

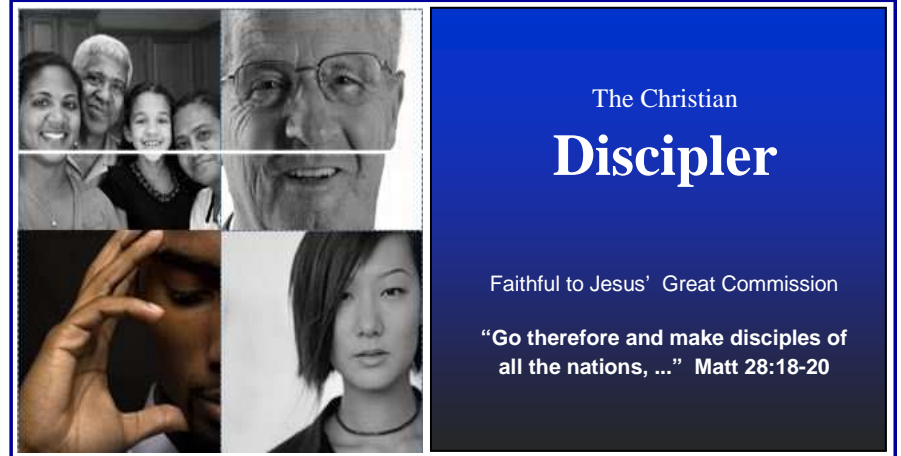
**Final
Edition**



The Christian Discipler

- ◆ The Secret Of
Personality Renewal
- ◆ Preparing For, And
Engaging In Battle

August/September 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

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Special

Announcement!

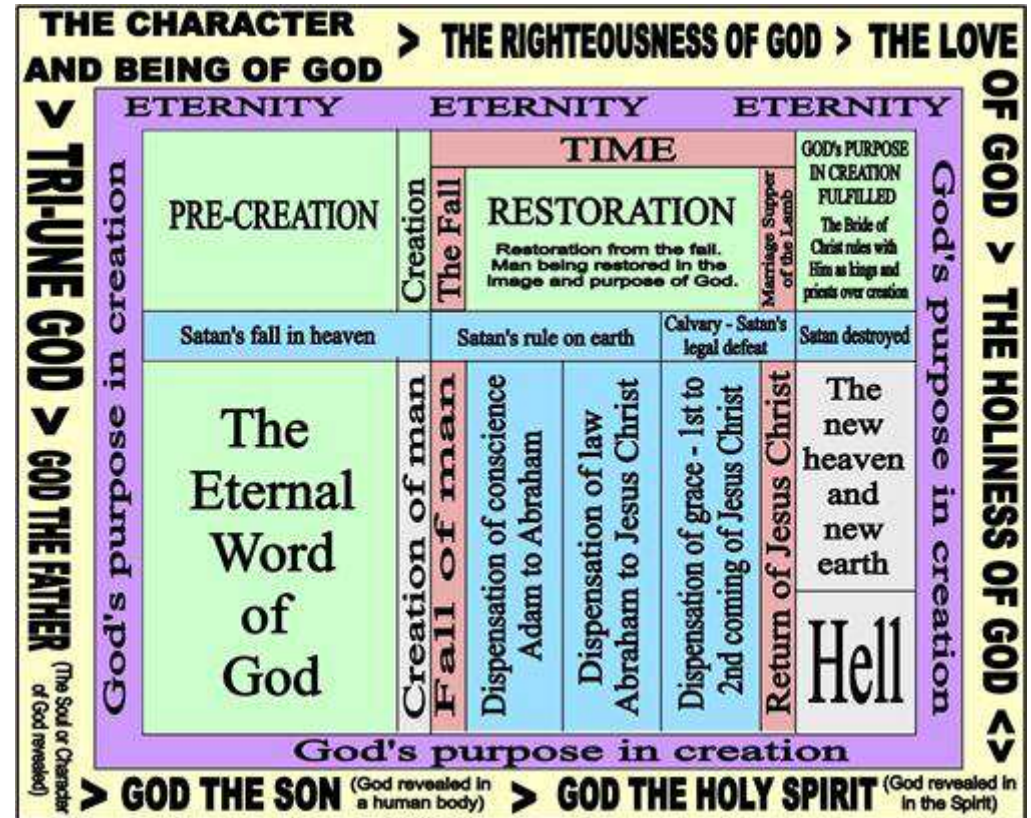
We hereby announce that this will be the last edition of the Christian Disciplier. We have recognised that this magazine format is not the ideal format for publishing articles of this nature. Our readers prefer to read articles that follow on one another in a combined format without having to wait for two months to read the next chapter.

We will therefore periodically publish these articles electronically in article or book format to our Resource Centre at *www.sepprograms.com/publications/publications.html*.

