

Kingdom News

The Kingdom is Yours; the power is Yours and the glory is Yours, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

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Motto for the year of 2011

Render therefore unto God ... **the things that are God's.** (Matthew 22:21 KJV)

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Boot Camp

Public Enemy #1 - *The Flesh*

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Part 7 – The Human Spirit Mentors and Leads the Soul

Drum roll please, we have come to the final segment of this particular journey. This journey has been a protracted, 360 degree; look at our enemy, “the Flesh.”

Here is the moment “we’ve been waiting for.” Last month, we triangulated the relationship between the *human spirit*, the *soul* and the *flesh*. This month we will receive from the Lord a blush of an understanding of how and why our Lord intends for the *human spirit* to mentor and lead the *soul*.

I think that we both know that this truth is far too deep of a well for us to exhaust in this world. Oh, but to drink of its waters!!! Refreshment that flows from the *Rivers of Living Waters* that comes to us out of the

Boot Camp

Continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Boot Camp & The Leadership Corner**
- 2 **Son of My Wisdom & Precepts in Practice**
- 3 **Love and The Truth**
- 10 **Summary**

The Leadership Corner *Leadership Living, Inc.*

Six-Month Check-Up

Can you believe that half the year has already gotten by us? I can remember when I was trying to decide which pair of boots I was going to wear back in January. So, what do we do now that we are midway through this year? Have we accomplished what we set out to do? Have we made significant changes in our personal lives to align ourselves with what God has for us? And, do we need to take a break, step back, and review what has happened thus far? I say a hearty, “Yes” to this last suggestion.

I can honestly report that my family, agency team, and I have completed some of the tasks we set out to tackle. We’ve forsaken a few of the goals we thought we would pursue. And, we now have a few new targets to pursue. For example, in my personal life, my husband and I have scaled back on some of our household expenses. God told us to examine what we had been spending our money on and make changes.

We decided to cancel our home telephone line because we both have cell phones and no one really ever calls our home phone. Now, I know some people would say the home phone comes in handy if the ambulance has to locate a person. I hear that. At the same time, we plan to trust that if/when this happens, God will have orchestrated the events so that we can handle the situation using our cell phones.

In terms of having abandoned a couple of our original goals, we had planned to pay off at least one credit card this year. This may still happen, but due to the impact of the downturn in the economy; we’ve had to re-engineer our budget.

And finally, God has placed a couple of new opportunities on our plates. At the beginning of the year, we had no staff.

Leadership Living

Continued on page 6

Son of My Wisdom



The Pathos of Man: Unregenerate Man

Along the way, we have come to see that unregenerate man's *ethos*, is *fallen*. This means that the *character* and *authority* of man are in ruin. Now, man's character is based upon his view of God (by view I mean his faith); and insofar as that is marred, man's *ethos* must also be fallen.

We have spoken of unregenerate man's *logos* (i.e., thoughts, words and deeds), which is futile. The scripture is clear that wherever man walks in the flesh, he shall die (Rom 8:13). Wherever man lives with selfish-centered objects and intentions as his ultimate aim; he must in the end reap vanity. We don't think of vanity as being so bad; but trust that from an eternal perspective "vanity," is terrible.

So then, unregenerate man's *character* and *authority* are in ruin; his *thoughts*, *words*, and *deeds* are vain, and furthermore they are an abomination to God. What then shall be said of his *pathos* (meaning his *experience* and his *emotions*)?

First let's remember that man's *pathos* (experiences and emotions) comes forth out from his *ethos* (character and authority) and *logos* (thoughts, words, and deeds). Said otherwise, what we experience or how we interpret our experiences is a direct result of our personal character and our thoughts.

Now, if you found out that your character was in ruin, and your authority was fallen and that your thoughts, words, and deeds could not save you from your ruin, how would you feel? I don't think that there are words that could truly describe the *sorrow*, the *hopelessness*, the *internal contradiction*, the *angst* and *war*, more clearly than the biblical understanding of the term "Hell." Fallen man has hell raging on inside of him, all the time.

