

# **CROSSROADS INTERNATIONAL BIBLE COLLEGE**

## **Doctrinal Terms & Definitions**

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*A student glossary booklet for study, teaching, and doctrinal consistency*

Prepared in A4 booklet form for the Crossroads curriculum.

This edition gathers foundational, advanced, and framework terms into one structured reference for students.

Designed for classroom use, private study, and ministry preparation.

## About This Booklet

This glossary booklet provides defined terms used throughout the Crossroads curriculum. Some expressions are common to wider Christian theology, while others are used in a more specific sense within the doctrinal and pastoral framework of the College.

These definitions are not presented as a substitute for Scripture. They are intended to help students understand how key terms are being used so that the teaching material may be read with clarity, consistency, and doctrinal precision.

Students should read each term in light of the wider curriculum, especially where certain expressions are used in a strengthened or clarified sense. The aim is not novelty, but accuracy, stability, and a shared theological vocabulary across the course.

### **How to use this booklet**

Read the definition first, then the explanation, then the study emphasis and guardrail note.

Use the related terms list at the bottom of each page to trace connected doctrines across the booklet.

Where a term is especially distinctive to Crossroads usage, the guardrail note explains how the term should and should not be understood.

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## Reading the Glossary as a Theological Map

A glossary can be used merely as a dictionary, but this booklet is intended to function as more than that. It is designed as a theological map. The terms in these pages belong together, and students should learn to read them in relation to one another. For example, the terms Divine Nature, grace, regeneration, mind renewal, and God-governed living are not isolated ideas. They form a doctrinal chain that describes how God restores, orders, and empowers human life in Christ.

In the same way, terms such as sin nature, spiritual darkness, self-life, soul-level Christianity, and functional deception explain different angles of the same fallen problem. They help the student move beyond vague language and think more clearly about what Scripture reveals concerning man, the Fall, the Cross, and sanctification. When these terms are held together properly, they give stability to preaching, pastoral care, and personal spiritual formation.

Students are encouraged to read slowly, compare related terms, and return often to the sections that most directly connect with their current studies. In time, these definitions should become more than remembered phrases. They should become part of a disciplined, prayerful, and Scriptural way of understanding the Christian life.

# Foundational Terms

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These terms establish the core language of anthropology, regeneration, grace, and inward order used throughout the Crossroads curriculum.

## Enmesh

**Definition:** In this curriculum, the word 'enmesh' describes the functional working of God's Divine Nature within and upon the believer's human spirit by the Holy Spirit. It speaks of impartation, influence, alignment, and spiritual participation.

**Explanation:** It does not mean a blending of essence between God and man. The believer remains fully human and distinct from God, yet truly partakes of the Divine Nature through the grace of Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**Why this matters:** This term guards two truths at once: God must truly work within us, yet Creator and creature must never be confused. It therefore protects both intimacy with God and doctrinal clarity.

**Guardrail:** Use this term with the understanding that participation is real, but identity is not absorbed into Deity.

**Related terms:** Divine Nature, Functional Union, Grace, Yielding to the Holy Spirit

## Divine Nature

**Definition:** The Divine Nature refers to the life, character, holiness, and moral perfection of God as revealed through His Word and imparted to the believer by the Holy Spirit.

**Explanation:** Through Christ, the believer becomes a partaker of the Divine Nature. This means that righteousness, holy desire, spiritual life, and Godward capacity are not self-produced, but received from God and worked out through faith and obedience.

**Why this matters:** This term teaches that Christianity is not mere imitation of God from a distance. It is participation in what God supplies, so that His life may shape the inner man and find expression in conduct.

**Guardrail:** The Divine Nature must always be understood as God's own holy life shared by grace, never as something generated by human effort.

**Related terms:** Enmesh, Divine Life, Grace, Participation in the Divine Nature

## Human Nature

**Definition:** Human nature is the created constitution of man as a spirit being, expressed through the soul and manifested through the body.

**Explanation:** It was designed to function in dependence upon God. Human nature reaches proper order and fullness only when it is under Divine influence, with the spirit governing the soul and the soul directing the body.

**Why this matters:** This definition protects the dignity of creation while also showing man's need of God. Human nature is not evil in itself, but it is incomplete and disordered when it attempts to function independently of Divine Life.

**Guardrail:** Before the Fall, human nature functioned under Divine Life; after the Fall, it became vulnerable to darkness and self-rule.

