

Date: _____

Principles of Christian Growth

Section One: The Nature of Christian Growth – What is it?

Lesson One: Christian growth begins with spiritual life.

Bible Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10; Matthew 13:1-23.

Introduction: Noah Webster (1828) first defines *growth* as “the gradual increase of animal and vegetable bodies.” He refers to animals and vegetables because they are living things. Simply put, before something can grow it must be alive. This is true when it comes to Christian growth. Christian growth begins with spiritual life.

Discussion questions:

1. We are born into this world spiritually dead. How does Paul describe people who are spiritually dead? (Eph. 2:1-3).
2. *To quicken* means *to make something dead alive*. Who can make a spiritually dead sinner spiritually alive, and why does He do so? (Eph. 2:4-7).
3. How is it true that spiritual life is *a gift* from God? What about a gift is also true about becoming spiritually alive? (Eph. 2:8-9).
4. What can be expected from the life of a person who is spiritually alive that is different from the time he was spiritually dead? (Eph. 2:10; Matt. 13:1-23).
5. If you are spiritually alive, describe how that happened to you.