

The
Potential
Of the
Redeemed
Mind

DR. WAYNE C. GWILLIAM
Foreword by Dr. Tommy Reid

Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptural quotations are from the
King James Version of the Bible.

The Potential of the Redeemed Mind

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Foreword

"The Potential of the Redeemed Mind" is a book that needed to be written. Rev. Wayne Gwilliam is obviously the man that was destined by God to write this excellent document. I know that every Christian will be "enriched" and "changed" through their encounter with the spiritual truths that my friend and brother Wayne Gwilliam presents to the Body of Christ.

I am pleased to call Wayne Gwilliam my friend. I first encountered his ministry while preaching at an Assemblies of God General Council in the land of Australia where he was a very successful pastor of a growing church. Wayne had been converted under another very close friend, Rev. Reginald Klimionok, and these two brethren have remained very close personal friends since that first encounter.

Over many years I have carefully watched the ministry of my friend Wayne, both in Australia and in America. He is a man of integrity and of great spiritual insight. He has an outstanding comprehension of great spiritual principles, especially those principles that lead to real success in life, and victory over Satan's devices to destroy us.

Wayne is also a man of great balance and wisdom. He is a man that needs to be heard by both ministers and lay people. I pray that *"The Potential of the Redeemed Mind"* will become so widely read that it will give this ministry national and international exposure,

because the Body of Christ needs to hear what Wayne Gwilliam is saying.

Are you discouraged? Do you feel that you are not living up to the full potential that God has placed inside your Spirit? Is the enemy winning victories in your life, and do you feel like you are losing? Then, *"The Potential of the Redeemed Mind"* was written just for you!

Wayne Gwilliam has joined together, in almost perfect balance, the principles taught both in the Faith/Word movement, as well as those principles taught by those who advocate Holiness, Worship and Heart purity. In this outstanding document those renewal truths taught by various teachers literally *come together and come alive!*

You will be changed by reading *"The Potential of the Redeemed Mind"*! I recommend it to both pastors and lay persons, regardless of your spiritual maturity level. It is so profound, the Christian of fifty years will be inspired, and it is so clear, that the new convert will fully comprehend it's truths.

Get ready for a "great experience" and a "journey to spiritual success" as you read the exciting pages of Wayne Gwilliam's outstanding book, *"The Potential of the Redeemed Mind"*!

By Tommy Reid
*Pastor of Full Gospel Tabernacle
Orchard Park, NY*

Introduction

As we travel throughout life, we will meet people from all levels of society. Some of these people will speak with conviction about things they know nothing about. And at times, we will have a tendency to view God as one of these people.

Not that we would come right out and make that statement in public, or even admit it to ourselves, but this does become very evident when communicating with some Christians. This concept causes us to view the Bible as a book of arguments, rather than the book of life.

Every principle God has placed in His Word is meant to bring life and freedom rather than death and bondage. The believer must understand the Bible is a book of truth that contains the Word of God. In many places in the Bible there are true statements made by the various authors, but that does not mean these statements are the truth from a Covenant point of view.

Let me illustrate this with an example from the Book of Proverbs. It makes a statement of truth by declaring that if we train up a child in the way he should go, when he is old he will not depart from it. This is a wise saying, and a true one; however, it is not a Covenant promise.

Many good parents have tried to the best of their ability to fulfill this Scripture as a promise, only to discover that the free will of their child has led him or her into a wayward state.

Therefore, in this book we will look at the outline the Holy Spirit has given for the total redemption of the mind based on Covenant truth.

Two Realms of Warfare

The Scriptures clearly define two realms of warfare. The warfare in Ephesians 6 is against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world. Before we can confront the devil in warfare, we need to know who God says we are in Christ Jesus. This brings us to the warfare in Second Corinthians 10, which is the warfare of our minds.

Many Christians have not yet discovered who they are in the Covenant that was established nearly 2,000 years ago between God and man in Jesus Christ. They simply do not know the great riches they possess in the person Jesus Christ. Therefore, they are destroyed through lack of knowledge.

When confronted with principalities and powers, or manipulated by circumstances, they have a limited understanding of how to overcome them by the 8,886 promises, established through the

death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the formation of a new and better Covenant.

Peter makes mention of these promises in Second Peter 1:4, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

The Warfare of the Mind

The way Satan robs us of the abundant life mentioned in John 10:10 is by blinding us to the promises of the New Covenant. This is the warfare of the mind. Over our lifetime, Satan has spun his web of negativity in our minds toward the promises of the promises of the New Covenant, and the fruit of this is fear.

I recently watched a documentary on television about a woman named Eve. This woman had several different personalities that manifested themselves through Eve's soul from time to time. The show caught my attention because I had just been studying the potential of the human soul. One of Eve's personalities had arthritis.

The arthritis was so real to her, that when this personality manifested itself through her Body, she was struck with severe pain, and her body took on all the symptoms of arthritis so that

she became immobile. The moment the personality changed, the arthritis completely vanished from her body! Eve's condition was confirmed by doctor's report.

Arthritis of any sickness at times can be a stronghold of the mind, produced by fear. Once accepted by the mind, the body then takes on the personality of the sickness.

The Body's Thermostat

The mind can be likened to the thermostat on air-conditioner. Once the control is set, say at 65 degrees, the unit will do all it can do to meet the demand placed on it by the thermostat.

Even if the unit is placed on a bench in the backyard of your house, and the outside temperature is 100 degrees, the air-conditioner will still try to bring the temperature down to 65 degrees. The motor of air-conditioner does not have a mind of its own. It does what it is told to do.

Neither has the flesh of man a mind of its own. The soul of man is the thermostat control of the body. When set, the body will do everything it can to fulfill what the mind has demanded of it. If the mind becomes convinced the body has cancer, the body, in submission to the soul, will do everything to fulfill the demand of the mind.

The Power of the Brain

I personally witnessed in my mother's life. She never smoked or exposed herself to any known cause of cancer. Nor had anyone in our family line died from cancer. Yet she had phobia that she would die of cancer, and she did, bringing clarity to Job's statement, "The thing that I feared hath come upon me."

The mind is the most complicated part of our beings. It has never been programmed to its full capacity since the fall of Adam, except in Jesus Christ, of course. The brain is so powerful that scientists report we only use between 12 to 15 percent of its capability.

When left to itself, the mind produces a power that works independent of God. The soul has a hunger that needs to be fed, just like the body needs digestible food to produce energy. The soul needs academic knowledge to form a personality.

A newborn baby needs more than milk to survive; it also craves knowledge. The body and spirit are alive, but the soul is empty, seeking knowledge to form a personality. There is saying, "If we are not teaching our children, someone else is." The hungry soul picks up knowledge wherever it can.

The Counterfeit Church

As a minister of the Gospel for 14 years, I have witnessed many people attempting to enter the Ephesians 6 warfare, trying to set men free from these demonic forces long before they have prepared themselves for the fight. They must prepare by first completing the warfare of the mind, found in Second Corinthians 10.

This produces conflict in their own lives. Before long, there is an enormous amount of pressure in their marriage. Their children become uncontrollable, their business starts to fail, and their families go into financial difficulties, causing the believer to become overwhelmed with personal problems that seem to multiply.

This all happens while they are fighting for the freedom of others. This is because they have neglected to win the warfare in the realm of the mind, successfully reprogramming their own mind to line up with the mind of Christ that is in fellowship with their spirit through the Holy Spirit.

Then some preacher or well-meaning friend will try to provoke them to faith by telling them, "David was just a boy when he overcame Goliath with mere slingshot." But what they neglected to mention is that David had his faith developed by having an understanding of the Covenant that God had made with Israel. Understanding the Covenant

is the only way our faith will mature enough to accomplish the same feat.

Understanding the Covenant

When David conversed with the army of Saul, he rehearsed a statement that is very informative to the student of the Word. David said, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that defiles the army of the living God?"

In making this statement, it is clear that David was well informed about the benefits of the Covenant that God had made with Israel.

Circumcision was the outward sign of the Old Covenant. It was quite obvious David knew this alienated Goliath from God's protection, but the knowledge of the Covenant placed David right in the center of God's protection. The same applied to the believer today with the new Covenant established in Jesus Christ.

The following Scripture verses will grant you understanding of this battlefield that is to be fought in the mind.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do war after the flesh:

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

In examining verses 3 and 4, we find this battle is not fought in the flesh with mere human weapons. Nor are they the weapons we would use to fight the Ephesians 6 warfare.

There are specific weapons for each battlefield, and this will become more evident in the following chapters.

Verse 5 declares that this is a fight that takes place in the intellect of man, referred to in Scripture as the soul. It is against imagination that have been that have developed in our soul through repetitious, thought-provoking teaching by such mentors of the doctrine of like as parents, siblings, first and secondary education, college, university, etc.

Created Triune Beings

We will always have a limited understanding of this battlefield unless we come to the full knowledge that we are triune beings, accruing to First Thessalonians 5:23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your wholly spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So often we look at ourselves in a mirror and judge ourselves by our outward appearance, never realizing that we have a spirit, created in the image of God, or that we have an intellect programmed by our five senses: touch, taste, hearing, smell, and sight.

This limited view of ourselves produces an imbalance in our growth to manhood or womanhood. Some will exercise their body to build a trim physique, then buy nice clothes, and think they have arrived at perfection. You only have to talk to them for a moment to realize they are in complete deception.