THE FUNDAMENTAL AND CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

Contents

- ♦ The Fundamental and Central Message of the Bible (Permanent Feature) - Page 6
- ♦ The Psychology of the Bible - Part 5: The Secret of Personality Renewal — Page 12
- ♦ Conquering Through Prayer—Part 4 Preparing for, and Engaging in Battle — Page 22
- ♦ The six fundamental Biblical principles of an abundant, victorious, and Spirit-filled life (Permanent Feature) — Page 37
- ♦ A model prayer for someone who wants to trust the Lord for the infilling of the Holy Spirit and a victorious life (Permanent Feature) — Page 38



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

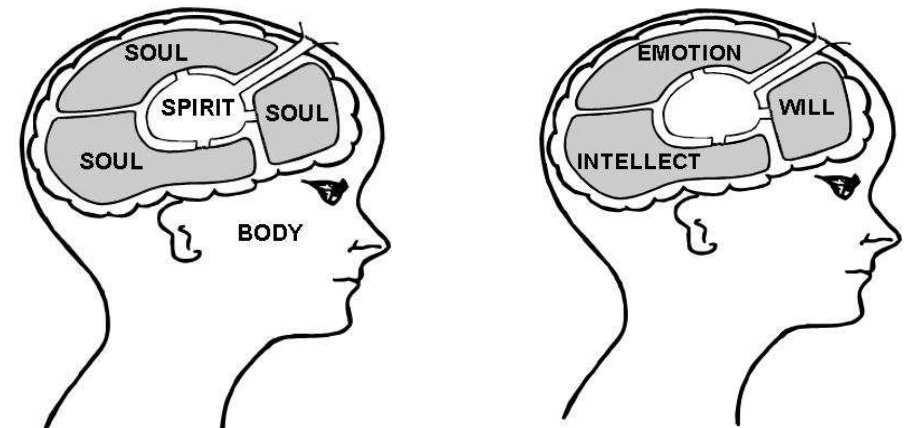
The Psychology Of The Bible—Part 4

Elmer D Grobler

Recapping

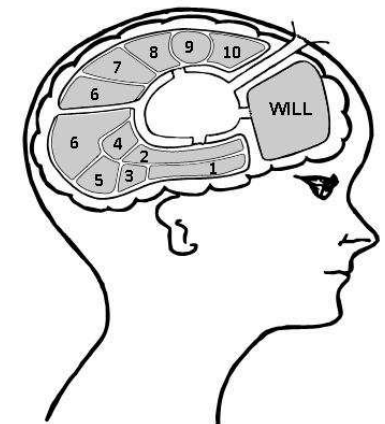
Part 1 - The Secret of the Human Trinity

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!

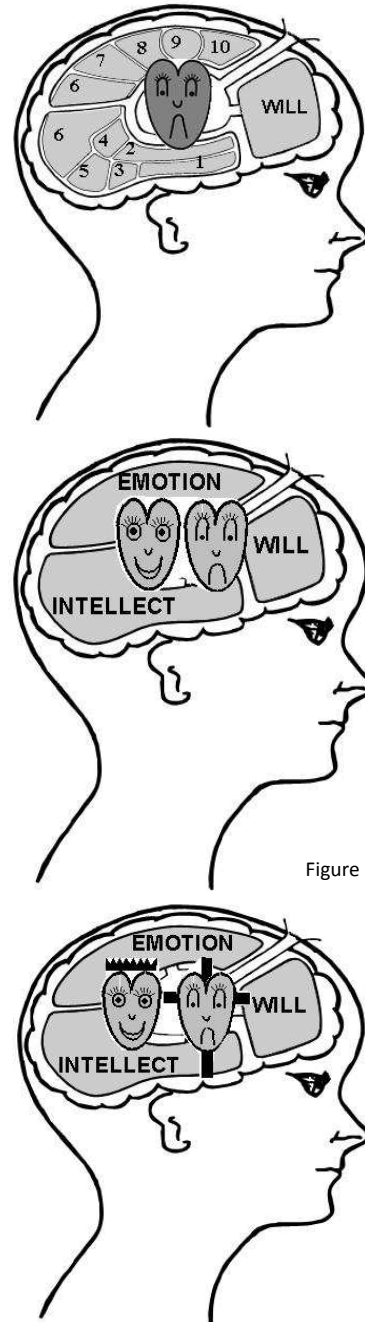
The faculties of man's Intellect and Emotion are all affected by the sinful nature and self-will.

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

Part 4 - The Secret of Character Renewal

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 every area and faculty of my life!

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.

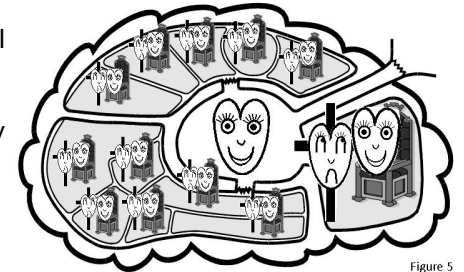


Figure 5

The Psychology of the Bible Part 5. The Secret Of Personality Renewal

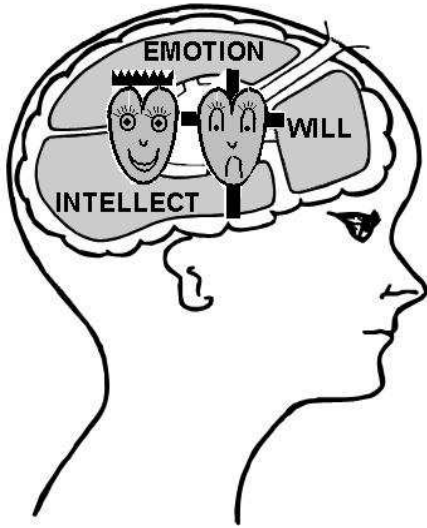
ElmerD Grobler

“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. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you

may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
Rom 12:1,2

In the previous edition we explained that character renewal means to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This means that the Holy Spirit now possesses control of every area of

my inner life. This means that I have made an unconditional surrender of my entire life to Jesus Christ and that I have surrendered every area of my life to be crucified with Christ.



This means that I have obtained the testimony of Gal 2:20 in my heart, namely that I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ ...! The Divine Nature is now in control of my life and my entire life is driven, motivated, managed and controlled by a totally new nature and character - the nature and character of the Holy Spirit. My fallen sinful nature has been crucified - the old man is dead! A management take-over occurred - the inner man has been placed under new management. This is character renewal!

