

Removing the Veils: Worship in Spirit and Truth

An Oriental fable tells of three horsemen who were traveling through the desert at night...unexpectedly they were confronted by a mysterious person. The stranger told the horsemen that they would soon cross the dry bed of the stream. "When you arrive there," he declared, "Get off your horses and fill your pockets and saddle bags from the river bed. At sunrise, examine the stones you have picked up. You will be both glad and sorry."

As the man predicted the travelers came to a dry stream bed. In the spirit of adventure they put a few of many stones they had found scattered about in their pockets. At sunrise the next day they examined the pebbles they had picked up. To their great astonishment they had been transformed into diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and other precious stones. Recalling the statement of the stranger in the desert they understood what it meant. They were glad for the pebbles they picked up, but sorry they hadn't taken more.

This lesson is also true for our Christian life. How often it is that we look back in our walks with the Lord and regret that we did not apply ourselves more diligently in the study of the Holy Scriptures and mined its depths!

Now before we journey together, what is really happening is that the Lord has put together a complimentary teaching to Unless A Grain Of Wheat. This is why it is important for you to have been exposed to the truths in Unless A Grain Of Wheat before moving on to this present teaching which builds upon that truth. If you have not studied that teaching, I would encourage you now to go to the UGW page and take time to check it out and prayerfully consider doing it before proceeding on with this study...remember the Oriental fable!

I wrote this teaching in 1985 after wanting a deeper understanding of how to abide in Christ and stay up higher in the midst of circumstances that were somewhat pressing to me having founded Inner City Life Ministries in 1978 which in time would become Well of Life Ministries. The goal in this study is to come into a better understanding of what it means to worship in spirit and truth and how we can become more sensitive in our fellowship with the Lord Jesus. In order for us to cultivate a deeper intimacy with Him, I believe it is important for us to understand that we have **an inner sanctuary** which is the primary place for such intimacy, and that is our human spirit. Along with having an understanding of having a human spirit it is also essential that we come into knowing not only that we have one but its function, its laws, and its sensitivity and how together with the Holy Spirit we may indeed worship in spirit and truth.

In light of this, I want to mention here that besides having received from the Holy Spirit through the Word of God I also leaned heavily upon the authors mentioned in my bibliography. Some of my writing in this teaching are actually paraphrases from these authors. I am very excited now in spirit to have an opportunity for us to look at the truths together in this teaching. These truths I will be sharing with you are truths which have become some of the foundation stones from which my own communion and walk with the Lord springs.

May our heavenly Father grant to you now a spirit of wisdom and understanding and may the Holy Spirit illuminate the eyes of your understanding with truth as you glean from Removing the Veils: Worship in Spirit and Truth.

In His glorious life,
Altha Burts

“But an hour is coming and now is, when the true worshipper shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipper. God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and Truth.” John 4:23

Table of Contents

Section One:	Man's Relationship with God
Section Two:	Cultivating His Presence
Section Three:	The Significance of Revelation Knowledge
Section Four:	Growing in our Devotion of the Lord Jesus Christ
Section Five:	Getting God's Eternal Perspective
Section Six:	A Life of Faith

Appendix:

<i>Diagram 1</i>	Biblical Model of Man
<i>Diagram 2</i>	Spiritual Perception
<i>Diagram 3</i>	The Place of Worship: The Spirit of Man
Reference #1	Manifold Sensing of the Spirit
<i>Diagram 4</i>	Intuition
<i>Diagram 5</i>	Revelation Knowledge
<i>Diagram 6</i>	The Mind of Man Before Regeneration: Blind
<i>Diagram 7</i>	The Mind of Man After Regeneration: Deceived
<i>Diagram 8</i>	Believers' Struggle: A Deeper Look
<i>Diagram 9</i>	Believer's Need: Light From Heaven
Reference #2	Healing of the Mind: A Process
<i>Diagram 10</i>	Can You Hear His Call to a Life of Obedience?
Reference #3	Emotion: The Manifold Feeling We Naturally Have

Reference #4	The Soul's Faculty of Emotion
Reference #5	Maslow's Classical Need Hierarchy: Love- affection
Reference #6	God's Provision for our Needs
<i>Diagram 10</i>	Affections: Believer's Directions
<i>Diagram 11</i>	Believer's Direction: Desire
Reference #7	Maslow's Classical Need Hierarchy: Purpose – self-worth
Reference #8	Christian's, Do You Know Who You Are?
Reference #9	Working Through Life's Deceptions With Truth
Reference #10	The Day Shall Surely Dawn
Reference #11	Emotion: A Person's Response to Living Situations
Reference #12	Self-Control
Reference #13	Understanding Faith
Reference #14	A Deeper Look at Faith
<i>Diagram 12</i>	The Growth of Faith

Section 1

Man's Relationship with God

Man's Relationship with God

An overview: This section is initially and purposefully somewhat general. We will be looking primarily...

- at the tri-unity of man and the importance of recognizing that truth,
- at some of the truths in Unless a Grain of Wheat (those which concentrated on the transformation of our souls) so that we are sure of our foundation being sturdy,
- at our spirit's ability to apprehend eternal realities and settling the issue of where man worships the Father,
- and at having a closer look into the functions and sensitivities of our spirit, intuition, communion, and conscience.

We will be concerning ourselves with cultivating our spirit's capacity to grasp eternal truth and grow in intimacy with God.

As we know the Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring us to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God. The Word of God is a door by which we have contact with Him and share His life. Scripture is quite clear about this. In Psalm 138:2 David said, *"I will bow down toward Your holy temple, and give thanks to Thy name for Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth; for Thou hast magnified Thy word according to all Thy name."* And Psalm 40:7 says about the Lord Himself: *"Then said I, Lo I come in the volume of the book it is written of Me."*

Oh, the desire we have to:

- live for Him,
- sense His presence,
- experience His love and the majesty of His person,
- and to taste the inner sweetness of His very reality.

As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for you oh God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? Psalm 42:1-2

But God is always first, always initiating, always calling us into relationship and intimacy with Himself. In fact, scripture teaches that before a sinful man can think a right thought about God there must be a work of enlightenment done within him. This is what Christian theology teaches:

- the doctrine of previous grace -
- which simply means that before a man can seek God, God must have first sought him -
- God is always the initiator.

Look at His initiation with Adam in Genesis 3. It is the same with us today. Always knocking, always beckoning, always desiring communion with us...but we must respond. This is our responsibility and our privilege. We must respond to His secret drawing in order to cultivate that which is our goal, and that is intimacy with our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and our companion and teacher, the Holy Spirit. As the psalmist says in Psalm 42, *"Deep calleth unto deep."* The depth of our spirits call for the depth of His presence, and nothing else will satisfy this longing.

Now, we must remember that God is a Person in the most reverent sense. And as such He can be known as any other person.

- He thinks
- He feels
- He wills
- He grieves
- He can be pleased

This is an incredible and glorious reality that our God can be known and desires to be so!

It is, as you know, inherent in personality to be able to know other personalities. But a full knowledge cannot be achieved in one encounter. People range with each other from a casual acquaintance to intimate friends, and this is experienced in the same way with our relationship with God our Father. Now He has equipped us and created us for consistent communion with Him. The Word of God unfolds this truth through many passages, but especially through the passage of John 4:23: *"The true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth."* We know much about worshipping in truth, but we are going to explore together who we worship in both spirit *and* truth.

In chapter three of Genesis we find the Lord God was accustomed to walking with man in the garden in the cool of the evening. What a glorious picture! But it is an important thing to know here that in order to commune with God...in order to hear Him...man, unique from all creation, needed to have a faculty that would give him that capacity.

In the appendix, look now at **Diagram 1**, "Biblical Model of Man." A spiritual relationship requires a spiritual faculty in order for oneness to take place. In order to understand in depth this important faculty of man we need to look at the whole of man first as is seen in God's Word, the Bible.

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:23

As you can see here in this scripture, man is a tri-unity. That is what you see in the diagram as well. I personally believe that there are fewer things more important than knowing the division of the soul and the spirit and how they appropriately interact in our learning to cultivate intimacy with God. I believe as we continue in our times together this truth will become more and more significant to you.

Other passages, as you know, make the same differentiation. Hebrews 4:12 is a familiar one.

“For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

As T. Austin Sparks says in his book, What is Man, “But when it comes to the matter of soul and spirit not only are these two so distinctly different, but these are said to be separable without either perishing and each is vested with its own responsibility, set of faculties, and destiny.”

We know from the scriptures that there are two kingdoms in the world. Each one is governed by *and* limited to its own nature. As Christians we are now spiritual people in a spiritual kingdom in need of spiritual faculties to apprehend spiritual realities. Makes sense, doesn't it? In fact, the same terms used to express the knowledge of God are also used to express the knowledge of physical things as shown in Diagram 2, “Spiritual Perception.” This diagram helps us to see the reality of spiritual perception as the Bible teaches us and where it is located.

- Oh, *taste* and see that the Lord is good. Psalm 34:8; 1 Peter 2:3
- Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall *see* God. Mathew 5:8
- *Draw* near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:8
- My sheep *hear* my voice...John 10:27
- All Thy garments *smell* of myrrh and aloes and cassia... Psalm 45:8

So as you see we apprehend the physical world by exercising the faculties given us for that purpose - and in much the same way we possess spiritual faculties by means of which we can know God and the spiritual world as well.

A.W. Tozer says in his classic book, Pursuit of God, that if we really want to follow the Lord we must learn to be “other worldly.” So you see our emphasis and priority needs to be on cultivating spiritual sensitivity. But what happens to us is that because we live in a physical world and the world of physical sense can choke out the life in the spirit. After all, this world of the physical is always intruding upon us demanding to be considered the final reality. For example, the media shouts, is clamorous and noisy: it shouts for supremacy and we become easily trapped in its claws. The sad part is that when we are in that state we are not aware that we are unhealthy and have lost sense of the higher and ultimate reality.

This world of the physical does not appeal to faith. It considers faith quite foolish. Thus the world of the physical triumphs -

- the visible becomes the enemy of the invisible,
- and the temporal of the eternal.

This is the curse of the Adamic race. We are left with these Adamic effects and the whole process of redemption is to undo that which was done at the Fall. We must learn to cultivate spiritual perception as to see both realities equally well...

- to know which one has eternal value,
- and which one will govern our lives.

Paraphrasing from Tozer, a spiritual kingdom lies all about us: enclosing us, embracing us - altogether within the reach of our inner ability to perceive...just waiting for us to recognize it. God Himself is here waiting for our response to His presence. This eternal world will come alive as we begin to reckon upon its reality.

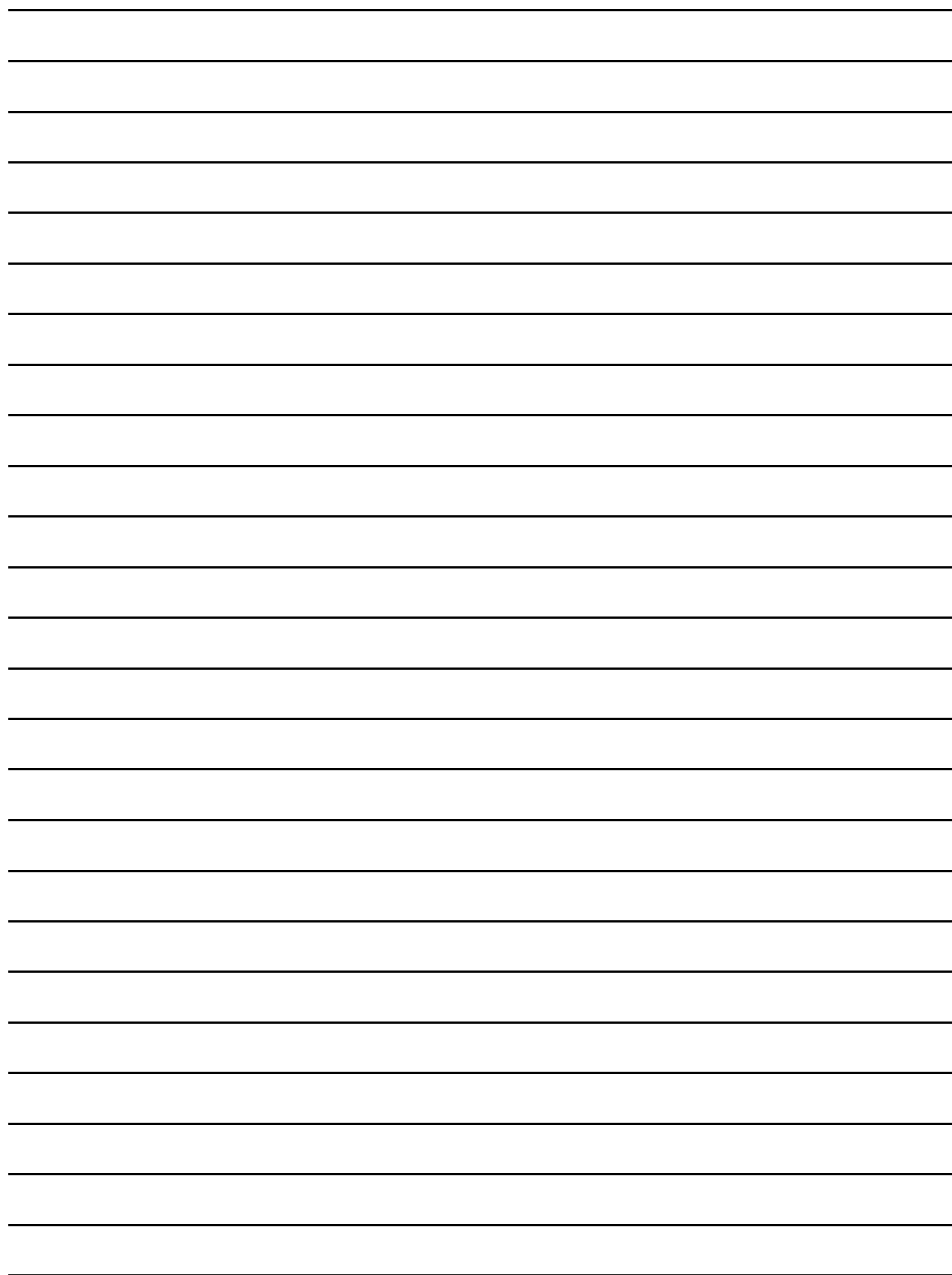
- This is faith.
- This is what is required.
- This is what we want to cultivate during our times together in this study.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES USED IN TEACHING:

Psalms 138:2	Psalms 42:7	I John 2:17	John 6:63
Psalms 40:6 & 7 (KJV)	Isaiah 55:8	Ephesians 4:30	I Corinthians 3:16
Psalms 42:1	John 11:35	Proverbs 16:7	I Corinthians 15:44
Romans 8:28 & 29	Romans 12:2	John 8:29	I Thessalonians 5:23
Ephesians 1:5	Matthew 6:10	I Corinthians 7:32	Hebrews 4:12
John 16:8-11	Matthew 7:21	Galatians 1:10	Matthew 13:22 & 23
I Peter 1:5	Luke 22:42	Hebrews 11:5	I Corinthians 4:18
Genesis 3:9	Philippians 2:13	Genesis 2:7	Hebrews 11:24-27
I Peter 1:3-11	Colossians 1:9	Luke 1:46&47	John 18:36

Notes:

[illegible]



Section 2

Cultivating The Lord's Presence

Cultivating The Lord's Presence

An overview: In this section of the teaching we will be ...

- looking more deeply into the manifold sensing of our spirits as we learn to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit,
- as well as have a closer look and understanding on the function of intuition and how the Holy Spirit imparts revelation knowledge to us – that is, when the truth of God's Word has been revealed to our spirits by Him
- and then focusing on revelation knowledge (which simply means when His words come alive to us), and why this is not more common for us in our study of the Word of God, and how to free ourselves of the hindrance.

We spent our time together in Section One reminding ourselves that the Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring us to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. We are here because we desire to cultivate intimacy with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...

- to sense His presence,
- to experience His love,
- and to see the majesty of His Person.

Our desires are strong, but as we saw in our last teaching God is behind the scenes always first, always initiating, always beckoning and calling us into fellowship with Himself. So in essence He is the One who has us here in the first place! In fact, as we saw, Scripture teaches that before a sinful man can think a right thought about God there must first have been a work of enlightenment done by Him within him...God must have placed that in his heart. We must respond to that calling and initiation.

"Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if anyone hear My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20

But as we also saw, a spiritual relationship requires a spiritual faculty in which oneness can take place. Man, unique in all creation, was given that faculty, the human spirit. In fact, the terms to express the knowledge of physical things are the same terms used to express the knowledge of God and spiritual things in the Word of God. Look again at the words in the body, **Diagram 1**; and then compare them to those in the spirit, **Diagram 2**. As we are beginning to see, we apprehend the physical world by exercising the faculties given us for that purpose, and we possess similar spiritual faculties by which we can know God and the spiritual world around us. We discovered here that we have the capacity to spiritually receive in the Lord through faculties given to us of spiritual perception. What we want to embrace through this teaching is that we want to use

everything God has equipped us with in order to commune with Him: to come to understand Him, to know Him fully, and experience intimacy.

Now you will see man is a tri-unity as we covered last time – man is spirit, soul, and body...pneuma, psuche, and soma. And from the spirit we come and taste and see that the Lord is good:

- from the spirit, blessed are the pure in heart for they shall *see* God
- from the spirit, *draw* near to God and He will draw near to you
- from the spirit, My sheep *hear* My voice
- from the spirit, all Thy garments *smell* of myrrh and aloes and cassia

We don't draw near to God physically, we draw near to Him spiritually in the spirit. We don't hear God's voice audibly, we hear His voice in the spirit. So this begins to show us that we have a general sensing that comes within our spirits, much like the sensing we have in our soul and body, but totally unlike it. As we are beginning to see we apprehend the physical world by exercising the faculties that have been given to us for that purpose; and we apprehend the spiritual world by cultivating those faculties given to us for that purpose.

Now let's look a little closer at this very noble part of man...his spirit...and see what a gift God has given us in spiritual perception. Look at [Diagram 3](#), "The Place of Worship: The Spirit of Man." Here you see the human spirit and its respective functions. Now according to the Word of God, and paraphrasing from [The Spiritual Man](#) by Watchman Nee, its main functions can be classified as:

- intuition: "For what man knows the things of man, except the spirit of man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God." (1 Corinthians 2:11)
- communion: "The true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23)
- and conscience: "The spirit of a man in the lamp of the Lord searching all the inner depths of his heart." (Proverbs 20:27)

Now while their functions are distinguishable, nevertheless they are intertwined - and that's very, very important to remember. Although there are many functions of the spirit and these are not the only functions, they are the major ones as far as we see in the Scriptures. None of these functions is spirit, for the human spirit is itself substantial, personal, and invisible. However, the functions of intuition, communion, and conscience are the primary means of coming to know God personally *and* can be cultivated *and* the sensitivity is limitless.

Now let's continue in this teaching by looking a little closer at what has been called *intuition*. Please don't be stumbled by the term itself. It is merely being used to help us understand that there is a direct sensing in our spirits independent of any outside influence. This is why we call it *intuition*. Let's look again at [Diagram 3](#), "The Place of Worship: The Spirit of Man" You see the inner-most part of our person - the center of who we really are in Christ - the spirit. In this inner sanctuary we can...

- rejoice

- grieve
- anticipate
- love
- approve
- condemn
- decide
- discern

Still paraphrasing from Watchman Nee now, can you think of times when you have been sitting alone with the Lord that you have begun to experience these without any outside stimuli? Joyful for no reason – just kind of springs up! Or grieving or sad just for no reason and it comes within the spirit of man? Now these emotions are really senses in the spirit, and are distinct from those experienced by the soul of man through the body.

The soul of man with its mind, affections, and will has a great responsibility with keeping the spirit in ascendancy. We will look more into that truth during our next teaching. What we need to look at now is the many-sided character and manifold sensing and function of our spirits so we can see the importance of understanding our spirit - the spring of where we worship our God - and how our mind and will interact with our human spirit as we are coming to know God.

Reference #1, “The Manifold Sensing of the Spirit,” will help us here. From these passages we begin to understand that the spirit apart from the soul has its own character as well as its own sensing. Sometimes it is very difficult to discern the difference, but there is a difference and it is very important to understand.

So the spirit of man appears as having its own thoughts and feelings and desires. Can you begin to see that there is a character within your spirit? These verses clearly point out that the sensing is distinct and different from the sensing in the soul. In other words, in our natural sensing (responses) we rejoice when we have a reason to rejoice, or we grieve when there is a reason to grieve, or we are sorrowful when there is a reason to be sorrowful, and so forth. A man’s ordinary sensing happens or is brought forth by people, things, and events.

Think of times when you have responded with joy because of _____, or with sorrow because of _____. Whatever is the *because of*, it is the outside stimuli which brought forth your response.

On the other hand, think of a time that you thought of a certain thing to do and your heart rejoiced and your will made the decision to bring it about – for all the circumstances lined up...all the green lights were saying, “Go!” Yet somewhere in the innermost part of your person there seemed to arise a soundless voice strongly opposing what your mind, and your emotions, and you will had decided on doing. This functioning, which is so unlike the mind, affections and will, is what we will term *intuition* - the spirit expressing itself. How different it is from our emotional feelings. Once again, *this functioning of the spirit* is termed *intuition* because it comes forth in a straight manner. The Holy Spirit is communicating directly to our human spirit. He is expressing Himself and His thoughts first and foremost through our human spirit. What is commonly referred to as being moved by the Holy Spirit is simply Him making His mind and will known to us *intuitively* by working upon our human spirit....in other words, your human spirit which is untouched by time is receiving His knowledge.

Look at **Diagram 4**, “Intuition.” Again, *intuition* involves a direct sensing independent of any outside influence. As we will see, it is very responsible when working with our mind for the lifting of veils which block our view of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. What we want to understand is how the spirit through its faculties works together with the mind in order to come along and break down these veils in our thinking of how we perceive God. We are looking for the hindrances of why we are not more intimately walking with the Lord Jesus than we are. What is it in our minds that is veiling us from perceiving our heavenly Father or His Son Jesus Christ correctly? The only way we are going to be set free is revelation knowledge in our spirit. When light comes forth here, it breaks and lifts the veils in our minds; and this happens initially in our spirit.

Now the spirit is primarily where...

- eternal life initially springs forth,
- revelation knowledge is given,
- God guides the believer,
- and discernment is given.

As we have said, *intuition* is the Holy Spirit’s direct communication to the human spirit. The spirit is where the anointing teaches, and this is clearly seen in 1 John 2:20, 27. These two verses inform us where and how the anointing takes place.

“You have been anointed by the Holy Spirit, and you all know...but the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.”

At this juncture let me paraphrase from Watchman Nee again. It is very important to understand the difference between the words *knowing* and *understanding*. We usually do not make a distinction between them. As we are going to see the spirit *knows* while the mind *understands*...and both are important for spiritual comprehension. These two scriptures in 1 John 2 clearly teach us where you come to know the truth - not understand it, but clearly to come to know truth, and have a relationship with it. We are going to see the difference between knowing it in our spirit and understanding it in our mind. It is a very important to distinguish the difference between the two and we don’t usually make that distinction. I think that is why many people appropriate doctrine intellectually and get frustrated as to why it is not changing their lives. And if they are moving out, which they should, in obedience, Galatians 6:8-9 says, “...*he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap everlasting life...for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.*” This means that when you respond to the truth in obedience, the Holy Spirit then begins to embark upon your spirit and will open it up more fully to you in time; and when you see more fully, you change. Each truth received brings with it its own liberating power and opens the door for more truth to be given.

“You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” John 8:32

This is why it is important to see the division of spirit, soul, and body (revisit **Diagram 1**, Biblical Model of Man) - and to be able to understand

- the functions of the human spirit,
- and how to cultivate coming to know God spiritually.

This is why the blessed gift of the human spirit is so vital. (revisit Diagram 3, The Place of Worship: The Spirit of Man)

John 8:32 doesn't say, "You shall understand the truth and the truth will make you free." It says you will *know* the truth. Knowing the truth comes in the spirit and when you know the truth in spirit that breaks down the veils in your mind - the lies that you have appropriated, the damage that has been done in childhood, faulty thinking about who God is, who you are, where you are going, and why you are here. And I think each one of you here can probably think of a time it has happened and what a difference it makes when you have received revelation knowledge in your spirit...Ephesians 1:17

So as we are beginning to see now *knowing* is the work of the spirit, while *understanding* is the task of the mind; and of course we need both for balance. Knowing is not only the ability of our spirits, though, it is also the function of intuition. Now in this same portion of scriptures in 1 John 2: 18, 20 the apostle John was concerned about false teachers and anti-Christ. In reading these scriptures, it reveals that the human spirit is where we receive discernment. We want to cultivate a discerning spirit...we want to become more sensitive in the faculties of our spirit, as well as having our minds renewed and our emotions refocused and our wills making right choices. See all the beauty of this interaction!

We come here to our spirits ability to discern: *"Little children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour...but you have an anointing from the Holy One and know all things."*

The apostle John assumed that the same anointing that these "little children" had – that is the Holy Spirit indwelling their spirit - not only gave them understanding in their teaching, but taught them to differentiate truth from lies...gave them the discernment to discern between truth and error. The indwelling Holy Spirit teaches us today in the same way what is of God and what is not. This ability of discernment is an ability of our spirits.

What about dealing with people? We should never judge anyone. Yet we surely need to know them so we may come alongside of them with understanding in order to help them in their time of need - to really see where they are and to really understand what is taking place. The natural way for man to know others, and displayed at times in our Lord's ministry, is the means of...

- observation,
- inquiry,
- and investigating.