Others will overeducate themselves by concentrating on the philosophy of life and become wise in their own eyes, but neglect their body and spirit. If they were to look at themselves in a magic mirror and ask, "Who is the fairest of them all," they would soon discover they are also in deception.

Others exercise their spirit man by fasting and prayer, neglect their body and soul, and become so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good! The key is for the body, soul, and spirit to grow together in balance.

Proverbs 11:1 declares, "A false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight." This balance cannot take place unless we

are fully aware that we are a triune being, created spirit, soul, and body.

Importance of Positive Environment

If I had the desire to become an accountant, which would require a great deal of academic achievement, I would not have to be admitted into the local hospital and have an operation to enlarge my brain.

All I would have to do is develop the academic capability I already have by creating a positive environment to learn in, and following a disciplined line of study. Having the right environment is extremely important for growth.

Consider the goldfish! In its natural environment the goldfish can grow eight to ten inches long. But take that same fish, place it in a small bowl, and it will only grow one to two inches long--one quarter of its full potential.

The same can be said of the rubber tree plant. In its natural environment, the tree will grow twenty to twenty-five feet, with roots strong enough to rip up the foundation of a house. But place in a small pot, it makes a fine indoor plant.

Things That Hinder Our Growth

If we continually find ourselves exposed to a negative environment, one does not need special prophetic insight to realize that this will hinder our

growth, causing us to grow into adulthood deformed, thus preventing us from us from rising to our full potential in God.

When I became a Christian, I could barely read or write, having had only a few years of schooling. My lack of education was not caused because I did not have the ability to learn, but because of the negative environment I was born into. It limited me from achieving the normal educational level that was available to other children.

I was the illegitimate son of the woman who was my father neighbor. As you can well imagine, this type of lifestyle was not acceptable to colonial Australia in the 1950s. It was the catalyst for a lot of gossip, creating a negative atmosphere and making it virtually impossible for our family to grow in love.

Through persecution in the small coastal community we live in, my family was forced to move to rural New South Wales, where it was very difficult to receive any type of schooling. At the age of 5, I worked alongside my family in the fields, picking potatoes.

Family Problems

My father became a drunkard because of the pressure that comes through this of problem, and he

started ill-treating my mother. She became afflicted in her body and was hospitalized. Her infirmity created a new set of circumstances that forced my brother and me to go and live with my father's real wife and family, adding to the already negative setting.

By the time I was 15 I had already many encounters with the local police, and at one time was sent to a criminal psychiatrist for assessment. He informed me that if average schooling would have been made available to me, I could have become anything I set my mind to.

From this time on, friction began building between my father and myself, as I now blamed him for lack of education. Whenever I experienced depression or frustration, I would blame my father, and when I had committed, the attorneys also blamed my parents' lifestyle.

This developed a stronghold in my mind that I could never attain to anything in this life but a criminal.

The unforgiveness in my heart turned into hatred. I tried to forgive him many times, and even convinced myself that I had, until I saw him again or needed an excuse for failing.

Hatred Boils to a Head

Then one day at minister's conference, like a festering boil, the hatred came to a head. I was invited to an open discussion on several theological points. I sat there listening to the discussion in total fear and frustration, dreading that at any moment I would be asked to comment on one of the topics being discussed. In my mind, this would be impossible for me because of my low academic achievement.

To avoid putting myself in an embarrassing situation by looking foolish in the sight of my peers, I left the conference and went for a walk along the beach.

Hatred for my father raged inwardly, to the point of my wanting to take his life. I sat down on a large rock and wept uncontrollably. Suddenly, out of the night, two hands appeared and wiped the tears from my eyes!

God Speaks

Then an audible voice spoke out of the darkness and said, "You must forgive your father." As the voice spoke to me, I found myself screaming out, "No! I will never forgive him!" This shocked me, as I did not have time to think about the answer that came bursting out of my mouth like an erupting volcano.

The voice responded, "When did you lose your potential to learn? Anything you could have become before, you can become now. The very thing that is stopping you from proceeding into the future and all I have for you, is your memory of the past."

"Your father loved you in the only way he knew how. He could not give you that which he never experienced himself. If you will forgive him, I will cause you to walk in high places of the earth, and I will restore to you the years that the locust, the cankerworm, the caterpillar, and the palmerworm have taken from you.

Love Filled My Heart

At that moment, tremendous revelation filled my mind. My father really did not hate me! And for the first time, love filled my heart for him. I knew I had forgiven him, and from that moment on, I would no longer be a product of the negative environment of my past.

That night, I came to understand how a problem in the soul can bind us from fulfilling God's best for our lives. This prompted me to study the Scriptures, searching for the blueprint for the renewing of our minds. So in this book, *The Potential of the Redeemed Mind*, I have outlined a step-by-step, workable plan you should find easy to follow.

Chapter 1

Repentance From Unbelief

In this chapter, the reader will come to understand the need for repentance from the sin of unbelief.

The sin of unbelief is widely accepted in the Body of Christ, even though it is an abomination to God! Unbelief is the root from which all sin grows, and it the cancer that causes decay to the shield of faith. The devil has to punch a hole in our faith before he can take the believer captive, neutralizing his ability.

Therefore, there can never be enough taught on the subject of faith. The devil hates it, and most believers don't understand it. If there were a greater understanding of faith, the Church would not be so susceptible to attack by the forces of darkness. The devil has been successful in causing great offense in some parts of the Church concerning the doctrine of faith.

Paul gives some understanding of the importance of faith in Ephesians 6:16, "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." The shield of faith quenches all the darts of the enemy. Not just some, but all!

The Importance of Faith

Jesus showed concern for the preservation of faith upon the earth when He asked, "Will I find faith upon the earth when I return?" This statement gives even more importance to why believers should develop their faith to maximum.

We read another stern warning concerning faith in Hebrews 3:12, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."

Again, in Hebrews 11:6 we find, "without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." And verse 2 tells us, "That by faith the elders obtained a good report."

Too often we try to obtain a good report from our peers by such religious works as prayer, fasting, giving finances, study, loyalty to our pastor, or faithfulness to local church. All these are good principles in themselves when applied in faith.

Romans 14:23b states, "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Even though these things are required to be fulfilled by the believer, they cannot be acts of religious duty. Unless they are accomplished in faith, they become dead works and need to be repented of.

Hebrews 4:2 sheds some light on dead works, "For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."

When you first read this verse in Hebrews, it paints a picture in the mind that some of the people just sat down and refused to do what God commanded them. The writer of the Book of Hebrews is describing the people who followed Moses with their feet, but in their hearts they murmured against him. They were in for a big surprise, for no matter how far they followed him, they were never going to enter into the Promised Land that flowed with milk and honey.

James says, "Faith without works is dead." It also would be right to say, "Works without faith is dead." This verse describes the condition of the hearts of the Israelites. They followed out of desperation, not faith. This is why Hebrews 3:19 declares, "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."

Consequences of Unbelief

A sincere student of the Word does not have to dig too deep to discover the consequences of the sin of unbelief. The best place to begin is with the fall of man in the Garden of Eden.

When Satan came to provoke Adam and make them doubt God's integrity by casting suspicion in their minds over God's motivation toward them. Satan accomplished this by saying, "Hath God said," as if to say, "Who is God? Don't listen to Him. You are just as good as He is! What gives Him the right to be God and rule over you?"

And when Eve defended God, the devil called God a liar by saying, "You will not surely die, for God knows that in the day you eat of it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

The allegations robbed Eve of her faith in God, causing her to eat of the tree. This act of rebellion caused a death in her relationship with God.

Eve Doubted God

By believing the devil, Eve doubted God, and doubt is unbelief. So it be true to say unbelief is the sin that removed Adam and Eve from the garden, thus removing them from God's protective covering over their lives, and placing them into the hands of a destructive devil.

This illustration reveals that no person lives to himself along, for not did Eve her walk with God; her husband entered into unbelief with her.

As a minister, I have witnessed Satan use this same tactic with many Christians today.

The Holy Spirit will place a person into a particular ministry where he can grow under a controlled atmosphere of God's protection and guidance working through the ministry of that local church.

When these people first come into that place, they have great faith in the church's spiritual oversight. Then along comes the devil, and he begins to build a case in their minds against the ministry of the church.

Before long, these people find themselves at war with the ministry they once trusted, and the place of safety becomes a war zone, ending up with their removal—a replica of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Sometimes this removal is literal, and other times spiritual. What I mean by spiritual separations that they may remain in the local body of believers and even accepted by them, but the anointing has lifted off their lives.

A good illustration of this is the life of King Saul. When he disobeyed God, his removal was not immediate. Some time passed before David was made king, even though God had appointed David to be king many years before.

Identifying Unbelief

Before we travel through the Bible much further, I would like to point out that unbelief is not a vacant place in the mind. It is a state of mind toward a person or object.

When the devil came to Eve, he to build an offense against God n her mind that would cause her to transfer her belief in God to belief in herself. You see, she always believed in something

The mistake she made was believing in her own opinion rather than God's opinion. This is the root of deception, and Satan must take a person into this realm be fore he can hold them captive.

If you cannot recognize the truth about yourself, you can never be set free. The Word of God says, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free," So if a person cannot see his sin, he can never repent; and if he never repents, he can never come into all that God has for him.

Illustrations of Unbelief

We will now progress to Abram in Genesis 15. God promises him a son in verse 4, "And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto to him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou

be able to number them: and he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness.”

