

The Christian Discipler

- ◆ The Psychology Of
The Bible — Part 2
- ◆ The Battlefield Of
Prayer

February/March 2012



The Christian
Discipler

Faithful to Jesus' Great Commission

"Go therefore and make disciples of
all the nations, ..." Matt 28:18-20

- ◆ The Christian Discipler is an interdenominational ministry. We do not promote the teaching of any particular denomination. We support and cooperate with all evangelical churches and denominations standing on the Word of God.
- ◆ We believe in the Bible as the infallible Word of God, and it is our purpose to make true disciples of Jesus Christ helping Christians discover the deeper truths of the Bible and the victorious life.
- ◆ We believe in the unity of all truly born again Christians — irrespective of their denominational connection — and strive for unity among children of God across denominational boundaries.

The Christian Discipler is:

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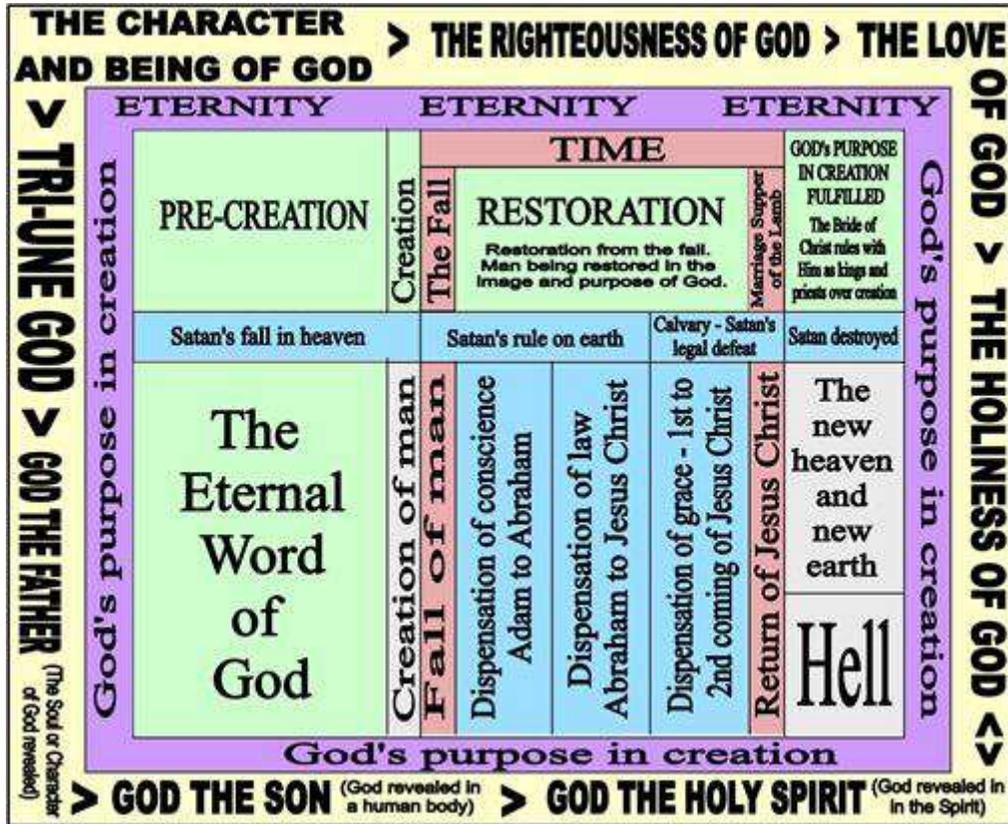
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THE FUNDAMENTAL AND CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE



The Bible is God's blue print for the restoration of fallen creation!

The fundamental and central message of the Bible is God's purpose in creation, the fall, and God's restoration of creation from the fall! God is currently busy with the restoration of creation! God is restoring the world on two levels - on the cosmic level as well as on the human level. On the cosmic level God is creating a new heaven and a new earth. On the human level God is restoring fallen man into His image and purpose.

God is generating a people and offspring for Himself and a Bride for His Son through regeneration, from every nation, people, tribe and language; changing and restoring them into His image; destined for the new heaven and new earth, in order to be eternally united with Him at the marriage supper of the Lamb; and to train and prepare them for dominion with Jesus Christ at His return.

The return of Jesus Christ is the culmination and climax of God's plan for this world - when Jesus will be united with His Bride. The return of Jesus Christ is, besides His crucifixion and resurrection, the most important historical occurrence in God's plan for the world, that must soon take place.

