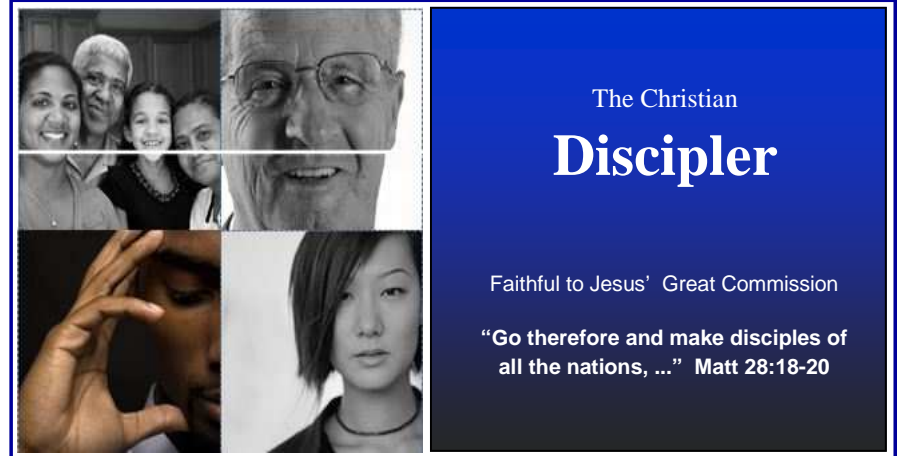


The Christian Discipler

- ◆ The Secret Of Character Renewal
- ◆ The Victory of Calvary

June/July 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 -
Inter-denominational - Non-sectarian.

The Christian Discipler is a ministry of

Scripture Educational Programs

P O Box 31014, Totiusdal, Pretoria. South Africa. 0134

Website: www.sepprograms.com

Email Address: office@sepprograms.com

Director and Editor: Elmer D Grobler

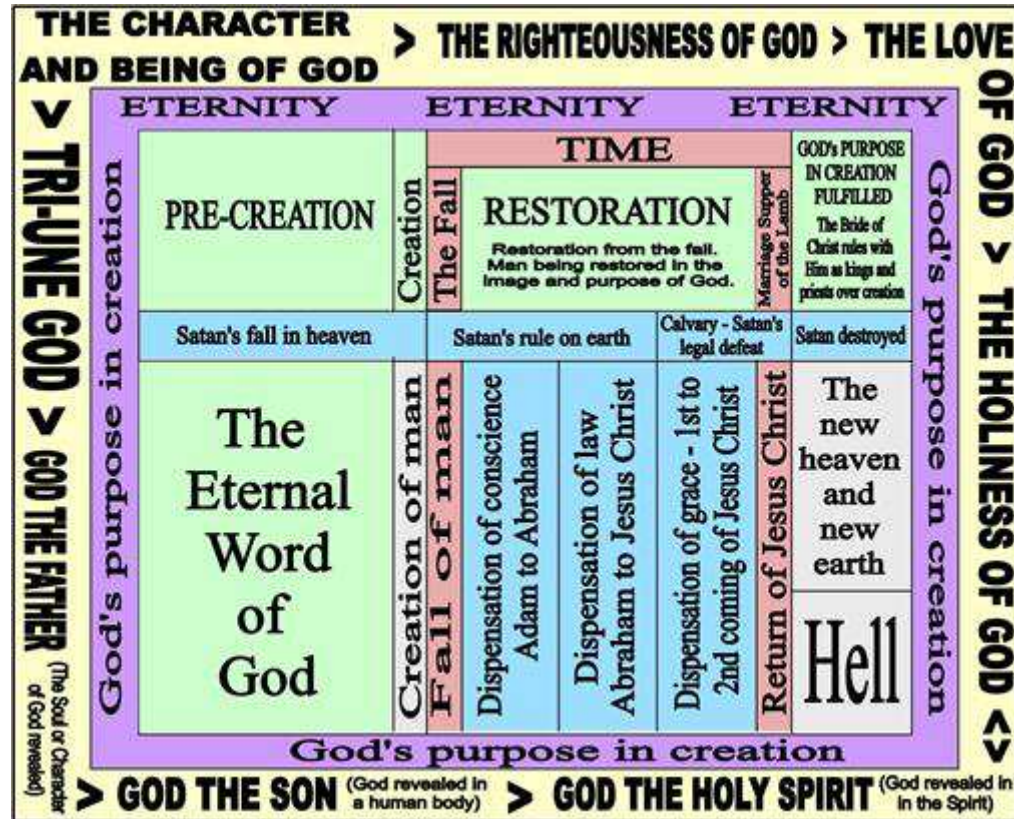
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THE FUNDAMENTAL AND CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE



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

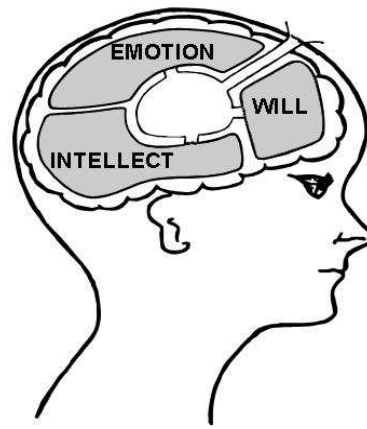
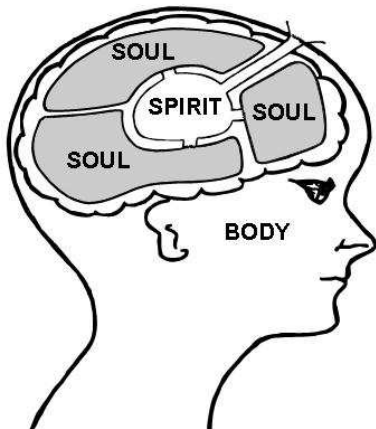
The Psychology Of The Bible—Part 4

