

Kingdom News

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

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The Chief Cornerstone



Series: Pressing the Battle to the Gates

Part III – He is NOT Omniscient

... And the gates of hell shall not prevail against ...⁽¹⁾

Omniscience is the characteristic of “being in possession of all knowledge.” It implies the ability to “know all things.”

Almost subconsciously, we have been socialized to speak of the devil as if he too were omniscient. Sometimes we act like he knows more than he does and that he can read our thoughts. He likes it when we think like that, because we play right into his hand.

The enemy has to “read the environment, interpret our behaviors and listen to our words” just like another human does. His advantage is that he’s been doing this for ages; so there is something of a skill to the way he does things. But he is certainly not omniscient. If there was a spectrum (or a continuum) with God on one end, and man at the other, the enemy would be on the same end of the spectrum as man, when it comes to the ability to “know.”⁽²⁾

“Omniscience” as a characteristic belongs solely to the Only Sovereign God. Again, the enemy is not omniscient!!! For those of you who still aren’t convinced, consider this; that

Chief Cornerstone

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The Leadership Corner

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Developing Good Judgment

As adults we know that we have numerous decisions that must be made on a daily basis. We make decisions about when to get up in the morning, what to wear to work, which projects to work on, how to interact with coworkers, which non-work activities to engage in, and so much more. It’s no wonder that from time to time we make mistakes in our judgment.

Surely many of us can recall making decisions that we later regretted. Or, maybe we wish we would have had more information upon which to base previous decisions to get better outcomes. Some of us may wish we had a crystal ball that would simply let us know which decisions will work out best for us.

Some scientists tell us that decision-making ability is related to long- and short-term memory, as well as to effective operation of certain parts of our brains. Many psychologists will add that our emotions also play into our decision-making process.

With so many decisions to make, limited information, finite time to make some decisions, and emotional interplay, how can we be sure that the decisions we are making will have the desired, positive outcomes we hope for? This is a very good question and one that we will take a moment to explore.

The human ability to make decisions is apportioned to virtually everyone (exceptions would include individuals with cognitive, developmental, or some other disability that prevents this activity). Therefore, our conversation won’t focus on whether or not we can make decisions. Instead, we will entertain if we can make systematic, high quality decisions that move us toward goal achievement and God’s destiny for us. This is where the challenge resides.

Now, many of us are familiar with decision-making models.

The Leadership Corner

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Son of My Wisdom



Let's Get Around to Agreeing with God

(Just agree with Him)

Why?? Because ...

Every good and perfect gift comes from God.⁽¹⁾

Whatever your prayer petition is; if it is "good" and it is "perfect," it has already been sanctioned by God. A petition can be "good" but not "perfect." This of course, means that God is not the author of it. But if it is both "good" and "perfect," it originates with God.

In this sense, the term "good" means acceptable or pleasurable to God. And the term "perfect" means sufficient to accomplish God's intention(s) or ultimate goal(s).

Make no mistake, we will not initiate a petition to God, to do anything, that is both "good" and "perfect," that has not already been approved by Him.

There are probably many reasons for this; but one substantial reason is that we are not "good" nor are we more "perfect" than He is. Therefore, being thus handicapped by our fallen humanity, we are not able to configure a petition that will provoke God to do something, anything, that He has not already sanctioned.

We approach a grave error in our thinking when we believe that what we "say or do" in some way provokes God to "do or say," something that He was not already predisposed to do or say.

And so we see the *Spirit* of the scripture that says:

Whatsoever you bind on earth; shall be bound in heaven. And whatsoever you loose in the earth; shall be loosed in heaven.⁽²⁾ **Translation:** Whatever you provoke (whether binding or loosing) in the earth; shall have already been sanctioned in heaven.

The earth does not "create" in the truest sense of the word; implying "ex nihilo (out of nothing)." The "Heavens" create; the earth makes. The "Heavens" sanction; and the earth (man) provokes into being.

Sometimes we pray as if we're asking God for something that He was not already predisposed to do. Or we pray as if to tell God what the right course of action is, in a particular

Son of My Wisdom

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A Journey to Intimacy

Give Me Children, Lest I Die

The Fruit of the Womb -

Hannah prayed to the Lord in the bitterness of her soul. She wanted a child.⁽¹⁾

The words of Rachel, in her petition to her lord (Jacob), "Give me children"⁽²⁾

My barren womb cries out. "Give me children lest I die!!"

My womb was created to bring forth life. It was created to "give."

In my quiet time before the Lord, I weep violently for the fruit of my womb. "Give," I beseech You, "give." Father I must bear fruit! My womb is barren; and it aches that I cannot give my Lord "sons."

Glossary

Sons – As many as are lead by the Spirit of God, they are the "sons" of God. Notice that this is not a gender sensitive definition of son-ship. Neither is the use of the term "sons" in this piece of work.

Jesus died that the Father might have "sons."⁽³⁾ The Lord desires "sons;" and He shall have them. Jesus Christ paid a great price, to that end. What about you? Is your womb barren? Or are you pregnant with the children of the Kingdom? Have you borne to our Lord any "sons?"

