

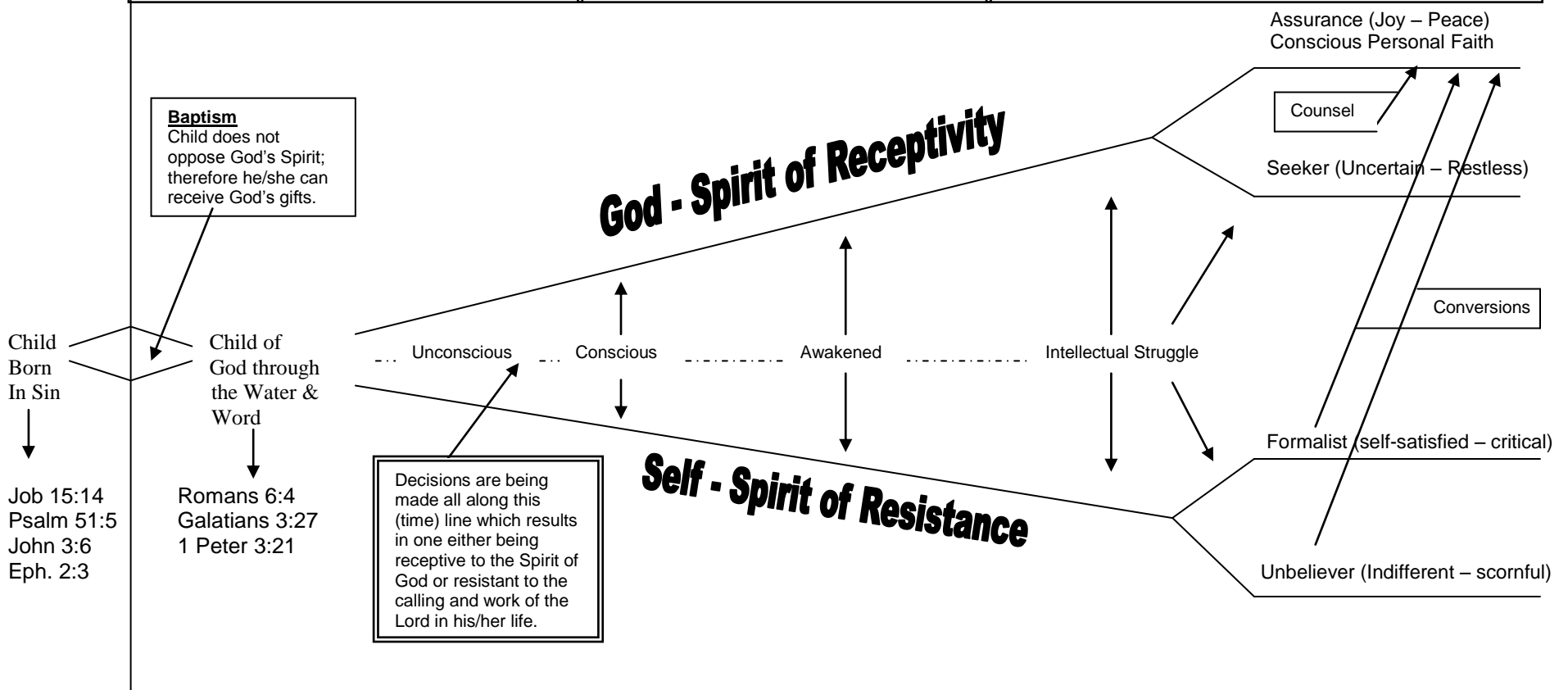
Examining Spiritual Growth in the Christian Life

Grace of God Bestowed on the child → God's Spirit working in the heart to make sin and grace real → Grace personally applied.

Timeline:

Infant (0-4 yrs.)
 Preschool (4-6 yrs.)
 Primary (6-9 yrs.)
 Junior (9-12 yrs.)
 Intermediate (12-14 yrs.)
 Adolescent (14-17 yrs.)
 Adult (17yrs –and Beyond)

Christian Education	<u>Aim in Christian Nurturing:</u> To help the child in growth from the unconscious to the conscious state in the spiritual life.	<u>Aim in Christian Education</u> To help the child recognize and deal honestly with sin. To help him/her find forgiveness in Christ.	<u>Aim in Confirmation/Youth-Young Adult Ministries:</u> To build a foundation of faith, to establish faith, and to bring the youth into a conscious/awakened/intellectual personal faith in Christ.
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Christian Growth may be gradual, sporadic or marked by Crisis and/or Stages

- 1st Unconscious: A Child Like Faith – Living in the Grace of Baptism... (Infants)
- 2nd Conscious: Knowledge of Sin comes to light through actions... (4-6 Years Old)
- 3rd Awakened: Cognitive Battle between self, sin and God... (10-14 Years Old)
- 4th Intellectual Battle: Questioning the faith, handling doubt, etc... (17 yrs – Early 20's)
- 5th Adult Conscious Personal Faith: Having mature (conscious, awakened and intellectual) assurance in Christ.

This Teaching Sheet has been Prepared and Edited by:
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Source: Lutheran Brethren Seminary: ST 823 Systematic Theology III (2003)