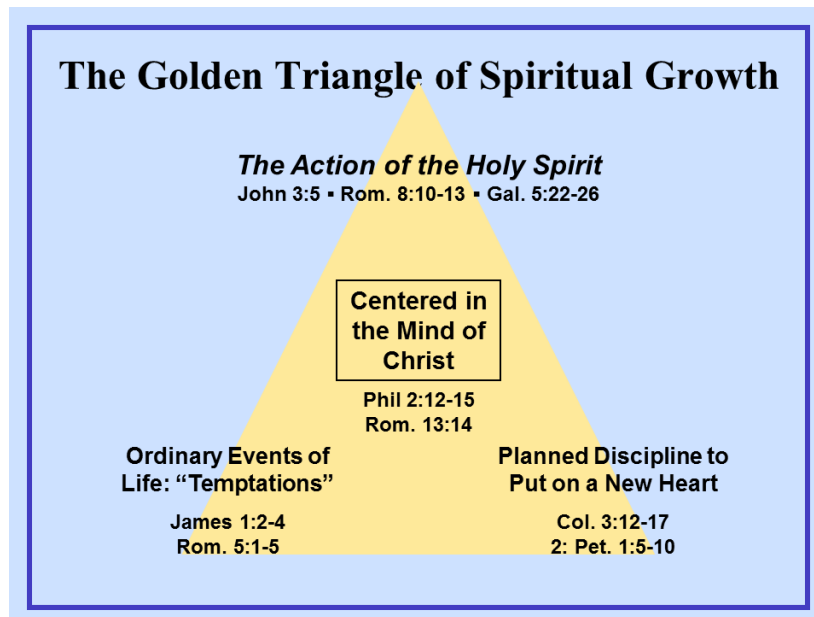


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We are now moving into method and procedure for putting on the mind of Christ. Dallas begins teaching the “Golden Triangle” of Spiritual Formation, which is also presented in his book *The Divine Conspiracy* (pp. 347-348, HarperOne, 1997).

1. The “Golden Triangle” of Spiritual Formation



a. Moving toward putting on the mind of Christ

- The Action of the Holy Spirit.
 - The birth from above: *Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God (John 3:5).*
 - Power from above: *Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above (John 19:10-11).*
 - This is God in action. The Holy Spirit brings _____ life into the individual's life and begins to create _____ them and _____ them different things.
 - You have the mind of the flesh and the disciplines that turn us toward mortifying the deeds of the flesh.

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Renovaré Institute Series Video #6 – Part 3
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- *And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:10-11).*

You do not want to mortify the deeds of the flesh by the deeds of the flesh. *For if you live after the flesh, you shall die: but if you through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live (Romans 8:13).*