All of which are good and very important, but still secondary. For our spirit is the place which discloses the insight and discernment we need for understanding where another person is. Let's look at our Lord Jesus. *"And immediately Jesus perceiving in His spirit that they thus questioned within themselves..."* (Mark 2:8)

The scripture does not state that the Lord Jesus thought or felt in His heart. Nor does it say that the Holy Spirit told Him. It was His human spirit that displayed this perfect ability. His spirit detected

immediately how the surrounding people questioned in their hearts. The spiritual senses in the man Jesus Christ were exceedingly -

- pure,
- sensitive,
- and noble.

The ability of spiritual perception is the ability of the human spirit. Just as the human spirit of the Lord operated even so we who are born from above can learn to have our spirits operate in the same way. Although we can never get to that place of absolute purity of soul and spirit that Jesus had, we are able to cultivate learning to discern very quickly what is true and what is false. We are to cultivate, we are to have our spirits in ascendancy, we are to come to know the Word of God and the Lord Jesus far deeper than what we are doing. We are to receive revelation knowledge in spirit. We want to be able very quickly to discern where someone is and not judge them so that we can come alongside and help them.

What about God's guidance now? Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians: *"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is..."* (Ephesians 5:7) In the Christian life we need to have all we think, feel, and decide preceded by revelation in our spirits. The intellect is where God's will is understood, but it is never the source of His will. God's will is given to us by revelation in our spirits. In the Christian life, I would warn us against making decisions that are not preceded by revelation knowledge in spirit. Because in the spirit is where God discloses His will. The Bible speaks of two kinds of understanding. Human understanding is the "fleshly" mind as taught in Colossians 2:18.

"Let no one defraud you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind."

A fleshly mind may know much about doctrine and the Bible and be able to speak freely about it, but a fleshly mindset has never seen the Lord and has never understood the power of the Word of God. The other is the spiritual understanding as seen in Colossians 1:9 where Paul prays:

"For this reason, we also, since the day we heard of it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

This passage indicates that we are really unable to walk worthy of the Lord unless we have been filled with the knowledge of His will. For example, how are we going to walk humbly and confidently before the Lord unless we really know Him. And how can we walk worthy of Him unless we really know who He is and who we are in Him. If we truly know who we are, we will walk accordingly. How are we going to walk as if we are assured that all things are going to be taken care of, *unless* we know without a doubt that the issue is settled: He takes care of all our needs. (Matthew 6:27-34)

Now this is really the difference between knowing in spirit and grasping in mind. Intellectually trying to anxiously lay a hold of a truth that says that He is going to take care of you doesn't make sense because we are not to be anxious. But revelation knowledge comes deeper into your spirit

and there the issue is settled. You see, you might periodically forget in your mind, but if you can get still before the Lord, it is still there because it is something that you have embraced in your spirit and it still remains. Can you think of a time that you have sought God's will and you have sought His will with your mind? And you have then ended up saying, "Lord, Your will be done; I ask that You show me Your will regardless of what it is." Can you think of a time? In the quietness of your spirit, He says, *"This is the way, walk in it."* (Isaiah 30:15-21) That is the Holy Spirit impressing to your spirit God's will. And then, as we will see, our mind begins to understand what has really taken place in our spirit, but our minds are secondary in spiritual truths...meaning that revelation knowledge comes into your spirit first and then your mind can be renewed in that truth.

Knowing our heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ by revelation in our spirits reminds me much of how Tozer describes men whose hearts throbbed for God. This is a direct quote from The Pursuit of God.

"Hearts that are 'fit to break' with love for the Godhead are those who have been in the Presence and have looked upon the majesty of deity. Men of the breaking hearts had a quality about them not known to or understood by common men. They habitually spoke with spiritual authority. They have been in the presence of God and they reported what they saw there. They were prophets, not scribes; for the scribe tells us what he has read, and the prophet tells us what he has seen."

Tozer goes on to say that he believes the instant cure of most of our religious ills begins when we enter into the reality of the presence of God. As we are seeing, when our minds and our spirit work together and as we are being renewed in the spirit of our mind (Ephesians 4:23), then we come to understand...are able to comprehend...the Lord's will. By changing the spirit of our mind...a progressive work which is to be done by the Holy Spirit...we come to know God's will in our spirit. And as we are seeing, without revelation knowledge in the spirit veils remain over our minds in our souls, blocking our view and intimacy with God. We might understand more readily now the value of Jesus' words: *"...but those who worship must worship **in** spirit and truth."*

Now the mind of man is his organ of thought. Through it he is equipped to:

- know,
- think,
- imagine,
- remember,
- and understand.

Man's intellect, reasoning, wisdom, and cleverness all pertain to his mind. Man's mind occupies a large place in his life because his thoughts easily affect and influence his actions. And this is so very key, and this is where we are headed. The Bible speaks very distinctly about the coordination and interaction of the spirit and the mind...

*"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and understanding in the **knowledge** of Him: having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may **know**..."* (Ephesians 1:17-18)

So it makes sense that you have to understand both the spirit and how the spirit and mind interact. In this passage we see the words “knowledge” and “know” which serve to express two distinct notions:

- the first one is a knowing, or understanding, mentally (with the mind)
- the second one is knowing intuitively (in the spirit)

Revelation knowledge through the faculty of our intuition, lifting the veils of our hearts, enabling us to see God clearly springs from the noble part of man - the human spirit. As our mind works in harmony with our spirit, true intimacy with our Lord is cultivated. Now let's look at how the revelation obtained in our spirit works together with our minds and the respected results it has on our lives.

The spirit of revelation is located in the depth of our being...deep within the spirit. At this point it is just *intuitive* knowledge...that is, the inner man knows while the outer man remains ignorant. How can there be united action? It remains only *intuitive* knowledge until it is brought forth in our thinking by Divine light in order for the two to really begin to work together.

Look now at **Diagram 5**, “Revelation Knowledge.” This diagram encapsulates what we have been talking about, and we can see practically on how revelation knowledge affects our lives. Revelation knowledge, according to the Word of God, has no other meaning other than the Holy Spirit enabling a believer to apprehend the reality of truth in his spirit. Here the Holy Spirit teaches, reveals, and instructs. As our spirits come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, light...spiritual understanding...is given in our hearts and veils begin to be lifted: veils that caused us to be hindered in our walks with God. We begin to perceive God more clearly. We will be looking at this in depth in our next section, but can you see here the dynamics of what takes place. The Holy Spirit, our Teacher ...

- instructs,
- our human spirits receive,
- light is brought forth in our understanding,
- strongholds are broken down,
- and veils are lifted

and we begin to see God. Emotional and psychological health is determined by revelation knowledge. Revelation knowledge penetrates through the damaged and distorted ways in which we think, giving us health, freedom, and wholeness. The results of both spirit and mind working in harmony through a clear perception of God and veils being lifted, we begin to live in the Holy of Holies instead of just the outer court of our soul. Can you think of scriptural examples? What did seeing God clearly do to these men? How did it change their thinking about God...about themselves?

Consider Job: Job confesses his lack of understanding: *“I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see you. Therefore, I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.”* (Job 42:5-6)

Consider Isaiah: *“I saw the Lord sitting on the throne, high and lifted up...woe is me for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among men of unclean lips.”* (Isaiah 6:1-5)

Consider Peter: We see when he was given revelation knowledge, he saw the Lord clearly. The veils were lifted. Remember how our Lord said to Peter: “Who do you say that I am? And Peter immediately responded, *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* Jesus then answered, *“Blessed are you (happy are you) Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood hasn’t revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”* (Matthew 16:17)

Revelation is divine light on eternal truth. It has a tremendous effect on our spiritual, emotional, psychological, and oftentimes physical health. Let’s look at two disciples on the road to Emmaus in the last chapter of Luke. *“And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them.”* (Luke 24:14-15)

These two disciples of Jesus were walking along and were very discouraged...very hurt and disillusioned...through the trauma of Jesus’ recent crucifixion. Distraught, they were talking back and forth to each other about what had happened. Jesus – unbeknown to them - enters their present dilemma, and through conversation and then later through the breaking of bread put their recent memories and frustrations into a new and positive light.

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself...And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him;...And they said one to another, “Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?”” (Luke 24:27; 31-32)

Before their eyes were opened, Jesus pointed out that their lack of understanding of the purposes of God along with their unbelief...a faithless attitude toward the scriptures...contributed to their despondency. Using the Word of God, the holy Scriptures, Jesus reinterpreted their negative experience into a meaningful one which became for them a new source of power and hope. A revelation of Christ’s sacrificial death and resurrection victory and of Himself as a present reality brought inner healing into their hearts. Yes, the truth is complete in Christ, but the need of our hearts is to have light shed on eternal truth. Truth revealed to our spirits is light. Let’s join together with the writer of Psalm 43:3

“Send forth Thy light and Your truth and let them bring me to Your holy hill.”

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES USED IN TEACHING:

Psalms 42-43
Ephesians 4:21-24
John 14:26
Ephesians 1:17
2 Timothy 3:16

Luke 24:13-22
John 15

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Section III

The Significance of Revelation Knowledge

The Significance of Revelation Knowledge

An overview: In this section of the teaching we will be...

- getting a clearer view of how a man communes with God and the conditions for such communion as we look at 1 Corinthians 2:9-3:2
- seeing then how the Word of God teaches that our communion with Him must spring from our human spirit...for only our spirits can *know* God
- be entering into understanding what Paul says about comprehending the deep things of God and some of the ways we can grieve the Holy Spirit without knowing it

During our last time together we looked at the fact that the same words used to express the knowledge of physical things are used to express the knowledge of spiritual things...

- Oh, *taste* and *see* that the Lord is good
- My sheep *hear* My voice
- Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall *see* God

We also glanced at the major functions of our spirits: intuition, communion, and conscience. But our focus was that of intuition...terming this function *intuition* because it is a direct sensing in the spirit and does not require outside stimuli. We can in spirit...

- rejoice
- grieve
- anticipate
- love
- approve
- condemn
- decide
- discern

These emotions are actually senses in the spirit and are distinct from those experienced by the soul through the body.

As we will see in this teaching, the soul with its mind, affections, and will has a great responsibility in keeping the spirit in ascendancy. But last week we learned about the manifold character and sensing of our spirits. We also saw that in spirit is where...

- the anointing teaches
- our ability to spiritually discern is located
- we learn to perceive and understand where people are as we grow in spiritual sensitivity

- God guides the believer and makes His will known

Our primary focus was on coming to know what the Bible means when it speaks of revelation knowledge and the tremendous effects it has on our lives - our psychological, emotional, and physical health. Paul's prayer for the Ephesians clearly shows us the importance of believers having revelation knowledge of the Word of God.

"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know..." (Ephesians 1:17-18)

As we have said, *revelation in the knowledge of Him* and *that you may know*, serve as two distinct notions in this passage...

- The first one is knowing intuitively – when the Holy Spirit causes our spirits to apprehend a truth in spirit and making it a reality
- The second is knowing mentally – when we are given light in our understanding of that truth in our minds

Of course, we need both in order to fully comprehend truth in the Bible and to come into a fuller communion with the Lord and reflect His glory.

In this teaching, we will be especially looking at what the "eyes of our understanding" are and how they can be opened for coming to know the Lord more deeply. By looking at this we will begin to see our own blocks and hindrances to knowing the Lord the way we desire to.

For a moment though a brief capsulation of what we learned last week from **Diagram 5** "Revelation Knowledge." On the left, we read Paul's prayer: "...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened that you might know..." We see here what Paul meant when he prayed for a spirit of wisdom and revelation. Revelation knowledge means that the Holy Spirit enables the human spirit to apprehend a spiritual truth. The Holy Spirit teaches us, gives revelation, and instructs us; and that brings forth light in our understanding that lifts the veils that cause and prevent us from perceiving God clearly. Truth revealed in our spirits is light.

For the moment, we are going to focus on *the eyes of our hearts* in order for us to begin to understand the co-ordination of our spirits and mind and how they are to work together in harmony. Let's look a little closer now. The eyes of our hearts point figuratively to the organ of reasoning and understanding - that is our mind. The mind of man is the organ of thought, and through it man is equipped to...

- know,
- think,
- imagine,
- understand,
- and remember.

Man's intellect, reasoning, and cleverness all pertain to the mind. As I mentioned last week, man's mind occupies a large place in his life because his thoughts easily influence his actions. If a man thinks right, he will be right. If he thinks wrong, he will be wrong. Emerson says, "A man is what he thinks about all day long." The Word of God tells us in Proverbs 23:7 that a man's innermost thoughts determine what he is.

What a man thinks of himself will have a profound influence on him. 1 Corinthians 10:12 tells us that an unwarranted confidence in ourselves will lead to a fall. On the other hand, a degraded opinion of ourselves becomes a subplot for a work of Satan in our lives. The Christian is admonished not to think more highly of himself than he ought. (Romans 12:3) But this warning does not encourage a low self estimation, but rather a true one...one which is sober minded. For example, 1 Peter 2:9 says of believers they are a holy nation.

The great problem lies in that no one in himself can think right. For as we will see, the mind of man became devastated through the fall. Man's rebellious thoughts, imaginations, and reasonings became strongholds for the powers of darkness. Now according to the Bible the mind of man is unusual in that it constitutes a battlefield where Satan contends against the truth...and hence against the believer. Let's look at how Paul describes it in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5:

"Though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ."

Paul initially tells us here of a battle, then where the battle is fought, and finally, for what objective. This struggle pertains exclusively to man's mind. He likens man's arguments and every proud obstacle to an enemy's stronghold. Paul pictures the mind as held by the enemy; it must therefore be broken into by waging war. He concludes that many rebellious thoughts are housed in these strongholds and these thoughts need to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ. All this plainly shows us that the mind of man is the scene of battle where Satan clashes with truth.

Scripture explains that before regeneration, and even after, that:

"The god of this world had blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God." (2Corinthians 4:4)

With respect to man's will, emotions, and body the powers of evil are helpless to do anything directly unless they first have gained ground in a man's mind. This passage along with 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 clearly shows us that Satan holds onto man's mind by making it blind. Some people consider themselves very clever with their arguments against the gospel, while others take for granted that unbelief is due to dullness of understanding. The truth in both cases is that "the eyes of man's mind" have been covered by Satan.

When firmly held by Satan the mind of an unregenerate man becomes "hardened" and he follows the desires of body and mind as a child of wrath. He is "estranged and hostile in mind" because "the mind set on the flesh is hostile to God." (2 Corinthians 3:14, Ephesians 2:3, Colossians 1:21, Romans 8:7) It is difficult to estimate how much of the world's...

- philosophy
- ethics

- knowledge
- research
- and science

...really flows from the powers of darkness, and how much is taken into our thinking as Christians. One thing is certain, though. All arguments and proud obstacles against the knowledge of God...the true knowledge of Him and who He is...are the fortresses of the enemy!

As you will see in **Diagram 6**, “The Mind of Man Before Regeneration: Blind,” prior to regeneration man’s mind is blind...darkened...and obstructs him from apprehending God. For his spirit is dead and there can be no communion with God. There is nothing but housed strongholds, both in his conscious and unconscious mind, for he is blinded to the light of the gospel - thoughts are held captive and rebellious thoughts are housed in the mind. In this state of spiritual death, man has a darkened mind - one which is alienated, spiteful, debased, hardened, and defiled. This is the condition of man’s mind and this is the condition of the spirit of man before he is born again.

It is only by the mighty power of God that these housed rebellious thoughts can be cast down and destroyed. This is the work that begins at the hour of new birth through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and repentance. The original definition of repentance is none else than ‘a change of mind’. As we have already learned, man in his mind is at enmity with God. Therefore God must alter man’s mind if He would impart life to him. Again, in his unregenerated state man has a dead spirit and a darkened mind. Because his mind is so united with the power of darkness in its thinking, it is vital for man to receive from God a change of mind before he can receive a new heart. At the moment of regeneration, however, he undergoes this drastic change.

Yet even following this repentance the believer’s mind is not completely liberated from the touch of Satan. This is because of many darkened thoughts still housed in his mind that he remains unaware of. As the enemy worked through the mind in former days, so he will work through the mind of the believer in the same manner. Paul was concerned about this when he wrote to the Corinthian believers that he was afraid that in the same way the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, their thoughts would be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3) He well recognized that as the god of this world blinds the mind of the unregenerate so he would attempt to deceive and lead astray the mind of the believer. It is possible for a believer to have a new spirit and new life but without a new head. Having become saturated with a mismatch of everything, our minds can lack the most single element of all spiritual insight...spiritual understanding...as we saw in our last teaching. Our hearts can be full of love, but our heads still lack spiritual understanding...the thing that we so desperately need.

Wherever there is an unrenewed place in our mind, it is unable to work in harmony with the spirit and we behold God through the eyes of the flesh and our behavior is motivated by deception and misbeliefs. Both are organs of knowledge as we saw in Ephesians 1:17-18 and therefore their relationship is manifestly closer than any others. Nothing in a person’s life is closer to his spirit than his mind. In walking after the spirit, we shall find the mind to be the best helper to the spirit; that is if it is renewed.

We have learned that the mind is the mechanism for learning matters in the intellectual and material realms...while the spirit is the component for perceiving realities in the spiritual realm. I want you to understand that the co-operation of the renewed mind and spirit occurs in a second,

but it takes longer to teach their appropriate interaction and how they are brought into harmony. As we are going to see they operate like two hands and in the twinkling of an eye, the spirit already has made known to the mind what it has seen.

Now look at **Diagram 7**, “Mind of Man After Regeneration: Deceived.” Our minds still house darkened thoughts and are full of deceptive thoughts after regeneration. Thus, the mind of man after regeneration is still deceived. The spirit is indeed alive to God having been born again, but the faculties of the human spirit are still dulled. The mind is changed because of repentance, but still in need of renewing. The Holy Spirit teaches, reveals, and instructs within the spirit of man bringing forth enough truth to bring forth repentance, but still housed below our awareness - and oftentimes in our awareness - but even when we are not aware of it are:

- arguments,
- faulty thinking,
- appropriated lies,
- misbeliefs,
- distorted thoughts,
- veiled perceptions,
- darkened understanding,
- and impure imaginations.

These are happening below the surface. They are unidentified strongholds of the enemy which cause us to have a faulty perception of God our Father, ourselves, and others. We can see in the diagram that the mind of man after regeneration is still deceived and in the process of being renewed. Man receives from God a change of mind upon regeneration, but our greatest need upon new birth is for our minds to be progressively liberated from all such faulty thinking. The question then becomes how do we actually walk after the spirit? We use that phrase a lot, so let's look at its real meaning. The answer is given to us in Romans 8:5-6:

“They that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after the spirit the things of the spirit. For the mind of the flesh is death; but the mind of the spirit is life and peace.”

We must mind the spirit in order to possess a spiritual mind. To walk after the spirit means to have the mind set on the things of the Spirit: it means to have the spirit rule the mind by taking its proper place in ascendancy. Those who act according to their spirit are those who have their mind set on the things of the Spirit, and not on those of the flesh. Therefore they are under the Holy Spirit's control, and walk under His control. In other words, their mentality has been renewed...changed...and is spirit controlled. Thus, it is qualified to detect the movement and silence of the Spirit.

Here again we see the relationship between these two component parts: they that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh...and they that are after the spirit mind the things of the spirit. Mind the things of the flesh - mind the things of the spirit: the key here is the MIND. It is therefore unnecessary to ask whether or not we are walking after the flesh or after the spirit. We need only inquire what we are minding. Never can it be that we set ourselves on the things of the flesh yet walk after the spirit; or that we set ourselves on the things of the spirit yet walk after the flesh. Can you see how contradictory that is? This scripture is an unchangeable law...one of God's most perfect ones.

Now I want us to go a little deeper in the soil beneath the surface of our minds. Many of us are confused about our behavior: why we do what we really don't want to do and vice-versa. We always struggle when we don't see clearly. Paul expressed this same bewilderment over his own behavior in Romans 7. He tells us that he regularly found himself doing precisely the opposite of what he sincerely wanted to do. As he observed his own perplexing pattern of behavior, he could only concede that there was a law (a principle) of some sort operating within the structure of his personality which completely opposed his conscious and sincere intentions of following his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Most of us can easily identify with Paul's dilemma! Perhaps in looking at Romans 7 God will grant us spiritual understanding and insight into what really takes place and what is the law (the principle) within the structure of our personality that is in operation. Even though Paul did not know why he was not doing what he truly wanted to do, he did discover a principle. The law that Paul speaks of that constantly wages war against what we really want to do as Christians is stated for us in Romans 7:15;23:

"For what I am doing I do not understand, for what I want to do, I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do...I delight to do the law of the Lord in my inner man but I find another law in my members warring against the law of my mind..."

Paul recognized a principle waging war in his members. Let's look a little closer at a familiar passage in Romans 8:5 which will give us more insight.

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the spirit the things of the spirit."

Paraphrasing Larry Crabb there are many passages in the Bible that have to do with the mind, and the Greek word *nous* is often used. It means the seat of reflective consciousness, including the faculties of perception, understanding, and those of feeling, judging, and determining. A familiar passage that uses this word is Romans 12:2.

"Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

However, the word here in Romans 8:5 is *pronema* and the central idea suggested by the word is a part of the personality which develops and holds onto deep assumptions. This idea closely corresponds to what we call the 'unconscious mind.' Linking these two ideas together suggests a definition of the unconscious part of our mental functioning as the reservoir of basic assumptions which people firmly and emotionally hold onto about how to get their needs met for significance and security. God has in fact given us those needs...strong needs for significance, security, for love, and for understanding...just as He gave them to Adam and Eve. When Adam fell through sin, he looked to have those needs met apart from his relationship with the Lord. We do the same thing. Oftentimes we are going after things that we are not even aware of in order to get these needs met that God Himself wants to meet. Also, we are oftentimes listening to Satanic lies and suggestions through the world system in a state of unawareness. So it is a deep reservoir beneath the surface of our minds that deceive and convince us into thinking that this is the way you are going to get your needs met.

Why is this so important to understand? Because we will direct our energies toward whatever we believe will meet our needs at the moment. Our motivational energy is channeled through our very

darkened, deceived, and fallen minds (whether we are conscious of what we believe or not). These misbeliefs and strongholds left over in our minds from our Adamic life are the very deceptions Satan uses in steering us away from sowing to the spirit and thus reaping eternal life...transformation in our souls. Instead, we direct our energies toward what we believe will meet our needs.

Paul did not understand what he was doing, but he was beginning to see this principle that was waging war. He begins to identify this law as being within the structure of his personality. As we see in **Diagram 8**, “Believer’s Struggle: A Deeper Look”, the Holy Spirit is still teaching, still revealing, and still instructing in the spirit; and that light has caused the mind to be brought into repentance, but below the surface of our awareness...the unconscious mind...is this reservoir of deep assumptions held onto from our Adamic history. These Satanic deceptions below the conscious level of our thinking are the enemies...unidentified strongholds. It makes sense that behavior is often based on misbeliefs or deceptive thinking. You don’t chose apart from what you believe. The will isn’t an independent part of the soul. It works together with the mind and you do things based on how you think your needs will be met. So it is very important to see this law that is waging war. These misbeliefs and strongholds left over in our minds from our Adamic life are deceptions used by Satan to stray us away from sowing to the spirit. We will direct our energies to whatever we believe will meet our needs. If we believe something other than God our Father or His truth or the application of it will meet those needs, our energies will be directed toward that deception.

There is a battle which must be fought in order to obtain a healed mind. We must know our enemies and the biggest one I believe is deception operating on an unconscious level. Deceptive thoughts and deeply appropriated lies left over from our Adamic history or thinking need to be brought out of their caves and exposed for what they really are...every high thing that is exalting itself against the true knowledge of God. As we have seen, behavior is oftentimes based upon a deception and the way it is recognized is to realize that we are deceived and for revelation knowledge to expose specific lies and then replace them with the truth.

“Though we live in this world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power for the breaking down of strongholds. We are destroying arguments and every lofty obstacle to the knowledge of God and taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

So we see the real need of the believer is light from heaven. The reality of that is capsulated for us in **Diagram 9**, “Believer’s Need: Light From Heaven”. *“Send forth Thy light and Your truth and let them bring me to Your holy hill.” (Psalm 43:3)* Light which comes from the spirit is

- light that opens up the eyes of our understanding...
- light that gives sight to our hearts in order for us to *see* the reason for us behaving the way we do...
- light that brings these distorted seeds of thought, sown since childhood, to the surface: to be recognized, to be acknowledged, to be confessed, and to be disposed of by the blood and the cross of Christ.

These thoughts which have veiled our eyes from God and found in our unconscious mind, when finally identified by the believer and cleansed by the blood of Christ brings us closer and closer to seeing God more clearly.

“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

Believers need light from heaven. From the diagram we see that we have weapons and that they are divine and powerful and are supernatural. We also see we have a need – we need the light to expose strongholds that are below our understanding and our perception. Divine light exposes them, lifts veils, and strengthens our ability to choose what is right. As the Holy Spirit teaches, reveals and instructs us, light comes forth not only in our conscious mind, but in our unconscious mind as well...and we begin to understand why we do the things we do...bringing out strongholds under the surface of our thinking that they might be acknowledged and confessed.

We have clearly seen God’s desire to give us revelation knowledge of Himself in order to bring light into our understanding. Now let’s look at the spiritual disciplines for the healing of our minds. Look at **Reference #2**, “Healing of the Mind: A Process.” The healing of the mind is a life long process. The mind first needs to be changed. The Holy Spirit embarks upon our minds giving us enough light as unregenerate people to respond to the gospel by faith and be regenerated...born again. He brings us to that place of repentance, but after regeneration the mind needs to be renewed. From the scriptures we are commanded to be renewed in our minds. Romans 12:2 says, *“Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

This indicates that you have got to put something off before you can put something else on. You are not to be conformed to the world’s thinking, its philosophies, or its values. Rather you are to be renewed in the spirit of your minds through the Word of God. The results, progressively, will be more and more receptivity to God’s laws. You will progressively become more able to discern because your spirits and minds will be in harmony...they will be working together now. Progressively being given spiritual understanding (Ephesians 1:18), personal transformation (Romans 12:2), and ultimately God is glorified by the changed lives that He brings forth.

