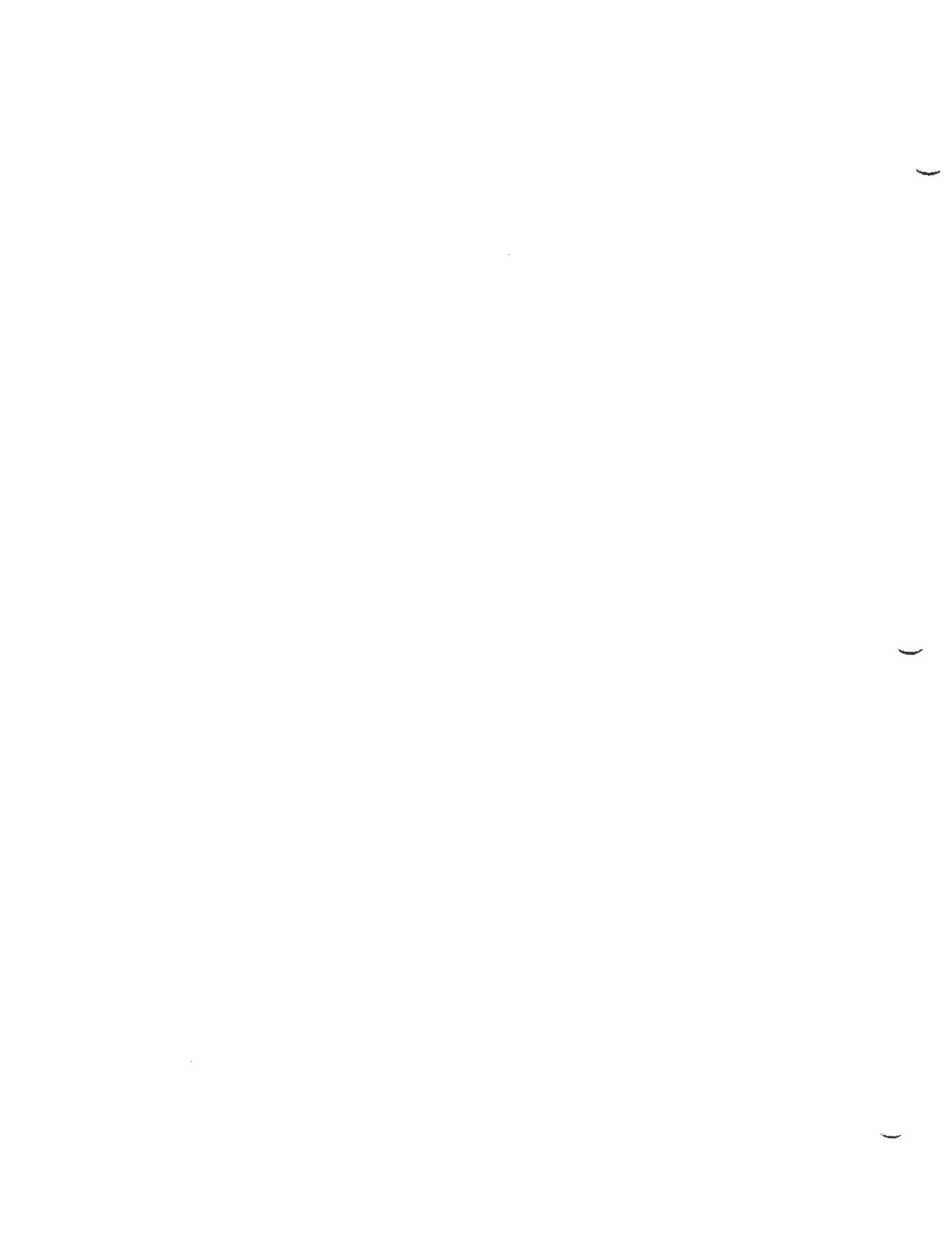


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Spiritual Warfare

by

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SPIRITUAL WARFARE

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YOU CAN CHANGE BIBLICALLY

Even though eternal life is a gift, it can be rejected. (Matt. 7:13-14; John 1:9-12; 3:16-21; Rom. 6:23)

I. If You Don't Already Have a Sincere (guileless, pure, genuine) Personal Relationship With The Lord Jesus Christ, You Have a Spiritual Problem That Only God Can Solve. Without This Relationship To Christ You Are:

- A. Hopelessly separated from God (Rom. 6:23a; Eph. 2:1-3,11,12; Col. 2:13).
- B. Spiritually dead in your own sin (Rom. 3:23; 5:12; Eph. 2:1,5; Col. 2:13).
- C. Hostile to God (Rom. 5:10a; 8:7; Col. 1:21).
- D. Blinded by Satan (II Cor. 4:3-4) and held captive by him to do his will (II Tim. 2:24-26, esp. verse 26).
- E. Powerless to overcome sin's hold on your life (Ecc. 7:20; John 8:34; Rom. 1:28-32; 5:6; 6:16; Gal. 5:19-21; II Pet. 2:19).
- F. Unable to understand the things of God. (Pro. 14:12; 16:25; Isaiah 55:8,9; I Cor. 2:14).
- G. Unable to please God or walk in His way (Ps. 143:2b; Isaiah 64:6; Rom. 3:9-12,23; 8:7-8; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8,9; II Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:5-7; Heb. 11:6).
- H. Incapable of living a spiritually fruitful and meaningful life (John 15:4-6).

II. God's Answer To Your Spiritual Problem Is Based On His Character.

- A. God is just, so you face His wrath and judgement in your sinful state (Rom. 1:18; 6:23a; Eph. 2:3; Heb. 9:27; II Pet. 3:7).
- B. On the other hand, God is loving and doesn't want you to perish in your sin (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; I Tim. 2:3,4; II Pet. 3:9), so He draws you toward His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 6:44-45,65).

III. The Answer To Your Spiritual Problem Is Found In God's Son, Jesus Christ.

- A. By His gracious and merciful love, God gave His one and only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, as the only answer for your helpless spiritual condition (Is. 53:2-12; John 3:16; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 5:6; Eph. 1:3-12; I Tim. 2:5-6; I John 4:10).
- B. Since you could not save yourself or do anything to merit God's favor and mercy (Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8,9; II Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:5-7), the Lord Jesus Christ paid the price for your redemption by dying on the cross for the penalty for your sin (Rom. 5:8; I Cor. 15:3-4; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7; I Thess. 1:10; I Tim. 2:5-6; Heb. 10:10-14; I Pet. 1:18-19; 3:18).
- C. God accepted and approved His Son's sacrificial death for your sin by raising Jesus Christ from the dead (Rom. 1:4; 4:25). Jesus Christ is eternally alive (Acts 2:32; Rom. 6:9; Rev. 1:17,18), is with God (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 8:1), and is Lord of all (Phil. 2:9-11; Rev. 17:14; 19:16). Through His death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ is victorious over sin (Rom. 6:10), death (Rom. 6:9), and the devil (Heb. 2:14).

- D. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, you can:
1. Have your sins forgiven (Acts 5:31; 10:43; Eph. 1:7; 4:32; Col.1:13-14; 2:13-14) and be reconciled to God (II Cor. 5:18-19).
 2. Experience a spiritual new birth (John 3:3; I Pet. 1:3, 23; I John 5:1).
 3. Receive the gift of eternal life through God's gracious gift of faith (John 3:16; 5:24; 6:40,47; 11:25-26; 17:1-3; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8,9; I Tim. 1:16; I John 5:11-12).
 4. Have access to God (John 14:6; Eph. 2:18; 3:11-12; Heb. 10:19-22).
 5. Be a member of God's family (John 1:12; Rom. 8:15-17; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 1:5; 2:19; I John 3:1,2).
 6. Understand the things of God (John 14:26; 16:13-15; I Cor. 2:9-13).
 7. Become a new person with the capability of living in a totally new manner (Rom. 6:4-22; II Cor. 5:17; Phil. 4:13).
 8. Be empowered to change, to mature into Christlikeness, and to have an increasingly intimate knowledge of God Himself (John 17:3; Rom. 8:2,28-29; II Cor. 5:17; Phil. 1:6; 4:13; Col. 1:9-11; I Thess. 2:13; II Pet. 1:3-4).

IV. God Empowered You To Choose His Solution To Your Spiritual Problem.

- A. When you recognize God's love (John 3:16; I John 4:10) and accept His Truth as revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:6), you will be enabled through faith to:
1. Believe upon and in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 5:24; Rom. 10:8-13) who once and for all offered Himself as a sacrifice for your sin (Heb. 10:4-22).
 2. Repent of your sin (Mark 1:15; Luke 15:7; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 26:20; II Pet. 3:9).
 3. Wholeheartedly believe that the blood of Jesus Christ, which was shed on the cross, provides forgiveness for your sin (Rom. 3:23-25; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:19-23; I Pet. 1:18-19) and likewise believe that God raised the Lord Jesus from the dead so that you might walk in newness of life (Rom.4:24-25; 6:4; 8:11; 10:9; I Cor. 15:12-22).
 4. Sincerely receive the Lord Jesus Christ into your life (John 1:12; I John 5:12), and as a new creation (II Cor. 5:17), live in faithful and loving obedience to God's Word (the Bible) (I John 2:3-6).
- B. If you reject God's Truth by refusing to repent of your sin and thus fail to receive the gift of eternal life through God's Son, Jesus Christ, you will remain:
1. Under God's judgement (John 3:18,36; Rom. 1:28-32).
 2. Ignorant of spiritual matters (Is. 55:8,9; I Cor. 1:18a; 2:14).
 3. Powerless to overcome sin in your life (John 8:34; II Pet. 2:19).
 4. Unable to please God (Rom. 8:8; Heb. 11:6).
 5. Guaranteed increasing heartache, problems, and difficulty for yourself (Prov. 13:15; 14:12; 17:20; 26:12; Rom. 2:8,9; Col. 3:25).
 6. Doomed to die in your sins (John 8:21-24).
 7. Under condemnation to eternal punishment, forever separated from God's presence (II Pet. 3:7; Rev. 20:15).
- C. If you decide to alter God's plan of salvation in Christ Jesus to accommodate:
1. Your own wisdom which is foolish and inadequate to know God (I Cor. 1:21; 3:19-20),
 2. Your own thoughts which are contrary to God's ways (Is. 55:8,9; Rom. 8:6-8),

3. Your own desires which are contrary to the Spirit of God (Gal. 5:17),

You thereby place yourself under God's condemnation (Mark 16:16), His reproof (Prov. 30:6), His chastisement (Rev. 22:18,19), and His curse (Gal. 1:6-9).

V. By Faith, You Can Take The First Step Of Biblical Change.

If you have never taken this first step to change Biblically, you can do so right now. Simply tell God you know you are a sinner and need His forgiveness of your sin. Acknowledge to God that neither you nor anyone else but Jesus Christ can save you because He alone died to pay the penalty for sin and rose from the dead so that you might have a new life. By faith, receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and thank God for His grace and love to you through the Lord Jesus. With a sincere and repentant heart, demonstrate your commitment to Him by being obedient to His Word.

VI. You Must Understand That Man's Way Of Solving Problems Falls Short Of God's Solutions.

- A. There are two reasons the plan of salvation has been explained in detail.
 1. To begin with, it is essential that you understand the spiritual principle that all of man's wisdom, philosophy, devices, procedures, manipulations, and sincerity cannot substitute for God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. Any person claiming to have taken a different way to salvation except through Jesus Christ is likened in Scripture to a thief and a robber (John 10:1,7).
 2. The next reason is consistent with, and follows, the same basic principle as the first. The problems brought on by man as a result of his sin of disobedience in the Garden of Eden (Gen. chap. 3; Rom. 5:12) cannot be solved by man's devices and philosophies (I Cor. 3:19-20; Col. 2:6-8), regardless of the futile attempts to mix God's Word with unregenerate suppositions and theories (Deut. 4:2; Prov. 4:2; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:19).
 - a. This futility is especially realized when you see that God's Word claims total sufficiency to solve all of life's problems (II Tim. 3:16,17; II Pet. 1:2-4).
 - b. By merely dealing in a superficial way with the basic problems of rebellion and disobedience, man's wisdom seeks to thwart the very will and plan of God to bring him to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and a subsequent reliance on the Word of God for every area of life.
- B. The Word of God has been given to man as the sole source for finding God's solutions to the real problems that plague him (Ps. 19:7-11; II Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 4:12; II Pet. 1:2-4).

VII. You Need To Understand The Difference Between Man's Way And God's Way In Your Search For A Contented, Joyful, And Peaceful Way Of Life.

- A. The primary difference is that man's way is oriented to self: to please self, to rely on self, to fulfill self, to forgive self, to exalt self, and to love self. This is described in Scripture as the old self-nature (Rom. 6:6; Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9).
- B. God's way is :
 1. To regenerate and change you by:

- a. Putting off from you the old nature (Rom. 6:6; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:9).
 - b. Putting on you the new nature (Rom. 6:7,8; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10).
 - c. Renewing the spirit of your mind as part of your continual process of maturing in Christlikeness (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10).
2. To empower and strengthen you to mature as you:
 - a. Deny yourself and follow the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 9:23,24).
 - b. Lay aside (put off) the practices of the old self-nature (Rom. 6:11-22; Eph. 4:25-32; Col. 3:5-17; Rev. 2:4,5) and walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (Eph. 4:1; Col. 1:10).
 - c. Please God in all things (II Cor. 5:9; Col. 1:10).
- C. God's plan, instead of the ideologies which focus on self, establishes your true position in Christ and gives provision for you to be:
1. Forgiven of all your sins (Col. 2:13-14) and become a new creation (II Cor. 5:17) by partaking of God's divine nature (II Pet. 1:4).
 2. A child and heir of God and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:14-17).
 3. A citizen of heaven (Phil. 3:20), blessed with every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3) and fully complete in Christ Jesus (Col. 2:9-10).
 4. Strong in the Lord (Eph. 6:10-17) as a functioning and mature member of the family of God.
 5. More than conqueror through the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:37; I John 4:4), since you have been released from sin's slavery (Rom. 6:5-7) and have been delivered out of the domain (authority) of darkness and into the Kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13).
 6. An ambassador for Christ (II Cor. 5:20), a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a citizen of a holy nation, a possession of God (I Pet. 2:9), and a holy temple of the living God (II Cor. 6:16).
 7. Transformed by the renewing of your mind (Rom. 12:2), making every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (II Cor. 10:5).
 8. Full of His peace (John 16:33) and joy (John 15:11; 17:13).
 9. Changed by the Word of God (I Thess. 2:13; II Tim. 3:16-17).
 10. Led by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14) to understand the things of God (I Cor. 2:9-13).
 11. Able to accomplish (or endure) anything in God's will for you through Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:13), knowing that God is in total control of your life (Rom. 8:28-29; I Cor. 10:13; Phil. 1:6).
 12. Empowered to practice Biblical love, thus proving yourself to be a disciple of Christ (John 13:35).
- D. Throughout this course, the difference between Satan's plan and God's plan for your life will be shown.
1. Satan's plan is to keep you oriented toward gratifying, pleasing, exalting, and esteeming self.
 2. God's plan emphasizes that you are to live for Him, since your old self-nature was crucified and buried with Christ in order that you might walk in newness of life (Rom. chap. 6; II Cor. 5:15-21; Col. 3:2-17).
- E. Even as man has sought continuously for substitutes to the new birth, he also seeks self-centered solutions to his problems resulting from his original sin.

These man-contrived (man invented) solutions to problems of the mind, heart, and spirit are as unacceptable to God as are man's futile speculations and substitutions for salvation and the unalterable truths of God's Word (Ps. 119:160; Prov. 14:12; 30:5,6; Jer. 17:9,10; Matt. 15:1-20; John 4:23,24; Acts 4:12; Rom. 1:21,25,28; 8:5-10; I Cor. 3:18-20; II Cor. 7:1; Eph. 4:22-24; Phil. 2:3-5; 3:18-19; II Tim. 3:1-5).

YOU CAN CHANGE BIBLICALLY

(Part Two)

The process of Biblical change, explained in God's Word, begins when you repent of your sin and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. God has given you everything you need to make the changes in your life that will please Him, and will lead to His blessings. As you continue to obey God's Word, Biblical change toward maturity will occur in your life until you see Jesus face to face. (John 1:12; Acts 26:20; Rom. 8:28-39; II Cor. 5:17; Phil. 1:6; :12-14; Col. 2:13-14; James 1:25; II Pet. 1:2-10)

I. The Process Of Lasting Biblical Change Begins When You Are Converted To The Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. **God's perspective and your assurance.** After you sincerely and whole heartedly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you can change Biblically because you have a different relationship with God and can have a different view of yourself, others, and your problems.
1. You are declared righteous through Jesus Christ on the basis of faith (Rom. 3:21,22; I Cor. 1:30; II Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9) and are no longer under judgement of God's wrath (John 3:36; Rom. 5:9; 8:1).
 2. You are at peace with God because you have been reconciled to Him through Jesus and stand totally justified before God Almighty (Rom. 3:24-26; 5:1,11; II Cor. 5:18).
 3. You are no longer separated from God or a stranger to God's family (Eph. 2:12-13,19,20). You have been adopted into His family (Rom. 8:14-16; Eph. 1:4-5), are a joint-heir with Christ (Rom. 8:16-17; Gal. 4:7), and are a recipient of His loving care forever (Ps. 121; John 10:28; Rom. 8:31-39; I Pet. 5:7).
 4. You have been given the gift of eternal life (John 10:28) and have the certainty that God's work in you will continue until you are in His presence (Phil. 1:6; Jude 24).
 5. Because of what God has done for you through Jesus, you may have confidence that He will help you in any and all situations of life (Rom. 8:32; Heb. 2:18; 4:15-16).
 6. As a child of God, you are a new creation (II Cor. 5:17). You no longer need to be enslaved to sin (Rom. 6:6,14,17-18,22), but you are to be a slave of righteousness (Rom. 6:16-18). You have been set free to serve the Lord and others (Rom. 15:1-3; Gal. 5:13; Col. 3:24).
 7. You have God's promise that He will enable you to handle any problem that comes into your life. Furthermore, you no longer need to be defeated by any problem because God will not permit any difficulty in your life that can overwhelm you (Rom. 8:35-37; I Cor. 10:13). In addition to this, He will actively work in every difficulty for good as you continue to walk in His way (Rom. 8:28,29).
 8. You are now enabled to see that God uses trials and problems as opportunities for spiritual growth (Rom. 5:3-5; James 1:2-4).
 9. You can have confidence because Christ will never leave you (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5). He knows about every problem you will ever encounter and is merciful

towards you. Moreover, He invites you to come confidently to Him for grace and to help you in time of need (Heb. 4:15,16).

- B. God's sufficiency and your resources.** After your conversion to Christ (a sincere, wholehearted, belief in the Lord Jesus Christ), you can change Biblically because of God's divine power available to you.
1. God's spirit is within you (John 14:16,17; Rom. 8:9), always available to teach you God's truths (John 14:26; 16:13; I Cor. 2:10-13), to strengthen you (Rom. 8:11), to intercede for you (Rom. 8:26,27), to help you discern between and error (I John 2:18-27), and to develop Christlike character in your life (Gal. 5:16,17, 22,23).
 2. God's Word is completely sufficient to change you (I Thess. 2:13; Heb. 4:12; II Pet. 1:2-4), to give you hope (Rom. 15:4), and to counsel you in any situation (II Tim. 3:16, 17).
 3. Instead of relying on wisdom of this world - which is foolishness (I Cor. 3:19), or your own ideas - which are inadequate (Is. 55:8,9), or your own strength - which is ineffectual (I Cor. 1:25; I Pet. 1:24), you can have God's wisdom (James 1:5), empowering strength (Eph. 6:10; II Thess. 3:3; I John 4:4), and sufficiency (II Cor. 9:8-10; Phil. 4:11-13).
 4. The Lord Jesus Christ will always remain with you (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5), sustain you (John 15:1-11), and care for you (John 10:27-29; Eph. 5:29), Jesus is and will always be your defender (I John 2:1), and He will always intercede to God the Father on your behalf (Rom. 3:24; Heb. 7:25).
- C. God's purpose and your focus.** After your conversion to Christ, you can change Biblically because God gives you a different purpose for living.
1. You are to worship and serve God (Luke 4:8), pleasing Him in all respects (II Cor. 5:9; Col. 1:10), as you are being conformed to the image of Christ, the first born among many brethren (Rom 8:29; II Cor. 3:18). As a responsible member of God's family, you are to give glory to God in all things (Ps. 115:1; I Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17). You can now be a slave to righteousness (Rom. 6:16- 8), and you are an ambassador for the Lord Jesus Christ (II Cor. 5:20).
 2. Instead of living for yourself, you can focus on learning to die to self (Matt. 10:38; Luke 9:23; I Cor. 15:13). In following Christ, you are to lose your life for the Lord's sake (Matt. 10:39; Luke 9:24). This change in allegiance is demonstrated by practical expressions of loving God (Matt. 22:37-38; John 14:15,21; I John 5:3), and loving others (Matt. 22:39; I Cor. 13:4-8; Phil. 2:1-4; I John 4:7-8,11,20).
- D. God's plan and your obedience.** After your conversion to Christ, you can change Biblically by obeying the Biblical directives given to accomplish these changes.
1. Biblical change in you, sovereignty originated, sustained, and to be completed by God (Phil. 1:6; 2:13), is always linked to your obedience to God's Word (Luke 6:46-49; Phil. 2:12; Heb 5:14; James 1:22-25). Your obedience to His Word is a grateful response to God's Love that is revealed in Christ Jesus (John 14:15,21,23-24; I John 5:3; II John 6); it is not to be dependant on circumstances (Acts 5:28-29; II Tim. 3:1-17), your feelings (Gen. 4:7; Gal. 5:17; I Pet. 4:2), or other people (Ezek. 18:20; I Pet. 3:8-17).
 2. A commitment to please God (II Cor. 5:9; Col. 1:10) begins with Biblical self-confrontation (Matt. 7:1-5; I Cor. 11:31). Confronting yourself Biblically will enable you to develop and practice a plan for change in your thoughts (Rom.

12:2; II Cor 10:5; Eph. 4:23; Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:2), words (Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6), and actions (Rom. 12-14; Eph. 4-6; Phil. 2-3; Col. 2-3; I Thess. 4; Titus 2-3; James 1-5; I Pet. 2-5).

II. The Process Of Biblical Change Ends When You Enter Into Eternal Fellowship With Him And With Those Who, Throughout History, Have Been Redeemed By Our Heavenly Father.

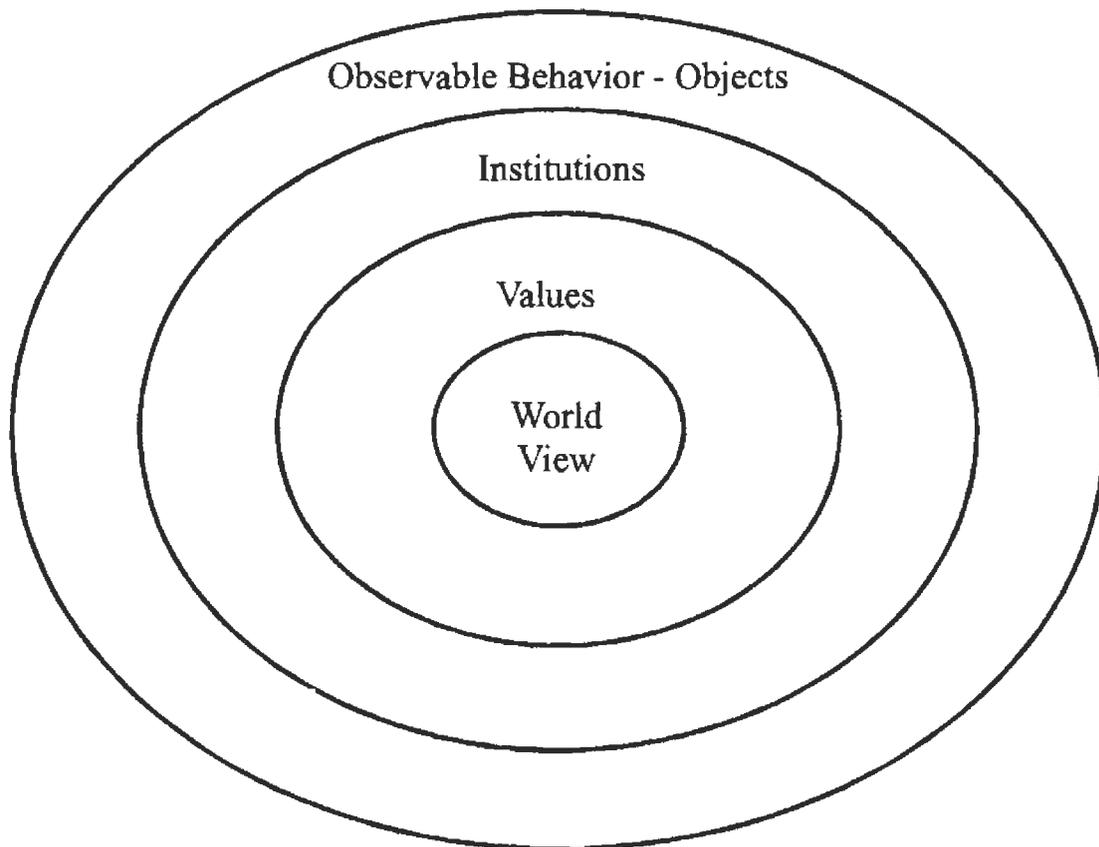
- A. A believer in Christ who now has an eternal relationship with the Lord, will continue to dwell with Him in Heaven, and is promised the following:
1. You will meet Jesus when He returns with power and great glory (Matt. 16:27; 26:64; Acts 1:11; Col. 3:4; I Thess. 4:13-18; Heb. 9:28).
 2. You can anticipate the transformation of your earthly body of corruptible flesh into an immortal, incorruptible, and glorified body (Rom. 8:23; I Cor. 15:36-58; Phil. 3:20-21; I John. 3:2).
 3. You can be assured of living forever with Jesus Christ in a heavenly, eternal city not made with hands (II Cor. 5:1; Heb. 11:10; Rev. 21:1,2,10-27; 22: 1-7).
 4. You will be a part of a great host of righteous brothers and sisters in Christ who will dwell in peace and joy forever (Matt. 24:31; I Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 7:9; 22:14), where there will be no more tears, sorrow, or darkness (Rev. 21:2-4,23-25).
- B. In the present, you can anticipate this eternal fellowship.
1. You must keep your heart and mind established, ready and clear with your activities in proper perspective, anticipating His glorious appearing (Phil. 3:20; Titus 2:11-13; I Pet. 1:13; I John 3:3).
 2. Be careful of your walk and make the most of your time (Eph. 5:15,16; I Thess. 5:6-10).
 3. Encourage other believers (I Thess. 5:11; Heb. 10:23-25) and comfort them with the hope of His coming (I Thess. 4:13-18).