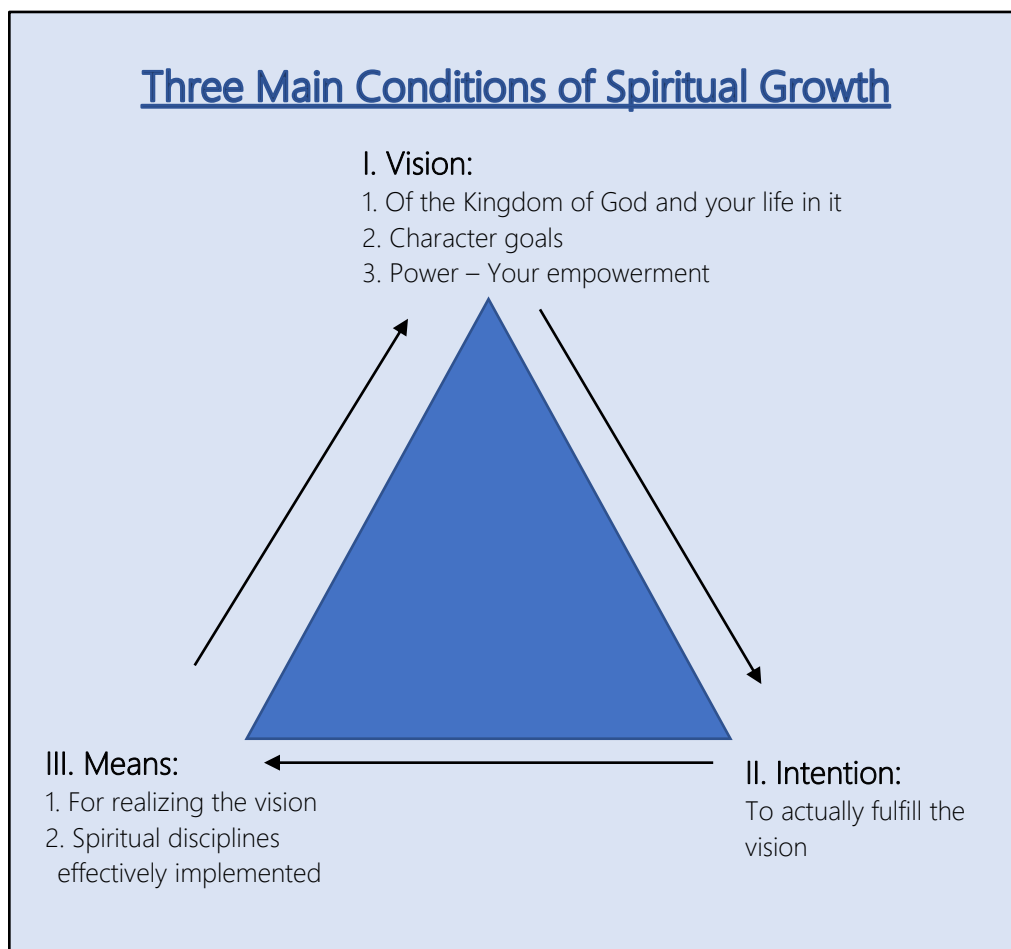
- Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we experience the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness.
 - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another (Galatians 5:22-26).*
- Ordinary Events of Life.
 - These are sometimes called temptations. They're not temptations in the sense of solicitation to sin, but _____ that put you to the _____. They can turn into _____ if you don't take them rightly. This is just _____ life – at work, at home, in the community, at play.
 - We know that we will see the Kingdom at work in those troubles (James 1:2-4; Romans 5:1-5). That's why we welcome whatever comes. **Remember - That's only for the person who's already got it clear: God is here, no matter where here is.**
- Planned Disciplines
 - Put on new bowels/guts/heart (Colossians 3; 2 Peter 1; Romans 5)
 - Disciplines are activities that we _____ to engage in. We have to be able to undertake them.
 - We're talking to people who are in relatively good positions spiritually. Some people can't do disciplines; their lives are so shattered that they need ministry,

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prayer, teaching, and someone to just be with them. Gradually you can work them into some things they can do.

- Discipline is something in my power that enables me to do what I cannot do by direction, by direct effort.
- Disciplines work by *indirection*. You stop trying to do the things that Jesus said, and you do the things that will *enable* you to do the things that Jesus said.
- Do the things you can do – that's _____ – to affect things you can't do – that's _____. And you find that you can do them. Often, we find that when we're having trouble in this corner (*Ordinary Events of Life*), we have to go to this corner (*Planned Disciplines*) to deal with it.

2. VIM: Vision, Intention, Means



This is a structure of personality. With anything you want to change, you need to go through this process.

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a. Vision and Intention

- For anything you want to change, you need a _____ of the _____ of what you're thinking about.
- Our _____ creates the vision. If you want to make disciples, you have to communicate a vision of the goodness of living in the Kingdom of God. You do that by preaching the gospel of Jesus. You present the Kingdom of God in a winsome way, and you present Jesus in his loveliness as a person and his availability.
- You think about character goals. Would I really like to be a person who has integrity? Who has the ability to be open to people? Who is an entirely truthful person? That would be a _____ goal.
- Power and empowerment are part of the vision. If the vision is strong, you can form the intention to be that way. If the _____ is there, you can make a _____ to do it. **You do not become a disciple by accident.** You have to _____ that is what I am going to do. If your vision is not strong, you will not be able to do that, and it may lead you to getting a bunch of means which you will never use.
- The lack of intention is the key to the condition of the Church.

b. Means

- Means is a part of God's plan for people with free will. People with free will have the option of where they're going and that involves steps and taking those steps. You do certain things – that's the means. You do them because you have the intention, and you have the intention because you see the goodness of the vision. And that works. *Always* works.
- There are many different kinds of means – going to church, fasting, memorizing scripture, singing songs, worship, fellowship, confession.... There's no final list on that. You have to get the concept, then the list will take care of itself.



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This session ends with a Question-and-Answer period. In response to questions asked, Dallas discussed:

- Being in a dark places and places of depravation: Joy does not come by effort, but by indirection. It is a fruit; not something you do by effort. You can learn to take the times when there is no consolation if you have the broader view that God is there, too. God is in the dark. The Psalms teach us to go to God and complain.
- Encouraging people to do specific things that put them in the position to know the presence of God with them.