

Counselling and Deliverance

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Introduction

Today we are faced with a mounting tide of human problems that are causing heart-ache and devastation to many. Our generation is reaping the sorrows of rejecting the sound principles of the Word of God, but rather than point the finger or condemn, this book is a sincere attempt to inform ~ as well as help you ~ to recognize and be used of God to bring ***“deliverance to the captives”*** (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18).

The massive number of personal, family, sexual, and other relational problems are not those of the world alone ~ there are a great many Christians who have very real problems as well. It is my conviction that God’s Word (the Bible) has the answer to every problem, and this, therefore, is an earnest attempt to positively answer some of these very negative circumstances of life.

~ Rodney W. Francis.

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Chapter 1

“Problem” People

OVER THE YEARS the writer has become increasingly involved in counselling people with problems that have persisted in keeping them outside the full victory of Jesus Christ their Saviour. Some problems have been of many years standing and, by God's grace, we are seeing the Gospel having a new impact in their lives.

Lessons are being learned.

One thing is for sure: I never realized how complex human problems could be. And we don't, until we get down on to the level where the problems are, and learn to understand them.

Secondly, it has been quite a shock to discover that many Christian counselling problems today have in actual fact been caused (or aggravated by) church attitudes and ministers through their failure to grasp the individual make-up of a person. When we do not understand a person, we gain a wrong impression; our attitude toward them is affected likewise, and the things we say about, or to them, is often what drives them deeper into despair.

People who are very sensitive know exactly what I am saying. Problems of insecurity, lack of confidence, fear, isolation, lack of trust, etc., are all too common today amongst professing Christians and can only be effectively ministered to through love, compassion, understanding, patience and time.

SOME SOUL-SEARCHING QUESTIONS

We all need to stop and ask ourselves very definitely: How long has it been since we took the time to get alongside our Christian brothers or sisters to understand the source of the problems they are living with?

- **Do we really care about other people's problems?**
- **Do we care enough to do something about helping them?**

Whether we like to face it or not, when it comes to helping others, this is simply basic New Testament Christianity. Yet how often we Christians have tried to serve God at the expense of our brother or sister!

Who is fooling who?

Love for God is demonstrated in us by our “laying down our life for the brethren” (1 John 3:14-18).

PEOPLE WANT TO BE FREE!

Many of these "problem" people **want** to function in the Body of Christ and bring glory to God, but have been prevented from doing so because Christians ~ including ministers and church systems ~ have given-up on them, not being able to understand "what makes them tick." When we "give-up" on a person we are often manifesting a problem that is within **us** ~ an inability to handle people in the grace of God; a failure to want to understand; a definite lack of patience, and a need to see others as those for whom Christ died.

- **Where does one turn to when the Christian Church has turned you down?**

When I talk about "problem" people I am not talking about rebellious, unteachable people. I am speaking of people who desire to go on with God, but who have deep-seated problems they cannot cope with and who need, not the rebuke and ostracizing of the Christians, but their compassion and help.

LET YOUR GENUINENESS SHINE THROUGH

There is no shortage of needy people in your area, so be encouraged to let your love and devotion to Jesus be demonstrated in your love and devotion to helping them being made **“every whit whole.”** But be prepared to spend time in order that the genuineness of your love and concern can shine through. **If people cannot sense your genuine love and concern, they will never trust you enough to allow you to help them.** The reason is simple: they have been hurt and let down so often in the past that they do not want you to do the same to them. And because they have been hurt so often in the past they have built "a wall of protection" (a "front") around their heart ~ and only genuine love and concern demonstrated will melt those barriers. Once the barriers have been melted ~ and it takes time ~ then you can constructively build a foundation in their lives that will see them through into total victory. And oh! What a great joy it is to see these people coming through to the glory of God.

LOVE NEVER FAILS!

It has been my joy to be used of God to bring people through to victory; to see them functioning beautifully in God through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and their lives producing fruit for God. To me, this is a great reward, for it is my brothers and my sisters ~ whom I love dearly ~ that are able to find a true expression in God without fear or condemnation. Their experience is like that of the Psalmist who declared:

“Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 124:7-8).

- ***“LOVE NEVER FAILS”*** (1 Corinthians 13)!

It never has ~ and it never will. Release it among those needy ones who do not enjoy the victory you do. You'll be amazed at the results.

* See my book, *“You Can Measure Your Love For God.”*

Chapter 2

Counselling

IN RECENT YEARS we have heard much about counselling in the Christian Church. And counselling (in many situations) **is** necessary for a successful flow into church life. In the areas I shall cover, we shall see that counselling in itself is not sufficient to change lifestyles permanently for the better.

In the Bible "counselling" refers to "giving advice," especially in the area of decision-making. The kings had their counsellors and they helped to decide about going to war, etc. This is why we have such Scriptures as:

"In the multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14; 15:22; 20:18 and 24:6).

These Scriptures are not referring to the type of counselling this book is all about. Indeed, many people with problems today are actually in a great deal of confusion through running around from counsellor to counsellor.

We are told that Joseph of Arimathea was ***"an honourable counsellor"*** (Mark 15:43).

What we call counselling today must be far more than giving advice. People need to be set free from whatever it is that keeps them back from the victory God intends for them to have! Every preacher of the Word of God is a counsellor in his own right, for he should be giving sound advice each time he ministers.

A CHALLENGING REALIZATION

I was converted in a Pentecostal church over 48 years ago and most of that time has been spent in ministry, both in New Zealand and overseas. The church I was saved in I became the pastor of (1974-1990). Over the years I have seen and heard perhaps the best of ministry preaching the Word of God. Yet, for all that, I realized that there were many Christians ~ Holy Spirit-filled and otherwise ~ who have been sitting in our Christian churches with real bondages in their lives. The preaching of the Word alone had not been sufficient to release the people into the freedom of God. Something was missing. So I began to search the Scriptures, my own heart, and God. **Either God has all the answers ~ or He is not God!**

Chapter 3

Deliverance

COUNSELLING IS NOT ENOUGH! People can have access to all the good advice they want, but good advice alone does not meet the desperate needs of mankind. **I discovered there must be counselling AND DELIVERANCE.**

Deliverance releases from bondage. The word does not sound as “professional” as counselling, but it is more Scripturally correct. In counselling one can know the answers theoretically, but in deliverance there is a practical demonstration which provides the answer.

The word “deliver” or “deliverance” means “to rescue, to cause to happen, to draw out, away, to save, to let or cause to escape, to cause to find, to redeem, restore, etc.”

- **It is doing something about the problem.**

“A true witness delivers souls . . .” (Proverbs 14:25).

THE HOLY SPIRIT ANOINTING

In the area of counselling and deliverance we must give place to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The secret of Jesus Christ's ministry was that He was anointed by the Holy Spirit:

Deliverance

“How God ANOINTED Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed (“to exercise power against any one; hence, to over-power, oppress” - Bullinger’s) of the devil; for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38).

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord has ANOINTED Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified. And THEY shall rebuild the old ruins, THEY shall raise up the former desolations, and THEY shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations” (Isaiah 61:1-4).

Notice **the purpose of the anointing** is to bring about positive change in the lives of **“those who mourn,”** those whose lives have been reduced to **“ashes”** and **“the spirit of heaviness,”** so they can not only be planted by God in righteousness whereby He is glorified, but also that delivered ones can then go and do the work of restoration in others.

- **That is deliverance!**

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has ANOINTED Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted (“rubbed together as to the heart”), to preach deliverance (“a letting go, a sending forth; dismissal, a setting free as from captivity, or as from sins, hence, remission, pardon” - Bullinger’s) to the captives (“one taken by the spear”), and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised (“to break, break in pieces, to break down” - Bullinger’s), To preach the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:18-19).

“The spirit of counsel and might” (“strength, power, mighty acts”) was upon Jesus (Isaiah 11:2).

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off your shoulder, and his yoke from off your neck, AND THE YOKE SHALL BE DESTROYED BECAUSE OF THE ANOINTING”

(Isaiah 10:27 KJV, emphasis in Scripture quotes mine).

These Scriptures show us that the ministry of Jesus and the anointing of the Holy Spirit are for releasing the captives from their yokes of bondage. The anointing enables us to put broken people back together again ~ so much so that they are made ***“completely well”*** (John 7:23).

Chapter 4

God Delivered Israel Through A Man

**GOD WANTS TO USE US TO BRING FORTH
THE DELIVERANCE MINISTRY.**

IN EXODUS 2:23-25 and 3:7-10 we read of the children of Israel being in real bondage. Their bondage was so great that they cried out to God for help. God saw their affliction, and said:

“I am come down to DELIVER them.”

- Then He commissioned a man (Moses) to do it!

“Come now therefore, and I will send YOU . . . that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt” (See also Acts 7:34-36).

- God heard the cries of His people!
- He saw their affliction!
- He came down to deliver them; but He still chose to work through a man!

God uses men anointed by the power of the Holy Spirit to bring *“deliverance to the captives.”*

So many are trying to get their own freedom without the help of God's anointed ministers ~ and the problems are (too often) growing worse. With many bondages today, self-will and determination bring no results. There must be counselling and deliverance through anointed men of God. (The Lord wants His Body ~ the Church ~ to function!)

After the great deliverance of Israel out of Egypt, Moses was able to testify of the Lord's deliverance:

And Moses told his father-in-law all that the Lord had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had come upon them on the way, and how the Lord had DELIVERED them. Then Jethro rejoiced for all the good which the Lord had done for Israel, whom He had DELIVERED out of the hand of the Egyptians. And Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has DELIVERED you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, and who has DELIVERED the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. Now I know that the Lord is Greater than all gods . . ." (Exodus 18:8-11, emphasis mine).

ISRAEL: A TYPE OF THE CHURCH

Israel is a type of the Church, and many parts of the Church today are in bondage ~ spiritual bondage, physical bondage, emotional bondage, financial bondage, etc., through a host of reasons. What we need to realize afresh is that it is God's will for us to be totally set free from all bondages ~ being "bound" only to the Lordship of Jesus Himself.

Many Christians do not seem to be able to accept the fact they, too, can become bound up in areas of their life, even after receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We are discovering otherwise. Scores of Christians have become snared through sin, disobedience, unforgiveness, rebellion, ignorance of Satan's devices and such like, and have only been released when the ministry of counselling and deliverance has been exercised in the name of Jesus.

Chapter 5

Guard Against Judgmental Counsel

IT IS THE MINISTRY OF MERCY THAT IS REQUIRED.

MANY CHRISTIANS have been brought into bondage through the wrong use of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, or by someone “dropping” a heavy word of judgment on them. Our ministry should always be within the framework of **“edification, exhortation and comfort”** (1 Corinthians 14:3-5, 12), motivated by the true love of God, and never to the intent of putting people down.

- **Most people are under enough condemnation already over their circumstances without us adding to it.**

God has brought them across our path so we can help and heal them ~ just like the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). This portion of Scripture gives us real insight as to how to minister. He (the good Samaritan) demonstrated practically what it means to love our neighbour. There was a flow of compassion (compassion only operates through love) and he went to the stranger in need (who was unable to help himself). **The Samaritan understood the problem and ministered accordingly, pouring in the oil and the wine.** He did not lecture or rebuke the man for falling among thieves; instead he took responsibility until the man was fully recovered.

It was the “judgmental” and “legalistic” attitudes amongst Christians, churches and ministers that shocked me into believing God’s way is much better than our way of rejecting needy people (through our unwillingness to become involved). One day this thought went through my mind: *“It would be so tragic if I, a minister of the Gospel, when I stand before the Lord to give account of my life and ministry, heard Him say to me: ‘You were guilty in your life time of turning more people AWAY from the Kingdom of God than you ever helped to bring in!’”*

I realized such things as mannerism, attitudes, legalistic concepts of sinful people (God loves the sinner ~ He hates the sin), negative **“Thou shalt not”** conversation, the pointing of the finger, etc., can all turn seeking people away from the Kingdom of God. I’ve been seeking to “go the second mile” and help the “no matter who’s” ever since. And what a difference it has made!

- **“Mercy rejoices against judgment”** (James 2:13).

