

The Inscrutable Question: Prolonged Carnality Involves the Believer in the Three Arrogant Skills & the Cogs of Carnality, 1 Cor 3:1-3; 1 Jn 1:6-10

These verses illustrate the difference between spirituality and carnality. The person who remains under the prolonged control of his sinful nature becomes enmeshed in the three arrogant skills. The diagram “Cogs of Carnality” illustrates the results of this lifestyle. The description of the escalating problem is provided by:

Thieme, R. B. Jr. “Cogs of Carnality.” In *Spiritual Dynamics*. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1992), lesson #741, 30 November 1995:

Jealousy in 1 Corinthians 3:3 drives the **self-justification** cog toward the second cog, **self-deception**. Implacability then moves this gear into the **self-absorption** cog, comprised of hatred and related sins. As malice, revenge, and vituperation build toward vilification, violence, or abuse, these forms of vindictiveness create bitterness, which then reverses the cycle of the believer from the **self-absorption** cog back to the anger of **self-deception**. Increasing anger leads to the intensification of bitterness where the believer retrogresses to **self-justification**. Here the believer believes that he is right in the execution of all these sins and enters into the advanced stages of reversionism: emotional revolt of the soul, Filling of the Holy Spirit; negative volition to doctrine, blackout of the soul, scar tissue of the soul, and reverse process reversionism.

This vicious cycle describes the interlocking relationship between prolonged carnality and the arrogance skills. Only by obeying the divine mandate to use the rebound procedure to confess sins of arrogance can a believer stop the cogs of carnality from grinding down the spiritual life.

1 John 1:9 - If [introduces the protasis of a 3rd class condition: maybe we will or maybe we won't acknowledge our sins] we acknowledge our sins to God, [apodosis] He is faithful and just to forgive us those sins and to purify us from all wrongdoing.

While the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is related to the believer's body, the filling of the Holy Spirit is related to the believer's soul.