- God has a twofold plan for every Christian:**
- To restore me and my fallen character from the fall and to conform me into the image of Jesus Christ in holiness and love.
 - To make me spiritually fruitful in order that I may reproduce myself through my witness in the world and in fulfilment of the Great Commission.

- God has a twofold plan for the Church:**
- To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in my local neighbourhood in order that people may be saved, and will grow in faith, sanctification, and holiness!
 - To fulfil the Great Commission and to send out those who are saved to reach the unreached of the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

The six fundamental Biblical principles of an abundant, victorious, and Spirit-filled life, appear on the inside back cover.

Church of Jesus Christ, let us unite around the central and fundamental message of the Bible!

FROM PARADISE

CREATION

Gen 1: 26-28: "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion ..." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion ..."

THE FALL

Gen 3:6: "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."

THE CROSS

Mat 26:26-28: " And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

RESTORATION

Rev 19:7-9: "And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"

TO HEAVEN

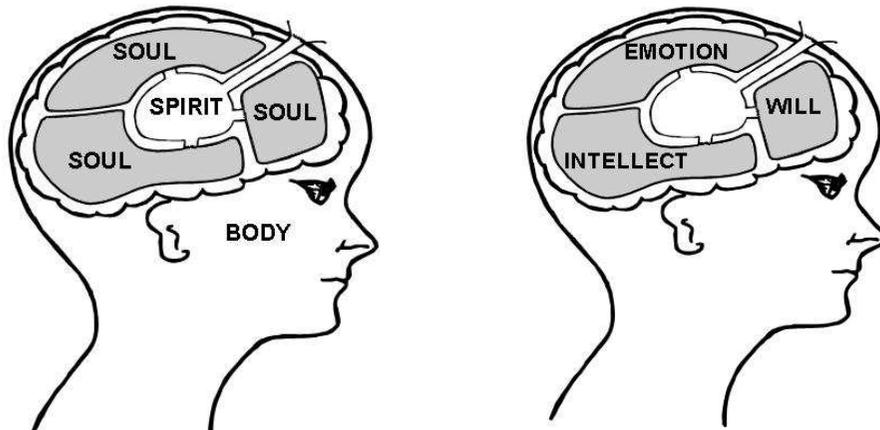
The Psychology Of The Bible

Elmer D Grobler

Recapping

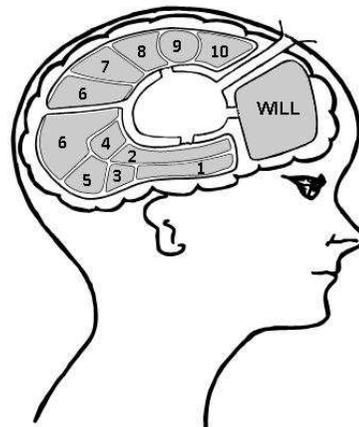
In Part 1 we said that God created humans in His own image — as a trinity — Spirit, Soul and Body.

We further said that the soul consists of three elements — Will, Intellect, and Emotion.



We then identified ten areas in the Intellect and Emotion:

1. The THOUGHT-SYSTEM
2. The REASON
3. The CONSCIENCE
4. The IMAGINATION
5. The MEMORY
6. The SUBCONSCIOUS
7. The SELF-IMAGE
8. The VALUE-SYSTEM
9. The EMOTION-SYSTEM
10. The DISPOSITION



The Psychology Of The Sinful Nature

Elmer D Grobler

We concluded Part 1 by saying that many children of the Lord are still bound by sins, habits, fears, depression, negative emotions and all kinds of psychological problems, even after their conversion and their acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. Why is this? Well, one of the most important reasons is a defective knowledge and understanding of man's inherent sinfulness and his sinful nature!

An incomplete understanding of sin

Many Christians cherish the idea that sin only relates to my eternal salvation. They do not understand that many of their physical and psychological problems in this life are related to sin, and that Jesus Christ accomplished a perfect deliverance on Calvary for every sin-related problem! A defective understanding of sin is the cause of many Christians' spiritual, psychological, and sometimes physical problems!

Even many Christians believe that there is some good in every person - in some more than other, but there is some good in every person. It is from this assumption that many think that

the good in man can be developed and improved, and he can be taught to become a better person. However, it is just here where we miss the ball, because this is a wrong assumption!

