



Christian Mission Connection

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A Learning and Worship Center

The Spiritual Cycle – Read Acts 1

The Spiritual Cycle is found in many places in the Bible. We find in Acts 1 Jesus has died and risen the people are listening to him in just a little different way. Before when he said something they may have considered what he was saying but NOW they are listening in anticipation of what he will say. They are listening because Jesus is about to give them some instructions: 1) Go to Jerusalem and wait, 2) Waiting for a Word, not just any Word but God's Word. They now know who Jesus really is it was not what they had expected the Jews were looking for a king. God gives us the desires of our hearts.

The **Word** establishes our relationship with God that God is God and we are not this puts us in a position of **Worship**. We are in awe of who Christ is and we are driven to our knees.

Jesus told them to go to Jerusalem and wait. The Hebrew understanding of **prayer** was to wait for a word from God. Each year a chosen priest went into the Holy of Holies to hear that word from God. It was not a grocery list of wants but they were open to what God would give them believing God would provide for them what they needed and they would be satisfied in that. They were there for some time, one day Peter stood up and spoke, many people were gathered, the women were there and involved in the prayer. They were of one accord.

One day Peter stood up and spoke scripture (not NT, the OT), he gave a **prophecy**.

They acted upon the Word that Peter had given them, or **practiced**. They had an experience.

That experience broke out in **praise** of God and drove them back to the **Word** for the cycle to start again.

This is a cycle that is found through out scripture. If we get stuck in any one of these spots the cycle is spoken.

WORD – Father - Power

WORSHIP – Son – Glory

PRAYER – Holy Spirit - Wealth

PROPHECY – Father - Power

PRACTICE – Son - Glory

PRAISE – Holy Spirit – Wealth

3 Basic Temptations fall into 3 categories – Power, Wealth, Glory

Matthew 4 to the temptation story. Jesus is lead out to the wilderness by the Spirit.

- 1) Tempted with stones to bread – man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of God's mouth – The pride of Life - POWER
- 2) Tempted at the Holy city...angels has charge – you shall not tempt the Lord your God – The lust of the eyes - GLORY

- 3) Tempted at High mountain and promises all things for his worship – you shall worship the Lord your God and him only do you serve – The lust of the flesh - WEALTH

A balanced approach in all these areas in our lives keeps in God's will. Draw a line from the Word to Practice it is an expression of God's Word – a line from Practice to Prayer what we get from the Holy Spirit we get from the Father and back to Word these are expressions of God toward us. The other three Prophecy to Praise to Worship and back to Prophecy is our response back to God, it is flipped. This double triangle (star) is the strongest foundation to build a building.

All sin falls into these arenas. Example Idolatry could be power, wealth, or glory. Sin can fall into any area, only the one who sins knows where the sin lies. What may be a sin for one may not be for another. The cycle helps to determine where the sin exists for you if you have fallen away from reading God's word, worship, prayer, etc. you can begin to address these issues in your life and rededicate yourself to God's will and ways for your life.

The Spiritual Cycle *Acts 1*