The devil hates righteousness because it means right standing with God. As soon as the devil heard God’s promise to Abram, he devised a plan to take that belief that made Abraham righteous, and turn it into unbelief to make him unrighteous.

The plan of seduction unfolds in the next chapter, Genesis 16. Sarai came to Abram and said, “God has forsaken me. I am barren. Take Hagar and have a child.” So he did.

Then, when Hagar conceived, Sarai, got jealous and blamed Abram! Verse 5 says, “And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee. I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the Lord judge between me and thee.”

The Origin of the Gulf War

It was a different presentation that Satan used on Eve, but the same principle. We know God worked it out in the long term-- but if it had not been for that momentary lapse in Abram's belief, the Gulf War would never have taken place, as the Arabs are the seed of Abraham through Hagar!

Friends, many Christians have received a promise from God to do something great with their

lives, only to have that promise of greatness robbed by the transference of their partner's unbelief; not that they deliberately set out to rob that promise.

Satan knows it would not be so effective if he used the next-door neighbour. He always tries to use the person closest to us.

The blame is put on that person because things never worked out the way they should have. And in many cases, it is not the partner's fault. It may well be presumption in the life of the person God has chosen to use.

A good example of this is the life of Moses. At a young age, Moses correctly discerned God's purpose for his life and moved right into his calling, not allowing God to prepare him for his life's mission.

This brought death rather than life, tainting Moses' ministry in front of the very people whose respect he was trying to obtain. Moses' pride was hurt, causing him to fell to the desert. The result was that Moses himself now doubted his call, and he denied God and the people he was meant to serve.

Moses' Bad Self Image

He stayed 40 years in the backside of the desert, and even though God appeared to him in

several supernatural manifestations, Moses had trouble believing that God still wanted to use him.

His bad self-image, caused by his pride being wounded, left a scar on his soul called shame. In time, shame will manifest itself in unbelief. Moses never had the slightest problem in believing in God and His greatness, but he doubted that God wanted to use him because of his past failure.

The Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:13b, 14 says, "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." In summary, Paul is saying that it will cost you the future to live in the past.

Many Christians today have the same problem Moses had. They can believe God to heal or prosper others, but they cannot receive for themselves because of the guilt and shame still lodged in their soul.

I have come across many young Moses who have stepped out to fulfill their ministry on a call of God, rather than a commissioning, only to find themselves in all kinds of trouble. Then they feel a failure, forsake the ministry they were called to, and retreat to a desert place.

We also see this in the life of Apostle Paul. He was called to the work of the ministry on the road of Damascus, yet his commissioning was some 13 to 14 years later. The prophets and teachers were praying, and the Holy Spirit spoke through them, saying, saying, "Separate Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."

A Wounded Paul Retreats

Paul was called on the Damascus Road, but he was not commissioned until he was sent forth by the Holy Spirit. Between the time he was called and the time he was commissioned, he was hurt deeply by his brethren's unbelief toward him, and he withdrew himself to his hometown, Tarsus.

If it has not been for Barnabus going to him and rubbing the oil and wine of Spirit into his wounds, the Apostle Paul, might never have fulfilled his mission in life.

The key is to recognize all that God has for us, respond by saying "yes", and then wait for Him to open the doors necessary to bring about His purpose. Hebrews 10:35,36 says, "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God ye might receive the promise."

There are many Scriptures in the New Testament that condemn the sin of unbelief, and the penalty of this sin is great. I pray that you see the urgency to identify unbelief in your life as the root to separation from God and call it sin.

If you cannot do this one thing, there is no point in your reading any further, as each principle I will be sharing with you needs faith to become a reality in your life.

Chapter 2

Obedience to the Will of God

After dealing with unbelief, it is now time to wage war---not against the devil, but against the negative traits that have been established in our mind. This is not a warfare that Jesus can fight for us. Second Corinthians 10:4 informs us, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

This verse clearly states that it is our fight, not the fight of the heavenly hosts. Even though they cannot fight this battle for us, they have greatly assisted us by providing the necessary weapons and strength needed to win this fight. It rages within every person's members to different degrees, depending on what they have been saved from.

Let's consider the training of a soldier. Before he is given weapons, his physical body must be strengthened by vigorous forms of training to give him the much-needed strength to complete his mission. This training is not only physical, but is also mental, so the soldier is prepared both inwardly and outwardly.

There's no profit in developing just physical strength. If the soldier is weak in the realm of his

emotions, he will cower in battle, not matter how strong his physical body is.

So it is with the Christian soldier. The difference is his strength cannot be obtained by bodily exercise; it is obtained by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and study of the Word of God.

First we will look at the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and the benefits of this experience. Paul explains this in one of his prayers, found in Ephesians 3:14-16 "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man."

Two Experiences

This strength does not come when we are born of the Spirit at salvation, receiving the blood of Jesus. It comes when we are filled with the Spirit, as in the Acts 2 and 4 experience.

Some Christians do not understand the difference between the two experiences and get confused. The believer is born of the Spirit through justification by faith in the blood of Jesus, and is then empowered with the Spirit when baptized the Holy Spirit.

For example, the early Christians were not saved on the Day of Pentecost, when they received the empowering of the Holy Spirit. They were saved when they believed on Jesus as the Christ.

In Ephesians 3:16, Paul proclaims that true spiritual strength comes from a union between God's Spirit and the spirit of man. Salvation does not produce strength. It produces peace. The empowering of the Spirit at Pentecost produced spiritual aggression.

In Isaiah 40:31, the Word declares, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Exchanging Strength

The key word in here in Isaiah 40:31 is the word "renew." The same word is also used in other parts of the Bible for the word "exchange." So if we replace the word "renew" with the word "exchange," this scripture paraphrased would read, "Those that wait upon the Lord would exchange their strength for His strength." This is exactly what happened in the Book of Acts on the Day of Pentecost, when the disciples in the Upper Room were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Peter, by trying to fulfill the purpose of God for his life in his own strength, found himself in more trouble than a can of worms on a fishing trip! But after receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, a great boldness came upon him. Peter then confronted the same people he had previously fled from, and led 3,000 of them to the Lord!

This was obviously the power or strength of God working through Peter, transforming him into a different man. This also happened when the Holy Spirit came upon King Saul, as prophesied by Samuel in First Samuel 10:6 (Amplified): "The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you mightily and you will show yourself a prophet with them; and you will be turned into another man."

Saul did not become a Jew when he was empowered by the Spirit. He was always a Jew. What he received was spiritual strength to fulfill his God-given task.

The same thing happened in Acts 4:29-31, when the religious leaders put pressure on the believers to stop preaching salvation in the Name of Jesus. The believers prayed:

"And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And

when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

Stay Empowered

These were the same Christians who were filled with the Spirit in Acts 2. This experience is not a one-time occurrence; therefore, it is important for all Christians to pray in the Spirit, to come aside and wait on the Lord in prayer, ensuring they stay empowered after the initial outpouring.

First Corinthians 14:4a declares, "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself." Again in Jude 20, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost."

So it becomes obvious that even though the battle is ours, the strength to overcome is not of ourselves, but of the Lord. Therefore, after receiving this power, the next step is to familiarize ourselves with the three major weapons we are to use in this fight to be won with the three dimensions of man: spirit, soul, and body.

The Arsenal of the Believer

Satan was able to disarm the Church of its power within a century of its origin. A Church that was birthed in great power to be the answer for the

oppression off mankind, but it became the greatest oppressor the world would ever have to deal with.

For this to happen, three truths had to be robbed from the Early Church.

First, losing the baptism of the Holy Spirit removed the strength of God from His Church and returned it back to mere human strength.

Second, water baptism that was meant to give clarity to the soul of man, by neutralizing the defense mechanism of the mind.

Third, justification by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ that removed the guilt and shame from the inner man by redeeming him from sin.

The blood, the water, and the Spirit are the three major weapons in the believer's arsenal. If he is relieved of these three weapons he is neutralized, and the devil can move in for the kill.

These three truths are truly the foundation of spiritual authority. If the reality of them is lost, then so is our authority, just as man's authority was lost in the Garden of Eden.

God has entrusted man with authority to rule over all the works of His hand, as found in Genesis 1:26:

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have

dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

The devil, knowing that God had given man this authority, had to devise a plan that would cause man to transgress the truth that was the source of his authority: to eat of the tree in the midst of the garden. The tree in itself had no authority of its own. The real authority was what the tree represented: God's ownership of the earth.

God's Covering Removed

Once this principle of trust was broken, man became naked. God's covering was removed from him, and the devil had the right to afflict him. With his rebellious nature, man then made his own weapons as a substitute for God's authority to protect himself from the things he once ruled over.

The same thing happened to the Early Church when they lost the three foundational truths of their spiritual authority. They substituted works for salvation rather than faith in the blood. They substituted for baptism rather than total immersion, destroying its real power. The baptism in the Holy Spirit was substituted by establishing an ecclesiastical line of authority.

This man-made structure led the Church into medieval times. Up to 80 million people lost their lives, all in the name Christianity, through holy wars and witch hunts that resulted in the burning of any person who demonstrated supernatural power, or of those that would not come under the control of this man-made line of authority.

Things remained this way until the 16th century, when a young priest named Martin Luther became discontent with this style of Christianity. Dissatisfaction led Luther to knock on heaven's door for some answers, and he discovered the lost truth of justification by faith through the blood of Jesus for the redemption of man's sins.