Many generations ago, the Lord promised Abraham children;⁽⁴⁾ now "Abraham" promises the Lord children. Jesus is the seed of Abraham.⁽⁵⁾ What did Jesus do that God might have children. Well, our Lord was wounded for *our* transgressions and bruised for *our* iniquities.⁽⁶⁾ Now it's our turn, to be wounded for someone else's transgressions and to be bruised for someone else's iniquities. Let it be duly considered, that we cannot know Him in the power of His resurrection, unless we first know Him in the fellowship of His suffering.⁽⁷⁾ That which does not suffer death; cannot experience resurrection and cannot bring forth fruit (sons).⁽⁸⁾

Death is a prerequisite to resurrection. What are we dying to? We are ordered to remand the flesh (spelled backwards: *self*) to the cross.⁽⁹⁾ In so doing, we are sure that the children we bear, are "sons of God" and not born of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man.⁽¹⁰⁾

In our midst, walking among us, are those whose name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life. But they have not yet come into the Kingdom. The Lord says to us, "other sheep

Journey to Intimacy

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Precepts in Practice



Employment & Opportunities through Relationships

We have just come into the fourth quarter of 2010. At the beginning of the year in this column we said we would walk through how to “reign.” Since that time we have discussed several key topics related to learning how to take dominion over ourselves and our environments.

If you have been following the recommendations in the newsletters and in this column I know you have seen major changes in your life (some expected and some no doubt unexpected). In this article we will give an update on how this year has gone and what we should expect during the final quarter, particularly as it relates to employment and other financial opportunities.

It’s no secret that the U.S. economy is in a tailspin. We started the year out with record high unemployment. Then, when the 2010 census got underway, the unemployment rate declined a bit. But, we knew these temporary jobs would not last for long. Later in the year, we began to hear that many people may have given up on trying to find a job in this economy, so they stopped looking.

We also may have heard that while numerous jobs have been posted, the best jobs have gone to people who had a previous relationship with the hiring manager. This meant that if you didn’t know anyone on the “inside” your application had little or no chance of being seriously considered for an opening.

There was also news that while some sectors continued to show declines in new job creation, other sectors showed modest increases. Still, for every one job, there could have been hundreds (if not thousands) of applicants for the opening.

Then, there were those who decided to take the plunge and start a small business. Unfortunately, for many of these people, it was difficult (if not impossible) to get a solid stream of customers (or funding) to sustain business operations.

Now, I don’t want to paint a grim picture because there are plenty of people and businesses that have actually profited during these hard economic times. As a result of soaring prices, lack of stable income, and overall financial uncertainty, some opportunistic thinkers have taken advantage of existing needs (demand) and answered the call by providing for those needs (supply) in creative ways.

Precepts in Practice

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Love and *The Truth*



The Conscience

We will be taking a parenthetical leave from our current topics, and we will be returning to them in the future.

I sincerely believe that the Lord has brought me to deal textually with what He is bringing me to personally grapple with daily, “the Conscience.”

We will deal with what the conscience does, how the conscience works, what the conscience needs, and more, and we will deal with most of this with a focus on the experience of it.

The Lord led me to 1st John in the course of my studies:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

My question was this. If God forgave us our sins, why did He need to cleanse us from our unrighteousness? When God forgives, and we receive it by faith, there is a cleansing that goes on. Wherefore, if you look at many of Jesus’ healings, He spoke in terms of their sins being forgiven and commanded them to sin no more. With that in mind, 1 John 1:9 seemed a bit redundant. But as I continued to read (backwards through the books of the Bible) I came to Hebrews. There in chapter nine is where He made clear to me the answer to my “1st John” question.

*“...in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the **conscience**. Verse 14 goes on to say “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself*

Love and The Truth

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Boot Camp

Christianity 101 – The Basics

Prayer



This week our focus is *Prayer*.

We're walking through the following list of basic Biblical Christian fundamentals.

- Forgiveness – What's your flavor of "forgiveness?"
- Repentance – To so agree with God on a particular truth as to align one's self (in word and deed) with that truth.
- Faith – An act of worship, allegiance and honor.
- Obedience – Most often disobedience is the result of us having redefined for ourselves the precepts of God
- Truth – In the words of Pilate, "What is *truth*?"
- **Prayer** – What is it and how do we do it? Is there a relationship between *truth* and *prayer*?
- Sin – You know "sweet in the mouth; and bitter in the belly."
- Righteousness – What is it? How does sin and *righteousness* relate to each other?
- Etc. as the Lord pleases

WHAT IS PRAYER?

In very simple terms, *prayer* is a conversation. Often *prayer* involves a petition.

But there are other things we should know about *prayer*. We'll look at only a few:

According to the scriptures prayer ought to be directed at God, in the name of Jesus.⁽¹⁾ It is an honor to the Father to give to us, or to do for us, in the name of His Son. So we petition or talk with the Father, in honor of the Son. The Father has ALWAYS wanted us to come to Him through the Son. We see this in the types and shadows of the temple, the priesthood and the sacrifices.

Another thing to know about prayer is that we are directed to "pray without ceasing."⁽²⁾ This is often a problematic concept for many, *not* because it is an impossible directive. But because we don't understand what it means to "pray without ceasing."

Living Waters



Agree With the Adversary Quickly

Don't Argue With Him

If you don't mind, I'd like to begin with a conversation I had with one of my "accountability partners" early September 2010.

Don't worry; I have received expressed, written permission to share the intimate details, with discretion. Also for the sake of discretion, during this discourse, I will rename my accountability partner *The Petitioner*.

Late one evening, during prayer *The Petitioner* was groping after God for a change of heart.

The words of *The Petitioner's* prayer were (for the most part): "Father, my way of life *MUST* change. I cannot continue to live this way. I cannot continue to think the way that I think; or to behave the way that I currently behave. Help! Father, I need You ..."

