


The Christian Discipler

- ◆ The Secret Of The Christian's Dual Nature
- ◆ Knowing Your Enemy

April/May 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:

Biblically founded - Evangelical -
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The Christian Discipler is a ministry of

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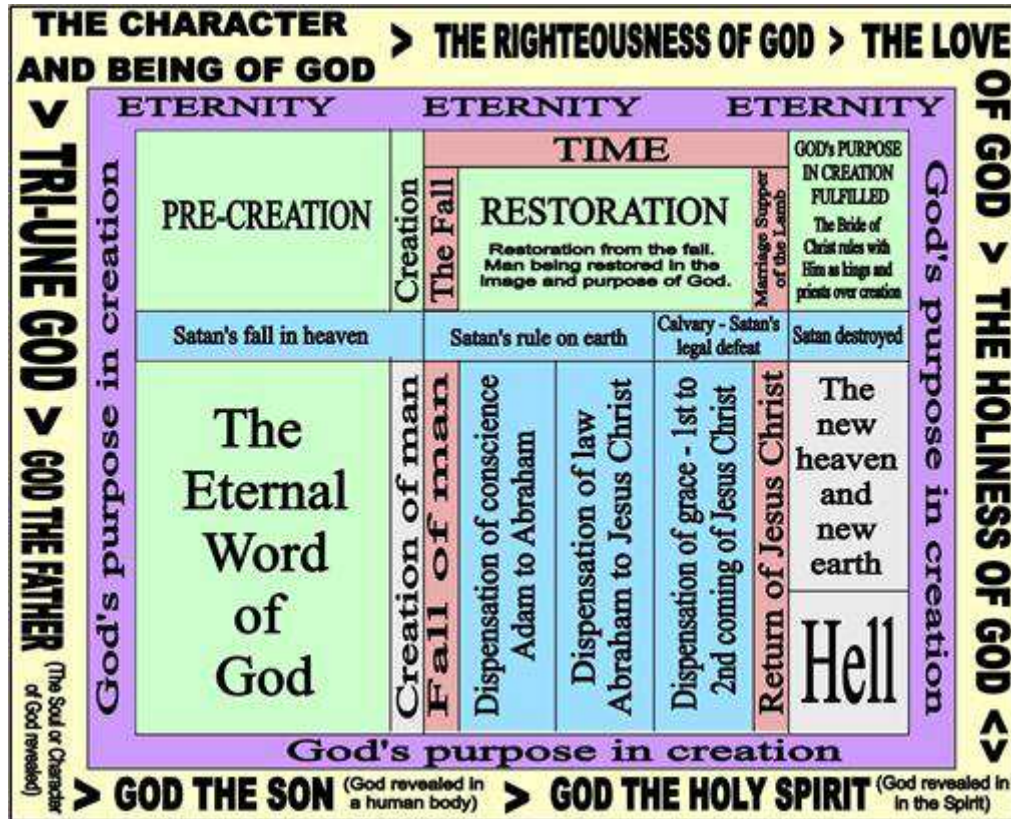
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THE FUNDAMENTAL AND CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE



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

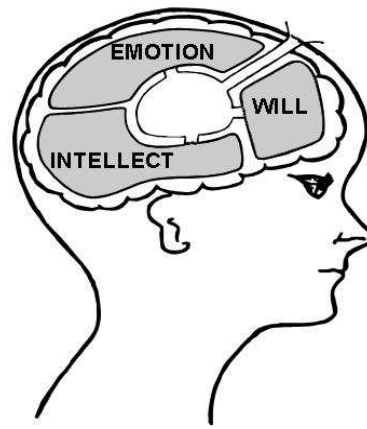
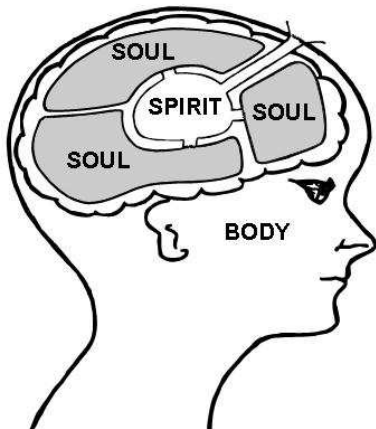
The Psychology Of The Bible—Part 3

