

**THE PROBLEM SOLVING DEVICES OF THE
CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE**

By

William T. Pauley

Grace Memorial Bible Church

Most problems as people identify them are listed as financial, marital, family, interaction with people and so forth. These, however, are not the real problem: they are small parts of deeper and more serious problems. Nevertheless, we can all agree on this: we all have problems.

Generally, people want someone else to solve their problems for them. And, when they give up the privilege and opportunity to solve their own problems, they actually become slaves to someone else's soul.

This is an absolute principle: YOU MUST LIVE FROM THE SOURCE OF YOUR OWN SOUL? Thus, you must learn to solve problems from the resources you have within your soul or you become a slave to someone else, whether that person be a pastor, counselor, psychologist, psychiatrist, parent, friend, relative or whatever.

God has not created you to become anyone's slave but His. He has created you free and given you free will/volition. He wants you to remain free.

Furthermore, when you allow someone else to solve your problems, you actually intensify your problems by adding the problems of the people from whom you seek advice to your own problems.

The good news is this: YOU CAN LEARN TO SOLVE YOUR OWN PROBLEMS by means of the utilization of the PROBLEM SOLVING DEVICES of the Christian Way of Life. These have been designed by God, your Creator and provided to you in the inerrant, infallible Word of God, Bible Doctrine. You have also been given by the same grace, all that is necessary to learn these devices.

If you're going to discover these, you're going to be going against the grain of the average thinking of people today. What's more, you're going to have to transform your own thinking. Most people want instant or short-term solutions - nothing that cuts into their time - and simple, convenient solutions - nothing that makes too great a demand upon them.

Thus, most people will go through their entire lives with either their problems unsolved, getting progressively worse, or they will spend their lives running from one quick-fix to another, never solving anything but compounding the problems.

The solution is found in the metabolization of Bible Doctrine by the individual believer (the study, concentration on, and then application or obedience to it). The breakdown comes when either Doctrine is not being taught consistently in their local church, or they are ignorant or apathetic to it when it is taught, or they reject doctrine which is correctly communicated to them. In any case, Bible Doctrine is not being heard.

There are several symptoms which result:

1. The believer emphasizes the relationship with people over relationship with God.

2. The believer attempts to live the Christian Way of Life through human power and ability rather than Divine Power.

3. The believer has no concept of the Plan of God - what God is doing during this dispensation - and thus he concludes that the world is revolving around him rather than God.

4. Furthermore, he is totally ignorant of the fantastic invisible assets provided by God the Father in eternity past, and he has no knowledge of how to avail himself of these assets.

5. Nor does he understand that God has also prepared for him an escrow account filled with blessing which God can only give him in this life and can only be given him when he reaches spiritual adulthood.

6. The principle of suffering in the Christian Way of Life. He is always subjective about it and doesn't comprehend:

- a) suffering for correction
- b) providential preventative suffering
- c) suffering under momentum testing
- d) suffering as evidence testing. (see Doctrinal Handbook: THE DOCTRINE

OF SUFFERING.)

7. The "bottom line" is that he goes through life totally confused and he never understands just what's happening to him. And, of course, he doesn't know how to handle problems in his life.

Everyone should know that they're going to have problems and yet in their arrogance they fail to prepare for facing these problems by ignoring the only source of information, Bible Doctrine.

Suppose you were in an airplane and it was necessary for you to fly it or crash. Could you just sit behind the wheel and fly that plane? I doubt it! That only happens in the movies. Never having flown a plane you would be overwhelmed by all the instruments; you wouldn't know what to do first.

Yet most born-again believers expect to somehow under a magic trick from God, solve all problems as they come up, without putting one tiny bit of doctrinal information into their souls. They expect everything to be automatic; they want an automated plan from God in which they just push a button, wave a wand, sprinkle some holy water and everything will be alright

It just doesn't work that way. God has designed a method by which the believer may meet and solve every exigency of life. But, the Plan of Clod is not automated. It takes study, study, study - under, your right pastor until you can think Bible Doctrine while under pressure.

The glorious thing about learning, the problem solving devices is that it is not done in human power or ability. Divine power is guaranteed to every believer in the provision of the indwelling Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the eternal Godhead who provides omnipotence to the believer

to execute the Plan of God. Further omnipotence comes from the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12: "FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING AND OMNIPOTENT..."). That power is transferred from the pages of the Bible by the teaching of a pastor/teacher to the soul of the believer by means of the communication of Bible Doctrine. And, it comes by means of thought. You use this to solve problems.

Your choice: human dynamics (used by about 95% of all believers) which cannot solve problems, or Divine Power.

The following are teaching notes; when taught in Bible classes, this "skeleton" is filled with a plethora of illustrations and explanations. The audio and video cassettes of these classes are available without charge.

Everything has a technical vocabulary whether it's in baking a cake or dealing with computers. It is impossible to communicate effectively unless the reader is willing to learn that vocabulary. It is arrogant to assume that you can immediately understand the deeper things about God and His Word without learning the specialized vocabulary. As you grow spiritually, you must learn certain words, terms, and phrases which communicate spiritual truth. In these studies you will encounter terms which are unfamiliar to you unless you are accustomed to studying under my ministry. I suggest that when you come to something which you do not understand, and which is not fully explained in the context, that you go right on and get the most out of what is being studied. If you stick with it, eventually it will become clear to you.

An unbeliever can definitely not understand spiritual things. 1 Corinthians 2:14 The only solution to that is to "BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THOU SHALT BE SAVED." Acts 16:31

The believer must confess all known sin to the Lord (1 John 1:9) in order to be controlled by the Holy Spirit and taught by Him.

Acknowledgement is hereby given to the invaluable ministry of R. B. Thieme Jr., pastor of Berachah Church in Houston, Texas. Nevertheless, I assume full responsibility for the contents.

May God bless your study of this wonderful subject.

Pastor Bill Pauley

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. PROBLEM AREAS
- II. PROBLEM SOLVING DEVICE #1 – REBOUND
- III. #2 – THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- IV. #3 – THE FAITH REST TECHNIQUE
- V. #4 – ORIENTATION TO GRACE
- VI. #5 – ORIENTATION TO BIBLE DOCTRINE
- VII. #6 – PERSONAL LOVE FOR GOD THE FATHER
- VIII. #7 – IMPERSONAL LOVE FOR ALL MANKIND
- IX. #8 – UTILIZING THE HAPPINESS OF GOD
- X. #9 – A PERSONAL SENSE OF DESTINY
- XI. #10 – OCCUPATION WITH THE PERSON OF CHRIST
- XII. CONCLUSION

PROBLEM AREAS

I. Introduction

A. The Classification of Problems

1. Categorical problems: those related to sins and emotions in the life of the believer. These are caused by:

a. Ignorance or disobedience to the revealed Word of God, i.e. Bible Doctrine.

b. Resultant ignorance of the problem solving devices.

2. Functional problems related to the believer's operation inside the Plan of God.

B. Categorical problems emphasize the malfunction of the spiritual life of the believer. These are:

1. Distractions brought on by self and others.

2. Fear and other problems brought on by emotions controlling the soul.

3. Rejection

4. Dying

5. Timing

6. People

7. Thoughts – and the Old Sin Nature

8. Rotten systems

9. Disasters

10. Prosperity

C. The problems related to function are:

1. The believer places his relationship with people over his relationship with God.

2. The believer attempts to execute the Plan of God with human power, talent, intelligence, ability rather than through Divine power.

3. The believer's ignorance of the Biblical subject of love results in failure to execute the Divine mandates regarding love in Scripture.

4. The believer's failure to metabolize Bible doctrine.

D. Solutions are best understood when problems are defined. Until one can define the problem, he can't apply a solution. Therefore, it is necessary to have a general concept about the various problems in life.

II. Problems Related to Distraction

A. Distraction has two categories:

1. Related to self, and

2. Related to others.

B. Distractions related to self begin with mental attitude sins.

1. Every believer is a walking potential for destroying his own life. All he need do is to use his own free will/volition to sin, exit the Divine Dynasphere and enter the Cosmic/World/Darkness System.

2. Distractions related to self begin with the ability to concentrate and the things which he allows to break his concentration. Regardless of one's IQ, unless one learns to concentrate, he is unable to organize himself, and from this he is unable to set up a system of priorities.

3. Arrogance is the greatest distraction in life to one's self. It causes not only self-induced misery, but it also causes everyone else in one's periphery to be miserable.

Prov 16:18: "ARROGANCE PRECEEDS DESTRUCTION AND BEFORE A FALL (failure) IS A LIFESTYLE OF ARROGANCE."