The obvious question now would be:

Have I now fully been restored into the image of God?

What are the implications of character renewal? Does it mean that I am now perfect in my inner man and all my thoughts and emotions are now automatically coming from the Holy Spirit? Does it mean that the Holy Spirit now automatically thinks through my Intellect and feels through my Emotion? Does it mean that my Thought-System, my Reason, my Imagination, my Conscience, my Memory, my Self-Image, my Value-System, my Emotion-System, and my Disposition are now automatically from the Holy Spirit?

Not at all! If not, why not? Is my inner man not under the control of the Holy Spirit? How can it be that my thoughts and my emotions are not automatically from the Holy Spirit?

There are two reasons for this. The first reason takes us back to a Biblical principle we already discussed previously, namely, that God created man in His own image with a sovereign Will, Intellect and Emotion of his own! Then God

would have manipulated man like a puppet.

Contrary to God, it is Satan's aim and strategy to control man's faculties like a robot. This is one way in which we can distinguish the work of the Holy Spirit from that of demons.

The Holy Spirit never takes over man's faculties!

On the contrary, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is exactly SELF-CONTROL! (Gal 5:23) It is the strategy of demons to hijack the human faculties and to manifest themselves through them.

One life but two personalities

God never intended to create robots or puppets! God is busy producing a Bride for His Son from the nations of the world! God wants a Bride!

In exactly the same way a bride and bridegroom enter into marriage and the bride surrenders herself to the bridegroom, subjecting herself to his authority, taking on his surname, and the two become one as the Bible teaches, the Christian

is united with Christ in a Divine marriage at the point of absolute surrender!

Although they become one in marriage, they nevertheless remain two separate sovereign persons.

The bridegroom never thinks through the bride's Intellect or feels through the bride's Emotion! Each one keep the full use of their own faculties!

This bride underwent a character renewal at her wedding. She previously was a slut and prostitute! (See Ezekiel 16 and Hosea 1 and 2.) Then her Bridegroom lured her and won her affection. He conquered her heart and her life was changed. He promised to marry her and engaged Himself to her, and as a sign thereof he placed a diamond ring on her finger. She became born again. The Spirit of the Bridegroom came to dwell in her and her yearning was after her Bridegroom.

She did not have a desire to sleep with other men anymore (to divide her affection between the Lord and the world), but she had to make an absolute surrender! She had to

repent unconditionally from her previous lifestyle. She had to renounce every aspect of her previous sinful life and only live for her Bridegroom from now on. She had to stand in front of the pulpit and enter into a covenant with her Bridegroom, promising never to leave him, never to be unfaithful to him, and to love him with all her heart!

This was a heavy decision! There was a price attached! She had to die to her sinful self, her sinful and selfish desires, her sinful and selfish interests, her sinful and selfish dreams and ideals.

"Can we not just live together - after all, we are engaged?" she asked. "No", the Bridegroom replied, "I detest unholy love relationships. I laid down My life to win your love - I ask that you also lay down your life for Me by marrying Me!"

Eventually she was ready for the wedding, she made an unconditional surrender of her entire life and was united with Him in holy matrimony! She underwent a character renewal! But now comes the personality renewal.

For the rest of her married life she would learn how to think and feel like Him.

The surrender and death to self that she consented to at her wedding, would only now be put into practise in the different areas of her life. The process of adaptation were at times quite stormy, because she quickly realised that she and her Bridegroom actually think and feel quite differently about things! Their personalities are actually completely divergent. From a worldly point of view they are actually completely inadaptable and grounds for irreparable disintegration of the marriage would probably apply.

However, what is different about this marriage is that it is built on absolute surrender!

There is no back door for escape! The bridges of the past are burnt! The fire escape was cut down!

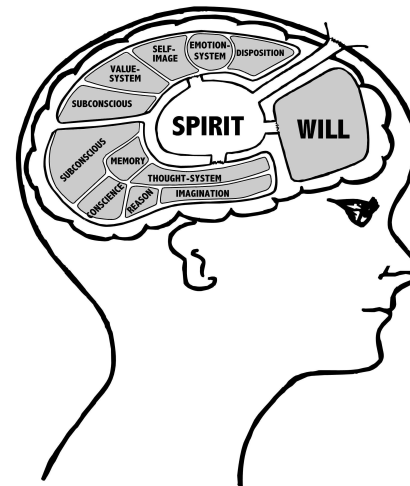
There is no opt' out option! There is no looking back - only forward! How does your marriage look? Is there a fire escape in tact in your marriage?

The three-fold dimension of sin

The second reason why my thoughts and emotions after character

renewal are not necessarily from the Holy Spirit, has to do with the inherent sinfulness of my human nature. I want to take you back for a moment to Part 2 where we discussed the Secret Of The Sinful Nature. You will remember that we explained the importance of distinguishing the three dimensions of sin. We showed you from Romans 7 that the Bible distinguishes between my sinful deeds, my sinful nature, and my sinful members or faculties.

Firstly, there are my sinful deeds or behaviour - the things that I do that are sinful (Rom 7:20). Secondly, there is my sinful nature - my inborn sinful character. This is that "law" within my inner man that constantly defaults towards the wrong (Rom 7:21). Thirdly, there are my sinful members or faculties (Rom 7:23). These are the members of my body and soul



through which my personality is expressed.