Elmer D Grobler

Recapping

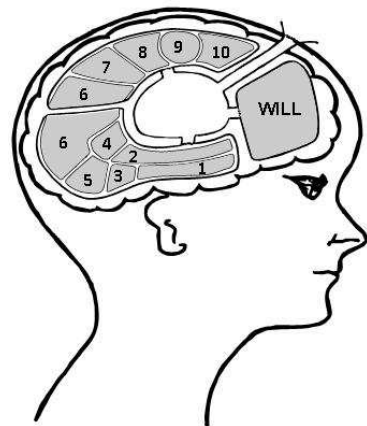
Part 1

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

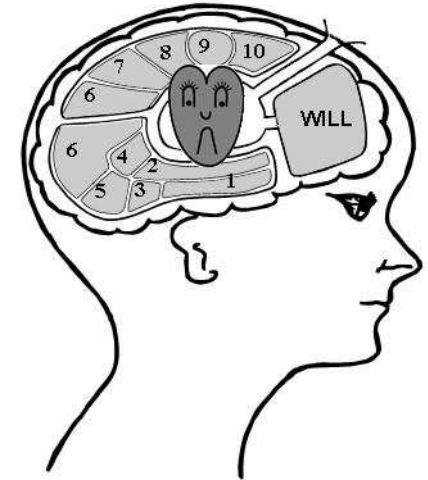


Part 2

In Part 2 we focussed on the sinful nature. We said that everyone is born with an inherent sinful nature and this sinful nature affects every area of our person!

We said that the seat of the sinful nature lies within the human WILL!

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



Part 3. The Secret Of The Christian's Dual Nature

Elmer D Grobler

One of the most important Biblical truths one must understand in order to lead a victorious Christian life, is the secret of the Christian's dual nature.

We dealt with man's sinful nature in detail in the previous edition. We therefore now clearly understand that every unbeliever and unsaved person's heart looks like the illustration in Figure 1. His life is fully controlled by his sinful nature.

The truth of the sinful nature

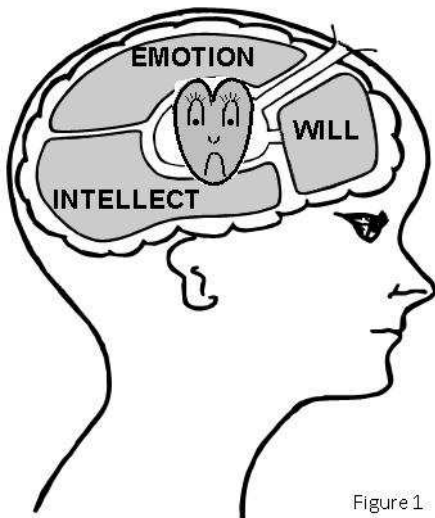


Figure 1

The truth of the Divine nature

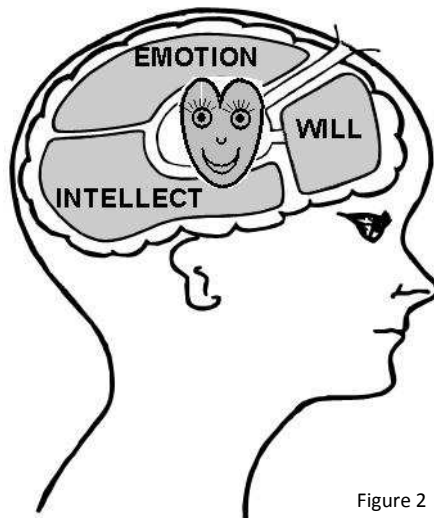


Figure 2

When I am born again, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in my heart and I become a partaker of the Divine nature. (2 Pet 1:3,4.)

This Divine nature is obtained through the spiritual birth - through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said to Nicodemus in Joh 3:3-6: *"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."* (AV)

In order to be a child of God one must become a descendant of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and a partaker of His Divine nature. Since nobody is a child of God by natural birth, there is only one way to become a child of the Messiah and partaker of the Divine nature, this is to be born of God. There is no other way!

When the Holy Spirit makes His residence in my spirit, He enlightens my inner life.

My Intellect becomes enlightened. The things of God become a living reality to me. The old things of this world that used to be important to me, fall away like dirty rags. The Word of God becomes alive to me. The Bible opens up for me. We read in 2 Cor 4:6: *"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."*

Also my Emotion is enlightened. The joy of God immerses my life. My Emotion is filled with Divine love, joy and peace. Gal. 5:22 says: *"The fruit of the Spirit. . . is love, joy, peace, ..."*

But what exactly happens in the heart of a person with regeneration? What exactly is regeneration?