Prov 11:2: "WHEN ARROGANCE COMES INTO THE LIFE, WITH IT COMES DISHONOR, BUT WITH THE HUMBLE IS WISDOM (this is genuine humility at gate #3 of the Divine dynasphere).

Prov 29:23: "A PERSON'S ARROGANCE WILL BRING HIM LOW, BUT A LIFESTYLE OF HUMILITY WILL ATTAIN HONOR."

Humility + concentration = an automatic winner in life whatever one's objectives are.

James 4:6: “(After salvation) HE GIVES GREATER GRACE (super grace). THEREFORE, HE DECLARES (quoting Prov 3:34) ‘GOD MAKES WAR AGAINST THE ARROGANT, BUT HE GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE BELIEVER.’”

1 Peter 5:5,6: “GOD MAKES WAR AGAINST THE ARROGANT BUT HE GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. THEREFORE, BECOME ORIENTED TO GRACE, HUMBLE YOURSELVES UNDER THE POWERFUL HAND OF GOD, THAT HE MAY PROMOTE YOU AT THE PROPER TIME.”

Romans 12:3 “FOR I SAY THROUGH THE GRACE GIVEN TO ME TO EVERYONE AMONG YOU (Orientation to Grace is a problem solving device), ‘STOP THINKING OF SELF IN TERMS OF ARROGANCE (distraction related to self), BEYOND WHAT YOU OUGHT TO THINK (spiritual self-esteem), BUT THINK IN TERMS OF PRUDENCE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEING WITHOUT ILLUSION, AS GOD HAS ASSIGNED TO EACH ONE OF US A STANDARD OF THINKING (which is grace).”

One great reason that arrogance is so destructive is that it is the mental attitude that says, “I don’t need Bible doctrine on a daily basis.” It’s only as a believer feels sufficient in himself, with his own resources, adequate for every problem, that he allows himself to become distracted from concentration on the most important thing in life: Bible doctrine.

4. Arrogance causes the disintegration, collapse, breakdown of one’s thoughts, motives, norms and standards and behavior pattern.

5. While the believer causes his own misery, he usually blames someone else; it’s always someone else’s fault.

6. The volitional decision to sin causes the believer to become involved in degeneracy, according to the trend of his Old Sin Nature: either moral degeneracy, toward legalism and self-righteousness, or immoral degeneracy, toward lawlessness, rebellion and lasciviousness.

7. Momentum in the Christian Way of Life demands thought. In order to grow up spiritually, one must think Bible doctrine in both learning and applying. In thought distraction (mental attitude sins) the problem is negative volitional decisions concerning Bible doctrine.

a. As a distraction from Bible Doctrine, negative volition is a subtle detour from the truth.

b. Not everyone who goes negative blatantly rejects the message of Bible Doctrine.

c. Some believers agree with everything the Pastor Teacher communicates and are tenacious in attending Bible class, but they are negative because they are subjective and think only in terms of themselves.

d. When a believer is preoccupied with himself, thought distraction comes when he shifts his attention from doctrine to himself and he becomes hypersensitive.

e. If a believer hears a specific doctrine taught and it speaks to him personally, the question is will he react against it, or will he seek to understand the truth objectively and if it is applicable, then to obey it, thanking God for it.

f. If he enters into reaction, he loses all objectivity and distorts the Word of God to rationalize conclusions which often defy common sense.

(Example: Why would any believer think that his pastor is out to HURT him? Even the most stupid pastor wants to help his flock. Nevertheless, many believers insist that the pastor teacher is out to hurt them and they become angry, vindictive, etc.)

g. The hypersensitive believer refuses to concentrate on Bible doctrine but rather goes off half-cocked, involving himself in operation overthink, reacting against what's been taught, and thus he is unable to apply that doctrine to his own experience.

h. His preoccupation with himself often makes him stick with Bible class though he has no genuine interest or love for the truth. This stubbornness passes for positive volition but it isn't the same. However, he's locked into inordinate concern for what others think of him, and wanting them to think he's growing, he continues to attend even though he is on negative volition and not benefiting from the teaching from the Word of God because of negative volition.

i. The believer also faces thought distraction when a point of doctrine runs counter to his personal opinions or something he has been previously taught by some well respected teacher.

j. His personal prejudices and preconceived notions are challenged, but instead of responding with intelligence and objectivity, he reacts with subjectivity and antagonism toward the doctrine taught and toward the communicator of that doctrine, the pastor/teacher.

8. Thought distraction may also come when what is taught is more advanced than one's current frame of reference can handle and thus he doesn't understand it. Rather than this becoming a distraction, it should become a challenge but arrogance concludes otherwise.

a. In the process of spiritual growth, one develops a frame of reference.

b. The more one knows, the more one can learn because doctrine is built on doctrine.

c. When a principle is taught which is more advanced than one's current frame of reference, obviously he will not understand it.

d. The problem is negative volition caused by ignorance. One is ignorant but fails to accept that fact. The wrong reaction is to reject the truth one doesn't understand and to denounce the pastor/teacher who teaches it.

e. Once a person flunks this distraction test because of reaction, he stops his spiritual growth at that point. In order to pass the test, the believer must reserve judgment. Though unable to understand a particular point of doctrine, one must be humble enough to realize that he has a lot to learn.

f. Eventually the believer will, as he continues to learn doctrine, construct a frame of reference which will enable him to learn and understand more and more.

g. One builds a frame of reference by concentrating on what is being taught in order to be able to understand as much of the concept as possible without agreement or disagreement, whether it is new or not. **ONE MUST HAVE RECEPTIVE COMPREHENSION BEFORE ONE HAS FULL UNDERSTANDING IN THE SOUL.**

h. As one advances spiritually, every doctrine one learns is built on one's full understanding of a previous doctrine studied and stored in one's frame of reference.

i. As one's point of reference expands, he will integrate doctrines which seemed difficult at the time with other doctrines learned in the interim.

j. Throughout one's life one will always have questions about various points of doctrine. All of God's word is meant to be understood since it is revelation, not obscurity. Therefore, setting aside concepts one doesn't understand and continuing to take in doctrine, eventually all questions will be resolved. (Then, OTHER questions will take their place.)

PRINCIPLE: ONE NEVER RUNS OUT OF THINGS TO LEARN. SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS A DYNAMIC PROCESS OF INCREASING YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND INTEGRATING DOCTRINE WITH DOCTRINE.

9. The believer can also become distracted by attempting to reconcile Bible doctrine with his favorite academic subject. This is similar to having a limited doctrinal frame of reference but in this case, the believer has a secular rather than religious background. Therefore, he has studied theories of psychology, sociology, anthropology, biology, or even the physical sciences... and these may run contrary in some points to the teaching of doctrine. The conflict exists either because the doctrine is misunderstood or because scientific theory is incomplete or in error.

PRINCIPLE: THINKING OF TRUTH IS THE BELIEVER'S ONLY DEFENSE AGAINST THINKING THAT IS FALSE.

If the believer lacks a fresh inventory of truth which will ward off acceptance of false ideas, Bible doctrine in the soul becomes “rusty” when not maintained by the fresh daily intake of doctrine based on self-motivation.

10. Distraction is a problem which arises because of the basic conflict between the Divine dynasphere and the Cosmic/World/Darkness System. Using his inside agent, the old sin nature, the Devil challenges the believer on a regular basis **INSIDE HIS OWN SOUL**. Therefore, one of the major areas of distraction for the believer takes place inside of himself by the attacks of the Old Sin Nature. Rom 7:15-25a

a. Objectivity from gate #2 of the Divine dynasphere insulates the believer against the Old Sin Nature.

b. The filling of the holy spirit also produces wisdom to discern what’s going on in your soul.

11. There are distractions which appear to be from without but in reality are within. There will always be pressures from family, business, appointments – **LEGITIMATE THINGS WHICH NEED TO BE DONE** – and these are in every life. In truth, they are within the soul, because the believer allows them to be there.

Psalm 86:11: “TEACH ME YOUR WAY, O YAHWEH, I WANT TO WALK IN YOUR DOCTRINE; BRING ALL MY SOUL INTO UNISON SO THAT IT MAY HAVE REVERENCE FOR YOUR CHARACTER.”

The Psalmist is praying, as one commentator put it, “Allow my soul to no longer scatter itself on a multiplicity of objects, to be drawn hither and thither by a thousand different aims; but turn all its powers, all its affections in one direction, collect them in one focus and make them all one in You.”

BEWARE OF THE BARRENNESS OF A BUSY LIFE!