Not long after this came the restoration of the truth of water baptism, through the Anabaptists, for the circumcision of the heart. Then, in the early 1900s, came the final truth to be restored, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, through the Azusa Street revival in Los Angeles and other moves.

Circumcision of the Heart

I now want to bring your attention to the baptism of water, as this is the key weapon for the renewing of the mind.

The reader must not mistake John's baptism for Jesus' baptism. The baptism of John has relevance to the New Testament Church. Even though it was a shadow of Jesus' baptism, it was

only for the remission of sins, not the forgiveness of sin. The only way sin can be forgiven is by the shedding of blood.

I do believe, however, that those who were baptized by John, and released faith in the operation of that baptism, had a window opened in their soul, which allowed them to recognize Jesus, and that was its full purpose. Any true believer understands that it is faith in the blood of Jesus that brings forgiveness for the sins of the past, present, and future.

So the key is to discover what water baptism has to do with the New Testament Church. It is not an opinion, but a command!

After I was born again, some time passed by, and the pastor of the small church my wife and I attended asked if we were baptized in water. When our reply was no, he told us it was our responsibility to be baptized.

I asked him why, but he simply told us that if it was good enough for Jesus, it was good enough for us, and that we should follow in His footsteps, as water baptism is an act of obedience. So the following Sunday, my wife and I were baptized at our local church.

For years afterwards, I wondered what benefit water baptism was to my Christian walk.

Through desperation, not only for myself but also for my congregation, the Holy Spirit revealed to me the truth concerning water baptism---that it was not just an act of obedience; it was for the circumcision of the heart!

Before we examine scripture for the true meaning of the circumcision of the heart, let me first explain the symptoms of an uncircumcised heart.

Supernatural sleep will come over you in a meeting, or when you are reading the Word. You have no ability to remember Bible verses, key principles from a sermon, or a complete chapter of the Bible, although you have no trouble remembering street names, birthdates, or even what a movie or novel is all about. You find that the positiveness of God's Word cannot find an inroad into your mind.

My Search for Freedom

My search for freedom led me to other pastors, and when I told them my problem, I was counseled that I needed deliverance. But after submitting myself to the deliverance ministry, I found I still had the problem. This led me to fasting and prayer; then God revealed to me the following revelation.

One night the Lord awoke me out of a deep sleep, and Colossians 2:11,12 kept running through

my mind. I reached for my Bible, and the only translation I could find was my Amplified version. This is what it says:

"In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a (spiritual) circumcision (performed) by Christ by stripping off the body of the flesh (the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts). (Thus you were circumcised when) you were buried with Him in (your) baptism, in which you were also raised with Him (to a new life) through (your) faith in the working of God (as displayed) when He raised Him from the dead."

As I meditated on these verses, First Peter 3:21 came to my mind, so I turned to this scripture:

"And baptism, which is a figure (of their deliverance), does now also save you (from inward questionings and fears), not by the removing of outward body filth (bathing), but by (providing you with) the answer of a good and clear conscience (inward cleanliness and peace) before God, (because you are demonstrating what you believe to be yours) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

After reading these Scriptures, an explosion took place in my mind, and for the first time I received an understanding of water baptism, even though it was still very limited. I then asked the Lord to give me a deeper understanding.

I went back to sleep, and the Lord gave me a dream of the Israelites being delivered out of the land of Egypt.

In the dream, they came out with total freedom, only find that not too long after their miraculous deliverance, their previous oppressors came after them. This is the same principle that is at work in many Christians' lives today. They receive a miraculous deliverance when they are saved, only to have their previous oppressors come back upon them after a short time.

The in my dream, the Red Sea opened up. The Israelites walked through on dry ground, and their oppressors were drowned in the waters. As the dream progressed, I saw an actual circumcision taking place. As I watched this operation, my dream kept changing to a brain with a cloudy white skin being peeled back from around it. When I awoke, I was puzzled by what I saw.

Mental Breakthrough

Several days later, while talking to a Christian psychiatrist from the local mental hospital, he explained to me the breakthroughs they had experienced with some of their patients.

He went on to explain that by the use of subliminal recordings, the audible music on the tape distracts the guard (a built-in-defense mechanism)

over the mind, thereby allowing the subliminal message to penetrate the mind. He said, "If there was some way of disarming, this defense mechanism, our successes would be much greater."

At that point, the full revelation of water baptism hit me! I went straight home and had my assistant baptize me again, this time with the full understanding that when I went under the water, God by His Spirit was going to perform an operation on my mind to destroy the "guard," thus allowing the new life that was purchased by the blood of Jesus to fill my soul!

When I came up out of the water, there were no skyrocket or great revelations, but from that moment, supernatural sleep disappeared. I was now able to take a Scripture and hold it in my mind. Someone could ask me days later about a sermon I had listened to, and I could repeat it to them virtually word for word.

Non-Productive Christians

Later, as I studied the Scriptures, I found that Paul had come across this problem in Ephesus where he found some disciples who were not productive in their Christian walk. The account is found in Acts 19:1-7 (Amplified):

"While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul went through the upper inland districts and came down

to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he asked them, Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed (on Jesus as the Christ)? And they said, No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. And he asked, Into what then were you baptized? They said, Into John's baptism. And Paul said, John baptized with the baptized of repentance, continually telling people that they should believe in the One Who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus (having a conviction full of joyful trust that He is Christ, the Messiah, and being obedient to Him). On hearing this they were baptized (again, this time) in the name of the Lord Jesus. And as Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came upon them; and they spoke in foreign languages and prophesied. There were about twelve of them all!

Paul went to Ephesus to evangelize. While there, he found twelve disciples. Being the master builder he was, Paul could not understand why their efforts were so small. He questioned them to find out why the church in Ephesus had not grown. He asked if they were baptized in the Holy Spirit? Paul discovered they did not even know that there was a Holy Spirit. Notice these people were disciples, meaning they were saved.

Paul then probed and learned they were only baptized with John's baptism, allowing them to recognize Jesus as the Christ and not a prophet,

accepting Him as their Savior. He then explained the difference between John and Jesus' baptisms. Then the twelve were all baptized again.

This brought about explosive growth within a few short years, and the church in Ephesus grew to around 30,000 strong. I have used this principle myself many times. Believers have experiences tremendous release, resulting in explosive growth in their churches, with great signs and wonders taking place during the baptism.

Water Baptism: A Weapon

Unless we are obedient to water baptism, fully understanding that it is not a tradition but, in fact, a powerful weapon given to the Church for the circumcision of the heart--- the peeling back of the old carnal nature with its passions and lusts to allow the new life that purchased by the blood to become fully manifested----it will become a dead work that needs to be repented of.

The price the believer pays for this ignorance is a continuous battle in the realm of the mind over the knowledge of his past, never allowing the full reprogramming to take place.

Chapter 3

Circumcision of the Soul

I have had to counsel literally thousands of people over the last 14 years of pastoring. I have counseled a diversity of problems, ranging from incest to bankruptcy. I would like to share some insight that I have learned from these counseling sessions.

Many people try to spiritualize their problems by blaming either God or the devil for them. But neither God nor the devil can make us do anything against our will.

God educates us by establishing the knowledge of grace and truth in our hearts so we can make a calculated decision based on love. The devil cons us into making a wrong decision by discerning the lust in our hearts, and then he offers us a deal we can't refuse. Whichever way it goes, we make the decision, be it right or wrong. If it is a wrong decision, we try to find a place to assign the blame.

Every one of us had a place in our life that we used as a dumping spot for our failures. Mine was my father. To some it may be a wife or husband, children, lack of education, the place we were born, our color, or just the times we live in. These things will always be around to oppress us.

What we must do is learn to rule over circumstances, instead of allowing circumstances to rule over us. The important thing to realize is that the problem is not in others, but in ourselves. The best way to remind ourselves of this is to stand in front of the mirror, point at the first person we see, and say, "You're to blame."

The Need to Identify the Problem

After having received circumcision of the heart through water baptism, the first step as we progress in renewing the mind, is to correctly identify the problem that is causing the malfunction, in our soul, preventing us from moving into God's perfect will for our lives.

The Word of God warns us to judge ourselves, that we be not judged. In giving this instruction Jesus had no intention of making us feel guilty; quite the opposite. He was encouraging us to be real with ourselves!

So many Christians avoid looking into the mirror of the Word of God to assess their own walk with Christ. They avoid making a decision to take the engrafted Word of God that is able to save their soul and apply it to themselves to identify the will of God of their life.

Jesus said, "Pick up your cross daily, and follow me." Our cross is where God's will and our

will cross over. It is the responsibility of every believer to carry their own cross. If we cannot discern what our cross is, it is impossible to correctly identify the will of God for our life.

Instead of obeying what Jesus said, we find ourselves holding up the mirror of the Word in front of our brothers and sisters, condemning them with it; not on purpose, of course.

Many times we don't understand the difference between condemnation and repentance. Condemnation is the knowledge of sin, with no way out. Repentance is the knowledge of sin empowered by the Spirit to break the yoke of bondage.

On the other hand, if we counsel people with the spirit of love, forgiveness, and acceptance, we will set them free by releasing genuine conviction into their lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. Then the anointing breaks the yoke of the sin that was holding them captive. This is repentance.