There is no good in any person!

The Bible teaches us that there is no good in any person! Even that which from a human point of view is considered to be good, moral, right and righteous, is considered unrighteous and unclean in God's eyes. For we read in Isaiah 64:6: *"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away."*; and in Psalm 53:2,3 we read: *"God looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. Everyone has turned away, they have together become corrupt; there is no-one who does good, not even one."*

Jesus also confirmed this fact in Matt. 19:17 when He said to the rich young man: *"Why do you ask me about what is good? ... There is only One who is good."* (Incidentally, by this statement

Jesus did not mean to say that neither He was good, but He was testing the rich young man in order to see whether he recognised Him as the Son of God!) Paul says in Rom. 7:18: *"I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out."* (Please note that this is not the normal standard of the Christian life! It is only the normal standard of man's sinful nature!)

Everyone is born with an inherent sinful nature and this sinful nature affects every area of our person!

Every person inherits a sinful nature from Adam that contaminates every area of his life - spirit, soul and body - just as bacteria contaminates every part with which it comes into contact! The sooner we accept this unquestionable and indisputable fact of life, the sooner we will come to the proper solution for our spiritual as well as our psychological problems! No person will ever find a permanent solution to his psychological problems unless the problem of his sinful nature is addressed, because the root of all psychological problems lies in man's sinful nature!

Another misunderstanding with many Christians is the idea that when Jesus Christ lives in my heart and I have received forgiveness and cleansing

from sin, the problem of sin is now solved and settled. No, Jesus comes to live in my heart precisely in order to solve the problem of sin in my life. Jesus comes to live in my heart to set me free! The moment Jesus comes to live in my heart I have not necessarily already been set free from all sin! I was indeed forgiven and washed by His blood from the debt of my sin! But now He also wants to deliver me from the bondage and power of sin!

The complete understanding of sin

There are three facets of sin that we must clearly differentiate and understand. The one is my 'sinful deeds', the second is my 'sinful faculties', and the third is my 'sinful nature'. Let us define each one of these facets for the sake of clarity. We find all three these facets of sin in Romans chapter 7.

My sinful nature

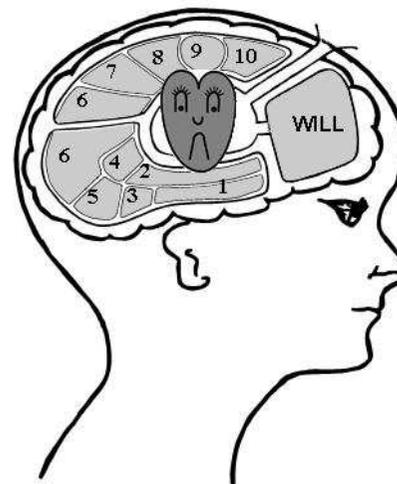
In Rom. 7:21 we read about 'a law' that has the following result in my life: *"When I want to do good, evil is right there with me."* This is my sinful nature! My sinful nature is the built-in propensity of my human nature to choose the wrong and commit sin. My sinful nature therefore is a law - and this law says that my human nature will choose sin by nature. It is like a gramophone record with a scratch mark. (For those of you who are not old enough to know what a gramophone record is, it is an old-fashioned CD.) Every time the needle of

the record-player approaches the scratch mark, it jumps the groove and repeats the previous melody!

My sinful faculties (areas, or parts of my life)

In Rom. 7:23 it is written: *".. but I see another law at work in the members of my body .."* The word "members" that is used here ("*melos*" in the Greek), means 'limbs' or parts of my body. The three major areas of man consist of his spirit, soul and body. Each one of these major areas again has its own respective sub-areas. The areas or parts of the body consist of the senses. The areas or parts of the soul consist of the Will, Intellect and Emotion, which again in turn have several sub-areas of their own, as we have described in part 1.

My sinful faculties therefore, are my Eyes, Ears, Tongue, Nose and Nervous-System (my bodily senses);



my Will, Thought-System (1), Reason (2), Imagination (3), Conscience (4), Memory (5), Subconscious (6), Self-Image (7), Value-System (8), Emotional-System (9), and Disposition (10) (the faculties of my soul); and my human spirit.

My sinful actions

In Rom. 7:20 we read about: *"sin ('hamartia' in die Greek) living in me ..."* The meaning of sin in this context is 'sinful actions'. This is the most common meaning of sin and most people correctly understand this facet of sin.

