

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Matthew 10:39 “He who has found his life will lose it,”

“He who has found his life” refers to an individual who does what he wants to do.

➤ This person accomplishes his plan as opposed to the Lord’s plan.

POD (review): The one who pursues his life [does whatever he wants to do] as opposed to pursuing the life that God has prepared for him will lose it.

➤ **Lose** - ἀπόλλυμι – APOLLUMI - *to ruin*

A ruined life is worthless!

POD (new): The believer who does what he wants to do with his life ruins it by forfeiting the plan God prepared for his life.

POD (review): Where there is no prayer (seeking the Lord’s will and wisdom) there is no submission to authority (James 4:13 & 16 cf. James 1:5).

James 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

If you are pursuing God’s plan for your life, you’ll have a prayer life.



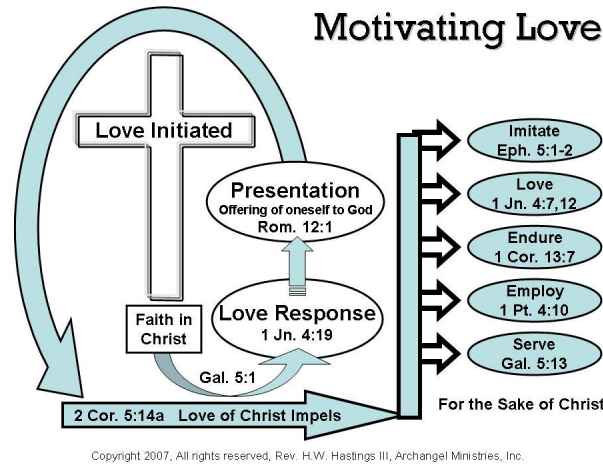
Are you willing to ask the Lord for wisdom in what it is He wants you to do and where it is He wants you to go?

Matthew 10:39 “He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.”

- In order for something to be lost it has to belong to someone.
- If it does not belong to someone it can't be lost.

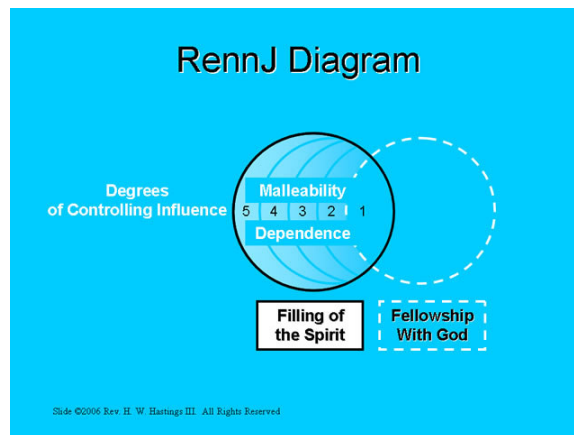
POD: Losing your life is tantamount to handing it over to the Lord and pursuing what He has prepared for you to do.

- When you are saved, you are set free and whether you present your life to God after your salvation is something God does not force you to do, but He rejoices in it when you do.



How do you pursue His plan for your life?

- ✚ Starts out in fellowship
- ✚ Feeding upon the Word of God
- ✚ Maintaining fellowship in the RennJ Diagram via walking by the Spirit



- ✚ Seeking His will through prayer (**James 1:5** cf. **James 4:13**)
- ✚ Recovering fellowship when we stumble via **1 John 1:9**

BELIEVERS CAN AND DO SIN!

There is a difference between *maintaining* fellowship and *recovering* fellowship.

How do we maintain fellowship?

- Walk by the Spirit (**Galatians 5:16**) with the Word of God in our souls (**Romans 12:2**).

How do we recover fellowship?

- **1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins . . .”

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Matthew 10:40 “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”

- If you welcome someone the Lord has sent, you welcome the Lord Himself.
- Rejecting someone the Lord has sent is tantamount to rejecting the Lord.

The believer does not need to worry about being rejected in sharing the Gospel with someone.

It's not you they are rejecting; it's the Lord and His message.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.