Because God deals with one person with a certain problem in a certain way, it does not mean that He is going to deal with another in the same way. The ministry of counselling and deliverance must be a ministry of showing mercy . . . loving our neighbour as ourself (Matthew 5:43-48; Mark 12:28-34; Romans 13:9-10; Galatians 5:13-14 and 1 John 3:14-18).

Showing mercy means we minister to others within the following framework:

1. **Love**
 2. **Compassion**
 3. **Understanding** (which involves and teaches patience!)
 4. **Responsibility**
(See Chapter 13 for more on this).
- **Our aim is to see people totally restored to God, with their life in divine order. To do this involves the ministry of counselling and deliverance.**

Chapter 6

People Are Very Sensitive!

AS WE BEGIN to look more closely at the problems that many face, I feel it is important that we take a little time to look at people in general. The first thing one discovers is that people are very sensitive ~ sensitive to their problems, sensitive to other people's words and actions ~ (even unspoken) ~ sensitive to their own life and failures. We must understand this area of sensitivity. (Think of the times when your own sensitivity has caused you hurt because of what others have said to, or about you ~ it can hurt very deeply.) **Be aware of this as you seek to lift others out of their pit of despair.** Where there are real problems you will find this sensitivity working in a negative way. This is because the person has been **hurt emotionally** in the past from a parent/child, husband/wife relationship, or had negative critical things said to, or about them. In many cases they had tried so hard to please, but were not appreciated or understood, or an ungrateful attitude was shown. This causes **rejection** and they turn "inward" ~ they dwell on the "hurt" and begin to build a "shell" or "wall of protection" around themselves to prevent further hurts. We call this a "front," which most of us have experienced at one time or another.

Being rejected makes one feel a failure ~ even after having tried to succeed. The trauma and hurt of failure prevents them from trying again, so they give up and live behind their "front." There is a fear of hurt which affects sensitive people negatively in a very real way, and they try to protect themselves from being hurt any further.

HOW DOES SENSITIVITY WORK?

Our sensitivity is "tuned in" to receiving things through our

- **Ears** (what we hear) ~ criticism, rebukes, insults, etc.
- **Eyes** (what we see) ~ re-actions, attitudes, mannerisms, etc.
- **Emotions** (what we feel) ~ discouragement, despair, guilt, rejection, lack of appreciation, failure, etc.
- **Conscience** (inner convictions) ~ when our desires want to go against our conscience. Generally, our sensitivity is programmed to picking up the negative ~ not the positive ~ things of life, and this is what causes us to go into "our shell," "to build up a front," or to hide behind "a mask" as we go through life. It prevents the real you and the real me from shining forth to the glory of God in true freedom. If we listen to our conscience we will make decisions that will help us to rise above our negative sensitivity.
- **When we allow our sensitivity to feed our emotions continually with negative things, we are actually being our own masters at producing defeat.**

It is important that we understand this area as we seek to help those with problems.

Negative sensitivity starts a chain reaction of personal "hang-ups" which, if not dealt with in a loving, understanding Christian way, will take the person concerned on a downward trend. It goes generally like this:

1. **Lack of Positive Christian Love** (which leads to):
2. **Feeling Unwanted.**
3. **Rejection** (rebellion against authorities, wrong company, sex, crime, hardening of the attitude, ancestral and hereditary problems, the occult, drugs, hard rock scene, etc., can all manifest at this point).
4. **Lack of Genuine Trust** (many needy people do not trust professing Christians!).

People Are Very Sensitive!

- 5. Little or No Confidence.**
- 6. Very Low Self-esteem** (poor opinion of self).
- 7. Self Pity** (physical, emotional and spiritual sicknesses can manifest at this point, all triggered off by negative sensitivity causing the emotions to fester).
- 8. Insecurity** (a solid, loving Christian home life or environment is very important).
- 9. Introversion** (when a person becomes introverted as a result of being hurt emotionally. Oppression and depression then become major problems to contend with).
- 10. Smaller Circle of Friends** (which then leads to):
- 11. Isolation** as a result of withdrawing into themselves (I have personally dealt with young people in their early twenties who have gone flatting alone because they felt they could no longer cope, nobody cared, or they had no friends, etc).
- 12. Bitterness Against People, Society, and Life in General:**

Bad decisions can be made at this point, and can prove to be disastrous.

13. Suicide:

Hours have been spent in counselling people ~ both Christians and non-Christians ~ who have been so depressed and dejected that they felt that suicide was the only way out. This has included people who have been through Bible colleges, Ministry trainees, etc. The Church of Jesus needs to understand that people are hurting in a very real way and are crying out for true counselling and deliverance.

Not every person runs this course totally, but those who are hurting inside because of rejection, misunderstandings and emotional upsets will identify with most of these things.

You might be asking yourself: *“How can this happen to Christians?”* Amongst Christians this cycle can be started through:

- **Unwise criticism** (Matthew 7:1-5).
- **Lack of love and understanding** (John 13:34-35).
- **Judgmental preaching.**
- **Wrong usage of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.**
- **Authoritarian shepherds (pastors, ministers)** (Jeremiah 23:1-4).
- **Sin** (Isaiah 59:2).
- **Unforgiveness** (Mark 11:25-26).
- **Pride** (Proverbs 29:23).
- **Rebellion against sound spiritual advice** (1 Samuel 15:22-23).

HOW TO MINISTER TO SENSITIVE PEOPLE

A key verse in counselling and deliverance is Galatians 6:1 ~

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass (“a falling aside, mishap through the weakness of the person”), you who are spiritual RESTORE such a one IN A SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS, CONSIDERING YOURSELF lest you also be tempted.”

Another verse to keep in mind is:

“Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16).

It also needs to be pointed out that deliverance is not always an instant thing. Deliverance, like healing, can involve a considerable amount of time and patience ~ and we need to be prepared for both.

- **Be a good listener!**

People Are Very Sensitive!

People are eternal beings! Let us be very sensitive of this fact and always seek to have their eternal well-being at heart.

“God is not willing that any should perish” (2 Peter 3:9) ~ not even the “problem” ones!

So, in ministering to sensitive people (which is all people seeking genuine help) we must:

1. Show That We Accept Them.

2. Seek to Build Love and Trust Into Their Life:

You will need to demonstrate your love and your trust in them, and then they will learn to love and trust you. This can sometimes take some considerable time, as often in the past they have felt that their trust has been broken.

3. Have Compassion (there will be real problems to sort out).

4. Seek to Understand Them as an Individual:

Remember Jesus loves them just as much as He loves you.

5. Be Patient!

6. Give Positive Encouragement. Build Them Up in God:

They do not have to continue being a failure and a problem.

7. Provide Genuine Friendship (you may be the only one they have to start with).

8. Pray Positively With Them as They Will Let You.

9. Protect Them From Judgmental, Legalistic Christians!

**10. See Them Through to Total Restoration and Deliverance,
Where Jesus Is Lord!**

11. Introduce Them to a Loving Fellowship of God's People.

“Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not laboured with child! For more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married woman,” says the Lord. “Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left, and your descendants will inherit the nations, and make the desolate cities inhabited. Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and will not remember the reproach of your widowhood any more. For your Maker is your husband, The Lord of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. For the Lord has called you like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a youthful wife when you were refused,” says your God. “For a mere moment I have forsaken you, but with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,” says the Lord, your Redeemer (Isaiah 54:1-8).

* See my Gospel Leaflet, “Sing O Barren . . .”

Chapter 7

Carnal Christians

A*nd I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase* (1 Corinthians 3:1-7).

IN OUR DEALINGS WITH PEOPLE, we must watch that we do not fall into the trap of spiritualizing every problem. It is true that the source of many problems is spiritual; yet there are also other reasons, which, when adjusted, will bring about a thrilling deliverance. This is especially so with carnal Christians.

- **What do we mean by the term "Carnal Christians"?**

It is people who have made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ ~ which is a spiritual regeneration (rebirth) ~ yet still continue to live out of the

fleshly human nature. They live by feelings, natural thoughts, circumstances, lack spiritual discipline, fail to develop a good devotional life and personal relationship with Jesus, etc., and are not able to enjoy a consistent level of victory in their day-to-day living.

- **It is so easy to blame the devil for every thing! But in some things he does not even have to bother us because we are our own worst enemies!**

I have discovered some definite reasons why Christians do not maintain a consistent walk with God. The main ones are:

1. A Carnal Mind:

“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8:5-8).

A carnal mind takes us away from God. It is directly opposed to Him and leads to death. At conversion the spirit is renewed, but the mind is not. This is something we have to do ourselves.

“This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility (“uselessness, empty, vacancy, ruin”) of their mind” (Ephesians 4:17).

We are to be ***“renewed in the spirit of our mind”*** (Ephesians 4:23).

We are to be ***“transformed by the renewing of our mind, so that we may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”*** (Romans 12:1-2).

Christians have to consciously fill their minds with good, edifying things. The world is “dishing out” so much rubbish today that there is a very real problem of mind pollution.

Carnal Christians

- **The mind is the battleground where the victory is won or lost!**

"The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). They are for ***"the pulling down of strongholds"*** ("fortresses") ~ the strongholds of:

- **Imaginations** (reasonings) (Psalm 2:1, Luke 1:51).
- **Superior knowledge** (revelations, etc.).
- **Thoughts** (plans).

These all need to be brought into obedience to Jesus Christ. Our mind is like a library that has been stocked with a lifetime of learning and "taking in" of carnal thoughts and things. Now we have become Christians, we need to re-stock it with spiritual truth, the Scriptures.

2. Lack of Spiritual Understanding:

"For My people are foolish, they have not known Me; they are silly ("thick headed" – Young's) children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge" (Jeremiah 4:22).

- **In spiritual matters there is often a far too casual approach, and ignorance abounds.**

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6).

"Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17).

The parable of the sower is a classic for carnal Christians. Notice the fruitful ones are those who ***"HEAR and UNDERSTAND the Word"*** (Matthew 13:23, emphasis mine).

- **To be strong in God one must know God and understand the purposes of God!**

Thus says the Lord, "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he UNDERSTANDS and KNOWS ME, that I AM THE LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord (Jeremiah 9:23-24).

Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness at Midian through rejection because he expected the people to understand the call of God in his life ~ but they did not! (Acts 7:23-25).

On the other hand, David succeeded as king over Israel because he had men with him who ***"had understanding of the times"*** (present times), ***to know what Israel ought to do"*** (1 Chronicles 12:32).

Let us be people of understanding (See Ephesians 1:17-18; Colossians 1:9-14 and Colossians 2:2). Notice in these Scriptures there are three keys:

- **Knowledge**
- **Wisdom**
- **Understanding.**

Without them we will be a carnal Christian. Daniel was a man of understanding (see Daniel 1:17; 5:12; 8:15-19; 9:22, 25; 10:10-15). Daniel set his heart to understand and God responded to him.

3. No Discipline:

There are four main areas where discipline is required to overcome carnality. They are:

- **In the Word**
- **Prayer**
- **Holy Spirit life**
- **Relating to the Body (church life).** (See also No. 6 in this chapter).

It takes real discipline to walk consistently with God, and it involves more than "feeding on meetings" alone. We have to develop a daily

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personal relationship with Jesus, so we can grow strong and withstand every thing that would seek to take us away from a balanced Christian lifestyle.

4. Areas of Life Not Under The Lordship of Jesus Christ:

We need not be afraid of giving ourselves totally to Jesus. He never takes advantage of us, nor does He make a fool out of us. He never gives us a wrong deal. Yet there are many who have real fears of giving their all to Him. Unyielded areas give room for ***“the desires for other things” to enter in and choke the word, “and it becomes unfruitful”*** (Mark 4:19). It means that self is still ruling, and self will take us away from, rather than closer to God. Notice in the parable of the sower, carnality can prevent spirituality, as well as to rob us of spirituality after having obtained it.

Some areas that are directly affected are:

- **Disobedience**
- **Wasted time ~ lack of real motivation**
- **Family life**
- **Giving**
- **Sexuality**
- **Wrong spirit**

5. An Unteachable Spirit:

More people than one realizes are affected by an unteachable Spirit. It is a great spoiler of effective ministry, and opens the door for those like this to think they are “God’s prophet,” super spiritual, etc. Along with this there is often pride, arrogance and stubbornness. People who “know better than everyone else” and refuse to receive instruction and/or correction, usually have to be left to “stew in their own juice.” Attitudes and mannerism are so important.