Understanding my sinful nature

As we have mentioned earlier, just like bacteria or a virus contaminates every area of my body it comes into contact with, so my sinful nature (the sin virus) contaminates every area of my life, spirit, soul and body with sin. In exactly the same way an HIV positive mother transmits the HIV virus to her unborn baby at birth, the sin virus has been transmitted to each and every person on earth at birth, since our ancient parents, Adam and Eve, became contaminated with the SIN virus.

Let us take the Thought-System as an example. Because my Soul is infected with SIN from birth, also the faculty of my Thought-System became infected with SIN. Every thought that emanates from the faculty of my Thought-System

is inherently sinful - because it emanates from a sinful faculty! It does not matter how noble the idea may be! It may be an idea to purchase flowers for my wife. But if the idea arises from a contaminated Thought-System, also the idea is contaminated with sin!

This is a rather shocking discovery to make! Every Christian who makes this discovery, arrives at a sure crisis in his Christian life!

When one sees yourself as God sees you, you cry out like the prophet Isaiah when he made this discovery in Isa. 6:1 -7: *"Woe to me!".... "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, .."*

This discovery implies that not only my sins must be forgiven and washed away. It also implies that something must happen to my sinful nature and my sinful faculties! The virus must be killed! It won't help to try and rehabilitate my actions and behaviour unless the problem of the SIN virus, my sinful nature, is addressed! This would be like treating an HIV patient with an aspirin. Treating the symptom won't solve the problem — the cause must be treated! The symptom of a headache may go away for a while, but that won't cure the AIDS.

It would be fruitless for me to tell you that you must live a holy life unless I also tell you that your nature must be

renewed. This means that each one of your faculties must be touched by God with a coal of fire from the altar of God like Isaiah's tongue, in order that the behaviour resulting from your faculties may be pure! (We are going to focus on this subject in more detail in the following parts.)

Man's nature is not only fallen with respect to his morality. As we have already said, man's nature is fallen with respect to his whole being - spirit, soul and body! Man's spirit, where his God-and spiritual awareness is seated, is fallen and subject to spiritual death! Therefore no man can have fellowship with God by nature. He is born into a broken relationship with God.

Also the soul has been contaminated by the fall with regard to every one of its faculties and is by nature subject to a humanly unstoppable process of depravity. The faculties, among other, of the Thought-System, Reason, Imagination, Self-Image, Value-System, and Emotion-System are all fallen, to the effect that man is susceptible to every kind of psychological disorder by nature.

Every person is born with certain divergent psychological tendencies, and ALL psychological problems are the direct result of man's fallen sinful nature!!

For the same reason man's relationship with God and his fellow-man is sinful by nature and subject to a humanly unstoppable process of brokenness.

Man is born into a world of broken people and broken relationships.

The seat of the sinful nature lies in the human WILL!

The essence of the sinful nature is self-will! Man's WILL is by nature wrapped in self-centredness and self-interest. By nature man has no desire to know and do the will of God. By nature man forms his own idea of God in terms of his own imagination while being under the wrong impression that he is fulfilling the will of God.

The problem of a self-centred Will is not restricted to unbelievers and the unsaved. Even after a Christian's regeneration he finds himself in a continuous conflict of interest between his own Will and the will of God for his life! The Christian's Will is in need of purification and sanctification in order to be able to live a life well-pleasing to God!

The faculties of man's Intellect and Emotion are all affected by the sinful nature and self-will.

As we have repeatedly pointed out, all the faculties of man's Intellect and Emotion are fallen and depraved by nature! Many Christians do not understand this and therefore trust their natural faculties, while they erroneously believe that something credible, noble, and of eternal value can emanate from within themselves!

Also the human body, where man's world- and environmental awareness is seated, is subject to depravity. Also the Eye, Ear and Tongue are by nature fulfilling the Will of man's sinful nature. For the same reason disease, aging and physical death are the inevitable destiny of every person.

It is important to understand the full consequences of the fall. The fall is not just a little tale of Adam and Eve who ate the apple! Through the fall man inherited a sinful nature that affects his whole being. By nature therefore, man has nothing with which he can accomplish anything of eternal value! Man must be delivered from his fallen sinful nature! Man needs a new heart! Man needs a complete renewal of his nature and inherent character! Man needs a character renewal! Man needs a spiritual heart transplant!

