

Copyright © 2009
Sylvia D. Pearce
All rights reserved

Published by:
Christ, Our Life Ministries, Inc.
Po Box 43268
Louisville, Ky. 40253

Programs 21, 22

The Lie Exposed Satan is the culprit

- **Rom.7:17&20** No more I that do it, but sin dwelling in me
- **Heb.2:14** Destroy him who had the power of death
- **I John3:15** He that sins is of the devil, for he sinned from the beginning and Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil
- **Rom.8:3** Condemned sin in the flesh
- **Rom.6:6** Old man is crucified

LEAP OF FAITH

- **Psa.23** I prepare a table before you
- **Rom.7:25** I serve Christ with my new mind
- **Rom.8:2** Christ has set me free from the law of sin and death
- **Heb.4:9-12** Labor to enter into rest
- **Heb.10:32** After you are illuminated, you fight a great fight of affliction
- **II Peter 1:4** Partakers of the divine nature
- **Heb.6:12** Inherit the promises
- **Rom.12:37** Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind
- **Matt.12:37** What do I believe? For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned
- **IICor.5:17** I am a new creation.
- **Gal.2:20** I am united to Christ, and the real me is Christ in me.
- **Heb.2:14** The dwelling place of Satan has been destroyed.
- **Col.3:10** We have put on the new man which is renewed after the image of Christ
- **Gal.5:24** My fleshly activity is crucified that was based on self-sufficiency
- **Heb.10:14** I am sanctified (made holy) by the body death of Christ
-

NOW THAT I AM A CHRISTIAN, WHO AM I?

- **Gal.2:20** I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- **Rom.5:1** I am justified-completely forgiven and made righteous.
- **Col.1:14** I am redeemed through the cleansing blood.
- **2Tim.1:9; Titus.3:5** I am saved and set apart according to God's grace.
- **Col.1:14** I am forgiven of all my sins. The debt against me has been canceled.
- **Rom.6:1-6** I died with Christ to the power of sin's rule over my life.

- **Rom.8:1** I am free forever from condemnation.
- **Rom.6:11** I am dead to sin, and alive to God. Now recognize it so.
- **ICor.2:12** I have received the Spirit, that I might know what I freely have.
- **ICor.2:16** I have the mind of Christ.
- **ICor.6:19** I am bought with a price; I am not my own.
- **2Cor.6:19**(**Eph.1:13,14**) I am established, anointed and sealed by God in Christ, and I have been given the Holy spirit as a pledge guaranteeing my inheritance
- **2Cor.5:14,15** Since I am dead, I no longer live for myself, but to Christ
- **2Cor.5:21** I have been made righteous
- **Eph.1:3** I am blessed with every spiritual blessing
- **Eph.1:4** I was chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and am without blame before him
- **Eph.1:5** I was predestined-determined by God-to be adopted as God's son
- **Eph.2:6** I am raised up and seated with Christ in heaven
- **Eph.2:18** I have direct access to God through the Spirit
- **Eph.2:5** I am made alive together with Christ
- **Eph.3:12** I came boldly, in freedom and with confidence to God
- **Col.1:13** I am rescued from the domain of Satan's rule and transferred to the kingdom of Christ
- **Rom.7:4** I am dead to the law... (I should and I ought to's)
- **Col.2:11** I am spiritually circumcised. My old unregenerate nature has been removed
- **Colo.2:10** I am made whole, complete, and lacking nothing
- **Col.3:1-4** I died with Christ and I have been raised up with Christ. My life is now hidden with Christ in God. Christ is now my life
- **2Tim.1:7** I have been given a spirit of power, love and self-discipline
- **Heb.2:11** Because I am sanctified and am one with the Sanctifier, He is not ashamed to call me His brother
- **2Peter1:4** I have been given exceedingly great and precious promises by God by which I am a partaker of God's divine nature
- **Col.2:12,13** I have been buried, raised and made alive with Christ

Finally, we are ready to leap into the truth. Have we considered the lie long enough? Have you spun around and around in the clothes dryer long enough for the centrifugal force to ring you out? Haven't you even tried to master yourself by understanding this presentation? Aren't you tired of thinking about yourself? Aren't you tired of trying to figure yourself out? Are you in Spiritual bankruptcy? Do you wonder why?