Jesus warns us of doing this very thing in Matthew 7:3-5 (Amplified):

"Why do you stare from without at the very small particle that is in your brother's eye, but do not become aware of and consider the beam of the timber that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, Let me get the tiny particular out of

your eye, when there is the beam of timber in your own eye? You hypocrite, first get the beam of timber out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the tiny particle out of your brother's eye."

Cleansing the Mind by the Word

In the old Testament, the priest, after coming off the brazen altar where he had been sacrificing animals to cover Israel's sins, would take the blood off the animal he had just sacrificed and proceed to the Holy of Holies to sprinkle it on the mercy seat between the two cherubim.

On his way, he would stop at the dish shaped brazen laver made of highly polished brass. Before proceeding any further, the priest would look at himself in the polished brass, which served as a mirror, and wash in the water, cleansing himself from the debris that had settled on him from preparing the sacrifice at the altar.

This is an allegory for the new Christian after receiving forgiveness from the blood of the spotless Lamb, Christ Jesus that was offered on the altar of the cross. The believer begins his ascension into the heavenlies to the final Holy of Holies to be seated with Christ, far above all principalities and powers.

The Word as a Mirror

The next step the believer takes is to look into the perfect Word of God and to use it as mirror to wash himself in the realm of his soul. He does this to discover who he is in Christ and find the perfect will of God for his life, as explained in Romans 12:2 (Amplified):

"Do not be conformed to this world---this age, fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs. But be transformed (changed) by the (entire) renewal of your mind---by its new ideals and its new attitude---so good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect (in His sight for you)."

God, when instructing Joshua for the task that was before him---to lead Israel into the Promised Land and to subdue it ---- gave him this formula for success, found in Joshua 1:8:

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

Some Christians misinterpret what God is saying to Joshua, and start rehearsing various Scriptures to themselves without realizing that this will only educate them academically. Then they become like parrots, quoting literally hundreds of Scripture verses, believing this will lead them into a successful life, only to find themselves riding a roller coaster to failure.

I had a friend like this when I lived in Australia. He knew more Scripture verses than any person I had ever met. He would open his mouth and raw Scripture verses would pour out. Unfortunately, he was not able to make it come alive to himself or to those listening to him. It was just raw Scripture, verse after verse, and all this knowledge never changed him or his family.

His wife ran off with another man, and you couldn't get his children into church with bulldozer. This type of religion disappointed Jesus, as found in Matthew 15:8:

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."

The key to the instruction given to Joshua that would ensure success in all he put his hand to, is not just knowing what to do, but being able to apply it. It is not enough to be able to quote the

Word of God to convince others that we are spiritual or well learned.

Instead, we should have a deep desire to find God's will for our lives and to perform it in our everyday relationships. This will build a strong foundation that is needed to establish our ministry by the living Word rather than the academic word. This will propel others into His will for their lives.

All Are Called

At this point, you may say, "I am not called to the ministry," and that may well be true concerning the fivefold ministry of an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher. But every believer is called to the ministry of reconciliation, whereby we present to others a higher way of life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Often in our presentation of Christ to the unsaved, we present only the knowledge of the cross, and that is fine for salvation. But we should have the desire and ability to take them onto something far higher than the cross, and that is the resurrected life of Christ. This can only be accomplished by the victory in our own lives.

This is best explained by the words of Jeremiah, who said, "I did find thy words and did eat them." In a paraphrased version, Jeremiah was saying, "I did not find the truth for others. I found it

for myself, and after I had found it I consumed it, and others received the benefits of what it accomplished in my life."

My wife and I had to learn this principle ourselves. We both had very strong opinions on how certain things should be accomplished in our marriage. And these diverse opinions turned our marriage into a battle zone rather than a place of mutual commitment that was meant by God to propel two people into a higher form of life. The Bible says that one will put a thousand to flight, and two will put ten thousand to flight. Rather than spurring each other on toward the high calling of God, our differences nearly destroyed our marriage.

Impasse in Our Marriage

The sad thing was that both of us, in an effort to substantiate our opinions, tried to manipulate each other's life by particles of truth that we had focused on in God's Word. One day, while talking to the Lord about our situation, He gave me First Peter 3:7:

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

After receiving this Scripture from the Lord, I felt threatened. Insecurity rose up within me. I asked the Lord, "Do I back down and live in defeat?" Then the first half of this verse becomes a reality to me: "Husbands dwell with them according to knowledge."

The truth was, our marriage was being destroyed through lack of knowledge.

To become successful in our marriage, both of us had to have the strongholds in our minds torn down. This cannot be accomplished through domination. Each party must see the need to change.

So I asked the Lord, "How will I be able to present this to my wife without her feeling threatened."

After much prayer and meditation the Lord showed me Joshua 5:13,14:

"And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him and said to him, Art thou for us or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?"

Are You for Me, Lord?

In this scene, we see Joshua standing before one of the greatest strongholds of his life. He was just like many believers are today, asking the Lord the same thing: "Whose side are You going to take in this situation? Are You for me, Lord, or for them?" expecting the Lord to take sides. But His reply is always the same: "As captain of the Lord's hosts, I have come to watch over my purpose for our life, and to help you perform it."

Assuming the Lord loves one of us more than another is a terrible snare to fall into. The Lord declares He watches over His Word to perform it. He does not work with a favorite personality, but only with His Word, as explained in Mark 16:19,20.

"So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up in heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."

If you look at verse 20, you will notice the word "them" is written in italics. In other words, it was not there in the original text. So if we remove it, verse 20 would read, "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the Word with signs following. Amen."

The Word Became Our Counselor

The Lord Jesus works with His Word, not a personality. The revelation of this truth led me to sit down with my wife and explain that both of us had truth regarding the way we should handle our finances, raise our children, and relate to one another in marriage. We then decided we needed guidance, and we determined that day to take the Word of God as our mediator. And even though it would mean denying our own opinions from time to time, we agreed not to take it personally and react when our opinion was judged wrong by the Word of God.

Chapter 4

Voids of the Human Soul

In the soul of man there are voids that open up at various stages of growth throughout life. If these voids are not filled with God's purpose for man, they will create a more complicated set of problems in the life of the individual. There is no easy solution for these problems outside of God.

Man has tried to fill these voids with every substitute his creative mind could dream up, all to no avail. These problems cannot be successfully dealt with until the void is filled.

In this chapter we will examine several of these voids, praying that the Holy Spirit will give you revelation about the origin of some of the difficulties you have been facing in your in your life.

Void 1: Relationship With God

"And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day."
(Genesis 3:8a)

The first void I would like to address is the lack of fellowship with God as our spiritual Father. When He created man in His image, He created him to have an extremely high intellect, so their fellowship together would be compatible.

Sin then entered into the world through an act of disobedience, and fellowship with God was broken, creating in man a void that is not able to be filled by anything except a relationship with Him. This is the reason why Jesus came and died on the Cross: to reconcile man to God.

Often, we attempt to produce godliness in our lives in an effort to obtain a greater dimension of fellowship with God by the works of the law, rather than to realize that the blood of Jesus has already purchased for us the right to have fellowship with our heavenly Father.

We cannot earn this right. We must understand that the sin that caused this void in man was created by man's disobedience, not God's unfaithfulness. God has always been faithful to His creation.

Redemption Promised

That is why God informed the devil at the fall of man that He would redeem man back to Himself, as recorded in Genesis 3:15:

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

God successfully accomplished His promise to the devil when Jesus defeated Satan on the cross of Calvary. Galatians 4:4,5 bears testimony to this:

"But the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his son, made of a woman, made under law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

The devil shudders at the thought of man coming to the understanding of what happened on Calvary! You see, the devil has to keep us conscious of sin in order to bring to naught the victory of Calvary in our lives. He does this by what the Bible identifies as "doctrines of devils." The purpose of these doctrines is to discredit the blood of Jesus by making the student of these teachings believe it is blood plus works that brings salvation----and this is heresy.

It is knowledge of sin we have committed that produces guilt in our soul. This will have the same effect on us that it had on Adam and Eve. After they had sinned, they hid themselves from God's presence. The knowledge of sin will produce the same effect in us as it did in them. We will run from God to hide ourselves from His presence rather than run to Him to receive forgiveness through the blood of Jesus that was shed on Calvary.

Ephesians 2:4-9 explains that salvation is God's free gift to man. It not something we have to earn by way of works:

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest man should boast."

The Answer for Rejection

Without the knowledge of salvation through the forgiving blood of Jesus Christ, we will suffer rejection in the realm of our soul. And the by-products of rejection are inferiority, inadequacy, and insecurity. These problems can never be conquered until the root of rejection is dealt with. Otherwise, rejection will continue to feed these problem areas in our life.

Some will tell you that rejection is a spirit that needs to be cast out. I personally do not believe this to be so, and strongly suggest that rejection can only be overcome effectively by convincing the mind that Jesus paid the price for our acceptance on the cross of Calvary, establishing a New Covenant founded on better promises.

One of these promises is that we can once again call God "Abba Father." The price for this privilege was paid when Jesus was rejected by His peers, His nation, and God.

When the mind is convinced of this truth, rejection will have no place to hide in the life of a believer. Fellowship will once again be established with God filling this void and destroying the root from which grew inferiority, inadequacy, and insecurity.

Void 2: Authority to Rule

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." (Genesis 1:26)

When God made man, He gave him authority to rule over everything except each other. Man lost his authority to rule after he was rejected from the garden. The removal from his God given sanctuary created a void in his life.