Elmer D Grobler

Recapping

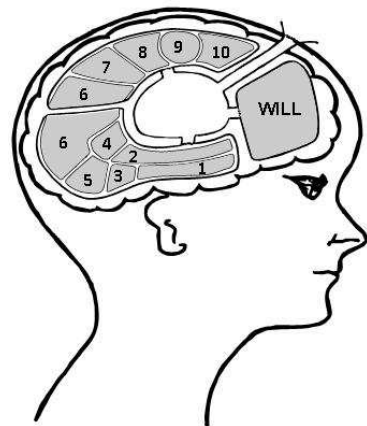
Part 1 - The Secret of the Human Trinity

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

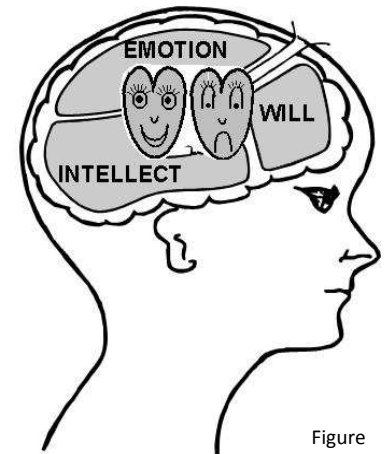
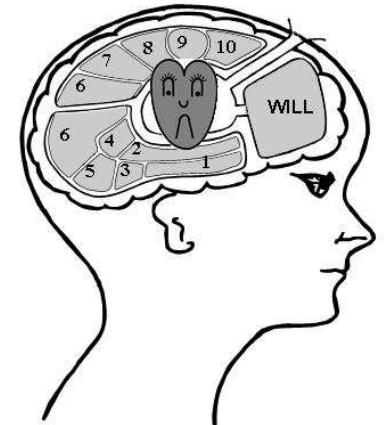


Part 2 - The Secret of the Sinful Nature

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.

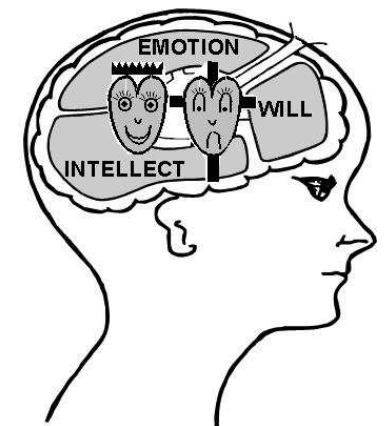


Part 3 - The Secret of the Christian's Dual Nature

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.

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.

There is however another law in question, and this law is more powerful than the law of sin. This law is called the law of the Spirit and here we explained how it is possible for this law to become the dominant law in my life!



Figure

The Psychology of the Bible

Part 4.

The Secret Of Character Renewal

Elmer D Grobler

Regeneration is an absolute basic prerequisite for character renewal! Character renewal begins with the new birth! Character renewal begins with the receiving of a new life! Character renewal begins with the receiving of the Divine Nature! If you have not been born again, this article will be of no value to you! Are you sure that you are born again? Do you have the witness of the Holy Spirit in your heart that your sins are forgiven and washed away in the Blood of the Lamb, and that you will be with Jesus in heaven if you should die today? If not, please settle this issue with God before you read any further.

The meaning of character renewal

The Chambers Twentieth Century dictionary describes the meaning of the word 'character' inter alia, as the aggregate of peculiar qualities which constitutes personal individuality.

In other words, a person's character is what he is in his inner person or heart. We speak of an honest person, or an unreliable person, or a hard-working person, or a lazy person, or a good person, or a bad person - then we are speaking of his character. A person's character is that predominant inner characteristic of his personality.

The Biblical psychology of character renewal is to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The psychology of character renewal is to allow the Holy Spirit to become predominant in my life - to allow the Holy Spirit to acquire control of my life!

The Holy Spirit represents the Divine Nature in my life. In the previous issue of The Christian Disciple we have discussed the Christian's dual nature. We saw that when I am born again, the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling within my heart. I then become a partaker of the Divine Nature. For example, we read in 2 Pet. 1:3,4: *"His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature..."*

However, this does not necessarily mean that the Holy Spirit has already taken full control of my life.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit means that the Divine Nature must have become predominant in my life - the Divine Nature must have acquired power of control.

The psychology of character renewal is the taking over of CONTROL in my life by the Divine nature.

What else does character renewal imply? Character renewal, or the taking over of control in my life by the Holy Spirit, implies the acquiring of a pure heart - a heart that has been cleansed from indwelling sin. We read in 1 John 1:9: *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

To be forgiven and to be purified from sin are two different things!

To be forgiven implies that my sin is not imputed to my bill of debt anymore. To be purified implies that I acquire the righteousness of God. The Bible teaches us about two categories of righteousness - 'imputed' righteousness and 'imparted' righteousness. Forgiveness of sin is 'imputed' righteousness. Purification from sin is 'imparted' righteousness.

The difference between forgiveness and purification can be illustrated by a garden where the weeds have to be eradicated. When one removes the weeds with a hoe, the surface of the garden looks clean and free

from weeds. This, unfortunately, does not remain the case for very long, since the roots of the weeds are still in the ground and will grow again soon after the first rain! But when the weeds are pulled out with their roots and all, the same weed cannot grow again.

To be purified from sin means that the root of sin is removed from my heart and life - in other words, the roots of the weeds are removed and not only the surface hoed! God promises to forgive me as well as to purify me! David, for example, prays in Ps. 51:9 for forgiveness, and in verse 10 for purification: (9) *"Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. (10) Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me."*

Someone whose heart has been purified from indwelling sin has undergone a character renewal. (Indwelling sin is that particular sin that dwells within you - that sin that besets you, with which you continually struggle and before which you succumb time and again.)

To acquire a pure heart does not mean sinless perfection, but it does mean to be purified and delivered from the power of sin that reigned supreme in my sinful nature!