First, the mind must be changed, then it needs to be renewed, and then it needs to be controlled. There is a strong exhortation in Ephesians 6:14 to gird up your loins...to gird up the loose ends of your thinking, gather them together, and don’t let yourself just think on anything. Proverbs 25:28 also says, *“Like a city that is broken into and without walls is a man who has no control over his spirit.”* All thoughts taken captive; and how can you control your thoughts? You test your thoughts with a familiar passage in Philippians 4:8. You refuse negative thoughts because if you look around by sight, everything is negative. This is action: refuse negative thoughts, gird up your loins, take thoughts captive, resist the devil. We are not called to be passive. We are to instead take heed of the things we have heard lest we drift. We are to line up all of our thoughts and think on those things that are true, noble, just, and pure. Anything that doesn’t line up with these particular mindsets has no business in our thinking about them. Set your mind on things that are above.

As we are seeing, it really comes down to choices and these are made by the will. A man’s will is his organ for decision making. To want or not to want, to choose or not to choose are the typical operations of the will. It has been said to be the helm by which he sails upon the sea of life. The will of man can actually be said to be his real self, for it truthfully represents him. Its action is the action of the man. Our will (volition) acts for our entire person. Our emotions, on the other hand, merely express how we feel and our minds simply tell us what we think. Our spirits bring potential

for communion with God, but our will truly communicates what we really want. It is the most influential component of our entire person. It is deeper than our mind and deeper than our emotions. So, in seeking spiritual growth the believer must not neglect the volitional element in him called his will.

Our union with the Lord has two steps:

- the union of life when we are regenerated...we are of one spirit with the Lord
- and the union of the will...progressively as we walk

We are united with Him in spirit at the time we are regenerated and receive His life. This unity is an internal one, but we express that life by the union of our will. So, upon being joined with the Lord in life, the Holy Spirit launches forth to renew our soul with its various parts in order that it may be one with our new life and consequently one with His will. His call to us is a call to a life of obedience...a call to a decisive action of our will.

Look at **Diagram 10**, “Can You Hear His Call To A Life of Obedience?”

In conclusion:

- we have seen the beauty and capabilities of our spirits
- we have glanced at the ministry of the Holy Spirit and His way of revealing to us areas of faulty thinking logged below our awareness...exposing these strongholds for what they are to bring us more freedom
- and the beautiful way God reveals in Scripture the road to a healed mind through spiritual disciplines laid out.

What we have really come to understand is that it is our choice: “...*I have set before you life and death...so choose life in order that you may live...* (Deuteronomy 30:19) The Holy Spirit teaches, reveals, and instructs. The light of truth comes from the spirit into the mind, giving it the possibility to be renewed, the emotions refocused, and the will redirected. In this way, we become an aroma of life and our whole man worships God by a life of obedience. “...*If your eye be single your whole body will be full of life...*” (Luke 11:34) You put off and you put on: you put off the negative and you put on the positive. Can you hear His call for a deeper walk of obedience? Can you hear His call to a deeper walk with Himself. Remember what He said: “*I have set before you life and death...so choose life...*” Choose life with all promise of reward and its freedom, or choose sin and continue in bondage selling your birthright for a moment of pleasure.

The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul. The testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right rejoicing the heart. The commandment of the Lord is pure enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean enduring forever. The judgment of the Lord is true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than the honey and the honeycomb. Moreover, by them Your servant is warned and in keeping them there is great reward. (Psalm 19:7-11)

This is the gospel of obedience - man worshipping God by living his whole life for His glory and in return an intimacy shared from the blissful center of His manifested presence. Such an authentic life can only be realized in the abandonment of self. Our self is often the enemy of God's life and our spiritual growth shall be stunted severely if we have no intention of losing ourselves. If the nature, life, and activities of the flesh are not denied, the life of God has no way to express itself. Can you hear His call for a deeper walk of obedience?

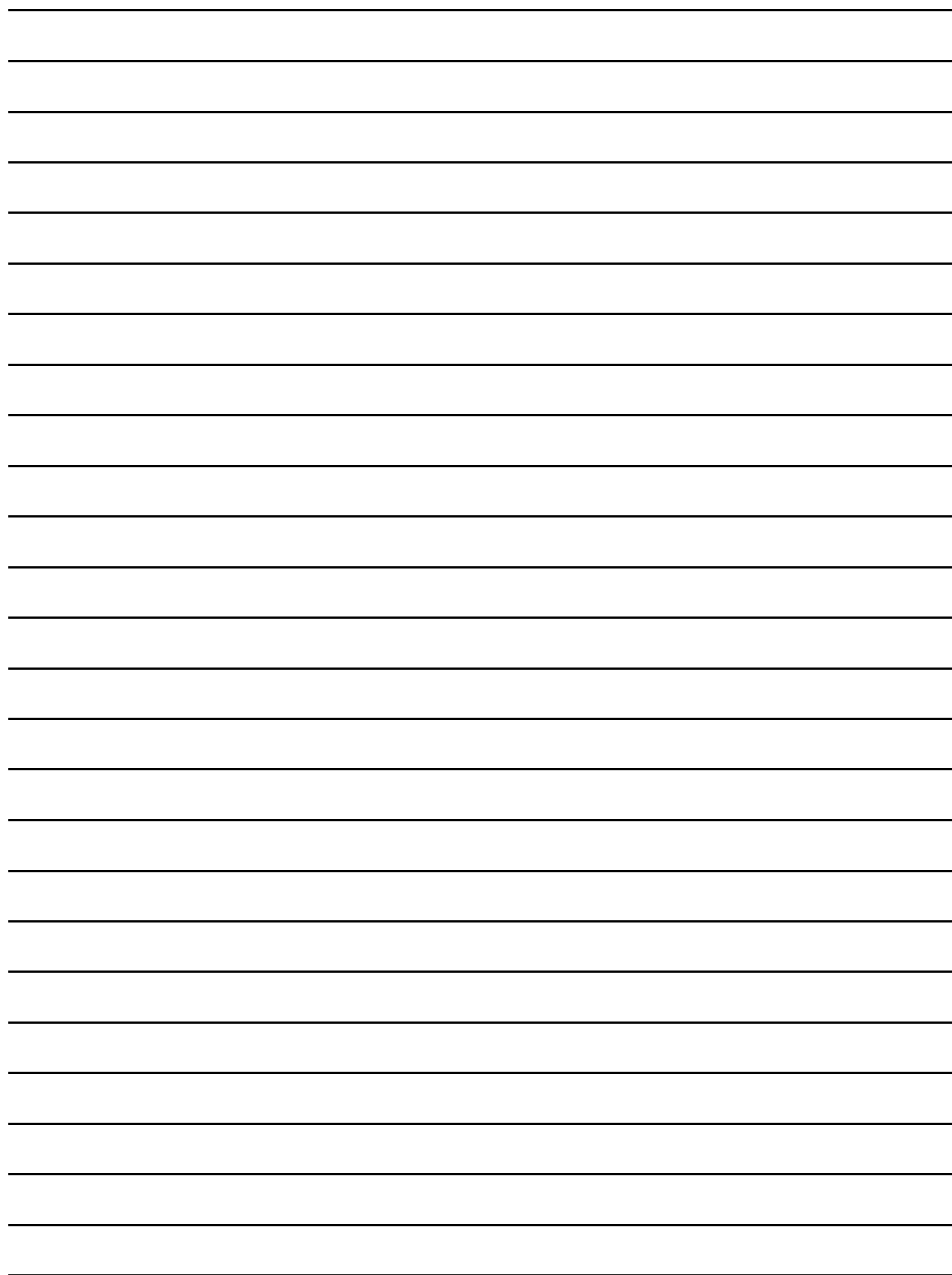
"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." (John 14:21)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES USED IN TEACHING:

Romans 13:12
Ephesians 4:22
Colossians 3:9
Colossians 3:5
Colossians 2:11
Romans 13:12
Ephesians 4:24
Colossians 3:10
Romans 6:13
2 Corinthians 2:16

Ephesians 1:17
Ephesians 1:18
Romans 12:1
Colossians 3:1-4
Luke 22:41-42
2 Corinthians 2:16
Proverbs 25:28
1 Corinthians 14:32
Colossians 3:2
Romans 5:17

Notes:



Section IV

Worshipping the Lord with
Your Whole Heart

Worshipping the Lord with Your Whole Heart

An overview: In this section we will ...

- look at a purely soulical person...a person operating only according to their intellect, emotions, and will - a non-Christian dead in spirit
- glance at a Christian who has been quickened...made alive...in spirit, but whose spiritual faculties have not been exercised - as a result the Holy Spirit is quenched and grieved
- look at how we can tell when we are grieving Him by operating out of our soul and the way out of that dilemma

Let's continue in our studies in learning the practicalities of how to grow in our devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ. In our last teaching our focus was on the second part of Paul's prayer for the Ephesian church, and that was for the 'eyes of their hearts' to be enlightened. We saw that the eyes of our hearts points figuratively to the organ of reasoning and understanding, that is our mind. As we saw, the mind again is the organ of thought which man is equipped to:

- know
- think
- imagine
- remember
- and understand

As we saw, man's mind occupies a very large place in his life because his thoughts easily influence his actions. We discovered the great problem, however, is that no one in or of himself is able to think rightly. We saw that even after regeneration darkened thoughts are still housed in our minds, oftentimes below the level of our awareness and lead us to do things that we really don't want to do. We also learned that they lead us astray through deception. The mind of man was devastated through the fall. We then looked a little deeper into the law that wages war against the law of our minds as depicted in Romans 7. We came to understand that there is a deep reservoir of assumptions that we firmly and emotionally hold on to as to how we are to get their needs met. This reservoir of thinking is worldly in its origin and therefore must be exposed for the enemy it is.

Why is this so important to understand? Because we will direct our energies toward whatever we believe will meet our needs at the moment and our motivational energy is directed through the channel of our minds...our very fallen, deceived, and darkened minds...whether we are conscious of it or not. These misbeliefs and strongholds of faulty thinking are the very deceptions Satan uses in steering us away from sowing to the spirit and thus reaping eternal life...transformation in our soul. As we saw, a battle must be fought in order to obtain a healed mind, and it is progressive and continual until the Lord returns.

What about a believer's emotional life...what do we do with our emotions? How do we maintain, regain, and develop emotional health? Let's begin by looking at the function of emotion. As seen in [Reference #3](#), "Emotion: The Manifold Feelings We Naturally Have," our emotions emit a large range of feelings.

As we have already seen, the mind is the organ of our thinking and reasoning, and the will of our choices and decisions. All other operations issue from emotion. A thousand and one diverse feelings manifest its function. Our sensational life is most comprehensive, so in order to help us understand it we are going to gather its various expressions and break them down into three groups, that of...

- affections,
- desire,
- and feeling.

In this teaching we will be looking at a believer's *affection*, and then of desire and feeling in subsequent teachings.

In simplicity, man's emotions are actually manifold feelings that he has naturally. He may be...

- loving or hateful
- joyful or sorrowful
- excited or dejected
- interested or uninterested

Yet, all these are but the way he feels. If we took the trouble to observe ourselves, we would easily perceive how changeable our feelings are. Few matters in the world are more changeable than our feelings. We can be one way one minute and quite opposite the next. Emotions change as feelings change. Oftentimes, it is because we lean too much on our emotions and are too strongly bound to our affections, desires, and feelings that we really have so little power in our Christian walk of obedience and victory.

Let's begin now by looking at the three functions of emotion that can grip us and hold us back from a true spiritual walk...so we can learn how they can cooperate, rather than obstruct us...hindering our spirits from being in ascendancy. If we allow the cross to operate deeply upon our emotional life, we will find afterwards that it no longer obstructs but rather cooperates with our spirit.

The inner life needs emotion to express life. It needs emotion not only to express love and sympathy but also to come alongside and empathize with another's suffering. If emotion is pliable...subject to the spirit...the spirit through the emotion will love or hate exactly as God wishes.

Look now at [Reference #4](#), "The Soul's Faculty of Emotion," and you will see how scripture teaches us that the *function* of emotion can be generally categorized into:

- the emotions of affection,
- the emotions of desire,

- and the emotions of feeling.

We will begin with a believer's emotions of *affection*. Yielding one's affections to the Lord might be viewed by the Christian as one of the most difficult tasks there is. Yet the Lord is concerned greatly with one's affections. He asks for first place in our affections: He asks for us to present our affections wholly to Him and let Him be Lord over them.

We talk of consecration, and this act is very important; but this act is simply the first step in one's spiritual walk. Consecration is not the destination of our spirituality, but it is simply its beginning. There is nothing more paramount in one's consecration than where we place our affections. It seems it is much easier to hand over our time and our money and even our reputation and many other things than to hand over our affections in their totality. Handing over our affections is very difficult.

This is not saying that we do not love the Lord, we love Him very much. Nevertheless, if we grant first place in our affections to another and relegate Christ to second place – or if we ourselves direct our affections, then what we have offered is not considered consecration for we have not yielded our affections. Whether or not this has been yielded determines the truth or falsity of the consecration.

God the Father asks for absolute love from His children, though, doesn't He? The Lord bids us part with what we ourselves cling to, that which divides our heart. He asks us to love Him totally and to utterly follow Him in love: *"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."* (Matthew 22:37) Nothing satisfies His heart as does our love for Him. The Lord looks not for our laboring for Him, but for our love towards Him...our loving Him.

According to Revelation 2, the church at Ephesus worked and toiled for the Lord, yet He was displeased with them. They had fallen away from their first love! Loved ones can sometimes hinder spiritual growth, can't they? As we begin to have other loves besides our love for God, we sometimes discover that He gradually loses significance in our lives. Can you remember a time in your own spiritual journey with the Lord when this has taken place? Yet God is the only One that can satisfy our hearts – anything else is deception.

The failure of many of us is to seek from man what can be found only in God. This is one of Satan's most deadly and deceptive weapons. All human affection is empty as far as meeting our deepest needs - the love of God alone is able to fully satisfy one's desires. We can only truly live by the love of God.

What then does this indicate - we need not to love man? The Bible repeatedly admonishes us to love our neighbor and even to love our enemies. So we know it is not God's will that we should not love man, but He does desire to manage our affections towards all men. This is the pathway of the cross. God wants us, for love's sake, to accept His control. When He wishes us to love someone we instantly are able to; should He also desire us to terminate our relationship with someone, we can do that, too. It's only as we allow the cross to cut deeply that we have our soul life delivered to death that we can be rid of self in our affections.

Let's look now at the story of Abraham and glean from this man's example of faith and obedience. In this story we have a dramatic picture of the surrendered life of affection and its end results.

Abraham was old when Isaac was born and the child became the delight and idol of his heart. In fact, God went out of His way to comment on the strength of his affection.

“Take now thy son,” said God to Abraham, “Thine only son Issac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon the mountain which I will tell thee of.” (Genesis 22:2)

This was Abraham’s trial by fire and he did not fail the crucible. We know the outcome, don’t we? God let Abraham go through with it up to the very point where He knew there would be no retreat, and then forbade him to lay a hand upon him. It’s as though He said, “It’s alright now, Abraham, for I never intended that you should actually slay your son. I only wanted to remove him from the temple of your heart and correct the perversion of your love.” Then heaven opened and a voice was heard saying:

By Myself have I sworn saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son; that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of the enemies, and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast obeyed My voice.” (Genesis 22:16-18)

Affection truly is the hardest element for a believer to offer to the Lord. Nevertheless, God says: *“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37)* If our affections are indeed viewed by us to be the most difficult to give wholly over to Him, yet He is greatly concerned with our affections. Where then do we begin?

We must begin with understanding truth in our minds in order to direct our lives in obedience. Remember we talked about the fact that we will direct our energies toward goals we believe in our minds will meet our needs. The best place to begin then is to identify our major basic needs and move forward in order to discern where we are deceived in directing our energies.

Our question is that of personal needs: what do we need to live full effective lives. Maslow’s classical “need hierarchy” is a good place to start since it lines up with Biblical truth that human beings have five basic primary needs. In his hierarchy, the lowest one must be met before the person is motivated to meet the second one and so on up the hierarchy. The five needs in his list, starting with the lowest or most basic need, can be seen in [Reference #5](#), “Maslow’s Classical Need Hierarchy.”

- physical
- security
- unconditional love
- purpose
- self-actualization

Now all these needs are legitimate needs and have been created by God Himself. As such, they are also to be met by Him as you can see in [Reference #6](#), “God Provision To Meets Our Needs.” Here we see that God indeed meets the needs of our humanity. To the extent that a Christian believes these verses, he will be set free from any deception he has which in turn motivates him to seek these things elsewhere. God is desiring to develop us into a full, creative, expressing person as we walk with Him in obedience and victory.

In this part of the teaching, we are specifically speaking of our affections...our love needs. Our direction for getting those needs met can look something like what you will see in **Diagram 10**, "Affections: Believer's Direction." This is simple diagram, but it will help us visually. We have a definite and legitimate need to be loved. However, we can become deceived in directing our affections contrary to where they should be - and that is in Christ - in order for our needs to be met. Think in terms that we have a love need and a belief that that love need will be met by a person or thing. That misbelief and goal then causes us to be motivated toward that person or thing in order to get that love need met. You are now walking in the flesh and ultimately the goal is never reached, ending in futility. (Ecclesiastes 2)

Our correction is that we need to come to an understanding...a revelation knowledge...that it is only God who can fulfill that deep love need. When we come to that we will motivate ourselves toward that goal: intimacy with God. Once that intimacy is cultivated and as those needs are met, the end result is that experientially we have our personal needs met. Then we can minister life to other people, and the end result is emotional health. *"If you give yourself to the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted... then your light will shine like the noonday..."* (Isaiah 58:7-8)

We now have a basic understanding of what takes place as far as dynamics. The love need is legitimate and real. It is what we believe that motivates us to go for whatever we think this need will be met by and that deception we want to have corrected with truth. I think the question we are now facing is how do we acquire this much needed motivation to cultivate intimacy with God in order for all of our affections to be placed on Him, and in return love others with the freedom that agape love is accompanied by. The end result would not only be transformation for our soul, but emotional health and a ministry of life that lasts eternally.

I think we might gain insight by looking at the apostle Paul on his journey. He said at the end of his own life, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* (2 Timothy 4:7) The race is godliness. The practicing of godliness is a discipline...an action on our part. And, a great part of godliness is keeping our affections on Christ and keeping ourselves free from idols. It is quite a battle because we have so many distractions in this world. It requires serious commitment and perseverance and effort to reach the goal of godliness and intimacy with God.

What kept Paul going as he strained ahead in the race of godliness? What were his goals and what gave him his motivation? Have you ever thought of his tremendous single-mindedness and what compelled him in his race? I believe insight can be gained by looking at Philippians 3:10-14:

"That I might know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering, being conformed to His death, if by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained or am already perfect, but I press on that I may lay hold of that which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended, but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God."

In verses 12 and 14 Paul speaks of two motivating factors. In verse 12 he presses on to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of him...his first goal. You will find that in Titus 3:14 and Ephesians 2:10. In verse 14 he also presses on to win the prize for which God has called him

heavenward in Christ Jesus...in other words, a desire for God's glory to be revealed at the return of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. That was his second goal. Paul certainly had this God-centered motivation. It was his keen awareness of Christ's objectives for him that caused him to press on with such great intensity.

For more insight now as to why Paul had such intensity and focused his whole life on the Lord Jesus Christ, look here at 2 Corinthians 5:11.

"If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died."

Paul testified that Christ's love compelled him to live not for himself, but for Him who died for us and rose again. The word "compel" which Paul uses is a very strong verb. It means to be pressed on - on all sides, and to impel or force one to a certain course of action. Not many of us can identify with that depth of motivation, but this should surely be our goal. This is the constraining force God's love should have upon us. That is what we should be reaching for.

The apostle John speaks of the same thing...the constraining force of God's love...when he says, *"We love because He first loved us."* (1 John 4:19) Whether it is love for God or love for other people, both are prompted by the realization of God's incredible love for us - a realization that only comes by revelation knowledge.

How did Paul come to realize the intensity of God's love for him in order for him to respond with such focused single-mindedness...to respond with such focused motivation for God's glory and His glory alone...and end up so focused on the Lord and so in love with Him that his affections were not divided? Was it that Paul thought himself worthy of the love that Christ had poured upon him? I believe that Scripture answers these two questions very clearly.

Paul was gripped by God's love because he saw the infinite gulf between a holy God and a sinful man and the love that bridged that gulf through the painful death of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. You see, the Lord Jesus knew Paul personally. That was very apparent when they met on the road to Damascus as recorded in the book of Acts. *"And as Paul journeyed he came near to Damascus and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"* Paul asked who was speaking. The Lord said, *"I am Jesus whom you are persecuting."* So Paul trembled and was astonished and said, *"Lord, what do You want me to do?"* (Acts 3-5; 22:9-10)

Paul's inner eyes had been opened by revelatory truth on the road to Damascus. He saw for the first time who he actually was - a persecutor of the church; and saw for the first time who Jesus actually is - the living One glorified, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. At that point Paul knew where to place his affections, his devotion, and his allegiance. He responded to the incredible personal love Christ had for him personally, and his whole life took a new direction. His energies were now channeled and his life began to be lived intensely for the Lord's purpose and glory.

Later in his letter to Timothy he reflects upon God's mercy in appointing him to the gospel ministry. Paul recalls that he once was a blasphemer and a persecutor of the church. This description no longer applies him for it is written in the past tense. As he continues to reflect upon the grace of God, he slips, almost unconsciously it seems, into the present tense of his experience.

He writes, *“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the worst.”* (1 Timothy 1:15) He is no longer thinking of his past as a persecutor of the church. Instead he is thinking about his present daily experience as a believer who falls short of the glory of God.

He didn't think about other Christians whom he knew were behind him in the race in their devotion to God and their attainment of personal Godly character. No, Paul never wasted his time trying to feel good about himself by comparing himself with less mature Christians. He compares himself with God's standard and consequently sees himself as the worst of sinners. Through the present sense of his own sinfulness, Paul sees deeply then into God's incredible love for him: His deep incredible love giving him the incredible gift of His righteousness, of dignity, of identity, and of self-worth...all gifts that are bestowed upon Paul the apostle who was the persecutor of the church.

Like Paul the more we grow in revelation knowledge of God's perfect love for us, the more we see our own sinfulness and the more we apprehend God's love for us in sending His Son Jesus Christ to die for us. The more we see His love, the more our hearts reach out in devotion to Him alone...our affections responding now to the One who loved us so much and died for us: the only One worthy of our complete love, affection and devotion. Once again, our need is for revelation knowledge - divine light placed on eternal truth - to cut through our misbeliefs of who He is...misbeliefs that render us so disinterested in spending time with Him.

Once again, we return to Paul's words for the Ephesian church: *“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ the Father of glory may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him. That the eyes of your understanding being enlightened that you may know what is the hope of His calling...who being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us even when we were dead in trespasses and sins made us alive together with Christ and raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”* (Ephesians 1:17-18; 2:4-6)

What grace, what honor, and what a gift of dignity our heavenly Father has bestowed on us in Christ. It provides a longing for God Himself. For you see, true godliness engages our affections and awakens within us a desire to enjoy God's actual presence and fellowship. As we see ourselves as Paul did on the road to Damascus, and our Lord Himself high and lifted up as Isaiah did...as we truly embrace the gift of righteousness He has bestowed on us and are obedient with our affections as Abraham was...we will progressively grow in our longing for God Himself - in our desire and longing to cultivate intimacy with Him and His Son. We will join the writer of Psalm 42 in saying, *“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for the Living God.”* This is truly loving the Lord with all our hearts, with all our strength, and with all our might.