"God afflicted you to break you off from **your own** will, from your voluptuous pride and **your own** dissolute life: But if you go on, you shall hereafter surely taste the hellish dregs."¹

Rest my precious friend, it is through "the leap of faith" that the Lord will restore your soul. If you try as you might to fix your own soul through human psychology, or 12 step programs, or self-help programs, you will end up focusing on your behavior instead of focusing on who you are in Christ. The Bible says, "The mind set on the flesh is death." If you are just focused on yourself, you will end up like this centipede who concentrates on his behavior so much that it paralyzes him. See the fable:

"Two years ago I read a fable about a centipede and a frog. During their conversation the frog asked the centipede. "You have so many feet, how do you walk? When you walk, which of your hundred feet moves first?" So the centipede tried to figure out which foot moved first. No matter how he tried he could not put

¹ Jacob Boehme, a 16th century mystic, wrote this in his book—The 40 Questions of the Soul.

forth one foot. He became so disgusted that he declared, "I do not care, I am going." Yet before he could make a move, he was again thinking of which foot moved first. He was thus completely paralyzed. After a while the sunlight broke through the cloud. When he saw the light his heart was so enthralled with it that he just ran after the sunlight. Gone was his concern over the order of his foot movement. He was actually moving forward. Now this fable can serve as a mirror to our Christian life. Whenever we turn to look at ourselves we are immobilized and cannot advance; but if we look at the truth of God, we shall unconsciously move ahead.²

Paul leapt from the lie that he was believing about himself in Romans 7 to identify with the truth that would set him free. The negative always puts passion behind the positive. Somewhat like the interaction of opposites seen in a child's sling shot. The tension of the negative withdrawal is behind the positive thrust of the stone.

The temptation to believe lies about me, i.e. "who I am not," puts vigor and strength behind the faith to believe, "who I really am." Being conscious of both opposites helps clarify and build faith in the truth. If, when we believe lies we experience confusion, and condemnation, then when we once hear and believe the truth and embrace it, our faith causes release to the inner tension. So, the negative actually conditions us to leap into the truth of what Jesus says about us instead of continuing in the lies the devil has deluded us with, most of our lives. The temptation to try to fix ourselves will eventually cause me to leap into the truth, instead of wallowing in the pig pen of self dependency.

Being tempted to try to improve ourselves gives way to standing on the finished work of Galatians 5:24, "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh, with its affections and lust." Our practice of faith, i.e. standing on the truth, will then give way to a fixation and permeate knowing in our spirit.

I John starts out by saying "we believe," and ends up saying "we know." There is a difference. Believing is agreeing with God, while knowing is being established, settled and confirmed. A perfect example is when we are first saved. We are believing that we are a child of God. Then, in time, your faith dissolved into a fixed knowing. No one could convince you that you were not saved because, you know, that you know, that you know.

All faith starts out a little unsure, because we are believing something unseen, opposite of appearances, and radically different. Amazingly, that unseen person we believe in, comes back in us and confirms the reality of His presence. "His Spirit witnesses to my spirit, that we are the sons of God." Believing has dissolved into a confirming witness, and then finally into a knowing. Faith doesn't need appearances or feelings to confirm it, faith has its own witness. "His Spirit witnesses to my spirit, that we are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:16). Believing has dissolved into a confirming witness, and then finally into a knowing. Faith doesn't need appearances or feelings to confirm it, faith has its own witness.

How can words express the glory that filled Paul's heart as his spirit leaped in agreement with the Spirit of Life that was in him? The Spirit of Christ had set him free from the downward pulls of the law of sin and death which held him in bondage in his flesh. Paul ends Romans Seven shouting his freedom cry, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin" (Rom. 7:25).

² Taken from; "The Way to Self Knowledge by: Watchman Nee

Paul finally had the discernment to see that there were two dimensions coexisting inside of him. One was the flesh dimension, which he was aware of all of his life, and the other was the Spirit dimension, which was a new reality to him. It was impossible for him to operate in both consciousnesses' at the same time. There had to be a severe stripping away of one reality and a radical replacement by the other. Paul says in Philippians 3:8 "I count all things but loss for the excellencies of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord for whom I have suffered the loss of *all things*, and do count them but *dung*, that I might win Christ." And Jesus said that "whosoever will save his life shall lose it: And whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it"(Matt, 16:25).

God's dealings with the Jewish nation at the Jordan River is a vivid picture of how God dealt with Paul. If we can imagine the Jordan River flowing between the last few verses of Romans Seven and the first verse of Romans Eight, we will see Paul's dilemma. He is standing in the wilderness looking across the Jordan River at the promised place of rest. The obvious question arises; "Will I stay in the miserable, but comfortable familiar wilderness and not receive my inheritance, or will I leap into the risky unknown and receive what God has promised me?"

This enlightens us, as well as challenges us today. Which mind are we going to operate from? Living in Romans Seven, we will either remain in a needy, condemned, "I've got to fix myself" consciousness and operate in it, or, we will leap into the Spirit dimension of Romans 8 and function by faith as "whole, complete and lacking nothing" (James 1:4). We cannot have it both ways. For "flesh and blood *cannot* inherit the kingdom of God"(I Cor. 15:50).