Any psychology that tries to restore, develop, or heal the faculties of the fallen human nature and character, will fail and will have no permanent results! The world classifies much of that which the Bible calls sin, as 'sickness' - with the idea that it can be 'healed' or 'restored'! But the Bible says that man's sinful nature is incurable! (Jer. 17:9.) And all psychological problems with which humanity wrestles today, are the direct result of man's fallen sinful nature!

Fear and anxiety, obsessive-compulsive reactions, phobias, hysteria, paranoia, schizophrenia, depression, and psychosomatic disorders resulting into reactions such as alcoholism, drug addiction, homosexuality, self-image problems, aggression, relationship problems, interpersonal and marital conflict, personality clashes, communication gaps and -stand-stills, generation gaps, etc., etc., are all results of man's fallen nature! And the sooner we diagnose our problems correctly, the sooner we will find inner healing and deliverance.

The secret to a sound understanding of the psychology of the Bible, is a revelation to man of the inherent sinfulness of his fallen nature by the Holy Spirit of God!

As we have said before, the centre of man's fallen nature lies in his self-centredness and self-interest. It is man's nature to default to every possible kind of SELF-WILL imaginable, such as self-satisfaction, self-attainment, self-defence, self-pity, self-development, independence, self-righteousness, etc., etc. By nature man rejects the Biblical

diagnosis that the problem lies within his own fallen nature, and projects the problem somewhere else.

Your own sin and your sinful nature are the only reason why you do not experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit, His inheritance, abundance, and victory in your life.

This is the second of the six fundamental Biblical principles that you will find elsewhere in this publication. It is the natural inclination or tendency of the fallen nature to pass the buck and to look for the problem in the wrong place!

Man's sinful nature always wants to project the blame for the problem onto someone else or another party!

Man's fallen nature does not want to accept that the problem lies within himself! He is continually looking for the problem outside of himself - with his parents, or spouse, or the church, or the family, or the society, or the system, or the government. The natural man cannot understand that the problem lies within himself - within his own fallen nature!

Not even king David, the man after God's own heart, understood this when he fell into sin with Bathsheba and had Uriah murdered! For we read in Jer. 17:9: *"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"* And in Prov. 21:2 we read: *"All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart."*

We read in 2 Samuel chapter 12 that the Lord sent the prophet Nathan to David, who told him the story of two men in a certain town. The one was rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had only one little ewe lamb. When a traveller visited the rich man, he refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the visitor, but took the only little ewe lamb of the poor man and slaughtered it. David burned with anger and said to Nathan that the man who did such a thing must certainly die! Then the prophet Nathan said to David: You are the man!

You see, not even king David, a man after God's heart, saw his own inherent sinfulness until God pointed it out to him through the prophet Nathan! David repented, received forgiveness, but also pleaded God for a pure heart according to Psalm 51:12. David was spiritually restored, although he still encountered the after-effects of his sin, for the child born by Bathsheba as a result of David's sin, died.

Although David went through immense mental agony and inner conflict, he held no psychological after-effects, because he recognised the source of his problem and dealt with it according to

God's ordained way! David received spiritual, mental and inner healing.

Thank God that Jesus Christ accomplished a complete solution for the problem of sin as well as man's sinful nature on the cross of Calvary!

You don't have to be satisfied with a half-baked Christian life!

You don't have to make peace with the fact that your sinful nature has dominion over your behaviour! You don't have to wait until you get to heaven to be delivered from your sinful nature!

Jesus Christ paid the full price for the penalty of, but also for the power over sin and man's sinful nature.

Jesus Christ gained the victory over sin and Satan on the Cross of Calvary! Are you living in Christ's victory? It can be your experience if you are willing to surrender your sinful nature to be crucified with Christ and accept God's offer of deliverance from the bondage of sin by faith!

The six fundamental Biblical truths elsewhere in this publication will provide you with the secret of deliverance also from your psychological problems. □

(The Psychology of the Bible [Part 3] - The Psychology of the Christian's Dual Nature - is continued in the next issue.)

The Battlefield Of Prayer

Elmer D Grobler

In the November/December issue of the Disciplex we focused on the Power of Prayer. I would like to continue the subject of prayer in this issue by focusing on an aspect of prayer that is often little understood by Christians, namely, Prayer Warfare.

Every Christian should understand that the Christian life is a war — not a picnic!