THE WORLD VIEW PROBLEM

Any consideration of matters relating to the realm of spirits and especially to spirit activity in the material world will usually begin with a world view problem for those reared in a Western culture.

I. Definition

- A. "A set of presuppositions (or assumptions) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously) about the basic make-up of our world." *The Universe Next Door*, James Sire
- B. A college professor said, "People may not live what they profess, but they will always live what they believe." World view is what one really believes as opposed to what one may profess to believe. So, in order to find out what a person believes (what his or her world view is), you must live with them and observe the way they live rather than asking them to tell you. An important implication of this is that if you want to change the way a person lives, you must change the way they believe.



Representable Worldviews Must be Considered

II. Animism

- A. Animism is the most widely held world view.
 - 1. It is the belief system of tribal societies.
 - 2. It is the folk-level practice of most adherents to world religions.
 - 3. It is widely practiced at a popular level in western societies.
- B. It often (if not always) includes a belief in a high god. This god does not play a very significant part in the world today.
- C. Major beliefs include:
 - 1. The world (animal, vegetable, and mineral) is pervaded with an impersonal spiritual power often referred to as manna.
 - 2. This power is not that of a living being.
 - 3. It is amoral and can be controlled by man.
 - 4. There are also personal spirits of many kinds which inhabit our world and control or affect most aspects of human, animal, and plant life.
 - 5. Values are defined in terms of maintaining right relationships with this spirit world.
 - 6. There are "specialists" in dealing with the spirit world who are called shamans, medicine men or witch doctors.

III. Western World View

- A. There is no one western world view. The one described here is typical of the view held by most Western Christians.
- B. This view has two functional realms - the natural and the supernatural.
- C. The supernatural realm is essentially "other worldly" and contains all spirit beings - good or evil.
- D. The natural realm is "this worldly". It is run by natural (scientific) laws and is seldom, if ever, directly affected by spirit beings.
- E. It is assumed that science and religion can be kept entirely separate as in public education.
- F. Questions often asked:
 - 1. Is it scientific or is it religious?
 - 2. Is it a spiritual problem or a psychological problem?
 - 3. Is it a demon or is it the flesh?
 - 4. Is it sacred or is it secular?
- G. Such questions are invalid because the world view on which they are based is invalid.
- H. This often becomes a kind of neo-deism, (a belief that God made the world, established the laws by which it runs, but now sits on His throne in Heaven and seldom intervenes in the events of the world except in occasional miracles).

IV. World View of Christ and the Scriptures

- A. This view has three functional realms: the realm of God (deity), the realm of angels (holy and fallen), and the realm of people and things. The latter could be further divided into the realms of inorganic, organic, animal and human.
- B. The God of the Bible is the only occupant of the realm of God.
 - 1. God is sovereign over all His creation.

2. Satan apparently aspires to inhabit this realm as the equal of God (II Thess. 2:4; Luke 4:7), but he is not there and will never be there.
- C. The realm of angels is fully populated and fully functioning just as it is pictured in the scriptures. There are over 300 references to angels in the Bible.
1. Number of angels is limitless. Ps. 68:17; Dan. 7:10; Heb. 12:22
 2. There are many types of angels: cherubim, seraphim, archangels, etc.
 3. Their character is holy. Matt. 25:31
 4. Their role is that of servants. Heb. 1:14
 5. Their functions include:
 - a. Ministering to God in worship. Ps. 103:20; Ps. 148; Rev. 7:11
 - b. Ministering to Christ. Matt. 4:6; Luke 22:43
 - c. Ministering to the saints. Heb. 1:14
 - (1) Protecting. II Kings
 - (2) Conveying the guidance of God. Gen. 24:7,40; Dan. 9:20-23; 10:12-13.
 - (3) Delivering from enemies. Gen. 19; Dan 3:28; 6:22; Acts 5:19.
 - (4) Serving as personal guardian angels. Ps. 34:7; 91:11; Matt. 18:10.
 - (5) Destroying enemies. Gen. 19:13; Ps. 78:49; Is. 37:36; Acts 12:23.
 - (6) Controlling the forces of nature. II Sam. 24:15-16; Matt. 28:2; Rev. 7:1,2.
- D. The original harmony of creation was destroyed when one of the highest of the angels rebelled. Is. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-15; Gen. 3:5; Luke 4:7; II Thess. 2:4
1. God is Satan's primary enemy; he is jealous for the glory which is God's alone.
 2. He is unable to attack God directly so instead he attacks God's children.
 3. His aim is to deprive God of His rightful glory in the eyes of men by causing the children of God to live at a level that is less than "to the glory of God."
 4. God allowed Satan and the fallen angels to retain their angelic power which they now use to pervert and disrupt God's creation both in the physical world (Rom. 8:18-22) and in the human population of the world.
 5. Satan is limited in his activity by the sovereignty of God. (The leash principle).
 6. Satan's destiny is already established. Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10

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SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Biblical world view is essential for understanding our relationship with the spirit world (with God, the Holy Spirit, angels, Satan, and evil spirits). If our world view does not allow for spirit activity in daily life, we will be easy targets for the enemy's deception. We will not reach out by faith and appropriate the resources available to us as God's children.

I. The Believer's Relationship to God.

- A. It must be based on the truth.
 - 1. We must have a solid foundation in Biblical truth; and it must be a functional relationship (not just a collection of theological information) if all other relationships in life are to be what they ought to be.
 - 2. We must say about everything in our lives what God says about it in His Word, especially about sin and our identity "in Christ".
 - 3. We must be totally honest with Him. The belt of truth in the armor is truthfulness as well as Biblical truth.
- B. It must involve the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit must be a functional part of our world view.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit must be "the Spirit of wisdom and revelation" for us in order that we may have the full and correct knowledge of God. Eph. 1:17
 - 3. He is the One on whom we depend for guidance. John 14:16-17; 16:13

II. Satan Holds Unbelievers in His Control.

- A. His primary tactic is deception. Rev. 12:9; John 8:44
 - 1. It is a clever tactic because when you are deceived you do not know.
 - 2. Deception is the snare by which he controls us. II Tim. 2:24-26
 - 3. He needs to tell unbelievers only one lie, which is, there is a way other than Christ to find eternal life or to find meaning and fulfillment in life.
- B. Our evangelism needs to recognize this bondage based on deception and make certain that the truth is clearly presented in relation to the change in world view involved in conversion.

III. Satan is Constantly on the Attack Against Believers.

- A. We must anticipate temptation just as Christ did. Heb. 4:15
- B. We must expect other kinds of attacks. I Peter 5:8,9; I Thess. 2:18
- C. Deception is still his primary tactic. II Cor. 11:3
- D. His principle aim is to cause us to be spiritually ineffective by living at a level that is not "to the glory of God". Ex. 20:4; I Cor. 10:31. The glory of God is the real issue at stake in the battle.

IV. We Are To Resist Satan's Attacks.

- A. WE are to resist attacks "steadfastly". I Peter 5:9

- B. "The faith" involves total confidence in the defeat of Satan at the cross (Col. 2:15) and the believer's position "in Christ" given to us by the Grace and Love of God and received by faith.
- C. Ephesians 1:17-27 gives the basis for our position of authority over this enemy.

SATAN AS A DECEIVER

Satan's primary tactic is deception or clever lying. John 8:44; Rev. 12:9

I. Deception in the Area of Power.

A. Intimidation - to produce fear as a ground for control.

1. General harassment.
2. Fear / panic attacks, especially at night.
3. Attacks on children.
4. Physical attacks.

B. Enticement - to trap you with offers of power to meet felt needs.

1. Power as a basic need of life. (This power should come from our relationship to God; if our faith is not appropriating God's power, we may be tempted to look elsewhere for it. Satan seeks to counterfeit whatever God does. This is basically the realm we call the occult).
2. Power over circumstances.
 - a. Magic, charms, fetishes, rituals, etc.
 - b. Financial, social, sexual power.
 - c. Divination for causes of evil or suffering.
 - d. Healing.
3. Power with people.
 - a. Spells: love magic, hate magic.
 - b. Curses against individuals, families, organizations.
 - c. Witchcraft.
4. Power to foretell the future.
 - a. Fortune telling of all kinds.
 - b. Psychic readings.
5. Spiritual guides.
6. Special gifts.
 - a. Clairvoyance, clairaudience, etc.
 - b. Astral travel.
 - c. Counterfeit spiritual gifts.

II. Deception in the Area of Truth.

A. The truth about God.

1. An outgrowth of conflict over glory.
2. Satan's primary aim - to defame God.
3. Began in Eden.
4. Culminates in Satan worship. (Satanism is more anti-God and anti-Christ than it is pro-Satan).
5. Caricatures of God created by Satan.
 - a. Vengeful judge.
 - b. Demanding parent.
 - c. Policeman, etc.

6. Often based in view of earthly father or mother.
 7. View of God basic to world view. (If view of God is wrong, nothing else will come out quite right).
 8. Some key issues.
 - a. Does God practice unconditional love towards us?
 - b. Is He trustworthy - in His Person, in His word?
 - c. Are there exceptions? ("It works for others, but not for me").
- B. The truth about me - my identity - especially what it means to be "in Christ".
Promise: The degree to which I believe and act on a lie about God or about myself
the degree to which Satan has some control over me.

III. How Does God Approach Us?

- A. Authority
- B. Accountability
- C. Affirmation
- D. Acceptance

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Pilate asked it; so have countless others, "What is Truth? Is there any ultimate reality in life?" God has written into our beings some things we can "intuit" about Truth. Present generations are in deep trouble, because they have ignored these witnesses. Now these built-in testimonies are an essential part of our thinking process. Anyone who tries to use logic to deny them will have to use them as he thinks. They cannot be disproved because they are always assumed in every argument. They underlie all searches for reality.

I. Truth Exists

We have to assume this; it cannot be proved. All our logical chains of thought are based on a few things we are sure of. We may be wrong about the things we do decide are true; we also do not usually realize that we are assuming anything. But consider; if anybody really tried to live as if no truth of any kind existed, he could not think, argue, talk about it or prove it. He could not be sure of anything, including the things he uses to prove his point, his premises, logic or words. And that would be horrible.

Think of a man climbing a cliff. Before he can take his hands or feet from the place he stands on or holds, he must first be sure of his grip in the new place. If he lets go all holds at once, he falls. The same thing happens to a man who plays games with words by trying to philosophize away this concept God built into our beings. If he gives up all the things he is sure of at once, he has nothing left to stand on or work from. He loses all grip on reality and falls off the cliff of life to destruction. Reality exists; it is a simple concept, but absolutely basic to life. Before we can find anything, our search must start by our assuming that perhaps it is there to find. The alternative to this is a form of madness; that everything is an illusion, a dream and shadow world.

II. Truth Can Be Known

This follows from the first assumption; that if and when we find the reality we looked for, we can recognize it. Consider a scientist searching for an answer, he thinks of a way to look for it. Then he assumes he will be able to identify the solution from the evidence of his senses which can be extended through his instruments. He thinks about what he wants, looks for it and is able to say, "This is it," when he finds it!

What about the person who says, "There is no such thing as reality; reality cannot be known?" Think about what he has done. He said, "There is no such thing as reality" but assumed that what he said was real; he said, "It cannot be known," BUT ASSUMED that you knew what he was talking about. That is usually why both must simply be accepted as first truths, or facts. Challenging them very quickly turns any argument or debate into complete nonsense.

And where do you think God begins when He gives the essential conditions for knowing Him? He asks that we assume only that He can be known. Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Certain things follow these two assumptions. We think also that TRUTH would be both UNIVERSAL and ULTIMATE. First, we expect something that is true to be valid under the same conditions “here” as it is anywhere. What is truly “true” now should be just as true in the future. People have looked a long time for such an ultimate reality that would serve as a basis to correlate all art, humanities and sciences. We can expect applications of truth to change as conditions do; for instance, the law of gravity we consider universally “true” although its outworking gives man a different weight on the moon. The law itself does not change; we do not expect it to. It describes a relationship between mass and space; as either variables change, relative gravity changes, while the law remains true.

Second, we expect truth to be ultimate. We do not want to keep on finding hidden things behind what we said was true that change our picture again. We want something absolutely basic, something final. That means true truth could be discovered, but never invented. Invention is simply the use of facts already known in new ways. Assume that such facts, like science laws, do not change, and that they can be endlessly repeated with the same results. If we discovered that they did change, everything would lose its framework, and all our logic and study would become totally meaningless. Life is like that. Study can help us define truth, but at best only clears up our understanding of it. We can deny truth, but will never be able to alter it. Present generations have tried to do just this with God’s absolutes. We already see the awful price that is paid for tampering with built-in concepts of reality.

III. Spotlight On Reality

The Bible, written revelation of the infinite God of all Knowledge, reveals what is “true truth.” Jesus said, “If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32) In the pages of God’s Holy Word, we find the ultimate answer to man’s search for Truth. The Bible is the only Book in the world that can sanely claim absolute authority to ultimate reality because it comes from the One True God. Other religions on earth have described at best, a SEARCH for truth; but the Lord Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.” (John 14:6) God’s spotlight on reality is His Word. It shows us the nature and character of Truth; we see from it that Truth is:

A. Spiritual

We could expect this from a study of atomic physics. The atoms that build the energy chains we call matter are simply energy bundles held together by a yet “unknown” force. This central power defies analysis, yet without it our entire universe would collapse. The Bible reveals what this Force is; it is the power of God (Hebrews 11:3; Col. 1:16,17). The heart of the universe is spiritual; it is not subject to change or decay.

Science tells us something eerie. If it were possible to alter the basic atomic frequencies of our material universe, our world could coexist in the same space and time with another world, each equally real and “solid” with its own plants, buildings, and people, each world freely passing through the other, but neither world being aware of the other’s existence!

Parallel this with the Bible revelation; man is more than matter, he is also a spiritual being with the capacity to contact a spiritual world in Heaven or in Hell, and be a citizen or denizen of either when he passes out of this earthly existence. We are in contact with these parallel dimensional worlds; we are bound for one of them, and beings from both have invaded our earth, that the Bible calls angels and demons (Gen. 19:1-16; 28:12; II Chron. 32:21; Luke 2:13; Matt. 13:39; 12: 24-26; II Thess. 1:7; Heb. 13:2; Ephesians 6:12; Mark 5:1-9).

B. Comprehensible

Truth is grasped by the mind (Luke 24:27; Col. 2:2-3; Heb. 8:10; I Tim. 2:4; II Tim. 2:7; 3:14-15). No finite mind could grasp all of truth, since it must cover every field of knowledge; only God knows all reality in this sense. But we have been gifted with reason and intuition to help us tap this field. We can grasp anything put into our minds that is in small enough portion for us to properly compare and relate it to everything else we learn. Where our sense-thinking fails, God can use our intuition.

Whatever God reveals will be truly "true", although, it will not, of course, be exhaustive, we can only learn a little at a time, but what we do learn from Him will always prove ultimately valid in any area of life. This is what a secular man searching for a "unified field of knowledge" must first recognize; only the Infinite God of the Bible can help us put things together correctly. We have no way to "prove" that any starting point is valid when we are too limited to see that small point in the context of the whole universe. The Christian simply trusts the revealed love and character of God, and accepts that what God reveals will always ultimately prove to be wholly right. Jesus said God's truth in His Word had power to "free" us. Excitement follows discovery of truth. Given only that we could be saved from death and decay, our capacity for knowledge and corresponding excitement is limitless as eternity. Think of the marvels God has ready to show us if we obey Him! (Prov. 22:21; Eph. 4:11-24; I Cor. 2:5-16; Col. 1:25-28).

C. Revealed by God

The Bible shows us that Ultimate Truth is God Himself. As first cause of all reality, Truth must be centered in God's uncreated, eternal Being. (Deut. 32:4; Ps. 100:5; Jerm. 4:2; Zech. 8:8; I John 5:6) It follows that He is the only One who can reveal it to man; unless He does, we could never know truth in any real sense. The unseen God cannot be discovered by unaided human reason (Job 11:7-8). God is a God Who hides Himself (Isaiah 45:15). He reveals His presence only to those who are honest enough to admit their sin and surrender to His love. (Isaiah 59:1-4; 56:6-7; Heb. 11:6) He can be discovered only when He wants to be. It would be sin for God to give more truth to a person who could not be trusted to use it rightly. No member of the God head will reveal Himself unless we meet His conditions. (Luke 10:21-22; Deut. 29:9; Prov. 1:23; Isaiah 45:3; Matt. 18:3; John 12:36-40)

If a scientist considers one basic discovery worth a life time of hard work, think of the worth of knowing God Who is the source of all Truth! Moral truth requires the same conditions of discovery as material truth, with one difference; moral truth also requires a cost to the self. With God, KNOWLEDGE = RESPONSIBILITY (James 4:17; Luke 12:47-48; 23:34; John 9:41; 15:22, 24; Matt. 11:20-24). When God gives us moral light, He expects reaction for or against it.

Truth is revealed so that we may react and respond to God. Acceptance will mean a further and more profound insight into the ways of God; rejection will not only result in a darkened understanding, but also a gradual loss of present reality as God continues to blind the sinner on even-deeper levels. (Matt. 13:12-15; Ps. 82:5; Isaiah 59:1-9; John 9:39-41; I John 2:9-11).

The way to abundant life is obedience to truth. Do what God shows you, and you begin to build your life on eternal foundations. As one block of truth is laid and cemented in place by continued obedience, God gives you another. Reject any "block" or truth, and he will give you no more until there is obedience to revealed truth, Deut. 29:29. God longs to give us the precious and the everlasting.

D. Faith Comes By

Loyalty, trust or obedience to revealed truth, is Bible faith that saves. This is not hope. Hope is an expectancy, or a trust without a promise. Many people think they have "faith" when it is either intellectual assent or hope. Faith is founded on authority. Bible belief is based on definite promises. Saving faith is loyalty to the Word of God. God's Word is both LIVING (the Lord Jesus - John 1:1-2) and WRITTEN (the Bible - II Tim. 3:16-17; John 20:31; Matt. 4:4). Faith is not just the mind accepting a fact. Satan himself "believes" this way! Faith that delivers is obeying Truth. God makes man a promise by His Word. The promise works if a man responds to that WORD. Trust is always tied in with action in scripture. Trust without expression is a mere mental "yes" to Truth without a real "yes" of will. Belief is always based on Promises and linked to some kind of expression.

E. Understanding Reality

Understanding Reality is called in the Bible "Light" or "Knowledge of Truth" (Eph. 5:13). The illustration of light in darkness should be clear. Our "darkness" is moral. We hide ourselves from Christ and the Light because our deeds are evil, John 3:19. We pretend, living in self-deceit and hypocrisy. God switches on His "searchlight" (Prov. 20:27). The Holy Spirit uses Truth to floodlight our sin. Caught dirty and naked, we can either throw ourselves in repentance and sorrow unto Him, or flee in denial further into darkness. Truth shows us who and what we are. Whether we face it or run is up to us. Truth hurts! It does not gloss over sin. Reality is not easy to face; but unless we admit it, we disqualify ourselves for eternity. A Christian is the world's only true realist. His world is real. His life is real. His destiny is sure. Anyone else is either running from reality or still searching for it.

F. Rejecting Light

If a person rejects God's Truth, he begins to search for something to take its place. He knows life is not complete; but is not willing to accept Reality, knowing it demands a change in his own selfish action. Trying to compensate this gap in his life, he tries to work out his own more convenient way of thinking (one that does not cost him his sin) making his OWN religion - even his own god. He begins to build a life on false foundations. When he exposes these to hard life, they must crumble. He will have to search again. There will always be an emptiness, an inner void, (II Tim. 3:7). The same truth rejected will one day come to haunt and judge, (John 12:46-50).

FACING TRUTH OR REJECTING TRUTH

Should a person have rejected "light" for some reason, the life will show it. There are some obvious signs to discern between the truly obedient and the self-deceiving rebel.

OPEN TO GOD - FACING THE LIGHT

Eager to learn truth.

Active in seeking for truth.

Develops a working life philosophy with firm foundations.

Open to new ideas - always ready to revise previous opinions in the light of more knowledge.

Flexible theology, growing humility. Willing to adjust or modify, yet without compromise.

Transparent life, clean conscience.

Growing zeal for God..

Life becomes more Christ-like.

HIDING FROM GOD - FEARING LIGHT

Skeptically questions truth.

Avoids all effort to discover truth.

Constantly looks for other ideas rather than truth he knows to build life on.

Mind sees only what it wants to see; resists truth even when powerfully proved beyond reasonable doubt.

Increasing pride; "conceit" theology - very mixed up and hard set.

Secret sin; defiled, weakened conscience.

Zeal dies under hypocrisy, unreality

Life becomes more self-centered and conceited.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT BONDAGE

- I. **Demons Were Active When Christ Was On Earth, But Their Activity Has Subsided Today.**
 - A. God's people wrestling against dark spiritual forces is not a first-century phenomenon, nor is it an option for the Christian today; it is unavoidable. Eph. 6:11-18
 - B. The Kingdom of Darkness is still present, and Satan is intent on making your life miserable and organizes all his forces to do battle against the knowledge of God in your life. II Cor. 10:3-5
 - C. If your worldview as a Christian does not include the Kingdom of Darkness, then you will be overcome by all the philosophies present in this day and the corruption of this world.

- II. **What Was Called Demonic Activity In The New Testament We Now Understand To Be Mental Illness.**
 - A. Simply accepting secular psychology's definition of a human problem in no way establishes the actual cause of the problem.
 1. Terms such as schizophrenia, paranoia, psychosis, etc., are merely labels classifying symptoms.
 - a. But what or who is causing the symptoms?
 - b. Is it a neurological or hormonal problem, or perhaps a chemical imbalance?
 - c. But what if no physical problem is found? Then it must be a psychological problem.
 - d. But what school of psychology do you choose: Biblical or secular?
 - B. We should not be surprised that secular psychologists limited to a natural worldview supply only natural explanations for mental problems.
 1. They offer their explanation from a viewpoint with no concept of God, much less the demonic.
 2. The majority of Christians accept the secular psychologists explanation of mental illness.
 3. Research based on the scientific method of investigation of human spiritual problems is not wrong; it is just incomplete.
 - C. Neither God nor the Devil will submit to secular, natural methods of investigation.

- III. **Some Problems Are Psychological And Some Are Spiritual.**
 - A. This misconception implies a division between the human soul and spirit, which does not exist.
 1. There is no inner conflict which is not psychological, because there is never a time when your mind, emotions and will are not involved.
 2. Similarly, there is no problem which is not spiritual.
 3. There is no time when God is not present or when it is safe for you to take off the armor of God.

- B. "As long as believers accept a two-tier worldview with God confined to the supernatural and the natural world operating for all practical purposes according to autonomous scientific laws, Christianity will continue to be a secularizing force in the world." Dr. Paul Hiebert
- C. If your worldview does not recognize the activity of the god of this world in human problems, it is at best incomplete and at worst a distortion of reality.

IV. Christians Are Not Subject To Demonic Activity.

- A. Nothing has done greater damage to diagnosing spiritual problems than this untruth.
 - 1. If Satan cannot touch Christians why are we instructed to put on the armor of God?
 - 2. Why are we instructed to resist the devil, stand firm and to be alert?
 - 3. Why does Paul describe our relationship to the powers of darkness as a wrestling match?
- B. Those who deny the enemy's potential for destruction are the most vulnerable to it.

V. Demonic Influence Is Only Evident In Extreme Or Violent Behavior And Gross Sin.

- A. Satan's first and foremost strategy is deception. II Cor. 11:14,15
 - 1. It is not the few raving demonics that are causing churches to be ineffective, but Satan's subtle deception and enslavement of "normal" believers.
 - 2. Most Christians suffering from demonic activity lead relatively normal lives while experiencing serious personal and interpersonal problems for which no cause or solution has been found.
- B. Mistakenly satanic involvement is relegated only to mass murderers or violent sex criminals.
 - 1. The ordinary problem-plagued individual wonders what's wrong with him/her and why they cannot just do better.
 - 2. "I discovered that two-thirds of my clients were having problems because they were being deceived by Satan - and so was I." a *Christian psychotherapist*

VI. Freedom From Spiritual Bondage Is The Result Of A Power Encounter With Demonic Forces.

- A. Freedom from spiritual conflicts and bondage is a truth encounter - not primarily a power encounter.
 - 1. Satan's power is in the lie, and when his lie is exposed by the truth, his plans are foiled. John 8:44; Rev. 12:9; I John 5:19
 - 2. The truth of God's Word exposes him and his lie.
- B. The power of Satan is in the lie and the power of the believer is in knowing the truth. John 8:32
 - 1. When Satan can deceive the believer into believing lies about God and his position in Christ, he will spend most of the time in defeat.
 - 2. It is not a question of out shouting or name-calling that will liberate one from Satan's influence. John 17:15,17; Eph. 6:14; Phil. 4:8
- C. Persons in bondage are not liberated by what a pastor / counselor does but by what is done with his counsel and teaching.