**Related terms:** spirit, Soul, and Body, Divine-Human Order, Sin Nature, Godward Capacity

## Sin Nature

**Definition:** The sin nature refers to the condition of spiritual darkness expressed through thinking and living independently of God.

**Explanation:** It manifests in desires, thoughts, impulses, and actions that run contrary to the character and will of God. In this framework, the sin nature is closely tied to embraced darkness, self-rule, and the pull of fallen desire.

**Why this matters:** This term helps students see that sin is not only an outward act but an inward condition of independence from God. It explains why man needs more than moral improvement; he needs salvation, renewal, and grace.

**Guardrail:** The sin nature should not be reduced to isolated acts. It describes an inward bent away from God and toward self-governance.

**Related terms:** Spiritual Darkness, Self-Life, Carnal Rule, The Gravitational Pull of Sin

## Regenerated spirit

**Definition:** The regenerated spirit is the human spirit made alive to God through the new birth.

**Explanation:** By regeneration, the believer is restored to living fellowship with God and given the capacity to receive Divine Truth, partake of the Divine Nature, and walk in newness of life.

**Why this matters:** This term is central because the Christian life begins here. If students do not understand regeneration, they will reduce Christianity to mind-level religion or ethical effort instead of inward union with Christ.

**Guardrail:** The regenerated spirit is the seat of new life in the believer, even while mind renewal and spiritual maturity continue progressively.

**Related terms:** Spiritual Life, New Man, Voice of the spirit, Godward Capacity

## Unregenerated spirit

**Definition:** The unregenerated spirit is the human spirit in a state of separation from God.

**Explanation:** It lacks Divine Life and cannot function in true spiritual alignment with God. Though man still bears the residual image of God, his spirit remains darkened and unable to generate true Godward life from within.

**Why this matters:** This explains why unregenerate man may still reason, create, and exercise moral judgment in measure, yet remains unable to live in true union with God apart from the new birth.

**Guardrail:** Unregenerate life may contain culture, conscience, and natural ability, but it remains without inward Divine Life.

**Related terms:** Darkened spirit, Spiritual Death, Residual Image of God, Conscience

## Conscience

**Definition:** The conscience is the inner faculty that bears witness to moral truth.

**Explanation:** It does not create truth, but testifies regarding what is known, received, resisted, or violated. In the believer, the conscience is meant to increasingly bear witness in harmony with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

**Why this matters:** This term is crucial because many confuse conscience with the spirit itself. Crossroads teaching treats the conscience as an important witness, but not as an independent authority above Scripture.

**Guardrail:** A conscience may be tender, educated, weak, or seared. Its condition depends greatly on truth received and light obeyed.

**Related terms:** Witness of the Conscience, Moral Discernment, Seared Conscience, Voice of the spirit

## spirit, Soul, and Body

**Definition:** Man is a three-part being consisting of spirit, soul, and body.

**Explanation:** The spirit is the Godward dimension of man, the soul contains the mind, will, and emotions, and the body expresses the person in the natural world. Proper order exists when the spirit under God governs the soul, and the soul directs the body.

**Why this matters:** This doctrine provides the structural foundation for many other terms in the curriculum. Without it, students will struggle to distinguish regeneration from mind renewal, or inward transformation from outward conduct.

**Guardrail:** When this threefold order is ignored, the Christian life is often reduced either to emotionalism or to external rule-keeping.

**Related terms:** Human Nature, Divine-Human Order, Mind Renewal, Soul-spirit Confusion

## Spiritual Death

**Definition:** Spiritual death is separation from the life of God.

**Explanation:** It does not mean non-existence, but absence of Divine Life and broken fellowship with God. It is the inherited condition of humanity in Adam and the reason salvation must involve more than outward reform.

**Why this matters:** This term helps students understand the depth of the Fall. The problem of man is not merely bad habits, weak education, or social brokenness, but alienation from the life of God.

**Guardrail:** Spiritual death is the root condition from which guilt, darkness, and disorder flow.

**Related terms:** Unregenerated spirit, Darkened spirit, Spiritual Life, Federal Headship

## Spiritual Life

**Definition:** Spiritual life is being alive to God through regeneration.

**Explanation:** It includes fellowship with God, responsiveness to His Spirit, participation in His Divine Nature, and the inward capacity to walk in righteousness by grace.