God declared the immediate result of the Fall to be *sorrow*: to woman in her labor within, and to man in

Precepts in Practice



Let Go of the "Good" Past

The apostle Paul set a good example in Philippians 3:13-14. He told his fellow believers that he was "forgetting the past and reaching forward to the future" (KJV paraphrased). Now, it would seem that we would engage in a conversation about how we, as believers, should let go of the negative things from our past. This, of course, should allow us to be free to accept a new path God has for us.

While I agree with all of this, our conversation today will be slightly different. When Paul was talking about "letting go" of his past, he was not talking about negative things. On the contrary, he was speaking of the positive things that he would normally be proud of.

Now, at first glance, this does not make much sense. Are we to think that God would want us to forget about the "Good" things we have done in our past? What about our accomplishments? What about our education; our experience; our family name; the high school or college we attended; the company we work for; how well our children are doing in school; or the upscale community we live in?

Are we supposed to be ashamed of these positive things? Absolutely not. But....Paul was trying to communicate an important principle to us. Dare we take a moment to explore his presentation? Ok, I heard somebody whisper, "Yes" so we will dive right in!

Think for a moment about just how Awesome our God is. Ponder, if you will, some of the details of His creation. Don't worry, we won't go far. What about those clouds outside your window? How about the breeze that blows across your face? Check out His sun, how it's light has the ability to give life and to destroy.

Muse at the waves in His ocean. Marvel at the Humpback whales as they play. Listen as the birds greet you every morning. Hold out your arms and notice the veins that carry blood throughout your body. Wiggle your toes and imagine the bone structure underneath your skin. Breathe deeply as

Love and *The Truth*



The Secret Life of a Christian VI

So far, we have dealt with some further considerations of life, eat/drink, body/raiment in the last part of this series. We have dealt with the reality that the Christian life is secret. We *pray* in secret, we *fast* in secret, we *give* in secret, we hope for what the world cannot see, we believe in One Whom the world cannot see, we become those whom the world will not see. So then, where does all of this lead? What does it all mean? What point am I driving at in all of this? The Christian life is headed in one direction, and while that direction has many names let's focus on just one: Glory. The Glory of God is, as it stands, invisible to the world. Rather, the world is blind to the Glory of God.

In order to talk about glory, though, we need to know what it is, first. 'Glory' in the New Testament shows up 402 times and except for 17 of those times is always the Greek word *doxa* (δόξα) with STRONGS # 1391. This is the basic idea carried in *doxa*: brightness, splendor, and majesty, whether in "appearance" or "moral quality." We're talking about "light" in either its visual form or its moral qualities. Now, in consideration of this remember that Jesus says, "as long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (John 9:5) Again, Christ says "ye are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14) But two verses which illuminate this "Glory of God, in man" are John 1:4 & John 8:12. For, in John 1:4 it is said of the Word "in him was life, and the life was the light of men." This life in Christ is the light of man. And in John 8:12 we are told "he that walks in me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the **light of life.**" Now, just after Jesus says we are the light of the world he commands us to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven.

You will often hear glory spoken of as a thing which we give to God. There is a sense in which this is

Throne of the Everlasting God.

I recall very clearly, a few years ago (during a trip to the Midwest) that the Lord revealed to us how the He intends that he human spirit should mentor and lead the soul into sweet submission to and obedience to the Spirit of God. Thereby we become progressively sanctified into and amazing expression of "Son-ship."

As the Lord educated us, we came to understand the faculties of the *human spirit* as they related to the faculties of the *human soul*.