Right in the middle of *The Petitioner's* cries of the heart, "The Adversary" (the devil) strolls into the conversation (as if by invitation); and proceeds to level accusations against *The Petitioner*, right in the middle of the prayer. *The Petitioner* looked around wondering, "How did you get in here? Who let you in?"

The Adversary said (what amounts to): "You (*The Petitioner*) know that the only reason you are here praying, is because you are afraid of going to hell. You (*The Petitioner*) want to manipulate God into thinking that you're sincere. You and I both know that you have no real intention of changing. Enough of this foolish attempt at prayer, I've got other things you (*The Petitioner*) could be doing...."

Whereas the heart of *The Petitioner* might have (at other times) refuted the accusations, this time something different happen. Almost, without

one attribute of “omniscience” is that has the quality of being *infinite*.⁽³⁾

The enemy (the devil) is a created being; which means that he is not *infinite*, nor has he eternally existed.⁽⁴⁾

If the enemy were **omniscient**, he would have known the plan of salvation from the onset. If the enemy were **infinite**, he would have had either to participate or to refute the plan of salvation from its inception. The plan of salvation was intended to destroy the works of the devil, he certainly would not have agreed to it; had he any say in the matter.⁽⁵⁾

And if he were *infinite*, he would also have been *omnipotent* and would have been able to stop the plan of salvation. The enemy could not stop the plan of salvation in “the heavens,” for our Savior descended from there. Nor could he stop the plan of salvation “in the earth,” for our Lord finished it here. But the scriptures say that there is hidden wisdom and mysteries that are revealed to us that are not known by the princes of this world.⁽⁶⁾ The scriptures go on to say that “the things of God know no man, but the Spirit of God.”⁽⁷⁾ I think we all know that the enemy is not the Spirit of God; which again proves that the enemy is not omniscient.

The enemy doesn’t know what you’re thinking, either. He doesn’t know what you’re going to do tomorrow, next week or next year. “So,” you ask “how then does he catch us in a snare, if he doesn’t know what we will do?” That’s just it. Much of what the enemy uses against us is based on what we “do,” and what we “say.”⁽⁸⁾ This is one reason why he tries to provoke us to either “words” or “deeds” (aka works). Another reason for the enemy’s provocation is that we are judged by our words and by our deeds.⁽⁹⁾ And as often as the enemy can coerce us to the “dark side of the law” he can attempt to have his way with us. Contrariwise, we understand why the Lord places such strict ordinances on our “words and deeds.” This is the case, because by our “words and deeds” we expose our vulnerabilities and fall prey to the enemy.

This is how the Lord taught it to me. We know that the enemy is watching us, waiting for an opportunity to enslave us. As an example, let’s look at the practice of “lying.” The enemy knows that there are six things that the Lord hates ... a lying tongue is one of them.⁽¹⁰⁾ So he seeks to coerce us to compromise ourselves and allow “lying” to be one of our “vices” or a “shortcoming.” As a result, the enemy knows that he has a standing warrant to take certain liberties with us, when we remain in violation. He especially intends to imprison us when we’re out of fellowship or out of alignment with the things of God. When we put ourselves in these situations; along the way, we find our efforts being undone, our thoughts confused or the work of our hands being destroyed, because we allow “lying” as a way of life. We think that it’s a small vice, but we don’t understand the legal ramifications of “lying” or any other sin. A fresh look at the penalty for sin (which was Calvary) will help us recall just how seriously God looks upon sin.

A dishonest, vengeful or wicked heart is an abomination before God.⁽¹⁰⁾ But because we don’t judge things the way the Lord does, it’s not such a big deal to us to be dishonest when it benefits us. “After all everybody does it, don’t they?” we seem to convince ourselves. What we’re not recognizing is that lying, vengeance, dishonesty, wickedness, etc. are works of the flesh. All of which causes us to trespass; and which puts us in enemy territory. And because our Lord is a God of *law and order*; and He is no respecter of persons; He must honor His Name and His Word.

So we see that the enemy seeks to trip us up, by inducing us to trespass against God. He agitates activities and events to provoke us to offend God and our fellowman. He learns *what* we are predisposed to do, by listening to what we say, or by watching what we do; or by seeing how we respond to the thoughts that he whispers. From there, he constructs just the circumstances and situations that he intends will (at some point) induce us to sin. This of course will bring us to compromise our fellowship with God; if repentance is delayed, it translates to an egregious act of disobedience. This delayed return to fellowship gives the enemy license to encroach; or to make gradual inroads.

The enemy is not omnipotent! So let’s stop acting like he is.

God willing, next edition: *Pressing the Battle to the Gates – He is not Omnipotent.* <CC>

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)

⁽¹⁾ Matthew 16:18

⁽²⁾ Isaiah 14: 12, 16; Ezekiel 28:2c, 9

⁽³⁾ Referenced Dictionary.com on 9/30/10 at

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/omniscience>

⁽⁴⁾ Ezekiel 28:13

⁽⁵⁾ 1 John 3:8

⁽⁶⁾ 1 Corinthians 2:7-8

⁽⁷⁾ 1 Corinthians 2:11

⁽⁸⁾ Ecclesiastes 10:20

⁽⁹⁾ Matthew 12:36-37; Romans 13:3; 1 Corinthians 3:13

⁽¹⁰⁾ Proverbs 6:16-19

Psalm 37

- Fret not thyself ...
- Trust in the LORD ...
- Delight thyself also in the LORD ...
- Commit thy way unto the LORD ...
- Rest in the LORD ...
- Cease from anger ...