1. It is not what someone else believes that breaks the bounds, but rather what you believe, confess, renounce and forgive.
2. You just have to out truth Satan.
3. Believe, declare and act upon the truth of God's Word and Satan's strategy will be spoiled.

CHRISTIANS AND DEMONS

The question is often asked: "Can a Christian be demon possessed?" If one assumes the usual definition of possession as used elsewhere in English as ownership or total control, the answer to the question is a clear no.

If we ask: "To what extent can a demon influence a Christian?" the answer is more complex.

I. The Argument Against The Possibility of Demon Activity In Christians.

- A. The Holy Spirit and an evil spirit cannot live in the same body at the same time. Since the Christian's body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, no demon is able to live in the body of a Christian.
1. Scriptures used in support: I Cor. 2:12; 6:9-20; II Cor. 6:14-18; James 3:12; I John 4:4.
 2. Responses:
 - a. None of the passages cited say a demon cannot enter a Christian. The scriptures are silent on this issue. The argument is based on human logic, not Biblical statements.
 - b. In the book of Job, Satan is pictured as being in God's presence. Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7
 - c. Paul speaks of the possibility of receiving "another spirit" (pneumon heteron -a spirit of a different kind from the Holy Spirit). II Cor. 11:4
 - d. Paul warns us not to give a "place" (foothold). The only place we can give is in our own lives.
 - e. The many warnings addressed to believers clearly imply that some measure of demonic activity in the lives of believers is possible. Matt. 6:13; II Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:10-20; James 4:7; I John 4:1-6; I Pet. 5:8,9
 - d. The issue is not possession but control, especially of the mind.
- B. God automatically protects Christians: demonic invasion is therefore impossible.
1. Scriptures used in support: I John 5:18; Rom. 8:35-39; Col. 1:12-13; Eph. 2:11-12; I John 4:4
 2. Response: On the contrary, the many warnings in Scripture are all addressed to believers, and they clearly imply that protection is not automatic. Matt. 6:13; II Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:10-20; James 4:7; I John 4:1-6; I Peter 5:8,9. We are to be self-controlled and alert, to resist, to use the armor and weapons. The consequence of not doing so is to become a victim of Satan's attacks just as was true of God's people in the Old Testament in relation to their enemies.
- C. The armor is for an external, not an internal enemy.
1. Scripture used in support: Eph. 6: 10-18.
 2. Response: Yes, the enemy is an external enemy, and the object is to keep him out. Failure to use the armor and the weapons means that the arrows can get through - that we will give a place in our lives to the devil.
- D. The Christian is fully equipped to meet the fiery darts of the enemy.
1. Scripture in support: Eph. 6:10-20; I John 4:4.
 2. Response: Yes, we are more than conquerors "in Christ" (Rom. 8:37), and a mature Christian does not need to live in fear of demonic invasion; but the

equipment or armor must be used by the believer. God does not reward spiritual laziness or carelessness.

- E. The internal struggle of the believer is always pictured as a struggle between the spirit and the flesh, not the spirit demons.

Response: Other passages, however, indicate that the flesh, the world, and the devil (demons) work together to the extent that it is virtually impossible to separate them. Problems with flesh are often the opening for demonic activity. Therefore, not walking according to the flesh will keep demons from acquiring a foothold in one's life. But once a foothold has been gained through sins of the flesh, demons may become involved.

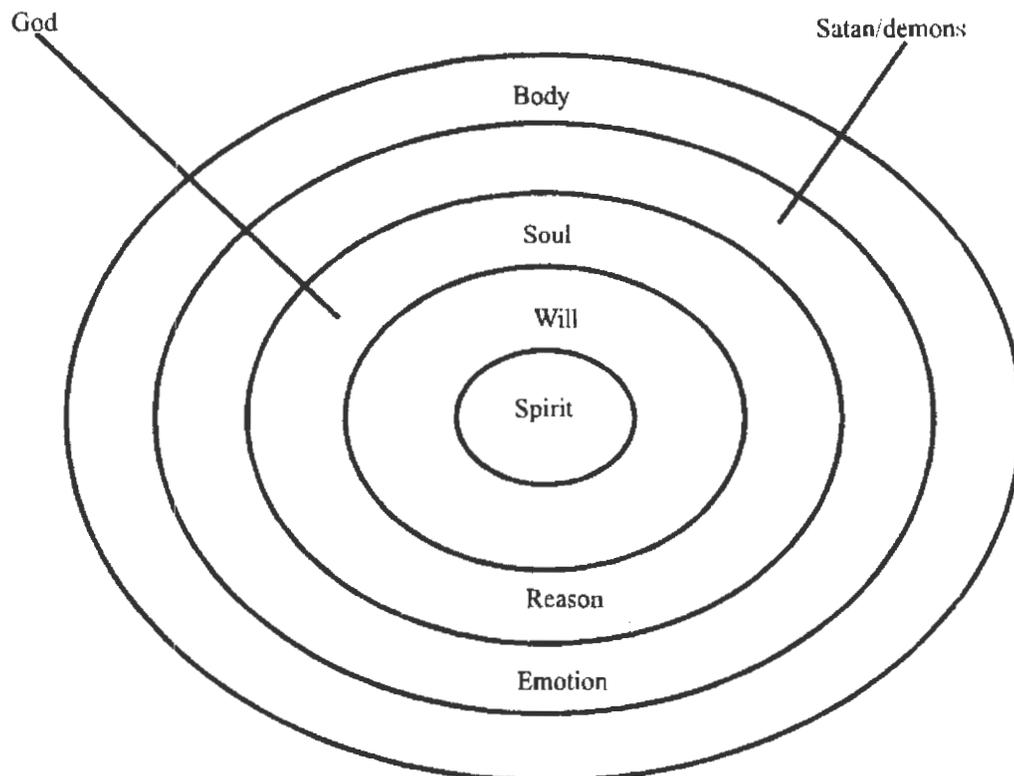
- F. There are no examples given in the New Testament teaching of a true believer having a demon and no didactic passages that deal with this subject.

Response: Nor are there examples of believers having mental illness. Arguments from silence are not a basis for constructing belief systems. There are no didactic passages on personal evangelism or on the Trinity, the total context of scripture must be used in such cases.

- G. To tell a person he may have a demon operating in his life may be more upsetting than the original problem.

Response: On the contrary, understanding one's authority, based on their identity in Christ enables them to resist the enemy, producing new levels of confidence in their life. The person is also often relieved to know that there is not something fundamentally wrong with him for having such a problem. Exposing Satan's deception is often the key to finding wholeness and health in one's life!

II. A Model For The Relation Of Demons To Christians.



THE PERSONALITY OF DEMONS

LUKE 11:24-26

- I. Demons Can Exist Outside Or Inside Of Humans.
 - A. Demons are spirits.
 - B. Demons may find a measure of dwelling, residing or rest in non-human beings, even preferring swine over nothingness. Mark 5:12
 - C. Demons may take territorial rights and associate with certain geographical locations which have been used for Satanic purposes.

- II. Demons Are Able To Travel At Will.
 - A. Demons are spiritual entities and thus are not subject to barriers of the natural world.
 - B. A church building's walls do not insulate it from demonic influence.
 - 1. Only prayer and spiritual authority can provide protection.
 - 2. Passivity and presumption can be very dangerous.

- III. Demons Are Able To Communicate.
 - A. The text reveals that evil spirits can communicate with each other.
 - B. Demons speak to humans through human subjects. Matt. 8:28-34
 - 1. This involves a takeover of the central nervous system.
 - 2. Do not be shocked at manifestations that may take place in this manner.
 - C. A lesser degree of control includes those who give attention to deceiving spirits.

- IV. Each Demon Has A Separate Identity.
 - A. Note the use of personal pronouns in examples like Luke 11:24.
 - B. Thinking personalities are to be dealt with rather than as impersonal forces.
 - C. Secular methods of research will not reveal their existence.
 - D. Revelation alone is our authoritative source on the reality and personality of evil spirits.

- V. Demons Are Able To Remember And Make Plans.
 - A. Evil spirits can leave a place, come back, remember their former state, and plan reentry with others. This shows their ability to think and plan.
 - B. The concept of "familiar spirits" is well documented in history and scripture.

- VI. Demons Are Able To Evaluate And Make Decisions.
 - A. Demons evaluate intended victims. Luke 11:25
 - B. Demons gain access to our lives through our points of vulnerability.

VII. Demons Are Able To Combine Forces.

- A. In Luke 11 one spirit joined a group of seven others, making the victim's last state worse than his first. Luke 11:26
- B. In the case of the Gadarene demoniac, the number of demons united for evil was "legion." Mark 5:9
- C. It is not unusual for a victim to identify a number of different voices in their mind.

VIII. Demons Vary In Degrees Of Wickedness.

- A. The first demon in Luke 11 brought back seven other spirits "more wicked than himself." Luke 11:26
- B. Paul lists variations in power and wickedness of demons in Ephesians 6:12.

THE MISSIONARY UNDER ATTACK

The defensive and offensive positions of missionaries (as is true of any believer) will always interact. Effective witness or ministry will always draw enemy fire, but it may be helpful to look at the two perspectives separately.

UNDER ENEMY ATTACK

Satan is indeed a "roaring lion" who "prowls around looking for someone to devour". He and his fellow fallen angels have declared war on God and God's servants. The following are some of the ways he may use to attack the person who dares to invade his territory.

I. Attacks In The Physical Realm.

- A. Demons can afflict the physical bodies of people.
 - 1. Biblical evidence: Luke 13:16; Matt. 9:32-33; 12:22; Mark 5:1-13; 9:20; Acts 10:38.
 - 2. Illustrations from missionary experience.
- B. Demons can intensify bodily appetites to a compulsive level.
 - 1. Appetite for food.
 - 2. Sexual appetite can be the Devil's playground. Christian marriages and Christian homes are under heavy attack because of the special place these relationships have in God's plan. These relationships are to be a testimony of God's love communicating the Gospel.
- C. Demons can use physical objects as the medium through which to affect people.
 - 1. The objects themselves have no power. (Idols, for example, are held up as the object of scorn in the scriptures. See Isaiah 44:9-20; Jerm. 10:3-5).
 - 2. Two types of objects:
 - a. Those made for occultic / religious purposes. These usually need to be destroyed; they should not be brought into Christian homes. Deut. 7: 25-26
 - b. Objects that are spiritually neutral like objects in nature, houses, buildings, etc. These may be cleansed by claiming one's authority in Christ and binding them in the name of Christ.

II. Attacks In The Spiritual Realm.

- A. Demons Will Always attempt to subvert the spiritual life of God's people. Matt. 4:1; II Cor. 11:3; I Thess. 2:18
- B. Demons will always attempt to attack the truth of God's character and the truth of the believer's position in Christ.
- C. Demons will use a background of "Spiritual" abuse as grounds for attack.

III. Attacks In The Mental And Emotional Areas.

- A. In some ways the attack is always a battle for the mind.
- B. Past emotional experiences can be used by demons to lead to bondage.

IV. Attacks On Social Relationships.

- A. Often related to one of the above areas.
- B. Often related to "missionary incompatibility".

V. Grounds For Attack.

- A. Ancestral sin.
- B. Personal sin.
- C. Previous sin.
- D. Curses
- E. Careless invasion of enemy territory.
- F. God's providence.

THE MISSIONARY ON THE ATTACK

Missionary service needs to be seen as the invasion of enemy-held territory in order to claim it for Christ. We should expect that the invasion will be met with a strong defense and a possible counterattack. (Compare Israel's invasion of Canaan as a model). We have been commissioned by the Lord to press the battle, and we need to do it with the courage that comes from knowing that His authority and power are always at work through us.

I. Evangelism.

- A. Genuine conversion is always a shift from one kingdom to another, from one sphere of power to another. Acts 26:18
- B. Failure to deal with power issues leads to syncretism.
- C. In the early church, converts were prepared for baptism by emphasis on
 - 1. Cleansing from all sin.
 - 2. Renunciation of Satan and deliverance.
 - 3. The filling with power by the Holy Spirit.
- D. Baptismal affirmation: "Satan, I renounce you and all your ways; Lord Jesus Christ, I give myself to you in worship, service and Lordship.

II. Destruction Of Occult Objects.

- A. Should be a part of the conversion process. Acts 19:18-20
- B. Are often a factor in others coming to faith. Acts 19:20
- C. May involve real power demonstrations.

III. Open Confrontation With Occult Practitioners.

- A. Such confrontations are normally not planned or sought for, but we must be ready for them when they come. Acts 13:4-12
- B. Illustrations

IV. Deliverance / Exorcism.

- A. Deliverance from demons is often the power encounter which opens a field to the Gospel, although it is not a panacea for all missionary problems. Acts 16:16-18
- B. Illustrations

V. Demons Associated With Geopolitical Units (Territorial Spirits).

- A. May be associated with princes of the nations in the Old Testament and the "principalities and powers" in the New Testament, Dan. 10:13,20; Eph. 6:12
- B. May be implied in the statement of Christ about binding the strong man in Matt. 12:29.
- C. Seems to be at least part of what is meant by Paul's reference to wrestling with "principalities and powers" in Eph. 6:12.
- D. Primary weapon against them is intercessory prayer.

VI. Prayer and Fasting.

- A. Prayer and worship are where we should begin our battle plans. II Chron. 20; Mark 9:29; Eph. 6:18-20
- B. S. D. Gordon in Quiet Talks on Prayer says, "Prayer is striking the winning blow against the concealed enemy. Service is gathering up the results of that blow." II Chron. 20
- C. Role of prayer in the growth of Kingdom of God in China, Argentina, etc.
- D. Recommended reading on prayer.
 - Paul Bilheimer, Destined for the Throne ,Christian Literature Crusade, 1975
 - Evelyn Christenson, Battling the Prince of Darkness ,Victor, 1990
 - John Dawson, Taking Our Cities for God ,Creation House, 1989
 - Wesley Duval, Mighty, Prevailing Prayer, Francis Asbury /Zondervan, 1990
 - S. D. Gordon, Quiet Talks on Prayer, Baker, 1980
 - C. Peter Wagner, Engaging the Enemy, Regal Books, 1991

VII. Sovereign Intervention.

- A. This is usually an answer to prayer, but sometimes God chooses to send His answer without using human messengers. Acts 9:1-9
- B. Illustrations

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR MISSIONARIES

Victory in this battle cannot be reduced to a formula to follow or special words to say, but there are some things which can be done which will assure a solid Biblical base from which to fight.

- I. **Establish and Maintain The Practice Of Personal And Corporate Worship.**
 - A. Worship is the basic activity of a Christian. Satan, therefore, seeks to keep us from it.
 - B. Think in terms of having a devotional life rather than "having devotions".
- II. **Learn To Feed Yourself From The Word And Through Good Reading, Tapes, Etc.**
 - A. Use good Biblical resources, (books, study guides, tapes, etc.)
 - B. Don't mourn over "not being fed."
 - C. Read, study, memorize, and meditate on the Word.
- III. **Establish Your Identity "In Christ" And Keep Up-To-Date With God.**
 - A. Don't take your unresolved childhood hurts and traumas with you to the field.
 - B. Constantly renew your mind through meditation on the truth about your standing "in Christ".
- IV. **Establish the Concept of Authority in Your Family (If Married).**
 - A. Male headship begins with the husband/father taking the lead in resisting the attacks of Satan.
 - B. Children need to see spiritual authority based on identity in Christ, modeled by parents and taught by parents.
- V. **Establish The Concept Of Authority And InterDependence In Ministry.**
 - A. Resist the temptation to rebel against any mission/church authority.
 - B. Welcome interdependence and mutual accountability within the family of God.
- VI. **Cleanse And Dedicate The Place In Which You Live And Work.**
 - A. Take the initiative; don't wait for demonic manifestations.
 - B. Cleanse the grounds, buildings, furnishings and dedicate them to the glory of God.
- VII. **Go With a Clear Concept Of Our Lord's "All Authority" Behind You.**
 - A. God delegates authority to us as His children, and He expects us to use it on the level of a spiritual adult. Matt. 28:18
 - B. Resist attempts by Satan to intimidate you into leaving the place of God's calling for you.

VII. Expect Some Spiritual Opposition.

- A. Be strong and courageous. Josh. 1:6-7,9
- B. Plan ahead. Have a strategy for resistance, especially with prayer support.
- C. Use the whole armor of God and divine weapons to defend against curses and spiritual attack. Eph. 6:10-12; II Cor. 10:3-5

IX. Learn To Do Warfare Praying.

- A. Recruit and train a prayer team to effectively pray with and for you.
- B. This kind of prayer is wrestling with the principalities and powers. Eph. 6:12

X. Study The Unique Aspects Of The Area Where You Live And Serve.

- A. The history, beliefs, and practices will give you clues for special ministry needs.
- B. Strategies can be aimed at these specific needs.

XI. Teach "Identity In Christ".

XII. Be Accepting Of Personal Differences Within The Christian Community Or Family Of God.

- A. This includes temperaments and gifting.
- B. On this earth we will probably never find an "ideal Christian" model.

STEPS TO FREEDOM AND VICTORY IN CHRIST

Introduction: If you have received Christ as your personal Savior, He has set you free through His victory over sin and death on the cross. If you are not experiencing freedom, it may be because you have not stood firm in the faith or actively taken your place in Christ. It is the Christian's responsibility to do whatever is necessary to maintain a right relationship with God. Your eternal destiny is not at stake; you are secure in Christ. But your daily victory is at stake if you fail to claim and maintain your position in Christ.

You are not the helpless victim caught between two nearly equal but opposite heavenly superpowers. Satan is a deceiver. Only God is omnipotent (all powerful), omnipresent (always present), and omniscient (all knowing). Sometimes the reality of sin and the presence of evil may seem more real than the presence of God, but that is a part of Satan's deception. Satan is a defeated foe, and we are in Christ. A true knowledge of God and our identity in Christ are the greatest determinants of our mental health. A false concept of God, a distorted understanding of who we are as children of God, and the misplaced deification of Satan (attributing God's attributes to Satan) are the greatest contributors to mental illness.

As you prepare to go through the steps to victory and freedom in Christ, you need to remember that the only power Satan has is the power of the lie. As soon as we expose the lie, the power is broken. The battle is for your mind. The control center is in your mind. If Satan can get you to believe a lie, he can control your life, but you don't have to let him. The opposing thoughts that you may experience can control you only if you believe them. If you are going through the steps alone, don't pay attention to any deception. For example, lying thoughts and intimidating thoughts will come into your mind. Thoughts like, "This isn't going to work." "God doesn't love me," etc., can interfere only if you believe those lies. If you are going through the steps with a trusted person (such as a pastor or counselor), which is strongly recommended if there has been severe trauma in your life, then share the thoughts you are having that are in opposition to what you are attempting to do. As soon as you expose the lie, the power of Satan is broken. You must cooperate with the person trying to help you by sharing what is going on inside.

Knowing the nature of the battle for our minds. We can pray authoritatively to stop any interference. The steps begin with a suggested prayer and declaration. If you are going through the steps by yourself, you will need to change some of the personal pronouns to "I" instead of "we". Remember it is necessary to verbalize or speak aloud the prayer and declaration related to each step.

STEPS TO FREEDOM IN CHRIST

PRAYER

*Dear Heavenly Father; we acknowledge Your presence in this room and in our lives. You are the only omniscient (all knowing), omnipotent (all powerful), and omnipresent (always present) God. We are dependant upon You for apart from Christ we can do nothing. We stand in the truth that all authority in heaven and earth has been given the resurrected Christ, and because we are in Christ we share that authority in order to make disciples and set captives free. We ask You to fill us with Your Holy Spirit and lead us into all truth. We pray for Your complete protection and ask for Your guidance.
In Jesus' name. AMEN.*

DECLARATION

In the name and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command Satan and all evil spirits to release us in order that we can be free to know and choose to do the will of God. As children of God seated with Christ in the heavenlies, we agree that every enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ be bound and gagged to silence. We say to Satan and all his evil workers that you cannot inflict any pain or in any way prevent God's will from being accomplished in our lives.

PREPARATION

Before going through the Steps To Freedom, review the events of your life to discern specific areas that might need to be addressed.

FAMILY HISTORY

- _____ Religious history of parents and grandparents.
- _____ Home life from childhood through high school.
- _____ History of physical or emotional illness in the family.
- _____ Adoption, foster care, guardians.

PERSONAL HISTORY

- _____ Eating habits (bulimia, bingeing and purging, anorexia, compulsive eating).
- _____ Addictions (drugs, alcohol).
- _____ Prescription medications (What for?).
- _____ Sleeping patterns and nightmares.
- _____ Raped or any sexual, physical, emotional molestation.
- _____ Thought life (obsessive, blasphemous, condemning, distracting thoughts, poor concentration, fantasy).
- _____ Mental interference in church prayer or Bible study.

_____ Emotional life (anger, anxiety, depression, bitterness, fears).
_____ Spiritual journey (Salvation: when, how and assurance).

Now you are ready to begin. We will now begin to process and work our way through seven specific steps in order to experience freedom from your past. We will address the areas where Satan most commonly takes advantage of us and where strong holds have been built and allowed. Christ purchased your victory when He shed His blood for you on the cross. Realizing your freedom will be the result of what you choose to believe, confess, forgive, renounce, and forsake. No one can do that for you. Personal responsibility must be taken in every area. It will do you no good to begin to dwell excessively on someone else's blame or guilt. The battle for your mind can only be won as you personally choose truth.

As you go through these Steps To Freedom, remember that Satan will only be defeated if you confront him verbally. He cannot read your mind and is under no obligation to obey your thoughts. Only God has complete knowledge of your mind. As you process each step, it is important that you submit to God inwardly and then resist the Devil by reading aloud each prayer - verbally renouncing, forgiving, confessing, etc.

You are taking an intense, fierce, moral inventory and making a rock-solid commitment to truth. If your problems stem from a source other than these covered in these steps, you have nothing to lose by going through them. If you are sincere, the only thing that can happen is you will get very right with God!

STEP 1: COUNTERFEIT vs. REAL RENUNCIATION OF FALSE RELATIONS.

The first step to freedom in Christ is to renounce your previous or current involvements with satanically-inspired occult practices and false religions. You need to renounce any activity and group which denies Jesus Christ, offers guidance through any source other than the absolute authority of the written Word of God, or requires secret initiations, ceremonies or covenants.

In order to help you assess your spiritual experiences, begin this step by asking God to reveal false guidance and counterfeit religious experiences.

DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER. I ASK YOU TO REVEAL TO ME ALL THE OCCULTIC PRACTICES, FALSE RELIGIONS, AND FALSE TEACHERS WITH WHICH I HAVE KNOWINGLY OF UNKNOWNLY BEEN INVOLVED.

Using the "Non-Christian Spiritual Experience Inventory" that follows, carefully check anything in which you have been involved. This list is not exhaustive, but it will guide you in identifying non-Christian or non-Biblical experiences. Add any additional involvements you may have had. Even if you "innocently" participated in something or observed it, you should write it on your list to renounce, just in case you unknowingly gave Satan a foothold.

When you are confident that your list is complete, confess and renounce each involvement whether active or passive by praying aloud the following prayer, repeating it separately for each item on your list.

**LORD, I CONFESS THAT I HAVE PARTICIPATED IN _____.
I ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR THIS, AND I RENOUNCE _____.**

If there has been any involvement in satanic ritual or heavy occult activity (or you suspect because of blocked memories, severe nightmares, sexual disfunction or bondage), you need to state aloud the special renunciations which follow. Read across the page, renouncing the first item in the column on the Kingdom of Darkness and then affirming the first truth in the column of the Kingdom of Light. Continue down the page in this manner.

All satanic rituals, covenants, and assignments must be specifically renounced as the Lord allows you to remember them. Some who have been subjected to Satanic Ritual Abuse have developed multiple personalities in order to survive. Nevertheless, continue through the Steps to Freedom in order to resolve all that you consciously can. It is important that you resolve the demonic strongholds first. Eventually, every personality must be accessed, and each must resolve his/her issues and agree to come together in Christ. You may need someone who understands spiritual conflict to help you with this.

NON-CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE PERSONAL INVENTORY

Check any of the following with which you have had any involvement. Place a check before each one in which you have participated in fun, out of curiosity, or in earnest.