HUMAN SPIRIT

Again, we understand that in the *human spirit* of man are the faculties of the intuition, communion and conscience.⁽¹⁾

Intuition – The place of knowing that which is transcendent

Communion – The place of intimacy

Conscience – The place of identification between right and wrong

SOUL

Here we understand that in the soul of man are the faculties of the mind, will and emotions.⁽¹⁾

Mind – The seat of our intellect; our capacity to facilitate thought and ideas; the ability to perceive the things of this world

Will – the executive faculty of our volition or decision-making (it is here that we choose)

Emotions – the seat of our appetites, desires, passions, and various other such expressions of our sensibilities (ability to sense)

During that "training" I had begun to associate what I had received in this fashion:⁽²⁾

These are the faculties of each the human spirit and the human soul:

Human Spirit	Human Soul
Intuition (Revelation & True Knowledge)	Intellect (Mind, Information-Gatherer, Analyzer)
Conscience (Judgment, etc.)	Will (Decision-maker, Volition)
Communion (Intimacy)	Emotions (Appetites, Desires, Passions)

Just here is the nucleus of the mentoring relationship between the human spirit and the soul.

NUCLEUS: The *mind* was designed to serve (or to be enlightened by) the Intuition; the *will* was designed to serve (or to choose in accordance with) the Conscience; and the *emotions* were designed to serve (or to express) the Communion.

I had previously thought that each of the faculties of the *human spirit* would somehow directly influence the corresponding faculty of the *soul*. As I contemplated it (from time to time), I would ask the Lord; “Father, how exactly does each of the spirit’s faculties influence the soul’s faculties?” For the life of me, I could not see the transmission paths between ... the Communion (in the human spirit) and the Emotion or Sensibilities (in the soul). I’d ask, “Father, how do these two “talk” to each other. I could not find the answer in *scripture*. I could not find the answer in *life*.

Then one beautiful day, the Lord walked right into the middle of one of my conversations with the answer. And all manner of scriptural truths and proofs came screaming in to support the revelation. I just about had a “heart attack.”

The Lord said (essentially) that the *human spirit* communicates strictly via the faculty of the Intuition to the *soul* (Mind). The *Spirit* of God and the *Word* of God illuminate the human spirit.

The Spirit and the Word do not communicate directly with the faculties of the soul; because the soul is *Fallen*. That is why it is possible for one to read the Bible (where the words enter in upon the mind) and still remain Life-less. You may have heard the phrase, that “truth cannot be *taught*, it must be *revealed*.” Revelations of truth do not enter in through the ear- or eye-gates, imposing itself upon the Mind. Truth is revealed to the Intuition of the *human spirit*, from the Spirit of God. The Intuition may then teach the Intellect (mind); what the Lord has revealed. Perhaps it has happened to you that you received some revelation of the Word of God that it took your mind awhile to understand. The scriptures teach that wisdom (which is given by God) is a principle objective ... but at the end of the day, get “understanding.”⁽³⁾ Wisdom is given by God to the human spirit; the spirit then mentors the mind in

order to facilitate understanding.

The human spirit teaches the Mind; which trains the other faculties of our being (Will and Emotions). We see this when the scriptures say that we are to be transformed (changed) by the renewing of our minds.”^(3a) The Word of God renews; only that which has life can renew. Other things can “inform” but it takes the Spirit to “make new.”

So we see that the Flesh has touched (imprisoned, even) the soul; the Spirit of the Living God **does not** deal directly with the soul (*while we’re in this world*). I know this must sound alarming to some; but don’t fret; the Divine Way of Salvation and Sanctification is absolutely brilliant. The Lord has left no stone unturned, in “seeking and saving us” through our Lord Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever. We see then the need for the *human spirit* to be regenerated (awaken) at conversion. In the days to come (if the Lord pleases) we’ll talk about the difference between our initial transaction with the Spirit of God and subsequent intercourse with Him. Albeit in this discourse, I believe we’ll see the need for “more help from the Spirit of God” than what is received at conversion.

Vital Note: The *soul* is not regenerated at conversion (or adoption); only the *human spirit* is regenerated. This is one reason that Romans 8:8 can be said of a Christian: “... they that are in the flesh cannot please God.” At conversion, the Spirit of God awakens the human spirit within, so that we may begin to “seek” God and to hear from Him, in our spirit. Prior to conversion, we didn’t care to “seek” or to “hear from” God. I know ... I know we “lull ourselves to sleep” with the notion that we “loved” God even before we received salvation. Two words: Not Possible. The scriptures teach that we were enemies of God.⁽⁴⁾

We now have a better understanding of why there is this internal “tug-of-war” between the *Word* and the *World*. We sometimes seem to be halt between these two opinions. The lusts of the flesh oppose the Spirit; and the lusts of the Spirit oppose the flesh. There is no middle ground. And in the spirit of that same scripture: “If God be God, walk after the lusts of the Spirit. And if not, then feel free to walk after the lusts of the flesh.”⁽⁵⁾

If it is true that at conversion, the *human spirit* is regenerated and the *soul* is not yet regenerated, what does that mean? It means a great many things, but we’ll

meddle with just a few of them.

