

Briefing Document: 1 John Lesson 59

April 22, 2026

Executive Summary

The central theme of this study is the fundamental incompatibility between a life of faith and a life of habitual sin. Based on 1 John 3:9–10, the teaching asserts that true salvation is not merely a change in a person's eternal destination or legal status, but a radical transformation of their nature. This transformation is a divine work of the Holy Spirit, who plants an incorruptible "seed" of God's life within the believer. Consequently, while a Christian may still commit individual acts of sin, they can no longer maintain an unbroken, habitual pattern of lawlessness. The document also highlights upcoming community events, including the "Walk for Life" and various youth programs.

The Nature of True Salvation

A core argument presented is that becoming a real Christian results in a life that is dramatically different from the one lived previously. This "new life" is characterized by a shift in desires, motives, and behaviors.

- **Transformation vs. Status:** Modern "pop gospel" often teaches that salvation is only a change in status—a "fire insurance" policy for the afterlife. However, the biblical text indicates a change in nature. If a person's life remains exactly the same after professing faith, the validity of their conversion is questioned.
- **The Change of Desires:** True regeneration affects the mind, emotions, and will. It produces new loves and new hates, shifting the believer's focus from self-seeking to God-honoring goals.
- **The Assault on Truth:** False teachers have historically claimed that one can possess eternal life while continuing to live in unbroken sin. This is identified as a deception of Satan intended to provide false security.

Biblical Analysis of 1 John 3:9–10

The study focuses on the specific language used by the Apostle John to distinguish between the "children of God" and the "children of the devil."

- *Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God (1 John 3:9).*
- *In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother (1 John 3:10).*

Defining Habitual Sin

The phrase "does not sin" in the Greek context refers to an ongoing, unbroken pattern of behavior.

- **Individual Acts vs. Habitual Practice:** The teaching clarifies that Christians are not sinless. However, they do not practice sin as a lifestyle.
- **The Role of Conviction:** When a believer sins, it causes them distress, leading to repentance and confession. They no longer "worship lawlessness."
- **The Test of Conduct:** John provides two tests for identifying a true believer:
 1. **Doctrinal Test:** Do they have a correct view of Christ and a correct view of sin?
 2. **Behavioral Test:** Do they demonstrate righteous behavior and love for other believers?

The Work of the Holy Spirit in Regeneration

The document outlines how the third person of the Trinity—the Holy Spirit—is the active agent in creating new life.

- **The Divine Seed:** Upon salvation, the "seed" (*sperma*) of God is implanted in the believer. This is a permanent, incorruptible life force that remains within the person, preventing them from returning to their former nature of lawlessness.
- **The Tool of the Word:** The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God as the instrument for this new birth. Believers are described as being born again through the "living and abiding word of God."
- **Monergism:** The teaching emphasizes that God alone is the agent of human salvation. Just as an infant does not participate in its own conception, a person is "made alive" by God's mercy while they are still spiritually "dead in trespasses."

Supporting Scriptures

The following verses are cited to support the necessity of a transformed life:

- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17).*
- *But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life (Romans 6:22).*
- *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).*
- *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).*
- *Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever (1 Peter 1:23).*

Community Announcements and Prayer Requests

The following organizational updates and community needs were noted:

Upcoming Events

- **New Life Kids Carnival:** Scheduled for next week; there will be no Sunday evening service. Attendees are asked to bring nut-free treats.
- **Vacation Bible School (VBS):** Begins May 26th through the 29th.
- **9th Annual Walk for Life:** A fundraising event for We Care Pregnancy Center held at the high school stadium on May 16th.
- **National Day of Prayer:** A Pastor will lead the service at 9:00 a.m. at Apache Park on May 7th.
- **Women's Fellowship:** Saturday, April 25th;
- **Ladies' Breakfast:** Registration is required for the upcoming breakfast on May 9th.

Prayer Needs

- **Personal Health:** One member shared MRI results indicating a need for a neurosurgeon and neurologist, likely leading to surgery.
- **Cooper:** A young child who has been progressively getting sicker.
- **General Requests:** Prayers for the military, national leadership, and various unspoken needs within the congregation.

Phonetic Guide and Glossary of Terms

| Greek / Theological Term | Phonetic Pronunciation | Definition |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Sperma | <i>SPER-mah</i> | A seed, offspring, or descendant; used to describe the divine life of God implanted in a believer. [^1] |
| Theos | <i>THEH-os</i> | The Greek word for God. [^2] |
| Monergism | <i>MAH-ner-jiz-um</i> | The doctrine that the Holy Spirit is the only agent in regeneration (the "new birth"). [^3] |
| Anagennao | <i>an-ah-ghen-NAH-oh</i> | To be begotten again or born all over again; the miracle of spiritual rebirth. [^4] |
| Vivification | <i>viv-ih-fih-KAY-shun</i> | The act of being made alive or endowed with life; spiritual quickening. [^5] |

[^1]: Referring to 1 John 3:9 and the "incorruptible seed" mentioned in 1 Peter 1:23. [^2]: Combined with *sperma* to form the concept of the "seed of God." [^3]: Contasted with systems where man cooperates in the initial act of new life. [^4]: Discussed in the context

of John 3 and Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. [5]: Based on the Latin root *vivie*, meaning vitality or vigor; referenced regarding Ephesians 2:1.