

I Corinthians 3:1 – “And I brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.” This verse gives two levels of the Christian life. The New Testament is filled with this doctrine, and the Old Testament is filled with examples. The church is divided into carnal and spiritual Christians. Carnal Christians are compared to babies who have not grown to perfection or maturity. Carnal Christians walk after the flesh, and mature Christians walk after the Spirit. A carnal church has no impact on the world of unbelievers. They are people of faith who look like people with no faith. The church today is weak and sickly in its testimony to the world, because its members are carnal. Many do not know the Holy Spirit. Many live according to the flesh, because they have no understanding of the Spirit. Furthermore, they aren’t concerned about it. Andrew Murray said, “A revived church is the only hope for a dying world.” A sure sign of revival is when carnal Christians get convicted about their nonproductive lives and decide to do something about it. Four steps are necessary to move from the carnal plane to the spiritual. First, there must be a conviction and confession of sins. When our heart reveals conviction regarding carnality, we must agree with the conviction. Second, there is consecration. We must surrender our sins to crucifixion. We must forsake all and follow Christ. Consecration follows, i.e. the willing sacrifice of carnal desires to the will of the Holy Spirit. Faith is the final step. None of it works without faith. Faith is necessary to move from life in the flesh to life in the Spirit. Faith sustains us when we doubt. Faith is the continuous committal of our weak selves to a powerful Savior. Faith is the vital link to the power of the Spirit. By faith we commit ourselves to revival first, then to praying for revival in the world. HA