My sinful faculties consist of the terrain of my bodily senses, being my Eyes, Ears, Tongue, Nose, and Nervous System; and the terrain of my soul, being my Will, Intellect and Emotion, with their sub-terrains of the Thought-system, Reason, Imagination, Conscience, Memory, Subconscious, Self-image, Value-system, Emotion-system and Disposition. My members (or faculties) are the agents through which my sinful nature is expressed.

With character renewal the first two of these dimensions of sin were dealt with. Jesus cleansed me from my sin (my sinful deeds) and He delivered me from the bondage of my sinful nature (the "law" or power of sin). However, now He must renew my personality - He must renew my sinful faculties and restore them in the image of God - and this is a life-long process!

The Holy Spirit must now restore all the skew and twisted tendencies of my faculties because of the life-long negative influence of my sinful nature.

It is like a factory that came under new management. Although there is now a new managing director in control, it will take time for this factory to show a profit after the new management take-over. There is still old stock of raw materials that must be worked out and old machinery that have to be replaced. The renewal of my personality is a life-long process that will only be complete when I receive my new glorified body with the return of Jesus Christ.

The dirty shirt

Let us look at character renewal and personality renewal from another angle. It is like the washing of a dirty shirt. There are two stages in the cleaning process - the washing process and the ironing process. Firstly the shirt needs to be washed with washing powder to remove all the stains - this is character renewal. Secondly the shirt needs to be ironed to remove all the creases - this is personality renewal.

This same picture is given to us in Eph 5:25-27: *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word (here we find the washing action - which is character renewal),*

that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing (not only without spots, but also without wrinkles and creases - this is the ironing process - this is personality renewal), but that she should be holy and without blemish."

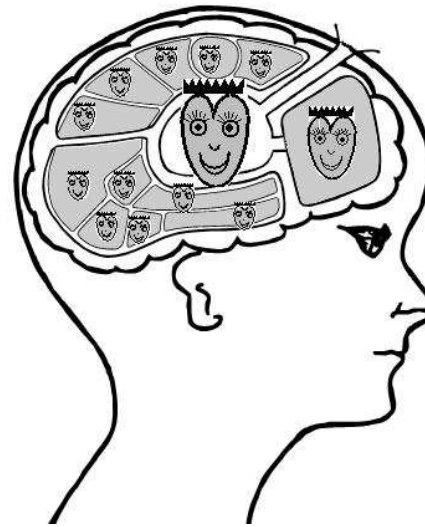
When I have trusted God for the fullness of the Holy Spirit and a pure heart, the shirt is now clean - although there is also the process of keeping it clean! But the next phase in the cleaning process is the ironing process - this is the process of sanctification.

This ironing process occurs with a hot iron!

Only heat removes the creases! The Holy Spirit must now iron out all the creases and wrinkles in my life and personality - and the further I progress on the road of sanctification, the more creases and wrinkles I discover in my own life!

This ironing process is a life-long process and involves a renewing of my personality to become more and more like Jesus.

It involves a renewing of my Thought-system to think more and more like Jesus. It involves a renewing of my Emotion-system to feel more and more like Jesus. It also involves a renewal of my Disposition to act and react more and more like Jesus.



When we speak of personality renewal we are speaking of the process of sanctification.

Practical examples

Let us look at two practical examples.

Someone who was a bitter and vengeful person before his regeneration, is now delivered and set free by Jesus Christ from his sins of bitterness and vengefulness, including the power of his bitter and

vengeful nature. In other words, he is now able to overcome his thoughts and emotions of bitterness and vengefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit. He does not hate people anymore and looks at people through new eyes.

Although he has undergone a character renewal, he is still aware of remainders or symptoms of his old sinful nature. For example, his Disposition may from time to time still give him away as a bitter person. He may experience strong temptations in his Thought-system and Emotion-system emanating from his Subconscious (and fanned by Satan and his demons) to keep things against other people, without necessarily yielding thereto. The problem is that he is still in possession of his old sinful faculties and an unrenewed personality.

However, as this person grows in sanctification, he will learn to renew his thoughts and to fill his Subconscious with the Word of God. This will over time have a renewal affect in his Disposition, Thought-system, Emotion-system and his whole personality, leading to a progressive conformation into the image of Jesus Christ.

Another example. Someone with a bad temper is delivered from his bad temper by Jesus Christ, and he receives the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome his aggressive-

ness. When he comes under temptation he will not lose his temper anymore as the power of his sinful nature has been broken through the power of the Holy Spirit. He is now in control of himself which is a fruit of the Holy Spirit who is now in control of his life.

However, he may still have an irritable Disposition that becomes visible in his mannerism and attitude when he is tempted. He may also from time to time experience strong temptations to lose his temper, without necessarily yielding thereto. However, as this person grows in sanctification, he will learn to renew his thoughts and to fill his Subconscious with the Word of God. This will have a renewal affect in his Disposition, Thought-system, Emotion-system and his whole personality over time, leading to a progressive conformation into the image of Jesus Christ.

Personality renewal is the process of sanctification that follows on character renewal. Character renewal, or stated alternatively, receiving a pure heart and the infilling of the Holy Spirit, is an absolute prerequisite for personality renewal. Before the Holy Spirit can renew the faculties of my personality, He must first be in complete control thereof. Personality renewal is not something that will occur automatically! In exactly the same way a

home undergoes a personality renewal when a new owner takes possession, personality renewal can only occur when a new Owner is in control.

Character renewal comes through an initial step of absolute surrender in faith! Personality renewal comes through a continuous walk in absolute surrender!

The principle behind personality renewal

The principle behind personality renewal is exactly the same as that of character renewal, namely, crucifixion of self or absolute surrender. Absolute surrender and self-crucifixion are two terminologies for the same truth. Absolute surrender means to give myself totally to be crucified with Christ by faith. With character renewal I have made a decision in principle to surrender myself completely to be crucified with Christ - and then the Holy Spirit came and filled my heart and life.