There is glorious freedom awaiting God's sons upon entering into the new promised land of no condemnation. Yet at the same time this is the place, I dare say, that most Christians get snagged and even stopped. We have never heard that Christ has come back inside of us releasing us from a striving self by giving us His own life of rest. The children of Israel did not enter into rest because of their unbelief. They paid a great price as an example to us. Let us honor their suffering by *learning* from their example (Heb. 4:11)..

God has strong warnings concerning this radical place. "Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it" (Hebrews 4:1). "For we which have believed do enter into rest," as compared to the Israelites who could not enter in because of unbelief. Here in Romans 8, we reach the Jordan River in our consciousness and the penetrating question arises, "do we believe what God says to be the truth, or do we believe what appears (feeling and thinking) to be the truth?"

The Israelites grieved the Holy Spirit because they erred in their "evil hearts of unbelief" (Hebrews 3:7-19). Strong language isn't it? Yet, this is a very serious matter. For we are standing between the bondage of a hellish me, and the freedom of a new me as Christ. Behind us is the Romans Seven desert of striving self which is death. Yet, before us lies the apparent impossibility of unconquerable giants.

How is it possible for me to totally inherit the rest that is promised when my soul seems so manic one minute and the next minute plummets downward to the depths of despair? My heart is comforted by the scripture knowledge that this Spiritual warfare is normal. Our Lord Himself experienced satanic attacks in the wilderness. The Hebrews letter says in 10:32, "after you were illuminated, you endured a great fight of afflictions." And in 4:11, "we are to *labor* to enter into His rest." This "fight" and this "labor" is the simple leap of faith. Yet all hell tells you, "it is not true." That is why Romans Eight puts great emphasis on walking in the Spirit and not in the flesh. For we have no condemnation if we "*walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*" If Paul walks in who he is in Christ, he has no condemnation. However, if he strives to become something by self-effort, he is condemned and under the law.

Walking in the flesh is temporarily revisiting Romans Seven by falling into the trap of believing that "I should," or "I ought" to try to somehow improve myself, defend myself, or keep myself from evil. The illusionary 'I' has reappeared and this 'I' is subject to the outer law that it cannot keep. We are always being tempted downward with assaults that pull us back to self-effort: be more patient, don't lose your temper, get rid of your evil thoughts, struggle against your lust, solve yourself, and try to fix others. I am a needy self so I have to- DO, DO, DO in order to save myself." This is a lie! But because I am so used to taking charge of my own life and trying to control myself, I easily slip back into the try and fail dilemma of Romans Seven.

God puts us through a painful process of learning how to walk in the Spirit. The way to walk in the Spirit is always by faith. That means we must always go back to what the **truth** is about us since the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the grave dwells in you, He, the Holy Spirit, will quicken your mortal flesh! For you are not really a flesh being, you are a Spirit being (Romans 8: 9-11). Flesh doesn't master flesh, but Spirit masters flesh. Someone once said, "We all think we were human beings on a spiritual journey, but in fact we are really Spirit beings on a human journey."

The truth is that the law of Spirit and Life (Christ living His life) has set us free from the law of sin and death (Satan's bondage in our flesh level). It is already done. For what we could not do for ourselves, Christ did by "condemning sin in our flesh" (Rom. 8:3), thereby freeing us to be joined to our true husband, Christ, who fulfills the "righteousness of the law in us"(8:4).

The Cross defeated the whole satanic reign in our flesh by condemning Satan and putting him behind prison bars, thereby rendering him powerless. Satan is bound but not gagged. For he can still shout accusations at us behind prison bars, which he does constantly (Rev.12:10). This is why we have to learn how to walk in the Spirit truth and not in Satan's accusing lies.

We must learn *not* to look at what is seen. Satan would have us look down at our flesh appearance, which is "the mind set on the flesh." If we do, God promises us that *we will die* (8:6a). But if we dare look at the unseen and fix our gaze there, we are setting our "minds on the Spirit." That mind-set promises us life and peace (8:6b). Let us shout the victory before it comes into outer manifestation. We can now claim our right *not* to be condemned. We will not receive that lie anymore. However we appear, there is "*now* (present tense) *no-condemnation*."

We fight, by not fighting! Just like Jehoshaphat the king, "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle; set yourself, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord" (II Chron. 20:17). Now the onus is on God. For we cannot stop ourselves from striving. God is the one that causes our faith stand to appear in our flesh. However, we are not going to watch for it to happen, for that would be "the mind set on the flesh" again. As far as we are concerned, we are going to accept ourselves as right selves, "whole, complete and lacking nothing." That is the "mind set on the Spirit."

God promises us that if we "walk in the Spirit we *shall not* fulfill the lust of the flesh"(Gal. 5:16). How do we walk in the Spirit? We just 'be' ourselves and expect the Spirit to *cause* us to walk in God's ways "and do them." "I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall keep my judgments, and do them" (Ezek. 36:26-27).

