Wilt Thou Be Made Whole?

Eight Weeks to Happiness and Wholeness



An eight week self-help course which will bring mental and spiritual healing DR. JAMES WILKINS

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FORWARD

Are you **tired of the empty lonely feeling** you are carrying in your heart?

Are you tired of shelling out all that money to a counselor in order to, "Just make it?"

Are you tired of picturing yourself inferior to others and accepting what you get when you've failed?

Defeat does not happen to a person, it happens within a person.

WILL THOU BE MADE WHOLE?

This book will teach you **how to take control of your life**. One cannot control how long he will live, but he can sure determine HOW he will live.

This book is an eight week counseling session which will enrich or change your life.

If you speed read the information contained in this book you probably will get a few helpful thoughts. If you read this book carefully it may help you to live a more satisfying life. If you take the full eight weeks and follow the procedure that the author has outlined then you will be well on your way to good mental health and happiness.

A person did not get into the problems he is in overnight. This is not an instant cure **but if you will work on these principles for eight weeks** your life will be changed!

Follow the principle found in each week's Daily Declaration and you can overcome a poor self image.

Follow the practice of following the guideline of praying audibly each day and you will have more of your prayers answered as you learn to pray properly.

The words "Wilt Thou be Made Whole?" was first asked to a hopeless cripple. When he responded properly he was healed and lifted to a happy, normal life.

God now asks you the same question, "Will thou be made whole?"

God is waiting to hear and see your answer.

It will take eight short weeks of your time and effort. Make the effort...and you will enjoy the difference...FOREVER.

Remember, you cannot control how long you will live, but you CAN control HOW you will live.

"Wilt Thou Be made Whole" will give you the key to do so.

Some things you must do to obtain maximum benefit from this self help work book.

A MUST! Do each Daily Declaration, morning and night.

A MUST! Go through the prayer list daily and repeat the prayer audibly.

A MUST! Grade yourself each week and strive to make an "A". Note: the plus sign + indicates a sentence in which there is a question.

One earns an "A" when he does his work on a daily basis

One earns a "B" if he completes the work for the week assigned.

One receives a "J" if he does not complete his weekly assignment. A "J" reminds one of his final test at the future Judgment.

A MUST! Review each daily exercise at least 6 times.

NOTE: all verses are for the King James Bible

THE PROPER USE OF THIS SELF-HELP BOOK

Since one will not have a teacher it is imperative that one read and follow the simple directions in mastering the materials in this book.

Read and study the poem or principle which precedes each lesson. The poem or principle will condition the reader in understanding and accepting the truths found in the following lesson. THIS IS A MUST, if you are going to find healing and happiness.

FIRST, HE MUST FOLLOW THE METHOD which enables people to retain the most information. Zig Zigler, the noted Christian motivator states, "The average person who reads something once retains only 6% of what he reads two weeks later". But the person who reads the material once each day for 6 consecutive days will retain 62% of what he read. So, for best results the student is admonished to review the previous day's activity before performing the exercise for the current day.

Go over the FAITH BUILDER and review the DAILY QUESTIONS each day.

SECONDLY, HE MUST UNDERSTAND HOW THE DEVIL ATTACKS and fortify himself against the devil's attacks. The devil will attack the believer

through the mind. Memorize the Daily Declarations and Scripture verses in order to use them as a shield of faith against the fiery darts (thoughts) which the devil will shoot into one's mind. Believe the Bible instead of one's doubts or thoughts.

In studying these lessons one will obtain a greater awareness of his purpose in the light of eternal eternity and give him more confidence in his daily life.

If one will study these lessons and follow the method outlined, the author will guarantee an improvement in his mental and spiritual happiness. This will enable one to develop, stronger personal convictions, success and happiness.

FOR ADDED BLESSING AND GROWTH

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he ..." PROV. 23:7

This verse presents one of the greatest principles in the BIBLE. This statement declares the fact — what a person thinks is what he is.

- If one takes into HIS mind negative, fearful thoughts then he will LIVE A FEARFUL and a negative life.
- If he takes into his mind positive and spiritual thoughts then he will live a happy life of faith.
- One can change a poor self-image by developing good, positive habits.
- One can transform himself and increase his faith by doing three things:
 - 1. MAJOR ON GOOD, HEALTHY THOUGHTS 2 STATE HIS POSITIVE GOALS REGULARLY
 - 3. WASH HIS MIND BY READING AND MEMORIZING THE SCRIPTURES
- One can develop a good, happy inner self by this simple DAILY EXERCISE:
 - A MUST State the FAITH BUILDING principles morning and evening

A MUST - Strive to memorize the verse each week.

MY PRAYER TIME

God command one to **enter into thy closet...shut thy door...** The statement indicates that one should pray audibly.

Even though you may not be accustomed to having daily prayer, please form the practice of praying at least once each day for the following eight weeks.

Address God in a reverent way and pray for definite requests. Begin in the following way.

DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER....

- 1. I pray for myself Give me a submissive spirit in order to learn.
- 2. Help my unbelief and open my mind so I can better comprehend.
- 3. Help me be faithful in doing my daily lessons.
- 4. Give me the ability to accept new information and apply it in my life.
- 5. Heal me of my hurts so I can learn to trust and help others.
- 6. Help me find the purpose for my life and live it.
- 7. I pray for my family and our hurts and needs.

HOW TO CONCLUDE YOUR PRAYERS – In Jesus name, Amen.

AUTHOR'S REQUEST: please strive to follow this prayer pattern at least once a day.



You didn't ask to come in,
You won't be here long.
You were born with a nature to sin,
Alas, you will soon be gone!

So why are you here?
What's life all about?
You had better start thinking,
Because soon you'll be going out!

To lose one's wealth is sad,

To lose one health more,

But to never find one's purpose,

Is a loss that no man can restore!

CHAPTER ONE

THE FIRST STEP, UNDERSTANDING THE WAY

MONDAY

This book has been one of the most difficult books that your author has every attempted to write. I have struggled more with it than any other book. As I consider my struggle, I believe it is because of three reasons.

First, this book may be the most needed message and will help more people than any of my other books. If God will help and give me wisdom, then many lives will be changed and transformed.

Second, the people that I am trying to +communicate this message to, come from a broad range of backgrounds.

Some are Bible students who read the Bible continually. They attend a church where the Bible is the center piece of the church and its services. They strive to understand and obey the scriptures.

On the other hand, the author is striving to communicate with people who may never have read the Bible. They are not sure whether they even

believe the Bible, but +due to their environment with its disappointments and hurts, they are desperate to find peace, purpose, and happiness.

It is because of this second set of individuals, with their lack of involvement and knowledge of the Bible, that the author has gone into greater detail and information that the Bible students may already know. But if the person who already knows what is contained in the first three or four chapters of this book, +it will aid them to better understand and help those they are ministering to. Please bear with the author and learn the transformational principles revealed that will absolutely change lives and transform people.

Third, +the author reveals the method of the devil's attacks in such a way that the reader will no longer be a victim, but a victor over him. Since the devil realizes that this information reveals how he attacks and destroys people and that this knowledge will defeat him, he is warning against the author. +He does not want this information so vividly in print.

A PROGRESSIVE REVELATION OF TRUTH

TUESDAY

This book is a progressive revelation of truth. In other words, **the information in each chapter is necessary** for the reader to comprehend the following chapter or chapters.

THERE IS HOPE FOR YOU

In the second chapter, the author lists many things that people are struggling with. He also lists some situations that have filled his sixty years of ministry and he also recounts the personal experience he had in the loss and burial of his dearest loved ones. All of this information is for one purpose; +to attempt to convince the reader that the author understands what he is writing about. +He has gained this knowledge through personal loss and suffering and through striving to comfort those who have endured great hurt and pain in their lives.

GOD IS A GOOD GOD

To those who have experienced a personal relationship with the living God through his Son Jesus Christ, this is an understatement. To those

who are suffering under cruel circumstances in which they blame God, it is something that is almost unbelievable!

In the third chapter, "God is a Good God;" +we see a contrast between man's worst enemy and mankind's dearest ally and friend. We also examine why so many people +live with family and friends all around them, but are lonely and unfulfilled. This chapter reveals that God sent each person into the world for a specific purpose. +His word describes that purpose as good, acceptable, and perfect for that person. Jesus even proclaimed that he came from Heaven and became a man in order for a person to have life and have it more abundantly.

THE REALITIES OF LIFE

WEDNESDAY

+Most people seemed to have a herd mentality. It seems that they accept what the secular world teaches as the norm. +They fall into the flow of this secular thinking and are soon **confused and disenchanted by it.** Inwardly, they know that there must be something better than what they have, but +they do not have a clue as to how to change or how to find a more fulfilling life. **Their religion**,

along with the other experiences they have tried, has failed them.

In chapter four, we examine the realities of this unfair life and show that +pain and suffering is part of every person's life journey.

We strive to reveal man's arch enemy and his method of warfare against each individual. We also reveal the heartlessness of the depraved heart and man's cruelty to his fellow man.

In this dog-eat-dog society where heartbreak and death abound, we reveal the lover of mankind and his ability to heal and transform a wounded spirit and life.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE D.J.?

In chapter five, +we introduce some shady characters **who are the unseen enemies of man**. We reveal the two spiritual networks which broadcast into the mind of every person on earth.

There is the network of the devil with his special Disk Jockeys, who subtly attack their victims and there is God's network that we call, —Idllo from Heaven."

We have titled this chapter, "Who is Your Favorite D.J.?" We have listed six of the devil's most

successful Disk Jockeys and their special expertise. We have named these D.J.'s to illustrate their method of attack. They are;

- Silver Tongue Archie
- Merciless Marcus
- Pity Party Pearl
- Someone Done Me Wrong Song Sam
- Saint Religious Exhorter
- Worry Wart Willie

Each person can **choose** to listen to one of these specialists of destruction or he can **choose** to listen to **Hello from Heaven**.

PAUL CHOOSE JOY INSTEAD OF BITTERNESS

THURSDAY

In chapter six, we come to the story of an old man who has been falsely accused and is suffering the cruelty of prison life. Because of the lies of false brethren and their betrayal, he will soon be executed as a common criminal. This is not the first time that this sweet old man, who has spent his whole life helping people find peace with God, has been in jail. This old man, Apostle Paul, was used of God to write fourteen of the twenty-seven books of the

New Testaments. History has acclaimed him as the greatest of the apostles.

+Paul is in very poor health and realizes that he will soon die. His life, since becoming a Christian and minister of the Gospel, has brought him many trials and tribulations.

In spite of his total dedication to serving God and helping people find peace with God, +he has suffered much criticism. In his writings, he answers some of his critics by saying,

"Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews +five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that

which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches." (II Cor 11:22-28)

+This old suffering man who was executed for doing good, had a right to be angry, but, instead, +he writes a letter from prison full of joy and praise.

BITTERNESS TRANSFORMED INTO VICTORY

FRIDAY

Paul knew that his good friends in the Philippians' church were very disturbed and worried about him. +They were more than disturbed and worried, they were downright mad. He also knew that **their anger would turn into bitterness that would destroy them** unless he could help them view things from God's perspective.

+Much of their spirituality had been destroyed by their worry and fretting over the abuse and mistreatment he was receiving.

It is marvelous to analyze Paul's letter which changed their resentment into joy and victory.

The principles Paul first gave the brethren at Philippi, which restored their vision and purpose, will also work in the 21st century.

CHANGE THE DUMB CHANNEL

In the final chapter we examine what the three major goals were in Paul's letter to his dear friends and brethren.

First, +he wanted to get them over their anger and hurt.

Second, he wanted to enlist them as zealous coworkers in his ministry once again. He did this by illustrating the tremendous opportunity of them laying up unbelievable rewards in the bank of heaven. He convinced them that they would be close associates with him as they ruled and reigned together in the millennial reign for 1000 years.

Third, he showed them +how to have complete and constant control over the devil. He taught them to have lasting joy and victory in their lives.

Please study each chapter carefully until the information will become more than **just head knowledge.** +Head knowledge will not give you peace and joy. It is only when you digest this information until it lodges in your heart and becomes part of you that you will begin to have peace. As you obey and practice these truths, you will grow into a victor.

THE FIRST STEP, UNDERSTANDING THE WAY

DAILY DECLARATION

I will work my daily lessons for eight weeks in my effort to become a victorious person.

MEMORY VERSE

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
A.M.							
P.M.							

COMMITMENT

After studying this lesson I will do my best to trust it's instructions in my quest for a happier and more satisfying life.