Had your fortune told by

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card laying | <input type="checkbox"/> Palm reading | <input type="checkbox"/> Tea leaves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crystal ball | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychic | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading and/or follow the horoscope | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Been hypnotized | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practiced yoga or self-hypnosis | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attended or participated in a seance | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attended or participated in a spiritualist meeting | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ouija | <input type="checkbox"/> ESP | <input type="checkbox"/> Table tipping (lifting) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tarot cards | <input type="checkbox"/> Telepathy | <input type="checkbox"/> Levitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crystal ball | <input type="checkbox"/> Cabala/kabala | <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic (spirit) writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Ching | <input type="checkbox"/> Clairvoyance | <input type="checkbox"/> Water witching (dowsing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dream interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> self-realization | <input type="checkbox"/> Magical charming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sorcery | <input type="checkbox"/> Witchcraft | <input type="checkbox"/> Astral projection/travel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental suggestion | <input type="checkbox"/> Metaphysics | <input type="checkbox"/> Mystical meditation |

- Had a spirit guide
- Read or possessed occult literature, esp., the Satanic Bible, Book of Shadows, Secrets of the psalms, Sixth and Seventh Books of Moses
- Read or studied parapsychology
- Possessed occult or pagan religious objects which were made for use in pagan temples or religious rites or in the practice of magic, sorcery, witchcraft, divination, or spiritualism
- Seen or been involved in Satan worship.
- Sought healing (either as a child or as an adult) through magic conjuration, charming, psychic healing, or New Age medicine
- Tried to locate a missing person or object by consulting someone with psychic powers
- Encountered ghosts or materialization of persons known to be dead
- Entered into a blood pact with another person
- Been the object of sexual attacks by demons (incubi, succubi)
- Been involved with heavy metal or allied kinds of rock music
- Heard voices in your mind or had compulsive thoughts that were foreign to what you believe
- Have periods in childhood or the present when you cannot remember what happened

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Participated in any of the following | <input type="checkbox"/> The Way International | <input type="checkbox"/> Zen Buddhism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worldwide Church of God | <input type="checkbox"/> Swedenborgianism | <input type="checkbox"/> Rosicrucianism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (Herbert W. Armstrong | <input type="checkbox"/> Unity | <input type="checkbox"/> Mormonism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hare Krishna | <input type="checkbox"/> Baha'i | <input type="checkbox"/> The Local Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Masonic order | <input type="checkbox"/> Theosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jehovah's Witnesses | <input type="checkbox"/> Unitarianism | <input type="checkbox"/> Children of God |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unification Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Hinduism | <input type="checkbox"/> Inner Peace Movement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transcendental Meditation | <input type="checkbox"/> New Age group | <input type="checkbox"/> Eckankar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship | <input type="checkbox"/> EST/The Forum | <input type="checkbox"/> Mind Control |

SPECIAL RENUNCIATION FOR SATANIC RITUAL INVOLVEMENT

Kingdom of Darkness

Kingdom of Light

I renounce ever signing my name over to Satan or having my name signed over to Satan.

I announce that my name is now written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

I renounce any ceremony where I have been we to Satan.

I announce that I am the Bride of Christ

I renounce any and all covenants that I made with Satan.

I announce that I am a partaker of the New Covenant with Christ.

I renounce all satanic assignments for my life, including duties, marriage, and children.

I announce and commit myself to know and do only the will of God and accept only His guidance.

I renounce all spirit guides assigned to me.

I announce and accept only the leading of the Holy Spirit.

I renounce ever giving my blood in the service of Satan.

I trust only in the shed blood of my Lord Jesus Christ.

I renounce ever eating of flesh or drinking of blood for satanic worship.

By faith I eat only the flesh and drink only the blood of Jesus in Holy Communion.

I renounce any and all guardians and Satanist parent that were assigned to me.

I announce that God is my Gather and the Holy Spirit is my Guardian by which I am sealed.

I renounce any baptism in blood or urine whereby I am identified with Satan.

I announce that I have been baptized into Christ Jesus and my identity is now in Christ.

I renounce any and all sacrifices that were made on my behalf by which Satan may claim ownership of me.

I announce that only the sacrifice of Christ has any hold on me. I belong to Him. I have been purchased by the blood of the Lamb.

STEP 2: DECEPTION vs. TRUTH

Truth is the revelation of God's Word, but we need to acknowledge the truth in the inner self (Ps. 51:6). When David lived a lie, he suffered greatly, when he finally found freedom by acknowledging the truth, he wrote: "Blessed is the man....in whose spirit there is no guile." (Ps. 32:2). We are to lay aside falsehood (hypocrisy, pretending to be something we are not, false airs, sanctimonious false fronts, cover-ups, etc.) and speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15,25). A mentally healthy person is one who is in touch with reality and relatively free of anxiety. Both qualities should characterize the Christian who renounces deception and embraces the truth.

Begin this critical step by expressing aloud the following prayer. Don't let the enemy accuse you with thoughts such as: "This isn't going to work" or "I wish I could believe this but I can't" or any other lies in opposition to what you are proclaiming. Even if you have difficulty in doing so, you need to pray the prayer and read the Doctrinal Affirmation.

Dear heavenly Father: I know that You desire truth in the inner self (Ps. 51:6) and that facing this truth is the way of liberation (John 8:32). I further acknowledge that I have been deceived by the Father of lies (John 8:44) and that I have deceived myself (I John 1:8). I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that You, Heavenly Father, will rebuke all deceiving spirits by virtue of the shed blood and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. And since by faith I have received You into my life and am now seated with Christ in the Heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6), I command all deceiving spirits to depart from me. I now ask the Holy Spirit to guide me into all truth (John 16:13) and ask You to "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Ps. 139:23-24). In Jesus name I pray. AMEN.

You may want to pause at this point to consider some of Satan's deceptive schemes. In addition to false teachers, false prophets, and deceiving spirits, you can deceive yourself. Now that you are alive in Christ and forgiven, you never have to live a lie, or defend yourself. Christ is your defense. How have you deceived or attempted to defend yourself in regards to the following?

SELF-DECEPTION

- _____ Being hearers and not doers of the Word. James 1:22; 4:17
- _____ Saying we have no sin. I John 1:8
- _____ Thinking we are something when we aren't. Gal. 6:3
- _____ Thinking we are wise in this age. I Cor. 3:18,19
- _____ Thinking we will not reap what we sow. Gal. 6:7
- _____ Thinking the unrighteous will inherit the Kingdom. I Cor. 6:9
- _____ Thinking we can associate with bad company and not be corrupted. I Cor. 15:33

SELF-DEFENSE

- _____ Denial (conscious or subconscious).
- _____ Fantasy (escape from the real world).
- _____ Emotional insulation (withdraw to avoid rejection).
- _____ Regression (reverting back to a less threatening time).
- _____ Displacement (taking out frustrations on others).
- _____ Projection (blaming others).
- _____ Rationalization (defending self through verbal excursion).

For those things that are true in your life, pray aloud:

LORD, I AGREE THAT I HAVE BEEN DECEIVED IN THE AREA OF

THANK YOU FOR FORGIVING ME. I COMMIT MYSELF TO KNOW AND FOLLOW YOUR TRUTH. AMEN.

Choosing the truth may be difficult if you have been living a lie (been deceived) for many years. You may need to seek professional help to weed out defense mechanisms you have depended upon to survive. The Christian needs only one defense - Jesus Christ. Knowing that you are forgiven and accepted as God's child is what sets you free to face reality and declare your dependance on Him.

Faith is the Biblical response to truth, and believing the truth is a choice. When someone says, "I want to believe God, but I just can't," they are being deceived. Of course you can believe God. Faith is something you decide to do, not something you feel like doing. Believing the truth doesn't make it true. It is true; therefore, we believe it. The New Age Movement is distorting the truth by saying we create reality through what we believe. We cannot create reality with our minds; we face reality. It is what or who you believe that counts. Everybody believes in something, and everybody walks by faith according to what he or she believes. But if what you believe isn't true, then how you live (walk by faith) won't be right.

Historically, Christianity has found great value in publicly declaring its beliefs. It is important to know and be able to express your beliefs. Read aloud the following affirmation of faith, and do so again as often as necessary to renew your mind. Read it aloud daily for weeks.

Express your commitment to the way of truth by reading aloud the following affirmation.

BECAUSE OF THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, I AM FREE TO ACCEPT TRUTH AND FACE REALITY. SINCE GOD IS LIGHT AND IN HIM IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL (I JOHN 1:5); I CHOOSE TO WALK IN THE LIGHT IN ORDER TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM AND WITH OTHER PEOPLE. I UNDERSTAND THAT "WALKING IN THE LIGHT" IS NOT PERFECTION ON MY PART - NOT EMOTIONAL, MENTAL, OR VOLITIONAL PERFECTION - BUT A WILLINGNESS TO SAY ABOUT EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT IT AND TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST AND IN AGREEMENT WITH GOD CONCERNING MY CONDITION.

A commitment to Biblical truth is foundational to everything else in our lives. Read aloud the preceding affirmation of faith, and do so again as often as necessary to renew your mind and make it your personal statement of faith.

DOCTRINAL AFFIRMATION

I recognize that there is only one true and living God (Ex. 20:2,3) who exists as the father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that He is worthy of all honor, praise, and worship as the Creator, Sustainer, and Beginning and End of all things (Rev. 4:11; 5:9-10; Is. 43:1,7,21).

I recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1,14). I believe that He came to destroy the works of Satan (1 John 3:8), that He disarmed the ruler and authorities and made a public display of them, having triumphed over them by the cross (Col. 2:15).

I believe that God has proven His love for me because when I was still a sinner, Christ died for me (Rom. 5:8). I believe that He delivered me from the domain of darkness and transferred me to His kingdom, and in Him I have redemption, the forgiveness of my sins (Col. 1:13-14).

I believe that I am now a child of God (1 John 3:1-3) and that I am seated with Christ in the heavenlies (Eph. 2:6). I believe that I was saved by grace of God through faith, that it was a gift and not the result of any works on my part (Eph. 2:8).

I choose to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might (Eph. 6:10). I put no confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3:3) for the weapons of my warfare are not of the flesh (II Cor. 10:4). I put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-20), and I resolve to stand firm in my faith and resist the evil one.

I believe that Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18) and that He is the Head over all rule and authority (Col. 2:10). I believe that Satan and his demons are subject to me in Christ because I am a member of Christ's body (Eph. 1:19-23). I, therefore, obey the command to resist the devil (James 4:7), and I command him in the name of Christ to leave my presence.

I believe that apart from Christ I can do nothing (John 15:5); so I declare my dependence on Him. I choose to abide in Christ in order to bear much fruit and glorify the Lord (John 15:8). I announce to Satan that Jesus is my Lord (I Cor. 12:3), and I reject any counterfeit gifts or works of Satan in my life.

I believe that the truth will set me free (John 8:32) and that walking in the light is the only path of fellowship (1 John 1:7). Therefore, I stand against Satan's deception by taking every thought captive in obedience to Christ (II Cor. 10:5). I declare that the Bible is the only authoritative standard (II Tim. 3:15-17). I choose to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).

I choose to present my body as an instrument of righteousness, a living and holy sacrifice, and I renew my mind by the living Word of God, in order that I may prove that the will of God is good, acceptable, and perfect (Rom. 6:13; 12:1-2).

I ask You, Heavenly Father, to fill me with Your Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18), to lead me into all truth (John 16:13), and to empower my life so that I may live above sin and not carry out the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:16). I crucify the flesh (Gal. 5:24) and choose to walk by the Spirit.

I renounce all selfish goals and choose the ultimate goal of love (1 Tim. 1:5). I choose to obey the greatest commandment: to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, and mind and to love my neighbor as myself (Matt. 22:37-39).

STEP 3: BITTERNESS vs. FORGIVENESS

We need to forgive others so that Satan cannot take advantage of us (II Cor. 2:10-11). We are to be merciful just as our Heavenly Father is merciful (Luke 6:36). We are to forgive as we have been forgiven (Eph. 4:29-32). Ask God to bring to mind the names of those people you need to forgive by expressing the following prayer aloud.

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You for the riches of Your kindness, forbearance, and patience knowing that Your kindness has led me to repentance (Rom. 2:4). I confess that I have not extended that same patience and kindness toward others who have offended me, but instead I have harbored bitterness and resentment. I pray that during this time of self-examination, You will bring to my mind only those people that I have not forgiven in order that I may do so (Matt. 18:35). I also pray that if I have offended others, You will bring to mind only those people from whom I need to seek forgiveness and the extent to which I need to seek it. I ask this in the precious name of Jesus. AMEN.

As the names come to mind, make a list of only the names. At the end of your list write "myself." Forgiving yourself is accepting God's cleansing and forgiveness. Also write "thoughts against God." Thoughts raised up against the knowledge of God will usually result in angry feelings toward Him. Technically we don't forgive God because He cannot commit any sin of commission or omission. But you need to specifically renounce false expectations and thoughts about God and agree to release any anger you have towards Him.

Before you pray to forgive those people, stop and consider what forgiveness is, what it is not, what decision you will be making, and what the consequences will be.

In the following explanation, the main points are in bold print.

Forgiveness is not forgetting. People who try to forget find they cannot. God says He will remember our sins "no more" (Heb. 10:17). Remember our sins "no more" means that God will never use the past against us (Ps. 103:12). Forgetting may be the result of forgiveness but it is never the means of forgiveness. When we bring up the past against others, we are saying we haven't forgiven them.

Forgiveness is a choice, a crisis of the will. Since God requires us to forgive, it is something we can do. Forgiveness is difficult for us because it pulls against our concept of justice. We want revenge for offenses suffered. We are told, however, never to take our own revenge (Rom. 12:19). You say, "Why should I let them off the hook?" That is precisely the problem. You are still hooked or linked to them, still bound by your past (Lev. 19:18). You can let them off your hook, but they are never off God's (Heb. 10:30-31). He will deal with them fairly, something we cannot do.

You don't forgive someone for their sake; you do it for your sake so you can be free. Your need to forgive is not an issue between you and the offender; it is between you and God. You say, "You don't understand how much that person hurt me!" It is necessary for you to come to grips with the fact they are still hurting you. How do you stop the pain? FORGIVE!!

Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another's sin. Forgiveness is costly. You pay the price of the evil you forgive. You are going to live with those consequences whether you want to or not; your only choice is whether you will do so in the bitterness of unforgiveness or the freedom of forgiveness. Jesus took the consequences of your sin upon Himself. All true forgiveness is substitutionary, because no one really forgives without bearing the consequences of the other person's sin. God the Father "made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Cor. 5:21). Where is the justice? It is the cross that makes forgiveness legally and morally right: "For in that He died, He died unto sin once." (Rom. 6:10).

How do you forgive from your heart? You acknowledge the hurt and the hate. If your forgiveness does not reach into and visit the emotional core of your life, it will be incomplete. Many feel the pain of interpersonal offenses, but they will not or do not know how to acknowledge it. Let God bring the pain to the surface so He can deal with it. This is where the healing takes place.

Decide that you will bear the burden of their offenses by not using that information against them in the future. This does not mean that you tolerate sin; it is necessary to take a stand against sin.

As you pray, God may bring to mind offending people and experiences you have totally forgotten. Let Him do it even if it is painful. Remember, you are doing this for your sake. God wants you to be free. Do not rationalize or explain the offender's behavior. Forgiveness is dealing with your pain and leaving the other person to God. Positive feelings will follow in time; freeing yourself from the past is the critical issue right now.

Do not say, "Lord, please help me to forgive," because He is and has been working and helping you. Do not say "Lord, I want to forgive," because you are sidestepping or bypassing the hard core choice to forgive which is your responsibility. Stay with each individual until YOU have dealt with all the remembered pain - what they did, how they hurt you, how they made you feel (rejected, unloved, unworthy, dirty, etc.).

You are now ready to forgive the people on your list so that you can be free in Christ with these people no longer having any control over you. For each person on your list pray aloud:

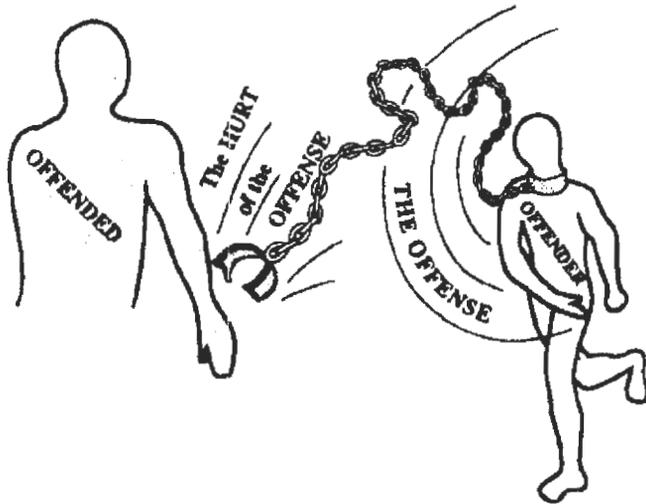
Lord, I choose to forgive (name) for (name sin or offense specifically). I release (name) from the debt he/she owes me. I will no longer demand payment of the debt or live as the victim of the offense.

PLANTED HELL IN PRACTICE

This chart shows what happens when someone is bitter and will not forgive. Using this chart, check your own attitude.

YOU CAN SEE	GOD CAN SEE	THE BIBLE SAYS
Unshared thoughts by word or attitude. An unseen barrier goes up.	A "root of bitterness." Deeply wronged, hurt; real or imagined.	"A wounded spirit who can bear?" Prov. 18:14
Ungratefulness; no sign of appreciation.	Broken regard; love is alienated, cut off.	"Unthankful," II Tim. 3:2 sign of last days.
Stubborn, sulky attitude, appearance.	Rejects authority of persons "over" him.	"Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." I Sam. 15:23
Openly rebels; now refuses to obey authority.	Takes own authority; becomes own "boss."	"I will." Five "I wills" of Satan's pride. Isaiah 14:12-14
Gets into bad company. Associates with wrong friends.	Needs other "rebels" for encouragement.	"Whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things." Phil. 3:19
Defends wrong. Always asking, "What's wrong with...?"	Carries out secret desires for wrong.	Bring results of a selfish life. Fruit of sin. Gal. 5:19-21
Starts to condemn others to try and shift guilt.	Deep guilt, conviction from broken moral law.	"For wherein thou judgest another, thou condemst thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things." Rom. 2:1
Alternate mood extremes - ecstasy, depression.	Sees no way out. Begins to think about suicide.	"My soul is weary of my life." Job 10:1 Wants to end it all.

FORGIVENESS



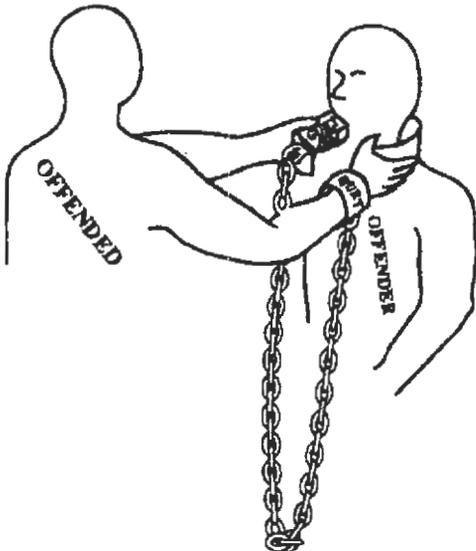
FORGIVENESS

The offense of another produces hurt to the offended. Simultaneously, guilt is laid by God upon the offender's conscience, but the offended also lays guilt on the offender.

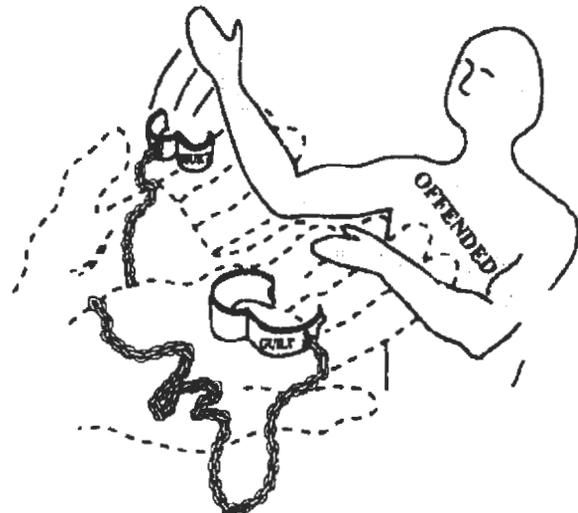


The offended person is emotionally and spiritually BOUND to the offender by unforgiveness. Such a grudge sustains the hurt the offended person feels.

This bondage can never be broken (no matter how much distance is put between them) except by forgiveness. The offender should ask to be forgiven, but may never do so. Consequently, the offended must initiate forgiveness.



The offender's guilt can only be removed by the offended, who TAKES THE HURT UPON HIMSELF (whether it is requested or not) and gives up the right to blame the other person for what he/she is. This is forgiveness.



The offended person then gives the offense, the hurt, the grudge and the offender – to God. Vengeance is left to God.

STEP 4: REBELLION vs. SUBMISSION

We live in a rebellious generation. Many believe it is their right to sit in judgement on those in authority over them. Rebelling against God and His authority gives Satan an opportunity to attack. As our commanding general, the Lord says, "Get into ranks and follow me. I will not lead you into temptation but I will deliver you from evil." (Matt. 6:13).

We have two Biblical responsibilities in regard to authority figures: pray for them and submit to them. The only time God permits us to disobey earthly leaders is when they require us to do something morally wrong before God or attempt to rule outside their authority. Pray the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, You have said that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry (1 Sam. 15:23). I know that in action and attitude I have sinned against You with a rebellious heart. I ask Your forgiveness for my rebellion and pray that by the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ all ground gained by evil spirits because of my rebelliousness will be cancelled. I pray You will shed light on all my ways that I may know the full extent of my rebelliousness, and I choose to adopt a submissive spirit and a servant's heart. In the name of Christ Jesus my Lord. AMEN.

Being under authority is an act of faith. You are trusting God to work through His established lines of authority. There are times when employers, parents, and husbands are violating the laws of civil government which are ordained to protect innocent people against abuse. First, one must be sure that correct steps have been taken on their part and they have not shirked their duty but have fulfilled all their responsibility. It may be necessary then to appeal to the authorities for protection. The law does require that the abuse be reported.

In difficult cases such as continuing abuse at home, further counseling help may be needed. However, much care must be taken that one is being counseled by Godly counselors. And in some cases, when earthly authorities have abused their position and are requiring disobedience to God or a compromise in your commitment to Him, you need to obey God and not man.

We are all admonished to submit to one another as equals in Christ (Eph. 5:21). However, there are specific lines of authority in scripture for the purpose of accomplishing common goals.

Civil authority	Rom. 13:1-7; I Tim. 2:1-4; I Pet. 2:13-17
Parents	Eph. 6:1-3
Husband	I Pet. 3:1-4
Employer	I Pet. 2:18-23
Church leaders	Heb. 13:17
God	Dan. 9:5,9; James 4:7

Examine each area and ask God to forgive you for those times you have not been submissive, and pray:

Lord, I agree I have been rebellious towards _____ . Please forgive me for this rebellion. I choose to be submissive and obedient to Your Word. In Jesus name. AMEN.

STEP: 5

PRIDE vs. HUMILITY

Pride is a killer. Pride says, "I can do it! I can get myself out of this mess without God or anyone else's help." Oh, no we can't! We absolutely need God, and we desperately need each other. Paul wrote: "We... worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh." (Phil. 3:3). Humility is confidence properly placed. We are to "be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might." (Eph. 6:10). James 4:6-10 and I Peter 5:1-10 reveal that spiritual conflict follows pride. Use the following prayer to express your commitment to live humbly before God.

Dear Heavenly Father, You said that pride goes before destruction and an arrogant spirit before stumbling (Prov. 16:18). I confess that I have not denied myself, picked up my cross daily and followed You (Matt. 16:24). In so doing I have given ground to the enemy in my life. I have believed that I could be successful and live victoriously by my own strength and resources. I now confess that I have sinned against You by placing my will before Yours and by centering my life around self instead of You. I now renounce the self-life, and by so doing, cancel all the ground that has been gained in my members by the enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that You will guide me so that I will do nothing from selfishness or enemy conceit, but that with humility of mind I will regard others as more important than myself (Phil. 2:3). Enable me through love to serve others and in honor prefer others (Rom. 12:10). I ask this in the name of Christ Jesus my Lord. AMEN.

Having made that commitment, now allow God to show you any specific areas of your life where you have been prideful, such as:

- _____ Stronger desire to do my will than God's will.
- _____ More dependant upon my strengths and resources than God's.
- _____ Sometimes believe that my ideas and opinions are better than others.
- _____ More concerned about controlling others than developing self control.
- _____ Sometimes consider myself more important than others.
- _____ Tendency to think that I have no needs.
- _____ Find it difficult to admit that I was wrong.
- _____ Tendency to be more of a people pleaser than a God pleaser.
- _____ Overly concerned about getting the credit I desire.
- _____ Driven to obtain the recognition that comes from degrees, titles, positions.
- _____ Often think that I am more humble than others.
- _____ Other ways that you may have thought more highly of yourself than you should.

For each of these that has been true in your life, pray aloud:

Lord, I agree I have been prideful in the area of _____ . Please forgive me for this pridefulness. I choose to humble myself and place my confidence in You. AMEN.

STEP: 6

BONDAGE vs. FREEDOM

The next step to freedom deals with habitual sin. People who have been caught in the trap of "sin-confess-sin-confess" may need to follow the instructions of James 5:16; "confess your faults one to another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Seek out a righteous person who will hold you up in prayer and to whom you can be accountable. Others may only need the source of I John 1:9; "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Confession is not saying "I'm sorry;" it's saying "I did it." Whether you need the help of others or just the accountability of God, pray the following prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, You have told us to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regard to it's lusts (Rom. 13:14). I acknowledge that I have given in to fleshly lusts which war against my soul (I Pet. 2:11). I thank You that in Christ my sins are forgiven, and I have transgressed Your Godly law and given the enemy an opportunity to wage war in my members (Rom. 6:12,13; Eph. 4:27; James 4:1; I Pet. 5:8). I come before Your presence to acknowledge these sins and to seek Your cleansing (I John 1:9) that I may be freed from the bondage of sin (Gal. 5:1). I now ask You to reveal to my mind the ways that I have transgressed Your moral law and have grieved the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

The deeds of the flesh are numerous. You may need to open your Bible to Gal. 5:19-21 and pray through the verses, asking the lord to reveal the ways you have specifically sinned.

It is our responsibility not to allow sin to reign in our mortal bodies by not using our bodies as an instrument of unrighteousness (Rom. 6:12-13). If you are struggling with habitual sexual sins (pornography, masturbation, sexual promiscuity) or experiencing sexual difficulty and intimacy in your marriage pray as follows:

Lord, I ask You to reveal to my mind every sexual use of my body as an instrument of unrighteousness. In Jesus' precious name, I pray. AMEN.

As the Lord brings to mind every sexual use of your body, whether it was done to you (rape, incest, or sexual molestation) or willingly by you, renounce every occasion.

Lord, I renounce _____ (name the specific use of your body) with _____ (name the person) and now ask You to break the bond.