The Gospel is an exchange of gods, not an exchange of flesh. There was not one thing wrong with Paul's flesh! In fact, there never was. It was the "misuse" of the flesh that is wrong all along, and not the flesh. For we know that Jesus Himself walked in human flesh as a man, and yet He never sinned.

Christ won the victory over Satan in Paul's humanity, at the Cross (Romans 6:6). Therefore the fight is over. We can now leap into the person of Christ as our Victor, and our Rescuer, and our Life. We cease from trying to be our own savior and cannot touch our rescue. We confess with God that it is "not by (our) power, or by (our) might, but by my Spirit saith the Lord" (Zech. 4:6). When

you know the truth and agree with God, the lie falls away because it loses its false power. "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32).

This operation is the work of the Holy Spirit as He births our consciousness from self-loathing to self-acceptance and from self-effort to Spirit believing. We cannot touch this process. It is a metamorphosis, somewhat like a butterfly coming out of its cocoon. There is a transformation taking place inside of us as all the false realities die in the brightness of Christ. "The Day Star," rises in us, and as us. Like the butterfly, we shed our grave clothes of false belief in a false self. Every lie drops off with the cocoon in the glory of His coming.

When this happens we do not lose our unique human self with all its faculties and capacities. The grave clothes are not our humanity, but the lies we've believed about our humanity. We were never wrong. We were indwelt by a false god who misused our precious humanity. What we do lose is the delusion of an independent self we believed in. What we gain is the glory of Christ's Spirit and my spirit, merged together as one spirit being "1 Cor. 6:17). It is an interpenetrating of spirits; so much so, that we don't know where one stops and the other begins.

Most Christians can say that Christ lives in them, but confessing that Christ is "as" them is another story. We have to take a leap of faith to say it, for it doesn't seem to be the truth. Until we take a leap and say, "Christ as us," we are not accepting the form that Christ is taking as us, and ultimately we are not believing God. For Ephesians 1:6 says: "wherein He has made us accepted in the beloved." God has accepted us, therefore, we by faith, accept ourselves.

This is the declaration of emancipation of the human self! It is revolutionary! All hell screams at us as if we are liars. We fight by not fighting, and by leaping into the person of Christ who is our rest. Satan is the liar and the father of illusions, but we don't judge by appearances, we judge righteous judgment and walk by faith.

Faith is substance, and the substance is within us supernaturally. Faith is not built on reason. It is built on fact. The fact is that we are complete in Christ, lacking nothing (Colossians 2:9-10). All we have is our word of faith, yet the strength doesn't come from our word. The strength comes from Christ, the one we are putting our faith in. Our word might seem very weak, even seeming as small as a mustard seed. But wasn't Abraham's faith small in the beginning? He could only hope when everything looked hopeless (Romans 4:18). We must take heart, for is anything too hard for God?

Our only part in this whole process is to just look into a mirror. The question is; do I just see myself alone? Or do I dare to see, by faith, the glory of the Lord in my human form? By simply gazing into the mirror of my true identity, I am changed from glory to glory even by the Spirit of the Lord.

My husband, Scott, said something interesting the other day about faith. He said, "Faith takes too long for most people, so we have to devise ways to help God get rid of our evils." In a day of microwave living with instant everything, we think we need instant answers. But James says, "let patience have her perfect work that you may be perfect and entire, lacking nothing." So actually it is in not seeing that we really learn faith.

Faith does dissolve into knowing. Faith becomes a settled fact in us, more sure than our outer reality. Inner revelation knowing is unmovable. For what we take by faith becomes a living reality in us.

We walk on the unseen waters of the truth. The miracle is that what we take must take us, and comes back as an echo inside our consciousness as a confirming witness (1 John 5:10). That is when we cry as Paul did in Romans 8, "Abba, Father." The son has possessed his possessions and

comes home to the Father within. Job's hopeful cry, "Yet in my flesh shall I see God," races through time and bursts into manifestation in us today."

"We must press on to maturity. We must attain to "the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ", and not remain in God's kindergarten indefinitely. If we grow into manhood in the spiritual life we shall not escape conflict. As long as Ephesians 6:10-18 remains in the Bible, we must be prepared for serious warfare—And having done all, to stand". J. O. Fraser

This is the greatest mystery in the universe and can only be seen by its opposite misused form first. "Unless we have plainly once for all seen our problem was Satan **not us**, and our release is Christ **not us**, we stumble along where we should be '**mounting with wings like eagles**' (Isaiah 40:31) and running without weariness and walking without fainting."(Grubb, Norman; The Law of Opposites).

God commands Satan to do his last and final work on us Christians. This radical stripping is done at God's appointed time, for only He knows how to cleanse his created vessel. God says in Deuteronomy 32:39, "I, even I, am He, I wound, and I heal." As in Job, God says again, "Have you (Satan) considered my servant Job?" God uses his convenient agent, Satan, to do the final work of tearing down all the remnant of false sufficiency and expose the fact that self-sufficiency is not produced by us, but by Satan.