NAME:	GRADE:

MONDAY

1. On the other hand, the author is striving to with people who may never have
the Bible.
2. but due to their with its and hurts, they are desperate
to find,
3. it will aid them to understand and those they are ministering to.
4. the author the of the devil's attacks in such a way that the reader will no longer be a victim,
5. He does want this information so in print.
TUESDAY
1. to attempt to the reader that the author what he is writing about.
2. He has this knowledge through personal and suffering
3. we see a contrast between man's enemy and mankind's ally and
25 7

4. We also examine why so many people live with family and friends all them, but are and unfulfilled.
5. His word that purpose as, acceptable, and for that
person.
WEDNESDAY
1. Most people seemed to have a mentality.
2. They fall into the flow of this thinking and are soon
3. but they do not have a as to how to change or how to find a more life.
4 and is part of person's life journey.
5. In chapter five, we introduce some characters who are the enemies of man.
THURSDAY
1. Paul is in very poor and that he will soon die.

2. In spite of his total dedication to serving God and
helping people find peace with God, he has
much
3. Of the Jews times received I forty save one was I beaten with
4. This old man who was executed
for doing good, had a to be angry
5. instead, he writes a letter from prison of and
FRIDAY
1. They were than disturbed and worried,
they were downright
2. Much of their had been by their worry and fretting
3. First, he wanted to get them their and hurt.
4. Third , he showed them how to have and constant over the
devil.
5. Head knowledge will give you and

Please return to the course main page and take the Introduction/Lesson One test.

WHY BLAME GOD

Is the parent responsible for all the bad that their child does?

Is a husband responsible for the wife's impulsive spending of his money which was?

Is the family responsible for the action which some of the relatives plot?

Is the city council responsible for the accident in the supermarket's parking lot?

Can we blame the family doctor who prescribes to heal the careless patient who fails to take the prescribed pill?

Can we fault the highway patrolman out on the Interstate for all the speeding cars driven by people running late?

If you answer, "No" to all the questions which are posed above,

Then, pray tell me, why do you **blame your problems** on the God of Love?

CHAPTER TWO

THERE IS HOPE FOR YOU

In a world of loneliness, **pain and rejection**, there is hope for you!

In a world of war, **death** and seemingly hopeless killings, there is hope for you.

In a world of seemingly hopeless entrapment and **endless financial worries**, there is hope for you.

In a world of betrayal, rejections and **long sleepless** nights, there is hope for you.

In a world of un-forgiveness, bitterness and **mental** suffering, there is hope for you.

In a world of impersonal, self centered texting and cell phones, there is hope for you.

In a world of **physical abuse**, addiction and darkness, there is hope for you.

In a world of a destroyed self image, an inferiority complex and **insecurity**, there is hope for you.

In a world of no purpose, endless repetition and seemingly **constant boredom**, there is hope for you.

If you are locked in a situation, and see **no way out**, there is hope for you.

If you are suffering from a broken dream, broken life and a **broken heart**, there is hope for you.

If you have suffered a great loss and are **grieving** and lonely, there is hope for you.

If you are disgusted with yourself and can't seem to straighten out, there is hope for you.

If you have lost all of your friends and hate yourself, there is hope for you.

If you have **given up hope** and are ready to, —throw in the towel", there is hope for you.

If you are just **marking time** and are not getting anywhere fast, there is hope for you.

If there is temptation, sin and corruption all around you, there is hope for you.

YOUR AUTHOR'S BACKGROUND

When I was a teenager I was a self-centered person who was pursuing a goal and had a blind tunnel vision which consumed me. I had good parents who had taught me not to lie, cheat, steal, smoke, drink or use profanity. I was an obedient and loyal son. I would not hurt anyone intentionally, but nothing or

no one was going to stop me from obtaining my goal. My goal was to rise out of our poverty and become someone. Although I believed there was a God, I had no time for Him. In fact, I had, by my actions, told God I didn't need Him and for Him to stay out of my way. I thought going to church was alright for old men, women, boys and girls, and...sissies, but it was not for me.

I was lucky, successful and was filled with a sense of satisfaction as I accomplished my short term goals in my pursuit of a self centered life.

Then it happened. My life was drastically changed. The self confident boy who was totally focused on his goal became a boy who was listless and didn't care if he lived or died. The boy who was loved and in control suddenly became a boy who felt that no one in the whole world cared. He walked around in a stupor, shut up to himself with no interest in anything. He was suffering in bereavement and grieved constantly for weeks. His brother Wayne had been killed in a car wreck.

My father died unexpectedly within the same year, but his death did not affect me in the same way. I may have loved my dad more than my brother and for years I was puzzled over why I was **totally wiped out** by Wayne's death, but not my fathers.

Many years later God revealed to me why the bereavement and pain was so different.

God had taken my rejection of Him and my orders for Him to stay out of my life personally. He in turn showed me just how big and sufficient I really was by allowing me to handle the death of my brother all by myself. Even to this day I cannot describe the total wipe out and despair I suffered. I felt abandoned by both God and man.

By the time of the death of my father a few months later, my mind set was not as closed toward God. Within myself I had asked, "Where is Wayne?" "Will I ever see him again?" I knew there was a God before but I had no need for Him. By suffering the total aloneness which I had endured through his death, I had begun to think of God in a positive way.

By God's foreknowledge He knew that my purpose on earth was to represent Him in comforting and helping to cure poor, hurting people who lived in a world of no hope. In equipping me to be able to comprehend their loneliness, futility and need, He allowed me to experience many of their hurts.

My first wife of 41 ½ years who loved me and my ministry supremely died suddenly and was buried three days before Christmas. My best friends were my brothers. We were all very close in our

relationships. Four of my eight brothers became ministers and worked for me. They placed my good, welfare and needs before their very own. I helped to bury five of them.

I have been by the side of young couples who buried their babies. I have wept with those who received word that their brave soldier boy would not be coming home. I have been with church members in the waiting room when the doctor came out to deliver the sad news of their loved one's departure.

I have walked before many caskets which were being carried by broken hearted friends and family members to their final resting place. At the graveside I have done my best to console the grieving families.

I have done my best to try and save couples from divorce. I have wept with the different family members when I failed. My heart has broken when I saw the terrible effects upon the innocent spouse and children

I have officiated at the funerals of people who confessed their lost condition and by their own testimony, died and went to hell. I still ache in my heart and mourn over their eternal, needless decisions

But in a hurting world of rejection, betrayal and pain I have a message from God that there is not only help and healing, **but total victory for you.**

When I use the word, "You", I mean each of you who read this book regardless of the situation you are suffering in.

It will not be easy, and it may take some time for some of you. All I can do, all God can do, is to shine some light on the principles which is the absolute way to complete healing and victory. **But** in the end it will depend on you. Will you accept His way to a victorious life and live it? Or will you continue to try and make it on your own?

Your author will do his best to take God's manual, (the Bible), and show you God's method for complete cure. We will show you how your worst enemy is working to destroy. We will show you how to overcome him and his subtle attacks. We will illustrate these methods in such a way as to identify and convince a person of these attacks. In the end you must decide whether you will be a victim or a victor. The ball will be in your court. What you do with it will be up to you. But you will not have to do it by yourself. God's great love for you and His grace and power will always be available to you.

God loves you and is waiting to fully deliver you to a new and happy life.

In order for you to comprehend these truths, we must study about **the terrible ordeals which happened to an old crippled man**. A man who many considered a saint because of his selfless life of service to others.

Based upon lies he would soon be executed in a harsh Roman prison. Perhaps no one who reads these words would have more cause for anger and bitterness than this old man. But he was full of joy and happiness, although his loved ones back home were full of worry and concern. He must convince the people back home that this joy and happiness is real in order to save them from bitterness and destruction. Before we examine the letter he wrote them which totally transformed them from being angry and concerned into people who share the radiant joy Paul was experiencing, we must equip the reader with information which will aid them, even to the extent of totally transforming their lives also.

Please be patient and read with open minds as we proceed through the chapters which will produce complete liberty and peace for the ones who are diligent.

THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

Why am I so sure and confident that the people who are hurting will be transformed? It is because I have watched this great physician work in peoples lives for over sixty years. I have read His manual, (The Bible), from cover to cover and seen His marvelous love and compassion. He has reached down to people who had hit the very bottom and were considered by their peers as worthless and hopeless. These hopeless cases were transformed into the leaders and heroes of the Bible. What He has done so many times He will do for you also because He

He is on your side and loves you. He will help you if you will submit to Him and let Him.

is not a respecter of persons.

THERE IS HOPE FOR YOU DAILY DECLARATION

I strive in my pursuit for peace, purpose and a better life by being diligent in doing my daily exercises.

MEMORY VERSE

"Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee." Psalms 33:22

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
A.M.							
P.M.							

COMMITMENT

I will place my hope in the mercy of God as I strive to learn how to become free of my hurts.

NAME:	GRADE:

CHAPTER TWO

MONDAY

1. In a world of seemingly hopeless, there is hope for you.
2. In a world of un-forgiveness, and, there is hope for you.
3. In a world of physical , addiction and darkness, there is hope for you.
4. If you have lost all of your friends and yourself, there is for
5. If there is temptation, sin and all around you, there is for you.
TUESDAY
1. I would not hurt anyone intentionally, but nothing or one was going to me from obtaining my goal.
2. Although I believed there was a God, Ino time for
3. The boy who was loved and in control suddenly became a boy who felt that one in the world cared.

4. He walked around in a, shu himself with no in anything.	ut up to
5. I may have loved my dad more than my and for years I was puzzled over why wiped out by Wayne's but not my fathers.	I was
•	
WEDNESDAY	
1. Even to this day I cannot wipe out and	
suffered through.	
2. I knew there was a God before but I for	no
3. In equipping me to be able to comprehend loneliness, futility and need, He allowed	
4. My heart has when I saw the spou	terrible ise and
children.	
5. I still in my heart and over their eternal, needless decisions.	
THURSDAY	
1. But in a hurting world of rejection, betra	val and
pain I have a from God that	
41	Daga

not ł	nelp and heal	lıng, bı	ıt	
victory for you.				
2. It willtime	be eas	y, and	it may 	take
3. Or will y	ou			and
4. We will show				
5. In the end yo will be a				r you
	FRIDA	Y		
1. In order for your must study about	-			
2. Based upon		he w	ould so	
3. Please be patie proceed through ones who are	the chapters liberty and	which	n will pr	oduce
4. These			cases leaders	were and
of t	he Bible.	, -		
5. He will to		you I	if you Him.	will
			42 D	0.00.0

IS GOD AS SMART AS GENERAL MOTORS?

All car manufactures know that their latest model with its power, luster and performance will lose that power, luster and performance with the wear and tear of time.

Because of this, they print a manual, which lists all the parts for every single model. Following the manual, mechanics can restore any car to its original power, performance, and luster.

Is God as smart as General Motors? God, our creator, must have a manual, which, when followed properly, would tune up man's life.

If God is as smart as General Motors, **He has a manual**, that when followed will bring any person, regardless of age or condition, to a place where life is happy and fulfilling.

God's manual is the Holy Bible. At first a person may not understand God's Manual any more then he would a technical parts manual, but if one is serious about living a successful life, he can find that purpose by following God's manual.

CHAPTER THREE

GOD IS A GOOD GOD

MONDAY

Many of the dear people **may not believe** that God is a good God because of the hurts and terrible ordeals which they are now suffering.

+They believe that God either caused their suffering or was neglectful and allowed it to happen to them. Either way, they do not have the ability to believe that God is a good God.

- Some are angry at God
- Some are bitter toward God
- +Some are skeptical toward God because their religion has failed them. In fact, their bitterness toward God is because one of their religion's leaders hurt or molested them or one of their closest loved ones.
- Others are disenchanted with God and religion because they cannot see any difference in the lives of professed Christians and in the lives of non-believers. All the religious people they know, lie, cheat and live a wicked life while attending church regularly and claiming to be a Christian.

TO THE ANGRY AND UPSET

To those who are angry and upset with God, may I ask your indulgence for a little while? Evidently something caused you to begin reading this book. Please consider carefully the message of the whole book and follow the steps and information which you find before stopping your pursuit of peace and happiness.

GOD IS LOVE

This is one of the shortest statements found in the whole Bible and proclaims the greatest truth in this vast universe.

At this present time you may not even partially believe this statement. It is the farthest thing from your life and experience, **but it is true**. Before you finish reading this book may your mind begin to understand? +The greatest experience you will ever have is when it becomes a reality in your life.

God's love is unconditional which means that God loves people when they are striving to be good, and He who loves the most wicked, contemptible person on earth. +The Bible declares that God loved us while **we were yet sinners**...while we were yet **ungodly**...and yes, while we were yet **enemies**...God loved us. +The most famous verse

in the Bible cries out to the lost and hurting world of God's love. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, **that whosoever believeth** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

THE REASON JESUS CAME

TUESDAY

Jesus warns of man's greatest enemy and then proclaims why He came into the world. This great warning, coupled with this great revelation is found in one verse in the Gospel of John. "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10

Notice Jesus warned that the thief, (referring to the devil), comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy. This pretty well describes the work of man's arch enemy.

TO STEAL;

- To steal a man's attention from his wife and children, (TV, hobbies, job or career), etc.
- To steal one's affection by sending someone to entice children away or entice affection which brings divorce.