A common five-step process is outlined as follows:

- 1: State the Problem
 - 2: Identify Alternatives
 - 3: Evaluate the Alternatives
 - 4: Make a Decision
 - 5: Implement Your Decision
- www.business-analysis-made-easy.com

This sounds easy enough, but there are quite frankly several key components of decision-making that are missing from this popular design.

First, we are told that we need to identify the problem. One challenge here is that *what* we think is the problem is based on our perception. It may or may not actually be the problem we need to address. And, if we mis-state the problem, we will likely waste precious time trying to find an answer to something that really is not the issue we need to address.

Second, once we've identified alternatives we are told to evaluate each one. A challenge comes in here because we have limited information regarding any alternatives we identify.

Finally, we are told to make a decision based on the most logical solution. For me, at least, this raises a huge "red flag." Being a Christian, I already know that I cannot base my decisions purely on human logic.

So, what does one do to gain proficiency at effective decision-making and acquiring competency in developing good judgment? Another smart question. Let's peep into the word of God to see if perhaps our Heavenly Father may have provided some glimpse of hope and direction for us.

To get a working knowledge of what "good judgment" is I will borrow the definition Webster gives. We find that good judgment is the same as wisdom. When we see the term wisdom in the bible, we can be sure it refers to the ability to make sound decisions having great understanding of key issues involved. These wise decisions always move us in the direction God has planned for us and help us to systematically achieve life goals.

Now we are ready to go to the word of God for clarity. Most of us probably know that the book of wisdom is generally referred to as Proverbs. Spending quality time in this book can only benefit us. We can also find great nuggets of wisdom in the book of Psalms.

Psalms 111:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments..." (KJV)

Here we see that wisdom (sound judgment) comes from having a proper reverence or respect for God. This basically means that we take the position that God knows everything that pertains to our lives. And, He knows

everything about His creation. Further, He can see the past, present, and future all at the same time. In addition, He loves us and welcomes our invitation to allow Him to guide us on any issues we may have.

Taking this position results in our commitment to allow Him to be Lord of our lives and to give us daily instruction as to the decisions we need to make. This is a basic way to reverence God.

The verse in Psalms also tells us that when we do what God tells us to do, our understanding is increased and we have better clarity related to our situation. This part is interesting to contemplate. In laymen's terms the scripture is telling us that if we seek God about decisions we need to make, do what He tells us to do (in His word, by His Spirit, and/or using our environment to speak to us) – even if it doesn't make logical sense – and watch God as we see what happens, we will then understand what's going on. I don't know about you, but to me, that sounds somewhat backwards. I'm supposed to do what God tells me to do (even if I don't understand how it will work out), and after I obey, *then* I start to understand. Most people I know would rather understand what to do before doing it. Such is usually the case with our natural thinking.

Coming back to the reality that we are Christians (followers of God through Christ), we must know that our understanding is limited - at best, and completely broken - at worst. Personally, I've found that my natural understanding sways routinely toward the "worst case scenario."

Looking back again at scripture, Psalms 119:130 says, "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (KJV).

So, what is God trying to tell us about increasing our ability to make systematic good judgments? He is saying that if we come to Him, present our situations, ask for His guidance, and **DO** what He tells us to do; we will always make good judgments.

How, you ask, can we be sure of this? It goes back to our "fear" (or reverence) for the Lord. We understand the God is truly the only one who does indeed know what we need to do in any situation. Therefore, when He gives us His word, we are to obey it. And, once we obey, we will begin to understand what God is doing in our lives.

So, what is the Good judgment/ wisdom equation?

Ask God + Receive His Word/Instructions + Obedience = Understanding & Great Outcomes... **Always!**

Be blessed. ~LLI~

Joyce M. White, MSW

Leadership Living, Inc., Joyce M. White, MSW – CEO
For additional information you may contact us at leadershiplivinginc@yahoo.com

situation. Pardon my expression: but there is a “subliminal self-righteousness” in such a posture of heart. And it is very detrimental to our relationship with God. It is like a child trying to tell the Father how to perform his role as “Father.” God has been ordaining our way,⁽³⁾ and governing the affairs of our life since our arrival. Now is probably not a good time to try and tell Him how to perform His role as “Father.”

So whatever may be your heart’s yearning or your prayerful petition; let’s get around to agreeing with God. If we begin our petitions by “agreeing with God” bit by bit He will open our eyes to what is His heart’s desire.

So let’s get around to agreeing with God; shall we? –
SOMW-

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, SMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)

- (1) James 1:17, adapted
- (2) Matthew 16:19 adapted
- (3) Psalm 37:23

Poem

When God wants to drill a man, and thrill a man, and skill a man
When God wants to mold a man, to play the noblest part

When He yearns with all his heart, to create so great and bold a man
That all the world shall be amazed.
Watch His methods, watch His ways!

How He ruthlessly perfects whom He royally elects!
How He hammers him and hurts him, and with mighty blows converts him,
Into trial shapes of clay which only God understands;
While his tortured heart is crying, and he lifts beseeching hands;

How He bends but never breaks, when his good He undertakes;
How He uses whom He chooses, and with every purpose fuses him;
By every act induces him, to try His splendor out
God knows what He's about

(author unknown)

Collected 7/23/10 from <http://skyisblack.blogspot.com/2008/04/god-knows-what-hes-about.html>

I have which are not of this fold, them also I must bring.”⁽¹¹⁾ The Lord has done His part, it’s our turn now. He says, “these things and greater works shall you do.”⁽¹²⁾ We must go into the highways and into the hedges and compel them to come.⁽¹³⁾ We must begin at Jerusalem (home), and expand to Judea (neighborhood and place of employment) and then to Samaria (the nation) and onto the uttermost parts of the earth (world).⁽¹⁴⁾