"The Cross has to be real before there can be a steady realization of the resurrection. It is a real death in experience, and probably there has to be a period when we are much more conscious of our having died with Him than having risen with Him. By no other means can we be understanding servants of Christ. We must have really tasted of the self-defeating activities of independent self in our redeemed lives and have really become soured on them. We must have come to some final point of desperation and despair to have learned our lesson with an utter finality that this way of life, of us serving Christ rather than of Him serving Himself in and by us, is a spill-over into our new lives of the great curse of the Fall, the delusion of self-sufficiency. It has to be a revelation—that the ultimate form of sin is a misuse of self, just as it then can become a personal revelation that the misuse of self is what was removed in the cross and is thus removed in us."³

Foes Barring the Way to the Throne

"I have stated that the way to the Enthroned Life is "easy". Now I am going to say that it is fraught with great difficulties. There is a ready answer in the history of Israel which resolves this seeming contradiction. The Promised Land, which flowed with milk and honey, beautiful and rich beyond compare, was given to God's chosen people. "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you"; thus spoke the Lord to Israel's leaders, Joshua. Israel was commanded to enter in and possess the land which by a Divine decree, confirmed in heaven, had been given to her. It was hers by the gift of God sealed by His Holy Word. But that did not alter the fact that Israel had to fight. The Canaanites had to be driven out of their strongholds. The giant sons of Anak had to be overthrown, Jericho had to be besieged, and her mighty walls leveled. A thousand iron chariots had to be destroyed, and the veteran warriors who drove them slain.

It is well that we must fight, for Christian character can be achieved in no other way. God is forging men after His own good courage. We must be Calebs, of whom it was

³ Norman P. Grubb God Unlimited; pg. 63

said that he 'followed the Lord wholly', and who, when the people quailed and turned back in fear, rebelling against the Lord, cried out: "If the Lord delight in us then he will bring us into the land for they are bread for us...the Lord is with us: fear them not". Yes! We must be strong and very courageous, not turning from God's Word to the right hand or to the left. The floods will divide, Jerichos will fall, the giants of the land will be routed, the kings will be brought out of their caves, and hiding places, and slain. But we must do our part. We must put our feet upon the necks of these kings. We must enter in and possess the land. It is ours by a decree of God. The throne is ours because it is Christ's and we are His, purchased with a great price. With Him we were raised up and made to sit together in heavenly places.

Indeed, it is both easy and hard to enter the land. There are giants to be overcome. **The way to the Throne is contested by principalities and powers.** We wrestle not with flesh and blood, as Paul reminds us in his Ephesian Epistle, but against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in high places.

Is it not significant that Paul's letter to the Ephesians where the Throne-privileges of the Church are the central theme, should close with a call to war? "Put on the whole armor of God that you might be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." "Wherefore, take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day." I say, such a close to the Ephesian Epistle with its call to Throne-Life is so sublimely given, is surprising indeed. Why battle? Why not peace? Why warfare? Why not joy unspeakable and full of glory? The reason is simple enough. There is no position occupied by the Christian which so enrages Satan and his hosts as that of the Enthroned Life. To counteract the effect of the believer taking such a position, the devil will mobilize ten thousand demons and declare war; for as we shall see in succeeding chapters this life of union with the reigning Lord brings with it an equipment of divine authority before which the rulers of the darkness of this world cannot stand. To the enthroned Christian, power is given over all the power of the enemy; he speaks and mountains of satanic oppression are cast into the sea. Hence the opposition—all hell moves against the believer's appropriation of his throne-rights and privileges.

The point I wish to make now is, that the initial step of the believer wholly given to his Lord, who determines to enter into the Enthroned Life of union with his Savior in the power of His resurrection and ascension, will certainly lead him into trial, uncertainty, and conflict. At first it may seem to him that he is worse off than he was before. Instead of more light he may be oppressed by the darkness of the pit. Floods of accusation may pour in upon him. Where before his position as a Christian was secure, now all seems open to terrible doubts. Fiery darts of the Wicked One assail him. The foundations of his being are shaken. He could wish, as did Israel, that he had remained where he was on the other side of Jordan.