It means that at conversion we (spirit, soul and body) experience “adoption” into the family of God; into the Kingdom of Light.

It means, now that we are citizens of a new Kingdom (and a new King); we are obliged to proceed to become educated; to inculcate the culture; and to become fully functioning citizens of this new Kingdom. This is done through *reading* the Word; *praying* the Word; and *doing* the Word.

Glossary (by JoAnn): *Inculcate* – this is the practice of influencing one by persistent, repeated teachings and admonitions.

How else does one come to know the culture of a kingdom? This is done by getting to know the Character and Authority (Ethos) of the King; and willingly bringing oneself under subjection to His Lordship. How many of us know that it is possible to become a citizen of a kingdom and never “heartily” come under the Lordship of the Sovereign? It makes for a “very hard way.” Not only *can* it be done; I believe we will find (to our shame) that this practice is more prevalent that we might think. When and where this is the case (within us), we find ourselves constantly in violation of the laws of the kingdom; and too often in stark opposition with the King, Himself. (Not good)

Now it is the *human spirit* that is responsible for leading us into compliance with the Will of God, as expressed through His Word and as revealed by His Spirit. Here we see the scriptures teach us that we must “work out our own soul’s salvation with fear and trembling.”⁽⁶⁾

Okay, post-conversion we have a newly regenerate *human spirit* seeking to bring into compliance a renegade, fugitive, lawless *soul*. A *soul* that not only has been born into “inherited rebellion” against God; ^(6a) but one that seeks daily and moment-by-moment to have “its way;” for so it has been acculturated, since birth.

Glossary (by JoAnn): *Acculturation* - is the process by which we adopt the culture, creeds, practices and social patterns of a particular group. It is usually the group of which we have become a part either by birth or by choice.

We can also see here why our new converts (and many of us) struggle (with sin and with the world) so much. For those of us who have been here for awhile; we see that “we” have long since, left off teaching the way of the Kingdom. This has been superseded by teachings on “gifts” and “talents.” Which I dare say, that even if we did come to understand both our various “gifts” and our “individual calling” [as if there really was such a thing, as an *individual calling*] we’d find that there is no “salvation” in them. NONE. Seeking to know our “gifts and talents” has several inherent faults:

- 1) The Lord has not directed us to seek “gifts and talents.” He has, however, directed us to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, etc.
- 2) To seek ANYTHING other than God, Himself, is idolatry “up close and personal;” which (as you can appreciate it) is strictly forbidden in the Kingdom.
- 3) Gifts and talents do not bring us into intimate communion with the Father. Gifts and talents “flow from” and are an expression of the overwhelming goodness of God; and are not to be sought as objects of any intrinsic value.

So we see that the *human spirit* has been awakened at conversion. It is then enabled to begin its work of “winning” the soul to God (from the tyranny of the flesh); through the leadership of the Spirit of God. The work of sanctification begins just here. As a matter of course, once the human spirit has been awakened, the Spirit of God can train the *human spirit*. The *human spirit* then, seeks to woo; to influence; to tutor the *soul* into compliance to the Law of the Kingdom and the Lordship of our King.

The *human spirit* (under the leadership of the Spirit of God) is tasked with teaching, mentoring and tutoring the *soul* to:

- Add to its initial “saving faith,” virtue [[here the standard of the Kingdom is introduced and established within](#)].⁽⁷⁾
- And thereafter we add to that virtue, knowledge [[here we seek to know the King, the culture, our responsibilities, etc.](#)].
- Pushing further along, we are to add to our knowledge, temperance (or moderation) [[here we learn the proper use of the word, “No” and “No, thank you.”](#)].
- Continuing to grow, in the way of the Kingdom, we add to our temperance, patience [[here we learn how to wait on both man and](#)

God; and in so doing we increasingly gain possession of our soul⁽⁸⁾ which is our goal].