Father, give us children; that we may give you “sons.”
JTI

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, SMHG

Scripture References - King James Version (KJV)

- (1) 1 Samuel 1:10
- (2) Genesis 30:1
- (3) 1 John 3:2
- (4) Genesis 15:4-5
- (5) Hebrews 2:16, 10
- (6) Isaiah 53:5
- (7) Philippians 3:10
- (8) John 12:24
- (9) Mark 8:24; Romans 6:6; Galatians 5:24
- (10) John 1:13
- (11) John 10:16
- (12) John 14:12
- (13) Luke 14:23
- (14) Acts 1:8

Precepts in Practice

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While it would be tempting to try to tackle the entire U.S. economy on this topic, we will resist that temptation and whittle our discussion down to what God has in store for Christians at this stage of the game.

Could it be true that God would cause believers to excel in this recession-laden environment? Might He (pray tell) have a master plan at work behind the scenes that we need to perceptively latch on to?

Hmmm....

It would be easy for us to believe that what is happening today with the economy had not happened in biblical times. Some might say that scriptural teaching couldn’t possibly address what we are dealing with today with the monumental unemployment rate, loss of homes and possessions, and the overall financial unrest.

Well, I might be willing to entertain those heart-felt thoughts were it not for a few unavoidable events that the bible does speak about (not to mention the underlying principles contained in the word of God). Come with me if you will. Let us see if we may, per chance, stumble upon a word that would immediately and eternally change our present realities.

In 1 Kings 17 we find that there was a famine in the land where the prophet Elijah lived. Naturally, the entire community was impacted by this type of devastation. Still, God directed Elijah to engage in specific activities that kept him and some others nourished during this time. In one instance God told Elijah to set up house by the brook Cherith. Then, once this season was over, he was instructed to go to Zarephath to bunk with a widow and her son. While there, God provided for all three of them until the famine was over.

We see that God continued to provide for people during times of economic downturns. He does the same today. While this may be difficult to digest, I'm going to toss it out anyway. **God always provides for His people no matter what is going on in the economy.**

If you will recall, in the September newsletter, we shared that God always provides for us **BEFORE** we have a need. He actually does not wait until our backs are up against the wall to pull some resources together for us. We just need to find out how to access what He has provided. So, let's jump right into this part of the conversation.

God gave me a word for the fourth quarter of 2010. He said that we are coming into our harvest period. If we have indeed sown the seeds of obedience early in the year, we are now correctly positioned to receive the harvest He has provided. Here is the catch. The harvest exists in the spiritual realm. We have to bring it into the natural realm.

As it relates to employment opportunities and other types of funding for our businesses and households, we will do this through relationships. God is leading us into harvest via relationships we have already established. Here is what I understood Him to say.

- 1.) Make a list of all the people in your network. This may include people in your family, at work, at your child's school, at your church, in your bible study group, at your old job, customers, vendors, friends, where you volunteer, etc.
- 2.) Pray for these people. Ask God for His best for them.
- 3.) Make contact with those that God places on your heart. When you do this, ask these people what you can do to assist with any needs they may have. It may include providing resources, volunteering time, giving ideas, making connections, or offering finances, etc.
- 4.) Be prayerful and help where you can.
- 5.) Pay attention to what God leads you to do once you

have been a blessing to the people in your network that God placed on your heart.

- 6.) While you are being a blessing to the people God places on your heart, He will begin to open doors for you to ask for and receive what you need from the appropriate individuals or organizations.

This may sound simplistic, but I'm simply delivering to you what God has placed on my heart. In addition, He reminded me that He is a God of covenant. He works through relationships. We, as Christians, have access to certain resources because we have chosen to be a part of the family of God. This same principle applies in the natural.

When we build positive relationships with people, we gain access to resources they are connected to. We have a "give & receive" flow that works within our support network. This is a Kingdom principle. Luke 6:38 says, "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over shall men give into your bosom" (KJV).

It's time for us to begin to allow God to use us to fill each other's bosoms. So, while the larger economy is trying to find its way back to normalcy, God is creating a sub-economy of networks of people that will utilize their skills, time, experience, and resources to meet each other's needs.

At the beginning of this article I drew our attention to the fact that we are now in the fourth quarter of the year. God promised He would accelerate events in our lives. Now, in this final quarter, we will call those things that be not as though they were; by seeking to meet the needs of the people in our support network. Then, in return, God will cause some of these same people (and possibly some additional people) to meet our needs.

Let's not waste any time. We are to find out what the needs are in our support network and determine what we can do to help. Once we start meeting other people's needs, we will see God turn the tables. He will open to us avenues where we will be able to have our employment, financial, and other needs met. And, for many of us, this harvest will manifest before the end of this year.

Let's get to it! ~PIP~

Joyce M. White, MSW

SOVEREIGN BRILLIANCE

without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” Hebrews 9:9

Then I understood more clearly that in addition to forgiveness, there needed to be a cleansing of the conscience.

Now I see, why the Old Testament (OT) sacrifices were not useful for an eternal covenant. They did not cleanse the conscience. The OT sacrifices were a continual *reminder* of sin as shown in Hebrews 10:3. That law was, as it were, engraved in them. Therefore their consciences were rightly instructed. However, the conscience serves some very critical functions, one of which is this: the conscience “convicts” according to John:

“... and they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one...” St. John 8:9

Imagine a world in which the Law of Moses is taught to you from a very young age. It is, in a sense, programmed into you. You have been pre-conditioned, conditioned, and reconditioned by the law from a child up. Now when you sin what can you do? Remember, your conscience has been programmed from almost a toddler. Your conscience screams at you; its voice is very sharp, and convicting. You go to the priest in order for him to offer your sacrifice. You’ll recall that the sacrifices could not cleanse the conscience. So you’d go home still writhing in guilt, dying under the weight of condemnation. What can you do regarding your conscience? Even worse, what can you do when you multiply to yourself more sin...and more sin?