Now commit your body to the Lord by praying:

Lord, I renounce all these uscs of my body as an instrument of unrighteousness, and by so doing, ask You to break all bondages Satan has brought into my life through that involvement. I confess my participation. I now present my body to You as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to You, and I reserve the sexual use of my body only for marriage. I renounce the lie of Satan that my body is not clean, that it is dirty or in any way unacceptable as a result of any past sexual experiences, Lord, I thank You that You have totally cleansed and forgiven me, that You love and accept me unconditionally. Therefore, I can accept myself. And I choose to do so, to accept myself and my body as cleansed. In Jcsus name. AMEN.

STEP: 7

ACQUIESCENCE vs. RENUNCIATION

Acquiescence is passively giving in or agreeing without consent. The last step to freedom is to renounce the sins of your ancestors and any curses which may have been placed on you. Exodus 20:5b says: "For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me."

Familiar spirits can be passed on from one generation to the next if not renounced and if your new spiritual heritage in Christ is not proclaimed. You are not guilty for the sin of any of your ancestors, but because of their sin, Satan may have gained access to your family. This is not to deny that many problems are transmitted genetically or acquired from an immoral atmosphere. All three conditions can predispose an individual to a particular sin. In addition, deceived people may try to curse you, or Satanic groups may try to target you, you have all the authority and protection you need in Christ to stand against such curses and assignments. In order to walk free from past influences, read the following declaration and prayer to yourself first so that you know exactly what you are declaring and asking. Then claim your position and protection in Christ by making the declaration verbally and humbling yourself before God in prayer.

Declaration:

I here and now reject and disown all the sins of my ancestors. As one who has been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son, I cancel out all demonic working that has been passed on to me from my ancestors. As one who has been crucified and raised with Christ Jesus and who sits with Him in heavenly places, I renounce all Satanic assignments that are directed toward me and my ministry, and I cancel every curse that Satan and his workers have put on me. I announce to Satan and all his forces that Christ became a curse for me (Gal. 3:13) when He died on the cross. I reject any and every way in which Satan may claim ownership of me. I declare myself to be eternally and completely signed over and committed to the Lord Jesus Christ, I now command every familiar spirit and every enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ that is in or around me to leave my presence forever. I commit myself to my heavenly Father to do His will from this day forward.

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, I come to You as Your child, purchased by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. You are the Lord of the universe and the Lord of my life. I submit my body to You as an instrument of righteousness, a living sacrifice, that I may glorify You in my body. I now ask You to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I commit myself to the renewing of my mind in order to prove that Your will is good, perfect and acceptable for me. All this I do in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Once you have secured your freedom by going through these seven steps, you may find demonic influences attempting reentry days or even months later. One person shared that she heard a spirit say to her mind, "I'm back," two days after she had been set free. "No your not!" she proclaimed aloud. The attack ceased immediately. One victory does not constitute winning the war. Freedom must be maintained. After completing these steps, one jubilant lady asked, "Will I

always be like this?" The reply was that she would stay free as long as she remained in right relationship with God.

One victim of incredible atrocities shared this illustration: "It's like being forced to play a game with an ugly stranger in my own home. I kept losing and wanted to quit, but the ugly stranger wouldn't let me. Finally I called the police (a higher authority), and they came and escorted the stranger (the servant of Satan) out. He knocked on the door trying to regain entry, but this time I recognized his voice and didn't let him in." What an illustration of gaining freedom in Christ. We call on Jesus, the ultimate authority, and He escorts the enemy out of our lives.

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR SPECIFIC NEEDS

Homosexuality:

Lord, I renounce the lie that You have created me or anyone else to be a homosexual, and I affirm that You clearly forbid homosexual behavior. I accept myself as a child of God now that I have repented and accepted Christ as my Savior (I Cor. 6:9-11). I declare that You created me as a man (woman). I renounce any bandages of Satan that have perverted my relationship with others. I announce that I am free to relate to the opposite sex in the way that You intended. In Jesus name. AMEN.

Abortion:

Lord, I confess that I did not assume stewardship of the life You entrusted to me, and I ask your forgiveness. I choose to accept Your forgiveness by forgiving myself, and I now commit that child to Your care in eternity. In Jesus name. AMEN.

Suicidal Tendencies:

I renounce the lie that I can find peace and freedom by taking my own life. Satan is a thief and a liar, and he comes to steal, kill and destroy. I choose a life in Christ who said He came to give me life and to give it abundantly.

Eating Disorders:

I renounce the lie that my worthiness is dependant upon my appearance or performance. I renounce cutting myself, purging, or defalcating as a means of cleansing myself of evil, and I announce that only the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ can cleanse me from my sin. I accept the reality that there may be sin present in me because of the lies I have believed and the wrongful use of my body, but I renounce the lie that I am evil or that any part of my body is evil. I announce the truth that I am totally accepted by Christ just as I am.

Substance Abuse:

Lord, I confess that I have misused substances (alcohol, tobacco, food, prescription or street drugs) for the purpose of pleasure, to escape reality, or cope with difficult situations, resulting in the abuse of my body, the harmful programming of my mind and the quenching of the Holy Spirit. I ask Your forgiveness and renounce any Satanic connection or influence in my life through my misuse of chemicals or food. I cast my anxiety onto Christ who loves me and I commit myself no longer to yield to substance abuse but to the Holy Spirit. I ask You, Heavenly Father, to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus name. AMEN.

After you have confessed all known sin, pray:

I now confess these sins to You and claim through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ forgiveness and cleansing. I cancel all ground that evil spirits have gained through my willful involvement in sin. I do this in the wonderful name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

AFTERCARE AND VICTORY VIGILANCE

Freedom must be maintained. You have won a very important battle in an ongoing war. Freedom is yours as long as you keep choosing truth and standing firm in the strength of the Lord. If new memories should surface or if you become aware of "lies" that you have believed or other non-Christian experiences you have had, renounce them and choose the truth. It may be necessary to go through the steps again. However, this must be done with serious conviction and genuine repentance. As you do, note and follow the instructions carefully.

For your encouragement and further study, read *Victory Over the Darkness* (adult or youth version), *The Bondage Breaker* (adult or youth version), and *Released From Bondage*. If you are a parent, read *The Seduction of Our Children*. *Walking in the Light* (formerly *Walking Through the Darkness*) was written to help people understand God's guidance and discern counterfeit guidance. Also, to maintain and continue your freedom, the following must be observed:

1. Seek legitimate, true Biblical Christian fellowship where you can walk in the light and speak the truth in love.
2. Study your Bible daily. Memorize key verses. You may need to express the Doctrinal Affirmation daily and look up the verses many times.
3. Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (II Cor. 10:4-5). Assume responsibility for your thought life, reject the lie, choose the truth, and stand firm in your position in Christ.
4. Don't drift away! (Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom). It is very easy to get lazy in your thoughts and revert back to old habit patterns of thinking. Share your struggles openly with a trusted friend. You need at least one friend who will stand with you and to whom you will be accountable.
5. Don't expect another person to fight your battle for you. Others can help but they can't think, pray, read the Bible, or choose the truth for you.
6. Commit yourself to daily prayer! Note carefully the suggested prayers. They must be real for you. You must pray them from the heart. These prayers probably will need to be prayed often and with confidence.
7. Continue to seek your identity and sense of worth in Christ. Read *Living Free in Christ* and daily, consistently follow a daily devotional plan. Renew your mind with the truth that your acceptance, security, and significance is in Christ by saturating your mind with the following truths - the page entitled *IN CHRIST*. Read the entire list aloud morning and evening over the next several weeks.

THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF SELF

The wisdom of this world deceptively teaches that believing in the inherent goodness of one's "self" is foundational to a fulfilled life. However, this erroneous viewpoint overlooks the devastating results of Adam and Eve's failure to obey God. Scripture teaches that a fulfilled life is independent on having a "good self-image" or "higher self-esteem." Instead, fulfillment in living depends on your relationship to God and a Biblical response to the problem of "self" (Prov. 14:12; Matt. 10:38,39; Luke 9:23-24; Rom. 5:6-21; 7:15-25; 14:7-8; I Cor. 1:26-31; II Cor. 10:17-18; Eph. 2:1-9; Titus 3:3-7; James 4:14-17).

I. Sinless Self To The Sinful Self (The Fall Of Mankind).

A. Adam and Eve were:

1. Created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27; 5:1).
2. In a sinless world (Rom. 5:12).
3. Blessed by God (Gen. 1:28).
4. Together as one flesh (Gen. 2:22-25).
5. To rule over the earth (Gen. 1:28).
6. In personal communication with their Creator, God (Gen. 1:28-30; 2:16-17).

B. God placed only one restraint on Adam and Eve, which required simple obedience to His command regardless of their desires or feelings (Gen. 3:3). Adam and Eve lost their privileged status with God when they fell to temptation by focusing on self, coveting, prideful wisdom, and gratifying their fleshly desires - which is all the world offers (I John 2:16). They then disobeyed God's clear command by choosing to eat the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:1-7). When they chose to focus on self, Adam and Eve sinned, bringing the consequences of sin upon themselves (Gen. 3:16-24) and upon every generation that has followed (Rom. 5:12-21).

II. Scripture Speaks Of Natural Man's Self-Importance.

A. Since nothing and no one in the world can compare with God (Ex. 15:11; II Chron. 6:14; Ps. 40:5; 89:6-8; Jer. 10:6,7), He only is to be exalted (Ps. 57:11; 97:9). You are not in any manner to exalt yourself (Prov. 30:32). In comparison to the Lord God Jehovah, Creator of the Universe, the natural man is:

1. Like dust (Ps. 90:3; 103:14);
2. Like a mere breath and a passing shadow, with a lifetime that is nothing in the Lord's sight (Ps. 39:4-5; 62:9; 144:4);
3. Like grass (Is. 40:6-8; 51:12; I Pet. 1:24);
4. Like a flower of the field that flourishes and then is no more (Ps. 103:15,16; Is. 40:6-8; I Pet. 1:24);
5. Like a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away (James 4:14);
6. Stupid and devoid of knowledge (Jer. 51:17);
7. Accounted as nothing and meaningless (Is. 40:17; Dan. 4:35); and
8. Like a worm and not a man (Job 25:6; Ps. 22:6).

B. If you refuse to respond Biblically to God's plan of salvation revealed only through the Lord Jesus Christ, in God's sight you are:

1. Worthless (depraved, unapproved) detestable (Jer. 13:10; Titus 1:16), rejected in regards to faith (II Tim. 3:1-8) and worthy of death (Rom. 1:28-32; 6:23);
 2. Corrupt, unrighteous, and useless (Ps. 14:1-3; 53:1-3; Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:10-18); and
 3. Dead in your sins (Eph. 2:1,5; Col. 2:13).
- C. Trusting in yourself is futile since:
1. Nothing inherently good dwells within your heart or flesh (Jerm. 17:9; Rom. 7:18);
 2. You can do nothing fruitful apart from Christ (John 15:5);
 3. Apart from Jesus Christ, you are a slave to sin (Rom. 6:16-18; Heb. 2:14-15); and
 4. Your natural wisdom is inadequate to direct your steps (Prov. 14:12; Jerm. 10:23).

III. The Image Of God In Each Person Has Been Marred By Sin (Effects Of The Fall Of Mankind).

- A. Every person's natural bent is to sin (Eccl. 7:20,29; Rom. 3:10-18), even though mankind is:
1. Able to know the difference between good and evil (Gen. 3:22),
 2. Divinely enabled to have dominion on the earth (Ps. 8:6-8),
 3. Made a little lower than heavenly beings (Ps. 8:4-5), and
 4. Fashioned in the likeness of God (James 3:9).
- B. God's image in you cannot be seen in its sinless perfection as it was seen in Adam, since you also bear Adam's image after he sinned (Gen. 5:3; I Cor. 15:47-50).
- C. You were fearfully and wonderfully fashioned by the Lord in your mother's womb (Ps. 139:13&15; Is. 44:24). Prior to your birth God ordained the number of days for your life (Ps. 139:16) with a view to your responding to the truth as revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ (I Tim. 2:3-6; II Pet. 3:9).

IV. Only God Can And Does Enable A Person To Re-acquire The Image Of God (Restoration After The Fall of Man).

- A. The Lord Jesus Christ is fully divine (John 1:1,18; Titus 2:13) and came to earth in the image of the invisible God (II Cor. 4:4; Col. 1:15). Crowned with God's glory and honor because of His death and resurrection (Heb. 2:9; I Pet. 1:20-21), He is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of God's nature (John 12:45; 14:9; Heb. 1:3).
- B. Through your spiritual new birth (John 3:3; I Pet. 1:3-5), you partake of God's divine nature (II Pet. 1:3&4) and are a new creation in Christ (II Cor. 5:17). Your body becomes a temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 3:16; 6:19), who dwells within you (John 14:16,17; Rom. 8:9; Gal. 4:6; II Tim. 1:14).
1. As a new creation in Christ, the corrupt old self has been crucified with Christ (Rom. 6:6) and the old self has been put off (Eph. 4:22). The new self, which has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth, has been put on (Eph. 4:24). You are now able to be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:29; II Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:10).

2. As a new creation in Christ (II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 2:20), you are to put off the sinful practices of your old self (Rom. 6:12-13; Col. 3:3-9) and put on the Christlike characteristics of the new self (Rom. 6:17,18; Col. 3:10-24; II Pet. 1:5-10), as you are being renewed in the spirit of your mind (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10).
3. To follow Jesus, you must deny yourself (Luke 9:23,24). You are to:
 - a. Become a servant like the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 20:26-28; 23:11,12; John 13:12-17; Rom. 15:1-3; Phil. 2:3-8),
 - b. Please God in all things by walking in a manner worthy of him (II Cor. 5:9; Col. 1:10), and
- c. Give God glory in everything you do (Matt. 5:16; John 15:8; I Cor. 6:20; 10:31; I Pet. 2:12; 4:10,11) as Jesus did (John 17:4).

V. You Can Be More Than A Conqueror In Christ By Dying To Self (Living Victoriously After The Fall Of Mankind).

- A. God has graciously provided for you so that you may glory and give exaltation to Him and not to yourself (Ps. 115:1; Rom. 1:19-21; 5:1,2,6-11; Eph. 2:8,9). Your example in giving glory to God and disregarding yourself is Jesus, who did not seek His own glory (John 7:17,18; 8:50,54; Heb. 5:5). Instead Jesus lived to do the will of the Father (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38) as a servant who learned obedience from the things which He suffered (Heb. 5:8) and remained obedient even to death (Matt. 20:26-28; Phil. 2:5-8).
 1. The error of man's way concerning "self-worth." While you are more valuable than the lower forms of God's creation (Matt. 6:26, 10:29-31; 12:12; Luke 12:7,24) and are intimately known by God (I Sam. 16:7; Ps. 139:13-16; Matt. 10:30; Luke 16:15), you still deserve death because of your inherent sinfulness (Rom. 1:18-32; 5:12; 6:23). Being adopted into God's family should cause you to praise and thank Him for the glory of His grace (Eph. 1:5,6). It is wrong for you to think that you are worthy in any way to receive His unmerited favor (Rom. 5:8; I Cor. 1:26-31).
 2. The error of man's way regarding "self-assurance." Even God's people can mistakenly think they are the source of material blessings which are, in reality, provided solely by God (Deut. 8:11-18). Pride (a dependance on yourself or your "possessions" instead of a dependance on God) will lead to a fall (Prov. 11:28; 16:18; I Cor. 10:12). Since you can do nothing fruitful apart from Jesus (John 15:5), you are to live in total dependence upon Him, who is the power and wisdom of God (Prov. 3:5,6; I Cor. 1:24; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 4:13).
 3. The error of man's way in "self-love." You are to love God (Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37,38), but nowhere in scripture are you told to love yourself. A command to love yourself is unnecessary since you already do that; in fact you are commanded to love others in the same way in which you already love yourself (Matt. 22:39; Gal. 5:14; Eph. 5:28,29). Note that one of the self-centered characteristics of those who reject the faith in the last days is "loving self" (II Tim. 3:1,2).
 4. The error of man's way related to "self-assertiveness." Through Jesus Christ, you are more than a conqueror in any situation of life (Rom. 8:35-39), and the Lord has not given you a spirit of timidity (fear) but of power and love and a

sound mind (II Tim. 1:7). However, scripture never tells you to assert yourself, you are commanded instead, to trust wholly in God's plan for your life (Matt. 6:33,34; Rom. 8:28,29; Phil. 4:19) while you minister to others as a servant (Matt 20:26-28), esteeming them as more important than yourself (Phil 2:3,4).

5. The error of man's way pertaining to "self-confidence." You are not to trust in yourself but instead are to trust only in the Lord (Ps. 60:11,12; 73:26; Prov. 3:5-7; Jer. 9:23,24; 17:5-8; I Cor. 1:26-31). The Lord is your confidence (Prov. 3:26), and you are to place no confidence in your flesh (Phil. 3:3). You are not adequate in yourself to consider anything as from yourself, but your adequacy is from God (II Cor. 3:5). As a servant of the new covenant (II Cor. 3:6), you can be an overcomer only through your faith in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:13; I John 5:4,5) and not because of your own strength (John 15:5; Rom. 7:14-8:8).
6. The error of man's way regarding "self-esteem." Apart from Jesus Christ, you have no inherent value in yourself; yet, God in His merciful love cares for you (Ps. 8:4). After receiving Jesus Christ into your life, your value is found in being in Him (Eph. 2:4-7; 2:19-22) and knowing Him (Phil. 3:7-11).
7. The error of man's way regarding "self-righteousness." You are not righteous in yourself (Ps. 14:2,3; Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:10-12; 7:18), and it is impossible for you to earn a righteous standing before God (Luke 18:9-14; Titus 3:5). The best you could do in your own strength or merit is considered as a filthy garment in God's sight (Is. 64:6) and is worthless when compared to the value of faith in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:7-11 esp. vs. 9). Your true righteousness is based solely on the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:8-10; II Cor. 5:21) and is a free gift of God's grace (Rom. 5:17).
8. The error of man's way concerning "self-exaltation." Commending yourself has no value (II Cor. 10:18) and shows your lack of Biblical understanding (II Cor. 10:12). Exalting one's self is characteristic of a person who is rebellious (Ps. 66:7) or of one who doesn't truly know the Lord (Ps. 10:4; 83:2; 94:4). Those who exalt themselves will be humbled (Matt. 23:12; Luke 18:9-14 esp. vs. 14). Selfexaltation is descriptive of a self-centered person who is rejected in regard to faith in the difficult times of these last days (II Tim. 3:1-9 esp. vs. 2 and 8). Exalting self in any dimension is to forget or deny that your praise should be to the glory of God's grace (Eph. 1:5,6). The Lord alone is to be exalted (Ps. 148:13). You are to boast:
 - a. In the Lord (Ps. 20:7; 34:1-3; 44:8; Jer. 9:24; I Cor. 1:31; II Cor. 10:17).
 - b. In the cross of Jesus Christ (Gal. 6:14) and
 - c. In your weaknesses (II Cor. 11:30; 12:9). If you exalt yourself, you will be humbled; yet, if you humble yourself, under the mighty hand of God, He will exalt you at the proper time (Matt. 23:12; I Pet. 5:6).

B. Remember your identity in Christ.

VI. Conclusion

- A. From Adam and Eve to the present, mankind has sinfully exalted self. Death to self can only occur through Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:12-21). Disregarding God's way, man habitually turns to his own inadequate wisdom to deal with problems (Prov. 14:12;

Is. 55:8,9) and develops non-Biblical solutions that focus on self instead of focusing on God.

- B. Man's philosophies, having rejected God's redemptive solutions, place man on the throne and substitute a self-oriented focus as the substance and solution to life's failures and successes. Since this is the essence of materialistic humanism, the integration of man's way and God's way is an impossibility.
- C. God's solution to the problem of "self" is a transformation (Rom. 6:3-6; 12:2; II Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:22-24), which allows you to die to self and live for Jesus Christ (Matt. 10:38,39; Luke 9:23,24; Gal. 2:20).
- D. Even the so-called "difficult" problems of life (for example: chronic depression, child abuse, battered spouse, alcohol or drug abuse, homosexuality) are only solved effectively from a Biblical perspective of pleasing God (Col. 1:10) and relying on God's Word (Ps. 19:7-11; II Tim. 3:16,17; II Pet. 1:3,4) instead of pleasing self (Luke 9:23,24; II Cor. 5:15; Gal. 5:16,17) and relying on human wisdom (Prov. 16:9,25; I Cor. 3:18-20). Remember that God has given complete provision to you to face and deal with problems His way.
- E. The philosophies of self exaltation or self-reliance are given the death blow by Jesus in the Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:3-12).

THE EFFECTS OF UNBIBLICAL THOUGHTS, SPEECH, AND ACTIONS

Living for Jesus Christ requires that you direct your thoughts away from self and toward pleasing the Lord (based on Romans 12:2; II Corinthians 10:5; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:1-2,5-10).

Results of focusing on self in your thought life		
Hatred (I John 3:15)	Jealousy/Envy (Galatians 5:20-21)	Fear (I John 4:18)
Rebellion (I Samuel 15:23)	Pride (Proverbs 16:18; 29:23)	Lust (Matthew 5:28)
Resentment/Bitterness (Ephesians 4:31-32)	Anger (Proverbs 16:32; 29:11; James 1:19-20)	Doubt (James 1:6-8)
Selfishness (Philippians 2:3-4)	Anxiety (Philippians 4:6-7)	<u>Deceitfulness (Proverbs 12:20a; 26:24)</u>

Lead to and increase:

(Matthew 15:18-20;
Romans 1:24-32;
I Corinthians 6:9-10,12;
James 1:14-15)

May result in:

(Psalm 32:3-4;
I Corinthians 11:28-30;
Galatians 6:7-8;
Colossians 3:25;
I John 5:16)

Unbiblical speech and actions
Lying
Hostility, Disputes
Worrying
Impatience
Treachery, Slander
Unkindness
Intolerance
Grunbling
Bragging
Fornication
Adultery
Murder
Homosexuality

May result in
(based on Psalm 32:3-4; 38:1-10; Acts 5:1-11; esp. verses 5 and 10; I Corinthians 5:1-6; esp. verse 5; 11:28-30)

Bodily damage
Heart Malfunction
Colitis
Migraine Headaches
High Blood Pressure
Cramps
Spasms
Ulcers
Insomnia
Stomach Disorders
Arthritis
Kidney Disease
Hypertension
Venereal Diseases
Death

EXAMPLES OF MAN'S WAY COMPARED TO GOD'S WAY

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8,9

Examples	Man's Way's (Prov. 14:12; 1 Cor. 2:14)	God's Way (Prov. 30:5,6; Col. 2:8; Heb. 4:12)
The human heart	People say "Mankind is basically good." we hear "I'm OK, you're OK."	The heart is desperately wicked who can know it (Jer. 17:9)? All have sinned (Rom. 3:23). Trust in the Lord completely: do not ever trust yourself (Prov. 3 5; 28:26).
Trust/ Dependence	Some say, "If I don't take care of myself no one else will." Self-reliance is supposed to be a goal for life.	God says if you will seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, He will meet your needs (Matt. 6:33). Do not depend on your own understanding; instead, seek God's way (Prov 3:5,6).
Freedom	We're told everyone must protect and guard his own rights and that each person is born to live free (freedom of expression, free speech, etc.). It is said we only live under authority because of our common social contact.	Apart from God, you are a slave to sin (Rom. 6:16). The one who focuses on saving his life will lose it; but if you are willing to lose your life for His sake, God promises your life will be saved (Luke 9:23,24). Be subject to those in authority over you (Rom. 13:1; Heb. 13:17).
My problems	We sometimes think "No one can really understand my problems;" and we may believe that each problem and set of circumstances are unique.	Your problems are common to mankind. God promises to help you through them so that you do not have to sin or lose your peace and joy if you will choose to live life His way (1 Cor. 10:13).

Love	Marriage is often viewed as a social convenience. People seek to find a spouse who can meet their own needs. Loving another depends on a reciprocal love from that person.	Your focus in marriage is to put the interests of your spouse above your own and to reflect Christ in your marriage relationship (Eph. 5:22-23; Phil. 2:3,4). Biblical love is giving - not getting (John 3:16; I Cor. 13:4-8).
My enemy is successful.	Enemies are to be hated and their success is to be envied. We try to discredit our adversaries and to win over them.	Rejoice in any situation (Rom. 12:14-15; I Thess. 5:16). Love and pray for those who view themselves as your enemies (Matt. 18:15; James 5:16).
I hurt someone.	We seek to justify our actions and give excuses for our behavior. Some even enjoy hurting others.	Go to that one, ask forgiveness, and be reconciled (Matt. 5:23,24; Rom. 12:18; Matt. 18:15; James 5:16).
Problems/ Conflicts	We avoid problems and do everything we can to get out of them. We look for excuses or shift blame to others. We fail to admit we even have problems or say they are someone else's fault.	Conflicts and problems are for your good and for your spiritual growth. They help you see what is within yourself (Matt. 15:18-20). Rejoice that God uses them to bring you to maturity (Rom. 5:3-5; James 1:2-4).
Leadership	We are taught to assert ourselves. Learn to take charge and give orders; these are keys to success.	Be willing to be a servant. The best leader is the one who serves. God gives more grace to the humble (Matt. 20:26-28).
Sex	We seek lovers to satisfy us. We say it is our spouse's duty to meet our desires; "After all, my spouse belongs to me."	You and your spouse belong to the Lord; you must seek to meet your spouse's best interests and to bless your spouse. Sex is to be reserved for marriage only (I Cor. 7:4; I Thess. 4:3; Heb 13:4).