All this will be turned to good account. He must, as the great mystics of the Church were, want to say, "enter into his nothingness." Jesus the Lord must be his All. He must learn to love the Lord for Himself alone. The knife of the Cross must be applied as never before to the pride, natural to "flesh-life." All testing of our faith is good. If now the believer by sheer, "naked faith" will but hold to his position, though the lion roar, and though absolutely nothing which he had imagined such a position would bring seems real, If when mighty Jericho's of opposition loom up before him, the believer will hold his position of union with Christ on His Throne by naked faith, and praise God that it is all real, real, because God who cannot lie says it is so, real though ten thousand circumstances and feelings thunder and say that it

is not; he will soon emerge as does the pilot of an airplane, who has found his way through a storm and has come into the clear sunlight of the skies. He will experience a liberation of spirit never known before. Circumstances which before overwhelmed him will be under his feet. The enemy, who before, all unknown to him, will flee from the field of battle. He will find himself equipped with powers he never dreamed were possible to the Christian. A new universe will come into being. Naturally he will not come into the possession of Throne-rights and powers without also Throne-graces. The fight will now be on a higher plane. The murmurings and defeats because of "the flesh", so characteristic of life prior to crossing Jordan, the wanderings, the fruits of "self-life", now cease. The spirit is release. The "flesh", I will not only say was, but is crucified with Christ; for Throne-Life cannot be maintained without a constant application of what Andrew Murray has called "the cauterizing power of the Cross." Now, the efficacy of Christian testimony, service and ministry (I am thinking of the ministry to which all Christians are called) is multiplied a thousand times.

But it must not be thought that this crisis, once passed, will not be repeated. As nothing else which the Christian Faith represents, the Devil is out to defeat any manifestation of the Enthroned Life. He will leave no stone unturned. The only real menace to his authority, which is often maintained in spite of the trappings of "Churchianity", as it is to a great degree wherever "flesh-life", which for want of perception pass for genuine Christian experience—the only real menace to his authority, I repeat, is the authority of the Enthroned Life. He knows it and brings all his engines of war to bear upon this one point.

Yes! The believer who by faith in the Word of God takes his position with his Lord as one made to sit in heavenly places; must be prepared for battle. Even after years in the enjoyment of such a life he may, like Israel (always a faithful type of Christian experience) when deceived by the Gibeonites, suffer a severe defeat. He must be watchful. The enemy will strike in ways adapted to his exalted position. "The flesh" is dead only as by faith there are ever fresh appropriations of the Radium of Calvary". It is a process which must run parallel with Throne-power, else the latter will be vitiated, and there will be a coming down from the Throne, a sinking down into what has been called the "vessel of soul", and a consequent advantage given to Satan which he will not lose a second in seizing. John saw on the Throne "a Lamb as it had been slain"; we cannot in spirit be with Jesus on the Throne except as we share His Lamb-hood nature, and are conformed to His death.⁴

The Stages of Self-Discovery

The best way for the Lord to unravel this process is to do it in stages. This presentation takes us **from stage to stage** as the Spirit begins to illuminate to us the real truth

Norman Grubb once said that we move from "wrong-self, to no-self, to right-self." This is another way of declaring the great identity truths of Galatians 2:20:

"I (wrong-self) am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I (no-self), but Christ lives in me, and the life which I (right-self), now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loves me and gave himself for me". There are five "I's" in Galatians 2:20. This shows an evolution of man's consciousness being transformed by a radical replacement of minds: From the mind of the flesh, to the mind of the Spirit; from the wisdom of this world, to the Wisdom of God; from the mind of Satan to the mind of Christ; from the mind of the Harlot to the virgin mind of Christ.

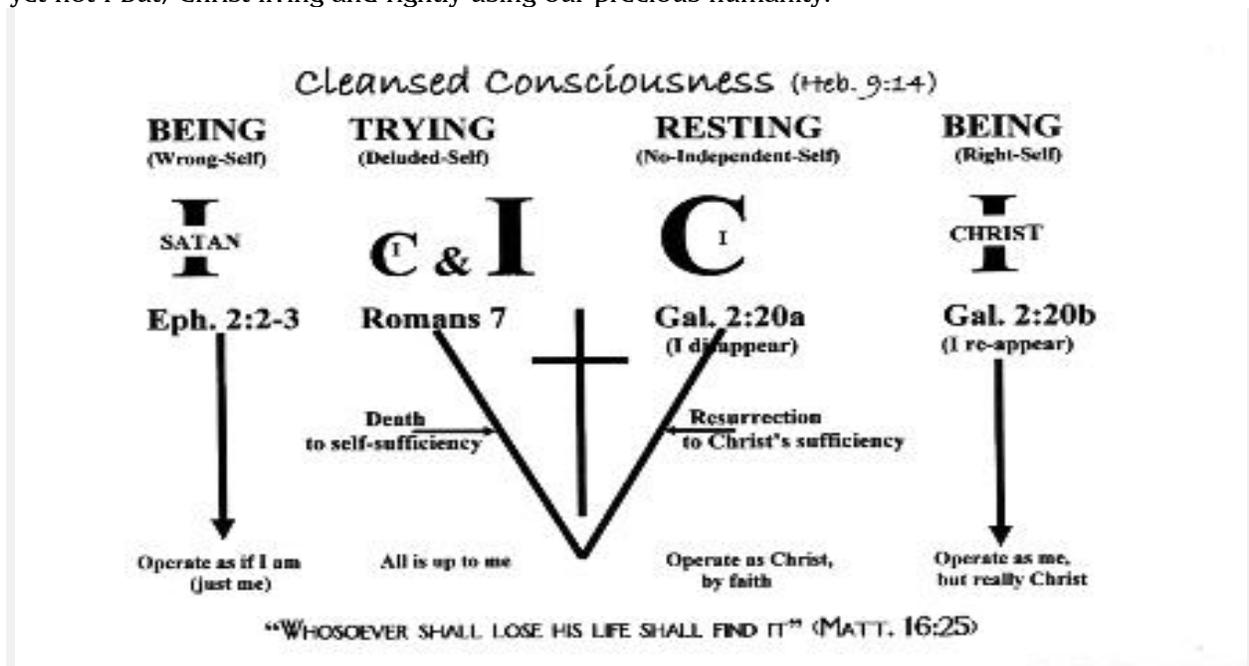
⁴ **Foes Barring the Way to the Throne** F. J. Huegel