6. No Real Church Home or Christian Fellowship:

Not being planted in a sound, secure church and flowing with it.

“Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish (“to blossom, to break forth”) ***in the courts*** (“the enclosed place”) ***of***

our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing; To declare that the Lord is upright . . . (Psalm 92: 13-15).

The need for Christians to be settled or planted in a church, or a fellowship of believers, that is "home" to them is more important than I can stress. It is vital for ongoing growth and service in the Lord.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

Yet we find scores of Christians wandering about from church to church (especially in the cities) all the time looking for "something." They need to settle into a church, or a gathering/fellowship of believers, and let their roots go down deep. People who are not planted have more problems than those who are: problems of guidance, purpose, usefulness, human relationships and so on.

There are many natural as well as spiritual benefits in belonging to a homely, loving fellowship of people. Some of these benefits include strength, protection, security, a sense of belonging, confidence, sharing, caring, friendship, fellowship, the blessing of correction when wrong, spiritual safety, ministry training, realizing and releasing of potential. Added to this there is something beautiful about being able to relate openly and honestly one with the other, as well as in a shepherd/sheep relationship, plus the ministry of encouragement.

7. Instability:

". . . whose spirit was not steadfast with God" (Psalm 78:8). This is speaking of the children of Israel, a type of the Church.

"He that has no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" (Proverbs 25:28).

No safety; no security. Reuben was unstable because of a lack of self-restraint. He committed adultery with one of his father's concubines ("a female slave or mistress with whom a man was lawfully permitted

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to have sexual intercourse” - Nelson’s Bible Dictionary (Genesis 49:3-4). Instability comes about as a result of all the previous six causes mentioned in this chapter and makes a person restless. To grow in God we must have “stick-ability”!

8. Unforgiveness (Matthew 18:23-35).

Kingdom living is by way of forgiveness ~ receiving and giving forgiveness. The servant received forgiveness for a debt of approximately ten million dollars; yet he would not himself forgive a fellow servant a debt of \$20.00. He had the fellow servant thrown into jail for \$20.00! The result was that forgiveness was withdrawn by the king toward the first servant and he, too, was thrown into prison with the added penalty of torture. Jesus warned that is what happens to those Christians who do not forgive every brother their trespasses (“to miss the mark, not attain”). **Unforgiveness is wickedness** (Matthew 18:32-33). Unforgiveness prevents prayer from being answered and ties the hand of God:

“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against ANYONE, FORGIVE HIM, that your Father in heaven MAY ALSO FORGIVE YOU your trespasses (“fallings aside, failings”). But if you do not FORGIVE, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses” (Mark 11:25-26, emphasis mine).

Unforgiveness is a major cause of problems and affects us spiritually, emotionally and physically. Avoid it! Some sicknesses are the result of an unforgiving spirit. Hurts over things said and done in the past about, to, or against us, have caused many unforgiveness problems in the Church. This is disastrous because it directly stops God from blessing and moving by His Spirit. If not dealt with, unforgiveness leads to hatred:

“Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers ALL sins” (Proverbs 10:12).

“He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now” (1 John 2:9).

“You shall not hate your brother in your heart” (Leviticus 19:17).

“Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him” (1 John 3:15). Hatred needs to be repented of.

I have counselled people with a real hatred problem ~ caused by family break-ups, gang warfare, rape, money deals, manipulation and control, rebellion against law and order, even through seeing others with a similar make-up to themselves.

Joseph’s brethren had a hate problem (Genesis 37:4). Esau had a hate problem. He was a carnal Christian (Genesis 27:41).

Hatred leads to ***“a root of bitterness”*** (Hebrews 12:14-17) as in Esau’s case. He entertained thoughts of murdering his own brother.

Our relationship with God and other people suffers terribly as a result of unforgiveness.

HOW TO MINISTER TO CARNAL CHRISTIANS

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual RESTORE such a one in a spirit of gentleness (“mildness, humility”), considering yourself lest you also be tempted” (Galatians 6:1).

Put yourself in his shoes!

- **What if it were you needing deliverance from being a carnal Christian?**
1. **Emphasize the Importance of Fulfilling God’s Conditions for Christianity** (Mark 12:28-34):

We must love God with ALL our heart, with ALL our soul, with ALL our mind, with ALL our strength, and our neighbour as ourself.

2. **Show the Need for Regular, Daily Bible Reading, Study, etc.** (Psalm 119:9, 11; John 14:23-24 and John 15:3).

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3. **Get Them to Establish a Regular Prayer Time** (Matthew 6:6).
4. **Encourage Them to Pray and Walk (Live) in the Holy Spirit**
(2 Corinthians 3:5-8 and Galatians 5:16).
5. **Stress the Benefits of Being Planted in a Good Church “Home,” or in Regular Christian Fellowship ~ to Attend, Support, Flow With and Submit to it (in God):**

Make sure you are experiencing this yourself or you will have no authority in your teaching of others. In other words, practice what you preach.

6. **Make Them Aware of the Necessity to Have a Humble, Teachable Spirit:**

Here is a Scriptural prayer to encourage them to pray: ***“Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name”*** (Psalm 86:11).

7. **Encourage Good Communications** (Galatians 6:6):

Encourage them to develop a good, flowing friendship and relationship between “shepherd and sheep.” It is important to have a good relationship with your leadership wherever you fellowship. Many Christians find it hard to share closely with their pastor. This is not good. Pastors must be leaders and encourage close communication.

8. **Give Personal Goals and Involvement in Church Life. It Brings Responsibility:**

“Where there is no revelation (“a prophetic vision ~ seeing where you are going”), ***the people cast off restraint”*** (Proverbs 29:18). “The Message” version of the Bible says it well: ***“If people can’t see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; but when they attend to what He reveals, they are most blessed.”***

9. **Teach Them to Redeem the Time ~ Not Waste it!**

“See then that you walk circumspectly (“accurately, pointedly” ~ i.e. with vision, knowing where you are going in God), ***not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is”*** (Ephesians 5:15-17).

10. Avoid Laziness (“slothfulness, sluggishness”):

“The lazy (“slothful”) ***man will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest, and have nothing”*** (Proverbs 20:4).

“I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; And there it was all overgrown with thorns (Parable of the sower – Matthew 13:7, 22); ***its surface was covered with nettles*** (“thorns, scrub, or brush”); ***its stone wall was broken down*** (no rule over his own spirit – Proverbs 25:28). ***When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction”*** (Proverbs 24:30-32).

Laziness gives the devil an opportunity to play on Christians’ minds, and discipline becomes a dream. King David’s troubles began through laziness. He should have been out at war, but was home with his feet up! He fell into adultery (2 Samuel 11).

The people of Laish lived carelessly, smug and secure in themselves; did not mix with others, because they did not want for anything! They were smitten by the sword (Judges 18:7-10, 27)! The people of Laish were like the church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22). They suffered from self-sufficiency, richness of goods ~ but were lukewarm. God called them to repentance!

11. Teach Them to Practice Forgiveness (Luke 6:37-38 and Ephesians 4:30-32).

It is a fact that we will not be able to travel too far through life without there being some differences of opinion, or our life and actions are criticized by others. The sooner we learn to ***“forgive those who trespass against us”*** the better life will be for us. No one can afford to carry unforgiveness and grudges in their heart!

Chapter 8

Evil Spirits

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant (“watchful and alert to danger or trouble”); because **YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL, walks about like a roaring lion, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR. RESIST HIM, STEADFAST IN THE FAITH, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world**” (1 Peter 5:6-9, emphasis mine).

WE NOW MOVE INTO an area that seems to be somewhat contentious. This should not be so. The Church (in general) down through the ages appears to have failed to come up with a balanced stand on evil spirits. The pendulum has swung back and forth to the two extremes of either (1) everyone has them, or (2) no one has them. I believe both are wrong.

Any spiritual person who is involved in a regular ministry of counselling and deliverance soon discovers that there are cunning evil spirits who have subtly found ways into peoples’ lives ~ Christians too! ~ and have caused areas of their life to come into bondage, or to be negative, oppressed and depressed. Even some physical sicknesses are the direct result of evil spirits (Matthew 12:22). Their work is to hinder, rob and prevent the believer from effectively serving God.

- **The very fact that Christians are called to serve God in a world dominated by the devil and his ways ~ and to seek to win others to Christ ~ makes us prime targets for his activities.**
- **True Christians are a real danger to him!**

The more damage we cause him, the more he desires to pull us down.

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

His power is often in his ability to keep us in ignorance as to what he is doing (2 Corinthians 2:10-11). As we walk with God, the Holy Spirit will unmask Satan’s works to us and we are then able to take our authority over him, bringing victory to the one he has bound.

As has been mentioned briefly earlier in this book, scores of Christians have been snared through wilful sin, disobedience, unforgiveness, deception, rebellion, ignorance of Satan’s devices, and immorality. Each of these sins can open the Christian up to wrong spirits, which will then begin to affect and trouble certain areas of their life. In most cases the ministry of counselling and deliverance will be needed to bring about the freedom required to go on triumphantly with God.

We are also discovering there is a very real area of ancestral and hereditary spirits which cause bondage in many lives. These often remain after conversion for two main reasons: (1) Ignorance and (2) When coming to Christ the counsellor did not use his proper authority in breaking the evil spirit’s hold in the life of the new convert. With our native brethren these ancestral and hereditary spirits are often “picked up” (received) at the death of a family member or close relative, and even through the passing on of certain artefacts. In a country like New Zealand many physical illnesses and problems are a direct result of curses placed on the land by false prophets or Maori tohungas up to four generations previously ~ desecrated burial grounds, for example. This does not affect the Maori alone, but also the European. Those who are of English and European descent often have a problem with witchcraft and the occult practices. Spiritualism, fortune telling, mind reading, spiritist mediums, talking to dead loved ones (familiar spirits), etc., all open people up to wrong spirits and deliverance is necessary. It is easy to pass these things off by casually saying, “I don’t believe it ~ it is a load of rubbish!”

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I suggest you take a look and see just how rampant these things are today. They are not of God and therefore have to be dealt with in love in the name of Jesus.

- **Many demonic things are presented to us in the form of “fun and fascination,” but after the enemy has an opening “to get his hooks in,” then slowly but surely, the bondages of those things start to take over areas of our life.**

All Eastern mysticism is anti-Christian; therefore it is wrong and needs to be renounced.

Likewise, the martial arts. One Christian brother I know was very interested in Tae Kwon Do, which is supposed to be free of evil spirit manipulation. He wrote to Christians in Korea checking it out and was told that thousands of Christians there are involved in it. So he joined. After a time a real spiritual blockage began to manifest itself and the brother lost his freedom and joy in Jesus. It caused him to evade facing Holy Spirit-filled ministries and his attendance at Christian meetings fell away. Finally he came for help and the spirit of Tae Kwon Do was renounced and broken. Immediately liberty and joy were restored, and the man is going on with God. He resigned his position in that martial art and has never been back to it since.

One only needs to look about him today to see the tragic results of these alternate lifestyles and religions ~ they come from the devil and, the people in them, often will need counsel and deliverance. But make sure they are ready spiritually for it. **Much damage can be done through rushing people into deliverance before they are built-up sufficiently within themselves to receive it.**

This is the area where counselling is vitally important. To know the timing for deliverance and when the person has been prepared sufficiently to the point of being able to willingly leave behind those things that have produced the bondage within them, whether it be evil spirits, self-infliction or otherwise. Great responsibility rests on the counsellor at this point. We must be very careful we make and not mar the future of the one who has come for help. Grace and patience are essential!

Much of Jesus Christ's ministry was against evil spirits in the people. In fact one of the signs He gave us that the Kingdom of God is come unto us is by the casting out of devils by the Spirit of God (Matthew 12:22-29).

- **It takes the anointing of the Holy Spirit working in us to minister effectively against evil spirits. God HAS anointed US!**
(2 Corinthians 1:21).