Satan was quick to fill this void with fear. Man then developed his own weapons as a substitute for God's authority and to subdue this newfound enemy that raged within his soul---fear!

If a person has to carry a gun to have authority, he has not authority of his own. The gun has the authority! If we have to carry a stick to have authority over our children, we have no authority. The stick has!

Take away the gun and stick that temporarily subdue our fears, and fear will come rushing back into our soul just as if we turned the light off at midnight. Immediately, darkness will fill the once lit room within a split second of flicking the switch.

When a person carries a gun, the knowledge of the gun's capability transfers an authority to him that subdues his fear. The same would be true if we were personal friends with the karate expert Chuck Norris. If we had him with us in an adverse situation, knowing the ability of this man would give us a sense of authority and make us feel secure.

This is also the case when we have a guiltless relationship with God, as described in Daniel 11:32: "But the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."

King David confirms this in Psalm 23:4, when he says, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Again in Psalm 27:1-3, David declares: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I

fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this will be confident."

If David could have this boldness through his relationship with God, how much more boldness should we have through our relationship with Jesus Christ and the promises He has given us, the redeemed of the Lord, as found in Romans 5:17:

"If by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."

A Dangerous Man

Before I was saved both my friends and enemies classified me as dangerous man or, as some might say, a man to be feared. Even though I put on a violent front, I was the most tormented man I knew.

Fear would grip me so bad, I slept with gun under my pillow and shotgun under the side of my bed. I could not take a shower and close my eyes to wash my face because of imaginations projected into my mind by fear. I would "see" a man kicking

the door open and blowing me in half with a shotgun.

Because of the life I was leading and the wrong I had done to other men, I had become so overwhelmed with fear that I had to sleep with the light on in the room fearing retaliation from the people I had oppressed. I would drink between 20 to 40 ounces of bourbon every day to suppress the knowledge of my crimes.

Then I got saved. Oh, how sweet it was! For the first time in many years I slept like a baby. No guns! No bourbon! No lights on. Just the knowledge of the saving grace of Jesus that drove that fear from my life.

Again, some would try to convince you that fear is a demon you need to be delivered from by a deliverance ministry laying their hands on your head and casting the thing out. All too often this is the ministry of "laying empty hands on empty heads."

Even if they were right, how did it get into your life in the first place? It had to come in through an open door in the soul. I believe that door was opened when man lost his authority, and the only way that the door can be shut successfully is to understand the authority that has been redeemed back to mankind through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Once the knowledge and this truth are accepted, our faith is built up and fear, like rejection, will have no place to hide.

Void 3: A Place To Call Home

"And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed. "(Genesis 2:8)

When God created the earth in its great vastness, He made a place just for Adam to call home. He obviously saw the need for a man to have a place that he could call his own. Even the animals have territorial rights; a place they call theirs that is respected by other animals.

When a man does not have his own home, there is a void within his soul that produces instability; and he becomes restless!

Because of the wrong interpretation of Scripture, I rented a house for my family for ten years. We believed because Jesus said, "foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath no place to lay his head," it was wrong for Christians to own their own homes. Because we believed this, we never had the faith to buy a home.

It was not until the Holy Spirit showed us the real reason why Jesus did not have a home was so that we might be able to have one. He paid the

price for our homeless state by going without a home himself!

The moment we received this revelation, faith arose in our hearts, and we went looking for a house to purchase, so our family would have a place to call our own. Within two months, God supernaturally supplied the money, and we had our first home.

I could not believe the change it made in both our lives, and the purpose it put back into our marriage. All the counseling in the world could not have accomplished in our marriage what getting our own home had accomplished.

A Home----Not a House

I would like to share with you a real life problem I had to deal with when I first started pastoring. God had given me several dreams that one of the elders' wives was committing adultery, and whenever I confronted her on this, she would repent and promise not to do it again.

Her continual betrayal hurt me personally, as her husband was a good friend, so I warned her if she did this thing again, I would have to tell her husband.

In desperation, I went to prayer to find the solution to her problem. And the Lord answered me promptly. He told me it was the husband's

fault! When I asked why, He explained to me that my friend had not given his wife a home, but a house.

There is a great difference between a house and a home! A home is where a family lives, and it takes on the character of the family living in it. A house, on the other hand, is a business investment.

The dear brother worked hard to pay off this mortgage to give his family security, but he never turned his house into a home, not realizing that true security can only come through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

In his ambition, he neglected to see that his wife had to stay in the house all day while he was at work--- and there was nothing in the house that made it a home. So his wife became restless and bored, causing her to look outside the marriage for love and acceptance to fill the void only a home could fill.

After God had identified the problem, I confronted my friend, and explained the dangers that could happen if he did not correct the situation. I advised him to correct it, and he did. He acquired a home improvement loan from his bank to allow his wife to turn the house into a home. And that was the end of the adultery, for her contentment to be in the home changed her into the faithful wife God meant her to be.

Friends, I would be foolish to claim that this is the cause of every adulterous relationship, but it was in this situation. Coming to the revelation that God has a home for us in this life as well as in heaven, is the solution to an unstable spirit that produces a lot of the restlessness we feel in our souls.

Void 4: Sense of Purpose

"And the Lord God took man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it, and to keep it. "(Genesis 2:15)

God places a sense of purpose in every life. If that purpose is lost by Satan, blinding our minds from God's plans for our lives, this will create a void of discontentment, causing us to wander from job to job seeking fulfillment until we find a suitable substitute, just like the Apostle Peter, when he bought a fishing boat.

In the natural, Peter became a fisher of fish, but his real purpose in life was to be fisher of men. This was also true concerning Paul. He became a tent builder, but God's purpose for his life was to become a church builder. Unless we discover our real purpose in life, it will bring discontentment and complacency in our life.

Let me illustrate this by a testimony of a young man I led to the Lord. It happened this way:

One morning, on my way out of town to a crusade, I stopped at the local bank to cash a check for gas money. The teller noticed I only had one signature on the check, which required two.

I never had any problems cashing a check before with only one signature, as the teller would simply call our treasurer to ask him to drop by the bank and give the other signature that was required. This was one of the privileges the bank allowed our church because of the volume of money that went through our account.

In front of everyone in the bank, the teller challenged me in an abusive manner. I reacted to his abuse and replied, "I did not get out of this bed this morning to come down to the bank just to be mistreated by you." I then told him he had a real problem in his life, and he shouldn't take it out on me, or I would call the manager.

He apologized and told me he was strung out because of family problems and this would not happen again. I found myself saying something I had not purposed to say: "You beat your wife and children, don't you?" He was shocked and immediately became defensive, saying it had nothing to do with me.

I assured him I was not trying to put him down, but only wanted to help him by trying to make him understand the reason for his

discontentment. This pacified him, and allowed me to address the real problem.

I explained to him that he was not working in the bank because he enjoyed it, but only for the sense of security this job offered his family, and this in turn, caused the resentment he had toward his family. I explained to him that it was not his family he was upset with; it was his job, and this was what was causing him to go home in terrible moods each day after work.

Turning the Situation Around

After talking awhile, I led him to the Lord, and then made an appointment for him with friend who placed people for an employment agency.

She assessed him and concluded that his natural motivation was mechanical, definitely not clerical. She then arranged for him to enroll in night school so he could pursue a mechanical career.

This new direction changed his complete attitude (along with the Lord of course) by giving him a sense of purpose in his life. This solved the majority of the problems in his marriage; especially the uncontrollable outbreaks of temper brought about by frustration.

Void 5: Abundant Supply

"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat." (Genesis 2:16)

Some Christians are under the assumption that to be wiser is the will of God. These people truly believe this makes them more acceptable to God, even though there is no scriptural foundation for this. The Bible, both New and Old Covenants, teaches the opposite. For example:

Blessings for Obedience to the Covenant

"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken onto the voice of the Lord thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shalt be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against

thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and He shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as He hath sworn unto thee, if thou shall keep the commandments of the Lord thy God and walk in His ways. And all people of the earth shall see that art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee. And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, and in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers to give thee. The Lord shall open unto thee his good reassurance, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thy hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them." (Deuteronomy 28:1-14)

Penalty for Disobedience to the Covenant

"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The Lord shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me. The Lord shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until He has consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it. The Lord shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish. And thy heaven that is over

thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be shall be iron." (Deuteronomy 28:15-23).

I am sure you can see it is God's pleasure to bless man in his life upon the earth. It is man's disobedience that brings poverty upon him. These scriptures surely shoot down the doctrine that we need to be poor to be accepted by God. David, in the Psalms, also gives testimony to God's goodness toward man when he walks in obedience to the Covenant.

Psalm 23:1 says, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." And again in Psalm 37:25, David makes this statement, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

The Tragedy of Poverty

A high percentage of problems in our society are caused by poverty. In fact, seventy percent of people in prisons today are there because they were raised in a society with a poverty mentality. Because of this, they were deprived of the education that would have allowed them to become successful in life.

Many marriages fall apart because there is not enough money to enable them to live in the manner God meant for them to live. When two young people come together in marriage, they have

a dream for the future, but if they have been educated in a society with a poverty mentality, they are unable to break out of the poverty syndrome.