**Rebirth or
regeneration is the
implanting - the
germinating - the birth
- of a new Divine nature
in the heart of a person
through the indwelling
Holy Spirit of God!**

Regeneration occurs when the Holy Spirit takes up residence in my heart. In other words:

This new nature I receive with regeneration, is not my old nature that has been polished and restored - it is not something from within myself!

Neither can one learn to behave like this Divine nature! For this Divine nature is not a philosophy - but a Person! Neither can one obtain this nature by following His example - in exactly the same way a person cannot fly like a bird by swinging your arms up and down!

This Divine nature is the Person of God Himself, who through His Holy Spirit comes and dwells within my heart!

In other words - this new nature is the nature of God Himself that is allotted to me and of which I have now become a partaker. We read in 1 Pet 1:23: *"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God."*

In 2 Pet 1:3,4 we read: *"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness ... so that through them you may participate in the divine nature"* And in 1 Cor 3:16 it is written: *"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"*

How can something like this happen? Well, I want to tell you that this is one of the mysterious mysteries of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! We read in Col 1:26,27: *"The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you,"*

The secret of the Divine nature is that Jesus Christ fully lives by His Spirit in every born again child of God!

The birth of Jesus Christ was an example of how regeneration would occur in the descendants of the Messiah. As supernatural as Jesus Christ, who is truly God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and

born as a human being from the virgin Mary - as supernatural is the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of a person that makes him a partaker of the Divine nature.

As God was truly born from a woman on earth in Jesus Christ through the conception of the Holy Spirit, in exactly the same way the Divine nature is born in the heart of a man through the spiritual conception of the Holy Spirit with regeneration.

How it works, is too marvellous for my human mind to comprehend. But one thing I know - it is true! With regeneration Jesus Christ reproduces Himself by planting His Divine life and nature in the heart of a sinner.

At this point I must once again compel you to examine yourself! Do you have the testimony of the Holy Spirit in your heart that you are truly born again? Do you know for sure that you have acquired the Divine nature? Has Jesus Christ enlightened your inner life by the Holy Spirit?

Or are you still occupied with dead formalistic religion? Perhaps you are trying very hard to be a Christian to the best of your ability! Perhaps you are a very good and wonderful person outwardly!

I personally know many such wonderful people, but of whom I have no assurance that they have ever been born again! Perhaps you may even serve on the council or board of your church. You may even be a minister or pastor! But you and God know that you have never been truly born again!

You will not understand the following part of this article unless you have a testimony of regeneration.

Now that I am born again..

Is the Lord's plan and purpose for my life now complete, now that I am indwelt by the Holy Spirit? Has He now achieved His purpose in my life? The answer is a definite no! On the contrary, He has only just begun to achieve His purpose!

Regeneration is only the first step of God's plan for my life!

Francis Schaeffer, a respected Bible teacher and Christian writer, once wrote: *"It is important to understand that regeneration is nothing more than the beginning of*

*the Christian life. We must not think that because we have accepted Christ and are now children of God, we already possess the fullness of the Christian life. Just like the natural birth, the new birth is also relatively important. In a certain sense the natural birth is the most important moment in a man's life. Without it he can surely not live. From another perspective however, a person's birth is an unimportant part of his life. It is only the beginning thereof." **

The secret of the Christian's dual nature

Many Christians now make the mistake in believing that their hearts look like Figure 2 after regeneration. Many Christians have the erroneous idea that they are free from their sinful nature after regeneration and that the Holy Spirit must necessarily now be in control of their lives.

No, no - there is another secret I have to understand.

The problem of the Christian's dual nature.

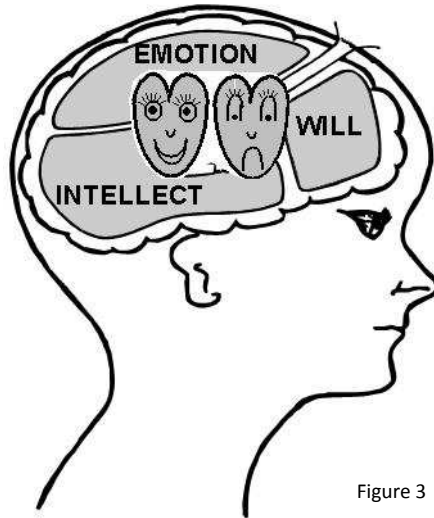


Figure 3

According to Romans 7:14-26 and Galatians 5:17, the flesh or sinful nature is in conflict with the Spirit or the Divine nature in my life. It is therefore clear that I as a Christian who have received the Holy Spirit with regeneration, am in possession of two natures - namely, my old sinful nature, as well as the Divine nature or the Holy Spirit who now dwells within me! Figure 3 illustrates this truth.