A lot of the "stigma" attached to the ministry of casting out spirits is because Christians have such a negative attitude and approach toward it. It is a positive ministry of releasing and setting the captives free. Most evil spirit deliverances are easier to effect than those of the physical **when one knows Jesus HAS given us power over all the power of the enemy** (Luke 10:17-19).

Know what the Scriptures teach. Evil spirits can talk and are good at quoting or misquoting Scripture! To deceive of course! And to evade recognition!

SOME MANIFESTATIONS OF EVIL SPIRIT ACTIVITY

There are a host of different manifestations of evil spirit activity and the Christian counsellor will need to be very sensitive to the Holy Spirit and to what the one being counselled is saying. Often, "keys" are given by the one in need, as the problem gives itself away. As in all areas of counselling and deliverance, one can only progress as far as the person concerned will allow you. If he or she is not willing to be set free you can do nothing about it. **God never violates our will.** On the contrary, most who are in a desperate situation are only too pleased to co-operate with you when you have gained their confidence.

A few things one looks out for in evil spirit activity are:

- 1. Unnatural Behavioural Patterns.**
- 2. Bondages, Including Depression and Oppression.**

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3. **A Lack of Joy or Freedom to Express the Name of Jesus Christ.**
4. **Some Physical Afflictions, Illnesses and Allergies** (Discernment required here).
5. **Unusual Hereditary Problems** (the same manifestation or sickness showing up in children as in parent or parents).
6. **“Glassy” Eyes:**

A woman (in Gisborne, New Zealand) who is involved in painting and “helping” people through a familiar spirit, was interviewed on TV. A man who lived several hundred years ago appears to her and tells her what to do and paint. When the husband was asked how he knows when his wife is herself and when she is under the influence of this other spirit, said, *“When this man visits her, her eyes go glassy.”*

7. **Sometimes There Will Be a Vile Smell**, e.g. extra bad breath (not caused by onions or garlic!).
8. **Agitation in The Presence of God:**

Evil spirits cannot stand the Lord’s presence, or the power of Jesus’ Blood, and will often manifest, giving themselves away. Luke 4:33-37 tells us of the man in the synagogue with an unclean spirit. He could sit in church week after week undelivered; the people recognized something was wrong with him but were powerless (or too fearful) to do anything about it. When the Anointed Christ came to church, the unclean spirit manifested and the man was gloriously set free. Praise the Lord!

9. **Lies and Contradictions:**

Just as there are spirits of fear, pride, lust, greed, etc., so there are lying spirits. Jesus told us the devil has no truth in him ~ he is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). We need to be on the alert against lying and contradicting spirits.

HOW TO MINISTER TO EVIL SPIRIT PROBLEMS

1. **Know Your Authority in God. Know You Are a Son or Daughter of God.**
2. ***"Be strong in the Lord and in the Power of His Might"*** (Ephesians 6:10-17).
3. **Know The Anointing of The Holy Spirit** (Isaiah 10:27; Isaiah 61:1-4; Luke 4:17-21).
4. **Use Your Spiritual Weapons** (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).
5. **Be Firm With the Evil Spirit(s) BUT Gentle With the Person:**

Break the devil's hold in the name of Jesus, getting the one needing deliverance to renounce out loud all ancestral and hereditary bondages. Take authority over depression and oppression, fear and unbelief. If the name of the spirit is known, name it; command it to leave in Jesus' name and go to the place of divine appointment. **Be discerning!** Don't be fooled by "cover up" and/or diversionary tactics.

6. **Apply the Cleansing Blood of Jesus Christ Over the Person's Spirit, Mind, Conscience and Life.**
7. **Say What The Word Of God Says:**

Jesus defeated Satan by saying, ***"It is written"*** (Luke 4), and so do we. Agree with what God says! Declare it!

8. **Do Not Make Fun of the Devil:**

Too many Christians, preachers, counsellors and deliverers have been pulled down through this foolish temptation. Always name the enemy according to the Word of God (1 Peter 5:8 and Jude 9).

9. **Do Not Be Afraid!** (2 Timothy 1:7):

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Are you listening? Fear is a robber! Fear is a defeater! Fear has torment! *"Perfect love casts out fear"* (1 John 4:18)!

10. Emphasize and Live the Truth:

Be an example of how to live free of evil spirits. Jesus declared: ***"If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free . . . therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed"*** (John 8:31-32,36).

11. Lead in a Prayer of Confession:

It is a real help to get the person to confess their renewed faith in Jesus and to thank Him for His deliverance in their life.

The counsellor and deliverer needs to recognize that evil spirits, when they have gone out of a person, will try and come back again to re-possess the area of life they had before (Matthew 12:43-45). The person at this point can exercise his or her own authority over them in Jesus' name, being strengthened in the process. If necessary, further deliverances may have to follow until such time that the area concerned is able to resist further temptations.

"A true witness DELIVERS souls ..." (Proverbs 14:25).

Chapter 9

Sexual Problems

A LARGE PART of the counselling and deliverance ministry includes dealing with the hurts, hang-ups and hang-overs of wrong relationships in the sexual area. It is a very sensitive area of life and must be approached in a very sensitive and understanding way.

We need to understand that sex was created by God in the first place, to enrich and fulfil the lives of a man and his wife (Genesis 2:24 and 1 Corinthians 7:2-5) spiritually, emotionally and physically. The best marriages should be those that are committed in love and obedience to Jesus Christ. According to the Bible, true sexual fulfilment can only be found in the God-blessed union. Outside of a God-blessed marriage, problems begin and continue to grow. Sex becomes a snare and leads into all kinds of bondage and misery. Outside of marriage, sexual affairs are wrong, as, I trust, this chapter will show you.

The Bible has two main words for sexual sins, or immorality: they being (1) Fornication (which is sexual relationships between unmarried people) and (2) Adultery (which is extra-marital sexual relationships). God's Word teaches us why fornication and adultery are wrong. They affect us like no other sins, causing us to ***“sin against our own body”*** (1 Corinthians 6:18).

The sexual union is not simply a natural act; it is much more than that. We become one in spirit, as well as in flesh (1 Corinthians 6:13-20). This affects our

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emotions (emotions play a large part of human problems); likewise our spirit, mind, conscience and body.

When a person violates the teachings of the Word of God concerning sexual relationships, he or she sets into motion a chain reaction of very real problems ~ problems that cannot be healed without the help of God and usually without the help of a gentle, loving and understanding counsellor. (To condemn one who has come for help at this point is pure disaster!).

Because sex affects us spiritually, emotionally and physically, the devil has been quick to capitalize upon it by tempting people to indulge in and to enjoy "having a fling," knowing full well the bondage it brings into one's life. The guilt and condemnation of sex sins is very real indeed and has held many Christians up from serving the Lord more freely.

SOME RESULTS OF SEX SINS

1. **We Sin Against Our Own Body** ~ which is the temple of the Holy Spirit and not for prostituting (1 Corinthians 6:13-20):

Emotionally our body cannot withstand this abuse, and problems develop, some taking years to manifest.

2. **It Gives Us a Wrong Spirit and Opens Us Up to Deception:**

This wrong spirit is referring to our relationship and standing with God. When King David committed adultery with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11) he got a wrong spirit in him. This clouded his judgment and caused him to commit further sins in his attempt to cover up his sexual immorality. God sent a prophet to David and exposed his sin of adultery. When David knew his sin had found him out he cried out to God to **"renew a right spirit within him"** (Psalm 51:10). Psalm 51 is one the counsellor should be familiar with when dealing with sexual immorality, as it shows what is going on inside a person seeking to get free from sex sins and right with God.

- We need to be reminded that we are made up of spirit, soul, and body ~ and in that order. When the spirit and soul are out of relationship with our Creator God, then our lives are open to all kinds of problems.

3. We Receive a Wounded ("plagued") Spirit:

Adultery is one of the chief causes of a wounded spirit:

"Wounds and dishonour he will get" (Proverbs 6:23-35, especially verse 33);

"For she (the adulterous) has cast down many wounded, and all who were slain by her were strong men" (Proverbs 7:6-27, especially verse 26); and ***". . . who can bear a broken ("wounded") spirit?"*** (Proverbs 18:14).

A wounded spirit does not usually heal of itself ~ it takes the ministry of love, compassion and deliverance to bring about the necessary healing. These Scriptures are speaking of a spiritual, not a physical wound (Psalm 51:8).

4. It Reveals a Lack of Understanding (ignorance to the true effects of sexual immorality):

"But whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding" (Proverbs 6:32; see also Proverbs 5:1-13; Proverbs 7:7 and Proverbs 9:13-18).

5. It Takes Away a Person's Innocence ("freedom, cleanness"):

"So is he who goes in to his neighbour's wife; whoever touches her shall not be innocent" (Proverbs 6:29).

No one carrying the guilt of unforgiven and uncleansed immoral deeds can walk in true freedom ~ that freedom that makes one feel so clean on the inside (Psalm 51).

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6. It Brings Dishonour ("shame and confusion"):

"Wounds and dishonour he will get" (Proverbs 6:33).

7. It Causes a Reproach ("shame") That Will Not Be Wiped Away:

". . . and his reproach will not be wiped away" (Proverbs 6:33). David's family also suffered as a result of his adultery (2 Samuel chapters 11 to 13).

8. It Produces Instability ("uncertainty"):

In Genesis 49:3-4 we read Jacob's account of Reuben his firstborn. Reuben (meaning "behold a son") brought great joy to his father in his younger days; right up to the time it was discovered that Reuben had committed adultery with one of Jacob's concubines (a de-facto wife) (Genesis 35:22). Then things changed. From that point on Reuben became ***"unstable as water"*** (Genesis 49:3-4). He was robbed of abundant living ("unable to excel") because he had defiled ("polluted") his father's bed.

Samson was another person who became unstable and was robbed of his power as a result of sexual immorality (Judges chapters 14 to 16).

9. It Takes Away True Strength of Character:

"For by means of a harlot ("prostitute") a man is reduced to a crust of bread; and an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared? So is he who goes in to his neighbour's wife; whoever touches her shall not be innocent" (Proverbs 6:26-29. See also verses 32-33).

"Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths. For she has cast down many wounded, and all who were slain by her were strong men. Her house is the way to hell, descending to the chambers of death" (Proverbs 7:25-27).

- Many strong men have been brought low by sex sins. It takes real strength to say "NO!"

10. It Stirs Up Jealousy (wrong kind of zeal):

“Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he who does so destroys his own soul. Wounds and dishonour he will get, and his reproach will not be wiped away. For jealousy is a husband’s fury; therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will accept no recompense, nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts” (Proverbs 6:32-35).

“For love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; Its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame” (Song of Solomon 8:6).

Jealousy ~ stirred up by wrong sexual relationships being found out ~ have been the cause of many assaults, grievous bodily harm and murder trials.

11. Sexual Jealousy Feeds Anger, Hatred and Murder:

“For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance” (Proverbs 6:34, KJV).

12. It Causes Marriage Break-ups:

Many marriages have gone on the “rocks” through immorality. Often a person’s “best friend” has been the culprit! The results of sexual unfaithfulness and immorality has caused a huge toll of heart-ache and despair amongst families worldwide.

13. There is a Higher Risk of Serious Physical, Mental, Emotional and Spiritual Diseases:

According to “World Health Organisation” literature, multiplied thousands each year go blind as a direct result of sexually-related diseases. Sometimes it takes as long as 25 years to manifest. Newspaper reports are continually telling us “of the bizarre results of the sexual revolution and the increasing numbers of women unable to have babies,” etc. Those who do conceive while affected by sexually-related diseases pass on diseases to their children. Others have personally told me of the agonies of urinating

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while suffering the effects of sexually-related diseases. The Bible has this to say:

“For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword . . . Remove your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honour to others, and your years to the cruel one . . . and you mourn at last, when your flesh and your body are consumed”

(Proverbs 5:3-11).

14. Evil Spirits Are Transmitted, or Pass Into Lives Through Wrong Sexual Relationships:

“Do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For ‘the two,’ He says, ‘shall become one flesh.’ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body”

(1 Corinthians 6:16-18).