Deliverance means to be set free from the power of sin and the self-life - to be delivered from the power of control of sin and my self-life. It implies that sin and my self-life do not reign over me anymore - it does not have the upper hand anymore. Its power is broken, since the Holy Spirit is now in control of my life. I am now free to exercise my WILL to live according to the will of God.

This implies that I have acquired a pure heart - that I have been purified from indwelling sin - that I have undergone a character renewal. I am no more a sinner - I am now a purified and delivered sinner! So we read in Eze. 36:25-27: *"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."*

Rehabilitation and deliverance are two different things.

Rehabilitation is the world's version of deliverance. Rehabilitation is a human or humanistic process in exactly the same way that self-development is a humanistic process. Wonderful temporary results may be achieved from rehabilitation, and thank God for every rehabilitated person. However, unless a rehabilitated person is also delivered and set free, he is still bound in his sin in God's eyes. Eternal results are only achieved by deliverance, and only deliverance can set someone free from the enslaving power of sin and the sinful nature!

The psychology of the Bible is deliverance through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

I want to tell you unambiguously on the basis of God's Word, that there is deliverance from alcoholism, from depression, from every kind of fear and anxiety, from smoking, from homosexuality, from drug addiction and any other form of enslavement, from an unclean mind and thought-system, from an unforgiving spirit, from feelings of hate and retaliation, from every sinful power and habit, and from every psychological sickness and problem of our time, through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

If it is possible for someone to be rehabilitated, deliverance through the Blood of Jesus Christ is an absolute certainty! Whether you and I experience this deliverance, does not depend on whether God is able to deliver, but rather on whether you and I are searching for deliverance seriously enough and are willing to take God on His Word by faith!

The secret of deliverance is to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Great misunderstanding exists among Christians with regard to the meaning of being filled with the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Holy Spirit means only one thing, namely that your entire life is under the control of the Holy Spirit; and the main sign of the infilling of the Holy Spirit is a holy life and a life filled with Divine love and joy!

To this effect we read in Rom. 8:4,5: *"... He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 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.” And Gal. 5:22,23, 25 says: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control... If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

The secret of being filled with the Holy Spirit is self-crucifixion.

The foundation of Biblical psychology is self-denial and self-crucifixion! Jesus says in Matt. 16:24,25: *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”*

The psychology of the Bible consists of the abandonment of my SELF-LIFE - the sacrificing of my SELF-LIFE - the denial of my SELF-LIFE. God asks of me an absolute and entire surrender of my SELF-LIFE in order that He may sanctify me and fill me with His Holy Spirit!

The psychology of the Bible is not a self-help or self-development formula, but a Holy Spirit-controlled life through the crucifixion of my self-life!

It is important to understand that regeneration and absolute surrender are not necessarily the same thing. It is true that with regeneration, God asks for an entire surrender of my whole life, and that the purpose of regeneration is full surrender to God.

When the Holy Spirit comes and dwells within my spirit, He enlightens my inner life. See Figure 1.

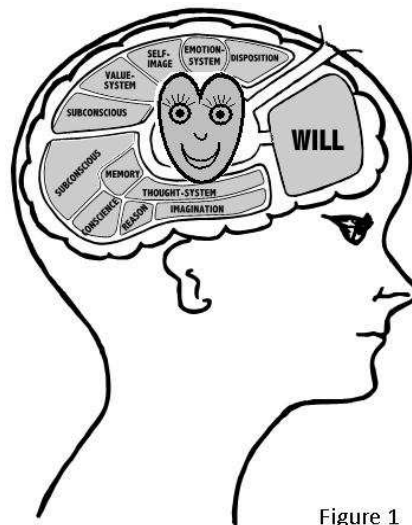


Figure 1

It is important to understand that not everyone who is born again and in whom the Holy Spirit dwells, is necessarily filled with the Holy Spirit! It is true that when the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in my heart with regeneration, He comes and dwells within my spirit in all His fullness. Now, you may think, you are contradicting yourself. The fact of the matter however, is that I do not experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit in my life until I yield or surrender every area or faculty of my life to the Spirit's control through a definite step of my WILL.

The fact of the matter is that the entire wealth of God's redemptive inheritance became at my disposal the day I was born again. However, the important question is whether my entire life became at God's disposal the day I was born again?

Whether I acquire God's full inheritance of redemption through one, two or

more crises or acts of grace in my life, is totally irrelevant. It is sad that Christians still argue with one another over this issue! The important thing is that I acquire the full redemptive inheritance of God! The fact that I have invited Jesus Christ into my life, does not at all imply that I have necessarily already given Him unconditional access to the control-centre of my life!

The majority of born again Christian believers have never come to the place where they have made an absolute and unconditional surrender of their entire life to God!

The fact that God regenerates and saves a person when He fully knows that this person is still keeping a part of his life back from God, is truly a miracle in itself! This once again shows how infinitely great the grace of God is! This was also the case in my own life for approximately ten years!

God asks for a wholehearted surrender. God asks for an absolute

surrender of your and my entire life to Him - spirit, soul and body. God asks for a full surrender of every area of your life to the Holy Spirit. See Figure 2.