The very character of complicated living mitigates against concentration on Bible doctrine. The believer can simplify life by making a firm, irrevocable decision that God and doctrine will be first, and then everything will fall into place behind it.

C. There are also several distractions related to people.

1. The first is in judging others. When one believer sets himself up as the judge and jury of other people, and then interprets the Bible to suit their own prejudices, they judge, malign, criticize and run down other people.

2. **PRINCIPLE: A BELIEVER CANNOT BE OCCUPIED WITH THE SINS, FLAWS OR FAILURES OF OTHERS AND AT THE SAME TIME EXECUTE THE PLAN OF GOD FOR HIS OWN LIFE.**

a. Spiritual advance requires concentration. The believer's concentration must be on doctrine and not on other people.

b. All believers sin after salvation; because a believer's sins are of a different type, the danger is to assume that their sins are worse and this gives the believer a right to judge, malign, criticize, gossip, etc.

c. Often young believers who are judged by an "older" believer is neutralized in spiritual childhood because of spiritual bullies. They seek to live their lives to those people rather than as unto the Lord.

d. Remember, judging other believers is the prerogative of God and He alone. Rom 14

e. PRINCIPLE: THE SINS OF OTHER BELIEVERS ARE TO BE LEFT IN THE HANDS OF THE LORD.

f. PRINCIPLE: IF BELIEVERS WERE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT LEARNING BIBLE DOCTRINE, THEY WOULD BE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT STICKING THEIR NOSES INTO THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

g. PRINCIPLE: WHEN A BELIEVER THINKS HE SEES TOO MUCH OF ANOTHER BELIEVER'S SINS, HE COMES BLIND TO HIS OWN SINS, RESULTING IN ARROGANT SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS. Matt 7:11ff

3. Reaction to people who are antagonistic.

a. A personality conflict can develop into deep-seated hatred, revenge motivation and tactics and the arrogance of complete insensitivity.

b. It is true that antagonism, misunderstanding, slander and disappointment do come from people. They may cause a great deal of suffering in one's life.

c. However, undeserved suffering is suffering for blessing and always has a positive purpose.

d. It is important to be sure that these people are not antagonistic with good reason. Almost everyone will allege that they are being persecuted for righteousness' sake and will hardly ever admit to any other motivation.

1 Peter 2:19,20: "FOR IT IS COMMENDABLE IF A MAN BEARS UP UNDER THE PAIN OF JUST SUFFERING BECAUSE HE IS CONSCIOUS OF GOD. BUT HOW IS IT TO YOUR CREDIT IF YOU RECEIVE A BEATING FOR DOING WRONG AND ENDURE IT? BUT IF YOU SUFFER FOR DOING GOOD AND ENDURE IT, THIS IS COMMENDABLE BEFORE GOD.

1 Peter 3:14: “BUT IF YOU SUFFER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE (4CC= I wish it were true but it isn't) HAPPY ARE YOU! BE NOT AFFECTED BY FEAR BY THE FEAR THEY STRIVE TO INSPIRE IN YOUR HEART, NOR BE TROUBLED. (now back to vs. 13: AND (seeing that God takes such good care of the righteous) WHO IS THE ONE (really) HARMING YOU IF YOU BURN WITH DESIRE TO DO GOOD?”

e. Often the suffering is deserved because of stupidity, insensitivity, arrogance, etc.

f. When the believer is tempted to react with Mental Attitude Sins, he is tempted to allow people to distract him from doctrine.

g. Mental Attitude Sins are followed by conspiracy arrogance and then by criminal arrogance with plans to “get even.” He is moved into reversionism by means of distraction from doctrine.

4. Distractions caused by people to whom one is attracted.

a. Personal love for another member of the human race, no matter how attractive they may be, is not a virtue.

b. If one's personal love is not reciprocated, or if the person you love in some way becomes a disappointment, reaction sets in.

c. If the object of your attraction fails you, it will cause disillusionment or disappointment and it can result in distraction from doctrine.

d. Another type of distraction occurs when the one to whom one is attracted goes negative toward doctrine, and because of the attraction the believer follows along. Many a believer has been led astray by someone he finds attractive and fascinating.

e. Social life with people can become a disastrous distraction if it interferes with one's social life with God. Many times their demands for time and attention or their plans including you, conflict with your regular social life with God... either at Bible class or personal study of the Word of God, and your priorities are such that you allow that to happen.

f. Young people may be distracted by physical attraction for a member of the opposite sex who is either not a born again Christian or not positive toward doctrine. 2 Cor 6.

g. People distraction can also attack through being attracted to a particular teacher of false doctrine because of his personality. 2 Cor 10,11

III. Fear and Other Problems Brought On By Emotions

A. Scripture commands the believer not to be filled with fear. Deut 31:6-8; Isa 41:10; 2 Tim 1:7; 1 John 4:18

B. Fear, worry, anxiety are contradictions to God's plan for the life of the believer. Contradictions can't exist in the Plan of God. No believer can possibly fulfill God's will or plan as long as he is in a state of fear or worry. The believer in fear loses his escrow blessing for time and eternity.

C. See the Doctrine of Fear.

IV. The Problem of Rejection

A. There are several areas in which one may be the object of real or imagined rejection. For example:

1. Friendship
2. Romance
3. Marriage
4. Parents
5. Siblings
6. Social life
7. Peers
8. Rejection on the basis of appearance (the nerd syndrome)
9. Employer/business/profession

10. Believers in a certain group, church whose trend in their Old Sin Nature differs from yours.

B. Illustrations

1. Father rejected son – Jacob in Gen 25:21-28
2. Siblings rejected Joseph in Gen 37:2-11

3. Moses was rejected by Israel when he first wanted to become their liberator... 40 years of rejection. Even God rejected his leadership at that time (see Timing below). Exodus 1-3.

4. Many times one thinks, "If I were just perfect, then no one would reject me." BUT, our Lord Jesus Christ was perfect in every way, and yet He was despised and rejected of men. (Isa 53:3).

C. Definition of rejection: "to refuse to acknowledge, to believe, to receive, to decline to accept, to refuse to hear, grant, consider." The result is generally depression.

D. Legitimate rejection. There is real rejection for every believer:

John 15:18: "IF (and it's true) THE WORLD SYSTEM HATES YOU, KEEP IN MIND THAT IT HATED ME FIRST. IF (and it's not true) YOU BELONGED TO THE WORLD SYSTEM, IT WOULD LOVE YOU AS ITS OWN. AS IT IS, YOU DO NOT BELONG TO THE WORLD SYSTEM, BUT I HAVE CHOSEN YOU OUT OF THE WORLD SYSTEM. THAT'S WHY THE WORLD SYSTEM HATES YOU."

1 John 3:13: "DO NOT BE ASTONISHED, MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, IF THE WORLD SYSTEM HATES YOU (and it does)...."

E. Reaction to rejection:

1. The reaction to being hurt is related to a very subtle and often hidden area of arrogance. Unless the believer has studied the doctrine of arrogance, he may not understand just how subtle and evil arrogance can be.

2. Being in arrogance, therefore, the believer is inside the Cosmic/World/Darkness system whether he knows it or not.

a. The rejected person will function in arrogance with jealousy, bitterness, hatred, vindictiveness, self-pity, anger, guilt and revenge motivation.

b. Often the rejected person associates his rejection with God and the visible object of his arrogance becomes the pastor who communicates doctrine leading to negative volition arrogance.

c. The rejected person reacts in self-righteousness against all authority.

d. Suffering from the arrogance of unhappiness, preoccupation with himself, he is a miserable person.

e. Under subjective preoccupation with others which is emotional and irrational arrogance, he has such hatred that he seeks to vent his hatred on others (especially authority) by means of revenge tactics.

3. If the hurt comes because you are at fault, the proper response is to utilize rebound, go positive toward doctrine and rebuild your life, utilizing the balance of the problem solving devices as needed.

4. There are many reasons for rejection – some right, some wrong – but all rejection from mankind is ultimately designed by God for the blessing of the believer. Rom 8:28 addresses the proper attitude of the believer in rejection:

“WE KNOW IN FACT, THAT THOSE WHO LOVE GOD (Personal Love for God in the spiritual self-esteem) ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD, TO THOSE WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO GOD’S PREDETERMINED PLAN.”

5. When a person is rejected by someone he loves, respects, admires, he has a tendency to react and that very reaction is a problem manufacturing device.

6. One may be rejected for many reasons, but he must be careful NOT to fall into the terrible trap of arrogance in any form. Reacting to rejection neutralizes spiritual growth causes the believer to function under control of his Old Sin Nature, enters him into reversionism, and starts him on the road to degeneracy, either moral or immoral, legalism or lasciviousness, depending on his trend.