When one realizes the far-reaching effects of immorality and the resulting bondages, it is quite staggering. Casual sexual affairs are dangerous! A person can be free and right with God, then in a time of temptation fall into fornication, adultery, homosexuality, incest, or bestiality. Unbeknown to him is the fact that his “partner” may be involved in witchcraft, the occult, Eastern mysticism, hypnotherapy and the like ~ and the spirit of these things actually enters in through the act of intercourse.

• We are more than a natural being; we are also a spiritual being.

These invading spirits may lie dormant in a person for years, or for as long as a “happy relationship” lasts. Then when the partner who is dabbling in witchcraft, etc., is hurt or jilted, the evil spirits are activated to cause trouble and unhappiness to the other person. I have dealt with problems like this and had the joy of releasing people from these hindering spirits. One case comes to mind of a young man who committed fornication with a young lady from the Pacific Islands. What the young man didn’t know was that the girl had had a curse placed on her by her grandfather for some reason. The young Christian man’s life became bound up, and even worse, he was being visited by a

familiar spirit impersonating the old man (who was now dead). Each night it would come and sit on his bed and torment him, filling him with fear. As a result of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit we were able to know the source of the trouble, take authority over sin and the devil, lead the young man in a prayer of confession (Proverbs 28:13) and to see him released from the terrible and miserable way his life was going. This is counselling and deliverance ~ setting the captives free.

15. Manipulation (subtle control of a person by another):

It is surprising the lengths some will go to in their efforts to entice the opposite sex into sexual immorality (in any of its various forms) after it has happened once. That manipulation needs to be broken and then turned away from.

16. Sexual Immorality is Covered Up by Pride and Arrogance:

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles ~ that a man has his father’s wife. And you are puffed up (“arrogant”), and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you” (1 Corinthians 5:1-2).

Pride and arrogance can often be a big “front” to try and cover up a sinful life-style and the resulting hurting emotions. Often lying becomes a way of life, which compounds other problems along the way, especially when one is found out! It is most important to get the necessary release through repentance and confession so the spirit can come into right relationship with God. To cover up in this way is only asking for physical, mental, spiritual and emotional trouble ahead. It is better to honestly face the problem right NOW; to get the release and forgiveness necessary, and then to build a genuine relationship with God.

17. It Causes Rebellion Against God:

“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me” (Psalm 51:1-3).

“Transgressions” here means “rebellion.” David was confessing his rebellion to God ~ rebellion caused by his act of adultery with Bathsheba.

18. Sexual Sins Bring Greater Guilt and Condemnation:

This is especially so when the person comes under the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the truth of God's Word. The devil says to the guilty: "You're too bad for God; He won't forgive you for what you've done."

Many Christians have carried heavy guilt complexes with them through life because they were never able to accept God's forgiveness, nor to forgive themselves. They are far too sensitive ~ and afraid of being condemned by others ~ if they were to share their sins of immorality from the past. This has prevented them from functioning effectively in the Body of Christ. What a joy it is to see Christians released from these sensitive sins and brought into new liberty in God. Some people have suffered terribly for years ~ the guilt of teenage sex sins binding them up, even when 50-60 years of age! Incredible, but true.

The Church's attitude (in general) toward immorality, homosexuals, lesbians and such, has been condemnatory. This attitude alone has turned thousands away from the Kingdom of God. I have discovered the Holy Spirit forgives and releases these kind of people just as wonderfully as He does someone who has gone to church all his life. The irony is that if you are seen helping these "sex perverts" you are likely to be labelled as being one of them, or accused of taking one's church into deception and delusion! I sometimes wonder if the Christians have got larger problems than the "perverts," for most times they simply do not know how to re-act the Jesus way to problems (John 8:3-11).

- **God hates the sin, but He mightily loves the sinner. And so must we!**

One beautiful young lady, who had been in the gay movement, told me how she was brought up in a loving Christian home, went to Sunday school and Bible class. As she grew into womanhood a strong desire for sexual satisfaction had to be contended with. Coupled with this was a very real fear of pregnancy, so she orientated towards being a lesbian. The devil subtly brought another lesbian across her pathway and her life was caught up for the next ten years. The trauma of her lifestyle, the conflict with her Christian parents, and her own conscience, was very real. What guilt and condemnation! It was indeed a joyous occasion for me to see the Holy Spirit bring the forgiveness of Jesus into her life and start her off on a whole new road in the love Jesus gives. Praise God! I wonder where she would have been today if we had condemned her and told her she was going to hell under the judgment of God?

19. It Creates Increasing Problems in the Lives of Children Born Out of Wedlock (marriage):

Problems of rejection, insecurity, inferiority, lack of identity, etc., and the problems “snowball” or compound with each succeeding generation! This includes casual, as well as de-facto relationships. They violate God’s Word, and His principles. De-facto relationships lack in the area of responsibility, trust and faithfulness ~ the things which help to make our life secure. If there is true love for one another, then they need to take the proper responsibility and get married. Children need genuine love, care and parental respect; otherwise they will suffer with massive insecurity and rejection problems. These two problems alone will doom their future sexual relationships ~ inside or outside of marriage ~ if the parents do not set, and live by, God’s standards. His ways are best for us and **“His commandments are not burdensome”** (“grievous”)” (1 John 5:3).

- **If the parents have no moral standards to teach their children, where will the children get them from?**

The fruit of de-facto relationships is definitely not that of true love (as set out by the Biblical standards), happiness and fulfilment.

Abortion:

Then there is the trauma of abortion (the world’s easy way out). Unfortunately it does not work that way. Women who have been through an abortion often suffer from a spirit of death, a spirit of murder, or a spirit of remorse, which troubles them for a long time. Those who have shared their experiences with me tell of the hurt and guilt of seeing a mother and young baby up town ~ which makes them think their baby would have been that old now and she could have been holding her very own baby in her arms, etc. Others have told of being under the guilt of murder, while another told me of the strange experience she had of sometimes finding herself sitting in a cemetery at midnight ~ something which never happened before the abortion.

20. It Destroys Our Soul:

“Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he who does so destroys his own soul” (Proverbs 6:32). The Greek word used here for “soul” is “nephesh,” meaning “heart, mind, person, self, body, desire.”

“With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced (“compelled”) him. Immediately he

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went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, he did not know it would cost his life"

(Proverbs 7:21-23. See also Proverbs 5:1-11).

21. It Leads People to Death and Hell:

"For her house leads down to death, and her paths to the dead"

(Proverbs 2:10-22, especially verse 18);

"For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil: but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, her steps lay hold of hell" (Proverbs 5:3-5).

"Her house is the way to hell, descending to the chambers of death" (Proverbs 7:27).

"Whoever is simple, let him turn in here; and as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, 'Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.' But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of hell"

(Proverbs 9:16-18).

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor abusers of themselves with mankind ("homosexuality"), Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners ("the act of seizing upon or snatching away, plundering, pillage"), shall inherit the Kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified ("delivered from that state, and put into a state corresponding to the nature of God"), but you were justified ("freed from our guilt and now made righteous before God") in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

This Scripture shows us the power of the Lord is available to deliver the most wretched of sinners, so let us be willing to forgive all who come to us, no matter what their particular lifestyle may be. Who knows whether they will turn out to be a mighty man or woman of God?

The warning is clear in Scripture ~ sex sins, unrepented of, take people to an early death and hell. To stop this taking place, the ministry of counselling and deliverance is necessary, ministered in mercy, grace and forgiveness.

CHRIST IS THE ANSWER!

Christian, we need to be letting the people know there is love and forgiveness to be found in Jesus Christ and in the Church. Jesus will not turn away anyone who comes to Him, and neither should we (John 6:37). I think the forgiving power of Jesus is amply demonstrated in the life of the woman of Samaria (John 4:1-42). She had had five husbands and was living de-facto with a sixth man when Jesus changed her into an evangelist! And quite a successful one at that!

Incest and bestiality (sex with animals) are two other areas of sexual immorality that are on the increase today. I have dealt with people involved in both areas. These two sins are taking many people into mental institutions ~ the answer is not in shock treatment or anti-depressant pills but in the power of God being released through the compassionate ministry of counselling and deliverance.

- **It is in the spirit and in the emotions where the real damage is done, caused by sexual immorality. Thanks be to God, we have the answer through the power of the Holy Spirit!**

HOW TO MINISTER TO SEXUAL PROBLEMS

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in any trespass (“a falling aside, mishap through the weakness of the person”), you who are spiritual RESTORE such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself, lest you also be tempted” (Galatians 6:1).

Remember, it is not easy for someone to come and confess to sexual sins. When they do come, it is because they have seen in you the hope of love, compassion and understanding. They expect you to handle the situation with delicacy and gentleness (even though they will be under guilt and condemnation). It is very good that they do come ~ for they need the help of another to get the forgiveness of God, forgiveness of self, healing and victory required to restore a right relationship with God.

Don't forget we are to bring people to God's acceptance rather than our own personal moral convictions. Your attitude at this point can make or mar the immediate future of the one who has come to you for your help ~ not for your opinion. They have come to be lifted up and made free ~ not to be knocked down further!

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With the person:

1. Take it to God in Prayer, Asking His Forgiveness, Guidance and Cleansing:

It is good to lead the person in an audible prayer of confession ~ to ask God's forgiveness (in the name of Jesus), to accept God's forgiveness, and then to forgive themselves. This is very important.

- **The giving and accepting of forgiveness determines how far we will progress in God and in life!**

"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

"Confess your trespasses* ("a falling aside, mishaps through the weakness of the person") ***to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed" (James 5:16).**

Take authority over the spiritual bondages caused. Apply the cleansing blood of Christ.

2. Pray for God to Renew a Right Spirit.

3. Show We Accept And Forgive Them.

4. Take Authority Over the Wounded Spirit, That Healing of Their Spirit Can Commence.

5. Break Any Satanic Influences, Spirits, etc.

6. Bring Them to a Wholesale Surrender of Heart, Will, Mind and Body to Jesus Christ:

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment" (Mark 12:30).

"Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16).

Encourage them to mix with dedicated, wholesome Christians, and the need to become involved in good Christian activities and service in the life of your church or Christian fellowship. (The time factor will depend on each individual).

7. If the Problem Has Been Fornication, Break Off Close Contact With the Person or Persons Concerned:

Otherwise the spirit of lust, fornication or adultery will subtly entice the persons back together again, with increased bondages the next time round.

8. If Adultery, Try and Sort Out Each Individual Problem to The Glory of God:

Be tactful! Restoration comes through confession, honesty, forgiveness, re-dedication of lives and marriage to God. Some marriages will not be restored ~ a fact we have to learn to accept, as the problem has gone beyond the stage of restoration by the time help has been sought.

9. If a De-facto Relationship is Involved, Seek to Sort Out Each Individual Case the Best Way Possible:

Where children are involved and the parents are free to marry, then for the children's sake, they need to be encouraged to get married.

10. If a Person is Single, Pray for God to Provide the Right Partner for Marriage (1 Corinthians 7:1-5).

11. Understand What The Bible Says About Sexual Relationships Outside of Marriage:

Help them to understand the consequences of violating God's Word on wrong sexual relationships. Guard against legalism ~ believe God for each individual situation, for ***"mercy triumphs over judgment"*** (James 2:10-13).

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

TROUBLES IN CHRISTIAN MARRIAGES

More and more we are discovering that many Christians are struggling to have a harmonious, loving marriage relationship. This is causing all sorts of frustrations, arguments, lack of communication, lack of patience and understanding, and so on. It needs to be broadcast loud and clear amongst all Christians that marriage is a gift from God; it was ordained of God from the very beginning for our own spiritual, emotional and physical good. What strength there is in a God-blessed Christian marriage! The devil knows this and is trying his hardest to destroy the home and family life of the Church today. He appears to be having quite a deal of success. Our Christian ministry is considerably weakened (if not totally destroyed) when we cannot “get-it-together” with our marriage relationship.

Here are a few helpful suggestions for an improved marriage relationship:

- **Communicate!** Always seek to keep the channels of communication wide open. Silence in marriage is a disaster. Yet so many Christian couples do not know what it is to sit down and have a good talk about things. Husbands especially need to recognize the importance of communicating with their wives.

“But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (Hebrews 13:16).