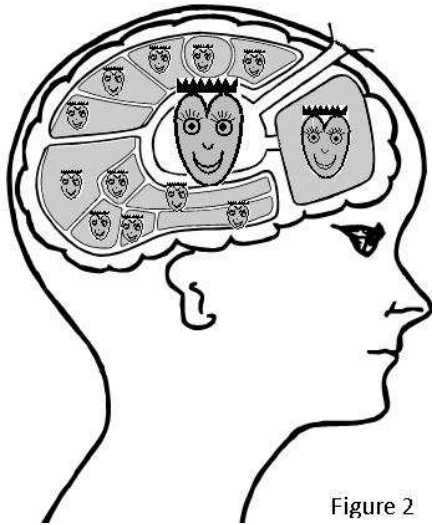


Figure 2

Thus we read in 1 Thes. 5:23: *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (AV) We read in Rom. 12:1: *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."* We also read in Jer. 29:13: *"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."* And we read in Mark 12:30: *"And you shall love the LORD your God*

with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment." We also read in Rom. 6:13: *"... present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."*

To sanctify means to consecrate to God. To sanctify means to offer or surrender myself to God for His exclusive purpose and use. God wants to fill your and my life with His Holy Spirit and sanctify us. We read in Eph. 5:18: *"... be filled with the Spirit, ..."* In 1 Thes. 4:3 we read: *"For this is the will of God, your sanctification .."* And verse 7 says: *"For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness."* We also read in 1 Pet. 1:15,16: *"but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"*

The Bible further teaches that without holiness, no one will see the Lord. In Heb. 12:14 we read: *"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:"* This was the entire purpose of Jesus Christ's redemptive work on the cross! Thus we read in Heb. 13:12: *"Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate."*

We said that the secret of character renewal is a purified heart and deliverance from the power of sin. We further said that the secret of deliverance from sin is to be filled with, or fully controlled by the Holy Spirit. We also said that the secret of being filled with the Holy Spirit is a wholehearted crucifixion of my self-life and the secret of self-crucifixion is absolute surrender!

What does absolute surrender mean?

Let us first say what it does not mean. It does not mean sinless perfection. There is a great difference between sanctification and sinless perfection!

Furthermore, it does not mean to empty my mind or consciousness. It does not mean to enter into a state of passivity, either spiritually or physically! It does not mean to enter into a state of meditation or unconsciousness!

Then what does it mean? To surrender absolutely, means to make entirely holy. We have already said that the meaning of the word 'holy' is to consecrate to God. Therefore, when we speak of absolute surrender, we mean to consecrate every area of my life to God. This involves three things, as you will

find outlined at the back of every issue of the Disciplex. I am giving it to you here in reversed sequence. Incidentally, the sequence is unimportant, as all three have to occur simultaneously. It involves firstly, to commit myself unconditionally unto obedience to God, His Word, His will, and His plan for my life; secondly, to sincerely repent of every sin; and thirdly, to trust God unconditionally with my entire life - spirit, soul, and body.

**My Will is the Throne
Room and Control
Centre of my inner life.**

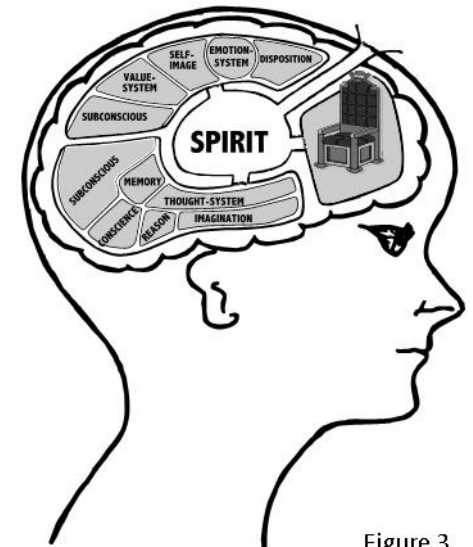


Figure 3

My Will is the headquarters of my self-life. My Will is where the throne of my self-life or "flesh" is seated. My Will is the control-centre of my inner life as well as my sinful nature.

We read in Rom. 8:6-8: *"For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."*

My Will is the primary reason why I cannot attain victory over sin and temptation. Paul says in Rom. 7:19: *"For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice."*

We have already said that my Will is the Throne Room of my heart; my Will is the Headquarters of my heart.

My Will holds the key to an absolute surrender to God. Therefore, my Will is the thing that must be crucified.

My Will is that over which the Holy Spirit wants to acquire full control. God wants to be in perfect control

of the Control Centre of my life. However:

An important fact I must understand is that my Will has a branch office in every other area of my Inner Life.

My Will has a branch office in every area of my Intellect as well as my Emotion! However, policy is decided at Head Office, and when the Head Office of my Will has come under the control of the Holy Spirit, every branch office is compelled to execute the policy of Head Office.

Before the Lord called me into full time missionary service, I was in sales and marketing management. It was my job to draw up the sales and marketing plan in order to sell my company's products. An important thing I learned quite early in my career was that it was fruitless to negotiate with a branch manager regarding the purchase of my product unless my product was on contract with Head Office, since the branch manager had no authority regarding the company's buying policy. I first had to negotiate with Head Office. Only when Head Office had decided to buy my product, did the branches have authority to place orders for my product. I had to get my product on contract with

Head Office before the branches could purchase from me.

This also illustrates a deep spiritual truth that many children of God do not take into account when they surrender their life to God. Many Christians think they have made a full surrender to God, but in truth the Holy Spirit has never taken control at the Head Office of their WILL. No contract has been entered into with the Holy Spirit at Head Office level. They are busy negotiating on branch management level and that is why they do not experience victory over certain sins and bonds in their life. See Figure 4. (We have already explained the Christian's dual nature in detail in the previous issue, you should therefore now understand this illustration well!)

Many children of God are battling with an uncontrolled element or sin in some or other area of their Subconscious, Intellect or Emotion - perhaps the Reason, Thought-System, Imagination, Emotion-System, or Disposition! This is because they are busy negotiating at branch level for a Holy Spirit take-over, while Head Office is still firmly under Self-management!