With personality renewal I must now cooperate with the Holy Spirit to execute this crucifixion of my self-life and to work it out in every faculty of my life. Php 2:13: *"... for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."*

We find this truth very clearly throughout the New Testament. For example 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."*

This verse speaks of the original taking up of the cross. Before I can carry the cross, I first have to take it up! This is character renewal. But we read in Luk 9:23 that Luke recorded Jesus' words like this: *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."* Here we find the daily carrying of the cross, which refers to personality renewal.

I want to say something important about carrying of the cross. Many Christians have a complete misunderstanding about carrying of the cross. The idea that carrying of the cross is something difficult and

means to make the best of my negative circumstances, to accept my tribulations and to live with it, is quite common among Christians. However this is an erroneous idea of carrying of the cross! As the saying goes, every home has it's cross - but this is not the cross Jesus is talking about! No!

The cross Jesus is talking about is His cross - the cross of Calvary! It is Jesus' cross - not my cross!

This is the cross to which you and I were nailed to together with Jesus when He was crucified. Jesus' words in Matt 16:24 and Luk 9:23 and other places in the Gospels were prophetic words. This is the cross of Gal 2:20: *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; ..."*

To take up my cross is an act of faith and means to reckon myself crucified and dead to sin and my sinful nature by faith, in terms of Rom 6:11 and Gal 2:20. Dear brother and sister in Christ, do you understand what I am talking about? Do you have the testimony in your heart that you have been crucified with Christ?

I want to reassure you that this is a glorious experience! Carrying of the cross is an act of faith! Personality renewal will be a difficult and unpleasant experience until you have discovered the glory of the cross in your life! I can assure you that Jesus never intended to place us under a heavy yoke! On the contrary, Jesus says in Matt 11:29,30: *"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle*

and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

May the grace of God keep you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you as you seek to become more and more like Jesus and as you co-operate with God in restoring His image in your life in preparation for the marriage supper of the Lamb!

Conquering Through Prayer — Part 4 ***Preparing for, and Engaging in Battle***

Elmer D Grobler

Preparing for Battle

We are now moving into the preparation phase for battle. Remember this article is about prayer warfare. We have acknowledged that we are engaged in a war, and we have also said that every Christian is involved in this war - whether he likes it or not, whether he acknowledges it or not! The Christian life in this world is a war against Satan and sin and it will be so until Jesus comes.

The very first thing a soldier must do before he leaves for the battle field is to prepare for war, and so must the Christian. There are four preparations a Christian must do to prepare for war, the first is to report for duty, the second is to confirm my allegiance, the third is to take up my rank in God's army, and the fourth is to put on my armour.

1. Reporting for duty - Confirming my relationship with Christ

1 Jn 1:7 says: *"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."*

Before I can engage in prayer warfare I must be sure about my relationship with Christ. The first and most basic thing I have to be sure about, is my salvation.

Secondly I must have a pure heart. There must be no unconfessed sin in my life, otherwise Satan will take me out straight away. Therefore, before I engage in prayer warfare I must take time to humble myself before God and confess and repent from any known or conscious sin in my life.

2. Taking the oath of allegiance - Confirming my covenant with Christ

The second preparation a Christian must do before he enters into prayer warfare is to confirm his allegiance to Christ.

God is a covenantal God! This means that God has chosen to arrange His relationship with mankind in terms of a covenant. Another word for a covenant is a contract. The Bible is divided into two covenants or contracts, the Old and the New. We read about God's covenant with Noah. Then we read about God's covenant with Abraham and his offspring, Israel.

We read about the new covenant especially in the book of Hebrews. For example in Heb 10:16: *"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,"* and in Heb 9:15: *"And for this reason (Jesus) is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."*

The important thing about the new covenant we have to understand is that it has two sides like every other contract! God's side and man's side! God's side of the covenant was fulfilled on Calvary and sealed in His own blood. However, before this covenant comes fully into force in a person's life, he not only has to accept it - but he has to be fully committed thereto! I have to make a covenant with God! God wants me to stand in a covenantal relationship with Him!

This subject was extensively covered in the previous edition in the article about character renewal. We will therefore not expand any further here.

3. Taking up my rank - my position in Christ

There are two positions a Christian must take up in Christ Jesus. Your position with God determines your rank in the spiritual realm. It determines your spiritual authority! The higher the rank of a police officer, the greater his authority to uphold the law. It's the same in the spiritual world. The higher a believer's rank with God, the greater his authority over Satan, sin, and the world.

The first position

The first position I have to take up is my position as crucified with Christ.

You will remember that we said earlier there are two wars, civil and conventional war. To ensure you are not involved in a civil war, you have to take up your position in Christ as crucified with Him.

**To be born again
and to be crucified
with Christ are two
different things!**

It is possible to be a born again child of God without having the testimony of being crucified with Christ, and I will dare to say that in my opinion the majority of Christians fall in this category. It is sad to observe that many Christians have no idea what it means to be crucified with Christ.

Before you are able to take in a position of conventional war, you must have the testimony in your heart that you are indeed crucified with Christ!

Are you really free? Are you free to say NO to Satan and sin? If not, you are not ready for prayer warfare - you are still engaged in civil war. You will be ineffective in prayer warfare.