7. Reaction to being hurt is a sign of malfunction of the believer in utilizing the invisible assets in the Plan of God which include the problem solving devices.

8. Blessing is neutralized by the arrogance involved. Sometime or someday, everyone in the human race will be rejected and will react to it. Instead, there should be thanksgiving which is a manifestation of humility and capacity for life from doctrine in the soul.

9. When one is rejected by people – fair or unfair, just or unjust, noble and honorable or ignoble and dishonorable, right or wrong – these things are NOT the issue. The issue is, DO YOU HAVE THE CAPACITY TO UTILIZE THE PROBLEM SOLVING DEVICES inside your own soul? Are you going to be occupied with the Person of Christ rather than with yourself?

10. Rejection is an opportunity to grow spiritually, to get your life organized, to sort out your priorities and to establish a scale of values which will move you ahead in your relationship with God and in the execution of His plan. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT ONE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY REJECTION IN HIS LIFE. If one uses the problem solving devices, he will be better for that rejection.

PRINCIPLE: NO ONE EVER REACHES SPIRITUAL MATURITY WITHOUT BEING REJECTED, USUALLY UNFAIRLY.

V. The Problem of Death and/or Dying

- A. The Christian Way of Life is divided into two general categories: living and dying.
- B. Dying is a part of life. Only after we die are we face to face with the Lord.
- C. The dying part of life is an opportunity to utilize some of the problem solving devices God has given to believers.
- D. One must understand the principle that since there is no suffering in Heaven, there are some things which God has for the believer, which He can ONLY give while the believer suffers here on earth. The believer who discovers these grace provisions has a fantastic response to the experience of dying, and enjoys the principle of dying grace.
- E. See the Doctrine of Death and Dying.

VI. The Problem of Timing

- A. Many people are promoted simply because they are in the right place at the right time, and not particularly because they are competent or because they are the right person for the job... they just happen to be there. These people provide their incompetence by producing phenomenal failure; they're simply in over their heads.
- B. A lot of people feel that they have been "left out" or "passed by" because their timing is bad, they have been in the wrong place at the right time or in the right place at the wrong time, or the wrong place at the wrong time.
- C. The important thing about timing is that one's personal timing must be synchronized with the Plan of God or it will always be "of."

PRINCIPLE: IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE "IN SYNC" WITH MAN'S PLANS BUT "OUT OF SYNC" WITH THE PLAN OF GOD.

- D. Eph 3:11 emphasizes the fact that GOD'S TIMING IS ALWAYS PERFECT.
- "prothesis twm aiwnws" = proqesij twm aiwnwn = refers to God who has a "pre-determined plan of the ages."
- E. This prothesis – pre-determined plan = includes a system whereby God takes the believer from one point to another, and at each point one learns the lessons He has for you to learn. In this plan, you get a variety in life in which you get to taste everything and you learn how to handle every situation. By the time you have gone from point "A" to "R, S, or T" you are ready for anything in life and life is truly fantastic.

- F. In His Plan, God takes you from "A" – the point of your salvation, step-by-step through life. What's more, He doesn't take you to difficult things, unless He has previously

prepared you for them. You become capable of handling a problem at point “F” because you learned doctrine at point “D.” God doesn’t take you from one point to another until you ARE prepared. (1 Cor 10:13). LIVING INCLUDES PLEASANT THINGS BUT ALSO UNPLEASANT THINGS, INJUSTICE AND ADVERSITIES. It even includes a lot of people who delight in hurting you. It includes disasters of all sorts which are not caused by your own stupidity.

G. NO ONE CAN LIVE LIFE UNTIL HE HAS CAPACITY FOR IT! One doesn’t have capacity until he reaches spiritual adulthood. Living life IS NOT freedom from problems but understanding that problems have a place in God’s plan AND UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM SOLVING DEVICES WHICH GOD HAS PROVIDED FOR THE BELIEVER TO USE.

H. Because of God’s grace provision, there is no excuse for any believer to fail to attain spiritual adulthood. There is no privileged class: none smarter, better looking, more healthy, male nor female, young or old... there is equal privilege and equal opportunity for ALL believers. It is not SELECTIVE, but ELECTIVE from the standpoint that each believer CHOOSES to accept God’s grace provision of Bible doctrine to advance to maturity.

I. THE BELIEVER WHO FAILS TO REACH SPIRITUAL ADULTHOOD (and then to persevere through the three stages) IS “OUT OF SYNC” WITH GOD’S PLAN AND HIS TIMING IS OFF. Those in spiritual adulthood see things differently, their concepts in life are changed, they are finally living according to a NEW PLAN.

J. Just as one has a closet filled with different types of clothing for every category of weather and situation, so the believer must have a system to handle every category of life. And, God has graciously given these systems to you so that you may maintain happiness in all situations.

K. The problem of timing is solved only by orienting to the Plan of God for your life and this comes only through the consistent metabolization of Bible doctrine.

VII. The Problem of People

A. Periodic opposition from people is inevitable because the majority of the people in the Devil’s world system live exclusively according to the principles and practices of that system. In the Cosmic/World/Darkness system, nothing is fair... ONLY THE INTEGRITY OF GOD IS FAIR. God’s system gives the believer a system for survival and happiness in any situation.

B. Attraction to certain types of people is a second part of people problems when a person is led astray by people they admire or follow. (See above under distractions.)

C. Reaction to antagonistic people or people who “rub you the wrong way,” with whom you have a personality conflict, is often a problem demanding a Biblical solution. HOSTILITY HAS NO PLACE IN THE PLAN OF GOD.

D. The believer's momentum can also suffer through those one loves. Many a growing believer is led astray because someone they admire is not interested in spiritual growth, or Bible doctrine. If the person with whom one is fascinated turns negative, the believer will follow the lead and turn negative because of the influence of the person they love.

E. Or, the person they love doesn't reciprocate and return that love, or if the person becomes a disappointment the problem of iconoclastic arrogance sets in.

F. Therefore, whether one is attacked by someone who wants to injure you, or you are tempted to follow someone who is attractive and fascinating who would lead you astray from Bible doctrine (either they go negative and want you to join them, or they fail to live up to your standards, they have feet of clay and prove to be imperfect, people definitely ARE the source of many problems.)

G. Only the application of the problem solving devices of the Christian Way of Life can solve this problem. Psychological solutions are insufficient.

VIII. The Problem of Thoughts

A. The Christian Way of Life is more what one THINKS than what one DOES. What a person thinks, he IS!

B. Thinking mental attitude sins destroys one's spiritual life; thinking doctrine is the source of growth and the solution to problems.

C. The greatest temptation regarding the thought life in the believer is his attitude toward Bible doctrine.

1. In order to grow up spiritually, the believer must think Bible doctrine in both learning and application.

2. The issue becomes positive volition (I want and need doctrine) and negative volition (I can take it or leave it).

3. Negative volition doesn't always mean blatantly rejecting it. Some believers may outwardly agree with what is taught, but they think in terms of self in subjective arrogance. Others demonstrate -V by means of apathy or indifference toward doctrine. The most flagrant violation of the principle is when one becomes antagonistic toward doctrine.

4. A believer faces problems with thoughts when he is hypersensitive under the teaching of doctrine. Concentrating on himself rather than on the doctrine taught, he can never learn the truth.

5. Another type is the believer who reacts against doctrine when a particular point of doctrine runs counter to what he has "always believed or thought." When his prejudiced or preconceived notions are challenged by the Word of God, instead of responding in

intelligence and objectivity, he becomes antagonistic toward both the doctrine and the communicator.

6. In every situation of life, thinking is the first area of involvement. The believer will think either human viewpoint, doctrine of demons, subjectivity, mental attitude sins, OR, he will think Divine viewpoint which is Bible doctrine.

7. One cannot help what thoughts enter the mind, since he is constantly being bombarded from all quarters. However, he can determine what he is going to think ABOUT those things. The believer is commanded to “BRING EVERY THOUGHT INTO CAPTIVITY OF CHRIST.” 2 Cor 10:5

8. Doubts are also a form of thought testing. There is no sin in broaching the doubt, but entertaining it becomes sinful. Therefore, the believer must know how to handle this problem.

9. The conflict of the Divine dynasphere versus the Cosmic system is the battle of thought versus thought. It is being constantly waged in the believer’s soul. Only Bible Doctrine in the soul can withstand the Devil’s subtle, attractive propaganda, the objective of which is to halt the believer’s spiritual progress.