 To steal wealth by the dishonest scheming of wicked connivers.

TO KILL;

- He is behind the actions which kill love
- He causes misrepresentations which kills confidence
- +He destroys and undermines which kills hope
- He is the one who brings actual physical death
- He is behind the events which will kill, or leads to the loosing of one's soul

TO DESTROY;

 The statement, +"to destroy", takes in all wars, all divorces, and all other tragedies which plague the human race.

The devil is in the mix somewhere, +stirring the pot which brings hurt, destruction, and death to the people of this earth.

In a world of dog eat dog and, —dothe other guy before he does you", Jesus came to bring life, and life more abundant.

THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE

The life Jesus is referring to is not physical life.

The life Jesus is referring to is not existing life where a person can, "Hang in there."

The life Jesus is referring to **is eternal life**. This life does **not** come through religion. This life does **not** come through the good benevolent works of man. This life is Spiritual life and comes in the same way as physical life.

+Just as a little baby becomes a human being through a birth, so does one attain spiritual life. One is born into the physical realm in an instant. He has a birthday and a birth place. He receives the same type of nature and life as his human father.

Jesus declared that if a man is going to heaven he must be born again, born spiritually, or from above. +This birth takes place at a definite time and place just as the physical birth. When a person is born of God he receives the same type of life and nature that his father has.

When Jesus stated that He came that man may have life He was referring to the type of life God has, or that man may have eternal life.

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY

WEDNESDAY

This statement that man may have life more abundantly means that +God's will is for man to be able to face all of the temptations, hurts and destruction and **triumph over them**. God created man to be a champion. By God's grace, wisdom and help, God intended for man to overcome all of the heartbreaks, betrayal, and unfair treatment of both friend and foe

The Bible declares that God is a God of, —A grace", and +this grace is available to everyone who trusts and asks God for it.

GOD HAS A GOOD, ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT WILL

In Romans 12:2, Paul, the great apostle and servant of God reveals that God has a good, acceptable, and perfect will for each person on the earth.

Just as every leaf on a tree is different from any other leaf, just as every snowflake is different from any other snowflake, just as every thumbprint is different from any other thumbprint and every D.N.A is different from any other D.N.A., you are

different from any other person on the earth. **+You** are special and there is no other person on the earth just like you. You are special to God and He loves you.

In Romans 12:1, it tells how to find this special life God has for you. In Romans 12:2 He declares the fact that God has a;

- Good
- Acceptable
- And perfect will designed just for you to live

"Ibeseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that +ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:1-2

It may be difficult for you to believe, but it is true...+you are special to God and He loves you.

WHY DO YOU FEEL SO FAR FROM GOD?

THURSDAY

There are countless millions who believe in God, but they feel so alone and far from God. Some say, "I pray every day." —know God has heard some of my prayers, but why do I feel so empty and alone?"

May your author suggest **four** possible reasons why people have this empty feeling?

One, +the nature of a human being is to be self centered, to take charge and get it done. Part of this disposition comes because we are made in the image and likeness of God. This is a good attribute in the physical realm but that is not how it works in the spiritual realm. God is the only one who can change a human heart. That person that you are attempting to win has a free will and must make his own decisions. God loves that person and wants to save him, but He will not violate that person's right to make his own choice. His will is for you to humble yourself and live a changed, (holy), life before that person while loving and being patient with him.

But instead, many get impatient. They pray for the person and expect instant results. When they do not get instant results they begin to talk, (almost to the

point of pressure), to the person. As a result, the person seems to withdraw back more into the world. This causes a person to feel rejected and like a failure. Because you were self centered and tried to use carnal means instead of humbling yourself before God and living a loving, changed life, you feel alone and frustrated. Seek the Lord and ask Him for guidance and you will be reassured by the Lord and will enjoy His blessings. The author is not saying that one should not witness to one's family members, but we cannot save a person, only God can do that.

Two, +many people feel alone and do not have God's love and presence because of un-forgiveness on their part. Someone has hurt them. It may have been a major rejection or offence. It may have been a horrible ordeal in which they received the worst possible treatment. They may be grieving over the incident or still be in bereavement because of an untimely death.

The author is fully aware of the unfairness of life. A person may have been abused or sinned against many times. It may have been endless, but whether you agree with it or not you will never fully get over it until you forgive the person.

Now, don't throw the book away! Forgive that rat??? Never!!! Run over him in my car maybe, but forgive him? Never!

God bless you. From a human point **your author may volunteer** to drive the car. But we are not talking about him...or what hurt you so badly. **+We are talking about you**...your happiness...and most of all...your future happiness.

But let me ask you a question. Have you ever committed a sin?

Sure you have. Most people have broken the Ten Commandments over and over again.

Would you say that you have you committed four sins a day? Have you told a little white lie, or said a curse word, or gossiped? Have you lusted or weren't sincere in what you said? Have you coveted after something which someone else had? Have you disobeyed your parents? Do you love God with all of your heart, mind and strength?

All of the above are only part of the sins the average person has committed many times.

If a person committed an average of five sins a day for twenty years, he would have stacked up 35,000 sins. The Bible states that if we do not forgive those who sinned against us then God will not forgive our sins. If God does not forgive our sins we will feel lonely, depressed and empty.

If one continues on in their un-forgiveness because of the hurt the person inflicted upon them, the problems become worse. +The person they are

angry at still dominates their lives and inflects more hurt upon the original hurt. The only way a person can be free of them and the hurt which they have inflicted upon you **is to forgive them**. +The moment a person forgives the offence then that person is free of the past and from their tormentor.

To forgive and to have God's great forgiveness is the first step a person takes in his life towards becoming an overcomer and living a victorious life.

THEY HAVE REJECTED GOD'S WILL

FRIDAY

The third reason people feel alone is there are countless masses that live a life of boredom and in essence are just existing. They have trusted Jesus for the forgiveness of sin, but refuse to trust Him as their Lord and boss. They are afraid to yield themselves fully to do the Lord's will. They walk a religious life and desire to be acceptable to their friends in the world. +This type of life offends the Holy Spirit who withdraws from blessing them. This causes the person to feel alone and empty. This type of person is in grave danger. Unless they repent and ask God to forgive them and yield to doing His will, they will make shipwreck of their lives. The grave warning of destruction to this type of person is found in Hebrews 10:38-39. Please read it yourself. The statement, "draw back to perdition",

means draw back to destruction. The statement, "to the saving of the soul", means the saving of the life of service.

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition, [destruction],; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul, [life of service]." Hebrews 10:38-39

The Christian who draws back from the purpose for which he was saved and becomes a friend of the world becomes the enemy of God. James 4:4 +"whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

Of all the people in the world who are cheating themselves, their families and the world, **these people are the worst**. They will not trust the loving Savior who loved them and died as their substitute while they were still His enemies. Now, when He is their loving Savior they will not trust Him enough to yield themselves unto His tender care and leadership. **What a tragedy**.

There are many who have bought into the philosophy that a Christian is a believer. Although they have accepted Christ as their Savior they are still unhappy and alone. THEIR PROBLEM; they attend church services but just sit. They sing, they listen to the sermons, they give and fellowship, but are still empty and unfulfilled. Why? **Christianity**

is a way of life. We are to go seeking sinners. We are to win the lost. There is no joy for sitters, for church attendees. The joy and fulfillment comes from doing. Even their favorite verse, II Timothy 2:15, declares,

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a WORKMAN that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

+A workman! Not a student or a teacher or a sitter.

Fourth, many people feel all alone and empty because +they have accepted religion and good works for salvation instead of accepting Jesus as their personal Savior.

Again, God is a good God and loves you. One will find that the more they learn about this good God, the more they will learn to love Him.

Please continue learning about life, its potential heartbreaks, and the total healing which God will give to all who will trust Him.

Chapter four deals with the reality of life and discusses various elements which hinder and hurt people. It also reveals man's greatest enemy and how he attacks and destroys his victims.

GOD IS A GOOD GOD DAILY DECLARATION

I will strive to learn the truth about God's goodness and mercy.

MEMORY VERSE

"The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works." Psalms 145:17

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
A.M.							
P.M.							

COMMITMENT

I will commit myself to learn the truth about who is behind all of my trouble and hurt.

NAME:	GRADE:
	58 P a g e

MONDAY

1. They believe	e that God	either		their
allowed it to ha				
2. Some are		toward	God be	cause
their				
3. The		experienc	e you	will
have				
your life.				
4. The Bible _		_ that God le	oved us	while
we were yet _				
5. The most far	mous verse	in the Bible		out
to the				
love.				
	TUES	SDAY		
1. He	and	undermine	s which	kills
2. The statem	nent, —et de	estroy", tak	es in	
wars,		-		
which			_	
3. The devil is which				_
and				

4. Just as a little baby	a human being
through a, so do	
spiritual life. One is born into than instant.	he physical realm in
5. This takes place	at a
time and just	
WEDNESD	AY
1. This statement that man n	•
abundantly means that God's w	vill is for to
be able to all of the te	
destruction and over	er them.
2. The Bible declares that God, and +this grace who trusts and	e is available to
3. You are and th	iere is no
person on the earth just like _	
4. that ye may wha acceptable, and,	t is that good, and of God."
Romans 12:1-2	
5. It may be difficult for you true are	
you.	

THURSDAY

1. the, to	of a human being is to be s take charge and get it done.	elf
2. many people God's love	e feel and do not hat and presence because on their part.	ive
3. But we are r you so badly. W your happiness. happiness.	not talking about himor what help we areaboutand most of allyour	_•••
4. The	their lives and inflects more hal hurt.	till urt
upon the origina	ıl hurt.	
	a person the offer n is of the a	
then that perso from their	n is of the a	ınd
	FRIDAY	
1. there are co	ountless masses that live a life	of
an	d in essence are just	
2. This type o	f life the Holy Spi	rit
who	from blessing them.	
3. "whosoever 1	therefore will be a of the	he
world is the	of God."	
4. A	_! Not a student or a teacher o	r a
•		

5. they have	religion and good works
for salvation instead of	Jesus as their
personal Savior.	

SEVEN LOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF LIFE

First - There is a God OR there is no God.

Second - If there is a God, THEN God made man¹

Third – If God made man, THEN He did so for a purpose.²

Fourth – If God made man, THEN there MUST BE A BOOK: which reveals that purpose to man.³

Fifth – If God **made man for a purpose**, THEN there must be a FUTURE DAY in which man will stand before his Creator and GIVE ACCOUNT of **how he fulfilled his purpose.**⁴

Sixth – If God made man for a purpose, then man will be rewarded or penalized in direct proportion as to HOW HE FULFILLED **that purpose.**⁵

Seventh - If all of the above is true, and God gives you life and continuance on this earth, THEN **He** has a rightful claim to your love and obedience!⁶

² Genesis 1:26-27

¹ Genesis 1:1

³ II Timothy 3:16-27

⁴ John 5:28-29

⁵ Ecclesiastes

⁶ I Corinthians 6:19-20

CHAPTER FOUR

THE REALITIES OF LIFE

MONDAY

+In our modern day world, almost everyone has the wrong concept of life. They believe that if everything is going good, that is evidence of God's blessings. If things are going bad, then one must have committed some sin which they are being punished for. Nothing could be further from the truth

LIFE IS NOT FAIR! Many times the best of Christians may be suffering more than anyone else'.

Whether things are going well or whether they are going poorly, it doesn't reveal God's blessings or God's disfavor.

There are at least five principles which are necessary in understanding the reality of life;

First, death, hurt, and disappointments come into everyone's life.

Second, mankind has an enemy who is dedicated to his destruction.

Third, the cruelty of the unchecked, depraved nature of man.

Fourth, God is supreme, and He has promised to work all things together for good to those who love Him.

Fifth, death does not end one's life. Physical +death only releases the eternal part, (real person), which continues its eternal journey.

A. DEATH, HURT, AND DISAPPOINTMENTS COME INTO EVERYONE'S LIFE

Being born and dying are a part of life. It happens to everyone. The Bible states that the sun shines upon both the just and the unjust. In fact, the Old Testament saint, Job, gave the summary of a man's life when he wrote, +"Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble." Job 14:1

The average person has a problem accepting that his life will be short on this earth. Somehow he feels that his life will continue on this earth forever. He views life as a stage where he will perform and become a superstar. He has not accepted the plain warning of God's word.

God attempts to alert man of his short journey across the pages of life by referring to the duration of our days as;

- A shadow which swiftly races along the ground, and then...gone.
- Life is like last night's sleep. It's over.
- Life is like a vapor. A little drop of water...the sun shines...gone.
- Life is like a puff of smoke...where did it go?

There are many similar comparisons, but the reader gets the point. The knowledge of the shortness of life causes the Psalmist to plead; "So teach us to **number our days**, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalms 90:12

MAN IS NOT BORN INTO A VACUUM

+Man is born into a world which is governed by Satan. In this life there are many contributing elements which can greatly hurt or bless a person. The person being born has nothing to do with his birth or the situation into which he is born. **Life is not fair**. There are many who have strong bodies and sharp minds that are born into good families, +while others seem to get the bitter dregs of life.