The result thereof is that after my regeneration, I discover that there is an inner conflict continuing in my

heart. Therefor Gal 5:17 says: *"For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want."*

I have a sincere desire to do the will of God for my life and to live according to the Word of God, but I find that I stumble over the same sin or sins time and again, and that my sinful nature continues to exercise control over my life.

I find that I am living a life of spiritual defeat. It feels as if my testimony and my life are in contradiction to one another. I do not have the courage to take a stand for Jesus Christ under all circumstances. I often deny Him like Peter, either through my words or through my silence.

It may even sometimes feel as if I have a split personality. My 'one heart' deeply desires to do the will of God, but my 'other heart' desires exactly the opposite - and more than often my 'other heart' wins the battle!

This heart-condition is vividly described for us in Romans 7:14-26, and Figure 4 strikingly illustrates this condition.

Read Romans 7:14-20 once again.

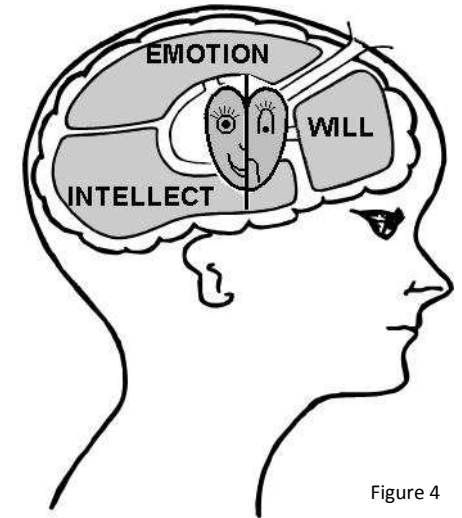


Figure 4

But thank God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ does not end here! Jesus also provided a perfect solution on the cross of Calvary for this problem of my dual nature!

The solution to the problem of the Christian's dual nature.

The Bible teaches me that there are two spiritual laws in operation in my life. The one is the law of sin and the sinful nature. We read about this law in Romans 7:21-24. It reads: *"So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I*

* Freely translated from the Afrikaans publication: "Met Leë Hande Van Geloof" by Francis Schaeffer.

see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?"

The law of sin and the sinful nature can be illustrated with the law of gravity.

The law of gravity says that the earth attracts all things to itself, and that everything that goes up will come down because of the gravitational pull of the earth. I may kick a ball into the air as high as possible, but it will return to the ground time and again. This is an unchangeable law of nature.

In exactly the same way the law of sin and my sinful nature says that my sinful nature will draw me towards sin without exception for as long as I am under his control. This is the unchangeable law of sin!

I must therefore understand very well that there is nothing good in my *natural* personality that can be made acceptable to God! It will be of no benefit to try and teach my earthly nature religious habits. It will be of no benefit to try and teach my earthly nature to do the will of God. For he cannot! (Rom 8:7,8.)

Many Christians are trying to polish their old nature in order to make it acceptable to God. But this is a completely futile exercise!

Some Christians have this idea that there is some good in every person - the good must only be developed. This is a serious mistake! The Bible says, there is no good in any person! We have already fully discussed this reality in the previous issue.

But thank God, there is a perfect solution to this problem. Fortunately Paul does not stop with verse 24 of Romans 7, for he proceeds to reveal to us the secret of the problem.

Firstly, he announces in verse 25 that, thank God, there is deliverance

in Jesus Christ from the problem of the law of sin and the sinful nature! Then he continues to reveal the secret when he says: *"So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin."*

In verse 25 Paul actually says the following. He says that with my mind (or heart - Amplified Bible) - that is with my Divine Nature or the Holy Spirit who dwells within my heart - I am serving the Lord, but in my Sinful Nature (or flesh) I am a servant (or slave) of sin.

A More Powerful Law ..

There is however another law in question, and this law is more powerful than the law of sin. This other law overrules the law of sin and my sinful nature! This second law is called the law of the Spirit.

We read about this law in Romans 8:1-4: *"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, [who walk not after the flesh (or sinful nature), but after the Spirit. -AV] because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was*

weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit."

The law of the Spirit can be illustrated by the law of magnetism.