Anger	We retaliate in order to get even.	Your response to difficulties is to put off anger, forgive, and return a blessing (Rom. 12:14; Eph. 4:31,32).
Rights	We protect our rights and don't let them be violated.	Be willing to give up your freedom's or "rights" for the sake of others (Matt. 5:43-48; Rom. 14:15-21).
I've been offended/hurt.	"The best defense is a good offense." We all must defend ourselves. We're told we should not let our "self-esteem" be destroyed by letting others discredit us.	Examine yourself (Matt. 7:5). Die to self (Luke 9:23,24). Do not judge others by your standards but be a blessing instead (Luke 6:27-28,36-28; John 7:24; Rom. 14:1-13; James 4:11-12; I Pet. 3:8,9). Consider others more important than yourself (Phil. 2:3,4).
My enemy needs help.	We say our enemy deserves it when they get in trouble. We show little patience for incompetence and want to say, "Get rid of those people."	Love your enemies and meet their needs (Matt 5:43-48; Luke 6:35). In fact, go beyond what is expected (Matt. 5:38-42).
Riches	We learn we can't have too much money. "Always get while the getting is good."	Fix your hope on God not riches (I Tim. 6:17). All riches are God's; give to Him and those in need (Ps 24:1; Prov. 3:9,10; Luke 12:33; II Cor. 9:6-12).
Duties	People say, "If you feel like it, do it." "Don't worry about those things; they'll get done eventually." We find good excuses for not fulfilling our responsibilities.	Be obedient to God's Word and fulfill your responsibilities heartily as to the Lord, regardless of your feelings; God blesses obedience (Gen. 4:6-7; I Sam. 15:22; John 14:15; James 1:22; 4:17).

BASIC APPROACHES TO SOLVING PERSONAL PROBLEMS <i>(Isaiah 55:7-9)</i>					
	MAN'S WAY <i>(Proverbs 14:12; I Corinthians 3:19-20; Colossians 2:8)</i>				GOD'S WAY <i>(John 10:9-10 Romans 11:33-36)</i>
	Instinctual	Behavioral	Positive Potential	Spiritist	Heart Transformation <i>(Psalm 51:10; Ezekiel 36:26; Acts 15:6-9)</i>
BASIC VIEW OF MAN	Driven by instincts (i.e., instinctively does things: fight, flighty, seek food and gratification)	Behavior is conditioned or "programmed"	Intrinsically good - has everything necessary within self to solve own problems	Helpless before all spirits	Sinner - Saint (Romans 5:12, 19; II Corinthians 5:17-18, 21)
CAUSE OF PROBLEMS	Instincts are thwarted by society, family, and upbringing	Wrongly influenced by environment and circumstances	Mind blocked by negative thinking or influences	Committed to or under control of spirits, demons, ancestors	Rebellion <i>(Romans 1:20-21, Unbelief (John 3:16-18, 5:38-40,))</i> Disobedience <i>(Ephesians 2:1-2, 5:6; Titus 3:3)</i> , Denial of God's power <i>(Hebrews 2:14-15; I John 3:8)</i>
CURE	Follow instincts	Recondition or "reprogram"	Release potential within self	Appease ancestors; Appease or cast out demons, spirits; Discover your spirit guide	Be saved by grace through faith <i>(Ephesians 2:8-9)</i> , and in loving obedience to God <i>(Romans 6:16-19)</i> be matured in Christ <i>(Ephesians 4:13)</i> through the power of the Holy Spirit <i>(Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:18)</i>
COUNSELING TECHNIQUE	Psychoanalysis (Interpretation of irrational thoughts, analysis of dreams); Hypnosis therapy; Psychodrama; Resocialization; Personality testing and analysis	Manipulation of behavior by use of positive and negative stimuli; Train to respond to reward and punishment	Reflection of thoughts and feelings; No presentation of answers - draw answer out of counselee's own inner resources; Positive thinking	Potions, charms, amulets, fetishes; Curses on enemy; Curse nullification; Ritual offerings; Communion with spirits; Mantras, chants; Horoscopes; "Visualization"	Listen <i>(Proverbs 18:2, 13,17)</i> Reprove, rebuke, exhort <i>(II Timothy 4:2)</i> Encourage <i>(Hebrews 3:13)</i> Admonish <i>(Romans 15:14; Colossians 1:28)</i> Stimulate <i>(Hebrews 10:24)</i> Strengthen <i>(Hebrews 12:12)</i> Restore <i>(Galatians 6:1-2,5)</i> Teach <i>(Romans 6:17-18; Colossians 3:16)</i> Train <i>(II Timothy 2:2)</i>
COUNSELOR'S TERMINOLOGY	Ego, Id, Drives, Libido, Conscious and Subconscious, Neurosis/Psychosis, Phobia, Mania, Catarsis, Self-actualization, Free Association	Stimulus, Conditioning, Automatic response, Positive/negative reinforcement, Self-fulfillment, Self-improvement	Inner potential, Inherent goodness, Self-assertion, Self-esteem, Self-worth	Curses; god within; Higher power; Appeal of spirits; Binding of demons; Generational sins; Demons or spirits of anger, fear, lust, etc.	Sin <i>(Romans 3:23)</i> Put off practices of the old self and put on practices of the new self <i>(Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:5-17)</i> Self-denial <i>(Luke 9:23-25)</i> ; Judge self <i>(Matthew 7:1-5)</i> ; Godliness <i>(I Timothy 4:7-8)</i> ; Do the Word <i>(James 1:22-25)</i>
COUNSELING FOCUS	Liberate Self (contrary to Ezekiel 18:20-21; Philippians 2:3-4)	Improve Self (contrary to John 15:4-5; Romans 1:18-32; James 4:10)	Elevate Self (contrary to Psalm 62:9; Romans 3:10-18,23; 7:18)	Release self from bondage (contrary to John 15:4-5; II Thessalonians 3:3; I John 5:4-5)	Deny Self <i>(Luke 9:23-24)</i> ; Please god <i>(II Corinthians 5:9; Colossians 1:10)</i> and bless others <i>(I Peter 3:8-9)</i> through ministry <i>(I Peter 4:10)</i> and service <i>(Matthew 20:25-28)</i>

THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL: NEGLECTING OF REFUSING GOD'S WAY

If you neglect or refuse God's direction for your life and choose to follow the path of least resistance (your feelings and desires or what seems good at the moment), you will be headed toward defeat and ultimate ruin (based on Psalm 1:4-6; Proverbs 1:22-32, 16:25; Matthew 7:13; Galatians 5:17; James 1:14-15)

Problems start in the heart (*Jeremiah 17:9-10; Matthew 15:18-19; Mark 7:20-23*).

Heart problems lead to:

Unbiblical deeds (thoughts, words, actions) (*for example: Romans 1:18-32*).

Unbiblical deeds may be accompanied by and often lead to:

Bad feelings (*for example: Genesis 4:6-7; Psalm 38:1-10, 17-18*).

AN EXAMPLE OF A STUDENT CAUGHT IN THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL:

A. Heart level

Focus on self (*Luke 9:23-24*)

B. Doing level (*unbiblical deeds*)

Tempted to follow fleshly desires instead of a commitment to God (*thought life*) (*Galatians 5:16-17; Ephesians 2:3; Titus 2:11-12*)

Lazy - doesn't want to study (*thought life*) (*Proverbs 6:9-11, 10:4; Ecclesiastes 11:4; Matthew 25:26-29; Ephesians 5:15-16*)

Doesn't study (*actions*) (*II Thessalonians 3:11*)

Keeps bad company (*actions*) (*Proverbs 1:10-19; 24:1; I Corinthians 15:33*)

Worries about failing course (*thought life*) (*Proverbs 12:25a; Philippians 4:6*)

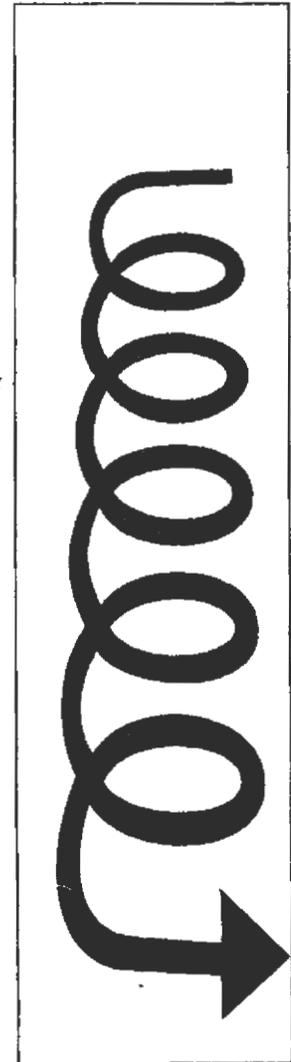
Lies to parents about readiness for exams (*words*) (*Ephesians 4:28; Colossians 3:9*)

Cheats on exams (*actions*) (*Exodus 20:15; Ephesians 4:28*)

Fails course (*consequence*) (*Proverbs 28:13; Colossians 3:25*)

C. Feeling level

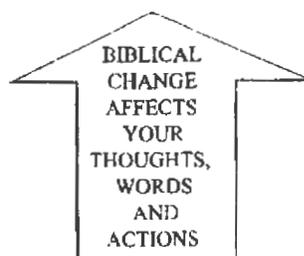
Depression, despair, guilt feelings (*Psalm 38:4-8*)



THE UPWARD PATH: WALKING GOD'S WAY

NOTE: This page should be read from the bottom to the top. Living God's way means putting away your self-centeredness and committing yourself to follow God's Word in spite of any feelings to the contrary (based on *Psalm 1:1-3; Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 9:23; Galatians 5:17*). If you do this, God will bless you (based on *John 14:27, 15:11; Galatians 5:22-23; James 1:25*).

- ◆ Realize abundant life, filled with God's peace and joy (*John 10:10, 14:27, 15:11, 16:33*)
- ◆ Experience Christ-like character development through God's Spirit working within you (*II Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:22-23*)
- ◆ Rejoice always (*Philippians 4:4; I Thessalonians 5:16*), giving thanks in all things (*I Thessalonians 5:18*) and for all things (*Ephesians 5:20*)
- ◆ Pray unceasingly about everything (*Philippians 4:6-7; I Thessalonians 5:17*)
- ◆ Speak the truth in love (*Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 3:9*)
- ◆ Work heartily as unto the Lord (*Ephesians 6:7; Colossians 3:9*)
- ◆ Do everything without grumbling or disputing (*Philippians 2:14*)
- ◆ Continually live in a manner consistent with your calling in Christ (*Ephesians 4:1*)
- ◆ Count all trials as joy since God uses your trials to develop Christlike character in you (*Romans 5:3-5; 8:28-29; James 1:2-4*)
- ◆ Practice forgiveness and reconciliation (*Matthew 5:23-24; 6:14; Mark 11:25-26; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-13*) and return a blessing for any evil you might receive from others (*Romans 12:17-21; I Peter 3:8-9*)
- ◆ Continually show deeds appropriate to repentance (*Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20; Revelation 2:5; 3:3, 19*)
- ◆ Be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient (*Colossians 3:12*)
- ◆ Learn to love God's way (*John 3:16; 15:17; Romans 5:8; I Corinthians 13:4-8a; I John 4:11, 19*)
- ◆ Dwell in your thoughts on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent, and praiseworthy (*Philippians 4:8-9*) and set your mind on things above instead of on things that are on earth (*Colossians 3:2*)
- ◆ Regard others as more important than yourself, as did Jesus (*Philippians 2:3-8*)
- ◆ Continually judge yourself biblically (*Matthew 7:5; I Corinthians 11:31*)
- ◆ Be controlled by the Holy Spirit (*Ephesians 5:18-20*) and the Word of God (*Psalms 119:11; Colossians 3:16*)
- ◆ Be obedient to the Word out of your love for the Lord (*John 14:15, 21*)
- ◆ Commit your ways to God unreservedly (*Proverbs 3:5-8; Matthew 22:37; II Corinthians 5:9; Colossians 3:17*) and deny self to follow Jesus (*Matthew 10:24-26; Luke 9:23-24*)
- ◆ In faith, pray for wisdom in all matters (*James 1:5-8*)
- ◆ Repent (*Proverbs 9:6, 28:13; Acts 26:20; II Corinthians 7:9-11; Revelation 2:5*)
- ◆ Confess specific recognized sins (*Psalms 51:1-4, 6-10, 17; James 5:16; I John 1:9*)



(While a commitment of discipleship to Jesus Christ will be evidenced by specific and measurable steps of obedience to God's Word, the description of biblical living highlighted on this page is not intended to be exhaustive nor in a rigid sequence).

The UPWARD PATH (Comprised of Biblical Understanding, Hope, Change, and Practice)

THE BIBLICAL MODEL OF MAN'S FAILURE

God's Word is the only true source and authority for living (Ps. 19:7-11; II Tim. 3:16,17). It reveals man's failure, the subsequent consequences, and the effect that man's original sin has on today's world (Gen. 1:26,27; 3:1 - 4:12; 5:1-3; Rom. 5:12).

I. Mankind Was Created In God's Image.

(Unique, created in righteousness, recipient of blessings and responsibilities). Gen. 1:26,27

II. Mankind Sinned And Has Borne The Many Consequences Of That Sin Unto The Present Day. Rom. 5:12

A. Spiritually (Warning of separation from God.)	"For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surly die."	Gen. 2:17
B. Physically (Focus on self.)	Gave into the desires of self-gratification and self-exaltation, knew they were naked, sewed fig leaves together and covered themselves.	Gen. 3:6,7
C. Mentally (Fear, worry, anxiety, deceptiveness.)	Hid themselves - were afraid.	Gen. 3:8-10
D. Socially - The man (Blameshifting, discontent with marriage.) - The woman (blameshifting, seeking to justify sin.)	"The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." "The serpent beguiled me and I did eat."	Gen. 3:12 Gen. 3:13
E. Environmentally (The natural realm affected and suffers.)	"Cursed is the ground for thy sake."	Gen. 3:17-19
F. Interpersonally (anger)	Abel's offering accepted. Cain's offering rejected. Cain became angry and his countenance fell.	Gen. 4:4; Gen. 4:5
(God's exhortation and solution to depression.)	"If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door."	Gen. 4:7

(God's way refused.)	Cain refused God's solution and murdered Abel.	Gen. 4:8
G. Personally (Fugitive.)	Cain did not repent and was cursed as a vagrant and a wanderer.	Gen. 4:9,12
(Self-pity.)	"My punishment is greater than I can bear."	Gen. 4:13
H. Perpetually	Adam became the father of a son, according to his own image.	Gen. 5:3
I. Universally (Born in sin.)	"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."	Rom. 5:12

III. Man's Primary Need Is To Be Justified (Declared Righteous) By God And Reconciled Through Faith In The Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. God empowers you to choose His solution to your spiritual problem.
- B. Now God the Father has a different relationship with you through His Son, Jesus Christ.

IV. A Regenerated Person Is Called To Holiness (Purity, Without Blame) And Sanctification (Set Apart For God). I Cor. 6:9-20; I Thess. 4:7; 5:23; Titus 2:11-14; I Peter. 1:16; 2:9.

BIBLICAL SELF-CONFRONTATION: A PREREQUISITE FOR HELPING OTHERS BIBLICALLY

You can never truly understand or help others even in your own family, unless you first look thoroughly into your own life and deal with your own sins without compromise, excuses, or evasion. Matt. 7:1-5; II Cor. 1:3-5

<p>“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.” II Cor. 13:5a</p>	<p>Establish a personal, genuine, and intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and thus receiving eternal life (being born again) is a prerequisite to Biblical change.</p>
<p>“Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.” Matt. 3:8</p>	<p>Your life must change and your new Biblical conduct (thoughts, words, and actions) should be proof of that change.</p>
<p>“And with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote in thy brothers eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?” Matt. 7:2b,3</p>	<p>The standard you use to judge another’s life implies its validity in judging your own life. Be careful to use God’s standard and not rely on your judgements or any other standard that is of the world.</p>
<p>“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.” I Cor. 11:31</p>	<p>You are not subject to God’s judgement in discipline when you rightly judge yourself, confess your sins, and take steps consistent with your repentance.</p>
<p>“Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.” Matt. 7:5</p>	<p>You must be correcting your own failures to go God’s way before you can attempt to help others with their problems.</p>
<p>“Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.” Rom. 2:1</p>	<p>When you self-righteously judge others, you reveal areas in your own life in which you are sinning.</p>
<p>“Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the Lord which sanctify you.” Lev. 20:7,8</p>	<p>You need and should desire to be set apart from the world. In order to accomplish this, you must be a doer of the Word.</p>
<p>“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” Heb. 5:14</p>	<p>You must continually practice what you have learned from God’s Word in order for your senses to be sharpened (to become sensitive) in discerning right and wrong.</p>
<p>“Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought; but that we receive a full reward.” II John 8</p>	<p>Your reward from God will correspond to your faithfulness.</p>

<p>"My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation." James 3:1</p>	<p>If you are going to teach or lead someone, you must recognize that God holds you more responsible to keep His standard, not only for your words but for your whole manner of life</p>
<p>"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Gal. 6:1</p>	<p>You must gently restore fallen brothers and sisters who are caught in sin. However, you must continue to judge yourself so that you do not also fall short of God's standards.</p>
<p>"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." I Cor. 10:12</p>	<p>You must continually evaluate yourself in a Biblical manner.</p>

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT WITCHCRAFT, SPIRITISM, DIVINATION, FORTUNE TELLERS, ETC.

1. A witch was not to be allowed to live. Ex. 22:18
2. Mediums and wizards are not to be turned to nor sought out. Lev. 19:31
3. God turns against those who go after mediums and wizards and will take their life. Lev. 20:6
4. The capital punishment of stoning was to be practiced on mediums and wizards and their blood was upon themselves. Lev. 20:27
5. God condemns all forms of firewalking, divination, soothsaying, sorcery, charms, good-luck pieces, spiritism, witchcraft and crystal-ball gazing. Deut. 18:10-12
6. It was because of black magic and related practices that God destroyed the Canaanites. Deut. 18:10-12
7. God painted a very graphic picture of King Saul's sin by comparing it with witchcraft. I Sam. 28:3
8. When King Saul was faithful to God, he drove out of the land the mediums and wizards. I Sam. 28:3
9. King Saul's sin of consulting with a witch made it impossible for him to communicate with God. I Sam. 28:6,7
10. King Saul died for consulting with a familiar spirit. I Chron. 10:13
11. Included in the list of sins committed by King Manasseh was witchcraft and spiritism. II Chron. 33:6
12. One of the reasons Israel was set aside by God was her involvement with customs from the east and soothsayers as well as striking hands and making pledges with children of foreigners. Is. 2:6
13. It is an insult to God for people to consult the dead when God can be and should be consulted. Is. 8:19
14. A person that practices divination can be demon possessed like the girl from Phillippi. Acts 16:16-18
15. Christians should have absolutely nothing to do with witchcraft, black magic, spiritism, etc. Acts 19:19

16. Included in the list of the works of the flesh, according to Galatians 5:19-21, is witchcraft, and the statement is made that they shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.
17. Those that are involved in witchcraft will not be allowed entrance into heaven or the presence of God. Rev. 21:8; 22:15
18. Spiritism is the doctrine of devils and seducing spirits. I Tim. 4:1
19. Demons tremble before God and are subject to the power of God. James 2:19
20. It is prophesied that in the last days there will be an increase of the doctrine of devils. I Tim. 4:1

HOW TO PRAY FOR SOMEONE HARASSED BY DEMONS

From the book: Demon Possession and the Christian by C. Fred Dickason

1. Pray that the demons may be cut off from all communication and help from other demons and Satan.
2. Pray that the demons would be confused and weakened in their hold on the person.
3. Pray that the person would be strengthened in his faith to understand his position in Christ and to trust and obey God's Word.
4. Pray that the person may be able to distinguish between his thoughts and feelings and those of Satan.
5. Pray that the person might recognize the demonic presence and not be confused, but willingly seek Godly counsel and help.
6. Pray that God would protect and guide His child and set angelic forces at work to break up every scheme of the enemy.

SPIRITUAL WARRIOR'S PRAYER GUIDE

PRAYING FOR YOUR CHILDREN

1. Dedicate them to the Lord. Ps. 127:3; Mark 10:13-16; Matt. 19:13; Luke 2:22
2. Pray for their salvation. Acts 2:39; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:1; Isaiah 49:25
3. That Jesus Christ be formed in our children. Galatians 4:19
4. That our children, the seed of the righteous, will be delivered from the evil one. Prov. 11:21; Matt. 6:13
5. That our children will be taught of the Lord and their peace will be great. Isaiah 54:13
6. That they will train themselves to discern good from evil and have a good conscience toward God. Heb. 5:14; I Peter 3:21
7. That God's laws will be in their minds and on their hearts. Heb. 8:10; I Chron. 29:19
8. That they will choose companions who are wise, not fools, nor sexually immoral, nor drunkards, nor idolaters, nor slanderers, nor swindlers. Prov. 13:20; I Cor. 5:11
9. That they will remain sexually pure and keep themselves only for their spouse, asking God for His grace to keep such a commitment. Eph. 5:3; 31-33
10. That they will honor their parents. Eph. 6:1-3
11. For God's choice and perfect will in a spouse and life partner. Gen. 24:7,40; James 1:17
12. For the calling of God upon their lives. Matt. 9:38
13. That they will not be adversely influenced by peers.

David prayed that Absalom's conspirator might have his counsel turned to foolishness. II Sam. 15:31

Pray for deliverance "from unreasonable and wicked" people and that the Lord would strengthen, stablish and keep from evil. II Thess. 3:2,3 God may want us to pray for the salvation of some person rather than their removal. Job 42:10

Scriptures to claim: Neh. 4:14; Ps. 102:28; 103:17; Isaiah 54:17; Deut. 7:9; Isaiah 44:3; Prov. 14:26; Isaiah 59:21; Mal. 4:6

BIBLICAL BASIS FOR DAILY DEVOTIONS

Your daily devotions (time spent each day in prayer, study of God's Word, and a Biblical self-evaluation) are absolutely necessary and vital to your spiritual development and personal victory (based on Ps. 1:1-4; 119:9-11; 1 Cor. 11:31; 1 Thess. 5:17; II Tim. 2:15; I Pet. 2:2).

I. Developing A Habit Of Daily Devotions (Prayer, Study Of God's Word, And Biblical Self-Evaluation) Will Help You To:

- A. Follow the example of many people in Scripture who had a heart for God (Ps. 5:3; 63:6; 119:62; 147-148; Dan. 6:10; Acts 10:1,2; 17:11);
- B. Be equipped for spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:10-18) and to remain alert to your adversary, the devil (I Pet. 5:8);
- C. Be obedient to the Scriptural command of habitual and continual prayer (Luke 18:1; Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6,7; Col. 4:2; I Thess. 5:17);
- D. Be sustained and nourished continually by the Word of God (Ps. 1:2,3; Jerm. 15:16; Matt. 4:4; I Thess. 2:13);
- E. Be directed in all of life by the Word of God (Ps. 19:7-11; 119; II Tim. 2:15; 3:16,17; Heb. 4:12; II Pet. 1:3,4);
- F. Focus your life on the worship and praise of God (Ps. 16:11; 34:1; 48:1; 63:1-4; 92:1,2; 95:6; 119:164; John 4:23,24; Heb. 13:15);
- G. Examine yourself daily in the light of God's Word (Ps. 119:105; Heb. 4:12), confess your sins (I John 1:9), and practice self-discipline (Gal. 5:23,24; I Tim. 4:7,8; II Pet. 1:6), thus avoiding the necessity of the discipline of the Lord (I Cor. 11:31,32; Heb. 12:5-11); and
- H. Keep yourself in a Biblical position to help others (Matt. 7:1-5; Gal. 6:1-5).

II. Your Daily Devotions Will Enhance Your Own Spiritual Development As You:

- A. List your prayer requests and God's answers to those requests. This will help you to:
 - 1. Become persistent in prayer (Dan. 10:12-13; Luke 18:1-8),
 - 2. Learn patience in waiting for God's answers (Ps. 40:1; Gal. 6:9b),
 - 3. Avoid anxiety (Phil. 4:6,7), and
 - 4. Be thankful to God for His greatness (Ps. 92:1-5; 105:1,2; 106:1; Heb. 13:15; James 1:17).
- B. Develop a pattern of prayer that embraces:
 - 1. Worshipping God (Ps. 95:6; John 4:23,24),
 - 2. Confessing your own sins (Ps. 139:23,24; Prov. 28:13; I John 1:9),
 - 3. Thanking God for what He has accomplished (Ps. 119:164; Eph. 5:20; I Thess. 5:18),
 - 4. Interceding on behalf of others (I Sam. 12:23; Luke 10:2; I Thess. 5:18),
 - 5. Acknowledging your dependence on the Lord to supply your needs (Matt. 6:9-13).
- C. Meditate on specific passages or principles of God's Word (Ps. 1:2,3; 119:48), as well as on God's majesty and His wonderful works (Ps. 145:5).
- D. Develop a plan of Scriptural study that includes personal application of Biblical principles to everyday life (Matt. 7:24-27; II Tim. 2:15; James 1:22-25).

- E. Examine your life according to Scripture on a continual basis (Matt. 7:1-5; 1 Cor. 11:31; II Tim. 3:16,17) and make appropriate, Biblical changes (Rom. 6:1-14; 12:1,2; Col. 3:1-17).

BIBLICAL BASIS FOR SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Your daily devotions (time spent each day in prayer, study of God's Word, and Biblical self-evaluation) and Scripture memory are absolutely necessary and vital to your spiritual development and personal victory (based on Ps. 1:1-4; 119:9-11; I Cor. 11:31; I Thess. 5:17; II Tim. 2:15; I Pet. 2:2).