The Christian life is essentially a war between the Church of Jesus Christ, the redeemed body of Christ and Satan and his demonic host. Although Satan has been legally defeated at the Cross of Calvary, he is not yet destroyed. It is the Church's responsibility to enforce the will of God on earth in a world practically (but not legally) controlled by Satan and his demons. More about this later.

Prayer is the Battleground of a Spiritual War!

In order to pray effectively the Christian needs to understand that prayer is the primary battlefield of a spiritual war.

Satan and his kingdom opposes the purpose, plan and will of God for our lives and the world through people and circumstances, and if we are fighting our battles on a physical level, we will never win the war. In 2 Cor 10:3,4 we read: *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds ..."* And Eph 6:12 states: *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*

Prayer is the only way one can effectively engage and overcome in

battle with spiritual hosts of wickedness. This reminds me of the priest who had built himself into an enclosure without any windows or a door in order to escape from the devil, only to discover that he had shut in the devil with him.

Prayer is the battle field for spiritual warfare! The reason why prayer is not part of the armour of God in Ephesians 6, is because it is the battle field. In Eph 6:13-17 where we read about the armour of God, verse 18 continues with the following words: *"praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;"* which by implication means that prayer is the primary area of application of God's armour.

Prayer is not only communication between the Christian and God.

There are four major role players in prayer:

1. The Tri-une God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
2. Myself, especially my soul (which is my self-consciousness and comprises of the faculties of my Will, Intellect and Emotion),
3. My spirit (which is my spiritual consciousness, the dwelling of the Holy Spirit when I am born again, and the faculty through which I commune with God and the spirit world),

4. The spirit world (which includes Satan and his demons).

The reason why I have listed the soul and spirit separately is because my soul and spirit may be separately engaged in prayer. I sometimes think about something which is not what I want to pray about. My spirit may have one prayer burden, while my thoughts and emotions are going in another direction.

In prayer these four role players will interact in different ways depending on the situation. However, this is a subject on its own. What is important to understand here is that there will always be a conflict of interest - at the most basic level between the demonic spirit world and my spirit.

For this reason one of Satan and his demonic hosts' primary objectives is to render my prayer-life ineffective.

They do this in various ways, by trying to manipulate my thoughts and emotions, by trying to avert my attention and make my thoughts wander, by stealing my time, putting stumbling blocks in the way of prayer, keeping me too busy to pray, putting an emotional oppression on me when I pray, trying to deceive me with counterfeit spiritual and emotional experiences, and many, many more!

In the November/December issue we said that the first qualification for

effective prayer is that prayer must be about what God wants! I have to pray about things God wants done! However, this brought me to the question, if God wants to do it anyway, why do I have to pray before He does it? It is the answer to this question that revolutionised my prayer life!

I discovered that prayer is not only talking to God, but it is much more than that - it is also talking on behalf of, and with the authority of God in the spiritual realm!

I discovered through the Word of God that I have the authority to enforce God's will in my area of conflict through prayer.

This Is A Real War!

The truth is that every Christian is a soldier in a very real spiritual war that is waging in this world - whether we acknowledge this or not - and this war is won or lost (on individual level by the Christian and as a whole by the Church) in prayer! This is spiritual warfare! There is only one way a Christian can avoid this war, that is by not praying! But then you have already lost the war and become a victim of Satan - that's why you don't pray.

Many Christians don't want to know anything about spiritual warfare because they say, Jesus Christ has overcome Satan and his demons on the cross of Calvary, and I am already a victor in Christ! That is absolutely true! However, that's just part of the truth.

Enforcing The Victory of Calvary Is The Task Of The Church!

The fact of the matter is that although Satan has been legally defeated on the cross of Calvary, he is still practically in control of this world until Jesus comes. However, Jesus has given us the power to overcome and conquer Satan, sin and the world, but we have to enforce the victory of Calvary in our areas of spiritual conflict!

Enforcing the victory of Calvary in this world is the task of the Church and it is done through prayer! God has already defeated Satan on the cross of Calvary. Jesus has ascended into heaven and is sitting at the right hand of the Father on the throne. Satan has been cast out of heaven and is the prince of this world. God is not at war with Satan - but we are - and He has given us the power and authority to overcome Satan in this world.

God will not override the Church and do the Church's work for them. If the we do not take up our authority by the power of the Holy Spirit living in us to overcome Satan, God will not do it for us! The purpose of this article is to help

us to become effective in our prayer-lives and use the authority and armour of God effectively.