May the Lord continue to reveal His beauty and His worthiness for our undivided affections. *“Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding and I shall keep Your law. Indeed, I will observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Turn my heart toward Your statutes, and not toward selfish gain. Turn my 'eyes' away from worthless things. Renew my life according to Your word.”* (Psalm 119:33-37)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES USED IN TEACHING:

Matthew 22:37, 38

Mark 12:31-33

1John 4:17-19

John 8:42

John 14:15, 21, 23

2 Corinthians 5:14

Matthew 22:37-39

John 13:34

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

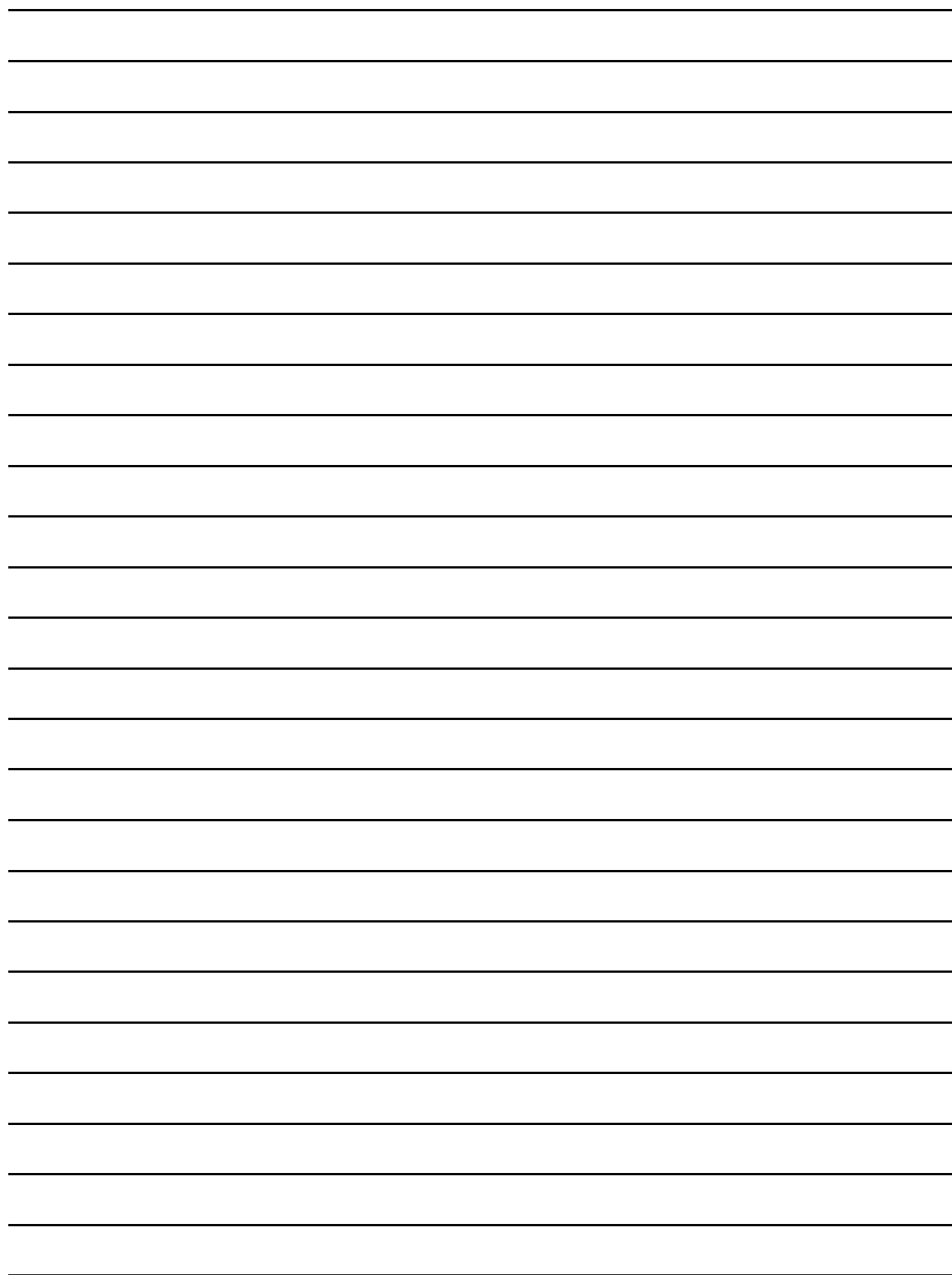
2 Peter 1:3

2 Corinthians 5:12

Isaiah 58:6-12

Notes:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Section V

Gaining God's Eternal Perspective

Gaining God's Eternal Perspective

An overview: In this section of the teaching we will look at ...

- the function of conscience in our spirit and how it affects communion
- how the Holy Spirit uses our conscience to expose hidden sin
- how to clear the conscience after areas have been revealed
- the importance of a clear conscience and what a must that is for a consistent communion

Sometimes limited knowledge has our conscience condemn us of things which should not be condemned; but also sometimes limited knowledge hinders the conscience for reproving those things which should be judged and are destructive tot us

In our last teaching, we looked at the comprehensiveness of the emotional life. We began to learn that its various expressions can be gathered or categorized into three functions: that of affection, desire, and feeling. We also saw that there are few things in our lives as changeable as our emotions. We can be one way one minute and feel quite the opposite in the next. It is oftentimes because we lean too much upon our emotions and are too strongly bound...attached...to our desires and feelings that we sometimes lack power in our Christian walk.

In that teaching we then came to understand that the Lord truly does ask for first place in our affections. *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."* (Matthew 22:37) Our affections are truly the hardest part to give over to the Lord and yet He is the only One worthy of such deep, deep devotion.

We looked at both Abraham and Paul from the scriptures and saw how the Lord worked with both them for the purification of their devotion and allegiance to Him. We saw Paul on the road to Damascus breathing out threatening to the church and then we saw that as the Lord manifested Himself before him Paul was able to see the Lord for who He truly is...and to also see who he was apart from Him. It was then that Paul genuinely pledged himself and his allegiance to serve Him ...for he saw the resurrected Lord Jesus the way He really is. Then we looked at Abraham, and we saw a process. There was nothing wrong with the love Abraham had for his son Isaac, but God knew it was bordering on the peril of becoming idolatrous. So, God intervened and required of him the sacrifice of his son. From Abraham's life and God's interaction with him at this point, we learned that there is nothing wrong with love; but God wants our love for Him to be without mixture and in first place in our lives.

So, we saw how the Lord worked indeed with both Paul and Abraham for the purification of their affections. Once again, we saw our great need for revelation knowledge – divine light on eternal truth to cut through misbeliefs and false views of Him which hinder not only our affections for Him but also our desires for His Presence and communion in our lives.

In this teaching, we come to our next aspect of the function of emotion and that is *desire*. See **Diagram 11**, “Believer’s Direction: Desire” Desire seems to occupy the largest part of our emotional life and it oftentimes joins with our will to rebel against God’s will. Our innumerable desires oftentimes create very confused feelings which in turn make it is difficult for us to follow the Spirit.

So many of our ambitions are linked with our self-centered desires...motivations that are really hidden from us in the soil of our hearts. We are not quite aware of why we do the things we are doing until the light of God’s Word and the power of the Holy Spirit progressively surfaces - brings to light – why we are doing the things we are doing...thereby purifying our motives of pride. We should welcome such corrections and reproofs from Him for pride is the deadliest of sins and it springs from desire.

Man aspires to have a place of recognition: to be looked up to, to be well thought of, and to be affirmed. This inclination of desire can make a person very ambitious. If we traced the course of our life and worked back to the source, we might be very surprised to discover that our own desires for affirmation and recognition were really driving many of our endeavors and undertakings...even our work in the Lord. Yet we were most unaware of why we were doing the things we were doing and the hidden motive!

However good, praiseworthy, and effective one’s walk and labor for the Lord may appear to be, if they are motivated by our own self-centered ambition apart from God, those things are nevertheless judged by God to be wood, hay, and stubble. But even knowing this as an eternal truth, why this unceasing drive -

- to be seen,
- to be admired,
- to be important,
- to be thought well of

and so much so that we often make it our very life’s ambition to pursue the goal in order to fill that void even if we know it is contrary to the will of God...avenues which we believe would satisfy these desires, even avenues we know to be contrary to the Word of God.

If we were open up our spiritual ears and listen for God we might be able to discern a cry within our own hearts and within the hearts of other people – and that cry is a cry for self-worth, personal significance, and self-importance. But why such a consistent cry? Why are we in such a desperate state? All is a desperate cry to get back the life lost in the garden of Eden: a tremendous desire in us to find and bring back that which was lost in the fall of Adam and Eve through sin. What were the things lost at that time? Many things – too numerable to mention; but one thing was that our first parents really did lose personal meaning, personal self-worth, and personal significance at the fall. For Adam and Eve lost personal purpose and meaning in life when they lost their relationship to God. Though still “living,” our first parents had indeed lost something of tremendous value: they had now lost life - true life; and everyone of us by natural birth have inherited that same void...the emptiness of true life.

Thus, ever since then we have all tried to make up for it – through deceptive ways fashioned by this world system and the god of it, Satan. Perhaps the best way to identify the voices of these deceptions is to recall some of them just for a moment: You really haven't lived until you...

- have tried,
- have felt,
- have heard,
- have tasted,
- have seen,
- have accomplished...

this, that, or the other. All is a desperate cry...a tremendous desire within...to regain the life that was lost in the garden of Eden through sin.

Purpose and meaning are God given needs, and you can see that they are fourth on the list of our needs listed in [Reference #7](#), "Maslow's Classical Need Hierarchy: Purpose, Significance, Self-Worth." As paraphrased from Larry Crabb, it is important to note at this time though that all the first four needs are essentially self-centered. They involve a taking in, rather than a giving out. For example, I need to draw from outside resources to meet my physical needs and also in order to experience love and purpose. In light of this, motivation to meet any of these first four needs might be called deficit motivation...a desire prompted by a felt lack and designed to supply what is missing. Only the last need of self-actualization...that is, full human expression...allows for a non-egocentric, other centered motivation to give rather than to get.

Now it is interesting to note that most psychologists measure mental health in terms of the development of "social interest" - an active concern for the needs of others. If it is true that mental health is best defined in terms of a person's genuine interest in expressing himself for the good of others, and if it is impossible to reach that stage of full expression until the first four needs are met, then really only believers have the resources to become fully human, fully expressive people. Likewise, if it is true that every attempt to meet personal needs apart from a committed relationship with Jesus Christ falls short of the goal, then every non-Christian must be trapped in stages 3 and 4. This is also true for any believer if his self-worth does not spring from his relationship with Christ because he is not and cannot be fully satisfied in his basic personal needs apart from Him. There will always be an undercurrent of motivation to find significance and security and self-worth in all his behavior - deficit motivation.

In Romans 7:15 Paul wrote: *"For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate."* We are often operating from an unconscious framework; and we are thinking - if we aren't by revelation knowledge knowing we are complete in Christ and knowing we have self-worth - we are really going at something by deficit motivation in order to obtain it. We often lose that motivation towards certain things when we come to an understanding of who we already are in Christ. Then your motivation will be purified and even though you may be doing the same thing you will be operating from a different standpoint. These are the nooks and crannies when the Holy Spirit convicts us and this is what you want when you say, "Lord, search my heart of hidden sins, not just presumptuous sins, but hidden sins." You will discover that so much of our motivation is actually impure; and it is so freeing once we are rid of it. There is a true freedom that is given when we are convicted and purified of deficit motivation.

As Christians we know that the Bible is written for our instruction...to correct, encourage, reprove, and guide us in godly living and walking by faith in Christ while here on earth. So let us look to it for wisdom and a man who attempted to find meaning apart from God and His Word and the end results. This will be a familiar passage for some of you, but certainly worth going over now in our study.

In chapter two of Ecclesiastes, Solomon carefully listed for us the various ways in which he attempted to find meaning in life, significance, self-worth. He said to himself: *"Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself. And behold, it too was futility. I said of laughter, 'It is madness' and of pleasure, 'What does it accomplish?' I explored with my mind how to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding me wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives. I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself; I made gardens and parks for myself and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees."* Solomon then says in several verses later, *"All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all the labor which I had exerted, and behold, all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun. So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind."* (Ecclesiastes 2:1-5; 10-11; 17)

Two things made Solomon quite different from most of us, but because of these two things we can reap much wisdom from him and his experience.

- First, he had the position and the finances to try all of the options that he imagined might give some sense of meaning to life.
- Second, he had the insight to see through the emptiness of everything he tried...he had wisdom.

Solomon found out these were mere deceptions to lead him away from the only place he could actually find life, self-worth, and significance, and that was his relationship to God.

What we really want to come to see and understand here, though, is that it is not what we are doing that is the issue. The real issue isn't really what we are doing, but what motivates us to do it. This is what we want to concentrate on now. We want to go behind the scenes again. Are we motivated by deficit motivation...a desire prompted by a felt lack; or are we motivated by a desire to express ourselves from a place of completeness in Christ which really does produce true personal freedom?

Although we do not possess Solomon's gold, we have our own ambitions and fragile fantasies in our minds. For these we struggle and sacrifice, envy and covet, and of course in very subtle and non-apparent ways. Unfortunately, we oftentimes neglect the wisdom given to us by the Lord through Solomon, so we cling tenaciously to our idols and respectable pride - unwilling to admit to ourselves or anyone else: *"Is there not a lie in my right hand?"* (Isaiah 44:20) We humans have no choice but to deal with this issue of self-worth and meaning in life:

- to search for it,
- to fight for it,

- to envy others for it,
- to react against those who take it from us,
- to grieve because it was lost,
- or, most deceptively, to be deluded into thinking we have found it apart from God and our identity in Christ.

You see, the conscious or unconscious issue of self-worth and purpose has driven every man who ever lived. So with this tremendous need on our hands, where do we go? We want to break out of deficit motivation, don't we?

- We want to stop striving
- We want to stop pushing
- and we want to stop performing

and begin operating from a place of completeness - expressing life, loving others, serving others...free from the shackles of this drive with its deceptive motives.

Where do we go? Well, back to Paul's words for the Ephesian church:

"...that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe...but God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians. 1:18-19; 2:4-6)

The key verse here is: *"...and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."* This is a key verse for this particular need we have.

What does it mean to be seated with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus? Why is it so important for us to understand? It means that in our union with the resurrected Lord we are someone so complete in Him that presently we are now seated with Him in spirit at the Father's right hand.

In Christ, we can move through stages 1-4 by our faith in Jesus. As we do that, we will be freed from a life of self-centered concern and move on to a full expression of how God intended us to be: confidently knowing that our physical needs will be met according to His purposes as well as our personal needs for love and significance...both now and forever.

See **Reference #8**, "Christians, Do You Know Who You Are?" Remember: it is revelation knowledge that cuts through misbeliefs. As we come to really believe who we are in Christ and begin living in accordance with these truths, we will be progressively freed from deficit motivation and the tremendous pressure to agree with the world's false values system of living for:

- money,
- pleasure,
- affirmation,
- comfort,

- fame
- accomplishments,
- relationships,
- physical security,
- and a thousand other things.

Only Christians can be free from operating from a deficit motivation, and only Christians can become fully human as God intended them to be: for only Christians have the resources in Christ. If these truths in God's Word are not realized and worked out in our lives, we will be continually operating - even in the subtlest way - from a feeling of deficit and act in ways designed to fill the void. We will be directing our lives in a way something like what we see on [Diagram 11](#).

There is a legitimate God-given need for self-worth, purpose, and significance. The deception is we believe the world's value system is the way that need is met. We will operate out of deficit motivation to get goal, position, power, status, wealth, popularity, etc., in an attempt to have a place (feeling) of self-worth. Like Solomon, the end result is futility...an emptiness that still begs for fulfillment. When we have revelation knowledge and believe that all our needs have already been met in Christ, we will begin to act on that truth and we count on Him moment by moment to meet those needs. Thus we are operating from our place of completeness in Him and drawing from His fullness. (John 1:16) What freedom that brings to us. The end result is a ministry of life to others and personal emotional health as well.

It is one thing to say that we can claim by faith that our needs are met in Christ and live in stage five of self-actualization, serving from a place of completeness in Him; it is quite another thing to disentangle ourselves successfully from the very sticky web of deficit motivation. Again, where do we begin? I believe the only place to begin being freed from this tremendous deficit motivation, this feeling of needing to get, to achieve, to obtain in order to be of self-worth, is to learn about who we have already become as a born again child of God in Christ. See [Reference #8](#), *Christians, Do You Know Who You Are?* When we are born again...born from above... and become a Christian, we become someone we never were before. To enter into the kingdom of God requires that one be of a different species. So Jesus said, *"Do not be amazed that I said to you, You must be born again."* (John 3:7) In his book *Birthright*, David Needham describes Christians as "a new species." He writes: "These two segments of the human race are at opposite poles, they are basically in antithesis. They dwell together because they are both members of the family of man. They are one genus, to use the zoological term. But something has happened to cause them to separate into two species within that genus, and this separation is at a far deeper and more fundamental level than mere genetics. The division is the resulting of a spiritual transformation that really constitutes a new creation - nothing less, in fact, than rebirth. It is not a symbolic rebirth, like that achieved of ritual in some pagan religions of antiquity and even today. It is a fundamental change in human nature, so great a change that it amounts to a genuine form of speciation. We indeed remain in the world, but we are no longer of the world."

What tremendous truth, what tremendous reality, and what an incredible gift of self-worth, meaning, purpose, and significance. What a glorious destiny God has had in His mind for us! Indeed God has met our need for self-worth and significance and purpose - not by earning it - but by new birth and gifting us with identity.

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10)

In the light of this truth do you see a new identity and purpose in Christ for you?

Peter then goes on to say in verse 11: *“I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly desires which wage war against your soul.”* This is the Lord speaking through Peter. He is pleading that His people abstain from fleshly desires which wage war against their soul because they are no longer of this world. That is the radicalness of the new birth. You are in another kingdom now. The Lord said in His high priestly prayer to His Father: *“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”* (John 17:16) How do we cultivate this kind of mind-set? How do we bring this spiritual reality into our everyday experience: our individual lives, our families, our marriages, our jobs, our relationships, our churches...especially when there is a world system that shouts for our undivided attention and allegiance? What is the condition that will bring this about?

Let’s look at an example of a man who lived to the utmost truth he taught, back to Paul. Who wrote a letter to the Philippian church while he was being held in prison in Rome. In Philippians 4:10-12 he has finished with doctrine and now wants to thank them for the personal gift they had sent to him.

“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that at now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed you were concerned before, but lacked opportunity. Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.” (Philippians. 4:10-12)

The real essence of the message for us is in verse 11: *Not that I speak from want...* remember where Paul is writing this from, and this is the key - *for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.*

There are two big principles here in this passage and we need to embrace them both. The first of course is the condition at which Paul has arrived. The second is the way in which he had arrived at that condition. Let’s look at the condition to which he attained as it is very much the goal of our own lives as well. Paul describes it by the word that is translated here as content: *“for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.”* It is very important that we should get the precise meaning of this word. The word here does not fully explain itself for it really means that he is self-sufficient: independent of circumstances or conditions or surroundings, having sufficiency in one’s self *in the sufficiency of Christ.*

The affirmation made here by Paul is that he has arrived at a state in which he can say honestly and truthfully that he is independent of his position, his circumstances, his surroundings, and everything that is happening to him. Now this was no mere rhetorical statement on his part and this is made very clear in the life you see in his epistles; for he experienced...

- hardships

- shipwrecks
- persecutions
- privations
- fastings
- loneliness
- and was also writing while confined in prison.

Certainly, his life was not a life of ease, yet still he writes, “...*content in whatever circumstances I am.*” In other words, Paul was saying he was self-sufficient, independent of his surroundings and sufficient himself *in the sufficiency of Jesus Christ*. We see the condition Paul had arrived at and that condition was perfect contentment.

Now we need to look at how he arrived at such a condition. He wrote, “*I learned the secret.*” What did Paul mean when he said that...what secret had Paul learned? Paul was saying he had *come to learn* the secret. It is encouraging for us that he said that, for Paul was not always like this, any more than any of us. He had come to learn: “...*in any and every circumstance I learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.*” If you look closely at this phrase, it means in every single detail of his life. That is what the original conveys. Scholars are all agreed here in saying that what Paul really says is: “I have been initiated, let into the secret, let into the mystery.” He says he that he *learned* to be content in this condition. What condition? How did he learn it? How do we learn it?

In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 Paul shares about his thorn in the flesh. He *learned* by sheer experience. He did not like it and he struggled against it. Three times he prayed that it might be removed, but it was not removed. Initially, he could not reconcile himself to it. He was impatient, he was anxious to go on preaching and this thorn in the flesh was keeping him down. Then he was taught that lesson, the secret. “*My grace is sufficient for you.*” A very insightful passage, let’s not lose out its wisdom because it is so familiar to us.

Grace, as used in the New Testament, really expresses two complementary thoughts: God’s unmerited favor to us through Christ – all of what we have in Christ Jesus positionally - AND God’s divine assistance to us through His Holy Spirit. Paul came to a place of understanding how God works with him by sheer experience; but it was not through mere circumstances alone that Paul came to learn the truth of: “*My grace is sufficient for you.*” In his lifetime on earth he worked out this truth in his mind, applied it to his situation, and counted on the Holy Spirit to make it a part of his spiritual bloodstream, his lifestyle. In the same way, there are truths we too must lay hold of as we wrestle through life’s deceptions. See [Reference #9](#), “Working Through Life’s Deceptions with Truth.” Paul must have reasoned in much the same way as he walked by faith in God through life.

Paul may have thought something like this: Conditions are always changing; therefore, I must not be dependent on them for the LORD foils the plans of the nations...but His plans stand firm forever. Then knowing God’s love for him, Paul may have added this to his thinking: God is concerned about me and nothing happens to me apart from Him. This is working through deception with truth from God’s Word. Paul knew of God’s providential care and His love beyond a doubt for they had become written on his heart as he spent time in God’s Word. In light of these two truths, he was not dependent on circumstances or conditions for his contentment.

Having brought God's providence to mind and His love for him, Paul may have also reasoned in his heart during difficult and various trials something like this: God's will and God's ways are always a mystery, but I know whatever He permits is of necessity and for my good. I choose to rejoice by faith in Him alone – since God has engineered or allowed this for me and I need it, I don't fight it.

Just like Paul, you and I must also know God and His love and His will and His ways: *"For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh."* (2 Corinthians 4:11) Like Paul, we want to have and keep an eternal perspective - God the Father delivers us over to death so that Christ's life will manifest in our flesh and others will see Christ in us. This is an eternal perspective and where the eyes of faith are to be. Therefore, we do not lose heart.

An eternal perspective is vital. Oftentimes people ask about marriage. They think that it is an end in itself. Instead, it is a man and a woman coming together to be transformed for eternity. They are given by God as gifts to each other. It is two individuals coming together in unity and are being transformed from that point on by each other as His tools. The goal is eternity. The goal isn't a good marriage, the goal is what God is doing in each heart to show them what He wants to change in them because He is getting them prepared for eternity.

Whenever we lay hold of truth in God's Word and use it, it is extremely helpful and freeing. It is really because you are passing on through time to eternity: now counts forever. Your responses really do count. If you have this truth - *"For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal"* (2 Corinthians 4:17-18) - in perspective whether as a single person, a married person, or a person in a family, you will not lose heart. On the other hand, if you are wasting the affliction God has brought your way - you are really wasting your sorrows. What you want to do is let the affliction work for you. As you lean very heavily upon the Holy Spirit, let the circumstances...difficult as they may be...work for you. In doing that, the Holy Spirit then gives you, just like Paul, strength and life and confident hope and courage.

Paul may have also reflected on this truth in Philippians 3:8, *"...I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord..."* What mattered supremely and vitally to him was his relationship to Jesus. You see, the truth of the salvation of the soul is precious. Paul understood the tri-unity of man: that we are made up of spirit, soul, and body. The spirit is regenerated...made alive...when we are born again. The soul is in a process of being transformed, and at the Lord's return we will receive glorified bodies like His. Jesus said, *"By your endurance you gain your lives (souls)."* and *"He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal."* (Luke 21:19; John 12:25) What is really being put to death as we are going through life's struggles is the self-life. This Paul knew. The Lord doesn't want to annihilate us, but He does want us to get rid of anything that doesn't line up with His nature, with who He is. Remember, we are constantly being delivered over to death that the life of Christ will manifest. In the midst of the tests, the trials, the temptations is God's providence and God's love. If I respond righteously it is going to kill me more: it is going to crucify my self-life more. As I go on and on sowing to the spirit this way, in due time my soul will be transformed and I will be lining up with what He has ordained for me to become.

Our relationship with Christ is what God is concerned about. We are always loved by the Lord, but to experience His love we need to keep His commandments. I must regard circumstances and conditions not in and of themselves but ultimately as a part of God's dealing with me to final perfection. *"All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."* (Hebrews 12:11) God knows that discipline is not fun for any of us, and that it doesn't feel good to have the cross applied to our flesh. However, the scripture does say that to those who have been trained by it experiential righteousness is brought forth. When you look at the word trained you will find that it represents the thought of the Holy Spirit Himself taking you and putting you in a gymnasium, stripping you down, looking at the parts of your body that are weak, and then saying, "I want those parts strengthened by exercise."

This is incredible truth, so if you are in rough, hard-pressed times, don't despise, don't turn away. Say, "Lord, what is it in my circumstances that You have brought to me, what is it in my heart that is weak that You want me to exercise in and become stronger in?" Don't expect a lot of happy feelings during these trials, but the joy is knowing truth and knowing after you have suffered awhile God will establish and confirm you. Keep this in mind like Paul, *"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled."* (Hebrews 12:15) In other words, if you don't respond rightly there is a chance you will become bitter, a root will then grow up, and you will defile many and you will be wasting your sorrows, your afflictions and hard times. You will be selling your birthright like Esau did for a morsel of food...for a release of the temporary suffering. And finally remember, whatever your circumstances may be at this moment, they are only temporary. They are only passing and when correctly adjusted to they cannot rob you of the joy and the glory that ultimately await you.

In bringing closure to this teaching, what I really see consistently in the life of Paul through all his letters - beyond his ability to so thoroughly reason through life's many deceptions for significance, meaning, and purpose - is that he learned to find his full joy, pleasure, and satisfaction in Christ alone. His intimacy with Christ was so deep and so great that he had become independent of everything else...he had truly *learned* the Biblical meaning of contentment.