I. Memorizing Scripture Is Beneficial Because It:

- A. Helps to renew your mind and change your thought life, establishing permanent change in your entire manner of life and conduct (Jos. 1:8; Ps. 1:2,3);
- B. Follows the example of the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 4:1-10);
- C. Equips you to use Scripture in everyday situations (For example: Acts 2:16-21,25-28; 3:22,23; 13:40,41,47);
- D. Allows God's Word to be the foundation of your life (Deut. 6:6-8);
- E. Provides guidance (Ps. 119:24,105);
- F. Develops confidence in witnessing (Is. 55:11);
- G. Establishes a foundation to conquer temptation (For example: Matt. 4:1-10) and to gain victory over sin (Ps. 119:9-11);
- H. Becomes an integral part of your prayer life (For example: Acts 4:24-31);
- I. Enables you to teach, counsel, encourage, and build up others in the Family of God and the Body of Christ (Col. 3:16);
- J. Provides a basis for meditation on God's Word (Ps. 119:15,16,97);
- K. Makes the Word of God readily available for comfort (Ps. 119:52);
- L. Keeps God's Word ready to refresh or revive (Ps. 119:93);
- M. Provides stability in your spiritual life (Ps. 37:31; 40:8); and
- N. Gives you the truth so that, at times of need, you are ready to answer others concerning your source of hope (Prov. 22:17-21; I Pet. 3:15).

II. Memorizing Scripture Can Extend Your Devotional Time Throughout The Day As You:

- A. Read a verse in your Bible and meditate on it (Ps. 1:2; II Tim. 2:15),
- B. Take advantage of free moments throughout each day to learn your verses (Eph. 5:16), and
- C. Review the verses you have learned (Ps. 19:14; 119:15,16; Phil. 4:8).

THE SCRIPTURE IS OUR ULTIMATE AUTHORITY

God's Word is changeless and is as powerful and applicable to you and your circumstances today as it was to those living thousands of years ago. Josh. 1:8; Ps. 19:7-11; 119:160; Is. 55:11; Matt. 24:35; Rom. 15:4; Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:24,25.

I. God's Word Is Permanent And Eternal. Is. 40:8

- A. It will all be fulfilled. Matt. 5:18
- B. Heaven and earth shall pass away but God's Word will not pass away. Matt. 24:35
- C. It will abide forever. 1 Pet. 1:25
- D. It is everlasting and forever. Ps. 119:89,160

II. God's Word Is Inspired By God For Our Training And Equipping. II Tim. 3:16,17

- A. Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. II Pet. 1:21
- B. God's Word provides a new pattern of living. II Tim. 3:16,17
 - 1. It teaches you (commands and guidelines). Ps. 25:4; 94:12
 - 2. It reproves you (identification of error). Heb. 4:12
 - 3. It corrects you (change/ repentance). Ps. 25:8,9; 119:9
 - 4. It trains you in righteousness (growth and stability through practice). Heb. 5:13,14
 - 5. It will make you adequate (ready and able to do God's work). 1 Pet. 1:22,23; II Pet. 1:3,4
 - 6. It will equip you for every good work (used by God in this world). 1 Thess. 2:13

III. God's Word Is Truth. John 17:17

- A. All of God's Word is truth. Ps. 119:151,160
- B. The Gospel of salvation is truth. Eph. 1:13
- C. You are brought forth by the Word of Truth. James 1:18
- D. You are to handle accurately the Word of Truth. II Tim. 2:15

IV. God's Word Is A Powerful, Spiritual Force. Jer. 23:29

- A. It is living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword. Heb. 4:12
- B. It is a weapon against spiritual forces of wickedness. Eph. 6:11-17
- C. It is to be used to resist Satan's wiles. Matt. 4:4-10; Eph. 6:11-17
- D. It makes you wiser than your enemies. Ps. 119:98
- E. It can make you tremble. Ezra 10:3; Is. 66:2,5

V. God's Word Is Cleansing To Our Ways. Ps. 119:9

- A. You are cleansed through God's Word. John 15:3; Eph. 5:26
- B. You are sanctified by the truth of God's Word. John 17:17

C. You are purified by obeying the truth. I Pet. 1:22

VI. God's Word Is A Source of Grace That Builds Us Up. Acts 20:32

- A. It strengthens in grief. Ps. 119:28
- B. It sustains you. Ps. 119:116
- C. It comforts in affliction. Ps. 119:50,92
- D. It is a comfort and consolation. Ps. 119:52
- E. It gives hope. Ps. 119:49; Rom. 15:4
- F. It provides peace. Ps. 119:165
- G. It produces a reverence for God. Ps. 119:38
- H. It gives freedom. Ps. 119:45; John 8:32

VII. God's Word Is A Testimony To Its Own Sufficiency. II Pet. 1:3,4

- A. It is a reproach to those who do not listen. Jerm. 6:10
- B. You must not add to it or subtract from it. Deut. 4:2
- C. You are in peril if you take anything away from or add anything to God's Word. Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:19
- D. You are accursed if you preach a different Gospel. Gal. 1:8,9
- E. Distortion of Scripture brings about destruction. II Pet. 3:16
- F. It contains examples for our instruction. Rom. 15:4; I Cor. 10:6,11
- G. It is foolishness to those who are perishing. I Cor. 1:18
- H. It is not to be used deceitfully nor taken lightly. II Cor. 2:17; 4:2
- I. It is pure and refined. Ps. 12:6; 19:8
- J. It has been tested. II Sam. 22:31; Ps. 18:30; Prov. 30:5
- K. It is perfect. Ps. 19:7
- L. It is fully confirmed. Ps. 93:5

VIII. God's Word Is Always Effective In Accomplishing God's Purpose. Is. 55:11

- A. The Scriptures bear witness of Jesus Christ. John 5:39
- B. It is used to bring a person to faith in Jesus Christ. Rom. 10:17
- C. It performs its work on you who believe. I Thess. 2:13

IX. God's Word Is The Standard For Judgment. John 12:48

- A. Your acceptance of God's Word determines your eternal destiny. John 5:24,38; 8:47,51
- B. It judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Heb. 4:12

X. God's Word Is To Dwell In Us. Col. 3:16

- A. It helps to keep you from sinning. Ps. 37:31; 119:11
- B. God's Word is to be meditated upon. Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:2; 119:15,23,48,97

XI. God's Word Is To Be Obeyed, Not Just Heard. Matt. 7:24-27

- A. You should be a doer, not just a hearer. James 1:22-24
- B. You are blessed when you observe God's Word. Luke 11:28; John 13:17; James 1:25
- C. You have greater spiritual discernment through obedience to God's Word. Heb. 5:14

XII. God's Word Is Food; Man Lives Not Only By Bread But By God's Word. Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4

- A. God's Word is more treasured than necessary food. Job 23:12
- B. God's Word is sweeter than honey. Ps. 19:10
- C. You grow on the milk of God's Word. I Pet. 2:2
- D. God's children are delighted when they partake of His Words. Jerm. 15:16
- E. His servants are nourished by words of faith. I Tim. 4:6

XIII. God's Word Is A Light To Guide Our Way. Ps. 119:105

- A. It gives light and understanding. Ps. 19:7; 119:99,104,130
- B. It is able to keep you from stumbling. Ps. 119:9,165
- C. It is a light shining in a dark place. II Pet. 1:19
- D. It provides the light of instruction. Prov. 6:23

THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS US TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS

The Holy Spirit is our Guide, our Instructor, and our Sensitive Counselor who reveals the Wisdom of God to us. John 14:16,26; 16:7-13; 1 Cor. 2:6-13

- I. **The Holy Spirit Is Fully Divine And Is Identified As Being Equal With God The Father And Jesus Christ The Son (Matt. 28:19; John 14:16-18; Acts 5:3,4; 16:6,7; II Cor. 13:14).**
 - A. **Divine characteristics (only a partial list so as to illustrate the deity of the Holy Spirit).**
 1. The Holy Spirit is eternal (Heb. 9:14) as is God the Father (Deut. 33:27a; Ps. 90:1,2) and Jesus Christ the Son (Heb. 1:8-12; 7:24,25).
 2. The Holy Spirit is truth (John 14:16,17; 15:26; 16:13) as is God the Father (Ps. 31:5; Is. 65:16) and Jesus Christ the Son (John 14:6).
 3. The Holy Spirit is present everywhere (Ps. 139:7-10) as is God the Father (Ps. 139:7-10; Jer. 23:23,24) and Jesus Christ the Son (Matt. 18:20; 28:20; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 13:5b).
 - B. **Divine works (a partial list to illustrate the cooperation of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit).**
 1. The creation of the world was accomplished through God the Father (Gen. 1:1; Is. 44:24; 45:12,18; 51:13a), Jesus Christ (Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2,10) and the Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:2).
 2. The Holy Spirit and God the Father were present and active in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ (Luke 1:35), the baptism of Christ at the hands of John the Baptist (Matt. 3:16,17; Luke 3:21,22), the earthly life and ministry of Christ (Luke 4:1,14; 9:28-36; Acts 10:38) and the new resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 5:30; Rom. 8:11).
 3. The Holy Spirit, God the Father, and Jesus Christ are all involved in the eternal plan of redemption (Heb. 9:11-15; I Pet. 1:1,2).
 4. Eternal life is granted to a believer through the work of God the Father (Eph. 2:4-7; I John 5:11), Jesus Christ (John 6:40; I John 4:9; 5:11,12) and the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9-11).
 5. The wisdom of God the Father is revealed through the ministry of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 2:10,11) and Jesus Christ the Son (I Cor. 1:24,30).
 6. Believers are justified through the work of God the Father (Rom. 8:33), Jesus Christ (Gal. 2:16) and the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:11).
 7. A believer is sealed in Jesus Christ by God the Father through the pledge (guarantee, promise) of the Holy Spirit (II Cor. 1:21,22; Eph. 1:13,14).
 8. The Holy Spirit is sent to believers by God the Father (John 14:26) and Jesus Christ (John 15:26; 16:7).
 9. A believer is supernaturally indwelt by God the Father (II Cor. 6:16), Jesus Christ (John 14:18-20; Rom. 8:10; Col. 1:27) and the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9; II Tim. 1:14).

10. Comfort is provided for the children of God by God the Father (Is. 51:12a; II Cor. 1:3; II Thess. 2:16,17), Jesus Christ (II Cor. 1:5; II Thess. 2:16,17) and the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:31).
11. Love is imparted to a believer through God the Father (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; I John 4:7,8,19), Jesus Christ (John 14:21; 15:9; Eph. 5:25; II Tim. 1:13) and the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:30; Gal. 5:22,23; Col. 1:8).

II. The Holy Spirit Provides An Overcoming And Abundant Life For You In Christ.

A. In the world, the Holy Spirit:

1. Is present everywhere and at all times (Ps. 139:7-10).
2. Is the author of Scripture (II Peter 1:20,21); and is the empowerment for effective preaching (Rom. 15:18,19; I Cor. 2:1-5; I Pet. 1:12); and
3. Convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgement (John 16:8-11).

B. In the life of a believer, the Holy Spirit:

1. Is the regenerating power for his spiritual new birth (John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5);
2. Gives him life (John 6:63; Rom. 8:11);
3. Seals him in Jesus Christ (gives evidence of belonging) (II Cor. 1:21,22; Eph. 4:30);
4. Is given as a pledge (deposit, down payment) of our inheritance (II Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:14), which will reach completion when we see the Lord face to face (I Cor. 13:12; I John 3:2);
5. Indwells him (John 14:16,17; I Cor. 3:16; 6:19; Gal. 4:6,7; II Tim. 1:14) and is proof that he belongs to Christ;
6. Bears witness to the truth of God as revealed in His Son, Jesus Christ (I John 5:6-8) and bears witness to a believer that he is a child of God (Rom. 8:16);
7. Testifies of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 15:26; Acts 5:30-32) and glorifies Him (John 16:14);
8. Sanctifies a believer (sets him apart for God's use and conforms him to the image of Jesus Christ) (II Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 1:2);
9. Washes (cleanses from sin) and justifies him (declares him righteous) (I Cor. 6:11);
10. Anoints him to discern between truth and error (I John 2:18-27);
11. Provides guidance by:
 - a. Revealing the mind of God to him (I Cor. 2:9-16);
 - b. Teaching him (Luke 12:11,12; I Cor. 2:9-16; I John 2:27) and bringing the words of Christ to remembrance (John 14:26);
 - c. Leading him to all truth (John 16:13,14);
 - d. Giving direction for ministry decisions (Acts 13:2-4; 16:6,7), and
 - e. Helping him in times of prayer (Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 6:18; Jude 20);
12. Encourages him by:
 - a. Giving hope (Rom. 5:3-5; 15:13);
 - b. Interceding for him (Rom. 8:26);
 - c. Providing help (coming along side) (John 14:16; 15:26; Rom 8:26), and
 - d. Giving comfort (Acts 9:31);
13. Empowers him to:
 - a. Know Jesus Christ and God the Father in their fullness (Eph. 3:14-19);

- b. Proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 12:3) and to be a witness for Him throughout the world (John 15:26,27; Acts 1:8);
 - c. Speak effectively in time of trial and persecution (Mark 13:11) and
 - d. Not carry out the desire of the flesh (Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:16);
14. Fills him (controls him) for:
 - a. A new and higher dimension of living (Eph. 5:18-21) and
 - b. Effective ministry (example, Acts 6:3; 13:9-12);
 15. Gives spiritual gift (s) to equip him for ministry (I Cor. 12:7-11);
 16. Develops Christlike character (spiritual fruitfulness) in him (Gal. 5:22,23), through His transforming power (II Cor. 3:18);
 17. Helps a believer in worship (Phil. 3:3); and
 18. Must not be grieved (Eph. 4:30), nor quenched (I Thess. 5:19).

PRAYER PROVIDES COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

Prayer gives you an opportunity to praise God and to request His divine intervention in your life and/or the lives of others. Prayer allows you to glorify His name and also provides an avenue for you to be filled with joy (Ps. 65:2; 145:1; Matt. 7:7; John 14:13; 16:23,24; Heb. 13:15; James 1:5; I John 5:14,15).

I. Biblical Truths About God's Work As It Relates To Prayer.

A. His listening:

1. He hears prayer (Ps. 65:2) and responds to the cry of those who reverence Him (Ps. 34:15; 145:19).
2. He knows what you need before you ask (Matt. 6:8,32).
3. He delights to hear the prayer of the upright (Prov. 15:8), which accomplishes much (James 5:16).
4. He is near to those who call upon Him in truth (Ps. 145:18).
5. He does not listen when you hold on to (harbor, regard, guard) sin in your heart (Ps. 66:18).

B. His answering:

1. He answers in response to your asking (Matt. 7:7).
2. He answers as you continue to obey Him (I John 3:22).
3. He answers YES when you ask according to His will (I John 5:14,15).
4. He answers in greater measure than you can ask (Eph. 3:20).
5. He will not give bad gifts as answers to your prayer (Matt. 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13).
6. He does not answer when you ask in doubt (James 1:6,7).
7. He answers NO when your prayer is not according to His will (II Cor. 12:7-10).
8. He answers NO when His glory and grace is better revealed by your going through a trial instead of your being rescued from it (Matt. 26:39; II Cor. 12:7-9).

II. Observations From The Gospels About The Prayer Life Of The Lord Jesus Christ.

A. How Christ prayed:

1. He made prayer a priority and a frequent practice (Matt. 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16).
2. He prayed knowing the Father heard Him always (John 11:41,42).
3. He prayed alone (Matt. 14:23).
4. He prayed specifically and persistently but always in submission to God and in accordance with the will of the Father (Matt. 26:36-44).

B. When Jesus prayed:

1. He consistently prayed in the beginning, during, and at the close of His ministry (Luke 3:21; 5:16; 23:46).
2. He prayed after ministering all day (Matt. 14:23; Mark 1:35).
3. He prayed after ministering through the evening (Mark 1:32-35)
4. He prayed all night (Luke 6:12).
5. He prayed in the midst of His own suffering (Luke 23:34).

6. He prayed before making major decisions (Luke 6:12,13).
 7. He prayed while in the midst of a trial (Matt. 26:36-44).
- C. What Jesus prayed and what He taught about prayer:
1. He taught His disciples the basics of prayer (Matt. 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4).
 2. He demonstrated how to pray (John 17).
 3. He prayed for the strengthening of others (Luke 22:32).
 4. He prayed for His disciples and for the disciples who were to follow (John 17:20).
 5. He prayed for God's forgiveness of those who were His enemies (Luke 23:34).

III. Scriptural Teaching To Believers About Prayer.

- A. Truths about your prayer life:
1. You sometimes do not know how to pray as you should (Rom. 8:26).
 2. You sin before the Lord when you fail to pray (I Sam. 12:23; I Thess. 5:17; James 4:17).
- B. Truths about answers to your prayers:
1. You should not expect answers from God when you meaninglessly repeat requests (Matt. 6:7).
 2. You receive answers to prayer when you ask according to God's will (I John 5:14,15), when you ask in faith (Matt. 17:20; 21:21,22) and when you ask in the name of the Christ (John 14:13,14).
 3. You receive answers to prayer by abiding in Christ and having His words abide in you (John 15:7).
 4. You receive answers and fullness of joy by asking (John 16:24).
 5. You receive answers to prayer when you are obedient to God's will (I John 3:22).
 6. Even though you are obedient to the Lord you will sometimes not receive what you ask for so you may learn more of God's grace and power (Matt. 26:39; II Cor. 12:7-10).
 7. You will not receive if you do not ask (James 4:2).
 8. You will not receive if you ask in doubt (James 1:6,7) or if you ask with selfish motives (James 4:3).
 9. You should not expect answers to prayer when there is any unconfessed and unforsaken sin in your life (Ps. 66:18; Is. 59:1,2; I Pet. 3:12).
 10. You are hindered in receiving answers to prayer when you are not obedient to God's Word in your relationships (I Pet. 3:7; I John 3:22).
- C. How you are to pray:
1. You are to follow the example of Jesus by praying always in submission to God and in accordance with His will (Matt. 26:36-44; Mark 14:36).
 2. You are to pray specifically (Matt. 7:7,8; John 14:13,14; 16:24).
 3. You are to pray so God may be glorified (John 14:13).
 4. You are to pray with thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6).
 5. You are to ask in faith (Heb. 11:6; James 1:6).
 6. You are to be alert and devoted to prayer (Col.4:2).
 7. You are to persist in meaningful prayer (Matt. 7:7a,8; Luke 11: 5-10).
 8. You are urged to pray in a variety of ways (I Tim.2:1).

9. You should sometimes fast and pray in times of specific need (Joel 2:12,13; Matt. 4:1,2; 6:17,18; Acts 9:9-11; 13:1-3; 14:23).
 10. You are to pray (in, by means of) through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 6:8; Jude 20).
 11. You are to be clear-minded and self-controlled for the purpose of prayer (I Pet. 4:7).
 12. You are not to pray hypocritically for the approval or notice of man; rather, you are to pray to the Lord for His hearing and favor (Matt. 6:5,6).
- D. When you are to pray:
1. You should pray diligently and not lose heart (Luke 18:1).
 2. You are to pray if you are suffering, if you are sick, if you have sinned (James 5:13-16), or if you face any kind of trial, temptation, or trouble (Ps. 86:6,7; II Thess. 3:1,2).
 3. You are to pray without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17).
- E. What you are to pray.
1. You are to ask God's forgiveness (Matt. 6:12), confessing your sins to Him in order to receive His forgiveness and cleansing (I John 1:9).
 2. You are to praise God (Ps. 111:1; 112:1; 113:1; 150).
 - a. For His character (Ps. 148:13,14; 150:6; Matt. 6:9).
 - b. For His works (Ps. 150:2a).
 - c. For His lovingkindness (Ps. 106:1; 108:3,4).
 - d. For His mercy through the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 15:8-12).
 3. You are to thank God.
 - a. For His goodness (Ps. 106:1; 107:1).
 - b. For His lovingkindness (Ps. 106:1; 107:1,8; 108:3,4).
 - c. His grace that has been provided through Jesus Christ (I Cor. 1:4; II Cor. 9:15).
 - d. His effectual working in your life and in the lives of others (Rom 1:8; II Cor.2:14; I Thess. 2:13; II Thess. 1:3).
 - e. Victory over death and the grave through Jesus Christ (I Cor.15:50-57).
 - f. The fearful and wonderful way He made you (Ps. 139:14).
 - g. All that is in you life (Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6; I Thess. 5:18).
 4. You are to pray for everything and everyone (Eph. 6:18,19; Phil 4:6; I Tim 2:1,2).
 5. You are to pray for necessities of life (Matt. 6:11; Luke 11:3).
 6. You are to pray for more laborers to enter the harvest (Matt. 9:37,38; Luke 10:2) and are to pray for the Word of the Lord to spread rapidly and be glorified (II Thess. 3:1).
 7. You are to lay your anxious concerns before God when you pray (Phil. 4:6,7).
 8. You are to pray for others in specific situations (Luke 22:32; Rom. 10:1; Eph. 6:18,19; Phil. 1:19; 4:6).
 9. You are to pray that you may resist or avoid entering into temptation (Matt. 6:13; 26:41; Mark 14:38; Luke 11:4; 22:40).
 10. You are to pray for grace to help in the time of need (Heb. 4:16).
 11. You are to pray for wisdom (James 1:5).

FALLEN ANGELS

1. Isaiah 14:12-15, refers to the devil, the “shining one.” From the Latin translation of that title we get the name Lucifer.
2. God divided responsibility among several high-ranking angels. One of those angels was called Lucifer. He was a cherubim with a special position. Ezek. 28:12-19.
3. Through rebellion, Lucifer fell from heaven taking one-third of the angels with him, Rev. 12:4. Lucifer chose self. I Tim. 3:6; Ezek. 28:16-17. Every free moral creature in the universe must at one time make a final decision whether to give allegiance to God or to self. Rom. 6:16.
4. Lucifer became the adversary, which is the meaning of the name Satan. He is the enemy of both God and man. Satan is filled with vindictive rage against the redeemed children of Adam, who will rule with Christ in glory. I Peter 5:8.
5. Some of the fallen angels have been cast down to hell and are chained, waiting for judgment (II Peter 2:4), while others are free to oppose God, the redeemed and the Kingdom of God.
6. High-ranking fallen angels (delegated demons), referred to as principalities and powers, seek to dominate geographic areas, cities, peoples, and subcultures. Eph. 6:12; Ezek. 28:12; Dan. 10:12,20.
7. Satan and his fallen angels were defeated at the cross and will finally be condemned. Col. 2:15; Matt. 25:41.
8. Satan and his demons are in a state of continual war against the churches of the Lord and all believers are exhorted to combat all levels of evil spiritual forces in the unseen realm. Eph. 6:10-15.
9. While God’s Word tells believers to treat such beings with respect, it also commands us to take captivity captive, to bind the strong man, to plunder his goods and to tear down the rule and authority of the evil one. II Cor. 10:4; Matt. 12:29; Mark 3:27; Luke 11:21-22.
10. We, as believer, are given authority to overcome the enemy as a result of the victory of our Lord. Rom. 8:31-32.
11. We must strategically follow Biblical principles and precepts based on discernment of the unseen realm.
12. We need to overcome, dethrone, bind and defeat the enemy before we enter into his territory for ministry.

IN CHRIST

I AM ACCEPTED:

John 1:12	I am God's child.
John 15:15	I am Christ's friend.
Romans 5:1	I have been justified.
I Cor. 6:17	I am united with the Lord, and I am one spirit with Him.
I Cor. 6:19-20	I have been bought with a price; I belong to God.
I Cor. 12:27	I am a member of Christ's body
Eph. 1:1	I am a saint.
Eph. 1:5	I have been adopted as God's child.
Eph. 2:18	I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.
Col. 1:14	I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.
Col.2:10	I am complete in Christ

I AM SECURE:

Rom. 8:1-2	I am free forever from condemnation.
Rom. 8:28	I am assured that all things work together for good.
Rom. 8:31-34	I am free from any condemning charges against me.
Rom. 8:35-39	I cannot be separated from the love of God.
II Cor. 1:21-22	I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God.
Col. 3:3	I am hidden with Christ in God.
Phil. 1:6	I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected.
Phil. 3:20	I am a citizen of heaven.
II Tim. 1:7	I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind.
Heb. 4:16	I can find grace and mercy in time of need.
I John 5:18	I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I AM SIGNIFICANT:

Matt. 5:13-14	I am the salt and light of the earth.
John 15:1,5	I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life.
John 15:16	I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.
Acts 1:8	I am a personal witness of Christ's
I Cor. 3:16	I am God's temple.
II Cor. 5:17-21	I am a minister of reconciliation for God.
II Cor. 6:1	I am God's coworker (I Cor. 3:9)
Eph. 2:6	I have been seated with Christ in the heavenly realm.
Eph. 2:10	I am God's workmanship.
Eph. 3:12	I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
Phil. 4:3	I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

CULT EXPLOSION

"This is the most crucial decade in history. Designer, a la carte religion flourishes as traditional Christianity is undermined by counterfeits." Pollster George Gallop on religion in America. "Prior to 1850, cultists were practically unheard of in America. Today there are tens of millions of Americans involved in the cults and the occult. A significant and ever increasing portion of our population is intimately involved in the culting of America." Walter Martin, *Martin Speaks Out on the Cults*

I. Mormonism - The Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints.

A. Mormonism Beliefs.

Contrary to Biblical Christianity, the Mormons:

1. Deny the Scriptural doctrine of the Trinity and the Deity of Christ.
2. Believe in more than one God (they believe there are many).
3. Believe that God the Father is a literal man with a physical body of flesh and bones.
4. Believe that men can become gods ("As man is, God once was; as God is, Man may become.")
5. Believe that Jesus was born into the world out of the physical sexual union between God the Father and the virgin Mary.
6. Believe that salvation is attained by works and not by grace.

B. Mormon Wealth

"Without a doubt, the Mormon church is one of the wealthiest cults in the world. It takes in an estimated \$4.7 billion per year, controls at least 100 companies or businesses (including a \$300 million a year media conglomerate), and has an investment portfolio in excess of \$1 billion." *Arizona Republic, Magazine*.