IX. The Problem of Rotten Systems

A. At one time or another every believer will become the victim of a rotten or unfair system.

- You are preyed upon by a criminal.
- A judicial system favors the criminal over the victim.
- Judges in the judicial system are inept.
- You are passed over for a promotion by inferior people who play politics or are relatives of management.
- You are used, abused, berated, reprimanded instead of commended by incompetents or bureaucrats.
- Political organizations led by inferior or dishonest people who are elected by dishonorable, self-centered, arrogant people voting in self-interest rather than in the interest of the nation.
- You are a member of a team whose coach plays favorites rather than recognizing your ability, effort.
- A business competitor uses questionable methods, empty promises, who steals customers which are rightfully yours.
- **A ROTTEN SYSTEM IS CREATED BY ROTTEN PEOPLE WHO MAKE VICTIMS OF THOSE WHO ARE HONORABLE.**

B. Anyone can conduct himself with dignity and poise under agreeable circumstances. But, when inequities and difficulties abound, especially when one is acting in a totally honorable and responsible manner, that is when one’s true character is demonstrated.

C. When treated unfairly, unjustly by a rotten system, a believer may become bitter, vindictive, implacable and seek to vent his wrath on anyone who will listen.

D. PRINCIPLE: AS A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF GOD, ONE WAS NEVER INTENDED TO BEHAVE LIKE UNBELIEVERS DO OR EVEN LIKE BELIEVERS WHO ARE LIVING INSIDE THE COSMIC/WORLD/DARKNESS SYSTEM.

E. A believer who allows himself to become distracted from Bible doctrine and his own spiritual advance misses the great opportunity to demonstrate his royal nobility.

F. Often believers will blame God for allowing this terrible inequity to take place. “After all I’ve done for You, Lord, how could you let this happen to me?”

G. No believer ever has any reason to be shocked when he is mistreated by anyone in the Devil’s world (believer or unbeliever). WHAT ELSE DID YOU EXPECT? WHO EVER TOLD YOU THAT THE WORLD SYSTEM WAS FAIR? Remember that Satan is the “God of this world system,” and as such there is no facet of his system which is fair, just or honorable.

H. To compound the problem, when one IS mistreated by the world system, there are always the “gloaters” – especially if one has excelled in the past – who are delighted at your downfall. Self-righteous people will draw erroneous conclusions regarding that setback as sinful. At times like that you may be tempted to explain, justify or vindicate yourself so they won’t think even worse of you. But, people will think whatever they WANT to think.

I. If you lose friends, they weren’t true friends and genuine friends are revealed under pressure.

J. Furthermore, you always have a true friend: the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prov 18:24: “A MAN OF MANY COMPANIONS MAY COME TO RUIN (Lit: be broken in pieces) BUT THERE IS A TRUE FRIEND WHO IS CLOSER THAN A BROTHER. In other words, one who loves as a friend is better than a lot of friends chosen indiscriminately.

Prov 17:17: “A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES AND A BROTHER IS BORN FOR ADVERSITY.” A friend loves at all times but in time of adversity he shows himself to be a true brother. This is true of any friend but particularly of the Lord Jesus Christ.

X. The Problem of Disasters

A. The believer’s reaction to intense suffering can be a great problem in his life. Loss of a loved one, a crippling accident, dismissal from a long-secured job, sudden disappearance of financial security, debilitating or terminal illness, the destruction of one’s nation can all cause the believer to focus on himself rather than on Bible doctrine, and on your own problems which cause you to lose your objective reality.

B. Even in the most dreadful of circumstances, the believer must remain in control of his thinking, even though he has no control over what is happening to him.

C. Self-pity and fear are often immediate reactions to disaster. See “Fear” above.

D. Once a disaster causes the believer to stop thinking Bible doctrine, but rather to be thinking about himself, HE CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON GOD'S SOLUTIONS but becomes distracted in searching for human viewpoint solutions to the problems, like seeking a healer, moving to a new locality, changing mates (as in mid-life crisis) a get-rich quick scheme, etc.

E. Instead of greater concentration on Bible doctrine, he cuts himself off from doctrine and thus from ANY divine solution.

F. The believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is designed by God to face either personal or historical (depression, war, etc.) in the same way, by the application of the problem solving devices.

XI. The Problem of Prosperity

A. A much more subtle and dangerous distraction may come from prosperity. Historically, no nation has EVER survived its own prosperity. Individually, very few believers successfully survive prosperity.

B. Failure to realize that true prosperity comes from concentration on and prioritizing doctrine as number one in one's life, the believer allows himself to become distracted from the very thing which is CAUSING his prosperity.

C. The accoutrements of happiness which many people struggle to gain never bring the happiness they are seeking, but only complications and disillusionment because they are distracted from the Source.

D. Therefore, many believers change their concentration from the Source to the imagined source. They think, for example, that concentration on their business (etc.) will bring financial prosperity. (Illus: The businessman whose business is prospered because of his concentration on Bible doctrine now begins to miss Bible class to handle his expanding business. In doing so, he is cutting his own throat inch by inch.)

E. The question is: will you become so preoccupied with the prosperity that you forget that God is the Source. Will you forget that God has given you EVERYTHING you possess in life and HE ALONE SUSTAINS YOU in this life?

F. God is the Author of ingenuity and there are an infinite variety of ways He can prosper the believer with different combinations.

G. Once distracted, the believer loses his capacity for blessing. And, without the capacity for blessing in the believer, God has no place to pour. The spiritual prosperity can

disappear even though the believer continues to possess the overt accoutrements of happiness. Anyone who assumes that his spiritual momentum alone will sustain his spiritual maturity, or assumes that he has advanced so far that he no longer needs doctrine on a regular basis will be distracted and his capacity will evaporate.

H. PRINCIPLE: SPIRITUAL MOMENTUM MUST BE MAINTAINED CONTINUALLY; NO BELIEVER CAN EVER AFFORD TO NEGLECT DOCTRINE. Nevertheless, perception of doctrine is only a MEANS to an end. Truth is its own reward. When one's daily fellowship with God is neglected, then whatever overt prosperity one does possess becomes ritual without reality.

I. The secret to maintaining concentration on Bible doctrine is to maintain humility and teachability.

THE PROBLEM SOLVING OF GOD

I. How Does God Solve Problems?

A. God the Father (G/F), God the Son (G/S) and God the Holy Spirit all share identical essence (characteristics): sovereignty, righteousness, justice, love, eternal life, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, immutability and veracity.

B. The Godhead possesses three different categories of love:

1. Each member of the Trinity loves the other two members of the Trinity with a perfect Personal Love because each possesses absolute righteousness. The object of God's Personal Love MUST be the attractiveness of perfect righteousness.

2. Each member of the Trinity loves his own absolute righteousness, which is Divine self-esteem.

3. From His Divine self-esteem, God has perfect impersonal love for spiritually dead mankind which has only relative righteousness. Isaiah 6:6. Impersonal Love emphasizes the virtue of the One doing the loving rather than the object. John 3:16.

C. The greatest problem that God ever faced is articulated in Romans 3:26: "HOW CAN GOD BE JUST AND THE ONE WHO JUSTIFIES THE UNGODLY?" The problem of spiritual death, the curse under which all of the human race is born and lives their entire life, is that great problem.

D. The perfect righteousness cannot accept sinful man with his relative righteousness. Therefore, God solved this problem by the application of both His justice and His love. How God worked and does work is the basis for all the problem solving devices in the Christian Way of Life or the Plan of God.

E. God collected all the billions of sins of mankind in all of human history into one in the Doctrine of Divine Decrees. When our Lord Jesus Christ hung on the cross, the omnipotence of God the Father called for all these personal sins to collect into one point of time. Then the justice of God imputed (charged) those sins to God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, the justice of God judged all those sins on the cross. By this means, God solved the greatest problem and it is called "salvation."

F. However, as a result of this judgment, the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, cried out, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" The answer to this question is found in Scripture:

Rom 5:8: "GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS LOVE TOWARD US IN THAT, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR US."

1 Peter 2:24: "HE CARRIED OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE CROSS."

G. Now that this greatest problem was solved by the work of Christ, the door of salvation is open to everyone, who can walk through it by personal faith in Jesus Christ.

H. God solved the greatest problem of our spiritual death by imputing the sins of the world to the Lord Jesus Christ and judging them. Mankind could never solve that problem, being totally helpless in the spiritually dead condition.

I. The answer to the question is: God was solving the greatest problem of humanity by the use of His own justice, motivated by His own Impersonal Love.