Are you perhaps struggling with an uncontrolled temper? Or perhaps uncontrolled impure thoughts? Perhaps you are wrestling with a sinful love relationship, knowing full well that it is wrong in God's eyes. Or perhaps you are struggling with hurt, or self-pity, or bitterness, or unforgiveness in your heart! Perhaps it is love for the world and its pleasures,

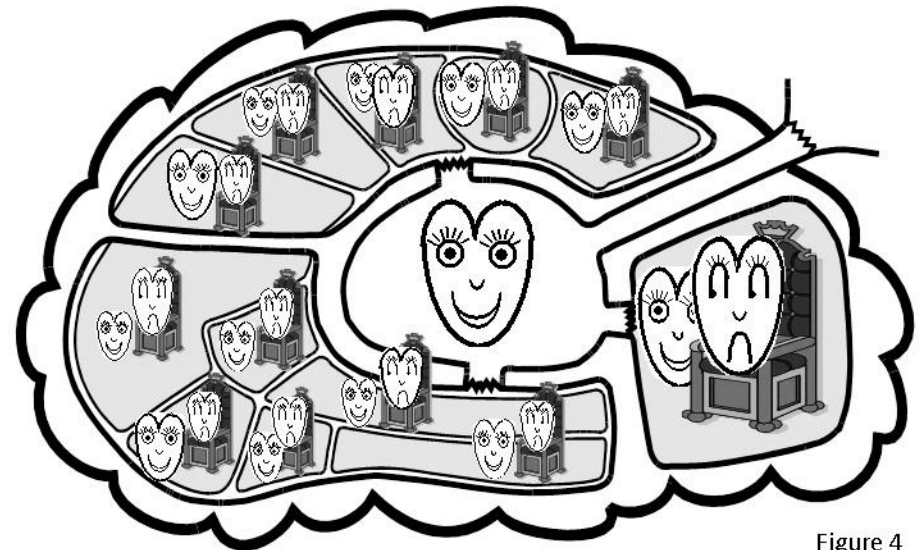


Figure 4

love for money, success, or honour. Or perhaps it is an alcohol or smoking problem, or some other addiction! Perhaps you are wrestling with depression, fear of some kind, an uncontrolled reaction, or some or other phobia! Dear child of God, Jesus wants to deliver you and set you free!

Absolute surrender means that ownership of the Head Office of my Will is handed over to God the Holy Spirit, and that every branch office of my Will in every other area of my inner life are subjected to the same policy.

We have previously explained that there is no guarantee that the Holy Spirit took full control of your life at the time of regeneration. The reason being that the infilling of the Holy Spirit does not depend on whether the Holy Spirit came to dwell within you in all His fullness, but whether you had surrendered yourself fully to His control!

It could be that you have made a decision to invite Jesus into your life. You may even have made an "entire" surrender of your life to the Holy Spirit (as you may have thought) in all sincerity. However, after having walked with the Lord for some time, you have to admit (if you want to be absolutely honest), that there are still areas of your life that are not under the Holy Spirit's control! A life that is only partially (it may

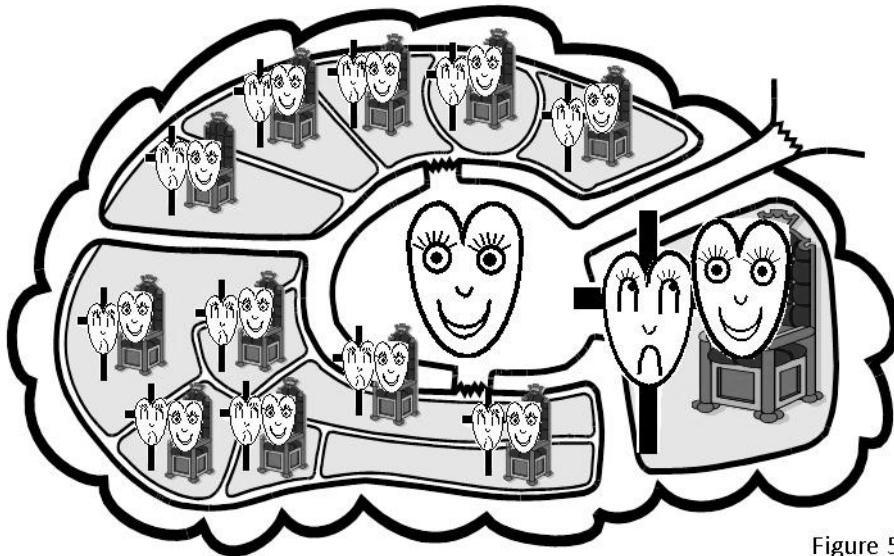


Figure 5

even be 95%) under the control of the Holy Spirit will not deliver you from the power of all sin - only a life that is absolutely (100%) under the control of the Holy Spirit will! With the result that every other branch office of your Will and area of your life also come under the control of the Holy Spirit. See Figure 5.

You may think that it is not possible to be 100% surrendered to Jesus Christ in this life. However, many people confuse absolute surrender with sinless perfection.

We want to reiterate that we do not preach sinless perfection! What we preach is absolute surrender! This position is not only possible in this life, but also a Biblical condition for acquiring the full blessing and inheritance of the Gospel of Christ!

Let us illustrate what we mean by 100% surrender. When a new owner takes over a business, he wants to have full control, other wise he is

not free to manage the business as he wishes. He wants to own 100% of the shares! In exactly the same manner, Jesus wants to own 100% of the shares in your life, for he has paid the full price on the Cross of Calvary! He purchased you with His own precious Blood!

Many Christians think that a relationship with Jesus is a 50/50 partnership. This is a huge error! A relationship with Jesus is a matter of 100% surrender! It is a matter of giving 100%! In the same way many people erroneously believe that marriage is a 50/50 partnership. No, no, my dear friend, marriage is also a matter of absolute surrender. It is a matter of giving 100%!

How many shares are you still holding back for yourself?

Have you ever made an unconditional and absolute (100%) surrender of the Head Office of your Will and self-life to God the Holy Spirit? Have you ever transferred full (100%) ownership of your Will to God - have you ever given away 100% control of your Will to God? Have you ever surrendered the Control Centre of your life fully (100%) to

God. Or are you still cleaving to certain areas of your life? Are you still in control and managing some of the areas in your life yourself?