May God continue to remind us in the same way of who we are and help us through the divine enablement of His Spirit to live according to our glorious identity in Christ Jesus. May we in turn continue the fight of faith like Paul in working out our salvation in fear and trembling, knowing all the while that it is God who is at work in us both to will and do for His good pleasure.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES USED IN TEACHING:

Psalms 33:10-11

Genesis 12:17

Genesis 20:6

Genesis 50:20

Exodus 3:21

Exodus 8:22

Exodus 9:29

Ezekiel 1:1

Luke 21:19

John 12:25

Hebrews 10:39

1 Peter 1:9

John 15:1, 10

Psalms 139:1-3, 13-16

1 Peter 1:6-9

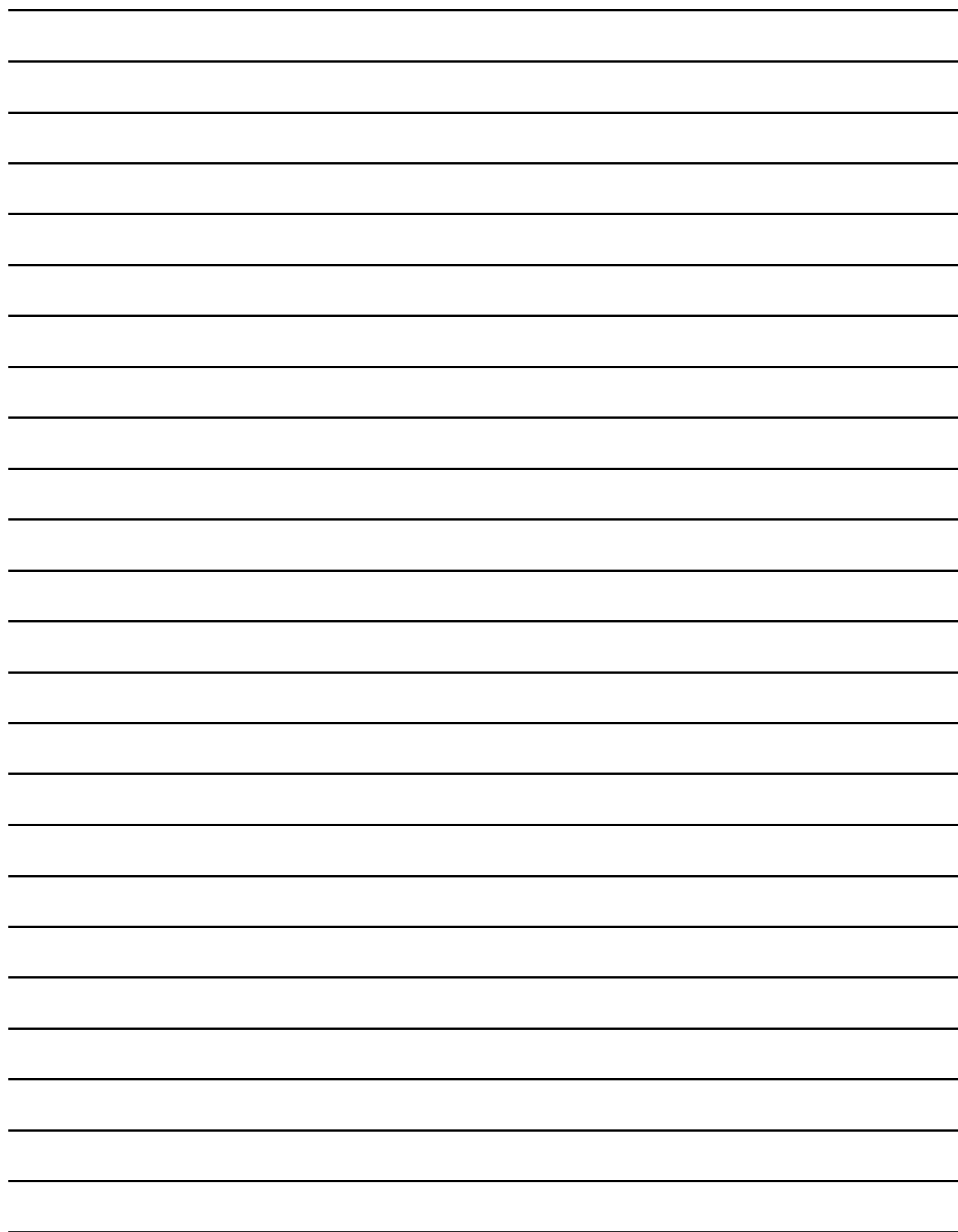
2 Corinthians 4:11, 15

Proverbs 21:1
Daniel 4:34-35
Acts 16:6-7
Romans 8:28-29

2 Corinthians 4:18
Hebrews 12:5-7, 9-11, 15-16
Philippians 3:7-9
Philippians 2:12-13

Notes:

[illegible]



Section VI
A Life of Faith

A Life of Faith

We have come to see in the previous sections that worshipping the Lord in spirit and truth really involves a lifestyle of obedience, and we have looked at some very beautiful truths:

- the tri-unity of man,
- the function of our human spirit,
- how to cultivate spiritual sensitivity,
- the importance of revelation knowledge,
- the significant place our minds have in our walk with God,
- and the function of that walk.

We have seen that because of our new birth we are truly free to choose righteously, and have realized that God wants the whole man in relationship with Himself...spirit, soul, and body. We then looked more closely at our emotional life and saw that it can be categorized into three major functions:

- that of affection,
- that of desire,
- and that of feeling.

We have already covered the first two functions of emotions -

- that of affection,
- and that of desire.

In this teaching, we will be concluding our study on what it means to truly worship the Lord in spirit and truth by going a little more into understanding the life dominated and controlled by *feeling*...the third function of emotion. As we have already seen, in most instances, a negative emotion can be traced to a wrong assumption about how personal needs can be met. Now depression, anxiety, resentment, and guilt are probably the most common emotional difficulties we have as believers.

- Guilt comes from believing that what God has provided for us is not enough. Therefore we go outside of God's will - contrary to His laws - to get what we think we need.
- Resentment comes from believing that our needs are threatened by what God has allowed to happen in our lives.
- Anxiety is the fear that something we need will not be provided by God.
- Depression is a state of mind in which feelings of sadness, loss, anger, frustration, and hopelessness interfere with everyday life.

How we think not only determines the range of behavior from which we choose, but it also greatly influences how we feel. In other words, if I understand myself as worthwhile, I will evaluate what happens to me in such a way that I will not be so apt to be crippled by feelings of depression, guilt, resentment, or anxiety. Therefore, in this teaching, I want to cover *the category of feeling* a little more directly than that of affection and desires.

For example, guilt is something we have all experienced. We move out to what we don't have in order to feel like a worthwhile person. The Holy Spirit moves to convict us of wrong motives, we then repent of our sin and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Then we are back into intimacy and communion with our heavenly Father. So we see that guilt can be very helpful. Positionally in Christ we are freed from all guilt, but guilt is oftentimes a signal. Where did I go wrong, what was I doing, how did I move out ahead of God, what did I forget of the truth? Resentment comes from believing that whatever God brings my way circumstantially is threatening to me. We are threatened by something God has allowed to happen to us. Anxiety is the fear that something I need, something I personally want, will not be provided by God: so we are anxious. Depression.....Again, these can be signals to us.

Because what we think so determines our behavior and our choices that we make and so much determines how we are going to feel about a situation, I want to cover the category of feeling indirectly...a little bit more indirectly than I did with affection and desire. Check with above

If we focus our attention on the treatment rather than the cause of a life of emotional instability, we will come not only to understand the cause more deeply but also learn for ourselves how to prevent responses which contribute to being crippled by a life of 'feeling'. See [Reference # 11](#).

Do you know that you can be depressed and not have it cripple your life? You can be anxious and move out regardless and not have it cripple your life. I am talking here about a crippling that fleshly emotions bring to our lives if we don't see truth appropriately. Therefore, and appropriately so, we will spend our last time together in this teaching by concluding our series with looking at the life walked by 'faith' and what it really means to fight the fight of faith for the glory of God.

The Bible discloses for us the normal path of a Christian's walk: we are to live by faith in God and His Son Jesus Christ and not by natural sight. Consider this truth in these passages:

"...but the righteous man shall live by faith..." (Romans 1:17)

"...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God..." (Galatians 2:20)

"... for we walk by faith, not by sight..." (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Clearly, it is by faith we are to live! This principle may be easily grasped in our mind, but if we are honest with ourselves and others it is not so easily worked out in our lives. The life of faith is not only totally opposite to the life of fleshly feelings, it is diametrically opposed to it at the same time.

Now we will be looking at two very insightful passages...Luke 8:22-25 and 2 Peter 1:3. They both pertain to this issue of faith and will help us to understand what faith is and what it is not, and how it is worked out in our lives. Let's begin now with Luke 8:22-25.

“Now on one of those days Jesus and His disciples got into a boat, and He said to them, ‘Let us go over to the other side of the lake.’ So they launched out. But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a fierce gale of wind descended on the lake, and they began to be swamped and to be in danger. They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, ‘Master, Master, we are perishing!’ And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm. And He said to them, ‘Where is your faith?’ They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, ‘Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?’”

As noted in Lloyd Jones Spiritual Depression, the Lord Jesus in this passage asked this question of His disciples: *“Where is your faith?”* It is apparent here that these disciples had faith because that wasn’t the question. Instead He said, *“Where is your faith?”* What Jesus was asking them was, *“Where is it now?”* Oftentimes we fall into feelings of depression, anxiety, and discouragement because we don’t really understand the nature of true faith - the intrinsic qualities and characteristics of that faith. This is what we really want to look into through the teaching in this section.

When we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to save us and are then born again of the Holy Spirit we are given the gift of faith...meaning a measure of faith...by God. That does not mean we fully understand the nature of faith. It may be that while we are truly Christians through the receiving faith to believe we get ourselves into spiritual trouble because we do not understand what faith really is.

According to the Word of God, faith is given as a gift to us but from there on Scripture shows us that we are to do something with it. This passage in Luke brings out the vital importance of distinguishing between the original gift of faith given at the new birth and the walk or life of faith which comes subsequently. God starts us off in the Christian life and then we are to walk in it. For *“We walk by faith, not by sight.”* Again, in this particular passage in Luke there is a great lesson for us with regard to the disciples and their condition. It is a great lesson in the nature and character of faith. Here they were in the boat with Jesus and a storm arose and they were suddenly in difficulty. They bailed out the water to the best of their ability, but the boat was filling up and they could see by sight that in a few moments it was going to sink. They had done everything and to no avail; then they said, *“Master, Master, we are perishing!”* In other words, they were saying, *“Are You not concerned about us at all?”* That is oftentimes a response to a bad situation. We, too, may respond in the midst of any fiery ordeal, *“Where are You, Lord? I don’t sense Your presence. It appears to me by feeling that You don’t care and are very cruel in what You are taking me through.”* That, too, is basically what the disciples were insinuating. *“Don’t You really care what is happening to us?”* This is a very human response! See Diagram – “Emotion: A Person’s Response to Living Situations”

Jesus arose then, and having rebuked the wind and the sea, He then rebuked His disciples: *“Where is your faith?”* He rebuked them for being in that state of agitation, terror and alarm while He was with them in the boat. So our first acknowledgement needs to be that their response was wrong in the midst of their circumstances...and that our responses are often wrong.

Jesus rebuked them. This is our first lesson. It is a normal reaction to trouble for those who are not Christians, but the Christian is different from other people. The Christian has something which the non-Christian does not possess. In Christ we are sojourners and are totally provided for: all the resources in Christ Jesus are at our disposal in every circumstance.

The second lesson in this passage is that these disciples obviously lacked self-control. See [Reference #12](#), “Self-Control” Then look at the scripture quoted at the bottom of it. This verse in Proverbs is very descriptive. These disciples lost control because they became controlled by their circumstances.

The third lesson in this passage implies that they really had a lack of trust and confidence in the Lord and in His concern and love for them. “*Master, Master, we are perishing!*” In other words, “Master, Master, we perish, don’t You see. Don’t You see what is happening to us? Don’t You care what happens to us?” It was initially a lack of faith in His concern for them and so they took charge and went after the situation themselves. They took control and started bailing out the water themselves. Isn’t that what we do?

The first principle we see then is this: God gives each one a measure of faith when we first believe on His Son and then He tests us in our faith. In 1 Peter 1: 6-9 we read:

“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.”

The word “distressed” implies heaviness here - you are going through suffering to the point that it hurts...it is excruciating. You are grieving. It is a very difficult situation. Notice though that it also says “for a little while” –in other words for a season. That is very encouraging for us. A season represents a time, it represents that it is going to be over. There is heaviness for a season because of certain circumstances. Circumstantially you are going through rough times and these are hard circumstances. There is, however, definite purpose in it! The object is the trial of faith. Peter is concerned here with the end result: faith’s purification - the stripping of props that hold us up apart from the written Word of God and the living Lord Jesus and His presence. We are being stripped, but our faith is being purified. That is the theme of all the Scriptures.

In this scripture, the reason we are being stripped is for the purification of our faith. As a nation we are very blessed with all the gifts God has given us. For the most part, we have shelter, food, hospitals, medicine. These are the peripherals, but they are gifts that God has given us. Many countries do not have what we have here, yet their faith is so strong. In chapter 12 of Hebrews verse 5 we are admonished, “*My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him.*” In other words, don’t despise the chastening of the Lord. Look at any distressing circumstances you may find yourself in for a season and allow them to do their work. Don’t waste your sorrows, because afterwards there is a righteous peace, a joy, a freedom, and more strength in the faith that you have. We must allow the discipline of God’s Word to prune us. We don’t have a lot of external things that lead us to the Scriptures like the afflictions other countries encounter. So daily, allow His Word to do surgery on you. After the surgery comes the healing, the refreshing, and the joy. Times are going to get worse: that has already been prophesized in the Scriptures. It is a fact. So, test me now Lord. It doesn’t feel good, but test me now so I will be more pure and more able to stand. We will go through trials and our faith will be tried. This theme is throughout the Bible and you find it in the history of the patriarchs. You find it

in both the Old and New Testaments. Our faith will be tried, and James goes so far as to say, *“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.”* (James 1:2)

Why are we to count it all joy when we encounter such various trials? I don't feel joy when I am going through chastening or correction. It is not very joyful, but I have joy in the truth. I have joy that it is for a season. I have joy that God has ordained it. I have joy that God loves me. Not because I feel it so much but because God's written word says so and the Holy Spirit bears witness to it. Remember James words: *“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.”* Paul went a step further and wrote: *“For to you it has granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.”* (Philippians 1:29) As Paul and Barnabas were going on their missionary journey they visited the churches warning and encouraging them to continue in the faith telling them: *“...Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”* (Acts 14:22) And Jesus Himself said to those following Him, *“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33) We must start realizing that to be forewarned is to be forearmed in this matter. Our faith is a gift and it will be tried!

The second principle we want to glean from the Luke passage is that faith is not something magical. It does not act automatically: it is something which has to be exercised. It does not come into operation itself - you and I have to put it into operation. Faith is a response to truth and is a form of activity. Faith involves action on our part...it is a putting legs on our belief. See [Reference #13](#), “Understanding Faith.” When the Lord rebuked His disciples in the boat with His question, *“Where is your faith,”* He basically asked them, “Why are you not taking your faith and applying it to these present circumstances?” In other words, why are you not applying the faith you have to these circumstances. It was because they had not done so that they were in such a state of frenzy and emotionally disturbed operating by their feelings, and Jesus rebuked them.

The third principle we glean from the Luke passage is the value of even the weakest or smallest faith. However small and incomplete the faith of these disciples was on this occasion, they nevertheless had a sufficient amount of faith for their present circumstances. Eventually they went to the Lord in the end, not right away, but in the end. They went to Him having been for a time agitated, distressed, alarmed, and exhausted. But, they went to Him in the end. They finally went to Him so they still had some kind of sense that He could do something in the situation. They woke Him and said, *‘Master, Master, we are perishing!’* The undertone was, “Master, are You not going to do something about this?” Little faith, yes; nevertheless it was faith and enough for their particular circumstance.

Even faith the size of a mustard seed is valuable because it takes us to Him. We have seen from this passage in Luke some general principles of faith...of understanding what faith is and how faith functions:

- it is a gift,
- it will be tried,
- it does not act automatically,
- even the weakest faith has value,
- and we always have enough for our particular circumstances.

Now look at [Reference #14](#), “A Deeper Look at Faith.” According to His Word, God does not allow any one of us to be tempted beyond what we are able to bear...whether there is a seduction

to evil or a trail of faith in that temptation. It is especially important to understand that each moment, in whatever circumstances He brings our way, not to be deceived - you have enough faith to respond to the circumstance regardless of the situation. There is never a time in whatever He takes you through that He hasn't equipped you to be able to exercise the faith He has given you.

“For no temptation – no trial regarded as enticing to sin [no matter how it comes or where it leads] – has overtaken you and laid hold on you that is beyond human resistance and that is not adjusted and adapted and belonging to human experience and such as man can bear. But God is faithful [to His Word and to His compassionate nature], and He [can be trusted] not to let you be tempted and tried and assayed beyond your ability and strength of resistance and power to endure, but with the temptation He will [always] also provide the way out – the means of escape to a landing place – that you may be capable and strong and powerful patiently to bear up under it. Therefore, my dearly beloved, shun – keep clear away from, avoid by flight if need be – any sort of idolatry (of loving or venerating anything more than God.) (1 Corinthians 10:13-14 AMP)

GROWING IN FAITH AS WE GROW IN CHRIST ...

Now we can move along to 2 Peter 1:1-11 where we can look in a little more detail at how we complete our faith and how our capacity to believe grows.

“Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for this reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and you're your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or shortsighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

It's important to know the reason Peter wrote this letter. The reason he wrote it was to deal with the issue of spiritual depression. He wrote this letter to Christians who were experiencing strong feelings of discouragement and despair. He wrote to encourage them who had been discouraged to such a degree that they seemed to have been doubting the faith which they had believed in and accepted...doubting the faith they had started out with when they were born of the Spirit.

If that condition persists and continues, it leads to and brings forth such doubts and uncertainty that you are very tempted to look back to the old life from which you have already been delivered; and then you start to go back to it. The apostle Peter in this passage gives us a very perfect description of the condition of these Christians and why they were there. They were lacking certain things and so not growing in faith as they were growing in Christ. *For if these qualities are yours and are*

increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peter says, *“For if these qualities are yours and are increasing,”* – you will then become what you are not at this moment. And what were they at that moment? Barren and unfruitful! They were lacking what was necessary to make their faith grow and be lively and robust. Not only that, Peter says they were blind and could not see afar off because they had forgotten they had already been purged from their own sins. There is also a suggestion that these believers were passive and in danger of “falling”...for he tells them if they do these things they shall never fall...fall back into their former lifestyle. If on the other hand they do these things they will make their calling and election sure. They will have peace, joy and confidence in their position in Christ. These Christians then were in an unfruitful condition, ineffective, and unable to help others, falling back in their old lifestyle and lacking peace and assurance in the Lord.

How did these Christians get into such a state and why? Why do we find ourselves in the same state? The first thing we want to consider is the cause of their condition; then we can be helped if we find ourselves in the same condition. Peter makes it clear in this passage that these Christians were in a state of depression because they lacked something. That ‘something’ was discipline in their lives. The whole passage seems to shout that, doesn’t it? Fortunately, he does not leave us at such a general statement. The New Testament writers never stop at generalizations. They always go further and bring out the details. They consider the problem point by point, and Peter does that in this particular incident. Behind the scenes, these Christians were lacking discipline. True indeed; but why were these people lacking discipline in their lives? Why this apparent slackness and this indolence on their part when they had so much truth?

The FIRST CAUSE is that they had a wrong view of faith. We can find this in the beginning of the fifth verse, where Peter says, *“Now for this reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply...”* In other words, you would say supplement your faith. Furnish out your faith with the things which he proceeds to mention. This is very common among us and especially among us who have so much of God’s Word. We sometimes have a magical view of faith: the idea that as long as we have faith all is well or that our faith will work automatically in our life and all we need to do is just to believe truth. We don’t realize that it needs to be supplemented, as he spells out for us in verses 5-7 with:

- moral excellence,
- knowledge,
- self-control,
- perseverance,
- godliness,
- brotherly kindness,
- and love.

Now this is a very important matter, and we must be sure our view of faith is the New Testament view of faith and that we realize what the apostle means here when he says that we have to add to our faith - supplement it - with certain things. When we fall into a magical view of faith, using Martin Lloyd Jones’s term, it produces and oftentimes is the cause of spiritual depression and lethargy and a life dominated by feelings. I am not saying here that you are not going to feel and have feelings. I am saying, as you look to the Lord, there is nothing else to do but look to HM. By a magical or mystical view of faith, I mean a corruption of faith which always thinks of it as a whole...having one formula only, and that one formula is looking to the Lord without any detail

application. The formula says that as long as you look to the Lord, there is nothing else to do. People with this wrong view say that any attempt to do anything else is dropping back to salvation by a “works” position. So, if you have a problem in your Christian life, they say to you: “Just look to the Lord.”

The SECOND CAUSE of their condition – to use Peter’s language - was a lack of diligence. It was undoubtedly nothing but sheer slackness and laziness on the part of these Christians. This brings us to the cause of a life crippled by feeling. This being the case, what does the apostle say the treatment is? What does he prescribe for this condition of spiritual depression, discouragement, apathy, and lethargy? It is just the reverse of the cause of the trouble. He says, “...*also, applying all diligence...*” First and foremost, he emphasizes giving all diligence. Another way of saying that is make every effort. That’s it: make every effort – give all diligence - be more zealous than ever before to do these things. Here then is the treatment for their condition: the exercise of discipline and of diligence. Secondly, he says in making every effort to add to - or supplement - your faith, furnish out your faith. The scholars tell us that this word “furnish” is a Greek word that was used in connection with the performance of drama. It means the providing of a kind of an orchestra or chorus. You furnish the performance with this orchestra, this chorus, so that it may be complete. That is the meaning of the word...it was something that rounded off the performance and made it a perfect performance. What does this orchestra or chorus sound like that furnishes out our faith. What do you add to your faith to keep it vital and strong and growing?

Peter gives us a list and the first thing he says must be added to our faith is virtue. Virtue in this scripture means moral excellence, it means energy, it means vigor, it means focus. In previous sections we have identified deceptions we have, even on a subconscious level, that cause us to focus our energies - which are channeled through our minds - to go for things that are futile and empty and do not profit us at all. Peter says, focus - focus the energy that you have. Supplement your faith with moral excellence...with direction and focus. He is saying you have faith - you have believed - no doubt about it. Now cease to be slothful. Add to your faith moral energy. Don’t shuffle through your Christian walk, add to it that kind of strength, that kind of power, that kind of focus. This what Peter meant when he said, “...*applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence...*”

And to moral excellence now supply knowledge. This does not simply mean knowledge of doctrine. We have that in a measure or we really would not have faith. This knowledge means insight, it means illumination, it means understanding, it means revelation knowledge. It means to grab a hold of the principles of your Christian life, learn about the subtleties of your real enemies - your flesh, the world system, and the devil - and how to deal with them, learn about having an eternal perspective - who you are in God’s eyes, why you are here, and where you are going. Learn about these things, gain this insight, and use them. He is saying they must not stop applying truth from the Scriptures. They are already Christians, but they must press on to understand the Christian principles of living. Isn’t that what we have been talking about?

Then Peter says, “... *and in your knowledge, self-control...*” Here it does not mean general self-control. This control is a much more detailed and particular thing than that. It means self-control in all the details of your life - eating, drinking, sleeping, what wear, what you do you’re your time – in detail. This is where we pray, “Lord, give us eyes to see what is best, not just better. But what is more profitable?” It might be lawful, but is it spiritually the most profitable thing to do?

Then Peter goes on to say, “...and in your self-control, perseverance...” Perseverance here means patient endurance...to keep on, to keep going through whatever is discouraging you on a daily basis moment by moment. You must supplement your faith with patient endurance. It does not mean passively looking to the Lord. You yourself must exercise this perseverance through the divine enablement of the Holy Spirit and go on steadily doing this day by day.

“...and in your perseverance, godliness...” This is the next thought in Peter’s mind: concern about and carefulness in maintaining our relationship with God. This means making sure your communion with the Lord Jesus and your heavenly Father is clear. There are no known sin issues between you. Take the time to allow the truth of His Word to examine your heart, to correct, to encourage, to strengthen, to discipline, and cleanse you.

The last two supplements in this list, Peter is then concerned about is our attitude towards our fellow men. He writes, “...and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.” Brotherly kindness specifically means our relationship to fellow Christians. This is generally talking about unity among the brethren, the body of Christ. A Christian who is really walking in self-control and obedience is very strict on their own self-life and has a lot of compassion for other people. Brotherly kindness is very important because we are so quick to judge other people or take offense, never asking the Lord or them for personal insight on their personal history. Love - sometimes called charity - is God’s kind of love. For a Christian it means having love towards all whether they are saved or unsaved.

We must watch these things in detail and be diligent in adding to our faith these supplements. The apostle having taken us through these various steps and stages now gives us the encouragement we need to apply an internal strictness. What is this encouragement? Once again, back to our identity in Christ. First, Peter reminds us who we truly are - we are partakers of the divine nature. We are no longer of this world, we are sojourning. We have a different nature now, a different origin, and a different destiny. He says those who lack the qualities listed in verses 5-7 are short-sighted, even to the point of blindness. I would like to suggest here that when we don’t apply the truth, we forget it; and when we apply it, we remember it and it becomes a part of our spiritual character. He also tells us why they are so short sighted, “... having forgotten his purification from his former sins.” The remedy for all this is in his next sentence. *Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things...* Once again, we see that word “diligent.” There is much at stake, and so Peter has admonished them with what they are to do and why: “...you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you. In this scripture it is saying if only you do these things you will have a quiet joy in this present life time, you will never fall back into your old lifestyle, and you will have an entrance abundantly supplied to you into the eternal kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter is primarily talking in this verse about the ultimate entrance into glory. Notice the word “supplied”. This is the exact same word he used in verse 5 when he said, “...in your faith supply...” When you add these qualities to your faith - moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love - an abundant entrance into eternity shall be supplied...ministered... to you. Do you see that it is reciprocal? Peter says that if you do these things - if you discipline and order your life and furnish out your faith in this way and with these qualities while depending upon the Holy Spirit - you will never fall back to your old lifestyle. You

will have great joy and happiness resulting from this assurance, and when you leave this earth and go into eternity, an entrance will be supplied to you in abundance.