- With patience, we are able to progressively increase in godliness [this is where character-building bears some of its most precious fruit]. It is not unreasonable that the citizens of a kingdom should be reflective of the Character of the King.
- The human spirit continues its work upon the soul; as brotherly kindness is added to godliness [here we see the beauty of loving our neighbor as our self].
- And the “crème de la crème;” the “pièce de résistance” is that we add to our brotherly kindness, CHARITY [here we begin the blushes of loving the Lord with our whole heart].

And so we see the arduous duty and painstaking task of the *human spirit* to influence the *soul* into obedience.

One reality that makes the work of the *human spirit* in its mentorship of the *soul* a daunting task is the fact that “conversion” is not a deterrent to the flesh. It’s like a school teacher trying to teach a student Calculus or Quantum Physics; as the student sits gazing out of the window; wishing they were on the “other” side of the door.

One of the reasons that this is important, to us, is because we must recognize that the work of salvation does not “end” at conversion. It’s only just beginning; and it won’t end until we see our Savior’s face. Quite often, we mistakenly think that the work that must be done to the *soul* in order to bring it into “son-ship” is complete at conversion. Our work is just beginning. But this news should be encouraging to us as long as we are committed to give diligence to make our calling and election sure.⁽⁹⁾

Just as will be the case that; “There will stewards who, will **misuse** the *mammon of unrighteousness* in this world. And when their works or stewardship comes up for performance review it fails the test or is found to be comprised of wood, hay or stubble.” (Reference: June 2011, Chief Cornerstone article entitled: *Unrighteous Mammon*) Likewise, we can live our whole life in this world and never allow the *human spirit* to mentor the *soul*. And, in the end, wake up to our Final Exam⁽¹⁰⁾ “On High” with none our homework complete. God forbid. ~BC~

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

- ⁽¹⁾ Brief reference to *The Spiritual Man* by Watchman Nee, 1968 Christian Fellowship Publishers, Inc. NY
- ⁽²⁾ See Chief Cornerstone column, February 2011 edition
- ⁽³⁾ Proverb 4:7
- ^(3a) Romans 12:2
- ⁽⁴⁾ Colossians 1:21; Romans 5:8
- ⁽⁵⁾ 1 Kings 18:21; Romans 8:5; Galatians 5:16-17
- ⁽⁶⁾ Philippians 2:12-13
- ^(6a) Psalm 51:5
- ⁽⁷⁾ 2 Peter 1:5-8
- ⁽⁸⁾ Luke 21:19
- ⁽⁹⁾ 2 Peter 1:10
- ⁽¹⁰⁾ Romans 14:12; Matthew 12:36

Leadership Living

Continued from page 1

Today, by the grace of God, we have a team of nine trainees, volunteers, and an intern to help us do the work God has placed on our hearts. In addition, God has opened several doors for our agency to partner with other community, educational, and government entities as we administer our programs.

This brings me to what God laid on my heart to chat about this month. God told me a few months ago that He creates “Need.” In our world, God creates needs to bring us opportunities. I will tell you that all of our trainees, volunteers, and community partners came to us out of a need they had. Because of their need to reposition themselves, provide services for their clients at little to no cost, and prepare for upcoming opportunities; we were uniquely positioned to enter into mutual agreements to work together to meet everyone’s needs (including our need to increase our team and resources).

Here is the interesting part. I did not originally see these situations as opportunities. At first glance, I was not prepared to create all of the partnerships we have today. Each situation looked different. Each person had a unique need when they asked to meet with me. At one point, I was tempted to ask God why He was sending people to me who had needs, when I, too, had needs. Then, he performed His word from Proverbs 6:20-23.