"The Mormon church's annual income would place it about 110th on the Fortune 500 list of industrial corporations. It would rank among companies such as Gillette, and Chiquita Brands International." *Ibid*.

"The Mormon church's business subsidiaries generate an additional \$4 billion per year in sales, which, if counted in the total, would make it an \$8 billion a year corporation, comparable with Union Carbide and Borden Products." *Ibid*.

"The Mormon church is one of the nation's largest private landowners, with holdings in all 50 states." *Ibid*.

Such wealth is a key factor in the steady growth of the church. The Mormons spend roughly \$550 million per year on their worldwide missionary efforts. This breaks down to over \$10 million spent each week on their missionary program.

C. The Mormons - Growing Fast.

In 1950 there were only one million Mormons in the US. Today there are over 4 million. In terms of worldwide growth it is estimated that the Mormon church is growing at a rate of 1,500 new members per day.

D. Mormons and the Media.

The church spends roughly \$550 million per year, on media for its worldwide missionary efforts. It is estimated that church-owned radio and television outlets reach more than 2.3 million adults per day.

"Television and radio stations are just part of the church's media empire which includes a newspaper publishing company, an advertising agency, a book publishing and retail sales company, and television production companies." LDS Media Empire: A Voice for Mormon Values, Las Vegas Review Journal

1. Dealing with Image via the Media.

Researchers who have studied the Mormons' use of the media say the church responds to public relations problems as quickly as any image-conscious corporation. It commands a powerful public relations apparatus that smoothly markets Mormonism to the world.

In a massive public-relations campaign including a series of television, radio, and magazine ads that began in 1971, the Mormon church has marketed itself as a bastion of domestic strength and middle class respectability.

For many years the Mormon church has also purchased advertisements in popular publications such as Readers Digest and TV Guide. These ads typically portray the church as a wholesome, all-American institution, focusing on their apparent virtuous lifestyles instead of setting forth their cultic doctrines. These ads offer a free copy of the Book of Mormon. Mormon publications report that the ads are bringing significant increases in missionary work.

2. Mormonism and Videos

Videos have been very effectively used by the Mormon church to attract new members.

"In all countries, videos introduce many more people to the (Mormon) gospel than traditional tracting and contacting do, and missionary work is reaping great benefits." Media Messages Boost Missionary Work, The Ensign May 1989

"The media support is really having an impact on people. Responses of viewers to the videos have been overwhelming, and this gives the missionaries great confidence and enthusiasm." Dale Gardner - a Mormon leader

3. Mormonism and Television

An example of how the Mormons have used television would be the church produced program "Together Forever." At one time this program was broadcast in every city in the United States that had a Mormon missionary headquarters. The result of the program, according to Mormon leaders, was "increasing success for missionaries."

Season Mormon television programming has included "Mr. Kruger's Christmas," "The Other Wise Man," and "The Last Leaf." LDS produced Christmas programs and public service announcements are claimed to be viewed by hundreds of millions of people in some 25 countries.

The Mormons have also made heavy use of television commercials. On various cable television stations, including TNT, CNN, Headline News, and Ted Turner's WTBS, the Mormons have purchased commercial time for what they consider to be "straight forward" messages.

Still another series of Mormon television ads are called "Home front." These ads show pointed and humorous clips of domestic life.

"Encouraging patience and understanding between parents and children, they end with: 'A thought from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - The Mormons.'"

4. Mormonism and Radio

At any given moment during the day, millions of adults across America are listening to Mormon owned radio stations. Major markets include New York City, Los Angeles, Dallas, Seattle, Chicago, Kansas City, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, and Phoenix.

Mormon leadership say radio announcements about the Book of Mormon aired on various stations across the country are bringing many, many responses.

Countless radio listeners from coast to coast are learning more about Mormon views and they don't even know it. This is done by the airing of a series of in-depth public service announcements called "Times and Seasons." The tapes are labeled with a copyright from the church, but some make no mention that the production comes from the Mormons. One radio programmer liked the series so much that she decided to use it as "part of her station's Sunday Christian programming." Such receptivity delights the Mormon church to no end because it has been attempting for years to be accepted as a mainstream "Christian" body.

E. The Mormons Effective Use of the Media

An article in The Salt Lake Tribune reported that effective use and advertising has contributed to a sharp upsurge in Mormon converts and missionary effectiveness. According to the article, "In an address before 1,100 at BYU (Brigham Young University), Elder Russell M. Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said the Mormon church will step up its use of advertising as well as radio and television productions community service programs throughout the United States as well as Communist countries in the next decade. Media activities have been instrumental in the growth experienced by the church's missionary program. Each year, the number of people reached by the media increases. Baptisms by LDS missionaries (now 40,000) have increased by 7% in the US and missionary productivity by 16% in LDS missions through radio and television." Ballard estimated that a total of 357.4 million are reached in a single year through public service programs.

II. Jehovah's Witnesses

A. Jehovah's Witnesses Beliefs

Contrary to Biblical Christianity, the Jehovah's Witnesses:

1. Believe that Jesus was created as an angelic being by the Father millions of years ago;

2. Believe that Jesus is "a god" but not God Almighty like the Father.
 3. Believe that the Holy Spirit is neither a person nor God but is rather God's "active force."
 4. Believe that the "satanic" doctrine of the Trinity is rooted in paganism.
 5. Believe that there is no monosconscious existence of the soul after death.
 6. Believe that there is no literal Hell for the unsaved.
 7. Believe that the "spiritual" second coming of Christ took place in 1914.
- B. Jehovah's Witnesses: Over One Billion Man-hours of Proselytizing Per Year. Incredibly, almost 4.5 million Jehovah's Witnesses are presently devoting more than one billion man-hours each year spreading these false doctrines around the world. By comparison, in 1940 there were only 95,327 Jehovah's Witnesses in the world. These numbers indicate dramatic growth and the momentum is gaining every passing day.

Especially alarming is the phenomenal growth of the "peak" (active, baptized) Jehovah's Witnesses within the boundaries of the United States. In 1940, there were 58,009 "peak" members in this country. This figure jumped to 108,144 by 1950; 205,900 by 1960; 416,789 by 1970; 565,309 by 1980; 850,120 by 1990; 892,551 by 1991; and is now approaching one million.

It is also noteworthy that each year almost two million people in the United States attend Watchtower memorial conventions. These are people who, though not actively involved Witnesses like these previously mentioned, are nevertheless sympathetic supporters of the movement.

- C. The Jehovah's Witnesses: Over Ten Billion Pieces of Literature. Former Jehovah's Witness, David Reed, in his 1993 book *Jehovah's Witness Literature*, said, "At some point during the late 1980's, Jehovah's Witnesses published their 10 billionth (10,000,000,000th) piece of literature. It took more than one hundred years to produce all those books, booklets, magazines, and tracts since the first Watchtower magazine (Jehovah's Witnesses primary magazine) came off the press in the summer of 1879, but the next ten billion pieces of literature may take a little more than a decade, if the sect continues to grow at its present rate."

Reed also points out that with a twice monthly printing in excess of 16 million copies per issue, the Watchtower magazine "now approaches the circulation of such all-time favorites as Readers Digest and TV Guide and easily outsells the combined total of Time, Newsweek, U.S. News and World Report." The Watchtower Society is a well-oiled machine that is cranking out cultic literature faster than Christian's can keep up.

The Watchtower Society's main "Bethel" plant in Brooklyn, New York, prints out almost 1,000 miles of paper - 61 million pages per day - and turns out more than three million New World Translation Bibles per month. To date, the Watchtower Society has produced some 47 million copies of the book *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* (in 94 languages).

The Watchtower's 1991 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses reports that there are "more than eleven thousand full-time factory and office workers (up from five

thousand in 1980)." As well, the January 1, 1993, Watchtower reports "nearly 4.5 million active participants in the work of distributing literature from house to house worldwide. Some 11.5 million people can be found at kingdom halls studying watchtower literature."

D. The Watchtower Society: God's Voice to Mankind?

The Jehovah's Witnesses believe that God personally set up the Watchtower Society as His visible representative on earth. It is through this organization and no other that God allegedly teaches the Bible to human kind today.

Without the Watchtower Society and its vast literature, people are said to be utterly unable to discern the true meaning of Scripture. Jehovah's Witnesses are reminded of this over and over again in watchtower publications. For example, the watchtower magazine says:

1. "The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is the greatest corporation in the world, because from the time of its organization until now the Lord has used it as his channel through which to make known the glad tidings."
2. "Is not the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society the one and only channel which the Lord has used in dispersing his truth continually since the beginning of the harvest period."
3. "Jehovah's organization as a visible part on earth which represents the Lord and is under his direct supervision."
4. "Jehovah's organization alone, in all the earth, is directed by God's Holy Spirit or active force."

E. The Authority of the Watchtower Society.

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the watchtower society, as God's visible representative on earth, exercises authority over all true believers and Jehovah's Witnesses are expected to obey the Society - whose instructions are communicated via literature - as the voice of God.

If there is a conflict between what the Society says and what the government says, Jehovah's Witnesses are instructed to unquestioningly obey the Society. So, for example, if the government calls upon a young man to be drafted into the military, he must obey the Watchtower Society rather than the government and refuse to do military service.

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that the teachings of the Watchtower Society are all-encompassing and should affect every area of life. One issue of the Watchtower Magazine refers to the society as "an organization to direct the minds of God's people." Another issue says that "Jehovah's Organization should influence our every decision." In fact, the Watchtower goes so far as to say that, "we must recognize not only Jehovah God as our Father but this organization as our Mother."

Even reading the Bible is considered insufficient in and of itself in learning the things of God. The Watchtower tells us, "Unless we are in touch with the channel of communication that God is using, we will not progress along the road to life, no matter how much Bible reading we do."

F. The New World Translation.

The New World Translation is an incredibly biased translation of Scripture. An examination of this translation makes it utterly clear that a primary goal of its translating committee was to strip from the Bible any vestige of Jesus Christ's identification with Yahweh.

Dr. Robert Countess, who wrote a doctoral dissertation on the Greek "scholarship" of the New World Translation, concluded that the translation "has been sharply unsuccessful in keeping doctrinal considerations from influencing the actual translation. It must be viewed as a radically biased piece of work. At some points it is actually dishonest. At others it is neither modern nor scholarly." No wonder British Scholar H. H. Rowley asserted, "From beginning to end this volume is a shining example of how the Bible should not be translated." Indeed, Rowley said, "this translation is an insult to the Word of God."

III. The New Age Movement: Cosmic Cancer Eroding the West.

The New Age movement has been called "the fastest growing alternative belief system in the country." It is actually more of a fast-growing spiritual cancer. Just as an aggressive cancer relentlessly eats away at the human body, so does the rapidly growing New Age movement eat away at the West, eroding its spiritual foundations.

The movement is so broad in nature, strictly speaking, it cannot be categorized as a single cult, rather, the New Age movement is an "umbrella" term that encompasses various individuals and organizations who share a common vision of a new age of enlightenment and harmony as well as a common world view (common way of viewing or interpreting all of reality). This broad definition allows for both unity and diversity within the New Age Movement.

In terms of diversity, the New Age Movement includes a wide spectrum of individuals, such as goddess worshipers, reincarnationists, channelers, gurus, astrologers, human-potential advocates, UFO-nauts, holistic-health professionals, ecologists, political activists, and much more.

In terms of unity, New Agers are united by their particular world view, which is monistic ("all is one") and pantheistic ("all is God"). This common world view enables New Agers to cooperate and network together with a view toward accomplishing their common ends despite their distinctive interests within the movement.

A. New Agers Are Typically:

1. Eclectic (they draw from many and varied sources of "truth").
2. Syncretistic (they do not render exclusive devotion to any teacher or teaching).
3. Interested in various forms of occultism (such as channeling or spiritism, out-of-body experiences, astrology, and psychic phenomena).
4. Transformational (emphasizing both personal and planetary transformation).
5. Ecologically orientated (they are a part of what is called the "green movement").
6. Utopian-minded (they are desirous of a "new age" - often described as involving a one-world government, global socialism, and a New Age religion)

B. How Many New Agers Are There?

Because the New Age movement is so diverse and encompasses such a wide variety of people with distinctive interests, it is difficult to ascertain precisely how many New Agers there are in this country. Current statistics and religious polls reveal just

how thoroughly this fast-moving, tidal wavelike movement has engulfed and penetrated American Society. For example:

1. A Gallop poll in 1987 indicated that ten million Americans were involved in Eastern Mysticism at that time. This number has steadily escalated in the past 15 years.
2. About 67 percent of American adults claim to have had a psychic experience such as extrasensory perception.
3. A 1993 Gallop poll indicated that about 43 percent of teens believe in extrasensory perception.
4. About 21 percent of teens believe in clairvoyance (the "seeing" of physical objects "at a distance").
5. Twenty-four percent of American adults believe in precognition - the psychic ability to predict the future.
6. One out of three American adults believe that fortune tellers can actually foresee the future.
7. Approximately 30 million American adults (one in four) believe in reincarnation.
8. One in four American adults believe that people's horoscopes "can affect the course of their future."
9. Twenty-five percent of Americans believe in a non-personal energy or life force which they roughly equate with God.
10. A survey by Northern Illinois University suggests that over half of all Americans believe extra terrestrials have visited planet earth (a belief common among New Agers.)
11. In a 1993 article in the Los Angeles Times, New Ager Marilyn Ferguson said that "sociologists at UC Santa Barbara estimate that as many as 12 million Americans could be considered active participants (in the New Age movement), and another 30 million are avidly interested. If all these people were brought together in a church-like organization, it would be the third-largest religious denomination in America."

New Ager Marilyn Ferguson also notes that an article in American Demographics defines New Agers as a well-educated, upscale "group." More than 90% of the subscribers to New Age magazine are college graduates, compared to less than half the general population. They are three times likely than others to travel abroad and four times more likely to be active in politics or community affairs. The demographics conclude that these individuals "are hungry for something mainstream society has not given them."

C. New Age Spiritism.

"Spiritism" may be defined as the practice of attempting communication with departed humans or extra human medium with the intent of receiving paranormal (beyond normal) information.

Today, spiritism has been renamed "channeling." Jane Roberts, who died in 1983, channeled an entity named "Seth." Roberts was largely responsible for the current rise of interest in channeling. Her books on Seth have attracted millions of readers.

Recent polls indicate that some 14% of Americans endorse the work of spirit mediums or channelers. Moreover, some 42% of American adults presently believe

they have been in personal contact with someone who has died. Just ten years earlier, only 27% made this claim.

D. Defining 'Good' In The New Age.

According to The Barna Report 1992-93, millions of Americans presently worship false gods: "Ten percent of the (American) public believe that "God is the total realization of personal, human potential."

Another 6% claim that "God represents a state of higher consciousness that a person may reach." As well, "smaller proportions of the public ascribe to the following definitions of God: 'everyone is God' (2%); 'there are many gods, each with different power and authority' (2%). One percent said, 'there is no such thing as God.' Another 6% did not know how to describe God."

Alarmingly, George Barna (who heads the Barna group, a polling and Christian consultant organization) tells us that in 1993 7% of the people claiming to be born again Christians, assumed a non-orthodox view of God. "Most of these adults claimed that God is the full realization of human potential (5%); 2% described Him as a state of higher consciousness that we can reach." Three out of ten Catholics and three out of ten Methodists rejected the orthodox Christian view of God in favor of the New Age definition.

It is therefore clear that New Age prophets and gurus, many of whom are in the top echelons of the media industry, are making a substantial impact on Americans. Barna warns: "Make no mistake about it: the appeal of New Age ideas and practices is continuing to grow. Millions of Christians espouse New Age beliefs without realizing what they are doing. Many Christian leaders are poorly informed and unaware of this subtle threat to Christian orthodoxy."

E. The New Age Movement and the Media.

The New Age movement includes a wide spectrum of individuals such as reincarnationists, psychics, astrologers, goddess worshipers, holistic - health professionals, ecologists, political activists, educationists, and many more. All of these New Age practitioners utilize the media in one form or another to bring their ideas before the public.

1. The New Age Movement and Television.

The New Age movement has penetrated both adult and children's television programming. Perhaps the best known adult New Age television event was Shirley McLaine's mini-series "Out On A Limb," which aired January of 1987. With blockbuster ratings, this series introduced people all over America to New Age occultism, including McLaine's experiences with reincarnation, UFO's, astral travel (out of body experiences) and channeling (spiritism). Following the broadcasts, sales of New Age books virtually sky rocketed all across the country.

Since then, New Age themes (and New Age guests) have regularly surfaced on some of today's most popular television shows including, Star Trek: The Next Generation, Kung Fu: The Legend Continues, and talk shows such as Oprah Winfrey, Phil Donahue, and Geraldo. New Agers have also been featured on major news programs such as ABC's 20/20 (channeler J. Z. Knight) and

interview programs such as Bill Moyers, on the Public Broadcasting System (Bill Moyers interviewed the late Joseph Campbell).

Many children's television shows are also permeated with New Age concepts including Thunder Cats, She-Ra, He-Man and Masters of the Universe. In these and other similar shows, children are introduced to psychic powers, communication with spirits from the other side, occultic symbols, yoga, and a variety of other Eastern ideas.

Cable station HBO (Home Box Office) featured episodes of Fraggles created by the late Muppet master Jim Henson. Among the New Age ideas discernible in this series are Zen philosophy, an emphasis of the harmony and oneness of all things, and intuition over rationality. Such ideas are vintage New Age.

New Age ideas can also be found in television commercials designed for major manufacturers. For example, in 1993 Mitsubishi ran a series of ads for one of its new cars, the Gallant. It portrayed a stage at the center of a room with people on all sides of the stage. The people in the room are pictured imagining the best possible car, concentrating on every feature they ever wanted or hoped for in a car. And as they visualize this perfect car, it begins to take physical shape before their very eyes. This has definite New Age overtones, for New Agers believe that visualization with the human mind can bring about the things one desires in the physical world.

2. The New Age Movement and Telephone Hot Lines.

Television, magazines and local newspapers are presently featuring ads for "psychic hot lines" through which people can get in contact with "America's top professional psychics, now standing by to unlock the secrets of your inner self and forecast your future."

The ads ask, " Are you ready to seek the answers to your most pressing questions, the solutions to your greatest problems? Are you ready to receive real, practical advice that could make your life HAPPIER and HEALTHIER; to take the vital steps on your Spiritual Journey leading at last to true PEACE, PROSPERITY, ROMANCE, and JOY? If so, then you're ready to call the Live Psychic Hot line. Now with a single phone call, you can choose for yourself from among the country's leading Master Psychics, including ASTROLOGERS, NUMEROLOGISTS, DREAM INTERPRETERS, TAROT READERS, CHANNELERS, PAST LIFE THERAPISTS, CLAIRVOYANTS, AURA READERS and HEALERS."

All of this is available for a mere \$3.95 per minute on a convenient 900 number. The world of New Age occultism is just a phone call away.

3. The New Age Movement and Videos.

Videos are another means used by New Agers to promote their mystical ideas. Again it is Shirley McLaine who helped give momentum to this form of media as a New Age educational tool. In an article entitled Videos for a New Age, published in Video Business, we are told that "Shirley McLaine's Inner Workout

can be credited with giving the (New Age Video) genre a much welcome shot of star power."

McLaine's video publisher said that "The publicity has been all over the place, and the tape has been selling everywhere, from New Age Stores to Video Stores and mass merchants." This has opened the door for many other New Agers to promote New Age ideas through video.

Hot-selling New Age videos in recent years include "Lilas: Alive with Yoga," "Meeting With Remarkable Men: Life of Gurdjieff," "Joseph Campbell: The Power of Myth," "Tai Chi With Nancy Kwan," "An Evening With Bernie Siegel," "Louise Hay: You Can Heal Your Life," and "Relax With Dennis Weaver." The New Age Video market is alive and well in America.

4. The New Age Movement and Print Media.

In April 1982, a full-page ad appeared in 14 prominent newspapers around the world - from Rome to Jerusalem, from Kuwait to Karachi, from New York to Los Angeles - proclaiming that "The Christ Is Now Here." The ad sponsored by the (New Age) Tara Center in Los Angeles, California, affirmed that "within the next two months (the christ) will speak to humanity through a world wide television and radio broadcast. His message will be heard inwardly, telepathically, by all people in their own language."

The ad claimed this would take place by the end of spring 1982 on the "Day of Declaration," after which would commence a new era of peace and happiness. This Christ would not be a religious, political, economic, or social leader, but an "educationalist" who would solve all the world's problems in these areas and usher in a New Age of love, peace, and shared wealth. This information about the appearance of the Christ was alleged to have been revealed to a self-proclaimed prophet of the Christ, Benjamin Creme, founder of the Tara Center.

The Year 1982 came and went with no appearance by the christ. The most common explanation for the christ's no-show (at least ten explanations have been offered) is that the media prevented it. Since the media represents humanity at large, Creme says, it's apathy is indicative of the broader apathy of humanity. And since the christ's manifestation cannot occur against man's wishes (according to some cosmic law) his coming has been delayed.

From 1982 to 1990, Creme has continued to maintain that the Christ will soon reveal himself to humanity. In April 1990, the Tara Center distributed a press release alleging that a man claiming to be Maitreya presented his credentials as the messiah before 200 media representatives and world leaders at a conference in London, England. The meeting was advertised in many prominent newspapers the month prior to the event.

It is not known precisely where this event took place or who the 200 conference participants were. Fifty of them were said to be reporters, though not a single article ever appeared in any publication documenting, mentioning, or even

alluding to the meeting. Apparently, the media's apathy toward Creme's christ has not diminished.

Reminiscent of the 1982 ads in which Creme claimed that the christ would present his credentials to all humanity on the Day of Declaration "by the end of spring 1982," he is now saying that the April of 1990 conference was a prelude to the Day of Declaration, though the date of that "declaration" has not been revealed.

5. Transcendental Meditation and Its Deceptive Use of the Media.

Representatives of Transcendental Meditation have not only attempted to use the media but have made misleading public statements via the media to advance TM's cause. The cult observer repeated that "TM has made many incorrect or distorted public announcements to advance its programs." The article notes an example that "leading TM spokesman, Deepak Chopra, MD, claimed publicly that the Massachusetts Board of Education had virtually decided to accredit the Maharishi Vedic University's graduate degree programs. The state said it had merely received an application for such accreditation.

Ex-members say that TM teaches followers to use this type of deception to further Maharishi's cause. "I was taught to lie and to get around the petty rules of the 'unenlightened' in order to get favorable reports in the media," the Cult Observer article quotes one former TMer as saying, "We were taught how to exploit the reporters' gullibility and fascination with the exotic, especially that (which) comes from the East. We thought we weren't doing anything wrong because we were told it was often necessary to deceive the unenlightened to advance our guru's plan to save the world."

6. New Age Seminars and American Business.

The business community in America has also been thoroughly penetrated by the New Age Movement. A Wall Street Journal article reported that "business after business is putting its managers into "New Age Seminars - all promise 'consciousness-raising' and non religious conversion resulting in a 'changed person.'" Companies that have utilized the services of New Age Seminars include Ford, Proctor and Gambel, TRW, Polariod, and Pacific Telesis Group.

Richard Watering, personnel director of Budget Rent-a-Car, polled 780 personnel directors in 1984. He found that 45 percent of them had "seen or used" one or more "psycho technologies" of New Age consciousness-raising. This percentage has risen significantly since that time.

"One reason so many Fortune 500 Companies have been eager to use New Age Seminars is that they promise increased productivity, better employee relations, more creativity among workers, and bottom line - more sales."

a. The goal of New Age Seminars

Attend a New Age Seminar, and you will hear that you are your own god, you can create your own reality, and you have unlimited potential. These three concepts may be considered the hallmark of such seminars.

In terms of methodology, the seminar leaders typically first attempt to shred the attendees present world view (or way of looking at reality). Then they endeavor to trigger an altered state of consciousness in hopes of inducing a mystical experience so powerful that it will cause the participant to question his or her previous understanding of reality.



The participant is then exposed to a New Age explanation that makes sense of the mystical experience. He or she is introduced to a new world view which says that you are your own God and you can create your own reality.

b. Est: Over 500,000 Attendees

One of the more popular New Age Seminars in years past has been Est, founded by the controversial Werner Erhard. Though Est is no longer around today (it has been repackaged with a new name), over 500,000 people attended this seminar.

Est taught people that they were their own gods and could create their own realities and remake their world. They were told that they were totally responsible for their circumstances - both good and bad - could control their future with godlike powers. Their potential was said to be unlimited.

Susanne Perkins, a former Est worker, said that during her Est training she was deprived of food and sleep as her world view was attacked. "They broke down my moral and emotional standards." Indeed, "they said it was all right to sleep with your friends husband because you can create the feeling of being guilty or feeling fine. You are your own god."



c. "The Forum" and "Transformational Technologies" -

Est Repackaged. Est was later repackaged as The Forum, and then Transformational Technologies (or Trans Tech). The new versions of the seminar are milder, more professional, and sleeker, making them all the more appealing to a broader base of companies and businesses.

The Forum emphasizes getting in touch with "being." "Being" is that dimension of ourselves that shapes our actions, our performance, and ultimately determines what we accomplish." By getting in touch with "being," people learn to take action and improve performance. This is one reason the seminar is so popular among businesses. After all, improved performance ultimately means more money for the company. Like Est, The Forum says you are your own god and you can create your own reality. Your potential is virtually unlimited.

Over the past decades, many companies have utilized the services of either Est, The Forum, or Trans Tech. Among the companies that have sponsored Est or The Forum are Allstate, Sears, General Dynamics, The Federal Aviation Administration, IBM, Boeing Aerospace, and Lockheed. Trans Tech has penetrated about 100 of the Fortune 500 group of companies, including Ford, TRW, General Electric, McDonald's and RCA.