The Holy Spirit authored this through Peter. This is what Peter was sobered and struck by knowing shortly “that he must put off his tent just as the Lord Jesus Christ showed him; to teach knowing that his time of departure was soon. Peter felt it so necessary to communicate these truths as he says...wanted to stir them on in their....verse12-15

See **Diagram 12**, “The Growth of Faith.” We have faith as a gift at the new birth. Each one of us is given a measure of faith. We are to supply to our faith moral excellence. We ask the Lord to show us through scripture to be able to discern that which is better and that which is best so that we will focus our energies towards things that are spiritually profitable. In moral excellence we are to add knowledge to our faith. We go after principles in the Word of God, the Bible, that teach us how to live. We go after them and we appropriate them we meditate on them, we reflect on them, we live according to them. In knowledge, we are to add self-control. With self-control we conserve our energy, making sure we abstain from what we shouldn’t do and in fact do what we should. There is much freedom that the Word of God gives us as Christians - we are under grace now and not the law - but we are to choose whether we will obey God or not. In self-control we are to furnish our faith with perseverance. This means we keep pressing on against hindrances, obstacles, and adversity in our faith - we keep pressing into Christ. Then in perseverance we are to supply godliness keeping our fellowship with the Lord clear. In this godliness we are to add brotherly kindness and then agape love. Here is the growth of faith - the process of the healing of the soul.

“But without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6 KJ)

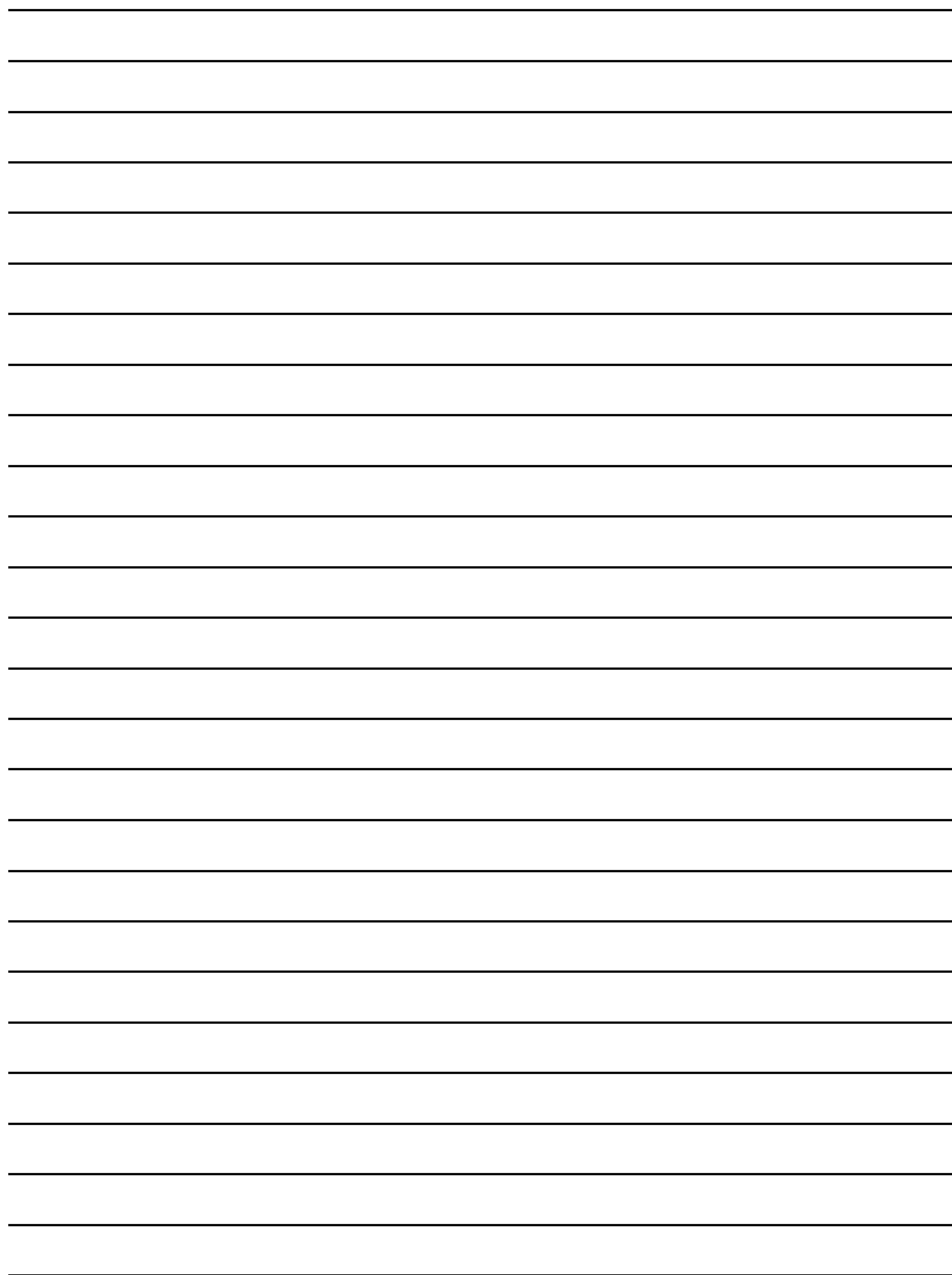
In the conclusion, the truths we have been privileged to look at and understand here are real gifts that God has given us all. But unless a gift is fully unwrapped you don’t see its real beauty and value. Remember the Oriental story at the beginning of this teaching on Removing the Veils: Worship in Spirit and Truth? Take these precious stones of truth, reflect on them, and in dependence on the Holy Spirit allow them to transform your life to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you embrace them and as you depend heavily on the Holy Spirit, others will see as a reality what we celebrate on Easter Sunday - the tomb is empty and the Lord Jesus Christ has risen indeed!

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES USED IN TEACHING:

Romans 1:17
Romans 12:3
Galatians 2:20
2 Corinthians 5:7
Luke 8:22-25
2 Peter 1:3-11
Proverbs 25:28
Philippians 4:10
James 1:2
Philippians 1:29

John 26:33
Acts 14:22
1 Corinthians 10:13
2 Peter 1:5-9
Proverbs 4:23
2 Peter 1:10
Deuteronomy 6:17
Proverbs 10:4
Proverbs 12:24
2 Peter 1:10, Hebrews 11:6

[illegible]



The Day Shall Surely Dawn

The day shall surely dawn when we,
the beloved children of God.
Chosen as a new race,
Rise – high above every lofty mountain.

We reach, touch the quilted dawn.
Wings, silent, strong, forceful –
Know no bounds.

The white stallion rears his
Glorious mane in anticipation
Of the glory set before it.

The mighty warrior, wisely trained
In the ways of battle
Takes up his sword of truth,
Girded about with the knowledge
Of his holy and awesome God.

Together they race unheeded,
They turn not to the right nor to the left –
Their gaze firmly fixed on a distant
And shining star that grows brighter
With every stride.

Ride on, fearless one –
Press on toward the goal, the calling
Is clear – the path is narrow,
Yet He makes their way straight
As He leads them by a way they
Do not know.

The victory is sure – the race is won.
Praise His name!

Kathy White

Appendix

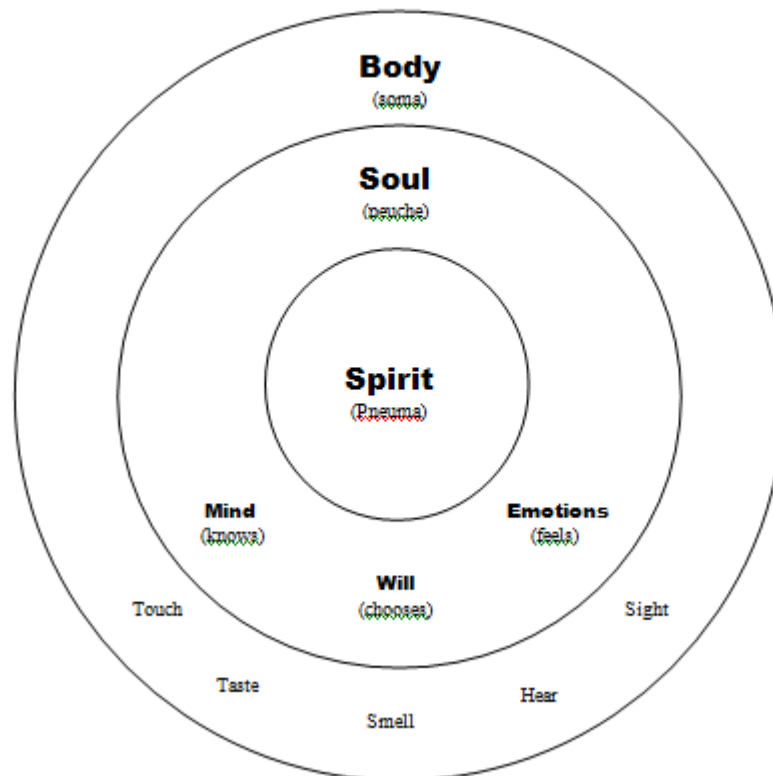
Diagram 1

Biblical Model of Man

“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely and may your spirit, and soul and body be preserved complete without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Man A Tri-unity



“But when it comes to the matter of soul and spirit not only are these two so distinctfully different words use, but these are said to be separable with either perishing and each is vested with its own responsibility, set of faculties, and destiny.”

(T. Austin Sparks, What is Man)

Diagram 2 Spiritual Perception

“We apprehend the physical world by exercising the faculties given us for the purpose, and we possess spiritual faculties by means of which we can know God and the spiritual world if we will obey the Spirit’s urge and begin to use them.”

TASTE

“Oh taste and see that the Lord is good.”

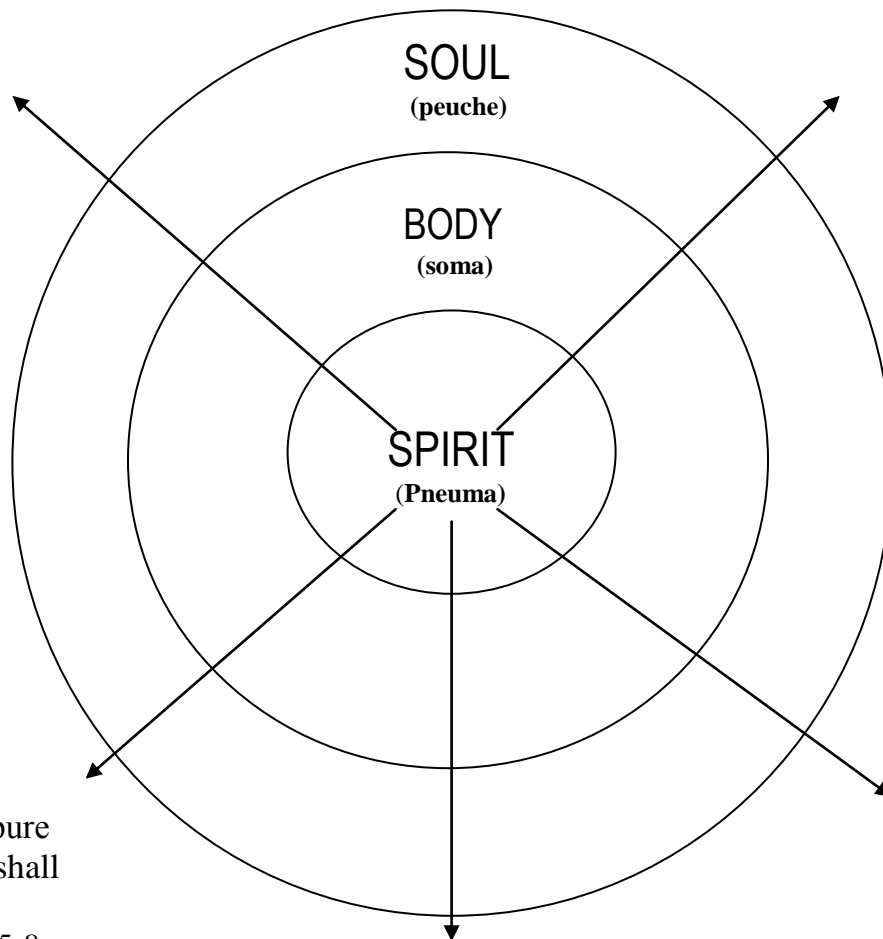
Psalms 34:8

SMELL

“All Thy garments of myrrh and aloes, and cassia”

Psalms 45:8

2 Cor. 2:16



SEE

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

Matthew 5:8

Ephesians 1:8

HEAR

“My sheep hear my voice.”

John 10:27

Galatians 3:2

FEEL

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you ...

James 4:8

“A spiritual kingdom lies all about us, enclosing us, embracing us altogether within reach of our inner-selves, waiting for us to recognize it. God Himself is here waiting our response to His Presence. This eternal world will come alive to us the moment we begin to reckon upon its reality.” (Tozer, Pursuit of God)

Diagram 3

The Place of Worship - The Spirit of Man

“The true worshipers will worship
The Father in Spirit and Truth.”
John 4:23

TASTE

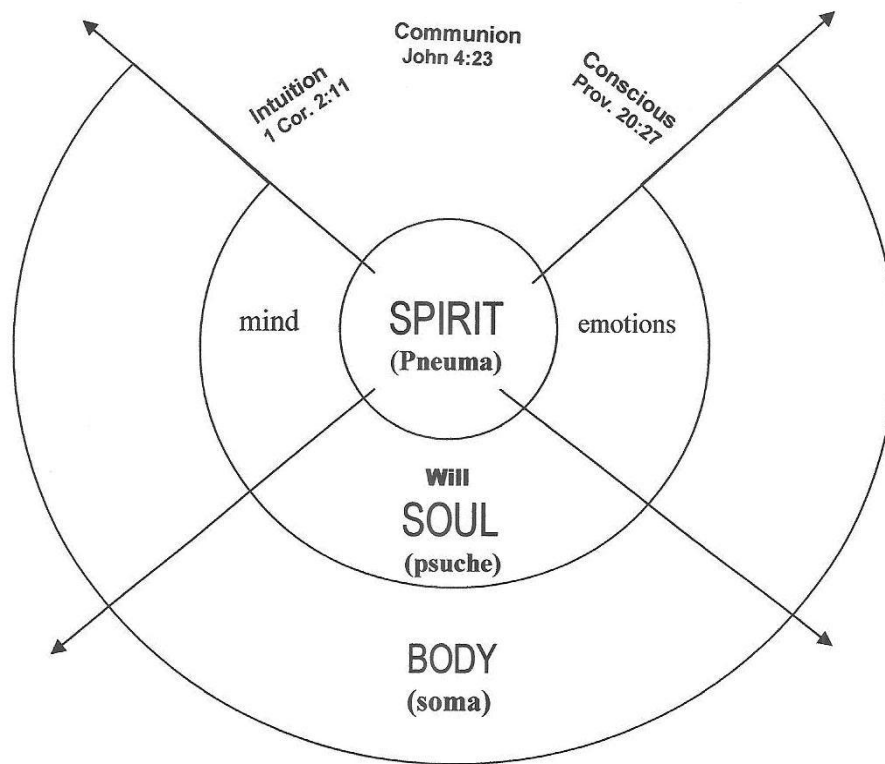
“Oh taste and see that
the Lord is good.”
Psalms 34:8

GOD



SMELL

“All Thy garments smell of
myrrh and aloes, and cassia.”
Psalms 45:8
2 Cor. 2:16



SEE

“Blessed are the
pure in heart, for
they shall see God.”
Matt. 5:8
Eph. 1:18

HEAR

“My sheep hear
My voice.”
John 10:2
Gal. 3:2

Spirituality is living on altogether other life that is new, extra, and radically different in origin, destiny and capacity. The soul with our mind, affections, and will must be taken charge of and made to learn the new and higher wisdom. As we perceived in our spirits the glory of the Lord and are able to hear Him once again walking in the garden in the cool of the day...as the divine order is once again re-established in our life and our communion experientially restored, our question will begin to be answered and our humanity made complete as we walk in communion and intimacy with the Lord.

” Thus declares the Lord: who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him.” *Zechariah 12:1*

Reference #1

Manifold Sensing of the Spirit

The spirit indeed is willing. *Matthew 26:41*

Perceiving in His spirit. *Mark 2:8*

He sighed deeply in His spirit. *Mark 8:12*

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior. *Luke 1:47*

The true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth. *John 4:23*

He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. *John 11:33*

When Jesus had thus spoken He
Was troubled in spirit. *John 13:21*

His spirit was provoked within him as he saw
The city was full of idols. *Acts 17:16*

He had been instructed in the way of the Lord;
And being fervent in spirit. *Acts 18:25*

Paul purposed in spirit. *Acts 19:21*

I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem. *Acts 20:22*

(Be) fervent in spirit. *Romans 12:11*

Your love in the spirit. *Colossians 1:8*

For who among men knows the thoughts of a man
Except the spirit of the man, which is in him? *1 Cor. 2:11*

I will sing in the spirit. *1 Cor. 14:15*

If you bless with the spirit. *1 Cor. 14:16*

I had no rest in my spirit. *2 Cor. 2:13*

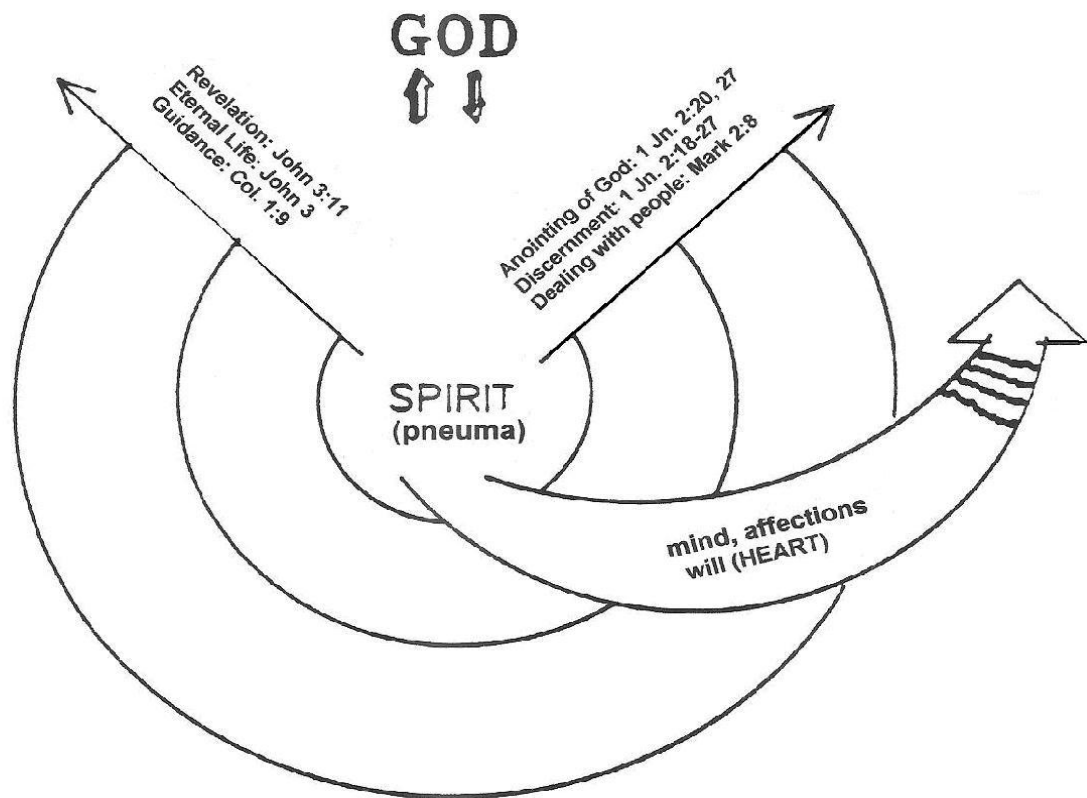
We have the same spirit of faith. *2 Cor. 4:13*

The spirit appears like the soul as it
has thoughts, feelings and desire.

Diagram 4

Intuition

Is the sensing organ of the human spirit. It is so diametrically different from physical senses and soulful senses that it is called intuition. Intuition involves a direct sensing independent of any outside influence. We really “know” through our intuition. Our mind merely helps us to “understand.”



The Function of Intuit in Man's Spirit

- “The spirit indeed is willing” Matt. 26:41
- “Jesus perceiving in his spirit Mark 2:8
- “He sighed deeply in his spirit Mark 8:12
- “He was deeply moved in spirit John 11:33
- “Paul was pressed in the spirit Acts 18:5
- “Being fervent in spirit Acts 18:25
- “I am going to Jerusalem, bound in the spirit Acts 20:22
- “What person knows a man's thoughts except the spirit of the man which is in him” 1 Cor 2:11
- “They refreshed my spirit as well as yours” 1 Cor. 2:16:18
- “His spirit was refreshed by you all” 2 Cor. 7:13

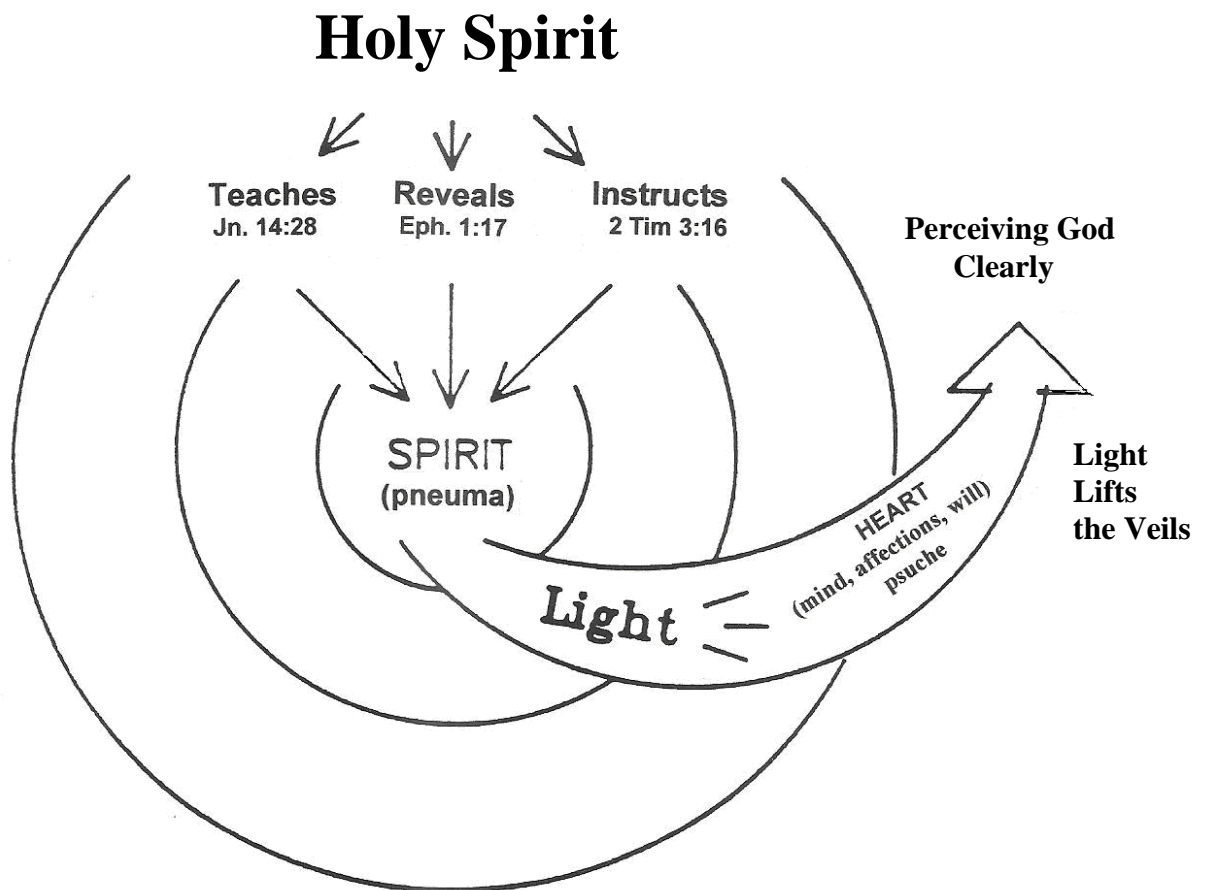
Diagram 5 Revelation Knowledge

PAUL'S PRAYER
That the God of our
Lord Jesus Christ ...
may give to you a spirit
of wisdom and of
revelation in the
knowledge of Him. I
pray that the eyes of
your heart may be
enlightened...
Ephesians 1:17-18

...meaning that the Holy Spirit enables
a believer to apprehend a particular
matter by indicating the reality of it to
his spirit...

"send forth your
light and your truth
and let them bring
me to your Holy
Hill."
Psalm 43:4

**"Being Renewed in The Spirit of
Your Mind." Eph. 4:23**



"Truth revealed to our spirits is light. The words truth and light are connected but they are not the same. The truth is complete in Christ but the need of our hearts is to have light shed on it. All spiritual experience is from divine light on eternal truth. Truth preached without light becomes doctrine with divine light revelation."