The scripture tells us that the word of God will lead us as we go along our way. It will talk to us when we wake up in the morning. And, it will be a lamp and a light to us. Early in the mornings (while I was walking on my treadmill), God would reveal to me what was actually going on when people would ask to meet with me to get some help.

Leadership Living

Continued on page 7

God told me that He sent these people to me. While I am in a position to help them, they are also resources for me to utilize. He began to show me how to engage each person, have discussions about what each of our needs was, and make a plan to meet our collective needs.

I have to tell you that my team has transformed our agency and has multiplied our ability to do the work God has called us to do. People began to come from seemingly everywhere and they would bring with them ideas, material resources (like the ability to cook and provide food for clients that come to our workshops – clearly something I cannot do), and ties to even more people that can help us. So, where am I going with this story?

It is July 2011. Half the year is gone. We only have six months left to accomplish our goals, cast off things that are not benefiting us, and change our course to take advantage of the opportunities God is bringing our way.

My encouragement to you is to take some time to reflect on what's been going on so far this year. Have there been people coming to you asking for your help? Have you been facing nagging challenges that you can't shake? Are you feeling pressure because you are trying to achieve a goal that just is not happening?

These may be signs that God wants you to rethink what's going on. Some of these challenges may be opportunities in disguise (we talked about this earlier this year). God told us months ago that He would bring us opportunities that would be masked as "challenges." He asked us to prepare ourselves for these challenges. And, to ask for His guidance to show us how to extract value from these testy situations.

So, "Stop, breathe, and reflect." Ask God to change your perspective on what is going on in your world. Maybe, just maybe, God "created these Needs & Challenges" for your benefit. It's now time to start getting the value out of these situations that God intended.

Stay blessed! ~LLI~

Joyce M. White, MSW

Leadership Living, Inc., Joyce M. White, MSW – CEO

Son of My Wisdom

Continued from page 2

his labor without (Gen 3:16-19). Ephesians (2:12) shows that *hopelessness* is linked to being without God. Furthermore, James (4:1) asks, "do not these wars come from the warring of your lusts within you? If we would look around us, we'd see that man's experience and emotions are full of sorrow, hopelessness, wars, conflicts, contradictions and fighting.

But you may say, I don't see these as the predominantly the experiences and emotions of people. People are sometimes happy, or excited, doing well, and such. There is one central reason for unregenerate man why the hell inside is not as apparent. The answer finds its expression in the temptation of Eve. It was said unto her "for God does know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods (in the Hebrew: literally *as God*), knowing good and evil." This is why man, fallen man, does not appear to be in constant despair every day, at all times. The only way for an unrepentant person to maintain some illusion of sanity: "**idolatry** the oldest anesthetic." Idolatry is the first ever attempt to dull the pain of our fallen-ness.

For, by God's definitions unrepentant man is "hopelessly lost." There is but one alternative for fallen man: a new definition. If man cannot (himself) change his "fallen" state; he must then manipulate his use of terms. Perhaps (he thinks) that he can redefine it. But the only one who can truly define good and evil, is God. If that's the case, then the only logical answer to impenitent man's despair is to find another "god;" a "god" who can redefine things for him; such that they won't seem to be so bad. Fallen man must find another "god;" the most popular alternative of which is man, himself. This is precisely what the enemy told Eve, you shall be as God (and to paraphrase) defining good and evil. The word *knowing* in the phrase "knowing good and evil," properly means in the Hebrew (to ascertain by seeing).⁽¹⁾

This is man's remedy for the pain of the Fall, make himself god, and redefine good and evil. But be sure that whether man does what he has called good, or what he has called evil, without repentance he will find death to be the result (in both cases). For along with another God, he will need another Christ, and another gospel; he will need another savior and another salvation. -SOMW-

David L. White

you contemplate the intricate systems in your heart.

Once you've completed the first part of this exercise, take a few more moments to examine your life as it is today. If you have no job, consider how God has been feeding you and your family. If you have no health insurance, pontificate about how God has blessed you with divine health and continually heals your body. If you have no family, articulate how God has blessed you with opportunities to create networks of support with people.