Romans 8:31,32: "IF GOD IS FOR US (and He is) WHO CAN BE AGAINST US? FOR HE THAT SPARED NOT HIS OWN SON BUT DELIVERED HIM UP ON BEHALF OF US ALL, HOW SHALL HE NOT WITH HIM ALSO FREELY GIVE US ALL THINGS?"

II. God Does All the Work in Problem Solving

A. God did all the work in solving the problem of our spiritual death (see above).

B. Grace for living the Christian Way of Life is also entirely the work of God.

1. At the point of salvation, God imputes to the believing sinner His own perfect righteousness.

2. From that point on, the justice of God (one-half of His integrity which is composed of His perfect righteousness plus His justice) sends down the grace pipeline to the other half of God's integrity, the imputed indwelling righteousness of God, all the life support we as believers need to stay alive.

3. This "logistical" grace not only includes life support, but also blessing. Those blessings are in no way earned, deserved or merited; they are received by God's grace. He gives in grace so that His righteousness and justice will not be compromised.

4. Logistical grace explains why even losers are blessed.

III. The A Fortiori for Problem Solving in the Christian Way of Life

A. If God solved the greater pre-salvation problem, He can also solve the lesser problem which we call post-salvation problems.

B. There is no problem in life as great as that which He has already solved. His grace will also provide the means to solve them.

IV. Post-Salvation Principles:

- A. God has a plan for your life and it begins at the point of salvation.
- B. God is perfect and therefore, His plan is perfect.
- C. Under God's policy of grace, He has provided the perfect plan for imperfect persons.
- D. Therefore, imperfect persons cannot make any contribution to that plan, they can just be the recipients of that plan.

THE DOCTRINE OF PROBLEM SOLVING DEVICES

I. Introduction

A. Every problem in the human race has already been solved by God in eternity past. His omniscience also demands that He have the solution to all problems.

B. God reveals His solutions to those problems in the written Word of God which is called “the Mind of Christ” in 1 Cor 2:16.

C. Therefore, every problem in life has a stated solution somewhere in the Word of God. These may be stated in specific precept, principle or in example.

D. The Doctrine of Inspiration guarantees that the Bible is without error in the autographs. Therefore, the very words bear the authority of Divine authorship. This guarantees that all problems have a solution and that solution is knowable.

E. For the unbeliever, solutions are always related to the principles of establishment. Only in establishment principles can the unbeliever extrapolate virtue and make it a part of his life. Therefore, solutions for the unbeliever are limited because he doesn't have a relationship with the God of the Bible.

F. Ultimately, then, problem solving is always directed toward the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

G. However, it is necessary for the believer to get the solutions from the Scripture into his own soul so that he may utilize them in meeting the exigencies of life. This is called the study of Bible doctrine.

H. The solutions are not all simply listed on various pages of Scripture, but must be extrapolated from the Word of God. This requires the expertise of the pastor/teacher. He then communicates this information to the believer through his exegesis of Scripture plus categories of doctrine built on the exegesis.

I. This means that the believer must avail himself of opportunities to study Bible doctrine as it is consistently communicated by his right pastor/teacher in the classroom of the local church.

J. However, Doctrine is built on doctrine so the believer must be consistent in making Bible doctrine the number one priority of his life. If he doesn't, he will have unsolvable problems in his life. The result is that the believer is a “loser” in life.

K. There are several reasons why a believer may become a loser:

- 1.

2. Apathy or indifference to the importance of Bible Doctrine so that it is not heard.

3. Rejection of what is heard.

L. Reasons for the above to function:

1. The believer emphasizes his relationship with people over his relationship with God.

a. The false assumption in that if one has a good relationship with people, one has good relationship with God.

b. God emphasis inspires the believer to cultivate his relationship with God by the metabolism of Bible doctrine so that he grows to spiritual adulthood where he has Personal Love for God.

2. The believer attempts to execute the Plan of God by means of human power rather than Divine power.

a. Since God is perfect, there is no room in his plan for imperfection.

b. The Christian Way of Life (the execution of the Plan of God) is a supernatural way of life lived by means of superhuman power.

c. What God demands, God provides.

d. Therefore, the believer must choose whether he is going to stay to live in the Christian Way of Life in the power of the flesh or in the power of God.

3. The believer is ____ in that he thinks that he doesn't _____ to solve his problems, and therefore, he consistently makes decisions to ____ doctrine to a place of ____ rather than making it the first priority of life.

II. The Problem Solving Devices as Related to the Stages of Spiritual Growth

A. Those related to spiritual childhood:

1. Rebound

2. Filling of the Holy Spirit

3. The Faith-Rest Technique

B. Those related to spiritual adolescence:

1. Grace orientation
2. Doctrinal orientation

C. Those related to spiritual adulthood:

1. Personal love for God the Father
2. Impersonal love for all mankind
3. Sharing the happiness of God
4. A personal sense of destiny, and
5. Occupation with the Person of Jesus Christ

III. **Problem Solving Device #1: The Rebound Technique**

(For a complete study of this doctrine, see Doctrinal Handbook on the subject).

A. Without rebound, it would be impossible to utilize any of the believer's invisible assets. One cannot learn about those assets or any Bible doctrine apart from the Filling of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit can't teach the human spirit when one is out of fellowship.

B. Unless the believer consistently utilizes rebound, he will end up being:

1. an enemy of the cross, Phil 3:18
2. an enemy of God, Jas 4:4
3. a hater of God, Jn 15:23
4. double-minded (unstable in all his ways), Jas 4:8
5. an anti(against)-Christ, 1 Jn 2:18,22; 4:3, 2 Jn 7
6. carnal, 1 Cor 3:3
7. a disciple of the devil, 1 Jn 3:8,10
8. grieving the Spirit, Eph 4:30
9. quenching the Spirit, 1 Thes 5:19

C. “Rebound” is the term we use to describe, confession, acknowledgement, citing or naming our sins.

1 John 1:9: “IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE (God) IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.”

1 Cor 11:31: “BUT IF WE JUDGED OURSELVES, WE WOULD NOT COME UNDER JUDGMENT.”

Psalms 32:4: “I ACKNOWLEDGED MY SIN TO YOU, AND DID NOT COVER UP MY INIQUITY.”

1. “Confessing, judging, acknowledging” as in the passages above, or citing, naming, admitting our sins is a non-meritorious function. How one feels about his sins is inconsequential; one is required to obey God and DO IT!

2. Furthermore, it is done in the privacy of one’s own priesthood.

3. The Old Sin Nature has a determination for self-improvement and so there are vows never to do it again, often emotions of weeping, lamenting, etc., trying to make it up to God, but all of these are not related to rebound.

D. Rebound is effective only because all sins, past, present and future, were poured out on the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, and they were judged there. Therefore, sin is no longer an issue.

E. Rebound, however, simply restores the believer to fellowship with God. The moment we confess our sins we are immediately forgiven of those sins. Spiritual growth must follow rebound and this requires taking in Bible doctrine while in the Filling of the Holy Spirit.

F. God is faithful in every case of rebound. No matter how monstrous the sin is to the believer or to others, legalism doesn’t dictate to God. There has never been nor ever will be a sin confessed to God which has not been immediately forgiven.

G. And, God remains “righteous and just” in the forgiveness of all sins because those sins were judged in the Person of God the Son on the cross.

H. Having confessed his sin, the believer reenters the Divine dynasphere and is automatically filled with the Holy Spirit (see next point).

I. When confession is made of sin, the believer must by faith believe that God has forgiven it and not look for any kind of feelings. Confess it, forget it and move on!

IV. Problem Solving Device #2: The Filling of the Holy Spirit

A. The word “filling” comes from the Greek word, *Pl8row*, found in Eph 5:18, and it means, “to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.”

B. The Filling of the Holy Spirit goes back to the principle that there is no human attribute, no system of human success, no talent, no system of human works, whereby any member of the human race has the power or ability to execute the Plan of God in his life – to live the Christian way of life. Just as no one has the power to save himself, no one has the power to live as God requires. God has provided His own omnipotence to the believer as the means of executing His plan in the believer’s life.

C. The believer must be controlled by God the Holy Spirit before any production emanating from his life can be considered “gold, silver, precious stones.” (1 Cor 3:12). All worthwhile Christian production is the result of the control of God the Holy Spirit on the one hand and spiritual growth on the other.