You essentially have three options:

- 1) cleanse the conscience
- 2) reprogram the conscience; or
- 3) ignore the conscience

Now, you can’t cleanse the conscience at this point, for there is no perfect atonement by which to so cleanse the conscience. You just have those

carnal ordinances and perpetual sacrifices which continually set before you, your sins according to Hebrews 9:10, 10:1-3.

Option #1: So, you could look forward by faith to the atonement which the OT sacrifices signified. But because there was only a shadow of Jesus’ atonement made evident at that time, your looking forward was likely to have been quite dim; much like peering through a glass darkly.

Option #2: Therefore (with a few exceptions) we see Israel resorting to the second and third options. By reprogramming the conscience, I mean that you teach yourself that the things you previously thought were wrong are in fact right. But how could you do that?

Sidebar: The conscience convicts us, based on its programming. It’s much like a judge; it does not *make* law. It simply enforces law as it has been legislated. So if the conscience is trained to compass a certain way, it provides guidance accordingly. If somehow it has been incorrectly calibrated; it won’t necessarily point to true North. You see this when you meet people who do not have a right apprehension of God; but still seem to be peaceful about their lives. Their conscience does not seem to scream at them, because their calibration is askew, with reference to Eternal Truth.

With that, you’ll see that historically the gods (idols) of Israel’s neighbors were about the quickest and most available way for them to reprogram their consciences.

If you’ve ever studied the idols which the other peoples worshipped, you will see that they generally worshipped them by ordinances that were directly contrary to Yahweh. Most of them are gods of fertility, and eroticism. Some were gods which were worshipped by excessive eating, and feasts. Some were gods which were worshipped by child sacrifice. All of these things

were obviously contrary to Who God had revealed Himself to be. But they were “quick and dirty” methods of reprogramming the conscience (aka to sear the conscience). Therefore, they followed after other gods, to some degree, because that was a way to “silence” their screaming consciences.

Option #3: The third option was to ignore it. Now, this is experientially the worse option. When you reprogram the conscience as earlier referenced, your conscience doesn’t scream with the same intensity, or sharpness. It is, in large part, quieted.

However, when you don’t reprogram it, but instead ignore it, it has the full weight of the law still standing behind it convicting, condemning, and bearing witness of your guilt. It is like a very loud, shrilling alarm ringing in your head and throughout your person...continually. It does, and did even then, drive people to either reprogram it directly, or indirectly by finding more effective ways of ignoring it (drugs, promiscuity, alcohol, gluttony, etc). Both of these options (reprogramming or ignoring) are idolatry.

In conclusion, I simply intended to introduce and begin discussing this topic with you in this article. I wanted you to begin to envision OT experiences concerning the conscience. As we proceed you will see a progressive metamorphosis of how the conscience of man behaved (or was handled) from the OT experience through to the New Testament (NT) experience. Along the way we will contrast the OT sacrifices over against NT Sacrifice (Calvary). We will see what this means in our lives today. We will see the gospel unfold again and again; and hopefully with renewed life and power in us.

I am looking forward to continuing this “conversation” with you next month. -LATT-

David L. White

The idea of doing anything “without ceasing” makes me want to “cease to do” anything. But see this, Paul said (in his letter to the church at Rome) “that without ceasing he made mention of them always in his prayer.”⁽³⁾ Again, Paul says to the church at Thessalonica⁽⁴⁾ regarding their walk before God; “for this cause, we thank God without ceasing....” As if that wasn’t enough, Paul says to Timothy “without ceasing I have remembrance of you in my prayers night and day.”⁽⁵⁾ Okay ... okay Paul ... now wait ... you’re a busy man. How is it that you can manage to pray “without ceasing?” Or is that a euphemism for something a little less daunting?

- To “pray without ceasing,” means to not withdraw your petition from the presence of God. To “withdraw” in this case means to say in essence “never mind.”
- To “pray without ceasing” means to stand with your petition in the presence of God; anticipating fulfillment; and hoping in God.
- To “pray without ceasing” is to KNOW that God has answered your prayer. But how can we know that our prayers are answered, before the answer is manifest? Let’s talk about that next.

HOW DO WE PRAY?

Above we said that to “pray without ceasing” is to KNOW that God has answered your prayer. But how does one pray a “knowing” prayer? Isn’t prayer all guesswork anyway? You know, you pray and you guess God heard; and you hope that He’ll answer.

Well the scriptures seem to teach us that we can both be certain that God hears our prayers and we can be certain that He will answer our prayers. How is that?

Let’s take a close look at 1 John 5:14-15 (KJV)

And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Prerequisite: Ask according to His will.

Why? Because God will only do what He has already done. He will only do what He has already spoken. He will only do what accords with who He has revealed Himself to be. And all of these things are revealed in and

supported by the scriptures.

Mandatory: Know that He has heard us.

Why? Because to ask God for something and then to not believe that He hears your petition smacks of “double-mindedness.” James says that a double-minded person ought not to expect to receive anything from God.⁽⁶⁾

Natural Outworking: Know that you have the requested petition. How?