B. MANKIND HAS AN ENEMY WHO IS DEDICATED

TO HIS DESTRUCTION

TUESDAY

+This enemy is so subtle that he has convinced many in the world that he does not exist. People who deny the existence of man's great adversary remind me of the boxer who was being soundly defeated by the other fighter. Between each round he would stagger back into his corner and his manager would say, "You are winning!", "You did great!", and "Your opponent didn't lay a glove on you!"

After three or four rounds of repeating, "He didn't lay a glove on you", the beaten man gasped, "If he isn't laying a glove on me, will you watch the referee?" —Someone is beating the devil out of me!"

People may want to be politically correct and deny the existence of the devil, +but someone is soundly defeating them in their life.

IDENTIFYING MAN'S ENEMY AND HIS METHODS OF ATTACK

Paul admonishes the child of God, —Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:11. +The word, "wiles", means tricky devices or methods. If the devil is so successful in his methods of attack that he uses them against all people, then we can identify his methods and defeat them.

In verse twelve Paul makes it very clear who your major enemy is. Note his words;

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Ephesians 6:12

This fallen angel of light, +Lucifer, was subtle enough to **out maneuver the wisest man** on earth, Solomon, check mate him, and put him on his death bed with the knowledge that his kingdom and his life's work would be destroyed when he died.

He was strong enough to pluck out the eyes, and make Sampson who was the strongest man on earth, a slave to his enemies.

He even caused the chief apostle, Peter, to warm himself with his enemies and curse and deny his Lord on the day Jesus was crucified.

For this reason Paul tells the Christians, "to put on the whole armor of God", in order to defeat him.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace: Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ve shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" Ephesians 6.14 - 18

Peter describes the devil as a man-eating lion in search of another victim

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, **seeking whom he may devour**:" I Peter 5:8

In spite of the devil's power, +he is no match for the child of God if he recognizes him and **learns how to overcome his wiles**, or tricky, subtle methods

James explains in James 4:6-7, that although the child of God by himself is no match for the devil, he can defeat him.

"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

The statement, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you", means that the devil is really **nothing more than a bully**. A bully only picks on the old, defenseless, unsuspecting or smaller person. In the following verse, (8), the Bible commands, draw nigh to God, (Jesus), your big brother, and the devil will flee from you. In I John 4:4, the Bible tells why the child of God can defeat the devil. The child of God has the Holy Spirit who is more powerful than the world, or the devil living within his heart.

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he **that is** in **you**, than he that is in the world."

There are two other major verses which reveal the subtle attacks of the devil. Each of these verses reveals where and how the devil succeeds in destroying his victims. In Ephesians 6:16 it reveals

that the devil **shoots flaming darts of distraction into the unsuspecting victim's mind.** The devil shoots thoughts of;

Lust

Rebellion

Doubt

Suspicion

Conivings

And all types of excuses into the person's mind

THE DEVIL PULLS AN ARCHIE

WEDNESDAY

When I was a child of 5-7 years old our family lived on a farm. It was during the Great Depression, (1936-38). My grandmother Hill had died, and my grandfather's second wife was an evil, cunning woman. She had a son, Archie, who was 3 or 4 years older than I, and was just like his mother.

To illustrate the extent of the evilness of Archie and his mother, I will relate a devastating act on their part.

Grandpa Hill and his family were homeless and destitute. My dad, although very poor himself, bought them a tent to live in, (a very common practice during the depression), and gave them an acre of land for a garden.

My father plowed up the soil, and leveled and fertilized the field. He bought the seeds and helped them plant a beautiful garden. When the garden began to produce, grandpa got a job which caused him to move his family out of state. The garden would have yielded much produce which could have been canned or consumed by our family. Instead, Archie and his mother worked for two days, (undetected by our family), **pulling up every stalk of corn and plant in the garden.** My mother wept and grieved over their evil actions for several days.

Archie was very cunning as well as older than me. He would scheme in order to get me involved in a mischievous act. He was the planner and the instigator, but he would do it in a subtle way so I would get blamed, and get into trouble for doing it.

This seemed to be Archie's full time job, and how he got his kicks. He would do the act in such a subtle way that Jimmy, (me), became the fall guy, and would get in trouble. +Archie could lie with the innocence of an angel, which convinced the adults of my guilt.

This is exactly how the devil works on you. +He shoots all types of thoughts into your mind and makes you think that they are your own thoughts. Some of these thoughts are;

- Taste it, it won't do any harm to try it just once...
- No one will ever know...
- Everyone else is doing it...
- You will never know until you try it...
- If you don't like it, you can always stop...after all, you are in control.

The devil will keep on tempting a person until that person gives in and does it. Each time he will try to convince that person that it is, "fun." It may take him a long time, but he is patient. Each time he tries to get the person to venture a little further until he gets them hooked on an addiction or habit. Then the gentle con-artist turns into a vicious attack dog. The innocent temptations and thoughts now become flaming arrows of guilt, shame and self condemnation.

Some of the thoughts will be; "Look at you! Look at what you've done!" The devil, like Archie, now **sounds like the innocent angel** as he casts all of the blame, shame and guilt upon you.

The horrible fact is he will be back on the job attacking you tomorrow or the next day. You can count on him shooting the flaming arrows of hurt and self condemnation until one day it will build up

until he shoots thoughts of self destruction into your mind.

Remember, this is the devil's favorite method of attack which he uses on everyone.

In Ephesians 6:16 where Paul gives the method of the devil's attack, he also gives the method of defeating his attack.

He states, take the shield of faith, (word of God), wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts, (thoughts), of the wicked, (one). Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God simply means, resist the attack of the devil by using the word of God on him. Recognize Archie, I mean the cunning, lying devil and resist him. Draw nigh unto God and God will draw nigh unto you, and put the devil to flight.

The thoughts which come flooding into your mind are coming from an outside source, the devil. They are not your thoughts; they may be thoughts of doubt, lust or rebellion which are being placed there. Recognize their source, resist them and quench them by asking God to help you while claiming His promises in the Bible.

THE MONSTER BUILDER

Perhaps the most destructive method which the devil uses to destroy more marriages, friendships

and people is when **he builds a monster in people's minds**. The reader may be shocked at that statement, but remember Archie, I mean the devil, is very subtle. Please read over this startling revelation of the devil's most successful method of attack, several times.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" II Corinthians 10:3-5

PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

In order to understand the term, "strongholds", one will have to return to Bible days, an era of mighty castles. Castles would have towering walls which surrounded the city and protected the inhabitants with its walls. On top of most walls was another line of defense which towered several feet above the high walls which protected the city. These towers which jutted above the walls were called strongholds. **These strongholds seemed invincible**.

+These invincible strongholds which seem so real and unconquerable **ARE ONLY IMAGINARY**. They are only thoughts which the devil has shot into

one's mind, perhaps over a period of years of offence and hurt.

To the person who has these strongholds in their mind, they seem real. The devil took an offence and began to build upon that hurt until the hurts in one's life began to grow into more hurts and offences.

Marriages are destroyed by the strongholds of hurt that the devil has built in the couple's minds through provoking quarrels and harsh words. He finally convinces them that their marriage is beyond repair and that divorce is the only solution.

A scientific study of many marriages which ended in divorce showed that the couples couldn't even recall what started the problem which caused the divorce.

The most vivid Biblical example of strongholds which the devil builds in people's minds was during the wandering of the children of Israel in the wilderness. Twelve spies were sent to spy out the Promised Land. Ten of these spies returned back and gave a negative report that they could not conquer the land because of the giants which lived there. All of the later reports in the Bible of the size of these giants reveal some the size of Goliath which David slew

But the seven or eight foot giants begin to grow in the minds of the Jewish people. These giants became **ten foot giants**. The ten foot giants grew in

their minds to be **twelve foot giants**. These imaginary giants continue to grow in the people's minds until they were so huge that the poor little Jewish soldiers were the size of grasshoppers in comparison.

As farfetched as this true story sounds, the Jewish people were defeated and wandered in the wilderness for another thirty eight years because of the huge imaginary giants.

+They were defeated by an enemy which **only** existed in their imagination.

It is the author's firm conviction that at least 90% of the readers who read this information of the devil's most successful method of attack have a stronghold to some degree in their minds.

It may be the horrible stronghold of a broken, wounded self image which the devil began to construct when the person was only a child.

A happy, self confident +young wife may have had her self image and confidence destroyed by the verbal abuse of an angry husband. The husband furnished the building blocks which the devil used in **building the stronghold of doubt and uncertainty**.

The author has been trying to identify the methods of the devil which he uses so successfully on all people. Paul was very aware of the method the devil

uses and knew he must give his beloved friends in the Philippian church a way to defeat the attacks upon his cruel execution in the Roman prison. We will give a full chapter on how the devil works in order to vividly illustrate the source of most of the human race's problems in another chapter.

C. THE BRUTALITY OF MAN

THURSDAY

Man, when his depraved nature goes unchecked is vicious. There is no limit to the depth of evil and destruction which he will inflict on his fellow man.

A few years ago your author was aiding a missionary in establishing a church in a new suburb in Juarez, Mexico. He noticed dozens of extension cords attached to the overhead power lines. These extension cords lay upon the surface of the ground and went to the shacks where very poor people lived. Some of these cords would run two or three hundred yards to a house where it's electric energy gave power to the shack.

When my wife noticed the dozens of cords connected to the overhead lines and running completely exposed on the ground, she asked, "Isn't that dangerous?", to which the missionary replied, "Yes, but life here is very cheap."

In many areas of the world, life is very cheap. People are so busy in their efforts just to survive that they seem immune to the dangers around them.

As harsh as this reality is in the physical realm, +it is much harsher in the lives of many people who have been wounded by their fellow man.

Offense and hurt is so common that Jesus warned His disciples what they would face after His departure back to heaven. He had attempted to prepare His closest and most mature disciples so they would not be offended.

"These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended." John 16:1

In the Gospel of Luke he used even stronger words.

"Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones." Luke 17:1-2

Why would Jesus warn that it would be better for a millstone, (heavy weight), to be tied around the neck of a person and thrown into the ocean where the person would be drowned, rather than to offend a person?

The answer to this question is that when a person is harboring an unresolved offense, +it has the ability of not only destroying the person offended, but destroying millions of others also.

Some will react to the statement by saying, - No Way!" One little offense to a single person would not have the potential of corrupting vast multitudes of people."

As strange as that may seem, it is true. We will comment on how that is possible after drawing attention to some historical facts.

There are branches in the Muslim community which have been warring with each other for fourteen hundred years.

There is such bitterness in the hearts of some that they teach their children to hate other nationalities. +This hatred is so intense that small children become suicide bombers.

+When a person is deeply offended and does not deal with the offense, it soon grows into bitterness. This bitterness causes the person to become introverted and their focus becomes centered upon themselves and their hurt. Inwardly they become obsessed with their hurt which causes them to spew that hurt and poison out upon the family. Soon, like the famous feud between the Hatfield's and the McCoy's, it spreads to the whole clan. +Bitterness is the worst thing that can happen within a person.

The Bible confirms the spreading of bitterness and warns of its effect.

"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; **lest any root of bitterness** springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;" Hebrews 12:15

The depraved nature of man is very cruel, selfcentered and heartless and brings pain and destruction to many, many people. What makes the results worse is that innocent children whose nature is to love and trust are born into this destructive environment

In spite of the destructive enemy, (the devil), of man and man's depraved nature, God has made a way for a person to have peace and victory.

D. GOD IS SUPREME AND PROMISES TO WORK ALL THING TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE HIM

FRIDAY

Although God is the supreme, all powerful God of the universe, He allows the devil to tempt people. God gave the world **an operational manual** which reveals how the devil attacks and how these attacks can be turned into Spiritual growth and great

victories. It is not God's fault if most people do not recognize the Bible as their PERSONAL OPERATIONAL MANUAL and turn to other sources for relief and help.

+God's plan is to turn each temptation, problem or heartbreak into an opportunity for Spiritual growth, and to make the person stronger because of the experience.

He promises not to allow anything to happen to a person which he, by God's grace and help, cannot endure and overcome.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Corinthians 10:13

+This means that God has provided a fire escape to every fiery trial which the devil may impose on a person.

He promises to make every experience, which may linger on for a lifetime but in comparison to eternity is but a moment, work for the person's eternal good. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, + worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;" II Corinthians 4:17

He promises to make all things which may last for a lifetime work together for good to them that love Him. "And we know that **all things work together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

This is the reason He commands all people to judge nothing as a single event or before it's time. The event may be a process which will in the end prove to be a blessing in disguise.

We have the promise of the **God of all grace** who has called us to share in His eternal glory, to develop us into mature, happy people through the process of tribulations and sufferings.