When a nail which dropped to the floor enters into the magnetic field of a magnet, the law of magnetism overrules the law of gravity, and the nail is drawn away from the floor by the magnet.

The law of magnetism therefore, is stronger than the law of gravity - on condition that the nail is close enough to the magnetic field of the magnet.

Understanding these two laws, what is now the secret of deliverance from, and victory over the law of sin and my sinful nature? The secret is a transfer of power. (A company take-over if you like.)

This involves a stripping of my sinful nature (or flesh, or the old boss) of its power, and transferring control to the Divine Nature or the Holy Spirit (or the new Manager) by faith in prayer.

This is done by giving myself over to be crucified with Christ in an act of absolute surrender of my entire life to Jesus Christ, by faith, in prayer! This is how control of my heart is transferred from the gravitational pull of sin and my sinful nature, to the magnetic field of the Holy Spirit.

The secret is to surrender my sinful nature to be crucified by faith, and to make an entire and unconditional surrender of every area of my life to the Holy Spirit for His undisputed control, in prayer.

This means crowning Jesus Christ as the unconditional King of my entire life! Please read Romans 6:11-14, Romans 8:12-14, Galatians 2:19,20 and Galatians 5:16-18,24.

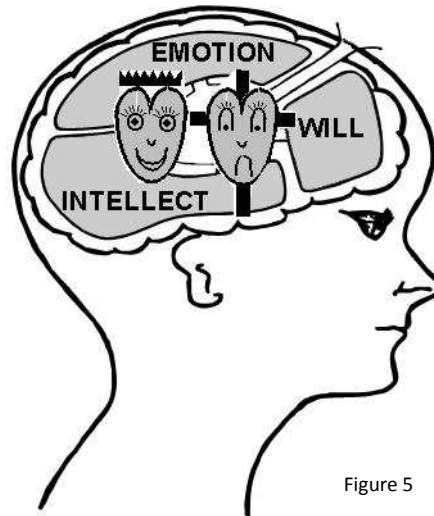


Figure 5

The secret of full deliverance and a victorious Christian life is to surrender my sinful nature to be crucified with Christ and to transfer full control to the Holy Spirit in every area of my life - spirit, soul, and body - will, intellect, and emotion - in a definite step of faith in prayer - and then to walk therein on a daily basis.

Figure 5 illustrates this truth.

The model prayer on the back page will help you to do this.

(The Psychology of the Bible is continued in the next issue.)

Conquering Through Prayer — Part 2

Knowing Your Enemy

Elmer D Grobler

Who is the Enemy?

In order to be effective in spiritual warfare, we must know our enemy. There are several things we have to know about our enemy. We have to know who our enemy is, and we have to know his tactics.

Have you ever heard of a sports team who enters into a league game without any knowledge of their opponents? Or a country entering into a war without any knowledge of their enemy?

Yet Christians believe they can win the Christian war without knowledge of their enemy!

Some say, I don't want to know more about Satan, I'd rather know more about God. It's like a soldier

being willing to learn everything about his weapon and armour, but doesn't want to know anything about his enemy. How foolish!

The Christian has three enemies and it is of paramount importance that we should be able to distinguish them if we want to be successful in our Christian lives and service.

Sin

Our first enemy is sin. Jesus says in Mat 5:29: *"If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell."*

Satan

Our second enemy is Satan and his kingdom. In Matthew 13 we read the parable of the sower and in

verse 39 Jesus said: *"The enemy who sowed them is the devil, ..."*

Satan and sin are not synonymous.

Satan is the originator of sin, and where Satan is, there is sin; and where sin is, there is Satan. But Satan is not sin and sin is not Satan!

Furthermore, Satan is not simply an evil force - Satan is a real person, served and supported by a host of real demonic personalities!

The World

The Christian's third enemy is the world. In 1 Jn 2:15 we read: *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."*

What is the world? I have always believed that 'the world' in the Biblical sense means only 'the sinful world' — the world system with it's people that are tainted by sin. However, it is interesting to note that the word for 'world' in the Greek is 'kosmos', and it is the same word used in Joh 3:16: "For

God so loved the 'world' ..." How can it then be that God so loves the world, but we are not supposed to love the world?

What the Bible is actually teaching us is that the Christian's life must be dominated and controlled by the spiritual and not by the physical. The world is physical and appeals to the human senses. If your life is driven by your senses you will love the world. This does not only include the sinful world, but also the 'good' world!