"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my

Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ..." (Phil. 3:7-9) □

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

Conquering Through Prayer — Part 3 **The Victory of Calvary**

Elmer D Grobler

When we look at our own lives, our families and the world around us, we must be honest, it doesn't look like Satan is a defeated foe. There are some Christians who believe that we are currently living in the thousand years of peace the Book of Revelation is talking about and that Satan is currently bound. But one must have an extremely vivid imagination to really believe that!

Hal Lindsay many years ago wrote a book with the title, Satan Is Well And Alive On Planet Earth, and my spirit agrees with that! In fact I would put it in even stronger language: Satan Is Well And Alive And In Full Control Of Planet Earth! The question that immediately comes to mind is that if this is true, what is the significance of Jesus Christ's work of redemption on Calvary and the fact that He was raised from the dead? Was Satan really defeated, and if so, how come he is still in control of planet earth?

Seeing the Big Bible Picture

In order to understand this anomaly, it is vitally important for the Christian to fully see and understand the overall Bible and Gospel picture. Let us expand the picture of God's purpose in creation and God's purpose with the Church until we have a broad and full vision of the Bible message.

All the misunderstandings, errors, false doctrines and fallacies preached in the Church of Jesus Christ over the ages can be traced back to a poor vision of the big Bible and Gospel picture.

It is possible to be able to recite the entire Bible by heart without a sound understanding of its overall message.

The message of the Bible is like a large jig-saw puzzle. (Technology is developing so fast that in our age of electronic take-over, I sincerely hope my readers will still know what a jig-saw puzzle is. On the other end of the scale I discovered that there are underprivileged people who have never seen a jig-saw puzzle. If you don't know what a jig-saw puzzle is, ask either your parents or grand parents, or your children or grand children. One of them is likely to know what a jig-saw puzzle is.)

The message of the Bible is one big picture consisting of a multitude of individual pieces - Bible books and verses. Whenever you use any one of these pieces or verses, it must be done in the context of its position in the complete picture.

Apart from the fact that the Bible is the best-selling book in history with approximate sales estimates ranging from 2.5 billion to 6 billion¹, one of the greatest wonders of the Bible, and to me one of the most important evidences that the Bible is the inspired Word of the Living God, is the fact that it is the only Book in the world that is made up of 66 books, consisting of 1,189 chapters and 31,173 verses², and was written by about 40 authors³ over a period of approximately 1600 years⁴, that forms together one coherent message, while not one single verse contradicts another in its overall context, and is universally accepted by the Church as the inspired Word of God. (This is possibly also the longest sentence you have ever read.)

When you begin building a jig-saw puzzle, it is of paramount importance to have the picture you are building in front of you, otherwise you will not know where the individual pieces fit. Have you ever tried to build a large jig-saw puzzle without its picture? It is almost impossible. Yet many Christians use individual Bible verses without properly understanding where they fit in the total Bible picture. It is possible to

justify any doctrine or belief — right or wrong — by quoting a verse or verses from the Bible.

So then, what is the big Bible picture? What are the major scenes of the Bible picture? Here it is in a nutshell:

1. Scene One: God's Ultimate Plan and Purpose in Creation.

God created the human race for a purpose. What purpose? We read in Gen 1:26-28: *"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, ... Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the ... earth.'"*

Firstly, God created mankind in His own image, as a sovereign entity, with a SPIRIT, SOUL and BODY, and a WILL, INTELLECT and EMOTION, of his own. God created man as a trinity, like Himself.

God reveals Himself as a Trinity to man; SOUL — God the Father which is His character and personality; BODY — Jesus Christ, God revealed to man in a human body; and SPIRIT — the Holy Spirit. So He created man — spirit, soul and body — a spiritual being in a human body in the image of God.

Secondly, God wanted an offspring, a posterity, in His own image! God wanted a Royal family! For this reason God commanded mankind to become fruitful and multiply. In the New Testament this offspring is called the Church and Body of Christ, and at completion it will become the Bride of Christ.

Thirdly, God appointed His family, the human race, with the authority to represent Him and to rule over the earth! Let me repeat this statement, as this is fundamental to an effective prayer-life! The human race was created to be God's representative and to exercise His authority on earth. There is a deep seated truth revealed here. God's purpose is that His family as a group should reign over His creation.

2. Scene Two: Fall of the Human Race.

In Genesis 3 we read about the fall. Sin entered the world and mankind became subject to Satan, his demons and sin. Mankind inherited a tarnished and fallen image of God; and Satan obtained legal authority on earth through the fall to rule the world instead of mankind, which he passionately executes, albeit illegally, to this day! We will explain this statement further on.

The rest of the entire Scripture is devoted to God's story of the restoration of creation from the fall.

3. Scene Three: The Message and Significance of the Old Testament.

The Old Testament is a prophetic message pointing towards, and which would be fulfilled in the New Testament. The Old Testament is the story of how God prepared a people in His own image through a man called Abraham, against the back-drop of the fall and introduction of the law, in order to pave the way for ultimate fulfilment of God's purpose in creation.

The Old Testament is the story of how God produced and prepared a Messianic race that would in the maturity of time, give birth to the Messiah in perfect fulfilment of the law.

4. Scene Four: The Message and Significance of the New Testament.

The New Testament and the Gospel tells us the story of man's redemption from the fall, from sin and Satan's rule. It tells us the story of how God, in the maturity of time, overturned

Satan's legal authority over this world, and reclaimed the world and all the nations of the world for God and His Kingdom through the victory of the Cross of Calvary, the Blood of the Lamb, Jesus' resurrection from the grave, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit!

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the Divine history of God's restoration plan of creation. The Gospel of Jesus Christ restored humanity's purpose and God's plan in creation.

Through the Gospel of Jesus Christ the human race can once again take in his position and purpose for which God created him, namely:

1. To become part of the family of God through regeneration. Joh 1:12: *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."* Ultimately, to become part of the Bride of Christ and to reign with Him in eternity. Rom 8:16,17:

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, .."