How can I know that? Because God said so, that’s how. If you meet the prerequisite and you sustain the mandatory requirement then naturally you’ll look forward to manifest fulfillment. At this point, we’re simply waiting for “time” to catch up with “eternity.”

Another very powerful transaction occurs here. First we petition God according to His will; next we know that He hears us; then we look forward to certain manifestation. Then we see a passage in Isaiah working in reverse. Let’s have a look:

Isaiah 55:10-11 (KJV paraphrased) – True of God

^[10] For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and does not return, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: ^[11] So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Here the Lord gives us an analogy of the snow and rain coming down from heaven and watering the earth; which brings forth fruit. He teaches us how the process of reciprocity is representative of His Word going forth to bear fruit. But because we are created in the image of God, He is also revealing to us how our word has the potential to do the exact same thing. Here’s what that looks like in reverse:

Isaiah 55:10-11 (KJV paraphrased) – True of Us

^[10] For as your petitions go up, and your requests enter heaven, and do not return, but stirs the heart of God to bring forth and cause to bud, granting the petition of the asker, and delivering the requests of the inquirer: ^[11] In

like fashion shall the Lord’s word be that goes forth out of our mouths. They shall not return to us void, but the petition shall accomplish His pleasure, and shall prosper in accordance with the request made.

IS THERE A COORELATION BETWEEN PRAYER AND TRUTH?

I’m sure that you know that the answer to this question is “of course.” Genuine prayer can only be offered on the basis of Truth. Now you’ll recall that Truth is not simply a proposition. “Truth” is a Person; that Person is Jesus Christ. Therefore, genuine prayer can only be offered on the basis of Who Jesus Christ is. We now understand what it means when Jesus said, that “whatsoever you ask the Father in My name, He will give it to you.”⁽⁷⁾ To ask in Jesus’ name is to ask for the things that Jesus would ask for; it is to ask in the way that He would ask.

Prayer and Truth are inseparable. As we come to know Truth, we direct all of our petitions to Him. And all of the petitions (prayers) that we direct to Him, we do so on the basis of the will of God.

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

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

- (1) John 15:16b; 16:23-24
- (2) 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- (3) Romans 1:9 paraphrased
- (4) 1 Thessalonians 2:13 paraphrased
- (5) Timothy 1:3
- (6) James 1:6-8
- (7) John 16:23b

HOW TO



Question: Do you want to know how to turn adversaries into friends?

Answer: Agree with them.

- JoAnn C. White 9/27/10



premeditation, *The Petitioner* took the “package” of very pointed, bitter indictments and granted that there might be some kernel of truth embedded in them; and laid them on the altar, before God.

The Petitioner’s prayer took a sharp right turn as follows: “Okay, [to The Adversary] let’s say you’re right. Let’s say that it is possible that the motive for my praying is that I am fearful of going to hell. Let’s say that I am foolish enough to try to deceive the Wise, Almighty and Omniscient God into thinking that I really want His way of life; when I know deep down in my heart that I don’t want to change.”

The Petitioner then turns to the Lord and says: “Father, it is very likely that deep down in my heart, I am deceiving myself. And perhaps unwittingly I am foolish enough to try and deceive You into thinking that I want to change; when I really don’t. *IF* this is true (and Lord only You know for sure); then I am really messed up, aren’t I? I am “of all men most miserable;” to think that I could trick You into believing that I am sincere. Search my heart, Lord!! Know my ways!! And since at some level, that may truly be the condition of my heart, I come to You anyway; wretched, foolish and otherwise without hope. I come to you as a deceiver, fearful and ungodly, because I know that these are precisely the people that Jesus came to save.⁽¹⁾ I receive that Jesus was wounded for *my* transgressions and He was bruised for *my* iniquities.⁽²⁾ Oh wretched man, that I am; no one can deliver me from this body of death; but You Lord!⁽³⁾ So I am here; I confess that I am undone⁽⁴⁾ but I am not leaving until You “forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness.”⁽⁵⁾

The scriptures tell us to agree with the adversary quickly,⁽⁶⁾ while we’re on the topic.

Question(s): Is it just me? Or does that seem a bit odd to you too?

This is the way I used to think about that scripture:

“I have an adversary. Okay, I can deal with that. But an *adversary* is not like a *friend*.

They do not have “my best interest at heart.” So their efforts and intentions are to discover my flaws and exploit my weaknesses.⁽⁷⁾ And Lord, You want me to agree with them? I don’t understand.”

When I used to read this, I thought the translators of scripture must have made a mistake ... a BIG mistake. How is one expected to agree with their adversary? Especially when an adversary seeks to discredit and to destroy you?

The Lord is gracious in His giving of revelation. I later came to “see” the meaning of this scripture.

This is essentially what is being said: ...agree with our adversary quickly while we’re still in discussions with him.⁽⁸⁾ If you argue, disagree or try to justify yourself and it be found later that you are actually guilty of the accusation; you will be allowed to be imprisoned until the due penalty of the infraction has been satisfied.

Example: the Adversary says that you are “deceitful;” and you argue with him, in a vain attempt to justify yourself, or to vindicate your name. Then the Adversary has to prove his accusation, support his indictment or recant before God for libel, against a child of God. How this is done is that the enemy is given a warranty (authorization) to tempt us to display “deceitfulness;” because this was his indictment against us. Now if we fail and are found to be “deceitful” we incur judgment; because all unrighteousness must be judged. If we do not fail, then we have suffered for righteousness sake, and this is acceptable to God.⁽⁹⁾ Now just here is the catch. As children of God, we are not allowed to justify ourselves; because Christ is our only

Blessed is the Man ...

