Ephesians 2:1 – “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins”

1. “and you”
   a. Second person, emphatic
   b. Anticipates 1:11, “you Gentiles”
      i. Although 1:3 makes it clear the Jews were not in better standing
2. “dead” means spiritually separated from the spiritual life of God
   a. Colossians 2:13 – “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.”
3. “Trespasses” or “Transgressions” is from the Greek parapromata which means “lapses”
4. “Sins” is hamartiai which means “shortcomings.”
   a. The repeated words indicated the multiple ways and times we were completely failing to manifest the life of God in our own existence.

Ephesians 2:2 – “in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—”

1. This verse 2:2 is Paul providing details about our dead condition that produced constant transgressions and sins. The sentence/thought of 2:1 will not be resumed until 2:5 because now Paul is going to explain in depth our dead condition before Christ.
2. Notice “once you walked” is often translated “once lived”. This typical Greek word *periepatesate* is used consistently in the LXX to refer to the manner of life (frequent in LXX translation of Psalms) and means “walk about.”

3. **#1** above - The Gentiles “life style” or “walking about” was in line with “the age of this world” or “aion...kosmou” (“age...world”) and means the Gentiles lifestyle fit both the time and space in which they were living:
   a. Aion = time
   b. Kosmos = space

   i. See both words in 1 Corinthians 3:18-19 to capture the essence: “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness.”

4. **#2** above - “Ruler” (*archon*) of the “authority of the air” (*exousias tou aeros*).
   a. Archon –
      i. 1 Cor. 2:12 – “Now we have received not the spirit of the world (kosmou), but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.”
      ii. 2 Cor. 4:4 – “In their case the god of this world (or,”age” - aionos) has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
   b. Exousia –
   c. Aeros –
      i. “air” literally means the atmosphere around the globe
      ii. Cosmology of Paul’s day understood this to be the abode of demons

5. “working”, *energountos*, (“operating”, “at work”)
   a. This verb is Present tense and Active voice
   b. This evil spirit’s “working” is contrasted by Paul with the Holy Spirit’s “working” in 1:11, 19, 20:
      i. 1:11 – “according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.”
      ii. 1:19 and 20 –“the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.”

Ephesians 2:3 – “among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”
1. “among whom we all lived” – We also walked side by side the sons of disobedience.
2. Here the word “lived” is anestraphemen (not periepatesate) which means:
   a. “to turn to and fro” and “to turn back”
   b. “to dwell” and “to live”
   c. “to behave or act according to certain principles”
   d. “to return”
   e. “to conduct”
3. “Flesh” – sarx, refers to more than just the body, but to the whole man which has fallen (spirit, soul, body, emotions, intellect, will, ambition, etc.). This is the sin nature of mankind.
   a. “desires of the flesh”
      i. “desires” epithymiai, can be good or bad depending on source
      ii. “desires” is plural, so it indicates multiple levels and areas of desires. This is much more than lust, sexual desire, gluttony. It is an entire operating system of the sin nature of man.
   b. “doing the things willed of the flesh”
      i. “doing” is poiountes
      ii. “willed” (“desires”) is thelemata means “dictates” or “demands”. Literally means “things willed”
   c. “(doing the things) thought (of the flesh)”
      i. “thoughts” is dianoiai refers to the projects entertained by the mind in uncontrolled fashion. It is more than just the mind or a thought.
      ii. Dianoiai is made from two words in the Greek
         1. dia (“thoroughly, from side-to-side”) and
         2. noieo (“to use the mind”)  
         3. Together dia-noieo means movement from one side of an issue to the other attempting to reach a balanced-conclusion. It means reasoned, complete thought or critical thinking. Understanding, intellect, mind.
4. Natural man without Christ is a slave to a tyrant spirit of this time and space along with receiving demands from his fallen self.