I know many good people who are unsaved but live morally 'good' lives. They do not indulge in worldly sins, but they are nevertheless worldly because they are driven by their senses and the physical world. Tragically, there are many born again Christians who are no different — their lives are driven by the physical rather than the spiritual things — they love the 'good world' and therefore they remain spiritual dwarfs.

The Unholy Trinity

Satan is the prince of this world and the world is in the power of Satan and sin. These three, Satan sin and the world are joined in an evil partnership. Where the one is,

is the other, with one exception - Satan is also where sin and the world sometimes are not - with and around dedicated Christians and the body of Christ.

This brings us to the subject of war. There are two categories of spiritual war. The first is the war with sin and the sinful nature or the flesh, and the world. This is a civil war. Then there is the war with Satan and his kingdom — this is the conventional war.

The Civil War

In Romans chapter 7 we have a very real description of the civil war. The apostle Paul describes this war vividly where he says: *"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good*

that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me." (Verses 14-20)

Why do we call the war with sin, the sinful nature and the flesh, a civil war? Because this war is fought within the heart of man. It is a struggle for the dominion of your and my heart. This is the subject of our previous article, The Secret of the Christian's Dual Nature.

If someone is still engaged in a civil war, he or she will never win the war against Satan and his kingdom.

There are especially two misunderstandings among Christians I want to address on this subject. The first misunderstanding is that if I cannot get victory over some or other sin in my life, whether it is an addiction, hatred, envy, a bad temper, a foul tongue, or whatever, Satan is automatically the culprit. No, no, no! It is a problem of the heart!

My problem is an unclean heart. It is a matter of civil war. The problem lies within the area of my sinful nature or my flesh - the problem lies within my unsanctified heart. I am at war with my own sinful nature.

Let me once again say this unequivocally - there is full deliverance at the Cross and in the Blood of the Lamb for my unsanctified heart!

But having said this, the second misunderstanding among Christians is when a saint (I am talking about a sanctified Christian) falls into sin, we automatically apportion the blame to sin or a problem of the heart.

This may not be so at all! This brother or sister may be under satanic attack, and no remorse or repentance will keep them from falling again and again unless they recognise the source of their conflict and are able to engage in conventional war with Satan and claim the victory in the spiritual realm!

No country that is involved in a civil war will survive a conventional war.

So it is in the spiritual realm, as we have mentioned before. At the same time, all Christians are automatically involved in a war with Satan - whether they know or acknowledge this or not.

So the moral of the story is simply, if you are still involved in a civil war — go to the Cross of Calvary and get victory over your own sinful nature at the very first opportunity because Satan will ensure that you are completely ineffective in your witness and service for God for as long as you are in this condition. He has a legal right to do so!

The Conventional War

We are now moving to the conventional war, so let's take a closer look at Satan, his kingdom and the spirit world.

The reality of Satan, his kingdom and the invisible spirit world

In God's creation there is a physical and a spirit world. We all understand what the physical world is. This is

everything we can see, feel, hear and taste with our senses. However, the spirit world cannot be seen or heard and we cannot communicate with the spirit world through our senses, although the spirit world is as much a reality as the physical world.

We read in Joh 4:24: *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."* However, God is not the only one in the spirit world. Angels, Satan and his demons are also part of the spirit world.

Occultism is the medium through which people communicate with the demonic spirit world. Although we cannot hear or see the spirit world with our senses, the spirit world can see and hear us in the physical realm.

It is important to emphasise the reality of Satan and his kingdom! Satan and his demons are real living spiritual personalities. This is no science fiction!

Our children are indulging in digital games and science fiction movies of monster type creatures created by Hollywood and others. People think these creatures are the creation of people's imagination. However, I think we will be surprised to find out one day how much of these so called science fiction programs are in fact simply impressions of what producers perceive in the spirit world.

Satan and his demons are no Science Fiction

The fact of the matter is that Satan is a real person, heading a real kingdom — he is not science fiction, nor just a force as some believe.

Many books have been written on this subject and I do not intend to cover all that ground again. If you want to read more on the character and work of Satan, I recommend for reading, *Winning The Invisible War* by E M Bounds, *War On The Saints* and *The Warfare With Satan* by Jesse Penn Lewis, *Destined To Overcome* by Paul Billheimer, *He Came To Set The Captives Free* and *Prepare For War* by Rebecca Brown.

E M Bounds writes in his book, *Winning The Invisible War*: “The Bible reveals the devil as a person — not a mere figure, not simply an influence. He is not only a personification, but a real person. ...”