D. The two approaches to the Filling/Control of the Holy Spirit:

1. Who controls the believer’s soul?

a. At salvation, God the Holy Spirit indwells the body of the believer in order to create a “temple,” a place of residence for the indwelling of the Lord Jesus Christ. The indwelling of Lord Jesus Christ in the guarantee of blessing.

b. While the body of the believer is indwelt by both the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ, it is also indwelt by the Old Sin Nature, the tragic flaw in every life.

c. At any given moment every believer is either controlled by the Holy Spirit OR by his Old Sin Nature. It can never be by both – partly by the Spirit, partly by the Old Sin Nature. When controlled by the Holy Spirit, the believer is said to be “spiritual.” When by his Old Sin Nature, that believer is “carnal.”

d. The “gate” to the soul is one’s volition. The volition is free to decide who it is who will control the soul.

e. The Holy Spirit is the source of spiritual life; the Old Sin Nature is the source of temptation.

f. When volition admits the temptation into the soul, the Holy Spirit is “grieved” or “quenched” and the believer is under total control of his Old Sin Nature.

g. When the believer utilizes rebound (1 John 1:9), the sin is immediately forgiven, and the believer is returned to being controlled by the Holy Spirit.

2. Does one live in the Divine Dynasphere or the Cosmic System?

a. At salvation one of the seven things done for the believer by the Holy Spirit is to enter him into union with the Lord Jesus Christ forever; this is positional truth and eternal security, the basis for a new spiritual species on the earth.

b. This new spiritual species needs a place to live and so the Holy Spirit also the believer into his very own palace designed by God the Father, the operational-type Divine Dynasphere.

(The Lord Jesus Christ pioneered the prototype Divine Dynasphere in His incarnation. God the Father provided it for Him to enable His humanity to live the supernatural life. He in turn passed it on to every believer of the Church Age as the operational-type Divine Dynasphere. “Dyna” (form Gk: “duna” meaning power plus “sphairo” = “sphere of power.”)

c. When one is filled/controlled by the Holy Spirit he automatically lives inside his very own palace, the Divine Dynasphere. The manifestation of this depends upon one’s stage of spiritual growth.

d. Any time the believer makes a decision to sin, he immediately exits the Divine Dynasphere and enters into the Cosmic (also known as the World System or the System of Darkness).

e. Inside the Cosmic system the believer lives totally by means of the energy of the flesh as well as being in reversionism, Christian degeneracy, involved in those things which are destructive to his spiritual life.

E. Under the Plan of God there are two categories of experiential Christianity:

1. The absolute concept is spirituality versus carnality.

2. The relative concept is spiritual growth or advance versus reversionism and Christian degeneracy.

a. Spiritual growth is graduated, either progressively or retrogressively.

b. Every new believer starts out as a spiritual infant. Through remaining in the Divine Dynasphere and metabolizing Bible doctrine he grows to spiritual adolescence and then to spiritual adulthood (spiritual self-esteem, spiritual autonomy and spiritual maturity).

c. Or, the believer can retrogress through the stages of reversionism and degeneracy.

d. Therefore, the believer can be a combination of the two concepts:

1. He can be a baby believer and either spiritual or carnal,
2. He can be an adolescent believer and either spiritual or carnal,
3. He can be a spiritual adult and be either spiritual or carnal,
4. However, in reversionism and degeneracy he can only be carnal.

e. Be careful not to confuse relative spiritual living with absolute spiritual living, they are related but not the same.

F. So, progression is the believer's advance in the Plan of God; retrogression is the believer's failure to execute God's plan, resulting in reversionism, degeneracy and involvement in the Cosmic System.

G. The Holy Spirit is the source of all functional divine power available to the believer in executing the Plan of God.

1. The omnipotence of God the Father provides equal privilege and equal opportunity and all of the invisible assets necessary to fulfill the Plan.

2. God the Son's omnipotence is related to the perpetuation of human history.

3. The omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit is related to providing all the necessary power to execute the Plan of God.

H. The Holy Spirit is the teacher of Bible Doctrine

1. The Pastor/Teacher communicates Bible Doctrine to your human soul.

2. The Holy Spirit teaches your human spirit so that you have spiritual phenomena. (Jn 14:26; 16:12-14)

3. When the doctrine taught is believed, it is cycled from the human spirit back into the soul as metabolized doctrine, ready to be applied to life.

4. It is also the Holy Spirit who helps the believer take the metabolized doctrine from out of the soul and apply it to the problems and opportunities of life.

5. Therefore, the Holy Spirit is the secret to understanding doctrine and without the filling of the Holy Spirit the believer will never progress in the Christian Way of Life.

6. The Filling of the Holy Spirit is the basis for the function of all the problem solving devices. Remember, however, that the Holy Spirit cannot apply what the believer has not learned.

IV. Problem Solving Device #3 – The Faith-Rest Drill

A. The Faith-Rest Drill is a technique whereby the believer is able to stop the panic when trouble hits, think through specific doctrines, and apply doctrinal solutions to problems.

B. There are three stages to the Faith-Rest Drill:

1. Claiming the promises of God (for the baby believer; the adult believer rests on God's integrity – see below).

2. Thinking through categorical doctrines in reverse concentration. One must concentrate on doctrine when it is originally taught by one's Pastor/Teacher. In this stage, he reverses the concentration and recalls the doctrinal rationale which is pertinent to the problem.

3. In stage 3, faith makes doctrinal conclusions and the believer takes charge of his life as he applies the specific doctrinal principles to life.

C. Prayer is not a problem solving device. Prayer doesn't stop the charge of the mosquito (the little pressures of everyday life) but the Faith-Rest drill does. Therefore, when a problem situation hits, the believer claims a promise of God to settle his thinking down so that he can move on to the second and third stages.

D. Claiming Promises versus Resting on Integrity:

1. The tendency in the human race is to depend on promises rather than on the integrity of a person. For example, all a politician has to do is to make a promise, he doesn't need integrity.

2. In reality, the promise is no greater than the integrity of the one making the promise.

3. Furthermore, the promises are limited to what is being promised. Often people will force themselves or others to make a promise, but if there is no integrity, the one making the promise deceives others.

4. A person may keep a promise under duress, but one doesn't have the benefit of that person's integrity.

5. **PRINCIPLE: YOU ARE BENEFITTED MORE BY THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON THAN BY THE PROMISES YOU SEEK TO EXTRACT FROM THEM.**

6. People in spiritual adulthood do not need promises from God because they depend on God's integrity and love rather than on His promises. They know and understand the character of God and therefore, they do not need promises.

7. The promises of God (contained in the Word of God) are fantastic for baby believers who have not yet learned about the character of God. Therefore, the Bible contains promises for almost anything.

8. The function of the Faith-Rest drill in a spiritual child or spiritual adolescent means that he can claim a promise, but then he is blessed ONLY in the sphere of that promise.

9. When the believer grows up spiritually, and he learns the integrity of God, he understands that God cares for him in ALL circumstances not just the ones which are covered by the specific promise that he knows. The integrity of God covers every category of life. This doesn't negate the promises but it opens up a far superior way of life for the believer.

10. Thus, in spiritual childhood, the tendency of the believer is to depend on a specific promise for a specific situation. In spiritual adulthood, the believer simply depends on the integrity of God.

11. This principle also relates to a priest-nation; when people and leadership in a nation lack integrity, they are totally dependent on promises. Politicians knowing what people want, without personal integrity make all kinds of outrageous, preposterous and irresponsible promises in order to get elected and become powerful. These promises are useless and the people become disillusioned. At the same time this category of politician destroys the priest-nation with the consent of the people who have been promised everything and have received absolutely nothing.

V. Problem Solving Device #4 – Grace Orientation

A. Grace Orientation as a problem solving device is understanding God's policy of grace and relating it to the Christian life and to others.

B. Grace begins by understanding that it is unearned, undeserved, unmerited by the believer. It is all that God is free to do for the believer because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. It is always totally divorced from any systems of human effort or works or any form of human power.

C. Grace is the function of the attributes of God on behalf of every Church Age believer as a member of God's own Royal Family. Grace is always the work of God, not the work of man. The work of God is so perfect that God doesn't need or want man's help. Man, however, desperately needs God's help.

D. Under the divine policy of grace, everything depends on who and what God is and never on who and what the believer is.

E. The Plan of God found a way to bless the worst of believers as well as the best without any compromise of His attributes. This is called "logistical" grace.

F. Under the divine policy of grace, only the ability and power of God can meet the needs of the helpless believer, and therefore, provide answers and solutions to the problems of life.

G. Grace is further defined as the genius of God directed toward mankind and doctrine is the manifestation of it.

H. The believer's positive, non-meritorious response to that grace is the glorification of that genius.

I. Invisible God plus invisible assets plus invisible power equals invisible heroes. Whenever an invisible hero is made, it is the work of God.