Marriage then becomes a prison, and the wife feels she has become a prisoner, only her prison is not the local jail; it's the middle or lower class home she has been confined to. Her wardens are her husband and children. Like any prisoner, she dreams of a jailbreak, and eventually she does just that. All because there was not enough money to allow her to fulfill her dreams for her family.

This is also the case with the young man. He has dreams of grandeur for his family, but before long, there are children in marriage, and financial pressure builds. He now finds himself working two or three jobs to make ends meet. Eventually, the marriage becomes his prison, and he, in turn, plans his escape.

I have witnessed this too often throughout my life as a pastor. Financial pressure becomes too great for the marriage to handle, and many things are said and done in haste during this time. These offenses become irreparable.

One must ask when the Church will learn to accurately present the Word of God to its followers. In light of such scriptures as Romans 8:32, it makes you wonder where these heresies come from: "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up

for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

This means, all things that pertain unto life and godliness through Jesus Christ and the Covenant, founded on better promises of prosperity is found in Second Corinthians 8:9: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.

The endless supply in the Garden of Eden was conditional: As long as Adam and Eve never ate of the tree in the midst of the garden, they would always have plenty.

So it was with us, as long as we obey the promises found in the New Testament.

Second Corinthians 9:6,7:

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

To enter into the place of prosperity established in the New Covenant, the believer must realize there are three things he must do: prepare the ground, sow the ground, and reap the crop.

Second Corinthians 9 speaks of sowing, but there is no point in sowing the ground if we have not first prepared the soil. Jesus bore witness to this when He expounded on the parable of the sower, found in Luke 8.

From this parable, we find there were found conditions of soil: the wayside, the rock, the thorns, and the good soil. There was nothing wrong with the seed; the problem was in the condition of the soil, which governed the harvest of the crop.

How to Prepare the Ground

How do we then prepare the ground for sowing? The secret to this is found in Malachi 3:6-12:

"For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Even from the days of your father ye are gone away from my ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room

enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts."

There is so much we can learn from these verses. Obviously, Israel was facing financial hardship, and was complaining about their situation to the Lord. We can liken this to many Christians today!

Israel was in this situation because they were neglecting to walk in the ways of the Lord. In verse 7, when God confronted them for not following His principle, they had no understanding at all of what He was talking about, because they had not been following His law for two generations, dating from the days of their fathers.

God was trying to explain that they could return to the place of prosperity anytime they wanted to, just by returning to the principle of giving tithes and offerings.

Second Corinthians 9:6,7 explains that the seed is the offering. It could not have been tithes, because they had the option of how much to give, and with tithes it is a set amount of ten percent. So tithing is obviously the plow that breaks up the ground to receive the seed; and our offerings are the

seed we sow in the ground that has been plowed up by the tithes.

I personally believe that the tithe is our faith confession. God is the owner of the whole earth. By paying Him our tithe, we are acknowledging His ownership.

Adam and Eve acknowledged God's ownership of the earth when they refrained from eating the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden. As long as they did not eat of the tree, as small a price as it was, they were acknowledging His ownership, and they had the use of the garden.

The same principle applies to the believer's tithe. As long as we are faithful to this principle, the Lord will rebuke the devourer from coming near the remaining 90 percent of our finances.

Some may ask, "Do we pay tithes from our gross or net income?" Let's go to the Word of God for the answer. Proverbs 3:9,10:

"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

It is clear to see that it was the firstfruits. A perfect illustration of the firstfruits is found in Genesis 4:3-5 with Cain and Abel:

"And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell."

Cain gave his tithe "in the process of time." In other words, he was living off his tithe for some time before he brought a portion to the Lord.

Many Christians are like this. They bring their tithe and offerings "in the process of time," after they have paid the medical insurance, the taxes, the mortgage, and everything else that needs paying; and then they wonder why the principle is not working for them as it is for other believers.

Real Life illustration

I would like to give you a real life illustration. While I was pastoring in Australia, a young man whom I had married about 12 months before walked into my office and asked me for some marriage guidance. I asked him why he needed marriage counseling, because he had only been married a year. He told me it was all my fault, because I had told him if a man finds a wife, he finds a good thing!

He went to say that his whole life had been wrecked ever since he had been married. He explained he and his wife fought every day. I asked him what the fights were about, and he said they were mainly over finances. I replied, "It is not your marriage then; it's your financial situation. If we were to fix that up, your marriage should be O.K."

We then worked out a budget of how much he needed each week, and it worked out to \$400 per week. However, he was only making \$300 per week, and obviously this was the problem within their marriage. They were under immense pressure to make ends meet each week. I told him that God did not want him to make ends meet. He wanted him to tie them in the middle!

He agreed, but still did not understand how to make this happen. I asked him if he was paying his tithes. And he said yes, he was paying \$30 per week. Then I asked how much offering he was giving each week.

At this he took offense, saying, "I have not even got enough to put gas in my car to take my wife to see her parents, let alone give offerings!"

I then asked him what he would think of me if I went out on a tractor, plowed three acres of land, and forgot to put seed into it. He said I would be crazy. I explained that was exactly what he was doing, and if he wanted to solve his problem, he

would have to do it God's way. I could not give him the extra \$100 per week to make his marriage work, and there was no use in going to counsel his wife unless we had a solution to their problem.

He then agreed to bring his \$30-a-week tithe plus a \$10-a-week offering to my office so I could keep a record of it. I told him if God's principle of tithe and offerings didn't solve his problem within three months, I would give it all back to him with interest.

He did it for five weeks. Then one day he came into my office all excited, and said God had worked a miracle. He been given a promotion at work that paid him an extra \$100 per week----the exact amount he needed to pay his bills.

I explained to him that God hadn't worked the miracle; he had, the moment he decided to walk in the way of prosperity laid out in God's Word.

I do not believe that the prayer of binding and loosing can deliver a person from a spirit of poverty. True deliverance from poverty comes by obedience to the Word of God.

Void 6: Life's Partner

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto to Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man.

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:18-24).

As a young boy, I could never understand why God made girls! If you hit them, you were the one who got into trouble, even though they were responsible for starting the fight. They never played the same games boys played, and all their toys were useless from a boy's point of view. They weren't

like a brother whom you could get into mischief with, because they would tell Mom or Dad. I didn't have a sister around my age, although a family of girls lived next door.

Then, as sure as night follows day, I woke up one morning, walked out the front door, and understood perfectly why God made girls. I fell in love with one those girls who lived next door. That day a void within my soul had opened up, and there was nothing in the world that was going to fill it except a female. I am sure this was the case with Adam, too!

I have heard Christians rehearse to one another, "Just fill your heart with Jesus, and everything will be all right." But that is not so.

Adam had a perfect walk with God, yet there was still a dullness over him.

When this void opens up within a young man or woman, their family will realize something is wrong and try to help by buying them a car, new clothes, or even a pet to try to fill it, all to no avail.

The last thing parents want in their home is boy or girl trouble. Maybe God perceived the trouble a woman would bring into Adam's life if He made him a wife, so He brought Adam all the animals He had formed out the dust of the ground; but none of them filled the void in his heart. Even

the relationship Adam had with God could not fill this void in Adam's heart.

There is nothing but a wife or husband that is able to fill the void of loneliness in a man or a woman's soul.

The obvious thing to do is to find the right mate. Proverbs 18:22 declares: "Who so findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord." Often we try to spiritualize finding a wife. We ask God to pick out our wives for us, and when it does not work out the way we had hoped because of problems in one or both of the parties' lives, we try to blame God, just as Adam did when he was caught for his sin. He said to God, "The woman that you gave me made me do it."

We have to recognize our own failure and accept responsibility for it. Unless we do this, we will never rectify the problem. And this will cause us to limp through life, never obtaining God's best. That does not mean we will not see God's best for our lives; it means we won't be able to achieve it.

Amos 3:3 says, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" The answer is yes! But it will cost us God's best. Proverbs 19:13 warns us, "And the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping."

If you understand Japanese water torture, this verse makes sense. This torture was used widely in the Second World War, when the Japanese would tie a prisoner to a rack on the floor and let water slowly drip on his forehead.

This does not seem at first, but after several days, when fatigue sets in, the drops of water sound like cannons fired off in the mind.

Eventually, the next drop drives the captive across the line into insanity. Continuous arguing in a marriage can also drive one or both parties insane.

One effective solution I have found for this problem is the family altar, where the husband and wife sit down every night to pray together and to do systematic study that will reveal problem areas in their life and enable them to draft a plan from the Word to solve their problem.

This will also create a common vision, established by the Word of God that will bring them into agreement and cause them to work together, not in opposite directions.

Void 7: The Desire for a Family

"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

(Genesis 1:28)

The next void that opens up in our lives is the desire to have a family. This is the most responsible thing in our life on planet Earth, because we move into the highest act of responsibility that has ever been entrusted to any living thing outside of God---the creation of immortality!

When two people come together in the act of marriage and a child is conceived, that child will live for eternity, either with God or with the devil, and the parents are accountable in the sight of God until the child reaches the age of consent: the right to say yes and the right to say no.

Nevertheless, this void is very real. It was placed in the soul of man by God at creation, when He blessed them and told them to be fruitful and multiply. Any marriage that does not have children is incomplete and causes problems, especially in the woman, that cannot be solved except by a child.

This was the situation for me. Doctors told my wife and I that we could never have children. After we received the bad news of barrenness, we tried to fill the void of incompleteness by buying a pet, and that was a reasonable substitute, but there was always something missing in our lives that we could not identify.