- **Understand Your Mate.** This is important. In sexual matters husbands and wives re-act and respond quite differently. It is important to understand one another and seek to please the other, rather than yourself. Patience is required ~ lack of patience causes arguments, hurts and all kinds of upsets in a marriage.
- **Pray Together.** Prayer helps to bring us under the Lordship of Christ, as well as to blend our wills together.
- **Share Together.** Marriage is the uniting together of two lives; therefore it is important for us to share our interests, our goals, our everything ~ and to take an interest in the other partner's involvements.
- **Build Together.** Christian marriages need to have vision, goals and definite purpose of direction, so the future is one of growing more closely together, rather than a drifting apart through not working at and building the marriage.

- **Work Together.** This can be more important than many realize. For example, in the home there are many things that can be done together and for one another. Doing dishes, setting the table and generally keeping the dwelling tidy can all help to improve relationships. When a wife is left to do all the household chores while the husband sits and reads the paper or watches TV, this creates an atmosphere for unnecessary tension.

- **Love Together:**

“Love never fails” (1 Corinthians 13).

“Love covers all sins” (Proverbs 10:12).

“Husbands, love your wives, and do not be bitter against them”
(Colossians 3:19).

If love is not cultivated in an understanding, harmonious way, then there is a very real possibility that bitterness will creep in. Husbands, especially, are exhorted against allowing this. So often it is the husband who expects ~ and often demands ~ that his wife be sexually intimate with him when he desires it. The wife re-acts negatively to this kind of pressure and “switches off” to his sexual advances. When this happens continually, and when there is no communication nor understanding shown, the situation turns from a marriage of love to one of bitterness. Then the troubles really start. Men need to have grace and patience with their wives. Love them! Do not use them as an object of sex and personal gratification.

Women need to understand the strong sex drive in their husband’s and try to not overly frustrate them through constant denial.

***“Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection (“an inclination to do good, kindly, charitable”) due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive (“don’t take away or hold back, cheat”) one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control (“lack of self-restraint in regard to sexual activity”)*”** (1 Corinthians 7:2-5).

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- **Protect One Another:**

Outside of our salvation, the greatest blessing of God in our lives should be that of the provision of our husband or wife. Let us see this clearly and work at protecting our mate from all harm and danger. My wife, Jean, is the best thing that happened to me. She has made my life complete; giving me such strength and confidence in the ministry, enabling me to help others in need and to see them released into new life in Christ. We are a very busy couple in the work God has called us to do; therefore it is vital that we have a happy, harmonious marriage. I love her very dearly and she is the most wonderful woman in all the world as far as I am concerned. I also know that she loves me too! Without each other, our effectiveness for God would be so much lessened. In our protecting of one another we find our marriage growing more and more meaningful with every passing day. Truly we can Praise the Lord for His goodness and mercy towards the children of men! (Psalm 136).

“He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favour of the Lord” (Proverbs 18:22).

“A prudent (“capable of exercising sound judgment in practical matters, especially as concerns one’s own interests”) ***wife is from the Lord”*** (Proverbs 19:14).

“Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects (“a deep respect, love and awe”) ***her husband”*** (Ephesians 5:33).

SOME PRACTICAL HELPFUL ADVICE TO CHRISTIANS

- **Avoid wrong associations.** Jesus said: ***“The flesh is weak”!*** (Matthew 26:41). Many Christians have been caught or trapped in sexual immorality by maintaining close friends in the world, rather than making good friends in the church where moral standards and teachings should help to keep them from “throwing their life away” with somebody who is only interested in using them in a lustful way.
- **Guard against sexual temptations:**

“The body is not for sexual immorality, but for the Lord” (1 Corinthians 6:13).

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain (“hold back one’s self from, refrain”) from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honour” (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4).

- **Women should not dress so as to give a wrong impression.** Lust is a real problem with most men and the way a woman dresses can “turn them on.” Prevention is better than cure!
- **Men should at all times behave with the opposite sex in the fear of God, knowing that there is a responsibility upon us to uphold moral Biblical principles.** The after-effects upon our spirit, emotions, conscience and body is just not worth it! Yet it is happening all too often amongst Christians!
- **For single people:** If you’re a single person, pray for God to send you the right partner for marriage. Dr. Billy Graham, the well-known evangelist, has this to say:

“Many people marry without any idea of how much is at stake, and they are laying the foundation for failure from the beginning, even in courtship. Be careful about your dating and with whom you fall in love. Be sure that he or she is God-fearing and loves Christ. The Scripture says, ***‘Be ye not unequally yoked together ...’*** There must be spiritual oneness. There are three who make up a marriage ~ the husband, the wife, and God. Be sure that God is in your marriage.” It always goes better when you’ve got God’s choice!

- **For married people:** If you’re married and have an adultery problem, then you need to “come clean” with your partner; get forgiveness and re-dedicate your lives and marriage to God. He will do a miracle of restoration, of love and loyalty. If necessary, seek the prayer and counsel of your minister. Let JESUS CHRIST be LORD!
- **Marriage break-ups:**
 - (a) If your marriage has broken up and there is a possibility of it being restored, seek that it may be so. Share with your minister and counsellor so the best can be done.
 - (b) If your marriage has broken up and there is no possibility of it being restored, seek the advice of your minister as to your future direction. It could very well be that it is not as “black” as some would lead you to believe. God can work wonders in a life totally committed to Him, and where the past has been totally forgiven. A lot today have real problems over the matter of re-marriage. The woman of Samaria had had five husbands and was living de facto with a sixth

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man when Jesus ministered to her. The Scripture does not infer there was no forgiveness for her. Rather, we discover she became a vibrant witness for Christ (John 4). I am not saying that it is alright to marry as many times as one wishes. Each case must be treated individually in the love, compassion, understanding and responsibility of Jesus. Any marriage break up is a tragedy and we wish it upon no-one. But let us not make it a double tragedy by a cold, hard, and legalistic attitude toward those who are in that dilemma. Has not Jesus forgiven US of EVERYTHING we have ever done? Sure He has! Therefore we must also forgive others for everything they have ever done. And what is more, these people need your love and forgiveness.

- **Divorcees:** Those in the situation of being divorced need to have an open and honest communication with their pastor, so they can be in a position of being counselled wisely should someone else come along who seems to be "Mr. Right." I am speaking to those whose marriages have failed before they became a born-again believer.

This has been a delicate chapter, touching briefly on delicate matters. I trust it will prove to be of help to you and those you may have cause to share it with.

Chapter 10

Lawlessness And Crime

THE QUESTIONS are often asked AFTER a crime has been committed:

- *"Why did he do that?"*
- *"What made him do it?"*
- *"What's wrong with a person who outwardly seems to have everything going for him, and yet he is getting into trouble?"*

Law breaking, lawlessness and crime are symptoms of a sick society. They are symptoms of failing home and family life. Love and security are being replaced by frustration and anger. People are lashing out at anything that looks like authority, rules and regulations.

Whether we like it or not, laws are made for our protection and good (Romans 13).

As Christians we need to be aware of the fact that our attitudes and actions towards natural laws, laws of the land (Governments), authorities, parents, school teachers, bosses, etc., are symbolic of our attitudes and actions towards spiritual laws in the Kingdom of God.

- **A person who has grown up under loving parental correction and discipline finds it easier to submit to, and obey God, than one who has been allowed to get away with things and not learn correction.**

Lawlessness And Crime

Undisciplined children grow up with a tendency to disrespect laws, disregard other peoples' property. They are often arrogant, defiant, rebellious, spoilt, selfish and very unhappy. Something is missing in their lives. A lot of these problems begin as a result of a lack of understanding spiritual principles and their absence in family life.

CHILD DISCIPLINE

Parents who really love their children will obey the Scriptural admonition to correct their children whenever necessary. The laws of some Governments now are that smacking a child is no longer allowed. This, unfortunately, brings us into conflict with what the Bible teaches. Christians require great wisdom in the bringing up and the disciplining of their children today. In spite of Governmental laws, the use of a rod is clearly taught in God's Word:

"He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly ("early enough, quickly, promptly")" (Proverbs 13:24).

"Chasten ("to punish in order to correct, refine, make purer in style") ***your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction"*** (Proverbs 19:18).

"Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction ("reproof, warning or instruction" - Strong's) ***will drive it far from him"*** (Proverbs 22:15).

"Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell" (Proverbs 23:13-14).

Threatening punishment is not the answer. They soon learn to "call our bluff" and get away with the correction needed.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honour your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'That it may be well with you and you may live long on

the earth.' And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition ("correction of faults") *of the Lord"* (Ephesians 6:1-4).

A father I know jokingly summed up the disciplining of children, especially teenage children, in one word: "Purgatory!"

It is the parents' responsibility to train a child in the way he should (not wants to) go. **We are witnessing a generation of the fruits of failing parents.**

Children who grow up without true love, care and affection often suffer from a spirit of rejection, which breeds great insecurity. This is one reason why we have gang problems today. With a gang people feel secure, a part of something, tough. By themselves they feel weak, rejected and vulnerable.

If there have been no loving Christian foundations laid into a person's life (I did not say a legalistic "*Thou shalt not*" religious grinding which has destroyed multitudes), then they are not at peace with God, themselves, or society in general. The devil capitalizes on this and stirs rebellion and hate against "the system" which basically is law and authority. This is manifested in all sorts of lawlessness and crime.

INCREASING PROBLEM IN THE LAST DAYS

The Bible warns us that there will be much unruliness in the last days. **We are in those days now ~ we are living in perilous** ("hard, difficult, fierce" - Young's) **times** (2 Timothy 3:1-5,13)! Christian leaders, counsellors and deliverers need to teach the people the necessity for respect and restraint with regard to authorities (Titus 3:1-8).

Yet to the one who is walking in right relationship with God, these days are days of challenge ~ days when we can demonstrate the love, compassion and mercy of God in bringing deliverance to the captives, teaching them **"a more excellent way"** (1 Corinthians 12:31). But be prepared! It is a full-time job, so great is the task.

Lawlessness And Crime

Let me put some of the symptoms that cause lawlessness and crime together here for you to watch out for when counselling:

- 1. Lack of love in childhood.**
- 2. Rejection.**
- 3. Insecurity.**
- 4. Weak character.**
- 5. Unhappy home life.**
- 6. Wrong kinds of friends and relationships.**
- 7. Jealousy.**
- 8. Disrespect, spite.**
- 9. Hatred against society.**
- 10. Rebellion.**

When it comes to counselling and delivering these people, it is usually after a lot of hurt and damage has been done. It would be so much easier if we could stand at the top of the cliff and save the hurt and damage, rather than having to wait at the bottom and pick up the shattered pieces. Tragically, it seems to take the crash (evil deed, circumstances, etc.) to bring people to their senses enough to seek sound Christian help. When that time comes, we must be willing, ready and able to give the correct instruction.

Even after becoming Holy Spirit-filled Christians, many still find evil tendencies and patterns trying to dictate their lifestyle to them. Character "flaws" come to the surface and run their course. This gives us the opportunity to bring deliverance to them (even though it often means the flaw has done damage to the Christian's testimony). These flaws are like weeds surfacing in a garden. They must be weeded out if there is going to be fruit harvested.

HOW TO MINISTER TO LAWLESSNESS AND CRIME

"Brethren, if a man is overtaken (publicly) in any trespass ("a falling aside, mishap"), you who are spiritual restore ("to make thoroughly right") such a one in a spirit of gentleness ("mildness"), considering yourself lest you also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1).

- 1. We must be loving, compassionate, understanding and patient ~ the same way God is with us.**
- 2. We must show Christian love, forgiveness and understanding.**

Catherine Marshall said concerning forgiveness: *"Forgiveness is releasing another from your own personal judgment."* How important this is for US to DO!

- 3. We need to share the Christian way and lifestyle.** Build Bible knowledge and principles into the life.
- 4. Give practical help.** Look at the environment the person is living in. If this is a contributing factor, try and improve it, or take the person out of it (even for a time till strength is built up ~ they must be willing for this to happen) so the problem will not go on repeating itself.
- 5. We must strengthen the character.** Show by example the benefits of respecting God's ordained authorities in the world and in the Church (Romans 13).
- 6. Teach restitution.** Where restitution is necessary give encouragement to do it. It may only be an apology needed, but apologies can work wonders in the life of the one who makes them! Where it involves stolen property, money, etc., it is good for the person to pay back and show genuine regret for the deeds of the past. Where restitution cannot be made, seek to help them accept the forgiveness of God, to forgive themselves, and the forgiveness of the people they have committed the offence against.