(Watchman Nee, What Shall This Man Do)

Diagram 6

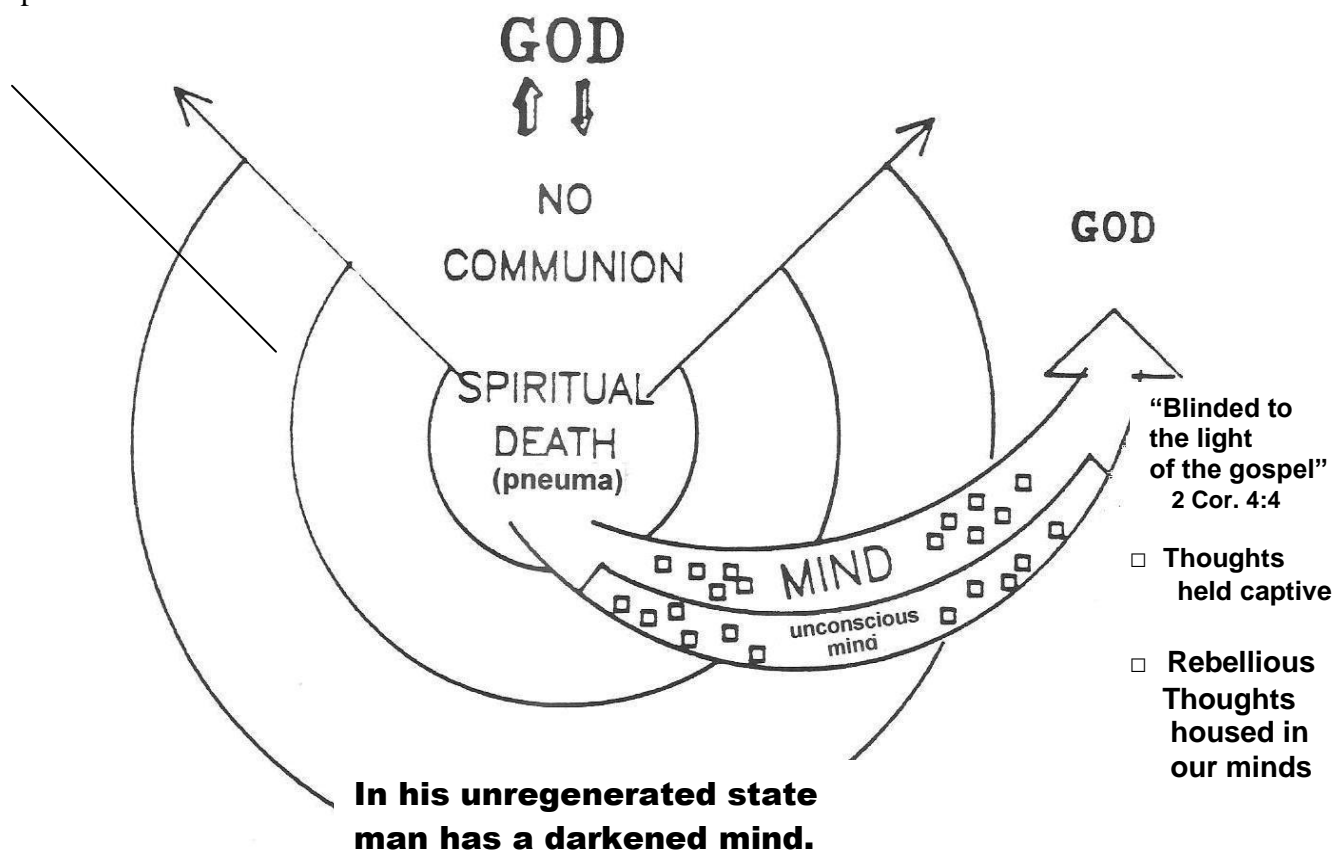
The Mind of Man after Regeneration: **BLIND**

“Whose minds the god of this age has
blinded, who do not believe, lest the
light of the gospel of the glory of Christ,
who is the image of God.” 2

Corinthians 4:4

Dead Spirit
Genesis 3:6-7
Ephesians 2:1

Darkened Mind
Romans 8:5-7
1 Corinthians. 2:14



Alienated	Ezek. 23:17-22, Col. 1:21
Spiteful	Ezek. 36:5
Debased	Rom. 1:28
Hardened	11 Cor. 3:14
Defiled	Titus 1:15

Diagram 7

Mind of Man after Regeneration: **Deceived**

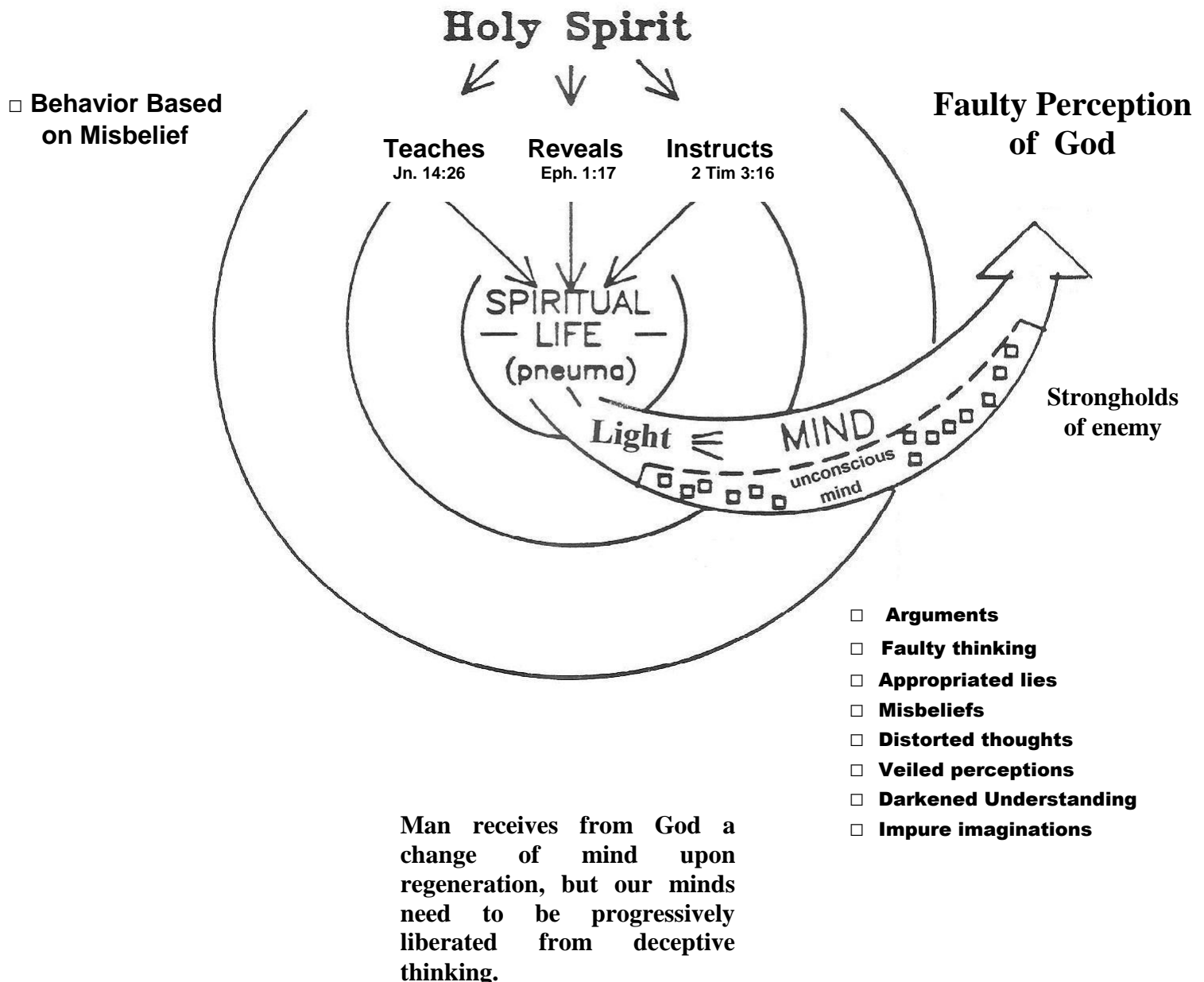
“...afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be lead astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.” 2
Corinthians 11:3

SPIRIT

Born Again: John 3:7
Faculties Dull: 1 Cor. 1:3

MIND

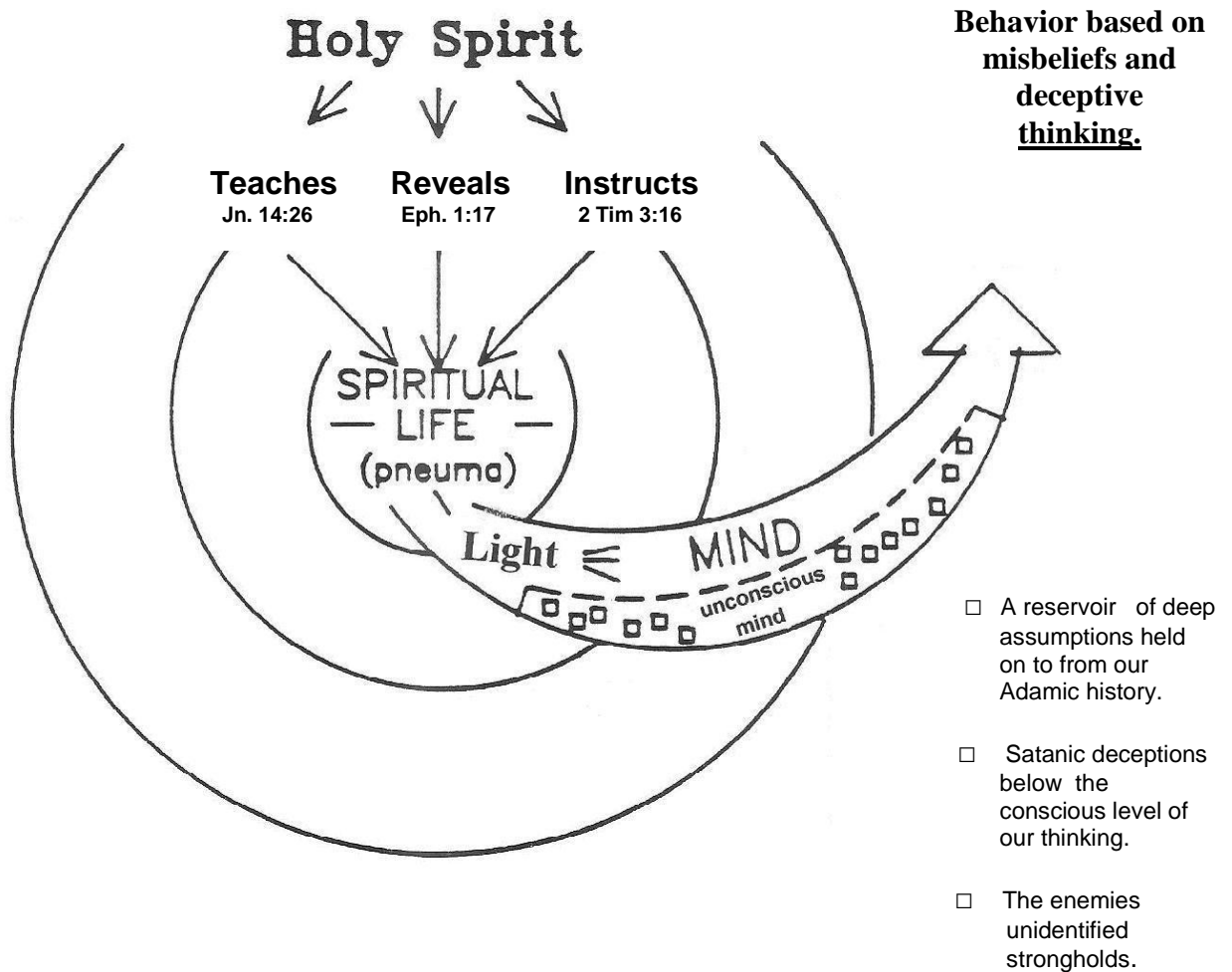
Changed: Acts 11:18
Needs Renewing: Rom. 12:1-2



Believer's Struggle: A Deeper Look

“For what I am doing I do not understand. For what I will to do, I do not practice, but what I hate, that I do...For I delight to do the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”

Romans 7:15, 22-23



“In Romans 8:5 this word used for mind (pronema) strongly suggests a definition of the unconscious part of our mental function as the reservoir of basic assumptions which people firmly hold about how to meet their needs for significance and security.”
(Crabb, *Effective Biblical Counseling*)

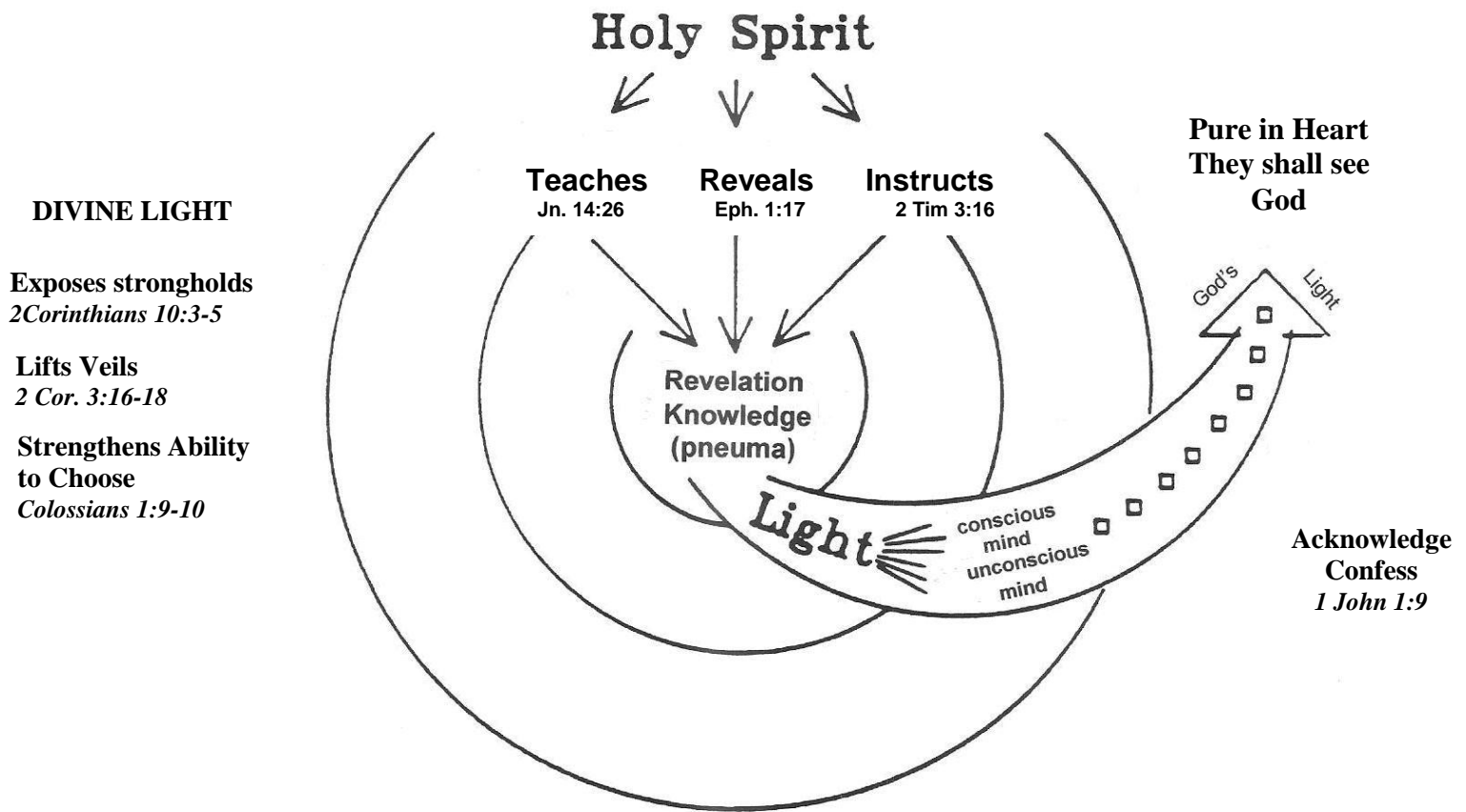
Diagram 9

Believer's Need: Light From Heaven

"Send forth thy Light and thy truth and let them lead me."
Psalms 43:3

BELIEVER'S WEAPONS
2 Corinthians 10:3-5

BELIEVER'S NEED
Ephesians 1:18



DIVINE LIGHT

Exposes strongholds
2Corinthians 10:3-5

Lifts Veils
2 Cor. 3:16-18

Strengthens Ability to Choose
Colossians 1:9-10

Pure in Heart
They shall see
God

Acknowledge
Confess
1 John 1:9

Behold, Thou desire truth in the
innermost being.
And in the hidden part Thou wilt
Make me know wisdom.
Psalms 51:6

For nothing is hidden that shall
not become evident, nor anything
secret that shall be know and
come to light. Luke 8:17

Reference #2

Healing of the Mind: A Process

One – CHANGED

Old Condition: Darkened
Romans 8:5-7
1 Cor. 2:14
2 Cor. 4:3-4
Need: Repentance
Acts 17:30

Three – CONTROLLED

Gird up loins
1 Peter 1:13
All thoughts captive
2 Cor. 10:5

How

Test thoughts
Phi. 4:8
Refuse negative thoughts
Ephesians 5:16
Resist Devil
James 4:7

Two – RENEWED

Command: Be renewed Romans 12:1-2
Results: Receptive to God's Law
Hebrews 10:16
Ability to Discern
1 Cor. 2:11-13
Spiritual Understanding
Ephesians 1:18
Personal Transformation
1 Cor. 2:16, Phil. 5:8
God Glorified
Is. 60:21-22; 61:3
Steps: Surrender Romans 12:1
Submit to the surgery of the cross
Eph. 4:22-23
Apply Cross (positionally)
Romans 6:6
Apply the Cross
(experientially)
Galatians 5:24

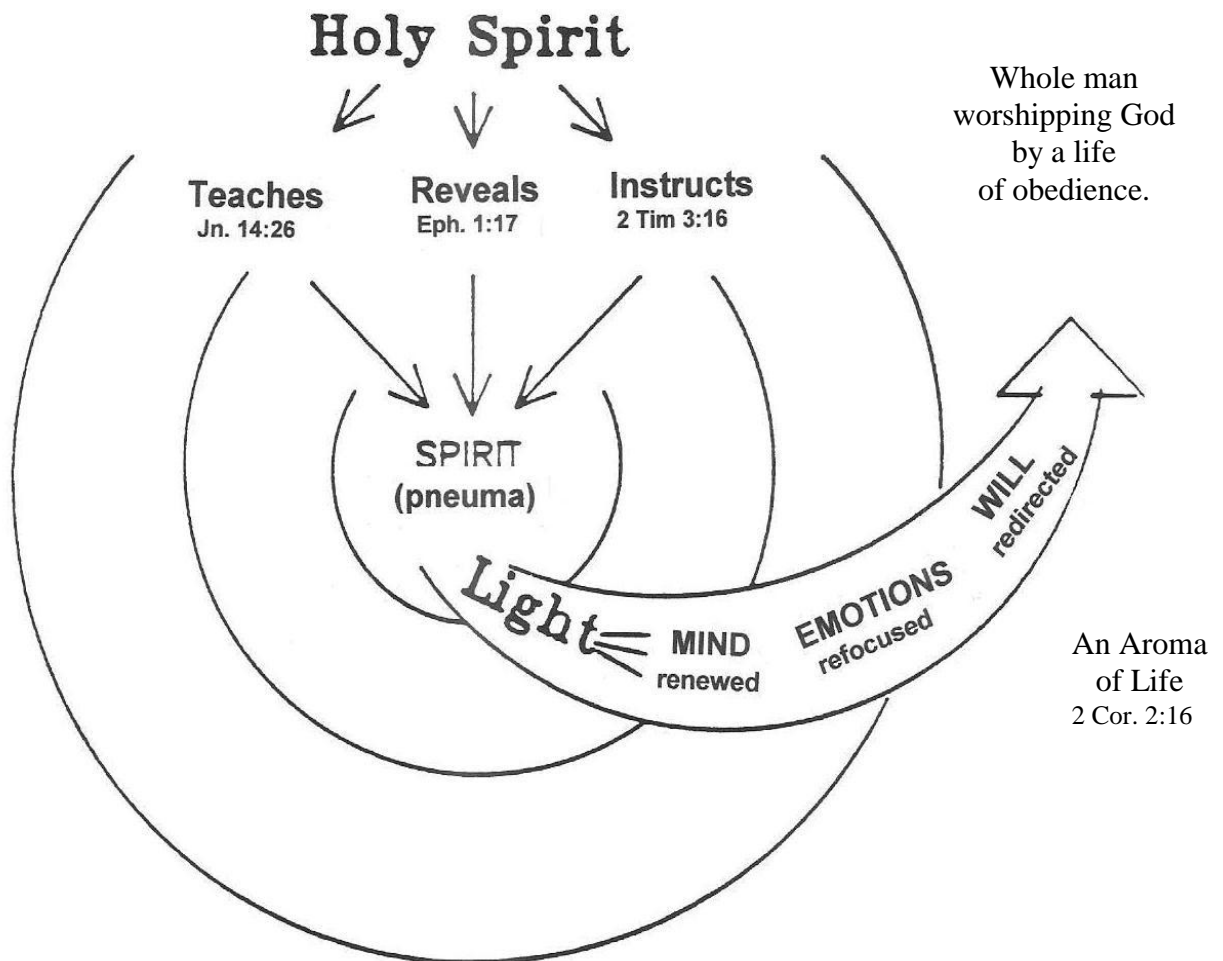
Four – OCCUPIED

Not Passive Heb. 2:1
Active Phil. 4:8
True, Noble, Just, Pure, Lovely,
Good report, has many virtues,

Diagram 10

Can You Hear His Call To A Life Of Obedience?

A call to a decisive action of our will.
“If your eye be single your whole body will be full of Light.”
Matthew 6:20



NEGATIVE

“Cast off the works of darkness.”
Romans 13:12
“Put away the old man.”
Ephesians 4:22
“Put of the old man with his doings.”
Colossians 3:9
“Put to death your members.”
Colossian 3:5
“Put off the body of the flesh.”
Colossians 2:11

POSITIVE

“Put on the armour of light.”
Romans 13:12
“Put on the new man.”
Ephesians 4:24
“Present your members unto God.”
Romans 6:13
“Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh.”
Romans 13:14

Reference #3

Emotion: The Manifold Feelings We Naturally Have

Our emotions emit:

Joy
Happiness
Cheerfulness
Excitement
Elation
Stimulation
Despondency
Sorrow Grief
Melancholy

Misery
Moaning
Perfection
Confusion
Anxiety
Zeal
Coldness
Affection
Aspiration

Covetousness
Compassion
Kindness
Preference
Interest
Expectation
Pride
Fear
Remorse
Hate

Reference #4

The Soul's Faculty of Emotion

1. Emotions of Affection

"The soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." *1 Samuel 18:1*

"You whom my soul loves" *Song 1:7*

"My soul magnifies the Lord" *Luke 1:46*

"You shall love the Lord your God...with all your" *Deuteronomy 6:5*

2. Emotions of Desire

"For whatever thy soul desireth...or for whatever thy soul asketh of thee" *Deuteronomy 14:26*

"What thy soul may say" *1 Samuel 20:4*

"My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of the Lord" *Psalms 84:2*

"Your soul's longing" *Ezekiel 24:21*

"So longs my soul for thee, oh God" *Psalms 42:1*

"My soul yearns for thee in the night" *Isaiah 26:9*

"My soul is well pleased" *Matthew 12:18*

3. Emotions of Feeling

"A sword will pierce through your own soul" *Luke 2:35*

"All the people were bitter in soul" *1 Samuel 30:6*

"His soul was grieved for the misery of Israel" *Judges 10:16*

"My soul shall exhalt in my God" *Isaiah 61:10*

"Gladden the soul of my servant" *Psalms 86:4*

"Their soul fainted within them" *Psalms 107:5*

"Why are you cast down, oh my soul" *Psalms 42:5*

"Now is my soul troubled" *John 12:27*

Reference #5

Maslow' Classical Need Hierarchy

1. Physical (food, water, elements necessary to maintain physical life)
2. Security (some reasonable confidence that physical needs will be met tomorrow)
3. Love
4. Purpose (significance, self worth)
5. Self Actualization (the development of an individual into a full, creative, self expressing person)

Reference #6

God's Provision for our Needs

God has met our physical needs.

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things (referring to food, clothing, shelter) shall be added to you. *Matthew 6:33*

God has met our need to know that tomorrow our physical needs will be met.

“Take therefore no (anxious) thought for tomorrow” *Matthew 6:34*

“Be anxious for nothing but in everything, let your requests be known to God... my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 4:6, 19*

God has met our needs for love (security).

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? I am persuaded that...(nothing) shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus.” *Romans 8:35, 39*

God has met our need for significance, purpose.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” *Ephesians 2:10*

“God redeemed thy life from destruction (squandering, wasting)”
Psalms 103:4;

God is developing us into a full, creative, expressing person.

⁶ “Is this not the fast which I choose,
To loosen the bonds of wickedness,
To undo the bands of the yoke,
And to let the oppressed go free
And break every yoke?

⁷ “Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry
And bring the homeless poor into the house;
When you see the naked, to cover him;
And not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

⁸ “Then your light will break out like the dawn,
And your recovery will speedily spring forth;
And your righteousness will go before you;

The glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.
⁹ “Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;
You will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’
If you remove the yoke from your midst,
The pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness,
¹⁰ “And if you give yourself to the hungry
And satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
Then your light will rise in darkness
And your gloom will become like midday.
¹¹ “And the Lord will continually guide you,
And satisfy your desire in scorched places,
And give strength to your bones;
And you will be like a watered garden,
And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.
¹² “Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins;
You will raise up the age-old foundations;
And you will be called the repairer of the breach,
The restorer of the streets in which to dwell.”