Shall we continue? Or are you ready to move on to the next phase of our discourse?

Daily we stand in the presence of our Holy God. It is impossible for Him to love us more than He does because His love is perfect, life-giving, and eternal. It is impossible for us to "need" anything because God is the "All Sufficient One."

So, when Paul said he was "forgetting what was behind him" he was speaking of things that were important to other people, but not impressive to our Eternal God.

Nothing we have done, and nothing about us is amazing to God. Why? All that we have, all that we've done, and all that we will ever be flows from God. When we catch the revelation that we, as believers, are to "reflect the glory of God," then we will be released to walk in the destiny God has for us.

The bible is replete with scriptures that tell us that God is good. We are not good. God is good. And, whatever He makes is good. He made us, so we are good – only as it relates to His creation, not anything we have done. Additionally, scripture teaches us that there is "no good thing in our flesh." It is impossible for us to be "good" apart from God.

Now, before you demand that I be flogged for my candidness, listen but for a moment longer. This is not sad news. On the contrary, it is great news. It is actually meant to be liberating. Now that I understand that I am not good, I don't have to waste time thinking that I have to "be" good. Now that I understand that none of my accomplishments matter to God, I don't have to kid myself (or anyone else) into thinking I can continually "live up to" standards that have been set for me.

I no longer have to try to "Be" anything great. And, I don't have to try to "Do" anything great. Why, because

I can't. Whew!!!!

I can forget about all of the pressures of my past. And, I can look into the face of a God who IS good, and just bask in His goodness. I can rest in His perfection.

I can talk all day about how wonderful God is without feeling tension to perform at a certain level. I can brag on what God is doing in my life and not become victim to challenges that will come my way. I can know that God doesn't expect me to be or do anything good. He just expects me to stand on His goodness, declare His righteousness, and forsake my own "goodness."

Are you ready to "forget the past" and take hold of a bright and glorious future? If so, release yourself to care only about God's goodness and what He is doing in your life. When you do this, you will find that truly nothing else matters.

Until we chat again, rest in **HIS** goodness! -PIP~

All scriptures are taken from the King James Version of the bible and may be paraphrased.

Joyce M. White, MSW – CEO Leadership Living, Inc.

Steps of Faith

The great object of our "walk" should be to make what is true in our *positional* standing before God (at the moment of conversion) true in our daily personal *experience* and personal *life*.

... All of our effort will result in nothing if we don't experience a change of character

... We *talk* about faith, we *sing* about faith; but we desperately need to "take a step" of faith.

Dr. Alan Redpath
(Sermon: Chosen to be Holy)

true, but it is much more the case that we (who live in Christ; who live as Christ) **are** the glory of God. This is the reason why we have to be violent against our flesh, and vigilant in the Spirit. We must maintain a robust private prayer life, fasting, giving of ourselves, being conformed into the image of God. Mortify the deeds of the flesh, make no provision for it, and walk in the Spirit. The Lord God has a focus in mind: His Glory. We are his glory, and to the degree that we repent of the self-life, and submit to the Christ-life, we are glorifying God. In one sense, the Glory of God is the expression of God; as reflected in His sons. He is expressing Himself. And we need to make sure that we set forth who God is, not in word alone, but indeed, as a style of life. So remember, the life of the Christian is secret, but the light of the Christian is very public. For a city set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it gives light unto all that are in the house. (Matthew 5:14-15) -LATT-

David L. White

Personal Prayer Life

Ingredients to developing a personal prayer life from Matthew 6:

- We discover the purpose of prayer, we Jesus says, you're going to pray to our Father in Heaven.
- We discover the Paternity of God in prayer, when we say "our Father."
- We discover the Priority of God in prayer, when we say 'hallowed by Thy Name.'
- We discover the Program of God in prayer, when we say 'Thy Kingdom come.'
- We discover the Plan of God in prayer, when we say 'Thy Will be done.'
- We discover the Provision of God in prayer, when we say 'give us this day our daily bread.'
- We discover the Pardon of God in prayer, when we say 'forgive us our sins.'
- We discover the Protection of God in prayer, when we say 'lead us not into temptation.'
- We discover the Penetration of time. We see this as Jesus says "when you pray."
- Then He spoke about the "Place." Jesus teaches that we are to enter into our closet.