+"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, **after that ye have suffered a while,** make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." I Peter 5-10

E. DEATH DOES NOT END ONE'S LIFE

Physical death does not end one's life, but only releases the eternal person, (soul), to continue its journey.

When God created man in His image and likeness, +man became an eternal being to have dominion over the earth. Genesis 1:26

WILT THOU BE MADE WHOLE? "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Much of what happens to Christians in this short lifetime of 70-80 years is in preparation to equip the person to rule with Christ in the 1000 year Millennial Kingdom.

In this chapter we have given some principles which the apostle Paul had already taught his beloved friends of the great Philippian church. In giving these principles we were attempting to prepare the hurting, betrayed and embittered people to be able to comprehend Paul's final message to the Philippians which brought them healing and lasting joy.

THE REALITIES OF LIFE

DAILY DECLARATION

As a member of the human race, with God's help I will strive to overcome all trials and hurts which confront me

MEMORY VERSE

"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." I Peter 5:10

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
A.M.							
P.M.							

COMMITMENT

I will strive to learn the purpose for my life and pursue it regardless of life's difficulties.

NAME:	GRADE:

MONDAY

14/ T
Wilt Thou be made Whole?
5. he is no for the child of God if he him and learns how to
his wiles , or tricky, subtle methods.
WEDNESDAY
1. Archie could with the of an angel, which the adults of my guilt.
2. He shoots all of thoughts into your and makes you think that they are your own
3. These invincible strongholds which seem so real and ARE ONLY
4. They were by an which only
5. young wife may have had her self and destroyed by the abuse of an angry husband.
THURSDAY
1. it is much in the of many people who have been by their fellow man.
2. it has the of not only destroying the offended, but destroying of

3. This _____ is so ____ that small children become _____ bombers.

others also.

4. When a persondeal with the bitterness.	on is,	offen it soon	ded and grows	does not
5 withi	is the _		thing	that can
	FRID	AY		
1. God's plan i s or growth	s to into an _	each ter	nptation, for	, problem Spiritual
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5. man becam ov			being	to have

Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire!

There are two spiritual powers which broadcast thoughts into your mind – One causes doubts, confusion and lies while the other appeals to man's nobler nature. Please consider the following question.

If you knew a slick tongue, lying cheating, con-artist who was working as a double agent for two opposing nations, would you believe anything he said?

The **Devil** is a lying, cheating, double tongued con-artist who works in the religious realm and has only one objective; **YOUR DESTRUCTION!**

CHAPTER FIVE

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE D.J.?

MONDAY

Most everyone who listens to the radio has a favorite disc jockey. +Their favorite D.J. is the one to whom they listen to the most.

There are two major networks that are licensed to broadcast into the Spiritual airways which interrupt your thoughts. The airway which dominates many people's mind is the airway which Satan's disc jockeys, (demons), air their clever attacks into the minds of their unsuspecting victims. There are three basic messages which the devils D.J.'s uses to discourage or destroy people, +most of whom have not the slightest idea that they are being influenced by AN OUTSIDE FORCE.

These D.J.'s have no power within themselves. +They depend on the **cooperation and** participation of the individual.

The top network D.J. is a demon which uses the **Archie technique**. This demon shoots mischievous thoughts into a person's mind of lust. He points out the pictures of a beer commercial sex pot or some scantily clad woman in a revealing outfit. This

Archie type demon begins to build a fantasy in the victim's mind. If the person under attack doesn't check the flow of sensual thoughts which this subtle demon continually shoots, then the person is weakening. Volley after volley of impure darts continue to be shot into his mind. The demon will shoot the images of the beer drinking and the light hearted suggestive scenes of fun that the devil's "CROWD" seem to be having. He makes it seem so innocent and fulfilling until +he cons the victim. (his willing partner), into habits and addictions which bind and destroy him. This cunning charmer begins to build dissatisfaction in the mind of a woman toward her husband. Every time he does not live up to her perfection, Silver Tongue Archie is there to point it out. He begins to point out the good things about the office wolf and plants sexual thoughts into her mind. Often times the end result is disaster

When this happens, and it may take years for this silver tongued charmer who has so successfully enticed the person into entrapment, +he then turns him over to a vicious demon named **Merciless Marcus**. **Merciless Marcus** then begins to beat and accuse the person of his total unworthiness. Through the victim's mind he shoots fiery darts of guilt and shame. His theme song is how totally void of any goodness the victim has. He makes the

victim think that all of his self condemnation is originating within himself. The thoughts turn to punishment. The sinful, wasted life that the devil accuses the person of living deserves punishment. In fact, he should die. He shoots into the victim's mind, —If you were half a person and had any courage at all, you would do your family and the whole world a favor by killing yourself." Many people take their lives by climbing into a bottle or into hard drugs. Some actually take their own physical lives by committing suicide. It took the devil, as a man eating lion, a long time to destroy his victim, but he finally succeeded.

VICTIMS OF ANOTHER KIND

TUESDAY

There are countless millions of people who are suffering at the hands of the devil. His method of attack is the same; +he works on them by attacking them through their minds also.

+These people have received horrible treatment from the world, circumstances, or from their own families.

There are many who suffer not only a broken heart, but a broken life and dream by the betrayal of their beloved spouse.

Others were raped by their own father or stepfather.

Some were lied to and cheated by the people or person whom they **trusted the most.**

Some had their **dearest person on earth murdered**, their life cut short under wicked circumstances.

Some had their life drastically altered by accident or sickness. **Their hopes and careers were dashed.**

There are so many scenarios of hurt and despair in this old troubled world that the author cannot begin to mention them all.

For these dear hurting people the devil has his expert team of D.J.s ready to attack them in a totally different way.

PITY PARTY PEARL AND SOMEONE DONE ME WRONG SONG SAM

The devil's top two artists which send out their propaganda in both word and music are; Pity Party Pearl and Someone Done Me Wrong Song Sam. Just as Silver Tongued Archie and Merciless Marcus used lustful images and pornographic pictures, Pity Party Pearl and Someone Done Me

Wrong Song Sam +use music and hurts from the past to capture their unsuspecting victims. +These two experts fuel the minds with discouragement and futility. They are very clever to increase their vast influence by playing to and feeding their suffering egos. Some folks love to be on a lifetime pity party. By being on their lifetime pity party they can justify their failures as a person in life. This is the goal of Pity Party Pearl.

Someone Done Me Wrong Song Sam loves the twang of +a lonely sounding guitar as background music to someone who is singing a sad someone done me wrong song. In fact, surveys taken of the music which was being listened to when people actually took their lives was western or hillbilly music.

MUSIC ENHANCES ONE'S MOOD WEDNESDAY

+It has been scientifically proven that music greatly enhances one's mood. The lonesome sound and words in some songs add to the listener's loneliness and depression. It takes one's mind back to the hurts of the past. Soon the person's mind is a captive of the past and is focused on people and events of the past.

One of the strange events of the ministry of Jesus DEALS WITH THE METHODS of Pity Party Pearl and Someone Done Me Wrong Song Sam.

Upon the call to service one person responded, "I will follow you, but **first let me bury the dead**." Jesus' answer shocks a lot of people and puzzles almost everyone. He said, "Let the dead bury the dead, you come and follow me."

Until one understands why Jesus would give an answer like that it seems cold and uncaring of Him.

The dead represents the past. +One cannot undo something which happened in the past. The past is dead and gone. Many people focus on the events and hurts of the past while neglecting their living members and their needs. The statement "Come and follow me", clarifies and is connected to, "let the dead bury the dead". What was Jesus doing when He made that statement? He was ministering to the **needs of the living**. Jesus is literally saying you cannot change or help the events of the past. (they are dead). Don't focus and lament over things which, "might have been different", in the past while +there are people all around you who need your love and encouragement now. When a person buries the past and focuses on the needs of those around him, he will soon be happy and whole again.

Pity Party Pearl and Someone Done Me Wrong Song Sam are +trying to keep their victim's minds on themselves and the hurt they suffered in the past. If they can only get their victim's minds focused on the past, they will not only destroy the victim, but the people dearest to them also. When Jesus stated, "Let the dead bury the dead." +He was revealing the method of stopping the devil's most successful attack. Deal with the past hurts by burying them and live your life in the present tense and help and love those around you. It will bring you healing.

THE DEVIL'S GREATEST D.J.

THURSDAY

The devil's greatest D.J. which captures more souls for hell than any of the other disc jockeys, **GOES TO CHURCH**. In fact, he is in church much more than any dedicated, faithful church member. +This D.J. does not attack people, **but he works to calm and reassure them**. You may be shocked at this revelation that the devil's most successful D.J. who captures more people and delivers them to hell is +a **demon who comforts, consoles and sends calming messages** over his network to his unsuspecting listener's minds.

He works constantly to get people to go to church, help the poor and do good works. He even stimulates them into doing charitable works and touches their hearts when they see victims of floods, storms or other disasters. +He prompts them to pray more and steers them away from sinful places and practices by warning them that people go to hell for doing such things.

The name of this disc jockey is Saint Religious **Exhorter**. He works with people +who are very religious and are depending on their good works to get them to heaven. The devil has already captured these poor victims and has convinced them that good people go to heaven and bad people go to hell. This is the reason that Saint Religious Exhorter is so successful. He takes advantage of the fact that man is religious by nature and encourages them to be zealous in their religious walk. He encourages them to believe in a literal hell and a blissful heaven. Many of them believe that Jesus is the Son of God. They believe that He died on the cross and rose again on the third day. They believe in the resurrection and that He will come again.

Since these people are in church where portions of the Bible are taught, the Holy Spirit convicts and reveals to them that something is wrong in their

lives. They become more conscious that they have sinned and become concerned about going to hell.

+It is at this point that Saint Religious Exhorter shoots calming thoughts into their minds by saying;

- *You are OK, you have been baptized
- *You are not a bad person
- *Everyone makes mistakes
- *Those sins were just little sins, besides, you receive the sacraments
- *You just need to try a little harder...pray a little more
- *You are not as bad as most people...etc.

Saint Religious Exhorter continues his effort of stopping God's efforts of helping the sinner who sees himself as a lost sinner who needs a Savior constantly. If he loses the battle with the sinner to the point that the sinner begins contemplating becoming a born-again Christian he switches his method of attack. He will whisper in the person's ear, "Sure you need to be saved, but not now. You don't want to be a hypocrite like other professed

Christians. Make sure you are ready to live it."—Put it off until you are sure." Some listen to him by putting off their decision and are now weeping and suffering in hell.

WORRY-WART WILLIE

Worry-Wart Willie, uses the same method that Satan used to get Adam and Eve to rebel against God.

He undermines and gets people to question and doubt God's Word.

Worry-Wart Willie constantly questions and casts doubt into the mind of people so they will ignore and disobey God's inspired Word.

God who cannot lie and who took an oath upon his own honor that he would not lie, gives an absolute promise in his Word. **Worry-Wart Willie** shoots thoughts into the persons mind asserting that God did not mean what he said. Some of the thoughts he shoots into one's mind are;

- God didn't really mean what you thought he said.
- God is to loving to chastise you.

 God won't even see you do it – after all, he is so busy – He's GOD

My dad used to say about some people who were habitual liars; —That person would climb a tree in order to tell a lie when he could just stand on the ground and tell the truth!

That is also true about some people. They would climb a tree in order **to worry** when they could just stand on the Word of God and be calm and happy.

Worry-Wart Willie is behind all those thoughts which causes a person to worry and fret. They have become victims and addicted to Worry-Wart Willie's propaganda.

Why pray? when you can worry? Seem to be their life style which is stimulated by **Worry-Wart Willie**.

Worry is the opposite to having faith and manifests disrespect for God's Word.

Worry breaks down ones nervous system and ends many persons lives prematurely. Worry cost millions of dollars in doctor bills and caused offence and hurt to other people.

A normal evening can be ruined by the worrying and fretting of a mother or parent.

Which is a better way to live? Trust the Word of a loving God who has already proven his love for you by giving his son to die on the cross or believing the thoughts of doubts and confusion which are shot into your mind by the devil's successful D.J., **Worry-Wart Willie.**

THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS

FRIDAY

God is not willing that any should perish, (go to hell), but all come to Him, (in repentance). +He works at all time to help people to see that **they do not need to do more religious things**, but **they need Christ**. He strives to show them that the gift of God is eternal life. That **until they receive Him into their hearts** they will never feel secure and be satisfied. They will always have this emptiness and feel they must do more.

Saint Religious Exhorter always shoots thoughts into the person's mind who become concerned about their Spiritual condition. +These thoughts are to contradict the workings of the Holy Spirit who is trying to penetrate their minds and show them the Bible truth. +One is not saved from hell by doing their religious things or good works. One is saved from hell totally by God's grace and mercy.