Just imagine what can happen in our world when Christians begin to understand and use their authority against Satan and his kingdom. Our countries would look different, the Church would look different, our family-lives would look different and our mission fields would look different. Countries that are closed to the Gospel will open up (as I believe happened in the Soviet Union, China and East Germany — in answer to prayer) and every nation tribe and tongue will be reached with the Gospel, preparing the way for the return of Jesus Christ!

In what areas should I engage in prayer warfare?

Firstly, my personal spiritual life. Remember, you and I are destined to overcome! We are conquerors in Jesus Christ. We must conquer sin and Satan in our lives. We must overcome temptation, we must reign and triumph over hatred, persecution, affliction, circumstances, depression, heartaches and illness. God does not necessarily change our circumstances, but He ALWAYS provides the power to be victorious IN our circumstances!

Secondly, I should engage in prayer warfare for souls. Remember, I don't have to beg God to save someone for whom I have a burden for salvation. I

already know that it is God's will to save that person, for "God so loved the WORLD that He gave His only begotten Son ..."

God will not do for me what He has commissioned and empowered me to do! I have to bring the Gospel to that person, then I have to overcome the powers of darkness operating in that person's life in Jesus' Name! *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ..." 2 Cor 10:4,5.*

I often hear someone praying, 'Lord, please break the strongholds in such and such a person's life, or area of society,' but God gave you and me the authority to pull down the strongholds in Jesus' Name!

God will not do for us what He has commissioned and empowered us by the Holy Spirit to do in Jesus' Name!

Thirdly, in exactly the same way I should engage in prayer warfare for world missions and the evangelisation of individual countries and the whole world.

How does one do prayer warfare?

Must I rebuke and bind Satan left right and centre? No, no, no! Satan will eliminate you from of the war zone very quickly! Never underestimate Satan! Never treat Satan with contempt! Never attack Satan directly. Although there is a time and situation where it may be necessary to confront Satan and his demons directly, this should be done only with the utmost discretion and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

This is how the Lord led me. I audibly proclaim and enforce the victory of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary in and over the area of spiritual conflict.

I always begin my prayer warfare with praise and worship. Praise and worship is an important element of prayer warfare. Praise and worship has the potential to change the atmosphere in a church meeting or your personal prayer session, for the simple reason that demons flee where Jesus Christ is proclaimed as Lord! I will write more on this subject at a future stage.

Many Christians do not understand that they have an invisible audience during prayer. Demons are all around us when we pray.

Don't for one moment believe that demons will flee simply because you pray.

Not so! In fact they are especially present and active when you pray in order to try and render your prayer life ineffective! You will be surprised to experience the power of audible proclamation of the Word in your prayer life!

After I have carefully examined my own standing before God, confessed any conscious sin and confirmed my position in Christ as crucified with Christ, resurrected and seated in heavenly places with Him (Gal 2:20; Eph 2:6), I proceed to the actual warfare phase.

Firstly, I proclaim the basis of my authority.

I call on the Blood of Jesus Christ - the Lamb of God. There are many misgivings among Christians about pleading the Blood of Christ. Pleading the Blood of Jesus Christ is no magic phrase for protection.

When I call on the Blood of the Lamb, I proclaim that my relationship with, and as such my authority, is based on the Blood of Jesus Christ through Whom I have been reconciled to God, saved, cleansed from my sins, and sanctified. I therefore do not confront Satan in my own strength or on the basis of my own righteousness or merits, but in the power of the living God and on the basis of Christ's righteousness through the Cross of Calvary! (You can of course only make this proclamation if it is both

experientially and legally true in your life, otherwise you will have no spiritual authority.)

Secondly, I plead the Blood of the Lamb over the person or area of conflict.

This person or area of conflict may not qualify for the protection of the Blood, as Satan may have a legal right to operate there or in his or her life. However, I plead the Blood over that person or area on the basis of my own standing with Christ and on the principle of intercession. In other words I claim this person or area for Christ on the basis of my faith and authority in Christ in terms of the Word of God.

What does it mean when I plead the Blood of the Lamb over someone else or an area? It means that I am making this proclamation on the basis of the Blood of Jesus Christ that flowed at Calvary for the sin of the whole world, and not on the basis of that person or area's own merits.