J. The first problem solving orientation to grace is found in "logistical grace."

1. Logistical Grace is all that God can do for the believer to keep him alive in the hostile environment of the devil's world and support him so that he can grow up spiritually.

2. It is provided for all believers, good and bad, right and wrong, faithful and unfaithful, etc.

3. The basis is the fact that at salvation God's own perfect righteousness was imputed to the believing sinner on the basis of his personal faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

4. Logistical blessing and support is sent from the justice of God to the righteousness of God indwelling the believer by imputation. It is not sent on the basis of any human merit on our part.

5. The principle is that divine justice can only bless divine righteousness.

6. Since all believers regardless of their experiential righteousness possess the imputed righteousness of God, His grace provides that logistical grace blessing.

7. It is total arrogance to think that God has, is or will bless you on the basis of the fact that you are so good, righteous, busy for Him, etc. ALL blessing is on the basis of Grace. Therefore, never be arrogant and think that YOU are being blessed because God HAS to reward you for your goodness or good works. NO ONE HAS EVER EARNED BLESSING FROM GOD.

K. Legalism is the enemy of grace. Man intrudes into the grace policy of God with his self-righteousness, good deeds, good behavior, self-improvement, emotionalism, ritual and talent.

1. Legalism is salvation by works.

2. Legalism is spirituality by works.
3. Legalism is crusader arrogance, trying to improve the devil's world by some kind of crusade.
4. Legalism is the substitution of human plans for the plan of God.

L. If the believer understands that God always has and always will treat him in grace a large number of problems are already solved. Then, as the believer treats others in grace, the balance of the problems are solved. In other words, grace is the only policy in life worth knowing and worth practicing. Thus, grace orientation is a problem solving device.

VI. Problem Solving Device #5 – Doctrinal Orientation

A. Doctrinal orientation to the Plan of God is the whole purpose of Bible teaching by the Pastor-Teacher and the consistent perception, metabolization and application of it to life.

B. Orientation to Bible doctrine produces 1) wisdom and 2) knowledge of the problem solving devices.

C. Perception and metabolization of doctrine always results in confidence. This confidence is directed toward God and not toward man. It is confidence regarding things at hand or future, near or far.

D. Closely associated with the word "hope," these Scripture passages refer to the subject: Heb 11:1; Rom 15:4; Lam 3:21-25; Jer 17:7; Ps 71:5; Rom 15:13; 5:5; 1 Peter 1:21.

E. See the Doctrine of The Importance of Doctrine.

VII. Problem Solving Device #6 – Personal Love for God the Father

A. Personal love is based upon the attractiveness or virtue of the object of the love. God the Father is the most attractive Person in the universe and therefore, He alone is worth of personal love.

B. Fellowship with God the Holy Spirit is the only means by which anyone can come to love God the Father. Rom 5:5: "...THE LOVE FOR GOD HAS BEEN POURED OUT INTO OUR SOULS BY MEANS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US."

C. Only through the perception and metabolization of doctrine can the Holy Spirit bring this love about.

D. Since God is invisible, He cannot be loved through visual or emotional attraction, nor by human affection. Only by learning Bible doctrine and subsequent spiritual growth can there be any personal love for God.

E. Therefore, personal love for God can only become a reality in spiritual adulthood.

F. For a complete discussion see the Doctrinal Handbook: The Doctrine of Personal and Impersonal Love – Motivational and Functional Virtue.

VIII. Problem Solving Device #7 – Impersonal Love for All Mankind

A. Impersonal love is unconditional and is based upon the virtue of the person doing the loving and has absolutely nothing to do with the attractiveness of the object.

B. No one can ever be relaxed in human relationships until they acquire impersonal love. This means that they tolerate and accept people as they find them. That person stops being critical, looking down their nose at or being legalistic with regard to others.

C. The only love that solves the problems of human relationships is the one in which the object can be acceptable or unacceptable, attractive or unattractive, obnoxious or pleasant. That's the only way the spiritually adult believer can properly interact with people.

D. The instability of personal love based on the attractiveness of the object produces a multitude of problems in life. These can only be solved by switching to impersonal love.

E. Impersonal love is the “fruit” of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

F. As the believer continues to metabolize Bible doctrine, eventually this “fruit” is produced in his life. It comes from the Filling of the Holy Spirit plus the metabolization of Bible doctrine.

G. For a complete discussion see the Doctrinal Handbook: The Doctrine of Personal and Impersonal Love – Motivational and Functional Virtue.

IX. Problem Solving Device #8 – Sharing the Happiness of God

A. God is happy; there has never been a time when God was unhappy. Even in His omniscience, knowing all of the horrible things which would be done by the human race against Him, He has never been unhappy.

B. God has determined to share His very own happiness with members of the human race.

C. Salvation doesn't automatically make one happy. It simply makes it possible for a person to achieve happiness.

D. The Lord Jesus Christ said, in John 15:11: “I HAVE TAUGHT YOU THESE THINGS SO THAT MY HAPPINESS MIGHT BE IN YOU, AND THAT YOUR HAPPINESS MIGHT BE FULFILLED.”

E. His happiness came from perception and metabolization of Bible Doctrine.

F. If the believer is ever to have His happiness, it must be achieved in the same way: the perception and metabolization of Bible Doctrine.

G. Proverbs 3:13: “HAPPINESS BELONGS TO THE PERSON WHO FINDS WISDOM (Bible Doctrine metabolized in the soul), EVEN TO THE PERSON WHO FINDS UNDERSTANDING.”

H. For a complete discussion see The Doctrine of Happiness.

X. Problem Solving Device #9 – A Personal Sense of Destiny

A. At the point of salvation every believer is entered into the Plan of God. Therefore, he has a destiny.

B. Since he has a destiny, every believer should have the experience of knowing that he has a destiny. The experience of knowing that he has a destiny is a “personal sense of destiny.”

C. God the Father has provided equal privilege and equal opportunity for all believers of the Church Age.

D. The believer’s destiny is linked with His eternal security. There is no sin which the believer can ever commit, no renunciation he can make, no way he can ever cancel what God did for the believer at salvation.

E. Rom 8:32: “HE THAT SPARED NOT HIS OWN SON, BUT DELIVERED HIM UP FOR US ALL, HOW SHALL HE NOT WITH HIM FREELY GIVE US ALL THINGS.”

F. For a complete discussion of the security of the believer, see the pamphlet, Eternal Security.

G. Once the believer knows, through the metabolization of doctrine, that he has a destiny, both in time and in eternity, all boredom, self-pity and other problems which are manufactured from ignorance of doctrine disappear.

H. The more the believer learns and understands the Doctrine of the Plan of God, the more he will develop a personal sense of destiny.

I. A personal sense of destiny is related to understanding the privileges which belong to the believer because he is a part of God’s Royal Family. Whether one succeeds or fails from a human standpoint, whether one is known or unknown, every believer has a destiny.

J. Therefore, the daily perception and metabolization of Bible Doctrine is necessary not only to know about one’s destiny but also to appreciate it.

K. Positive volition is the key: The more one has personal volition, the greater his growth; the more he grows, the greater his positive volition. The more one's positive volition, the more he learns about God's will, purpose, plan and design for his life.

L. In spiritual adulthood, this personal sense of destiny becomes so great that it outweighs any problem, any disaster, any heartache, any tragedy that comes one's way.

M. Since most believers never reach adulthood, most are constantly unaware of their destiny. Thus, they are whiners, complainers, constantly falling apart for all kinds of reasons.

N. Having a destiny doesn't solve the problems – all believers have a destiny. It is the experience of knowing that is the problem solving device.

O. It is this personal sense of destiny that makes it possible for the believer to deal with death and dying.

P. Anyone depending on wealth, success, authority or power of influence for his destiny is like a straw in the wind. Anyone building his destiny from his own ability, talent or even from his dreams, will end up with a wasted life. There is no real destiny apart from the Plan of God for one's life.

Q. One's personal sense of destiny is related to his becoming an invisible hero.

XI. Problem Solving Device #10 – Occupation with the Person of Jesus Christ

A. Occupation with Christ helps the believer avoid unrealistic expectations from having eyes on self, on people, on circumstance or on things... all of which are sources of a great many problems.

B. Occupation with Christ is seeing everything in life from the perspective of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

C. For a complete discussion, see the Doctrinal Handbook: [The Ultimate Problem Solving Device – Occupation with Christ](#).

PLEASE NOTE: ALL DOCTRINES, DOCTRINAL HANDBOOKS, BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS REFERRED TO ARE AVAILABLE ON A GRACE BASIS BY WRITING TO GRACE MEMORIAL BIBLE CHURCH.