**Why this matters:** This term is important because Christian life is not mere activity but union, communion, and inward animation by God. It describes both a state and a living relationship.

**Guardrail:** True spiritual life is not maintained by activity alone, but by abiding fellowship, truth, and grace.

**Related terms:** Regenerated spirit, Divine Life, Newness of Life, Spirit-Led Christianity

## Faith (Biblical Faith)

**Definition:** Biblical faith is a Spirit-born conviction produced by the Word of God within the human spirit.

**Explanation:** It is not mere mental agreement, but inward persuasion grounded in Divine revelation. Through this faith the believer lays hold of the promises of God and walks in what grace supplies.

**Why this matters:** Students must learn that real faith is not presumption, optimism, or intensity of feeling. It arises when truth is spiritually received and becomes established within the inner man.

**Guardrail:** Biblical faith rests on what God has spoken and therefore carries moral certainty as well as expectation.

**Related terms:** Spirit-Born Conviction, Faith-Consciousness, Proper Demands on the Word of God, Digested Divine Truth

## Grace

**Definition:** Grace is the enabling power of God working within the believer.

**Explanation:** It provides both the desire and the ability to live according to God's will. Grace is not passive favour only, but active Divine enablement supplied through Christ and received by faith.

**Why this matters:** This term is foundational to the entire curriculum because it prevents both legalism and self-effort. It teaches that the Christian life can never be lived properly in independent human strength.

**Guardrail:** Grace should be understood as God's operative help, not as permission to remain unchanged.

**Related terms:** Grace-Impartation, The Energies of Grace, Grace-Consciousness, Yielding to the Holy Spirit

## Yielding to the Holy Spirit

**Definition:** Yielding is the act of surrendering to the direction and influence of the Holy Spirit.

**Explanation:** It involves inward consent, willing cooperation, and practical obedience. Yielding is the posture by which Divine Life and grace are allowed free operation in the believer's life.

**Why this matters:** This term shows students that grace does not remove responsibility. God supplies life and power, but the believer must yield rather than resist, harden, or remain self-governed.

**Guardrail:** Yielding is not passive weakness. It is active surrender to Divine order.

**Related terms:** Responsive Yieldedness, Inner Agreement, Grace, Spirit-Led Christianity

## Mind Renewal

**Definition:** Mind renewal is the process of bringing one's thinking into alignment with God's truth.

**Explanation:** As truth is embraced by faith and the Holy Spirit works within, the believer increasingly thinks, judges, and responds according to God's perspective rather than according to fallen patterns.

**Why this matters:** This term is essential because many believers are genuinely regenerated yet still unstable in experience. Renewal explains how the salvation of the soul progressively brings the outward life into line with inward reality.

**Guardrail:** Renewal requires truth, repetition, humility, and the ongoing refusal of embraced darkness.

**Related terms:** The Salvation of the Soul, Truth-Assimilation, Historical Truth, Relational Truth

# Advanced Terms

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These terms extend the foundational vocabulary into questions of covenant, spiritual formation, practical sanctification, and doctrinal structure.

## Divine Influence

**Definition:** Divine Influence refers to the active working of God upon and within man by His Spirit, His truth, and His grace.

**Explanation:** It brings light, conviction, order, direction, restraint, and empowerment. Man was not created to function independently, but under the influence of God.

**Why this matters:** This term helps students understand that God's involvement in man is not accidental or occasional. Human flourishing is inseparable from Divine influence rightly received.

**Guardrail:** Where Divine Influence is welcomed, there is increasing order; where it is resisted, self-rule expands.

**Related terms:** Grace, Divine Life, God-Governed Living, Spiritual Alignment

## Divine Life

**Definition:** Divine Life is the life of God imparted to the believer through regeneration.

**Explanation:** By this life the human spirit is made alive unto God and brought into living fellowship with Him. It is the opposite of spiritual death and the inward basis of all true Christian growth.

**Why this matters:** This term teaches that salvation is not merely forgiveness but life. The believer is not only pardoned; he is inwardly enlivened by God.

**Guardrail:** Divine Life is received, not manufactured. It must be guarded, nourished, and expressed through abiding fellowship.

**Related terms:** Spiritual Life, Regenerated spirit, The Life of God, Newness of Life

## Participation in the Divine Nature

**Definition:** Participation in the Divine Nature is the believer's real sharing in the life, grace, and moral quality of God through Christ and by the Holy Spirit.