2. To partake of the image of God, and to become more and more like Jesus through heart purification and sanctification. Rom 8:29: *"For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."*
3. To reach and win the world for Christ, and to establish and expand the Kingdom of God on earth through the Church. Act 1:8 *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*
4. To represent God in this world through our lives and our witness, through the indwelling and the control of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

I want to expand slightly on this point. In 1 Co 6:19 we read: *"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have*

from God, and you are not your own?" Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, do we as Christian's really understand what God is telling us here? Do we really understand what it means that the Holy Spirit lives within us?

My observation is that many, if not most Christians are completely indifferent to this fact. It does not make any difference to them whether the Holy Spirit lives within them or not!

How sad! The result is that they are not only completely oblivious to their position in Christ, but they have no power in their Christian lives and they make no impact on this world!

Dear friend in Christ, the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Tri-une God lives within you! He is not there far away in heaven! He is within you! God is representing Himself to the world through you! You have God's heavenly power at your disposal here on earth! The authority of God over

Satan, sin, and the world, have been delegated to you through the indwelling Holy Spirit here on earth!

When Christians begin to understand and appreciate something about representing God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in their lives, many things in this world will change.

Firstly, Christians themselves will change — their conduct will change, their conversations will change, their perspectives will change, their priorities will change, even their dress, appearances, and lifestyles will change. In short, the entire way they present themselves to this world will change, for they will be representing God.

Secondly, the world and other people's lives will change because the authority of God will be going out from them.

5. The fifth position and purpose for which God created humans that we can once again take in through the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to rule and have dominion over sin,

the world, and Satan and his kingdom — to be conquerors. In Rom 8:2 we read: *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death."* And Rom 8:31: *"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"* And Rom 8:37: *"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."*

5. Scene Five: Consummation and Fulfilment

God's purpose in creation will be fulfilled when Jesus Christ returns to be united with His bride. Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God will never be in majority rule this side of Jesus' return! Countries and cities will never be "taken" for God this side of Jesus' return! In fact the Bible teaches us: *"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ..."*

The Kingdom of God will be revealed at the second coming of Christ. The Church will be glorified at the second coming of Christ. The Bride will be

revealed at the second coming of Christ.

The second coming of Christ is the next major event in history that must occur soon.

The Centrality of Calvary

Let us now focus our attention on the reality and centrality of the Cross of Jesus.

Paul Billheimer describes it like this: *"The center of history is not its great empires like Egypt, Babylon, Greece, or Rome, nor their modern counterparts such as Russia, China, the United States of America, or any other which may yet appear. To locate the centre of history one must bypass all these vast empires and the glittering names associated with them and find his way to a tiny land called the navel of the earth, the geographical center of the world. And in that tiny land is a tiny hill called Calvary, where two thousand years ago a Man named Jesus was lifted up to die. And this writer submits that that tiny hill in that tiny land is the center of all history, not only of this world, but of all the*

*countless galaxies and island universes of outer space from eternity to eternity."*⁵

The fact of the matter is simply that on the Cross of Calvary Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, died a substitutionary death in your and my place, and in place of the entire world, through which God legally redeemed mankind from the penalty as well as the power of Satan, sin and the world.

Through the shedding of His Blood there is now forgiveness, cleansing from, and victory over sin, Satan, and the world; and through His resurrection from the grave He destroyed the sting of death, securing the victory over Satan who held the power of death, providing eternal life for every person in the whole world, who is willing to accept it by faith.

This is a simple fact that I'm not even going to try to defend or prove to anyone. There is an overwhelming resource of evidence to this fact as well as millions of people all over the past 2000 years, and millions all over the world living today who will experientially testify to this truth.

The fact of the matter is that Satan is a legally defeated foe! The fact of the matter is that Satan has been legally stripped of his power! The fact of the matter is that Satan has legally no power over a Christian!

How then is it possible that a child of God can be under Satanic attack and oppression? At the start of our chapter we asked the question: If the above is true, what is the significance of Jesus Christ's work of redemption on Calvary and the fact that He was raised from the dead? Was Satan really defeated, and if so, how come he is still in control of planet earth?

Enforcement of Redemption

The answer to our question is found in our lack and failure to enforce the redemption of Jesus Christ and the victory of Calvary in our lives, the Church, and the world! This is the area where we as Christians fail the most. We fail to understand our role in the spiritual realm with regard to the enforcement of God's Kingdom on earth.

Remember the Kingdom of God on earth is not a physical Kingdom — it is a spiritual Kingdom. Jesus said to Pilate: *"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."* (Joh 18:36) In other words, this battle will never be won in the physical realm — it can only be won in the spiritual realm.

We witness, we preach, we plant churches, we hold gospel rallies, we spread the Gospel — and all these things are vitally important — but all these activities are done in the physical realm. The most important of all — enforcing the victory of the Cross in the spiritual realm, we neglect or omit altogether. This can be done only through prayer.

The redemption victory of the Cross is implemented and enforced in prayer. The victory on the mission field is won or lost in prayer.

Praying Effectively

I know this sounds very simplistic. Theologically, we all know this, and we do pray! We believe that the results in our churches and on our mission fields are the consequences of prayer, and I am not belittling our current prayer efforts. In evangelical circles one often hears the plea, we must pray more, we must pray more. But the secret is not to pray more — the secret is to pray more effectively! The secret is to pray in such a way that I know when I have prayed, something has happened in the spiritual realm and my prayers are being answered.

I am asking again, why do Christians pray so little? Well, let me speak for myself. For a substantial number of years until God intervened in my

prayer life, prayer was hard work to me! Let me be honest with you, I didn't really look forward to my prayer time because I experienced it as a spiritual exercise draining my energy, with very little or no visible results. Prayer was a laborious effort to me, trying to persuade God to do things I believed was His will to do. I knew prayer was important, and reminded myself continually of the parable of the persistent widow Jesus told that men always ought to pray and not lose heart. So I persisted in prayer — but I must be honest, it was not a pleasure — until I discovered these truths.