7. Put yourself in his or her shoes!

“Therefore, whatsoever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

Chapter 11

Financial Problems

“Not lagging (“slow, tardy, dull, stupid”) **in diligence**” (Romans 12:11).

“Owe no one anything” (Romans 13:8. See also Matthew 18:23-35 and Luke 16:1-15).

THE MATTER OF personal finances and getting into financial difficulty is often a very touchy one. Nevertheless it is also a “problem area” that we come up against, so we must be prepared to provide the necessary counsel to those who come for help. Tread very tactfully ~ often there has been real pride in the person’s life over money matters, and to realize one is in financial difficulty to the extent of needing help brings a painful humbling of attitudes. It is not easy for people to acknowledge they “can’t make ends meet.”

- **Christians with financial problems need to be open and honest before God and trusted people.**

It is right and proper to pay our debts as soon as possible, and to do this may mean we will need to confide in, or encourage outside help to get the finances budgeted right. In most cases it is a matter of re-adjustment of spending habits, consciously doing without luxuries, unnecessary gadgets, fancy foods, entertainment, etc.

Financial problems produce pressure and stress ~ pressure that many cannot survive under. When the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32 ran out of

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money, he came under extreme pressure. His standard of living, friends, work, physical appearance, eating habits, all changed ~ for the worse ~ as a result. Only when he sought help from his father did the circumstances change. That meant swallowing his pride and coming humbly to him. The Lord uses financial problems to bring people to Himself. **He always brings good out of everything ~ if we will let Him** (Romans 8:28).

LAZINESS

Some financial problems are linked with laziness. Our welfare state has produced a slothful spirit in many and bred an attitude of "let the Government keep us." The Bible teaches us to work, and that **"if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat"** (2 Thessalonians 3:10). Most employers respect and respond to a good worker ~ generally he will be financially rewarded as a result. Likewise the lazy person will not be rewarded:

"The lazy ("sluggish, idle") will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing" (Proverbs 20:4).

"I went by the field of the lazy ("slothful") man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and, there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down. When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; so shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man" (Proverbs 24:30-34).

"He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough! A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished. To show partiality is not good, because for a piece of bread a man will transgress. A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, and does not consider that poverty will come upon him" (Proverbs 28:19-22).

Christians are required to provide for their own, otherwise they deny the faith and are worse than infidels (an infidel is one who refuses to receive God's revelation of grace) (1 Timothy 5:8).

Even in these days of rising inflation, high unemployment and soaring living costs, the Christian who is motivated right can succeed in getting by, as well as to help the work of the Lord to prosper.

PRACTICAL CHURCH HELP

When I was pastoring, our church developed a ministry of helping the poorer ones who came to us. Some who are coming to Christ today have quite large debts to pay. These have often been worsened by a marriage break-up and one partner being left to sort the “mess” out alone. As these people allowed us, we became aware of the extent of their problem and then sought to find the best solution to each case at hand. This involved giving financial assistance (at times), operating a clothing pool (clothes that had been donated by others), footwear, encouraging others to grow extra vegetables (some donated bulk purchases of vegetables obtained at the local auction), practical help around the homes (gardening, lawnmowing, cleaning, etc.) and the Fellowship members were encouraged to open their homes for meals. We also worked in with the local Home Budgeting Service as necessary, and this had proven to be very good. That all created an atmosphere of love and fellowship, with the view to getting the “financially embarrassed” back on their feet again. It was done in such a way that the people did not become totally dependent on the church to keep them. Adjustment of lifestyle and spending habits were taught, to the end the person or family could be debt free and self supporting ~ a free person in their own right. Outside organisations also looked at our methods, as the results were so pleasing.

Christians are not called “to keep up with the Jones’s,” but rather to support themselves adequately and to finance the going out of the Gospel.

SOME SIDE EFFECTS OF FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

- 1. Worry.** Worry is a negative, destructive force that makes people think only of failure, the worst, etc.
- 2. Emotional upsets.** To fall behind in debt places a heavy emotional strain upon a person and leads to . . .

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3. **Moodiness, temper outbursts and depression.**
4. **Arguments and accusations.** This usually involves the riling and belittling of one's wife, husband or loved ones ~ taking it out on those loved the most.
5. **Sickness through inability to cope.** This often is an advanced symptom of worry, pressurized by not being able to see any hope of change in the financial circumstances.
6. **Panic.** Everything seems to be crashing in on them.
7. **Marriage break-ups.**
8. **Temptation to rob God and man.** People who try and dodge paying their debts will also try and rob God in the ministry of giving. There is a wonderful freedom in being able to live according to the teaching of Jesus when He said:

"It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35. See also Luke 6:38).

9. **Poverty.**

HOW TO MINISTER TO FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

Remember: ***"If a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted"*** (Galatians 6:1).

1. **Understand the root cause of the financial difficulty.** It could be a spend-thrift husband or wife, a squandering of money on trivialities, gambling, drink, drugs, desertion by one partner, a run of circumstances with doctor's bills, car bills, house rent, etc.
2. **You must be taken into the person's confidence.** If married, seek as much as possible to counsel husband and wife together.

3. **Know how to handle money yourself.**
4. **Teach budgeting and cut out unnecessary spending.** Clear the most urgent debts first.
5. **Teach the need to work and pay their own way** (2 Thessalonians 3:7-13).
6. **Teach to sacrifice personal things in order to clear the debts.** Be prepared to do without. A person in debt is living at the expense of the one he is in debt to.
7. **Teach Scriptural principles of giving** (Luke 6:38 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-8).
8. **People in debt need to be taught that it is unwise to look for financial "hand-outs" all the time.** The problem has to be rectified through adjusting the lifestyle and spending habits. They should not live above their means. Buying goods on credit should be avoided!

A person who is counselled right in money matters ~ and accepts the counsel graciously in a practical, co-operative way ~ will know the joy of being delivered from the clutches of poverty.

- **Let us glorify God in our finances!**

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully ("with blessings") will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly ("to give with reluctance") or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed ("scattered in all directions, spread about, distributed widely") abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures for ever" (2 Corinthians 9:6-9).

Chapter 12

The Counsellor Himself

THROUGHOUT THIS BOOK we have been looking at various problems that confront people and the ways by which we can be used of God to set the captives free. All problem areas have not been covered and the reader will more than likely know of other symptoms where answers are needed.

In this chapter we will take a look at the counsellor himself and see what the Christian counsellor and deliverer should possess ~ what he should be like as a person. I believe that those with very sensitive personal problems respond only to certain types of character and personality. For example, heavy handed, authoritarian kind of counsellors will do more harm than good ~ many problems have become far worse than they ever needed to be because of this impersonal approach. The *"I haven't got time to be bothered with petty problems"* attitude is also disastrous to the one with the problem (the problem may seem "petty" to us, but often it is huge to those with it). Many I have counselled have had their problems greatly aggravated by the advice and attitudes of churches and ministers alike. Some reasons for this have been condemnatory, legalistic teachings of the Ten Commandments, e.g. ***"Thou shalt not . . . !"*** that we are no longer under today. JESUS came to show us a better way and, if we are still trying to live under the Old Testament Law, we have a "hang-over" and are insulting the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ Who ushered in the New Covenant of mercy, grace and truth.

- **The counsellor must be able to put himself in the other person's shoes.**
- **What if it were you sitting there with a desperate need?**
- **Would you want to be rebuked, scorned and turned away because of the problem you had?**

Of course not! And you also know that Jesus would not turn them away either. He said:

"COME to ME, ALL YOU who labour ("to be wearied out") and are heavy laden ("burdened"), and I WILL GIVE YOU REST" (Matthew 11:28-30, emphasis mine).

"The one who COMES TO ME I WILL BY NO MEANS CAST OUT" (John 6:37, emphasis mine).

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

Essential requirements to succeed in the counselling and deliverance ministry are:

1. Understanding:

Solomon prayed:

"Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge ("act as a magistrate") Your people, that I may discern ("to cause to understand, instruct") between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" (1 Kings 3:5-12, especially verse 9).

Every person is different and each individual problem needs to be understood on its own merit. When problems are not understood correctly by the counsellor he will only add to them and not help. We must be careful not to over-categorize problems with a set formula for each group. Even this book is only presenting "guide-line" symptoms to help those moving in to the ministry of counselling and deliverance to watch out for. With each individual problem you will still need to lean on God and the anointing of the Holy Spirit to guide you.

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Some dear people have suffered for years in the Christian Church because no one took the time to understand them. Others have even been ex-communicated and told they were going to hell! What damning rubbish! God must have changed His mind because we have seen some of these same people gloriously set free to the glory of Jesus.

Condemning words on our part can give a wounded spirit to people, whereas an understanding heart knows HOW to release love and compassion in the situation that brings results.

“LOVE NEVER FAILS” (1 Corinthians 13).

2. The Spirit of Meekness:

“RESTORE such an one in the spirit of meekness” (Galatians 6:1, KJV).

“Meekness” is “gentleness, mildness, enduring all things with an even temper, tender, free from haughty self-sufficiency, tender of spirit, the exhibition of that tenderness in bearing with others” (Bullinger’s).

Moses was a very humble man (Numbers 12:3). God chose him to be a deliverer (Exodus 3:1-12). Moses knew God's deliverance in his own life, from being a murderer and a fugitive.

Quote: *“If you think it’s weak to be meek, try being meek for a week.”*

3. Gentleness:

“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle (“mild, kind, humble”) to all, able to teach, patient ...” (2 Timothy 2:24-25).

Gentleness is “goodness that shows itself in kindness.” It is the practical outworking of the spirit of meekness. When you understand the sensitive make-up of a person you will understand the necessity for the ministry of gentleness.

4. Love:

The Greek word for love is “agapao” meaning “Love that is self-denying and compassionately devoted to its object, love in its fullest conceivable form: towards God, the brethren, and all.”

Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, “Which is the first commandment of all”? Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.’ There is no other commandment greater than these. So the scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to LOVE one’s neighbour as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God” (Mark 12:28-34).

“Love never fails” (1 Corinthians 13:8).

- **New Covenant love is demonstrated by our love one for another.**

Jesus said:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; AS I HAVE LOVED YOU, that YOU ALSO LOVE ONE ANOTHER. By this all will KNOW that you are My disciples, IF YOU HAVE LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER” (John 13:34-35).

“We know that we have passed from death to life, BECAUSE WE LOVE THE BRETHREN. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. By this we know

LOVE, because HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US. AND WE ALSO OUGHT TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR THE BRETHREN. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, HOW DOES THE LOVE OF GOD ABIDE IN HIM? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:14-18).

"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, HOW CAN HE LOVE GOD WHOM HE HAS NOT SEEN? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God MUST LOVE HIS BROTHER ALSO" (1 John 4:7-21, especially verses 20-21, emphasis mine).

We love our Christian brothers and sisters so much we are willing and prepared to lay down our life for them (1 John 3:16). **We love God no more than we love one another!** This love motivates us into meeting the needs of those with problems. This love takes us to the Cross ~ the place of the giving up of our own selfish interests, ambitions, etc., for the brethren as much as for Jesus.

* See my book, "You Can Measure Your Love For God."

5. Compassion:

Out of "agapao" love is born compassion (1 John 3:14-17). Jesus loved us and was moved with compassion towards us (Matthew 9:35-38). He still is. Now He wants to express His love and compassion THROUGH US to a needy world. We are called to be "good Samaritans" to those who have been robbed, beaten up and wounded by the circumstances of life (Luke 10:25-37). We are called to show mercy! The good Samaritan is a prime example. He was concerned with helping and healing ~ and totally unconcerned about his own reputation! **Compassion moves us to do something about the problem (it will cost you to minister as Jesus taught us).**

6. Patience:

“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient (“long suffering”), in humility correcting (“nurturing as a child”) those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will”

(2 Timothy 2:24-26).