- 1) Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
- 2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
- 3) And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalm 1:1-3

justification.⁽¹⁰⁾ Therefore, the very act of self-justification is a violation of a Kingdom ordinance. In the Kingdom, Jesus is the ONLY justification. When indicted, we are to concede the possibility that we may in some sense be at odds with the things of God. When we concede in submission to God, he takes it from there.

There is more ... this may seem morbid ... but when I finally saw it; I was blessed on so many other levels. Here is my understanding of it; and I'll tell it to you the way I received it.

I believe that I understand why the Lord bears long with the devil (enemy). When you look at this whole plan of salvation and the work of sanctification on the aggregate; we find that the enemy can be a very useful antagonist. He can be a very useful instrument in our walk of sanctification. I know ... it sounds crazy, right? But we see this all the time in "the arts" (our plays and in cinema);⁽¹¹⁾ we just don't notice it. A good dramatic plot requires an antagonist to offset the main character (unless the story is told from the perspective of the antagonist). So too is the dramatic outworking of the magnificently brilliant Plan of Redemption; as "played out" on the stage of this world.

If it is the Lord's intention to conform us into the image of Jesus Christ;⁽¹²⁾ what would be one of our greatest impositions or one of our greatest vulnerability? Is it perhaps the areas of our life that have not yet been conformed? I see!! Further, what is one sure way of getting us to see the areas of our life that are out of compliance, and often out of focus? Would it not be the one person, who is dead set against us being conformed; one who would be most intent on exposing our iniquities? Right? The enemy is very useful in this endeavor.

So when the Adversary (or anyone) points out the "weights and the sins that do so easily beset us,"⁽¹³⁾ don't argue with him (or them). Don't try to justify yourself.⁽¹⁴⁾ Agree with him. What you're agreeing to is the fact that the potential to sin is still resident in your flesh, as long as we are in this body. What you're agreeing to is the fact that because our hearts are so deceitful and desperately wicked,⁽¹⁵⁾ we cannot always know even the integrity of our own intentions. So when the Adversary calls you a fraud, agree with him; and run swiftly to God for an application of the

blood of the Lamb.⁽¹⁶⁾ If we begin this pattern of behavior and take on this posture of heart; the enemy will be so frustrated with his efforts, that he'll seek out a more fragile target. And we will see the works of the flesh; as well as the way of the flesh diminishing overall. And the glory of the Lord, will arise within us. And the Lamb of God will be honored in our lives.

I'm *IN* !!!!!!!!!!! How about you?

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

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

- (1) Mark 2:17
- (2) Isaiah 53:5
- (3) Romans 7:24-25
- (4) Isaiah 6:5
- (5) 1 John 1:9
- (6) Matthew 5:25
- (7) 1 Peter 5:8
- (8) Matthew 5:25
- (9) 1 Peter 2:20
- (10) Acts 13:37-39; Romans 3:24, 5:8-9
- (11) Referenced on 9/30/10
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antagonist>
- (12) Romans 8:29
- (13) Hebrews 12:1
- (14) Luke 16:15
- (15) Jeremiah 29:13
- (16) Hebrews 13:12, 20-21; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:6, 9

TOUGH LOVE

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Behold, now are we the sons of God...

Those who are lead by the Spirit of God, are the sons of God.

In order to be a son; one must be lead. In order to be lead, one must follow.

He who does not follow, is not being lead. And he who is not lead, is not a son.

- JoAnn White, September 2010

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❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Chief Cornerstone



The enemy (the devil) is a created being; which means that he is not *infinite*, nor has he eternally existed. If the enemy were **omniscient**, he would have known the plan of salvation from the onset. If the enemy were **infinite**, he would have had either to participate or to refute the plan of salvation from its inception. The plan of salvation was intended to destroy the works of the devil, he certainly would not have agreed to it; had he any say in the matter.

Son of My Wisdom



We approach a grave error in our thinking when we believe that what we “say or do” in some way provokes God to “do or say,” something that He was not already predisposed to do or say.

Precepts in Practice



When we build positive relationships with people, we gain access to resources they are connected to. We have a “give & receive” flow that works within our support network.

Boot Camp



Genuine prayer can only be offered on the basis of Truth. Now you’ll recall that Truth is not simply a proposition. “Truth” is a Person; that Person is Jesus Christ. Therefore, genuine prayer can only be offered on the basis of Who Jesus Christ is.

❧ SUMMARY ❧

The Leadership Corner

He loves us and welcomes our invitation to allow Him to guide us on any issues we may have.

Taking this position results in our commitment to allow Him to be Lord of our lives and to give us daily instruction as to the decisions we need to make. This is a basic way to reverence God.

Journey to Intimacy



Death is a prerequisite to resurrection. What are we dying to? We are ordered to remand the flesh (spelled backwards: *self*) to the cross.⁽⁹⁾ In so doing, we are sure that the children we bear, are “sons of God” and not born of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man.⁽¹⁰⁾

Love and the Truth



It does, and did even then, drive people to either reprogram it directly, or indirectly by finding more effective ways of ignoring it (drugs, promiscuity, alcohol, gluttony, etc). Both of these options (reprogramming or ignoring) are idolatry.

Living Waters



“I have an adversary. Okay, I can deal with that. But an *adversary* is not like a *friend*. They do not have “my best interest at heart.” So their efforts and intentions are to discover my flaws and exploit my weaknesses.⁽⁷⁾ And Lord, You want me to agree with them? I don’t understand.”

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