The second position

The second position I have to take up is my position as raised and

conquered with Christ. Although it is true that you and I will only be bodily raised at the second coming of Christ, we have already been spiritually raised. Dear Christian brother and sister, as surely as you have been crucified with Christ, you have also been raised with Christ! Let's examine the Scriptures on this issue:

Rom 6:4 *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Rom 7:4 *Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another; to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.*

Col 2:11,12 *In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

Col 3:1 *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.*

But do you know what? You were not only raised with Christ, you are also seated with Christ in heaven!

Eph 2:4-6 *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, **and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus ...***

How do I take up my position as raised and conquered with Christ? Once again, by faith! Simply by faith!

What is the implication of this fact? The implication is that as a Christian crucified and raised with Christ, I have authority over Satan and his demons in the all-victorious Name of Jesus Christ!

4. Putting on the armour of God

Now my armour is ready to put on. In fact my armour has already been put on, it is simply a matter of checking everything before I move into battle.

Let's briefly go through the checklist of Eph 6:13-18:

1. The Belt of Truth (verse 14).

The waist girded with truth means that I am fully committed to the truth of God's Word. I fully accept the whole Bible as the infallible Word of God and every promise of God, and I reject everything that is in conflict with the Word. Is your

belt fitted? If not, Satan will knock you out of battle quickly!

2. The Breastplate of Righteousness (verse 14).

The breastplate of righteousness means that my standing before God is based on the righteousness of Jesus Christ through the Cross of Calvary and the Blood of the Lamb. I don't come before God on the basis of my own righteousness, therefore Satan has no basis upon which to accuse me before God of any unrighteousness. My sins are forgiven and my heart washed in the Blood of the Lamb. Have you put on your breastplate? If not, the darts of Satan will penetrate your heart and destroy your standing before God!

3. The Boots of the Gospel of Peace (verse 15).

My feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace means that I am ready and available to be God's messenger and witness, and to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ into all the world. Are your boots on? If not, don't worry, you'll probably not come into conflict with Satan! But you will also have missed God's plan for your life, and if you make it to heaven (which is questionable anyhow - because this reflects on the genuineness of your conversion), there will be no reward and no crown for you.

4. The Shield of Faith (verse 16).

In the battlefield you will surely come under Satan's attack and he will fire his darts of doubt, temptation, fear, intimidation, oppression, depression, anger, failure, and disease at you. Faith is your shield. Without the shield of faith, his darts will certainly wound or fell you down. Is your shield in hand?

5. The Helmet of Salvation (verse 17).

The helmet of salvation protects my thoughts and my emotions. Where the breastplate of righteousness protects my standing before God, the helmet of salvation protects my status before God. The helmet of salvation involves my position as crucified and raised with Christ as discussed in the previous section. Is your helmet fitted?

6. The Sword of the Spirit (verse 17).

The Sword of the Spirit is defined for us by Scripture itself, which is the Word of God. The Sword of the Spirit is the only part of my armour that is a weapon of attack! The only effective weapon of attack against Satan is the Word of God! Forget about complaining, forget about arguing, forget about shouting, forget about striking, forget about toy-toying, forget about dancing, petitioning, marching or demonstrating! When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, he defended

himself with the Word of God! Only the Word of God! Do you know your Bible; can you use your Sword? May God help you to use your Sword effectively.

Now we are ready to move into battle.

Moving Into Battle

Moving into battle against Satan and his demons is no light thing. As we have seen in Part 2, Knowing Your Enemy, we must not take up Satan and his demons lightly. The fact that they have been conquered on Calvary does not render them powerless, and until God finally judges Satan as we read in Revelation 20, he will be a strong foe to recon with and we will need wisdom, knowledge and power to overcome him in our lives and the world.

I don't often address Satan directly, I seldom talk to him directly. Although I believe there is a place and a time to do this, I don't recommend anyone do this lightly unless you have experience in spiritual warfare. Neither should anybody ever belittle or slander Satan. We read in Jud 1:9: *"Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The*

Lord rebuke you!" " You must treat Satan with respect, even though he is your enemy.

There are two strategies I use very effectively in battle against Satan and his kingdom, and I believe that if the Church of Jesus Christ only use these strategies, huge breakthroughs will occur in families, mission fields, and this world.

The first strategy I use very effectively in battle against Satan and his kingdom is praise and worship.

The power and value of Praise and Worship

Paul Billheimer makes the following statement in his book, *Destined For The Throne*:

"A program of prayer without faith is powerless. The missing element that is necessary to energize prevailing prayer that binds and casts out Satan is triumphant faith. And the missing element that is necessary to energize triumphant faith is praise - perpetual, purposeful, aggressive praise. Praise is the highest form of prayer because it combines petition with faith. Praise is the spark plug of faith. It is the one thing needed to get faith airborne, enabling it to soar above the deadly miasma of doubt. Praise is the detergent which purifies faith and purges doubt from the heart. The secret of answered prayer is faith without doubt (Mark

11:23). And the secret of faith without doubt is praise, triumphant praise, continuous praise, praise that is a way of life. This is the solution to the problem of a living faith and successful prayer."

"The secret of success in overcoming Satan and qualifying for the throne is a massive program of effective prayer. The secret of effective prayer is a massive program of praise."¹

Paul Billheimer further states: "To be most effective, then, praise must be massive, continuous, a fixed habit, a full time occupation, a diligently pursued vocation, a total way of life."²

Why is praise so effective?

Praise and worship is an expression and proclamation of the Lordship and reign of Jesus Christ in the spiritual realm.

As we have seen in Part 2, *Knowing Your Enemy*, demons are eager church goers! Demons are everywhere where Christians are! In fact 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.