“Many myths have gathered around the person of the devil throughout the ages. Much poetry, tradition, and even our fears have caricatured his person, exaggerated his character, and coloured his conduct. But there is truth in regard to him, naked and simple truth. ...”

“We need the knowledge about the enemy, his character, presence, and power in order to arouse men to action. This knowledge is vital to victory.”

“When the devil fell, others fell with him. ... The Bible clearly states that the devil has a host of angelic followers who are ready and eager in their efforts to hurt man and defeat God’s Kingdom on earth.” ¹

Demons are Eager Church-goers!

I want us to focus on one extremely important fact about Satan and his kingdom.

It is important to know that all of us are surrounded by an audience of demonic spirits in the unseen spirit world day and night. They hear and see every audible word we utter and every movement we make. They have the freedom of the city, this world and every place on earth, even the church — they are even around us right now and they hear every word you and I say.

Demons are eager church goers! Demons are everywhere where Christians are!

I believe there are more demons where Christians are than in any other place because they have very little work to do elsewhere.

Where sin reigns they have no work to do. Every empty seat in the church is filled by a demon — Bible-believing and evangelical churches are more well attended. Every prayer meeting is well attended by demons. Every Christian home is covered by demons — especially where there is a faithful and praying mother or father, husband or wife.

E M Bounds writes: “Satan is always at church before the preacher is in the pulpit or a member in the pew. He comes to hinder the sower, to impoverish the soil, or to corrupt the seed. He uses these tactics only when courage and faith are in the pulpit, and when zeal and prayer are in the pew. But if dead ritualism or live liberalism are in the pulpit, he does not attend because they are no danger to him.” ²

What is their Modus Operandi and How do they Operate?

E M Bounds writes the following about the devil’s business:

“A spiritual character can work through other agencies or directly on the human spirit. Satan infuses thoughts, makes suggestions, and does it so deftly that we do not know their origin. He tempted Eve to take the forbidden fruit. He put it into David’s mind to number Israel ... He influenced Ananias and Sapphira to lie to God.”

“Peter’s yielding to presumption was instigated by Satan. Judas’ betrayal was from the same

source. The temptation of Christ was a typical masterpiece of Satan’s craft.” ³

1. Demons tempt

We all understand temptation. In 1 Th 3:5 Paul writes: *“For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.”*

Satan even tried to tempt Jesus in the wilderness. Let this be a warning to every Christian. No Christian is so advanced spiritually that he or she is beyond the danger of temptation.

2. Demons mislead or deceive

We read in Rev 20:8 *“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations ...”*

And in 1 Ki 22:23 we read: *“Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours,”*

Demonic deception is rife in the Christian Church of our time.

Deception is one of Satan's most successful strategies in rendering the Church powerless. Demons can counterfeit every single spiritual experience, from conversion to the infilling of the Holy Spirit. They can even counterfeit Jesus himself.

There are demonic spirits who call themselves Jesus. There are religious demons who specialise just in counterfeiting every work of the Holy Spirit. For this reason we are warned in 1 Jn 4:1: *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."*

3. Demons manipulate and incite

We find an example of satanic manipulation and incitation in 1 Chr 21:1: *"Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel."*

Demons manipulate people's thoughts and emotions and incite people to sin. Demons are masters at wrecking relationships.

Demons concentrate especially on Christian marriages and families.

Many a Christian marriage, church and personal relationship have been wrecked through demonic manipulation and incitation. I am persuaded that the majority of Christian marriage and family breakdowns are caused by demonic manipulation and incitation.

4. Demons oppress

Demonic oppression is the chronic oppressive activity and pressurising of demons on a person from outside. Demonic oppression must not be confused with demonic possession. When demons cannot possess, they try to oppress. Oppression is often illegal, in other words, they often have no legitimate right to do what they are doing but they are doing it anyway for as long as they are not stopped.

We see an example of an oppressive spirit in the life of Saul in 1 Sa 16:14, although this spirit was sent by God and therefore legitimate: *"But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him."*

Paul also had an oppressing spirit. We read in 2 Co 12:7: *"And lest I should be exalted above measure*

by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure." Ironically, this was also a legitimate demonic oppression.

Therefore we must never associate demon oppression with a lack of holiness, or God's judgement over sin. Demon oppression is in fact more common among holy and dedicated Christians than others, because they are a greater threat to Satan's kingdom.