Gerhard Du Toit
Ingredients of Personal Prayer

Are You Sure?

There is a healthy contemplation that drives us to check our commitment to our various relationships with others. While I have your attention may I ask another question? Do you ever wonder if you're really saved? I don't mean to intrude ... okay maybe I do intend to intrude. Do you contemplate your loyalty and commitment to your relationship "with Christ" very specifically? Respectfully, we are not talking here about your relationship with a religious institution. We're asking about a very up-close and personal relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ. The scriptures encourage us to periodically check our "fruit." We are admonished to work out your own soul's salvation with fear and trembling. (1)

I can just imagine Jesus standing before the fig tree, asking "Hey guys, what type of tree is this?"

His disciples replied (almost snickering), "My Lord, it's a fig tree."

And Jesus asks again, "How can you tell, that this is a fig tree?"

His disciples reply again (almost bursting at the seams), "Teacher, we can tell by the leaves."

Jesus once again, "Okay, let Me ask you guys one more question ... what is the purpose of a fig tree, if it won't bear figs." They all fell silent. Jesus cursed the fig tree saying, "Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit, My Father will remove. It will not be allowed to continue to make demands of (or trouble) the ground."

(2) He looked at the disciples and walked away en route to Bethany. (3) So I ask again, how do we know that we have a personal covenant with God?

May I make a few suggestions on ways to discover the truth? (4)

- 1. How does your covenant with Jesus Christ affect your concept of God and your attitude towards Him?**
- 2. How does your relationship with God affect your attitude towards Jesus Christ (Him as a Person and His Lordship over your life)?**
- 3. How does your covenant with God affect your attitude towards the Holy Scriptures?**
- 4. How does your relationship with Christ affect your attitude towards your "self-life" or your "flesh?"**
- 5. How does your covenant with Christ affect your relationship with and attitude towards your fellow Christians?**
- 6. How does your relationship with Jesus affect your relationship with and attitude towards the world?**
- 7. Last, but in no way least, how does your covenant with Jesus affect your attitude towards sin?**

Perhaps we should take the next couple of weeks or months and grapple with this? Try to answer each question thoroughly in light of the scripture's mandates on each of these respective relationships.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (5)

Be Sure!

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV), unless otherwise stated.

(1) Philippians 2:12

(2) John 15:1-2; Luke 13:7

(3) Matthew 21:17-19

(4) Gleanings and adaptations from A.W. Tozer's Man: The Dwelling Place of God, p.62-68

(5) Hebrews 13:20-21

☞ SUMMARY ☞

Boot Camp



One reality that makes the work of the *human spirit* in its mentorship of the *soul* a daunting task is the fact that “conversion” is not a deterrent to the flesh. One of the reasons that this is important, to us, is because we must recognize that the work of salvation does not “end” at conversion. It’s only just beginning.

The Leadership Corner

Here is the interesting part. I did not originally see these situations as opportunities. At first glance, I was not prepared to create all of the partnerships we have today. Each situation looked different. Each person had a unique need when they asked to meet with me. At one point, I was tempted to ask God why He was sending people to me who had needs, when I, too, had needs.

Son of My Wisdom



This is why man, fallen man, does not appear to be in constant despair every day, at all times. The only way for an unrepentant person to maintain some illusion of sanity: “**idolatry** the oldest anesthetic.” Idolatry is the first ever attempt to dull the pain of our fallen-ness.

Precepts in Practice



I no longer have to try to “Be” anything great. And, I don’t have to try to “Do” anything great. Why, because I can’t. Whew!!!! I can forget about all of the pressures of my past. And, I can look into the face of a God who IS good, and just bask in His goodness. I can rest in His perfection.

Love and the Truth



You will often hear glory spoken of as a thing which we give to God. There is a sense in which this is true, but it is much more the case that we (who live in Christ; who live as Christ) **are** the glory of God.

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