Envisage the subject of your intercession standing trial in a court of law. God is the judge. Satan is the prosecutor for the state (in his capacity as prince of this world) and you (as the intercessor on the authority of Christ) are the prosecutor for the accused with Jesus as the Advocate. Satan wants this person found guilty and imprisoned for

life, while you, as the intercessor, plead for this person's salvation, freedom and deliverance on the basis of the fact that Jesus Christ has paid the accused's penalty with His own Blood.

Thirdly, I then audibly proclaim and enforce:

- The all victorious Name and the Lordship of Jesus Christ the Lord,
 - The victory of the Cross of Calvary,
 - The Blood of the Lamb, and the empty grave
- over the person, persons, area, or areas of conflict - in the Name of Jesus Christ the Lord, thereby releasing this person or area of conflict from demonic manipulation, deception, or control in order that the will of God may be fulfilled .

I do this proclamation loudly, aggressively, decisively, and purposefully, (as Gideon and his 300 men did when they routed the Midianites) and I use my hands and point them in the direction of the subject of my intercession, leaving no doubt to my audience (Satan and his demons) that I literally mean every word I say and that I am enforcing this proclamation by faith in the Name of Jesus Christ!

We will continue the subject of prayer warfare in following issues of the Disciplex, focussing next time on 'Knowing Our Enemy.'

The six fundamental Biblical principles of an abundant, victorious, and Spirit-filled life.

Three things you have to know:

1. God has a Divine purpose in creation, a dynamic plan, and a Royal inheritance of spiritual abundance, victory, and a Spirit-filled life in store for you.

2. Your own sin and your sinful nature are the only reason why you do not experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit, His inheritance, abundance, and victory in your life.

3. Jesus Christ is God's perfect and only provision, and man's perfect and only solution for the problem of sin and your sinful nature.

Three things you have to act upon in prayer:

4. Faith!

Sincere faith in Jesus Christ, His work on the Cross and His Word, is the key to a Spirit-filled life, His abundance, victory, and the fullness of His inheritance.

5. Repentance!

Faith in Jesus Christ, His work on the Cross and His Word, involves a wholehearted repentance from all sin.

6. Entire surrender!

Faith in Jesus Christ, His work on the Cross and His Word, involves a crucifixion and death of self and the sinful nature, and an entire and unconditional surrender of every area of your life to Him.

A model prayer for someone who wants to trust the Lord for the infilling of the Holy Spirit and a victorious life.

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I understand that You paid the price with Your own precious blood on the cross of Calvary, not only for the guilt of my sin, but also for my deliverance and liberation from the bondage of sin and my sinful nature! I also understand that You have a wonderful plan of victory and fruitfulness for my life and that You want to fill me with Your Holy Spirit!

I come this moment in deep humiliation to Your throne of grace. I confess that my life does not measure up to Your holy standard! I confess the utter depravity of my own sinful nature! I confess that I do not have victory over sin and my sinful nature and that I am living a life of spiritual defeat. I now come to You kneeling in sincere repentance of my sinfulness, my self-centredness and my unbelief, at the Cross of Jesus. I confess every conscious sin before you. Please cleanse me from every sin, but also create within me a pure heart, Oh God!

(Confess every known sin by name before God, and close every entrance to Satan and his demons, through the Blood of Jesus, by faith.)

I turn my back on every sin in my life this very moment; and I enter into a covenant with You to submit myself in unconditional obedience to Your Word, Your law, Your will, and Your plan for my life! I surrender my sinful nature this very moment to be crucified with Christ, and I take up my position as crucified with Christ by faith! I *(place your own name in here)* **have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me!** (Gal 2:20)

I surrender my whole life, including my WILL, INTELLECT, and EMOTION entirely and unconditionally to You! Everything I am and possess I give to You in order that You may fulfil Your Divine plan in and through my life! Whatever was important to me, I now regard as useless for Jesus' sake! (Phil 3:7-11) Please take full control of every area of my life! Fill my heart and life now with Your Holy Spirit!

Thank you for the promises of Your Word, and I appropriate by faith every promise in Your Word for myself this moment! I believe You when You say that You reward those who seek you with an undivided heart! I believe that You have now taken full control of my life by Your Holy Spirit. I also take up my position as resurrected and victorious with Christ on the basis of Your Word by faith, and in the Name of Jesus Christ my Lord! I praise and worship You, Lord Jesus! I love You, Lord Jesus! Amen. ☐