—Forby grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

One of the saddest facts is that millions of people struggle with the questions; :Have I done enough to go to heaven?" "Am I good enough?" "I know I have sinned, but no one is perfect...I'll try to be good." "I do believe in God...God is merciful and He will understand...I hope?"

Dear friends, those are all thoughts which **Saint Religious Exhorter**, the devils most successful disc jockey has shot into your mind. They are designed to console and insulate the person so he will not make a real effort to learn the truth and get saved from hell

God's plain message to you is; "You must be born again in order to be saved from hell and go to heaven"

Don't you think it would be wiser to listen to God's word than to listen to some thoughts which have been shot into your mind? Especially when you consider that God has already proved that He loves you by giving His Son on the cross to pay for your sins.

HELLO FROM HEAVEN

The second network which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week is the Heavenly network which broadcasts to all people, especially God's children

+Just as the success of the devil's network **depends on the individual's voluntary participation**, so does God's network. Perhaps the saddest tragedy that your author observes is when God holds out a hand which would turn victims of the devil **into victors of God, only to be ignored**. He tells those hurting people, —6me unto me and I will give you rest. I love you and am waiting to help you. In other words, the victims of the devil do not realize that there is an alternative network of peace and hope. They are constantly bombarded by negative and despairing lies and false propaganda from the devil's disc jockeys.

God's network works a little different from the devils. The devil is constantly trying to invade people's minds and distract them through their thoughts. +God communicates more through His life manual, (the Bible), which serves as a defense against the attacks of the devil. In addition, the Word of God gives comfort and directs one to the solutions of life's problems.

This means that if a person wants to overcome the attacks of the devil that he must become a reader of the Word of God. By placing the Word of God in one's mind it gives the Holy Spirit the ability to aid the person more fully when the devil attacks.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE D.J.?

DAILY DECLARATION

I will strive to recognize the attacks of the devil when he shoots thoughts into my mind, and resist him

MEMORY VERSE

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
A.M.							
P.M.							

COMMITMENT

I will study the Bible in order to be better equipped when the devil attacks me.

NAME:	GRADE:		
	108 P a g e		

MONDAY

1. Their favorite D.J. is the one to whom they to the
2. most of whom have the
idea that they are being by AN OUTSIDE FORCE.
3. They depend on the and of the individual.
4. he the victim, (his partner),
5. he then him over to a demon named Merciless Marcus .
TUESDAY
1. he works on them by them also.
2. These people have received
treatment from the,,
or from their families.
3. use and from the past to
capture their victims.
4. These two experts the minds with and futility.

5.	a		soundin	ıg guitaı	as backg	ground	
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		FJ	RIDA	Y		
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FIVE TRANSFORMATIONAL PRINCIPLES

In order to help people overcome their hurts and problems they must be convinced of five transformational principles.

First, They must be convinced that God loves them and wants them to be happy.

Second, They must be convinced that things are not always what they seem to be.

Third, They must be convinced that adversities often prove to be beneficial to a person.

Fourth, They must be convinced to look at things from God's perspective.

Fifth, They must be convinced how to overcome the attacks of the Devil in order to live a victorious life.

CHAPTER SIX

PAUL CHOSE JOY INSTEAD OF BITTERNESS

MONDAY

The book of Philippians, written to the church of Philippi is filled with many great nuggets, and one profound mystery. Paul, the writer is an old man who is in prison where he is expected to be executed. His health is poor. His body is aching. In a time when he should have been honored he is locked up as a common criminal and condemned to be executed. +If anyone ever had a right to be bitter, it was Paul. But from his prison cell comes an unexpected choice.

The mystery which puzzles so many people is how could Paul, a prisoner, be so happy? He expressed his joy and happiness more in this letter to the Philippians than in any other of the thirteen books which he has written. In this small letter which is divided into 104 verses 10% of them proclaim joy or praise. This old man who had given his life to serve others has been lied about and betrayed. Because of their lies he is locked up like a common criminal and is suffering because of the chains which bind him. He has been taken from the

comforts of friends and family and thrust into a hostile environment among his enemies. To top all of that he has been condemned to die. What was his crime? Loving and helping people? Human reasoning dictates that he should be angry. His natural reaction should be one of complaining. But instead of anger, complaining and bitterness comes a song of praise and thanksgiving. +There is no one reading these words that has been more mistreated than Paul. If anyone ever had a right to be angry and bitter it was Paul. But instead, he thinks of others and writes a letter which would save them from bitterness and destruction. Examine the statements of joy in this letter.

THE STATEMENTS OF JOY

As one reads through this short book of only four chapters, there are expressions of joy found in every one of them

Chapter One: Although a prisoner in chains Paul rejoices because Christ is preached by both Paul's beloved preacher brethren, and by those who were instrumental in putting him in jail. This caused Paul to rejoice, and he stated that he would continue to rejoice. His exact words were, "And I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice." Philippians 1:18

Chapter Two: He knew he would soon be executed but in verse fifteen Paul said the Philippians were shining as lights in a crooked and perverse nation as they held out the Word of life. He continued; "Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me." Philippians 17-18

Chapter Three: The aged Paul starts the third chapter by saying, "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord." Later in verse three, "worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus"

Chapter Four: In verse four Paul commands his church family in Philippi to; +"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."

Remember, these words came from a man who is in prison because of the lies of false brethren. His final words about rejoicing are found in verse 10 where he said, "But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly"

+These few passages cannot capture the joy and victory that possesses the heart of God's great servant as revealed in the whole letter Paul is

writing to his dear beloved friends that make up the church. But why, what is the secret of his great joy?

HIS SECRET OF JOY HAS BEEN OVERLOOKED

Most people who teach from the verses of the Philippian letter attribute the joy Paul is experiencing to his nature that he was a happy, Spirit filled man, **and he was**. Others examine Paul's love for the people of the church and the fact that they would share in the great fruit and rewards of his ministry because of their prayers and giving. They point to Philippians 4:17 to prove their claim. The verse states;

Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account."

Paul testified of his joy for their support in Philippians 4:10, but there is another cause for Paul's unbelievable joy while suffering, being chained, and in the Roman prison.

+This joy was fueled by events that **Paul experienced every day**. There are two verses which reveal this joy that are often read, but not absolved.

PAUL'S LONGTIME BURDEN AND DESIRE

TUESDAY

Paul had been a missionary for many, many years. He had won a Roman soldier or two as he preached here and there. He had witnessed to Felix, King Agrippa, and other prominent Roman leaders, but his great burden longed to break into the heart and soul of Rome. He could visualize the tremendous spread of the Gospel if only he could win some key leaders in the Roman army, but his every effort seemed to fail. His great heart's desire seemed to parallel his great burden for his own beloved Jewish countrymen, (Romans 9:1-4 and Romans 10:1-4), but each time it looked like his prayers were going to be realized, came another setback and failure.

AN OLD FASHIONED CHURCH SPLIT

Then it happened! Paul's prayer was answered. His prayer for a breakthrough in winning vast numbers of Roman soldiers did not come from a great sweeping revival or a Spiritual awakening. His prayer to have a Spiritual breakthrough in penetrating the whole world-wide spreading of the

Gospel throughout the Roman army +came about through something similar to an old fashioned church split.

Your author does not know many details of the split among the brethren, but in studying the details of the four chapters of the Philippian letter, he is confident that it happened. Perhaps, his work with various churches and fellowships for sixty years has contributed to this insight.

Please read Paul's words in Philippians 1:12-19;

would ve should understand, "But I brethren, that +the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel: So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence ofgospel. the +What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and

I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,"

In studying these verses one can see a drastic split among the brethren. Many of the brethren on Paul's side preached with new power and boldness, (Verse 14), while those who opposed Paul and somehow had a part in his imprisonment, preached with little or no sincerity (Verse 16). But their preaching did cause people to accept Christ. They may not have had the right motive for preaching, but they had the right message which God blessed.

GOD PULLED ANOTHER JOSEPH

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery because of envy. Here we have Paul revealing that his opposition had the same envy and was doing the same thing. Just as Joseph's words comforted his brothers years later by the statement, +"You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good," Paul states the same principle only in different words in verse twelve. "The things which happened unto me, [put into the Roman prison], have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;"

Paul is stating in plain English that +the great desire of his heart to have a major breakthrough into the

This is the source of his great and continual joy. The statement, "turn to my account", means that in the record kept in heaven, Paul would receive partial reward for the many souls which were being saved because his life was inspiring other preachers

TWO KEY VERSES

WEDNESDAY

The two key verses which are often overlooked which teach this truth are Philippians 1:13; "So that my bonds in Christ are manifest **in all the palace**, and in all other places;" and Philippians 4:22; +"All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of **Caesar's household**."

Please consider the significance of these two verses and the joy Paul received from each victory.

+Paul's prison room became THE BIRTHPLACE FOR NEW SPIRITUAL BABIES. He was guarded by the elite soldiers of the Roman army. These soldiers were chosen for their clean cut and precise conditioning. They were the brightest and bravest of the whole Roman army. They could withstand and overcome the fiercest attacks and odds until they encountered the humble, Spirit filled little general in King Jesus' army. They were no match for God's

powerful onslaught of the Gospel and the convicting of their sins. God's love and mercy soon had converted Paul's hardened enemies into his loving Spiritual children.

Soldier after soldier were converted. Then, Paul reached an officer. Imagine what would happen if the commander of Caesar's elite army came, and in the middle of the night accepted Jesus as his Savior. He would then bring his whole staff, and dozens would be saved.

+Soon soldiers which Paul had won were transferred to Egypt, then to other outposts throughout the Roman Empire. Soon these new converts were spreading the Gospel in many places. Caesar's servants were being saved. Throughout the palace many became Christians, who became flaming evangelists!

+The brightest and bravest soon had surrendered their hearts to King Jesus.

Paul's joy was overflowing. He was jubilant, but in the back of his mind he thought of the wounded Saints back home in the Philippian church. They were angry at the treacherous people who had caused their Spiritual father and friend to, in their minds, be placed in prison where he would die! Those people back home were angry and suffering.

They were mad and very resentful towards Paul's false brethren who so injured and harmed the one they loved so dearly. Paul was the preacher who had started their church and won them to Christ. —Or old pastor in chains...our old beloved saint suffering in prison...because of that wicked bunch..." These are the thoughts which tormented the Phillipian church.

Paul knew exactly how his beloved members back home were feeling. He knew that +the hurting, angry loved ones would soon become bitter, and that bitterness WOULD DESTROY THEM.

This knowledge caused Paul to write this letter to the hurting people he loved so much. In order to heal their hurting, broken hearts, he had to straighten out their perception of what happened and get them focused on God's will and purpose.

Paul revealed five principles which totally transformed them. We will reveal two of the principles in this chapter and the final three in the remainder of this writing.

First, he convinced them of his love and confidence.

Second, he convinced them that things are not always what they seem to be.

Third, he convinced them that adversities often prove beneficial to the person.

Fourth, He convinced them to learn to look at things from God's perspective.

Fifth, He convinced them how they could overcome all future attacks of Satan and live a victorious life.

HE STILL LOVED THEM AND PRAYED FOR THEM CONSTANTLY

THURSDAY

Paul knew that his friends who were worrying about his state and physical condition had to be reassured of his love, well being and happiness.

+This letter is an example of a person in dire straits who ignores his own personal problems in order to reassure those back home of his love for them and of his well being.

Paul's love, care and confidence for them begins in chapter one, verse two. This is followed by verses sprinkled throughout the whole letter stating his personal love for them. +He tells them over and over again of his desire to see them, and of his hope to return to them once again. The words from Paul

must have found a soft spot in the hearts of his Philippian church family. Study them carefully and you will see why. +Notice that Paul expresses absolute confidence in them and that God would continue the great work they were doing.

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" Philippians 1:2-6

"The Lord who had begun a good work in them", referred the minds and hearts of His loved ones to previous days of their conversions and to the great spiritual blessings they had already experienced. +But Philippians 4:19 promises that God was going to take care of all their future needs. Read that tremendous promise, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Paul knew his friends who missed him so much would treasure this letter and read it over and over

again. His last words to them before he closed his reassuring letter were;

+"the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, Amen".

THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM TO BE

FRIDAY

Secondly, in the first chapter Paul begins to neutralize their hurt and anger by +telling them that **things are not always what they seem to be**. Instead of a bad thing happening to him, (being thrown in prison), a good thing happened to him, (he was guarded by the elite soldiers of Rome twenty-four hours a day). His long time prayer for the salvation of the Roman army was taking place.

+God used the wicked plot and lies of the false brethren for the furtherance, (advancement), of the Gospel.

Paul could have shouted, BOY DID HE!! Everyone in Caesar's palace and in many other places people know about Jesus now!" +We are having a major revival in the headquarters of the Roman Empire and it is spreading worldwide.