The problem was in me so the affect was greater on me. I would stay out at clubs and other places because of the deep discontent within my soul.

Some of our friends tried to counsel us, but all to no avail. With hindsight, I now realize I needed more than words; I needed a child. My wife realized this, so she started calling out to God for a miracle and doing everything she could do in her own strength.

The Lord heard her cry, healed me, and our son Ben was born. Since his arrival, we have had three more children: Ryan, Rachel and Aaron.

I will never forget the immense joy that filled my heart when Ben was born----joy that still fills my heart whenever I look at any of my children.

I started to settle down immediately. That child was the beginning of my salvation. Since then, we have been able to help many other couples in the same predicament by convincing them that Jesus bore the curse of their barrenness on the cross of Calvary.

If this problem is never resolved in a person's life, they will always have a feeling of incompleteness. It will never be relinquished by the soul until the craving caused by barrenness is satisfied by the promises of the cross.

Chapter 5

Laying the Axe to the Root of the Tree

I pray that you are now able, through the teachings in the previous chapters, to discern the problem in the realm of your soul that is causing insecurity, inadequacy, inferiority, fear, restlessness, loss of purpose, loneliness, or incompleteness, and to do as John the Baptist counsels: "Lay the axe to the root of the tree."

We accomplish this by familiarizing ourselves with the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Hebrews 4:12 gives us two distinct uses for the Word in this verse: "The Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Recognizing the Power of the Spoken Word

In previous chapters, we discovered the Word to be a discerner, allowing us to correctly identify the particular problem causing the breakdown in our mind. Let us now acquaint ourselves with the Word as a sword or scalpel. To do this, we need to understand the power of the spoken Word.

In the first part of Hebrews 4:12, the Old Testament translators, interpreting from the original text, used the phrase "quick and powerful."

Most modern translators, using today's English, interpret this to mean "alive and active," describing to the reader that the spoken Word of God has the ability to transform or renew our minds by the power contained within it as explained in James 1:21b: "And received with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save our souls."

Having received water baptism for the circumcision of the heart---the surgery needed to open the mind----it is time to engraft or sow the seeds of change into the now open mind for the purpose of renewal. It is essential, as in any surgical theater, to have a sterilized atmosphere so no foreign matter that could cause infection may enter the exposed area during the operation.

Jesus warns us in the Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Matthew 13:24,25) that a man prepared his field and sowed good seed in it. Then, while he slept, his enemy----in this case the devil---came and sowed bad seed along with the good.

I have witnessed this many times. Christians receive water baptism to neutralize the protective mechanism over their mind and to open their mind up for reprogramming. They systematically study the Bible for hours, but then go and sit in from of a

television and watch a movie, or have a conversation with someone that is contrary to that which they have just been studying. By doing this, bad seed is allowed to be sowed along with the good seed.

If this operation is to be successful, you must remove yourself for at least a season period from all secular programming, allowing the engrafted Word to take root and to change what it was meant to in your mind. Like any good farmer, you have to determine what type of crop you want to grow.

Many Christians sow mixed seed into their field by trying to read the Bible as they would a novel---but this is impossible, for the Bible is not even in chronological order.

The Bible was not meant to be read from cover to cover; it is meant to be studied line upon line, precept upon precept. The blueprint for growth in Christ is set out in Second Peter 1:3-10, as follows:

According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be

partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And besides this, giving all diligence, add to our *faith virtue*; and to *virtue knowledge*;

And to *knowledge temperance*; and to *temperance patience*; and to *patience godliness*;

And to *godliness brotherly kindness*; and to *brotherly kindness charity*.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Wherefore the rather, brethren, given diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

The Release of the Spoken Word

For the Word of God to reach its full potential it must be spoken out into the atmosphere---and not just anyone can do this. The person proclaiming it must have faith in the principles that are spoken.

If a person is shot and killed, it is accurate to state that the bullet killed him. But before this could

happen----even though the bullet contained all power to do the killing----three objects had to come together: the person to pull the trigger, the gun from which the bullet was fired, and the bullet that does the killing. Only when this combination is met can the bullet reach its full potential.

A threefold combination is also required for the release of the spoken Word: the person that speaks it, the faith that releases it, and the Word that performs the transformation.

Jesus demonstrated this when He spoke to the fig tree, destroying it from the roots up, when He spoke to the spirit of death over Lazarus, the widow's son being carried to his funeral, and Jairus' daughter who had died. He also demonstrated this when He spoke to the infirmities of leprosy, blindness, deafness, and lack of speech.

These miracles did not happen through some mystical power or mind control. Jesus full of faith and power, spoke to the problem, and the Word came forth out of His mouth like a bullet leaving the barrel of a smoking rifle, finding the target it was sent to neutralize.

The apostles Peter and John also demonstrated this power of the spoken Word at the gate called Beautiful, when they spoke to the lame man and said, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give unto thee; In the name of Jesus

Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." Because the apostles spoke the Word of restoration in faith, the miracle happened!

This principle was first demonstrated by God in Genesis, when He said, "Let there be light: and there was light." He repeated this same principle eight more times in the creation of the earth.

The Bible actually proclaims that God holds the world in place by His Word. Jesus proclaimed that heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of God will never pass away.

For the Christian to become effective in the realm of the supernatural, it is essential to realize the power of the spoken Word in faith.

The Power of the Spoken Word in Blessing

In the Old Testament there was a saying, "The word has gone forth." Once the word of blessing had been spoken over an individual, it could not be revoked.

We see this in the life of Jacob and Esau. Jacob deceived his father, Isaac, into pronouncing over his life the blessing that belonged to his brother, Esau. Once Isaac had given the blessing to Jacob, he could not retrieve it and give it back to Esau.

Many problems we encounter in our lives are from words we speak in haste, not realizing the power of the spoken word. In times of anger or disappointment, we say many things to each other off the top of our heads, releasing a curse rather than a blessing over each other's life. That is why Jesus warns us in Matthew 12:37, "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

The Power of the Spoken Word to Evoke Faith, Not Death

I am sure some people in the Body of Christ believe they have the ministry of discouragement, rather than the ministry of encouragement. After having a conversation with them, you are totally convinced you will never be able to make it through the day, let alone into victory for the rest of your life! These people remind me of a poem I once read that went like this:

I watched them tearing a building down,
A gang of men in a busy town.
With a yo heave ho and a hefty yell,
They swung the beam, and the sidewall
fell.
I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,
the type I'd hire if I wanted to build?"
"Why no indeed, common labor is all you
need."

They can easily wreck in a day or two,
That which has taken builders years to do."
I asked myself, as I went my way,
"Which of these roles have I tried to play?
Am I builder who works with care,
Measuring life with a rule and square,
Or am I a wrecker that walks the town,
Content with the labor of tearing down?"

God is looking for people who will use His
Word to edify their listeners, not destroy them.

The perfect biblical example of this was when
Moses sent twelve spies to the Promised Land so
they would bring back a good report to settle fearful
Israel, which was wavering between belief and
unbelief, and by giving proven testimony to all that
Lord God had told them of the land He was giving
them for an inheritance.

Instead ten of the spies returned with an evil
report, causing the congregation of the children of
Israel to have unbelief rather than faith.

I would encourage the reader to meditate on
the following record of this event in order to
understand more completely the damage an
undisciplined tongue can do to a family or church.
It is found in Numbers 13:25-14:11:

"And they returned from searching off the
land after forty days.

And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.

And they told him, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey, and this is the fruit of it.

Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

The Amalekites dwelled in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwelled in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the

inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature.

And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: *and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

And wherefore hath the Lord brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were off them that searched he land, rent their clothes:

And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we

passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it to us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not.

But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

And the Lord said unto Moses, "How long will this people provoke Me? and how long will it be ere they believe Me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?"

The Lord God, seeing that Israel provoked one another to unbelief by the power of the tongue, speaking doubt rather than faith, gave Joshua the key to success in Joshua 1:8:

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt *meditate* therein day and night, and thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

The word "meditate," comes from the Hebrew word *haw-gaw*, and not only means to ponder, meditate, imagine, or study; it also means to murmur, mutter, roar, speak, talk, or utter. It is not enough to rehearse a Scripture in your mind. There is a creative power that comes over the Word when it is *spoken*, not only to others, but also to ourselves.

I find this to be true when I am preparing a message for our congregation. While rehearsing the message in my mind, it seems good for the congregation. I discern it exactly what they need to bring them to a high realm of victory. But then, when I preach it, the message takes on a power that empowers me as well.

David used this principle of speaking the spoken Word over his own life, bringing peace into his soul, in Psalm 103:1-5:

"Bless the Lord, O *my* soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O *my* soul, and forget not all His benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction;
Who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things;
so thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

David is speaking to his own soul, reminding it of the promises of the Covenant. He obviously felt guilt from time to time for the sins he committed with Bathsheba; and even though God had forgiven him by the blood of the steer offered on the brasen altar, he had to continually remind himself of the promises of the Covenant.

David was not only skilled with the sword in battle against his natural enemies; he also knew how to wield the sword of God's Word against the enemies of his mind.

The New Testament also encourages us to use this principle of renewal, found in Ephesians 5:19:

"Speaking to *yourselves* in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing, and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

If this book, *The Potential of the Redeemed Mind*, has ministered to you, and you would like a step-by-step study program that ministers the principles of building a strong life in Christ as is found in Second Peter 1, please write:

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