What do they do there? They try to interfere, block, blind, divert, dampen, mislead, and tempt in any possible way in order to obstruct the truth of God's Word and render prayer powerless. Demons steal Christian's faith by creating a deadly atmosphere in worship, prayer, and in my quite time.

What do praise and worship do? Firstly, praise and worship generate faith, as we have seen in the quotation from Paul Billheimer. But

secondly, as we will learn about in more detail in the following strategy, the proclamation of the authority, Lordship, reign and victory of Jesus Christ through the Cross of Calvary and the Blood of the Lamb is something demons can't endure! Where the Lordship of Jesus Christ is proclaimed in the spiritual realm they are rendered powerless! Where the Lordship of Jesus Christ is proclaimed demons flee - they cannot stand the atmosphere! That is why the atmosphere changes where Jesus Christ is praised and worshipped.

In summary, if you are not sure how to act or react in a situation of demonic conflict, simply start praising the Lord.

Proclaiming the authority, victory, Lordship and reign of Jesus Christ in the spiritual realm

The second strategy I use very effectively in prayer-warfare is audible proclamation of Biblical truth.

As we said earlier, Satan and his demons dwell in the air around us and we cannot escape their presence while we are still here on earth. We have also learned that they can hear every word we say audibly. Our audible words therefore,

play an important part in spiritual warfare. Our words can either open doors for Satan and his demons to use against us, or our words can block their activities and make them flee.

Like we have said before, every proclamation of the Lordship and authority of Jesus Christ in a particular area of conflict, will make demons flee. The proclamation of the authority, Lordship, reign and victory of Jesus Christ through the Cross of Calvary and the Blood of the Lamb is something demons cannot endure! Where the Lordship of Jesus Christ is proclaimed in the spiritual realm they are rendered powerless! Where the Lordship of Jesus Christ is proclaimed demons have to flee!

We can see the power of audible proclamation in various Biblical and practical situations. For example, in the Psalms we often read that the Psalmist proclaims the Name of God in public. Ps 22:22 for example says: **"I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You."** And in Rom 10:9 we read: **"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."** And in Rev 12:11 we read: **"And they have overcome (conquered) him by**

means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, .." (Amplified)

**There is power in
the audible
confession and
proclamation of
the Word and
truth of God!**

A classic example to me in the Word of God is contained in the story of Gideon in the book of Judges. It is interesting to note that Gideon and his 300 men did not use any weapons when they routed the Midianites. All they had in their hands were a trumpet, a pitcher and a torch.

We read in Jdg 7:20-22: *"Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers; they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing; and they cried, 'The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!'"* And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled. *When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his companion*

throughout the whole camp; and the army fled ..."

What is a proclamation?

The word proclaim means to cry aloud, to publish abroad, or to announce officially. A proclamation is an official notice given to the public. When a law comes into force, it becomes legal through proclamation in the Government Gazette. To proclaim a law means to bring it into enforcement. A new law is enforced through proclamation.

So when I proclaim the Lordship and reign of Jesus Christ, I enforce His Lordship and reign in the area of proclamation.

To whom do I have to proclaim?

I proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the spiritual realm where Satan and his demons are the prime listeners. Although I do not address Satan and his demons by name, they are my main audience by simple virtue of their presence!

Where can I make such a proclamation?

In every area or person's life where Satan and his demons are operating

illegally, or where the Lord has given me faith to take a satanic stronghold or demonic ground for Christ.

What authority do I have to make such a proclamation?

We have partially covered this aspect in earlier where we discussed taking up my position in Christ. You will remember that we said that my position in Christ determines my authority. The Christian has authority over Satan and his demons by virtue of his position in Christ. The Bible is crystal clear about this. Let's look at a few examples:

In Mar 6:7 we read: *"And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits."*

In Luk 10:17 we read: *"The seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name!"*

And in verse 19 Jesus says: *"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."*

Read Eph 1:16-21.

And in Rev 12:11 we read: *"And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, ..."* (Amplified)

So then, when I proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ in a person's life or an area for which God has given me faith, I do so on the authority of my position in Christ Jesus!

What do I have to proclaim?

Firstly, I proclaim the basis of my authority. I call on the Blood of Jesus Christ - the Lamb of God. There are a lot of misgivings among Christians about pleading the Blood of Christ. Pleading the Blood of Jesus Christ is no magic phrase for protection.

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

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

What does it mean when I plead the Blood of the Lamb over someone else or an area?

It means that I am making this proclamation on the basis of the Blood of Jesus Christ that flowed at Calvary for the sin of the whole world, and not on the basis of that person or area's own merits.

Envisage the subject of your intercession standing trial in a court of law. God is the judge. Satan is the prosecutor for the state (in his capacity as prince of this world) and you (as the intercessor on the authority of Christ) are the prosecutor for the accused. Satan wants this person found guilty and imprisoned for life, while you, as the intercessor, plead for this person's salvation, freedom and deliverance on the basis of the fact that Jesus Christ has paid his penalty with His own Blood.

Thirdly, I then proclaim and enforce:

- The all victorious Name and the Lordship of Jesus Christ the Lord,
- The victory of the Cross of Calvary,
- The Blood of the Lamb, and
- The empty grave

over the person, persons, area, or areas of conflict - in the Name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

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

that I am enforcing this proclamation by faith in Jesus' Name! We read in the Gospels that when Jesus drove out demons from the demon possessed, He rebuked them. He addressed them aggressively and decisively.

What does it mean when I proclaim and enforce the all victorious Name and the Lordship of Jesus Christ the Lord over the person or area of conflict? Firstly, it means that on the basis of my authority in Christ, I refuse and bind any satanic and demonic activity in and over this person or area. I prohibit any demonic activity that can or will prevent or obstruct Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit of God to have free access and reign in the person's life or area of conflict - without using these words.