Another good thing, which on the surface looked bad, is that out of the harsh words and broken fellowship among the brethren, came a surge of winning souls. Paul testified that, —my dear preacher friends who supported and helped me have seen the masses of Roman soldiers getting saved and are preaching with new boldness and courage." The false brethren that caused all the trouble have seen God's blessing upon our ministry and are ashamed of the poor results of their own efforts. As a result they are working harder and preaching with more fervor also. It is at that point that Paul seems to stop and praise the Lord by saying, +"and I therein do rejoice, yea and will rejoice."

It became very clear to the Philippian members that Paul being sent to jail, +although it looked like a very awful thing, was a blessing in disguise.

Truly God works in mysterious ways!

PAUL CHOSE JOY INSTEAD OF BITTERNESS

DAILY DECLARATION

I will strive to look for God's hand in all situations which will arise in my life.

MEMORY VERSE

—Forur light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;" II Corinthians 4:17

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
A.M.							
P.M.							

COMMITMENT

I will strive to walk by faith and trust God's love and His promises for my life.

NAME:	GRADE:	
	127 P a g e	

MONDAY

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AN OLD COUNTRY SAYING

There is an old country adage which had taught millions how to have peaceful minds and live a successful life. One must get it into their hearts as well as in their minds for it to be successful

"For every evil under the sun
There is a remedy or there is
none
If there is, seek until you find it
If there is not, then NEVER MIND
IT!"

CHAPTER SEVEN

BITTERNESS TRANSFORMED

MONDAY

It is obvious that there was not any un-forgiveness or bitterness in the Apostle Paul's heart even though there was ample cause. He had been lied about and betrayed by people who were supposed to have been his friends

A man who was honored and revered by countless thousands in many countries was now wearing prison chains and waiting for his soon execution. +He was old, living in pain and was an inmate in a Roman prison far from family and friends. From his darkened hole which became his final home on earth came a letter of joy and transformation. But this man's work, who had championed pain and bitterness, was not finished. His dear spiritual children and closest loved ones back home were angry and upset over the cruel and unjust treatment he was experiencing. He had to transform that anger and resentment into joy and victory before he was executed.

In the last chapter we showed that Paul began this process by reassuring them of his love and

confidence. He also reminded them that things are not always what they seem to be.

In this chapter we will show principles three and four.

A PATTERN FOR THE FUTURE

The third principle Paul convinced them of was that adversities often prove beneficial to the person

Fourth, He convinced them to learn to look at things from God's perspective.

PAUL'S INSPIRED LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Paul was not a psychologist or a trained counselor. He was an instrument under the direction of the Holy Spirit. +God was the one directing Paul to write this inspired letter to his hurting and worried friends back in his sponsoring church. This fact adds much credence to the words Paul is writing. He knew that the first thing his friends needed was reassurance from their old beloved pastor. Note the five principles Paul used in comforting and reassuring his brethren in the church. These same five principles will work in solving the problems which hurting people have today.

ADVERSITIES OFTEN PROVE TO BE A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

The third task Paul had to convince his grieving friends of back home was that often times +adversities become very beneficial to a person. He knew what they were worrying about back home. They were afraid that Paul, an old man, would get sick and die. Or worse, would be tortured and executed. Paul had to show them that his arrest, the pain and suffering of prison life, and even his execution would benefit him tremendously.

PAUL REFERS TO HIS PAIN AND DEATH

Paul. in his letter to the Philippians, (Philippians1:20-25), talks about his pain and suffering. He indicated that he was ready to die. He not only was ready to die, but desired to die. He said it would be far better for him personally to die and go on to heaven, but it was God's will, for their sakes, for him to live a little longer. Can you imagine how touching the following words to Paul's worried friends were. Paul, sick and longing to die and go to heaven had their interest at heart. +He didn't want to die until he knew they were over his evil treatment.

-Acording to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but [that] with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ: which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh [is] more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;" Philippians 1.20-25

After introducing his pain and suffering in the above verses he continues on through the first chapter telling them not to be fearful and that everything was being controlled by God. Then in chapter two he seems, from a casual view point, to change the subject. But instead of changing the subject he is introducing +a very important point to prove that adversities and suffering often prove very beneficial to the person suffering through them.

Jesus, a perfect example

TUESDAY

In chapter two Paul **does not** abruptly change the subject from the benefit of suffering adversities. On the contrary he introduces the greatest example of one suffering adversities that has ever happened. He used the example of Jesus. He writes;

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore, [because of this], God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:5-11

In plain simple language the suffering, pain, shame and death of Jesus seemed on the surface, to be the

greatest tragedy and miscarriage of justice ever witnessed, +but in reality it proved to be the greatest blessing that the human race has ever experienced.

PAUL'S GREAT JEWISH HERITAGE

In Philippians 3:4-9 Paul tells of his early life and Jewish heritage. Of all the religious people of his day Paul may have been counted as the best example of keeping the religious creed and commandment of anyone on the earth. But the man who kept the Ten Commandments and all ceremonial laws and holy days of Israel said +he counted it but dung or waste compared to meeting and receiving Christ as his Saviour.

After telling the people of the Church at Philippi the contrast between being a perfect religious person and knowing Jesus as his personal Saviour, Paul gets back to the subject of **things are not always what they seem**. Out of adversities comes great benefits and victories.

He has driven home his point that Christ as an obedient Son was rewarded by his Father and given a name above every name. Why did His Father give Him this lofty position? +It was because of the adversity and suffering of the Cross.

It was at this point Paul revealed the secret of his heart. It was at this point Paul revealed what he had BEEN PRAYING AND WORKING FOR. This secret is contained in verse ten, the verse states;

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"

Please especially note the statement "the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death"

Paul is saying, "I want to suffer like Jesus suffered and die like Jesus died." Why would Paul desire and pray that he would be allowed to suffer for Jesus sake and die as Jesus died?

Paul has already illustrated His point when he referred to the death, (suffering), of Jesus and the great results, (reward), of that suffering.

Paul wrote to Timothy that, +" if we suffer with him, [Jesus], we will reign with him."

In verse eleven Paul states that he is striving for a prominent place in the resurrection. In verse fourteen he states that he was even exerting muscle and was willing to do everything to obtain the prize.

Paul reasoned that since it took the suffering of Jesus and his death on the cross to obtain the lofty prize and reward, then **praise the Lord,** God was answering his prayer. Paul knew he was suffering like his Saviour suffered and that he would soon die and be with his Saviour.

In simple terms Paul is saying to his dear friends, the evil actions of our false brethren were used of God to be **an answer to my prayers**. I have fellowship with Jesus through suffering and I will soon be conformed, (die like), to His death.

Through this revelation Paul had convinced his person that out of great adversities often comes **great blessings**. Paul knew that his beloved people back in Philippi could see that the evil actions of the false brethren had been the means by which God had answered Paul's prayer.

My dear friends, this is also true concerning the hurts and problems in your life. They may seem much worse than what they really are and by turning them over to God; +you too may see that out of adversity comes great benefits.

Paul convinced them to look at things

From God's prospective WEDNESDAY

The fourth great principle which Paul convinced his dear friends of was; examine your lives in the light of God's perspective. Man was made in the image and likeness of God who is an eternal being. +This means that **man is also an eternal being**. Contrary to the general view of man that his physical life time is a long adventure in which man lives on and on, his physical life time on this earth is very short and most do not live their full allotted time of 70 to 80 years. Those that do live past their 80th birthday according to the Bible; +"yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Psalms 90:10

+God describes man's life time on this earth as **a puff of smoke**, or **last night's sleep** or **vapor** which vanishes as soon as the morning sun hits it.

The Bible teaches that man's wrong beliefs cause him to have wrong thinking. Even though it is accepted in human circles, it needs to be cleansed, (corrected), by "the washing of the word [Bible]"

(Ephesians 5:26). People are to study man's life manual, (the Bible), which is an eternal book, in order to learn to think properly. Paul wrote to the Romans that in order to have their thinking as, "eternal beings", they needed to renew their minds by reading God's eternal book which instructs them, as "eternal beings."

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:2

From a human view point

The people of Philippi were human beings and viewed Paul's terrible treatment at the hands of false brethren as if Paul was a family member. They responded in a natural way as a human normally reacts to what seemed to be a tragedy and a grave miscarriage of Justice. When the problem occurred they became angry, upset and overwhelmed by the unexpected event. Paul had to get them to remember **they were eternal beings** and to get them to +renew, (change), their thought pattern and look at what had happened to him **in the light of eternity**. They had to view what happened to Paul, not in the light of +what was good for him short

term, but what was best for Paul in the eternal realm.

He reminded them of earlier teachings

THURSDAY

It was easier for the people in the Philippian church to comprehend these principles more than most people in our 21st century. +They had been taught that Jesus would return and set up his millennial kingdom and rule this earth for 1000 years in peace and righteousness. That event could happen at any time. +Most of the early Christians expected Jesus to interrupt their life by coming back.

They had been taught to;

First, to seek first the kingdom of God (Matt 6:33)

Second, to pray daily for His kingdom to come (Luke 11:2-3)

Third, to look for the kingdom and "His glorious appearing" (Titus 2:11-13)

Paul is the same person who started the Colossians church where he taught;

+ "Set your affection **on things above**, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:2

Paul is the same person who started the Corinthian church and as a result they were looking for the imminent Second Coming of Christ.

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we,[the living saints], shall be changed." I Corinthians 15:51-52

Later he told the same Corinthian church that, "our light affliction, [adversity], which is just for a moment, [compared to eternity], worketh a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory [for our good]." II Corinthians 4:17

Then in the following verse he further +explains that people should learn to look at things from God's perspective;

"While we **look not** at the things **which are seen**, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal,[just a few days]; but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18

There are several other places in the Bible that strive to teach man to look and live his life in the light of this eternal truth. But let us be specific and examine how Paul captured the minds of the Philippians and +brought their thinking from the human, earthly perspective, to be in harmony with God's eternal thinking.

Their minds were PROJECTED toward the MILLENNIAL REIGN

FRIDAY

The people of the Philippian church had been taught to look for and expect the imminent second coming of Christ. +His coming was real to them and was constantly in their thoughts. Since the kingdom of 1000 years started immediately after the resurrection, followed by the judgment seat of Christ, (awards banquet), the people clearly understood what Paul was teaching.

Paul was saying that he was still working, praying and suffering in order to complete his life's purpose and ministry +which would give him a prominent position in the resurrection and 1000 year reign. In verse fourteen, Paul states that he was straining every muscle as he worked to obtain the prize of

being first, (in order), in the upward calling, (resurrection), of God in Christ Jesus.

Please read Philippians 3:20-21 and Philippians 4:1 together in order to understand why Paul was so happy while suffering the rigors of prison life. He would soon see his Saviour either through His coming or through death. Paul writes;

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also **we look for the Saviour**, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Philippians 3:20-21

-Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved." Philippians 4:1

Please note verse one and +observe how Paul combines kingship and his dear friends together at the future awards banquet.

People in our generation may read right over the words, "My joy and crown" but the people to whom he was writing would treasure and look forward to the great event when they would be part of the huge multitude of people whom their beloved

Paul had won. He would rule and reign as king over part of the earth for 1000 years and they, and this is what thrilled the Philippians, would be right by his side. Oh what joy and peace this must have brought to their hearts because they were looking for and expecting Jesus to come back at any moment. They reasoned; +if Paul doesn't come back and see us physically we will see him in the rapture, which may happen at any moment.

Paul had greatly healed the hurts of his beloved church by helping them see that his suffering and death was aiding him in fulfilling his desire to be closer to Jesus, his beloved Saviour.

The church split had lost much of its hurt as the people learned that through it, God was using it to promote Paul to his kingship which would last for at least 1000 years. And praise the Lord, they would be right by His side for all of that glorious time!

There is no doubt that +Paul had been successful in securing the minds of the Philippians to view their lives as God views them, which was for their eternal GOOD, and not for their immediate pleasure.

God had used Paul to transform the Philippians from bitterness to peace and vision for the future. This left just one more need that the

Philippians had. That need? How to have complete victory over their arch enemy, the Devil.

BITTERNESS TRANSFORMED

DAILY DECLARATION

When things are dark in my life I will look for the light of direction of God found in His Word.

MEMORY VERSE

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
A.M.							
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COMMITMENT

I will strive to learn to look at things from God's perspective.

NAME:	GRADE:

MONDAY

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FRIDAY
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5. Paul had been successful in the minds of the Philippians to their lives as God them,
151 D

E-MAIL'S TO GOD

E-Mail From a World Leader:

Dear God,

Why don't you stop all the wars in the world?

Dear World Leader,

I didn't start them. -God

E-Mail From a Puzzled Parent:

Dear God,

Why don't you stop all the High School shootings?

Dear Puzzled Parent:

Remember, I am not allowed in schools anymore. – God

E-Mail From a Single Parent:

Dear God,

Why did you let my marriage break-up? Dear Single Parent:

I gave you a manual for preserving your marriage, but you did not read it. - God

E-MAIL From a Troubled Soul:

Dear God.

I've got a problem! Help!