**Explanation:** It does not mean that the believer becomes Divine in essence. It means that through God's promises and grace, the believer comes into living participation with what God imparts of His own holy life and character.

**Why this matters:** This term protects the experiential character of salvation. Christianity is not admiration from afar, but genuine participation in what God makes available in Christ.

**Guardrail:** Participation is covenantal and relational. It grows as truth is received, faith is exercised, and the Holy Spirit is obeyed.

**Related terms:** Divine Nature, Enmesh, Grace, Functional Union

## Spiritual Alignment

**Definition:** Spiritual Alignment is the condition in which the believer's inner life is brought into agreement with God's truth and will.

**Explanation:** It involves the spirit, mind, affections, and practical direction of life. Alignment increases as the believer yields to the Holy Spirit and embraces Divine Truth.

**Why this matters:** This term helps students diagnose why a believer may be sincere yet inwardly conflicted. Misalignment often occurs when truth is known historically but not embraced relationally.

**Guardrail:** Alignment is not achieved by pressure alone, but by truth rightly received and grace rightly responded to.

**Related terms:** Mind Renewal, Relational Truth, Yielding to the Holy Spirit, Inner Agreement

## Functional Union

**Definition:** Functional Union describes the working relationship between God and the believer in which Divine Life operates within the believer without any blending of essence.

**Explanation:** There is true union in operation and fellowship, while full distinction in being remains. God works within; the believer responds in yielded faith.

**Why this matters:** This term is especially useful where strong language about indwelling and participation might otherwise be misunderstood. It preserves both closeness and doctrinal order.

**Guardrail:** Functional union is lived, not merely defined. It is experienced in prayer, obedience, sanctification, and service.

**Related terms:** Enmesh, Divine Nature, Grace, Participation in the Divine Nature

## Spiritual Darkness

**Definition:** Spiritual Darkness is the condition in which man thinks, desires, or acts apart from the light, truth, and influence of God.

**Explanation:** It is not merely lack of information, but a state of separation from God's perspective and moral order. Spiritual darkness empowers confusion, self-rule, and false interpretation.

**Why this matters:** This term explains why fallen man can know some facts and yet remain morally distorted. Darkness affects perception as well as conduct.

**Guardrail:** Darkness is strengthened by embraced error and weakened by received truth.

**Related terms:** Sin Nature, Historical Truth, Functional Deception, Carnal Rule

## Federal Headship

**Definition:** Federal Headship refers to the representative role of one person acting on behalf of others, so that the consequences of his actions affect those under his headship.

**Explanation:** Adam stood as the federal head of the human race, while Christ stands as the federal head of the new creation. In Adam, mankind fell; in Christ, the believer is brought into newness of life.

**Why this matters:** This term helps students understand why both ruin and redemption operate covenantally. It also explains why the work of Christ is not merely inspirational, but representative and effective.

**Guardrail:** Federal headship gives structure to the doctrines of the Fall, the Cross, justification, and new creation.

**Related terms:** Spiritual Death, The New Man, Positional Truth, Newness of Life

## Positional Truth

**Definition:** Positional Truth refers to what is legally and spiritually true of the believer in Christ.

**Explanation:** It includes realities such as justification, union with Christ, forgiveness, and being made alive to God. These are secured by the finished work of Calvary, whether or not they are yet fully expressed in daily experience.

**Why this matters:** This term is important because many believers either neglect experience or neglect position. Crossroads teaching insists that proper Christian growth requires both.

**Guardrail:** Position gives the believer ground to stand on; experience is the progressive outworking of that standing.

**Related terms:** Experiential Truth, Legal and Experiential Salvation, The New Man, Faith (Biblical Faith)

## Experiential Truth

**Definition:** Experiential Truth refers to the outworking in daily life of what is already true in Christ.

**Explanation:** It is entered into through faith, yielding, obedience, and the ongoing ministry of grace. What is legally granted through the Cross must become active in the believer's lived walk.

**Why this matters:** This term helps students avoid a merely theoretical Christianity. Truth must not remain confined to doctrine statements; it must govern thought, desire, and conduct.

**Guardrail:** Experience never creates truth, but it should increasingly reflect what truth has already declared in Christ.

**Related terms:** Positional Truth, Mind Renewal, The Salvation of the Soul, Grace

## The Old Man

**Definition:** The old man refers to the believer's former identity in Adam.

**Explanation:** It is associated with spiritual death, alienation from God, bondage to sin, and the patterns of the unregenerate life. The old man was judged at the Cross and is not to remain the source of Christian living.