The fact of the matter is that the least a Christian is troubled by Satan and his demons, the least threat that Christian is to the kingdom of Satan.

5. Demons attack

Demons strike people with various afflictions such as diseases, accidents, obstacles, destruction, death, torture, failure, poverty, financial ruin, crop failures, family

disunity, marriage failures and divorce, rebellion in children and many more - you name it, demons do it! A classic example of this is the case of Job.

However, we must be careful to attribute every affliction to demonic activity. There can be many other reasons for the above phenomena. When we suspect demonic activity we should ask God to reveal the true source of affliction to us.

6. Demons possess or control

Demon possession is when a demon takes up dwelling inside a person within his spirit. We find ample examples of demon possession in the Bible. One of the more well known is possibly the demoniac of Gadara. *"And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit..."* Mar 5:2.

Demonic possession is a subject on its own and is beyond the scope of these articles. It is generally accepted that a born again Christian cannot be demon possessed, or should we rather say, a demon possessed person cannot be born again unless

he or she is delivered from demon possession.

On What Basis do Demons Operate?

As you have already noticed, demonic activity can be legal or illegal. How must we understand this, considering the fact that Satan and his demons have legally been conquered on Calvary?

Satan has been legally defeated and has no legitimate right to operate in any life or area where the Cross of Calvary and the Blood of the Lamb is applied by faith. In the following issue we are going to expand on Satan's defeat by Jesus' redemption on Calvary. But the principle to understand here is:

The victory of Calvary has to be applied by faith in our lives through a voluntary act of our will before it becomes effective in our lives.

God will never override the human race in enforcing the victory of

Calvary. God has created man in His own image as a sovereign entity with a Will of his own. Adam sinned by a choice of his own free will, so the restoration from the fall must also occur by a choice of man's own free will.

God will never force Himself on anyone! On the contrary, that is exactly how Satan and his demons operate — they force themselves upon their victims. Salvation is a matter of free individual choice! You either have to accept it voluntarily, in the absence whereof you reject it.

Enforcing the victory of Calvary in this world is the task of the Church!

In failing to do so, Satan will continue to operate freely without any resistance in spite of Calvary's victory. But what is the difference between Satan's legal and illegal activity?

Satan's Legal Ground

Satan can operate legally anywhere in a Christian or unbeliever's life where he has legal ground. What gives Satan legal ground to operate?

The following is a list of the most common, although there may be more:

- Unrepentant sin,
- The flesh (meaning any area of a person or Christian's life that is not under the control of the Holy Spirit),
- Anti-Biblical or unholy cultural and ancestral bondages,
- Anti-Biblical human philosophies such as the Evolution Theory,
- Unchristian and unholy symbols and dress,

- Occultic practises, objects and symbols,
- Unbroken curses,
- Hateful attitudes,
- Unbroken sins of the fathers

Where the victory of Calvary and the Blood of the Lamb has been proclaimed in the absence of the above, satanic and demonic activity do nevertheless occur, but they occur illegally. That means that Satan has no right to operate in that particular area and he can effectively be stopped.

Notes:

1. Winning The Invisible War by E M Bounds, page 11,12
2. Winning The Invisible War by E M Bounds, page 32
3. Winning The Invisible War by E M Bounds, page 31

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. ☐

How to lead your friends to Jesus Christ through the internet. Become a "fisher of men" for Jesus!

We are hosting an internet Gospel fishing program on the internet you may use to lead your friends and family to Christ. You may have come to know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour through the same program. It is called the Dream Program.

Simply tell your friends about this website and encourage them to visit this page. The rest will happen by itself. The web address is:

www.sepprograms.com/programs/dreamp1.html

How To Fulfill Your Dream!

You have a dream, right?
Right - everybody has a dream!

You have been created with a dream!
In fact, the human race is the only creature born to dream ...

Do you know why? ...
Because you have been created in the image of God ...

You were born with an unfulfilled God-given dream inside you!

The big question is, will you fulfill your dream?
The sad fact is that the majority of people never fulfill their dreams ...
Will you also end up - like many people you know - on the ash-heap of unfulfilled dreams?

My name is Elmer Grobler and I want to help you fulfill your God-given dream ... For many years my dreams also ended up on the ash-heap of unfulfilled dreams ... until I discovered my purpose. Now I am in a position to help you discover yours. If you are interested in reading further - click on the link below.

No money required! No credit card needed!
No obligations! No secret agendas!

Click here to learn how to fulfill your God-given dream!

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