Dear Troubled Soul,

I've been waiting for you to call. Let's get together. I want to help! - God

CHAPTER EIGHT

CHANGE THE DUMB CHANNEL

MONDAY

When the angry and hurting Philippians received Paul's letter that was filled with his expression of love for them it greatly calmed their anger and lifted their spirits.

As the Philippians progress through the letter his friends could see, as strange as it may seem, that +the betrayal and lies of the false brethren was used of God to become a blessing to Paul. They learned the lesson that +things were not always what they appeared to be.

Paul begins to reveal his pain and suffering which he was experiencing there in prison, to the extent that he longed to die and go to Heaven. But +because of their condition it was necessary for him to live a little longer. He then reminded them of the obedience of Jesus to suffer the pains of death and hell on the cross. Because of this +God had lifted him to the highest position of glory of anyone both in heaven and on earth.

Paul may have startled them by confessing that he wanted to have the, "fellowship of His suffering",

meaning to suffer like Jesus and be conformed, (die like), to His death. He explained that the reason for this desire was so he would have a position of nearness to Jesus in the coming 1000 year reign. They were thrilled that during that time they would be permitted to serve with and near him in his lofty new position.

PAUL'S THREE MAJOR GOALS

Paul had three major goals in writing his letter to the Philippians.

First; +he wanted to comfort them and get them over their anger and hurt. It was obvious that he had achieved that goal.

Second, he wanted to reenlist them to serve Christ zealously once again.

Third, he wanted them to have complete victory in their lives by teaching them how to control their thoughts.

ENLIST THEM AS ZEALOUS CO-WORKERS AGAIN

TUESDAY

In the turmoil and trouble the Philippians had experienced +they had turned their attention from the work of the ministry. The devil had completely distracted them by getting them totally focused on Paul and his imprisonment. Paul wanted to do more than comfort his friends; +he wanted to enlist them as active participants in his ministry once again. In the final chapter of his letter to them, (vs.5), he reminded them that they were the only church that had supported him, (financially), in the past. He said, "that ye sent once and again unto my necessity" then Paul quickly added, "not because I desire a gift, but I desire fruit that may abound to your account, [in heaven]."

Please give careful consideration to the meaning of what Paul said;

- ÄNot that I desire a gift,[money]"

 Paul first gave the negative of why he wanted them to give. It was **not** that he wanted the gifts just to get their money.
- •"But I desire fruit that may abound to your account"

Paul is stating in a positive way why he wanted their support, (money). +It was because they, (Paul and the Philippians), were a missionary team. Each soul Paul won to the Lord, part of the reward for that soul being saved would be credited in the Bank of Heaven, to their account.

- Note the word, "fruit"
 Using the word, "fruit", in reference to people being saved.
- Note the word, + "abound", which literally means to grow to a state of multiplication. We will illustrate the word, "abound", with the following example;

If one would take one kernel of corn and plant it, that one kernel of corn would produce one ear of corn with as many as 350-400 kernels on it. If one would shell that ear of corn and plant each kernel, the following spring +he would have 350-400 stalks of corn which would each produce between 350-400 more stalks of corn. If they would shell each ear of corn and plant each of the kernels, then one could visualize what the word, "abound", means.

A PERSONAL ILLUSTRATION

WEDNESDAY

Perhaps a personal illustration of, "fruit that may abound", would help one to see Paul's point.

The author won four of his brothers who became pastors. Together the five of us have preached over 215 years with several new churches started and many souls saved in Canada, Mexico, the Philippines, as well as in the U.S.

Some of the men God enabled the author to win became pastors or missionaries. +One man had souls saved in America, Russia, China, Thailand and England. Two others have served in Mexico for several decades and started several churches.

Another has won people to the Lord across America, in Thailand and in Laos.

Another won souls in Korea and has pastored prominent churches in the U.S.

A lady has taught thousands to win souls while still another is +head of an online college that has over 1800 extension schools with over 20,000 students.

These few obedient servants of the Lord perfectly illustrate what the word, "abound", means. It all

started with one obedient person but soon led to thousands of people being saved.

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Jesus gave the parable of the sower and said that the good ground, in Matthew 13, would produce as much as 100 fold. +The good ground represents the heart of a good Christian. Their investment in supporting Paul had the possibility of producing 100 fold or 10,000% interest. +Instead of the 10,000% interest, Paul was rejoicing because of the thousands of souls being saved.

In this one illustration Paul is giving the Philippians +a vivid account of what **their team work was producing.** He was also informing them of how grateful he was for their part in the great revival which was spreading throughout the Roman Empire.

With these informative bits of information the Philippians could obey Paul's admonishing of, "Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say rejoice." (Philippians 4:4)

But Paul's work in helping the Philippians obtain complete victory was not over yet.

SWITCH THE DUMB CHANNEL

THURSDAY

When a person watches television and something comes on the channel which he is watching he doesn't sit there and endure the grief, **he switches the dumb channel!** This is exactly how one is able to defeat the grief which the devil is trying to inflict on him. Turn the devil's D.J. off by switching to, "Hello from Heaven"

When the clever and silver tongued +Archie shoots thoughts into one's mind of temptation or lust, **change the dumb channel!** Turn on the, "Hello from Heaven" network and hear, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

When **Merciless Marcus** invades your thoughts by accusing you of some sin which you have already confessed and gotten forgiveness for in the past don't put up with his junk. **Switch the channel** by turning to God's, "Hello from Heaven" network for His reassuring words of comfort and peace. One can greatly enhance the defeat of the attacks of the devil by eliminating worldly music and replacing it with old time hymns and praise C.D.'s.

When Pity Party Pearl comes softly into your mind by reminding you of a past hurt, don't dwell

on it. **Turn the dumb channel** by thinking of some Scripture or singing a song.

When **Someone Done Me Wrong Song +Sam** sends a lonesome song into your mind that begins to make you feel sad, don't listen to his doom and gloom. **Turn the dumb channel** to, "Hello from Heaven." God has promised to give you peace, power and victory.

Remember, the choice is yours. +You can continue to let the devil invade your mind, or you can put him to flight by changing the channel.

I am reminded of an incident in the life of my son, Lyndol. Lyndol was seven or eight years old, but very small for his age. He walked to school each day and had to cross over an interstate walkway in order to get to his school. A bully which was a year or two older than Lyndol and much larger, would meet Lyndol at the entrance over the interstate and extort his lunch money by saying, " If you don't give it to me, I will beat you up." Lyndol would hand over his lunch money. Lyndol's mother noted that Lyndol was very hungry when he came from school. After observing his hunger for three or four days she inquired why he was so hungry. After much coaxing she got him to tell her of the bully threats and the extortions. When I came home from church that day his mother had Lyndol tell me.

After listening to his fearful confession, I had Lyndol take his fist and hit me as hard as he could in my uplifted palm.

I lifted my hand again and ordered, "Hit me again! Hit me again!" "Now picture the bully's nose in my hand." "In the morning when the bully approaches you for your money, hit him in the nose as hard as you can and he will cry and run from you." The next afternoon a jubilant little boy ran all the way home to report his triumph over the bully.

I was teaching on how the devil attacks a Christian the next Wednesday night and said, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." Instantly a strange thing happened. Lyndol who was sitting on the front pew shot his little hand up. It was so unusual that I stopped my teaching and said, "What is it Lyndol?" He answered, "You mean you resist the devil by punching him in the nose?" I replied, "That's right son, you resist the devil by punching him in the nose by quoting Scripture."

+The devil will run when you learn to punch him in the nose. Remember, you are the victor if you really want to be.

COMPLETE VICTORY

We have finally come to the process which brought complete victory to the Philippians. It will also work for anyone who will try it.

It is much simpler in Paul's letter than it has been in this writing. In Paul's letter he was writing to the mature Christians. In this writing I have to try to write to all people, especially those that are suffering, many of which do not have a background in the Bible. Especially, a knowledge of their worst enemy and how he works. Your author has written in a vivid way, even inventing special demons and how they work. +Their names may be imaginary, but the way they work are real. The Holy Spirit is also real and the way He works is drawing people's minds to His written word which is a person's weapon against the attacks of the devil.

THOUGHT CONTROL

FRIDAY

One of +the major points in this book is that a **person can control their thoughts**. It may be difficult for some to believe this because the devil has been so successful in combat through his attacks. He has convinced the person of his lack of self worth and taken captive their mind.

But the absolute teaching of the Bible is that a person has the ability to control his thoughts.

This is the final piece in Paul's instruction to the Philippians which would give them complete mastery over the attacks of the devil.

Paul knew that upon his death the devil would begin his assault upon the Philippians' minds once again. He would try to create anger and bitterness against Paul's false brethren who betrayed him.

Paul's final admonishment to the Philippians is found in Philippians 4:8-9, where +he gives them a list of subjects which they can switch the channel to when the devil attacks.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, THINK ON THESE THINGS. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, DO: and the God of peace shall be with you." Philippians 4:8-9

+When the devil attacks you with falsehoods ...think on things that are TRUE.

When the devil attacks you with lies...think on things which are HONEST.

When the devil attacks you with the gruesome details of Paul's execution...+think and picture Paul REJOICING IN HEAVEN, AWAITING HIS REWARD. Those thoughts would be just, pure, lovely and of good report, and WORTHY OF PRAISE.

In simple everyday language, when the devil attacks you...switch the dumb channel by thinking on good and healthy things in your life or future life.

Paul completed his instruction of **switching the channel** to other wholesome thoughts by stating; if the thoughts persist and continue to invade your mind over and over again, then +get up and busy yourself with something wholesome and good. **Get up and do something** which you've seen in my life or that I taught. In our modern day one may want to memorize Scripture or do the laundry or ride the exercise bike. The old song, —**G**unt your blessings, name them one by one", is a scriptural solution. But the promise Paul gave the Philippians is also your promise.

He said, if you **switch the channel** or do something I taught you...you will have complete victory over the attacks of the devil and the "God of peace will be with you."

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Dear reader, the choice is yours. You have a choice and control of how you will live. You can continue

on in your hurts and let them direct your life or you can apply the principles and live a happier life, or...you can master these principles and live the life God has designed for you to live.

You can become a champion and live a happy victorious life and fulfill your life's purpose.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS! CHANGE THE DUMB CHANNEL

DAILY DECLARATION

I will strive to walk by faith because God is working for my eternal Good.

MEMORY VERSE

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." I John 4:4

CHECK AFTER REPEATING

CHECK BLOCK AFTER REPEATING

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A.M.							
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COMMITMENT

I will commit myself to t	the Lord in order to become
a victor over all things in	n my life.
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to the course main page to take the Final Test.

My Name is I AM

I was regretting the past And fearing the future. Suddenly my Lord was speaking My name is, I AM.

HE PAUSED...I WAITED...HE CONTINUED...

When you live in the past
With its mistakes and regrets.
It is hard, I am not there
My name is not, I was.

HE PAUSED...I WAITED...HE CONTINUED...

When you live in the future With its problems and fears. It is hard, I am not there My name is not, I will be.

HE PAUSED...I WAITED...HE CONTINUED...

But when you live "this moment"
It is not hard.
I am here
My name is, I AM.

Now you pause He is waiting Your friend. I AM

NOW BE COMFORTED BY, I AM.

Author's Note: "I AM" is the name God chose for Himself and denoted He is always present.

EPILOGUE

You have discovered your primary need

Some of you as you read these principle discovered what your primary or first need is...you have never accepted Jesus as your personal Saviour. You may be a morally good person and even attend church, but you do not know Jesus in a personal way.

Others may have doubted their personal standing with God for a long time.

NOW IS THE TIME

Now, wherever you are sitting, it is time to settle these doubts and make sure you have a personal relationship with God.

First, think of the sins in your life and admit you are a sinner (Romans 3:23).

Second, realize according to God's Word, the Bible that if you should die today, you would be separated from God in Hell forever.

Third, realize that God loves you and gave His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and has already paid for your sins (Romans 5:8).

Fourth, God has promised that anyone who understand that he is separated from Him by his sins and who will asks Him to accept the death of Jesus as payment of his sins, will be forgiven (Romans 10:13)

Fifth, now bow your head repenting from your sins, honestly repeat this prayer:

Dear God.

I know that I am a sinner. Please forgive me of my sins and save me from Hell.

Jesus, please come into my heart. I now accept you as my Saviour, and from this day on, I will live for you.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

Jesus made this promise,

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, YE SHALL BE FREE INDEED" (John 8:36).

Again, the Bible promises "Whosoever (you) shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (from hell) (Romans 10:13).

Now, you are truly free! Obey the command of Jesus, "Follow me" (Matthew 8:22), and you will be freed from the past.

Look to Jesus for your daily needs and you will have a bright future! You will become one of the hurting masses who met the Healer and was made whole!

Contact The Author

If you have further needs you are invited to contact the author. He has several other books which would prove to be of great help. Some of them are educational while others are motivational. Please visit our website at www.jameswilkins.org