**Why this matters:** This term teaches that conversion is not a polished version of the old self. Christianity is not self-improvement but death and resurrection with Christ.

**Guardrail:** The old man must not be revived through nostalgia for darkness, self-rule, or fleshly dependence.

**Related terms:** Federal Headship, The New Man, Spiritual Death, Carnal Rule

## The New Man

**Definition:** The new man is the believer's regenerated identity in Christ.

**Explanation:** It is created in righteousness and true holiness and belongs to the order of new creation life. The new man lives from God, not from Adamic darkness.

**Why this matters:** This term is vital for pastoral stability. Believers must learn to live from who they now are in Christ rather than from former identity, shame, or habitual self-reference.

**Guardrail:** The new man still requires renewal in the soul, but his source is no longer darkness; it is Divine Life.

**Related terms:** Regenerated spirit, Positional Truth, Newness of Life, Spirit-Led Christianity

## Enthroned Divine Nature

**Definition:** The Enthroned Divine Nature refers to the Divine Nature being allowed governing influence within the believer.

**Explanation:** It describes a practical state in which God's truth, grace, and Spirit are reigning in the heart rather than merely being affirmed in theory.

**Why this matters:** This term helps students understand that indwelling must become governing. God's life in the believer is not given merely for comfort, but for rule, order, and holy expression.

**Guardrail:** When the Divine Nature is enthroned, desire and conduct begin to move toward God with greater freedom and consistency.

**Related terms:** Grace, Yielding to the Holy Spirit, God-Governed Living, Divine Influence

## Enthroned Sin Nature

**Definition:** The Enthroned Sin Nature refers to the practical dominance of fleshly thinking and desire.

**Explanation:** It occurs when truth is not embraced and yielded to, and when the believer permits darkness, self-rule, or unrenewed patterns to govern practical life.

**Why this matters:** This term does not mean the regenerated spirit is corrupted. Rather, it describes a disorder of government in which the soul and flesh are given ruling influence.

**Guardrail:** It is therefore a practical and experiential description, not a denial of regeneration.

**Related terms:** Carnal Rule, Spiritual Darkness, Mind Renewal, The Old Man

## The Salvation of the Soul

**Definition:** The Salvation of the Soul is the progressive renewal of the mind, will, and emotions.

**Explanation:** It brings the soul into alignment with the regenerated spirit and the truth of God. Through this process, what is already true in Christ becomes increasingly expressed in thought, response, and conduct.

**Why this matters:** This term is crucial in the curriculum because many genuine believers are spiritually alive yet emotionally disordered, mentally unstable, or habitually governed by old patterns.

**Guardrail:** The salvation of the soul is not separate from salvation in Christ, but the unfolding of it in the realm of daily life.

**Related terms:** Mind Renewal, Experiential Truth, Truth-Assimilation, Spirit-to-spirit Transformation

# Framework Terms

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These terms articulate the more distinctive internal framework used to explain conscience, inward formation, spiritual perception, and God-governed living.

## Voice of the spirit

**Definition:** The Voice of the spirit refers to the inward expression that arises from the human spirit as it responds to the Holy Spirit and to the truth of God.

**Explanation:** It is formed through digested Divine Truth and alignment with the Holy Spirit. It is not independent revelation apart from Scripture, but the inward witness of a spirit made alive and educated by God's truth.

**Why this matters:** This term helps students understand how the inner life becomes articulate in relation to God. Without inward formation, much that is called spiritual leading may simply be emotion or impulse.

**Guardrail:** The spirit speaks most clearly where truth has been deeply received and the conscience is healthy.

**Related terms:** Witness of the Conscience, Digested Divine Truth, Educated spirit, Spiritual Perception

## Witness of the Conscience

**Definition:** The Witness of the Conscience is the inward testimony concerning moral truth.

**Explanation:** It bears witness to what is known, received, or rejected. In the believer, this witness should increasingly function in harmony with Scripture and the Holy Spirit.

**Why this matters:** This term protects the student from confusing desire with approval. The conscience may either support or trouble the inner life according to how one stands in relation to light.

**Guardrail:** A troubled conscience is not always condemnation; it may be a merciful witness calling the soul back into alignment.