All understanding and insights come from comparing opposites, the one opposite gaining its definition and distinction from its opposite, and significant other. Hot cannot be known except by its opposite, cold. Small cannot be understood except by its opposite, big. Soft is felt because it is not hard. Sweet is tasted and known to be sweet because it is not sour. You say yes to doing this, but hidden in that yes is a no to doing that, and so on.

Consciousness is realized the same way. We have a consciousness of oneness with Christ, because we have had a mind brainwashed with the Satanic lies of self improvement and separation. The darkness of this lying consciousness is swallowed up in the light of the glorious truth of the gospel. One is defined by and built on the other.

Identify the Four Stages

My friend, Brian Coatney took the chart presentation "What Is Man?"⁵ that I have presented for years and capsulated it into this synopsisized version. Here is his version of the Four "I's" to coin a phrase. We can see how this chart takes us from stage to stage starting with an unsaved person, to a deluded, yet saved person, to a Christ filled person and at last to the freedom of being ourselves, yet not I but, Christ living and rightly using our precious humanity.



The first "I"

The name of the first chart is "*Cleansed Consciousness*" (Hebrews 9:14). It is rightly named simply because we all must have our minds renewed to the truth (Romans 12:2), which will close all the gaps of separation and cleanse our blinded consciousness from a guilty, "What Is Wrong With Me?" sin-consciousness.

The first "I" represents our lost condition, and the word "being" represents all lost people just being themselves. They are not trying to be sinners; they are just naturally being one. They don't wake up every morning and say to their master, Satan, "How can I serve you?" Or, "What rules do I need to keep in order to be accepted by you, or stay in good standing with you?" Lost people don't work

⁵ [What is Man](#) Chart presentation available in the Liberating Secret.org book store.

hard at being lost, do they? No, they don't work hard at all. They just "be" themselves and they naturally and spontaneously bear the fruits of unrighteousness.

Why do I put the word "Satan" over the first "I"? The created human, "little spirit" or "I" is created to contain and be indwelt by a deity Spirit. Through the Fall, the human race has been invaded by an Satanic spirit. This is a very strong statement, and one most people recoil at when put like that. However, the scriptures clearly say it in Ephesians 2:1-4. None of us walk according to our own will, our own life, or our own minds. No, we humans have always been enslaved to, or joined to, another. Romans 6:17 calls us "*slaves of sin.*" A slave doesn't do his own separate living; he lives under the control of another.

The second "I"

Let us move on to the second stage. Suffering drives the hungry heart to Christ, the Savior. The Cross delivers us from the powers of darkness and transforms us into newly created beings. It all was finished at the Cross, **but how then do I experience this power and transformation? And why don't I automatically experience it?**

Christians are always trying and striving to improve themselves. Instead of depending on the Spirit's transforming power, we Christians try to improve ourselves by self-effort. If we understood what the Bible declares to be true, then there is no self to improve. You can't improve a dead man. "*For ye are dead, and "Christ who is our life"* (Colossians 3:3-4).

Our minds have to be first cleansed from the pollution left over from the Fall. Deep in our consciousness, redeemed man still has the grave clothes from his former owner, Satan. We are like Lazarus coming forth out of the tomb, but after three days, I'm sure Lazarus' grave clothes stunk. And as long as we are operating from these dead grave clothes, even today THEY STILL STINK.

Now notice that there is a "C" with a little "I" in it. Actually, the "*new man*" is Christ in union with our human spirits, and that is my new identity and new life. Yet, I'm functioning as if there is Christ in me, plus a great big "PERFORMING ME." At the beginning, I might think, "He is somewhere in my back pocket to be pulled out when I am in trouble or I feel weak."