I really fully understand why Christians pray so little. I fully understand why church prayer meetings are empty! I myself withdrew from many a prayer gathering because I experienced it as a boring and laborious religious exercise with little or no visible results.

Effective Prayer is Powerful and Exciting!

Dear friends in Christ, when we pray as God intended prayer to be, it should be a spiritual event characterised by power, exhilaration, joy, adventure, fulfilment, victory — and results! Every time we pray —

something should happen as a result somewhere — even though we may not know about it — we should be experiencing it in our spirits! It is an event that we should be looking forward to every day. It is an event that we should be looking forward to in great anticipation. We should be experiencing something happening in the spiritual realm every time we pray, not only sometimes and under certain circumstances. We should experience being effective in the spiritual realm.

We may not always see the immediate results in the physical realm — in fact sometimes the satanic attacks may intensify around us because Satan is not going to accept defeat without a fight! But we should always experience the immediate results in the spiritual realm! We should experience victory over Satan and his kingdom in the spiritual realm over our families and ministries, over the people we pray for, over the mission fields we pray for — and we should expect to see spiritual breakthroughs!

The Secret is Embedded in God's Purpose in Creation ...

So, what is the secret?
The secret is knowing
how to enforce the
redemption and victory
of the Cross of Calvary
in our own lives, that of
our families, our fields
of service, and the
world around us through
prayer!

As we have pointed out previously, God will never violate the sovereignty of mankind, because He created us in His own image, like God — with a sovereign WILL, INTELLECT, and EMOTION of our own! Adam and Eve sinned by an act of their own Will, Intellect and Emotion! Furthermore, He appointed man to rule the earth, and He has never retracted that command!

In the same way we have to engage our own Will, Intellect and Emotion to implement and enforce Christ's legal victory over Satan and sin in our own lives and the world around us in prayer!

The Scope of the Christian's Authority

You will remember that in the previous part we said that Satan and his demons are active on legal as well as illegal territory. By now we all understand that Satan can be overcome when he operates illegally. But what about legal territory? Can I overcome and stop him on his own legal ground?

This is a very interesting question, because although we have said that Satan has a legal right to operate where elements of sin, the flesh, and the occult are present, he always only has a limited legal right. In addition, Satan will always contest an illegal area pretending that he has a full legal right to be there. However, there are areas where I only have to defend, while in others I have to attack.

Here is an example of defence. If one of my children becomes involved in drugs or alcohol and is living a licentious lifestyle, Satan has a legal right in his or her life, but only a limited right. His right is limited by the fact that as my child's father, I possess God's authority over my child. Satan has no right in my child's life on the basis that I have

dedicated my child to God at birth and my child is under my priestly authority. Therefore, Satan only has a limited right in my child's life in so far as he or she has yielded to his pressure. But I can negate that right on the basis of my authority in Christ, and my authority over my child.

Here is an example of attack. On what basis can I challenge Satan's right in an area or mission field where Satan and sin reigns supreme? For example, the lawlessness and licentiousness in the my child's school, or the location God sent me to preach the Gospel?

On the ground of Calvary I can challenge and oppose Satan's right in any place on earth — on the strength of my faith! Joh 3:16 says *"For God so loved **the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

The victory on Calvary was won for the whole world and every person on this earth has the right to hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, this is where faith comes into the picture.

The fact of the matter is that Satan and his kingdom was legally defeated at the Cross of Calvary through the precious Blood of the Lamb and this victory is a reality and absolute fact that cannot be disputed or undone by all the forces of hell!

The scope of the Christian's authority over Satan is limited only by our faith.

The Vehicle of Enforcing Redemption

This finally brings us to the vehicle through which the redemption is enforced, namely faith. How can I implement the victory of redemption in my life and in the world? By faith!

The Bible says that faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Heb 11:1) Faith is something dynamic; faith is much more dynamic than positive thinking! Positive thinking tries to think something unreal into

reality through the power of my own brain on the basis of nothing. Faith is transforming an unseen fact into reality through the power of the Living God on the basis of His infallible Word! Yet, people still choose to exercise positive thinking rather than faith. How foolish!

Faith in God and His Word changes what previously appeared fiction to me into reality. Faith changes the unreal into reality! *"By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."* (Heb 11:3) *"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days."* (Heb 11:30) And so we can continue quoting examples all day!

Without faith I will accomplish nothing in prayer — in fact prayer without faith is like religion without God. It has no substance — it is void of its primary ingredient — it is purely a religious ritual.

Prayer is faith in action — and faith is prayer in action! That's why a soul is born again in prayer. That's why a Christian is filled by the Holy Spirit in prayer. That's why spiritual victories are occurring in prayer. That's why spiritual warfare is won or lost in prayer. That's why the world is changed through prayer! In fact, only now do I really understand that nothing changes in the Christian's spiritual world outside of prayer!

Faith and prayer are inseparably connected to each other — they cannot be separated. If you want to know how strong your faith is — measure it by your prayer life. And if you want to know how effective

your prayer life is — measure it by your faith.

"Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Heb 11:6)

In summary then, on the Cross of Calvary Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, redeemed the human race from the penalty as well as the power of Satan, sin and the world. Through the shedding of His precious Blood and His resurrection from the grave He secured the victory over Satan, sin and the world — and I believe this with my entire heart!

Notes:

1. 1 WikipediA - Free Ecylopedia. (www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bible)
2. 2 ChristianAnswers.net. (www.christiananswers.net/bible/about.html)
3. 3 Bibleinfo.com. (<http://www.bibleinfo.com/en/content/facts-and-trivia>)
4. 4 Amazing Bible Timeline with World History. (www.agards-bible-timeline.com)
5. 5 Paul E Billheimer, Destined For The Throne by (© Christian Literature Crusade, Inc., 1975) p 21

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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Post the link on your social media page, website or blog.