**Related terms:** Conscience, Moral Discernment, Seared Conscience, Inner Governance

## Centre of Gravity

**Definition:** Centre of Gravity refers to the dominant inward realm from which a person lives.

**Explanation:** It may be located in the spirit under God, or in the soul and flesh under self. What occupies the centre of gravity will tend to define response patterns, priorities, and interpretation.

**Why this matters:** This term is useful because it describes more than isolated actions. It helps students ask from where life is actually being lived in practice.

**Guardrail:** A spiritually mature believer increasingly lives with the centre of gravity anchored in the regenerated spirit under God's influence.

**Related terms:** Spirit-Led Christianity, Soul-Level Christianity, Divine-Human Order, Self-Governance

## Relational Truth

**Definition:** Relational Truth is truth that is inwardly received and lived in fellowship with God.

**Explanation:** It is truth known in communion, not just concept. It shapes affection, conviction, and moral readiness because it is held in living contact with the God from whom it came.

**Why this matters:** This term is central to Crossroads teaching because it distinguishes between information about God and life in God. Many doctrinal problems are not failures of vocabulary but failures of inward reception.

**Guardrail:** Truth becomes relational when it is believed, loved, obeyed, and carried in the presence of God.

**Related terms:** Historical Truth, Digested Divine Truth, Spirit-Born Conviction, Inner Agreement

## Historical Truth

**Definition:** Historical Truth is truth known as fact but not inwardly possessed.

**Explanation:** It may be mentally understood, doctrinally affirmed, or accurately stated while still remaining outside living spiritual participation.

**Why this matters:** This term warns students that accuracy alone is not maturity. A person may speak truly about God while still lacking inward conformity to what is spoken.

**Guardrail:** Historical truth has real value, but it must become relational if it is to transform the believer.

**Related terms:** Relational Truth, Mind Renewal, Truth-Assimilation, Soul-Level Christianity

## Spirit-to-spirit Transformation

**Definition:** Spirit-to-spirit Transformation is change that begins in the human spirit through Divine Truth.

**Explanation:** From there it influences the soul and outward life. This term stresses that true transformation begins in the inward man rather than in external technique or mere emotional stimulation.

**Why this matters:** It therefore provides a corrective to shallow discipleship models. Change that begins only in habit without inward renewal seldom endures.

**Guardrail:** The Holy Spirit works from the inside outward, and the soul progressively comes into line with what has been formed in the spirit.

**Related terms:** Regenerated spirit, The Salvation of the Soul, Mind Renewal, Inward Formation

## **Educated spirit**

**Definition:** An Educated spirit is a spirit formed and strengthened by inwardly received truth.

**Explanation:** It becomes responsive, stable, discerning, and aligned with God through sustained exposure to Scripture, yieldedness to the Holy Spirit, and practical obedience.

**Why this matters:** This term does not refer to academic achievement. It describes inward spiritual formation, where truth has become substance and not merely memory.

**Guardrail:** A believer with an educated spirit will often carry quiet depth, moral steadiness, and greater clarity in discerning the ways of God.

**Related terms:** Digested Divine Truth, Voice of the spirit, Spiritual Substance, Spirit-Formed Understanding

## **Soul-Level Christianity**

**Definition:** Soul-Level Christianity is living primarily from mind, emotion, or effort.

**Explanation:** It lacks depth because it is not governed from the regenerated spirit. It may appear active, passionate, or even knowledgeable while still remaining unstable and self-referential.

**Why this matters:** This term is pastorally important because much confusion in Christian life arises when emotional intensity is mistaken for spiritual maturity.

**Guardrail:** Soul-level living is often sincere, but it cannot substitute for inward order under the Holy Spirit.

**Related terms:** Spirit-Led Christianity, Historical Truth, Self-Reference, Soul-spirit Confusion

## **Spirit-Led Christianity**

**Definition:** Spirit-Led Christianity is life lived from the regenerated spirit under the Holy Spirit.

**Explanation:** It is marked by order, truth, dependence upon grace, and increasing conformity to the will of God. It brings the soul and body under proper inward government.

**Why this matters:** This term gives students a positive model of maturity. The goal is not the suppression of personality, but its reordering under Divine Life.