That is a lie, and the root of the stench keeping us deluded to who we really are in Christ. In our unsaved days, we thought we were an independent self, operating by self-sufficiency; and even now as a Christian we still think the same way.

The problem is that we don't know the answer to this question: *WHAT IS MAN?* If we did we would understand the human being is a helpless expression of someone else: a vessel, a branch, a temple, a wife, the body, and the slave.

Don't we Christians wear bracelets saying: "W.W.J.D."? "What would Jesus do?" This means to most of us that we should imitate Jesus and do good things like He did. Aren't we trying to become like Jesus by our own self-effort? Isn't our dependency centered in on our own flesh power, and not on the power and life of Christ in us?

These false interpretations concerning our humanity are the lie that Satan planted deep in our consciousness.

Doing good by self-effort is an expression of Satan and "dead works." The big "I" after the plus on the chart is not who we are. The big "I" is Satan disguised as a good, sufficient me.

Personally I went through a second crisis and experienced great defeat for a long time. I think that is healthy; otherwise, I would have gone right back to trying to live the Christian life by myself. I had to be completely finished with a "self-acting-self." Sometimes we are in the death side of the Cross for a long time. God has to know that we will not jump back into independent-self sufficiency, so He leaves us in the, "*NOT I*, but Christ" stage, sometimes for a long time. The "*Not I,*" truth must be burned in our consciousness.

The third "I"

Christ is not a part of our lives, HE *IS OUR LIFE* (Col. 3:3-4). When I found myself in the no-self stage, I was so thankful not to have a self. All I knew was I didn't have to live any longer. I hated myself anyway. Little did I know that I really hated Satan masquerading as a good me, and not my precious vessel-self anyway.

The real truth is that I am a resurrected new creation in Christ. The only way to possess what Christ has already provided for us is to take a leap of faith into the no-condemnation release of Romans 8. If you are still condemning yourself, then you falsely believe that you can produce your own righteousness. If we dare leap into no-condemnation then you believe that Christ is your righteousness and He must manifest His righteousness through your soul and body.

Rest entered my soul. Jesus is *taking my place* now in my daily living. What a release! I no longer live. It is Jesus going to the grocery store; it is Jesus raising my children; it is Jesus fighting my temptations. There was no me there to do anything but rest in Him. My responsibility is nothing more than, *my response to His ability*.

It is good practice to stand by faith instead of fretting and trying to become who we really already are. What irony! Now faith is the key. Nothing will happen, or be experienced until we function as faith people instead, of works people.

Take a leap into your new identity, the new you, and trust that Christ is your life. Happy is the man who doesn't condemn himself anymore. Happy is the man who knows Satan's voice of condemnation and doesn't believe his lies anymore.

The fourth "I"

We are to the final stage of restoration. Usually, however, we are so glad to be in the resting stage that we don't want anything else – but no, there is one more adjustment. We cannot be really happy until we can fully accept our human self as a right self, and our humanity as God's asset. There was never anything wrong with the human self; our sense of wrongness came from the delusion of independent-self. With the lie exposed and the truth believed, we are safe to get our self back. My basic humanity (personality and intellect) doesn't change, yet my Christ-driven-self sure looks and feels different from my Satan-driven-self.

My consciousness changes to Christ in the background and my human self in the foreground." "*I* now go to the grocery, *I* go to the bank, *I* plan my day." Is it an independent "*I*"? NO, it is really He expressing Himself by me. Yet, I am not all the time conscious of Him. Does that sound dangerous? To some, yes, but not to me. It is hard trying to be conscious of Christ all the time, and we are not meant to be. But, *I'm* doing my business, *I'm* living my life. Now, who is that "*I*"? It is the new redeemed human *I*, operating with the Operator at the helm.

The divine nature in us is other love, not self-centered love. Never again is the point of life "*about me*." I am a driven person, driven to be for others. Now, we too, are trusted by God to be sons and friends of God. Am I talking about the "old DOOR MAT" mentality? No, Jesus said, "No man takes my life from me, but I lay it down of myself" (John 10:18). I don't see Jesus taking anything off of anyone.

Someone asked me one time, "Sylvia, do you love yourself?" The answer to my friend's question is really, "Yes" I do love myself, because I accept myself and then forget myself and just be. Blessed is the day when we don't obsess about ourselves anymore.

What do I think about myself? Well, I think I can do anything. I believe I have the sufficiency to do all things. I have no fears; I have self-confidence; I think that I am wonderful. Is it just me being on an ego trip? No, it is Christ's very own right-self consciousness. Am I saying that I never "*feel*" any of these feelings of weakness? No, I am still tempted at times to fear, to worry, to be jealous etc, but my temptations don't rule me. Instead God uses them as attention getters in my life. Then I rightly use them as my opportunity for faith to see what God is doing through them.

What a transformation! Praise the Lord; we come back as super human other-love beings. This is truly the "Liberating Secret."