I am removing any demonic obstacle to, and releasing the perfect will of God over this person's life or area of conflict.

When I proclaim and enforce the victory of Calvary and the resurrection of Jesus from the grave, I am

simply calling into action everything the Cross of Jesus Christ and the resurrection stand for in and over the person's life or area of conflict, prohibiting Satan and his demons to continue with any obstruction to the work and perfect will of God in the area of conflict. Even when I don't know what God's will for the person or object of my intercession is, the proclamation of the victory of Jesus Christ on Calvary removes any demonic hindrance and releases the perfect will of God over that person or area of conflict.

I can assure you, when you do this in faith, you will experience the power of God in your prayer! You will experience a release of any demonic oppression over you! You will experience that something is breaking in the spiritual realm! You will experience your spirit being lifted up with Christ and you will experience the victory of the Cross in your own prayer-life!

Prayer will become an uplifting and glorious experience and you can't wait for the next session of prayer to begin!

How often do I have to proclaim?

Firstly, let me ask the question, how many times do I have to pray about, or ask God for an answer on a subject? The answer is, until He has answered you, or you know what God's will in the matter is. So then, if you have prayed about a matter once and you know that it is God's will to grant your request, there is no need to continue asking God to answer your prayer. But that does not mean that God will immediately execute your request.

Why is it that we often times do not receive an answer to our prayer immediately in spite of the fact that we know it is in God's will to grant our request?

In Dan 10:12,13 we read: *"Then (the (A)ngel) said to me, 'Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.'"*

Here we can see that God heard Daniel's prayer immediately, but He could not immediately execute it

because there was a spiritual war in progress.

More than often our prayers are not answered immediately although we know the will of God in the matter, because the battle first has to be won in the spiritual realm. There is a war in progress!

This then brings us to the question, how often do I have to proclaim the victory of Christ over a person or situation? The answer is continually - at least until the particular issue is resolved and then I move on to the next area of conflict. If I am praying for a spiritual leader or a loved one that is vulnerable to demonic attack, I must continue to proclaim the victory of Christ without ceasing. Remember this is a war. I must initially "take" the ground, but then I must continue to "occupy" the ground! Don't think that once you have taken the ground, Satan

will sit back without a fight! He will come back as soon as you relinquish the battle!

Can I effectively pray alone?

Yes, you can effectively pray alone! But the battle will be more intense, more gruesome and could be much longer than when you pray together with other believers or as a group. Remember this a war! One soldier going to battle will hardly win the war - although this is not impossible! Remember the promise of Mat 18:20?: *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."*

There is power in effective prayer and intercession of a group of believers. If you have a special prayer need in your home, find a prayer friend. What we have to remember is the fact that although God is concerned with the individual and every person needs to enter into and maintain a personal relationship with Christ in prayer, God's primary concern is with the Church and Body of Christ. So, when the Church and Body of Christ in a particular area or congregation unites in effective prayer, there is an awesome gathering of power! That's why revival begins with prayer groups and prayer gatherings of believers!

Your focus should therefore be to begin a prayer group in your home, mission, area, or church. That's where the action will begin! Begin right in your home together with your spouse or another prayer friend, and extend into a group until you have ignited your area and your church for Jesus Christ!

In Closing

In closing then, there are two magic words in spiritual and prayer warfare, they are faith and perseverance! In Rev 2:2 Jesus says to the church of Ephesus: *"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have **persevered** and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary."*

When your faith falters, switch to perseverance. And when your perseverance falters, switch to faith.

With every one of the seven churches in the book of Revelation, Jesus ended with a promise *"To him who overcomes .."*

I want to close with a story that has made a life changing impression on me and I was confronted with during the heat of satanic attack. If you have seen the movie, Fighting The Giants, you will know what I am talking about. The story of this movie is about the football coach of a Christian school who just couldn't achieve success with his team. For a number of years he failed to lead his team to victory until he was under pressure to resign as coach. However, he refused to surrender. God met with this man and showed him that their priorities were all wrong. Football and winning had become their focus instead of focussing on Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

The coach then began teaching his team Biblical principles in football and especially the principles of faith and perseverance. He managed to re-engage the captain who was on the point of resigning from the team. He began with fitness exercises and they had to piggy back each other across the sports field. The coach began pushing them beyond the limits of their own perceived limitations, and this was no joke. The captain had to take the lead.

As the captain was crawling across the sports field with someone else on his back, he came to the point where his previous limit was, but the coach spurred him on to go further. As he reached what he thought to be his ultimate limitation, the coach spurred him on even further. The coach actually got onto his knees himself and crawled alongside him to encourage him, stretching his perseverance to the limit, while spurring him on with the words: "Please don't quit on me now! Please don't quit on me now!"

When I saw this, I saw myself on the training field of spiritual and prayer warfare on the Adversity and Failure campuses of God's Eternity University. It had felt to me as if I had reached my limitation - I just could not endure anymore. I was ready to quit! Then Jesus came crawling with me on the ground, slapping his hand on the field every time I take one more

step, saying: "My child, please don't quit on me now! Please, don't quit on me now!"

Maybe you are feeling the pressure of satanic and demonic oppression in your life or your family, service or ministry.

Jesus is crawling alongside you on the training field, saying: "My child, please don't quit on me now! My child, please don't quit on me now!"

"To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." (Rev 2:7)

Notes:

1. Destined For The Throne by Paul E Billheimer, page 18
2. Destined For The Throne by Paul E Billheimer, page 121

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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