**Guardrail:** Spirit-led living is not erratic mysticism. It is Scriptural, moral, discerning, and grace-enabled.

**Related terms:** Regenerated spirit, Yielding to the Holy Spirit, God-Governed Living, Centre of Gravity

## Covenant Consciousness

**Definition:** Covenant Consciousness is awareness of one's standing in Christ and access to God's promises.

**Explanation:** It shapes faith, prayer, expectation, and obedience by grounding the believer in what God has established through the New Covenant.

**Why this matters:** This term is important because many believers approach God as though they have no settled standing. Covenant consciousness teaches them to think from the finished work of Christ.

**Guardrail:** It does not produce arrogance. It produces stability, gratitude, and lawful confidence before God.

**Related terms:** Faith-Consciousness, Positional Truth, Proper Demands on the Word of God, Grace-Consciousness

## Faith-Consciousness

**Definition:** Faith-Consciousness is living with awareness of God's truth rather than natural circumstances alone.

**Explanation:** It enables the believer to lay hold of God's promises, interpret life through Divine revelation, and remain inwardly anchored when appearances are adverse.

**Why this matters:** This term helps students understand that faith is not occasional but perspectival. It affects how one interprets reality, temptation, suffering, and opportunity.

**Guardrail:** Faith-consciousness does not deny visible facts; it refuses to let visible facts have the final interpretive authority.

**Related terms:** Faith (Biblical Faith), Covenant Consciousness, Spirit-Born Conviction, Grace-Consciousness

## Grace-Consciousness

**Definition:** Grace-Consciousness is awareness of dependence upon God's enabling power.

**Explanation:** It guards against both self-effort and discouragement by keeping the believer mindful that righteous desire, holy strength, and effective service must come through God.

**Why this matters:** This term is especially important in ministry formation. Students who lose grace-consciousness often move either toward pride or toward exhaustion.

**Guardrail:** Grace-conscious believers labour seriously, but not independently. Their confidence rests in Divine supply.

**Related terms:** Grace, Grace-Impartation, Yielding to the Holy Spirit, God-Governed Living

## God-Governed Living

**Definition:** God-Governed Living is life ordered under God's truth, Spirit, and authority.

**Explanation:** It is the intended expression of the Christian life. Thought, desire, decision, and conduct are increasingly shaped by Divine Truth rather than by self-reference or the pressures of the age.

**Why this matters:** This term provides a practical summary of maturity. It shows that discipleship is not only devotional feeling, but ordered living under the rule of God.

**Guardrail:** Where God governs, there is increasing moral clarity, inward peace, and fruitfulness in service.

**Related terms:** Divine Influence, Spirit-Led Christianity, Inner Governance, Responsive Yieldedness

## Inner Governance

**Definition:** Inner Governance is the practical rule of the believer's inward life by truth, conscience, spiritual perception, and the Holy Spirit.

**Explanation:** When inner governance is sound, the outer life becomes increasingly ordered. When it is weak, the person is left vulnerable to impulse, reaction, and functional deception.

**Why this matters:** This term helps students evaluate life below the level of public conduct. Many outward disorders are symptoms of weak inner governance.

**Guardrail:** Strength in inner governance grows through prayer, truth, disciplined response, and the refusal of embraced darkness.

**Related terms:** Conscience, Spiritual Perception, Truth-Assimilation, God-Governed Living

## Suggested Ways to Study This Booklet

First, read each section straight through so that the vocabulary begins to form a coherent pattern in your mind. Then return to the terms that most directly connect with the unit you are currently studying.

Second, compare terms that appear close to one another but should not be confused. For example, compare conscience and Voice of the spirit, positional truth and experiential truth, or historical truth and relational truth. Such comparison strengthens discernment and reduces doctrinal vagueness.

Third, use the related terms at the bottom of each page as a tracing exercise. Choose one doctrine, such as grace or the salvation of the soul, and follow its connected terms

through the booklet. This will help you see the curriculum as an integrated theological system rather than a list of isolated expressions.

Finally, turn these definitions into prayerful reflection. Ask the Lord not only for correct understanding but also for inward formation. The goal of doctrinal clarity is not intellectual display, but ordered life under the truth of God.

## **Closing Note**

These definitions are provided to preserve clarity, unity, and doctrinal consistency across the curriculum. They are meant to assist understanding, strengthen teaching, and support the formation of a stable biblical vocabulary for students preparing for ministry and mature Christian service.

Where a term is not yet listed in this booklet, the same principle should be followed: define the term in a way that is faithful to Scripture, clear in meaning, and consistent with the wider doctrinal framework in which it is being used.