Isaiah 58:6-12

Diagram 10
AFFECTIONS
BELIEVER'S DIRECTION: DECEPTION

Need
Love

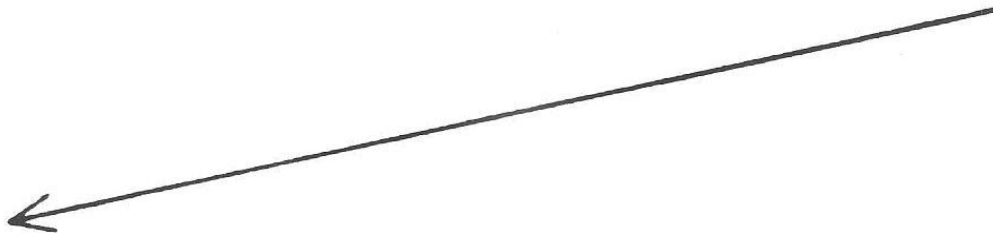


Believe
People
Things



Motivational
Energy
Directed

Goal
Person
Thing



End Result
Futility
Ecclesiastes

CORRECTION

Need
Love



Believe
Lord



Motivational
Energy Directed

Goal
Intimacy with
God



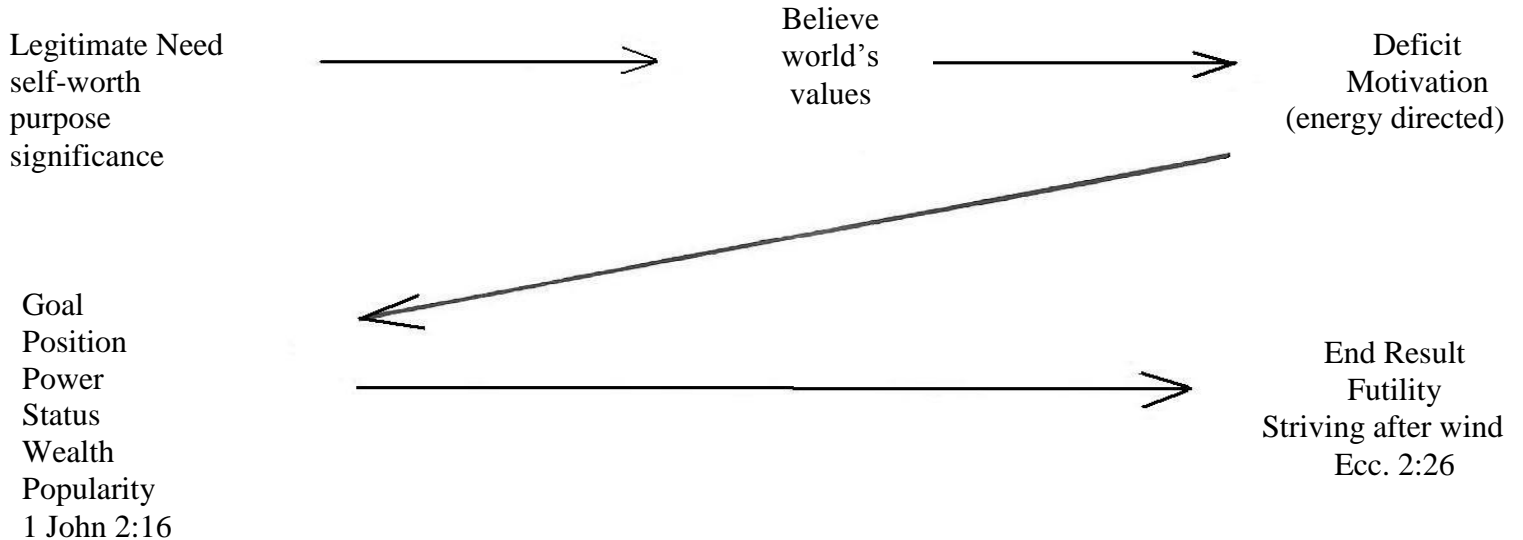
End Result
Personal Needs Met
2 Peter 1:3
Ministry of Life
to others
2 Corinthians 5:12

Emotional Health
Isaiah 58:6-12

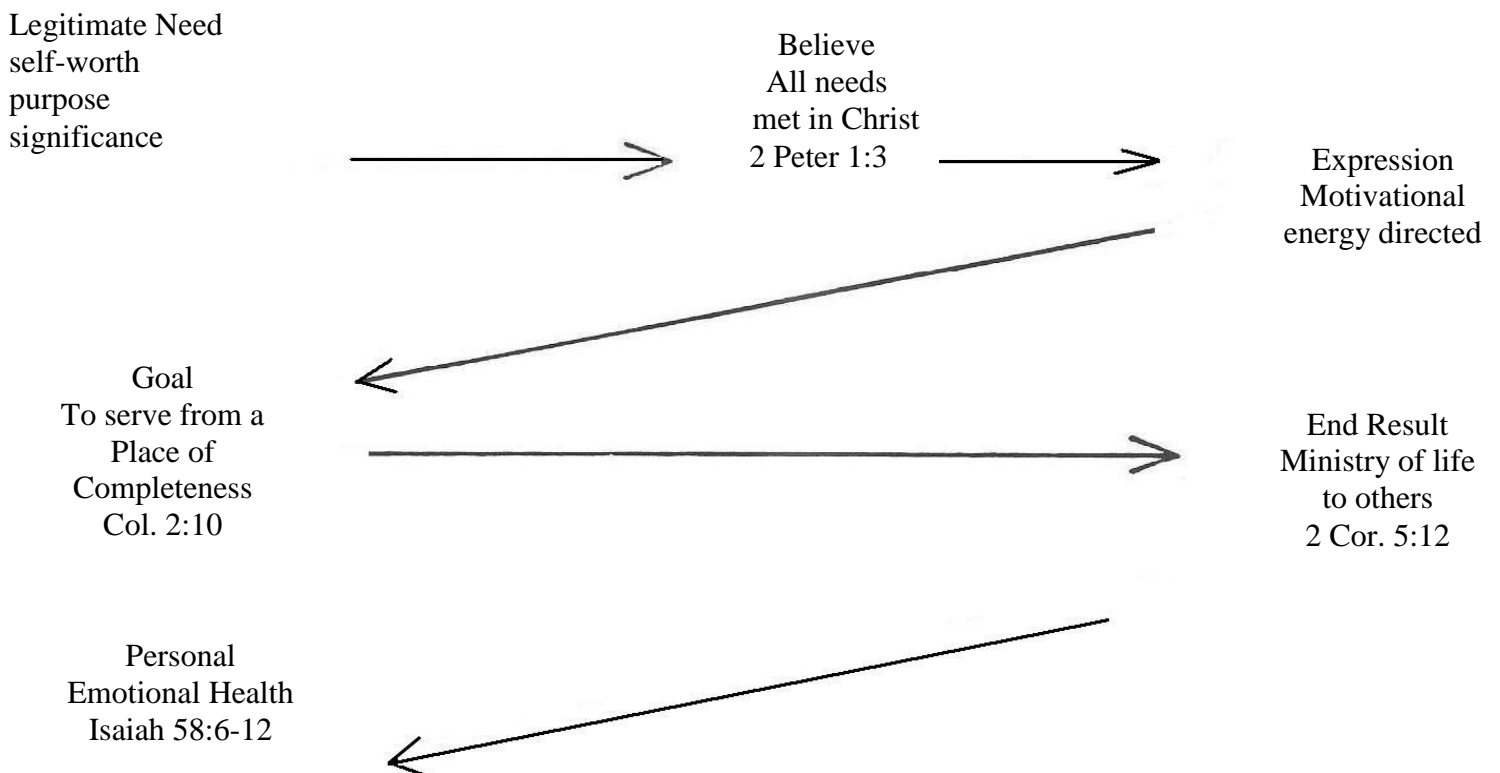


Diagram 11
BELIEVER'S DIRECTION: DESIRE

DECEPTION



CORRECTION



Reference #7

Maslow's Classical Need Hierarchy

1. Physical (food, water, elements necessary to maintain physical life)
2. Security (some reasonable confidence that physical needs will be met tomorrow)
3. Love
4. Purpose (significance, self worth)
5. Self Actualization (the development of an individual into a full, creative, self expressing person)

Reference #8

CHRISTIANS, DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE?

In Christ, I Am The Following:

- Accepted Jn. 6:37; Eph. 1:6
- Adequate 2 Cor. 3:5-6
- Adopted Rom. 8:15,23
- An alien and sojourner Lev. 25:23; Ps. 39:12; 1Pet. 2:11
- Baptized by the Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 12:13
- Blessed by the Lord Gen. 24:31; 26:29; Matt. 25:34; Eph. 1:3
- A bond-slave of Christ 1 Cor. 7:22; Eph. 6:6
- Born from above Jn. 1:12-13; 1 Pet. 1:3; 1 Jn. 5:1
- A brother/sister of Christ Jn. 20:17; Heb. 2:11
- Called 1 Thess. 2:12; 5:24; 2 Tim. 1:9
- A child of God Jn. 1:12; Rom. 8:15-16; Phil. 2:15; 1 Jn. 3:1
- Chosen Peter 2:9
- Christ's 1 Cor. 3:23; 1 Pet. 2:9
- Cleansed/healed Rom. 4:25; 1 Pet. 2:24; 1 Jn. 1:7,9
- Clothed with Christ Jdg. 6:34; Rom. 13:14; Gal. 3:27
- Complete Eph. 3:19; Col. 2:9-10
- Dead to sin Rom. 6:11-14
- Delivered from Darkness Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13; 2:13-15

- An epistle of Christ 2 Cor. 3:3
- A fellow-heir Eph. 3:6; 1 Pet. 3:7
- A fellow servant 2 Cor. 3:6; Rev. 6:11
- Foreknown Rom. 8:29; 1 Pet. 1:1-2
- Forgiven Acts 10:43; Col. 2:13; 1 Jn. 2:12
- Freed from judgment Jn. 3:18; Roma. 8:1-2
- Freed from the law Rom. 7:1-4, 6; Gal. 3:13
- A friend of Christ Jn. 15:14-15
- A gift to Christ from Jn. 6:37-39; 10:29; 17:6, 9, 10, 24
- Glorified Rom. 8:18-30; Phil. 3:21; Col. 1:27, 3:4
- God's beloved Rom. 1:7, 9:39; Eph. 2:4; 5:2; 2 Thess. 2
- God's inheritance Eph. 1:11, 18; 1 Pet. 1:4
- God's minister/ambassador 2 Cor. 5:18-20
- God's people Heb. 4:9; 1 Pet. 2:10
- God's witness Is. 44:8
- God's workmanship Eph. 2:10
- A heavenly citizen Eph. 2:19, Phil. 3:20
- An heir of promise Gal. 3:29; Heb. 6:17
- An heir of salvation Titus 3:7; Heb. 1:14; Ja. 2:5
- A holy nation Ex. 19:6; 1 Pet. 2:9
- A holy people Deut. 14:2; 26:19; Is. 62:2; Heb. 10:10
- A holy priesthood 1 Pet. 2:5

● Identified with Christ	Rom. 6:4-6; Gal. 2:20
● Indwelt by the Holy Spirit	2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 4:36
● An instrument/vessel	Acts 9:15; 2 Cor. 4:7
● In the world but not of it	Jn. 17:14-16
● Joined to Christ	Jn. 14:20; Rom. 7:4; Col. 1:27
● A joint-heir with Christ	Rom. 8:17; Gal. 4:7
● Justified	Rom. 3:24; 5:1; Gal. 2:16; Titus 3:7
● A king and priest	Rev. 1:6
● A kingdom of priests	Ex. 19:6
● Know completely	Ps. 139; Heb. 3:13
● A lamb	Is. 40:11; Jn. 21:15
● Light in the Lord	Eph. 5:8; 1 Thess. 5:4-5
● Light of the world	Matt. 5:14
● A living stone	1 Pet. 2:5
● A majestic one	Ps. 16:13
● A member of Christ	1 Cor. 6:15; Eph. 5:30
● A new creation	2 Cor. 5:17; Gall 6:15
● An oak of righteousness	Is. 61:3
● One spirit with the Lord	1 Cor. 6:17
● On the Rock/Foundation, Jesus	Matt. 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 20
● A partaker of a heavenly calling	Heb. 3:1
● A partaker of the divine nature	2 Pet. 1:4

- A people for His own possession Ex. 19:5; Deut. 14:2; Ps. 135:4; Titus 2:14
- Perfect Matt. 5:48; Heb. 10:14
- A pillar of God's temple Rev. 3:12
- Precious Is. 43:4
- Predestined Rom. 8:28-29; Eph. 1:5
- Promised suffering Phil. 1:29; 1 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 2:21; 4:1; 5:10
- Reconciled Rom. 5:11; Col. 1:20
- Redeemed/ransomed Is. 35:9-10; 43:1; 1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 1:7
- The righteousness of God Rom. 3:21-22; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21
- A royal priesthood 1 Pet. 2:9
- A saint Ps. 16:3; Eph. 1:18
- The salt of the earth Matt. 5:13
- Sanctified 1 Cor. 1:2, 30; 6:11; Heb. 7:25; 13:5
- Secure Jn. 6:37-39; 10:27-29; Heb. 7:25; 13:5
- A sheep of Christ Jn. 10:1-16; 21:16
- A slave of righteousness Rom. 6:18
- A son/daughter 2 Cor. 6:18; Gal. 3:26; 4:7; Eph. 1:5
- Spirit-taught 1 Cor. 2:10-13; 1 Jn. 2:27
- Strong Eph. 6:10; Phil. 4:13
- A temple of the living God 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16
- Translated into Christ's Kingdom Acts 26:18; Col. 1:13; 2:13-15
- The true circumcision Rom. 2:28-29; Phil. 3:3; Col. 2:11

- A vessel of honor 2 Tim. 2:21
- A vessel of mercy Rom. 9:23
- Victorious Rom. 8:37; 1 Cor. 15:57; 2 Cor. 2:14; 1 Jn. 5:4-5

Reference #9

WORKING THROUGH LIFE'S DECEPTIONS WITH TRUTH

- Conditions are always changing; therefore I must not be dependent upon circumstances.

*GOD'S
PROVIDENCE*

“The Lord foils the plans of the nations; He thwarts the purposes Of the peoples’, but the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations.” *Ps. 33:10-11*

Providence is defined theologically as” the unceasing activity of the Creator Whereby, in overflowing bounty and good will, He upholds His creatures in ordered existence, guides and governs all events, circumstances, and free acts of angels and men and directs everything to its appointed goal, for His own glory.”

PASSAGES AFFIRMING THE TRUTH OF GOD’S PROVIDENCE

Genesis 12:17
Genesis 20:6
Genesis 50:20
Exodus 3:21
Exodus 8:22
Exodus 9:29
Ezra 1:1
Proverbs 21:1
Daniel 4:34-35
Acts 16:6-7
Romans 8:28

- God is concerned about me as my father and nothing happens to me apart from.

*GOD'S
LOVE*

“Oh Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know my sitting Down and my rising up;

You understand my thoughts from afar. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with my ways ... rising up;

You have formed my inward parts; You have covered me in my mother's womb...

My frame was not hidden from you.

*DETAILED
INVOLVEMENT
WITH MY LIFE*

When I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth, our eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed, and in your book they were all written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.”

Ps. 139:1-3, 13-1

- God's will and God's ways are always a mystery but I know whatever He wills or permits is of necessity for my good.

“In this you greatly rejoice though now for a season (little while) if need be, you have been grieved by various trials...

*GOD'S
WISDOM*

That the genuineness of your faith being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ ... Receiving as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls...”

1 Peter 1:6-9

If need be ... in other words, God has appointed it.

*GOD'S WILL
GOD'S PURPOSE*

For we who live are always delivered over to death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh, so then death is working in us but life in you ...

*OUR
PERSPECTIVE*

For all things are for your sakes..."

2 Cor. 4:11, 15

"Therefore we do not lose heart...working for us our light affliction, which is for a moment, is a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we look not at the things seen but the things which are not seen.

For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not are eternal.

2 Cor. 4:18

- What matters supremely and vitally is my soul and my relation to God...

1 Thess. 5:23, Phil. 3:10

*GOD'S
CONCERN*

"In your patience ye shall win your souls."

Luke 21:19

“He that loveth his life loseth it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it to life eternal.”

John 12:25

*OUR
RELATIONSHIP
WITH CHRIST*

“But we are not of them that shrink back unto perdition, but of them that have faith unto the saving of the soul.”

Heb. 10:39

“Receiving the outcome of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”

1 Pet. 1:9

“I am the vine and my Father the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

Abide in Me and I in you...if you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

John 15:1, 10

- I must regard circumstances and conditions not in and of themselves, but as a part of God’s dealing with me to final perfection.

*DESIRE: CAST
off; Refuse to
look at.*

*DISCOURAGED:
Wrong reaction*

*TRAINED: Receive
God's instruction-
Gymnasium*

“...And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as sons:

My sons, do not despise the chastening of the Lord,
nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges
every son whom He receives...

Furthermore, we have had human fathers who
corrected us and we paid them respect. Shall we not
much more readily be in subjection to the Father of
Spirits and live?

For they indeed for a few days chastened us as

Now, no chastening seems to be joyful for the
present but grievous; nevertheless, afterwards it
yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness
to those who have been trained by it.

Looking diligently lest anyone fall short of the grace
of God; lest Any root of bitterness springing up
causes trouble, and by this many be defiled;

Lest there be any fornicator or immoral person like
Essau who for a morsal of food sold his birthright.”

*FORGOTTEN:
Remember
SPEAKS:
Reasons*

Heb. 12:5-7, 9-11, 15-16

AND FINALLY.....

- Whatever my conditions may be at this moment are only temporary, they are only passing, and they can never rob me of my joy and the Glory that ultimately awaits me.

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows he will also reap. For he who sows to the flesh will of His flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit reap eternal life.

Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not lose heart.”

Gal. 6:7-9

“But may the God of grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you.”

1 Pet. 5:10

Reference #10

EMOTION

A PERSON'S RESPONSE TO LIVING SITUATIONS

Objects Of:

Self
Nation
Family
Mote
Forgiveness

Job 31:1-26
Psalms 137:1-6
Genesis 49:1-28
1 Samuel 25:24-25
Ruth 1:16-18

Kind Of:

Conviction
Contempt
Despondency
Disappointment
Disgust
Envy
Fear
Flattery
Hate
Joy
Love
Loyalty
Regret
Revenge
Sorrow

Acts 2:37
1 Samuel 17:42-44
1 Kings 19:4-10
Luke 18:23
Nehemiah 4:1-3
1 Samuel 17:28
1 Kings 19:1-3
1 Samuel 25:23-31
Acts 7:54, 57
Luke 15:22-24
Exodus 32:26-29
2 Samuel 18:32-33
Luke 16:27-31
Genesis 27:41-45
2 Samuel 12:13-19

Control Of:

Unsuppressed
Suppressed
Uncontrollable
Controllable

1 Samuel 20:30-33
Isaiah 36:21
Mark 5:4, 5
Mark 5:18-19

Reference #11

*The New King James Version
Biblical Cyclopedic Index*

SELF- CONTROL

Object Of:

Brought about by Christ
Christian Grace

Luke 8:35
2 Peter 1:6

Elements Involved In:

Ruling one's spirit
Soberness
Control of body

Proverbs 16:32
Romans 12:3
1 Corinthians 9:27

Hindered By:

Fleshly lusts
Tongue
Drink
Sexual sins
Unclean spirit
Self-expressionism

1 Peter 2:11
Psalms 39:1, 2
Proverbs 23:29-35
1 Thessalonians 4:3-4
Mark 5:2-16
Proverbs 25:28

“Like a city whose walls are broken down
Is a man who lacks self-control.”
Proverbs 25:28

Reference #12

Understanding Faith

The Gift Faith

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, Not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”

Romans 12:3

The Trial of Faith

“Though ye are in heaviness for a season because of certain circumstances, the object of that is the trial of your faith which is more precious than gold that perisheth, though it is tried with fire, might be found to the Praise and honor and glory of the appearing of the Lord.”

1 Peter 1:5-7

James 1:2

Philippians 1:29

John 16:33

Acts 14:22

The Nature of Faith

- Is not magical
- It does not act automatically
- It is an activity
- It is something that has to be exercised
- It is a response to truth
- We do the responding’.
- Question: Where is your faith?
- What are you doing with the faith you have?

The Value of the Weakest of Faith

“If you have faith as a mustard seed...

Matthew 17:20

Don’t be deceived- you have enough faith for your particular situation. That’s a promise’. “He will not allow us to be tempted (either a seduction to evil or a trial of faith both ideas are included in that word) beyond that which we can bear.”

1 Corinthians 10:13

“WE WALK BY FAITH,
NOT BY SIGHT”
2 Corinthians 5:7

Reference #13

A DEEPER LOOK AT FAITH

•Nature of:

God's gift (Ephesians 2:8)
Work of God John 6:29
Fruit of Spirit Gal 5:22-23
Substance of unseen
things Heb. 11:1

•Objects of:

God John 14:1
Christ John 20:31
Gospel Mark 1:15
God's promise Rom. 4:21

•Described As:

Great Matt. 8:10
Holy Jude 20
Rootless Luke 8:13
Little Matt. 8:26
Perfect Ja. 2:22
Precious 2 Pet. 1:1
Small Matt. 17:20

•Place of, in Christian Life

Live by Rom. 1:17
Walk by Rom. 4:12
Pray be Matt. 21:22
Resist evil by Eph. 6:16
Overcome world by 1John 2:13-17
Die in Heb. 11:13

•Examples of Old Testament

Noah Heb. 11:7
Abraham Rom. 4:16-20
Joseph Heb. 11:22
Caleb Josh. 14:6, 12
Job Job 19:25
Others Heb. 11:32-39

•Results from:

Scriptures John 20:30-31
Preaching John 17:20
Gospel Acts 15:7

•Kinds of:

Saving Romans 10:9-10
Temporary Luke 8:13
Intellectual James 2:19
Dead James 2:17, 20

•Fruits of:

Sanctification Acts 15:9
Spiritual Light John 12:36, 46
Edification 1 Tim. 1:4
Inheritance Acts 26:18
Peace and Rest Rom. 5:1

•Growth of, in Christian Life

Stand fast in 1 Cor. 16:13
Continue in Acts 14:22
Be strong in Rom. 4:20-24
Abound in 2 Cor. 8:7
Be grounded in Col. 1:23
Hold fast 1 Tim. 1:12
Pray for increase Luke 17:5
Have assurance of 2 Tim. 1:12

•Examples of New Testament

Centurion Matt. 8:5-10
Sick woman Matt. 5:25-34
Ten lepers Luke 17:11-19
Mary and Martha John 11:1-32
Stephen Acts 6:8
Paul Acts 27:23-25

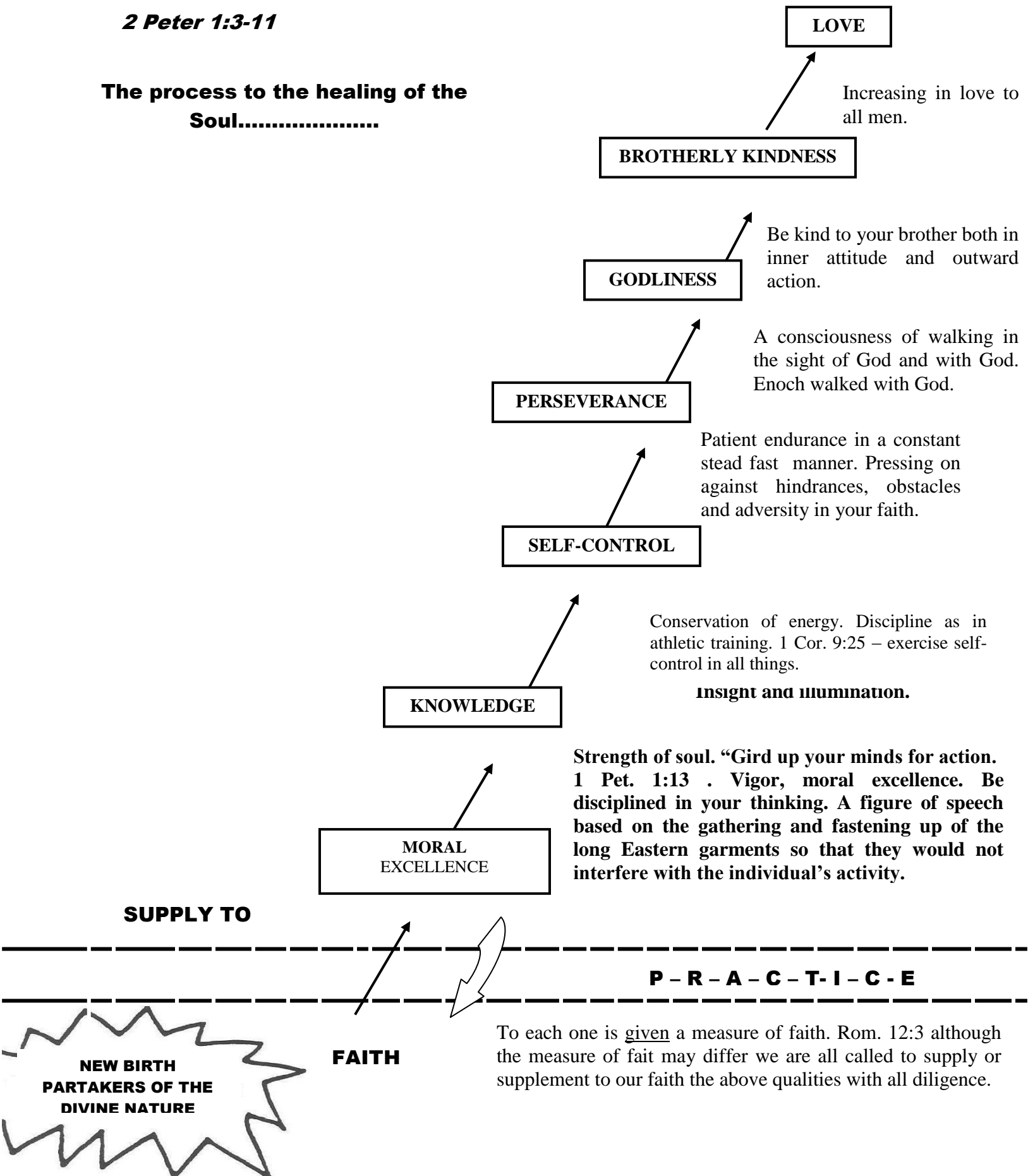
Diagram 12

THE GROWTH OF FAITH

2 Peter 1:3-11

OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

**The process to the healing of the
Soul.....**



Resources

The Spiritual Man by Watchman Nee

Spiritual Depression by Marty Lloyd-Jones

Word Studies (from the Greek New Testament) Volume II by Kenneth S. Wuest

Biblical Cyclopedia Index...The New King James Version