The Apostle Paul said:

“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations (“pressure, affliction, distress, to be squeezed”), knowing that tribulation produces PERSEVERANCE (“patience”); and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because THE LOVE OF GOD has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Romans 5:3-5).

In the counselling and deliverance ministry one has to learn to be very patient. Here is a thought on the definition of patience: *“Patience is the ability to let your light shine, even after your fuse is blown!”*

Another meaning of patience is: *“The ability to suffer long with another till the victory is achieved.”*

7. The Fruit and Gifts (manifestation) of The Holy Spirit:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another

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different ("many") kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills" (1 Corinthians 12:3-11, especially verses 7-11).

- **We must not under-estimate the necessity for these graces of God to be manifest in our life.**

8. A Sound Knowledge of The Word of God:

"Able to teach . . ." (2 Timothy 2:24-25). ***"For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner ("critic, judge") of the thoughts and intents of the heart"*** (Hebrews 4:12).

"And take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (Ephesians 6:17).

In counselling and deliverance it is important to know the Word of God sufficiently to allow the Holy Spirit to bring the right Scriptures at the right time. I have seen many set free this way. This is the Lord's doings.

Knowing the Word of God means knowing the God of the Word also. Let our relationship with Him be real, personal and up-to-date.

9. The Counsellor Must Be Trustworthy:

If the person with a problem cannot trust you, nor have confidence in you, he or she will not approach you for help.

10. A Ministry of Mercy:

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)" (Ephesians 2:1-5, especially verses 4-5).

The counsellor also must be "big" on mercy. Some things you hear will possibly shock you, but mercy must be able to prevail through you, because:

"In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity ("perversity")" (Proverbs 16:6);

and:

"Mercy triumphs over judgment" (James 2:13). How merciful is the Lord!

"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

11.A "Manasseh" Ministry ("Manasseh" means "God has made me to forget" ~ See Genesis 41:51):

The counselling ministry is one of strictest confidence, and the person's well-being is of the utmost importance. We must not be guilty of spreading information about people to others which will bring misunderstanding, confusion and hurt.

Many Christians have been deeply hurt after having shared their problems with others ~ in strictest confidence ~ discover that "everyone in the church" knows all about it. Then the problem is "held against" the person concerned and they wonder why other Christians begin avoiding them. If and when we do hear detrimental things about others, we need to consciously look for the good in them so we do not become responsible for destroying their faith and confidence. Make sure you have a "Manasseh" ministry that enables you to forget the failings of the past in others.

Where illustrations can be given anonymously without any detriment to the person counselled, this can actually be a great encouragement to people still in need. They will then know that they, too, can be helped if they will seek it.

- **Counsellors and deliverers are NOT a law unto themselves.**
- **They can only function effectively as they live in the anointing of the Holy Spirit.**

Chapter 13

Four Keys For Effective Ministry

WE NOW COME TO the final chapter in this effort to help you understand, as well as minister to, the problems many people face today. I see these problems as a challenge to the professing Christians individually, and to the Church generally. At times I may have seemed to be somewhat hard in mentioning churches and ministers as aggravating certain situations through impatience and a lack of understanding the individual and his or her problems. This has been so. Yet in saying this, I am not against churches or ministers ~ the answers must be found and provided by us in the ministry and the churches we represent. There are many fine men and women of God, and churches, doing a wonderful job in this area of human need. They deserve our support and prayers.

- **If we Christians do not and cannot provide the answers to these basically spiritual needs, then who can?**

**CHRIST IS THE ANSWER ~ THROUGH YOU AND THROUGH ME . . .
through all who are committed to the Gospel Jesus demonstrated!**

I would like to sum up the Christians' part in the counselling and deliverance ministry by leaving with you four simple keys for effective ministry. They have been touched on in various parts of this book, but they bear repeating.

The Spirit of God, through the Word of God, is challenging us today of the utmost importance of being able to EFFECTIVELY minister to the multitude of human needs all around us. Unless we learn to minister as Jesus did, these needs will never be properly met.

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary ("to loose out of, relax, be weary, exhausted"), ***and scattered*** ("to throw or cast, hurl, jerk with a sudden motion"), ***like sheep having no shepherd*** ("one who tends, feeds, leads, cherishes, guides and protects a flock"). ***Then He said to His disciples*** ("a learner, pupil; more than this, a follower, one who follows both the teacher and the teaching"), ***"The harvest*** ("reaping") ***truly is plentiful, but the labourers*** ("workers") ***are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest, to send out labourers into His harvest"*** (Matthew 9:35-38).

And behold, a certain lawyer ("a person skilled in the law") ***stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind," and "your neighbour as yourself."*** ***And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."*** ***But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by ON THE OTHER SIDE. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by ON THE OTHER SIDE. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, CAME WHERE HE WAS. And when he saw him, HE HAD***

COMPASSION. SO HE WENT TO HIM and BANDAGED HIS WOUNDS, POURING ON OIL AND WINE; and set him on HIS OWN ANIMAL, brought him to an inn, AND TOOK CARE OF HIM. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take CARE of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three, do you think was NEIGHBOUR to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "HE WHO SHOWED MERCY ON HIM." Then SAID JESUS to him, "GO AND DO LIKEWISE" (Luke 10:25-37, emphasis mine).

These are Scriptures we need to be very familiar with in order to understand how the needs of the masses can be met.

THE CHALLENGE IS TO BE A LABOURER

Jesus, as efficient, powerful and effective as He was, was not able ALONE to meet the needs of the multitudes. When He saw the needs He was moved with compassion to help them. That compassion turned Him to His own disciples with a challenge to them that THEY could fulfil the great needs He saw. He challenged them with the greatness of the harvest (people desiring a release and a new life in Christ) and the fewness of the workers. He challenged them to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth labourers. If you read Matthew 10 you will see that those who prayed were themselves sent forth. **Pray! Counselling and deliverance is a labouring ministry demanding time and patience!**

- **Effective ministry demands much labouring ~ a giving of one's self to the task at hand. And sticking with it till the job is done! That type of disciple is still hard to find.**

The needs of people have not changed for the better. If anything, they have got worse and more complex as our societies have (generally) moved away from a belief and faith in the Living God.

- **Jesus is our example of effective ministry to these needy ones.**

It is my conviction that the Christian faith does have the answer to any and all problems that we shall ever come up against. If it doesn't, then Christianity is not the total answer. But God has provided totally for us and we need to realize that there is no problem or person too hard for God, or you and me to bring through into victory. **The secret is in finding God's "key" for that person's life.**

The question that is on many lips today is: *"How can we minister effectively to the great needs of others?"*

Presuming that we ourselves are in right relationship with Christ, and are living each day positively in His victory, there are definite answers to this question.

KEY 1: LOVE

(Greek word "agapao") (Matthew 22:36-40 and Mark 12:28-34).

Christians are called to **a total love of God** ~ to love Him with all our heart, soul, strength and mind. We all need to dwell at length on the real meaning of loving God ~ the Scriptural meaning. **Our love for God has to be demonstrated ~ yes, in love for our neighbour!** The love we are to have for God is "agapao" love; which is exactly the same love we are to have for our neighbour.

- **THE SAME LOVE!**

We cannot love God and ignore our neighbour (our fellow human beings) (See 1 John 4:20; 2 John 5-6; Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 13:8-10 and Galatians 5:13-14)!

- **Love is the Cross.**

"Agapao" love takes us to one place more than anywhere else ~ the Cross! The giving up (or laying down) of our own will, desires and ambitions for God . . . AND our neighbour!

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Just in case we feel these conditions are too tough, let us be reminded that it is the only way to be a follower (disciple) of Jesus. **It will cost us to fully follow JESUS!** Let the Word speak:

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me"

(Matthew 16:24 and Mark 8:34).

Jesus said:

"And he who does NOT take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:38).

Jesus said:

"And whoever does NOT bear his cross and come after Me CANNOT be My disciple" (Luke 14:27).

Jesus said:

"So, likewise, whoever of you does not forsake ALL that he has CANNOT be My disciple" (Luke 14:33).

- **These verses test our personal love for Jesus and how real it is!**
- **Love must be expressed. That expression is in obedience to and the application of Jesus' Word to us.**

Jesus said:

"If you love ("agapao") Me, KEEP ("watch, observe") MY COMMANDMENTS" . . . "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love ("agapao") him, and We will come to him and make Our home ("abode, mansion, permanent place") with him. He who does not love ("agapao") Me does not keep not My words . . ." (John 14:15, 23-24).

KEY 2: COMPASSION

True love for God and our fellow man (neighbour) takes us to the Cross ~ death to self. But out of that death there comes forth new life which is

manifested in **compassion** (compassion means “to have the bowels ~ heart, the seat of feelings, affections ~ yearning, to pity, to show mercy, to have the desire of relieving the miserable, to suffer with another, to be affected in like manner”).

- **Compassion sees needs!**

In Matthew 9:35-38 we see Jesus manifesting His love for the multitude by ministering in compassion. He **SAW** their great needs.

In Luke 10:25-37 we discover the good Samaritan manifesting his love for his fellow man by ministering in compassion. He **SAW** his needs. **Compassion sees needs** ~ it does not turn a blind eye. Jesus teaches us to follow the example of the good Samaritan ~ not that of the priest or the Levite.

In 1 John 3:16-18 we discover again the direct link between “agapao” love and compassion:

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren [Notice, “for the brethren,” not only for God]. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, HOW DOES THE LOVE OF GOD ABIDE IN HIM? My little children, let us not love in word, or in tongue, but in DEED and in TRUTH” (emphasis mine).

- **Compassion is vital to effectively minister to peoples' needs. Compassion is seeing someone in need and doing something about it.**

KEY 3: UNDERSTANDING

As beautiful as love and compassion are, they are not totally adequate in ministering to deep human needs. We have to get alongside those in need and learn to understand them ~ each one individually. Sadly, many people

Four Keys For Effective Ministry

have been really hurt and wounded because there was no understanding of the real problem. When we can understand the problem at hand, we will THEN KNOW HOW to minister love and compassion in an effective way.

Let me repeat: **it takes time and patience to understand a lot of the deep-rooted needs we are faced with today. Far too many of us are impatient, because we will not take the time to understand where the person is coming from.**

Just as the Bible tells us in the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:23) that the fruitful ground is that which UNDERSTANDS the Word, so in Christian ministry the fruitful minister is the one who takes time to understand the people he is dealing with. It takes time and patience to bring about total healing of deep-seated problems. So, be wise and ***“UNDERSTAND what the will of the Lord is”*** (Ephesians 5:17).

The good Samaritan **understood** the need of the man beaten up by the thieves. That caused him to know what to do. He bound up his wounds, poured on the oil and the wine, and took him to the safety of an inn (Luke 10:34).

When we know the keys of love, compassion and understanding are working through us, we then realize there is another key that is involved in restoring others to a life of wholeness. That key is:

KEY 4: RESPONSIBILITY

To minister effectively we have to face up to responsibility. It is amazing how we try and avoid it! **The good Samaritan took responsibility for the person he was helping.** He paid the account incurred at the inn. His love and compassion saw the task at hand through to completion.

- **Just think where you and I would be today if Jesus had not taken responsibility for us, our sin and our rebellion???**

Responsibility is the burden to see the ones you are helping brought completely through (or back into) right relationship with God ~ where they, too, can stand unashamed in the community, giving praise and glory to God for being made ***“whole in every way.”***

The Apostle Paul’s desire was to present ***“every man perfect*** (“complete, mature”) ***in Christ Jesus”*** (Colossians 1:27-29). What a tremendous responsibility and challenge!

I believe with all my heart that the four keys shared in this chapter ~ when applied Scripturally ~ can be the means of very effective ministry to the multitudes all around us today. It is my joy to minister in this way and I can truthfully say that the Lord is being glorified through the results. People are being set free into newness of life ~ a life that is worthwhile and full of purpose.

More than ever am I realizing this great Bible truth: **THE SAME PROPORTION THAT I LOVE MY NEIGHBOUR IS THE EXACT SAME PROPORTION OF MY LOVE FOR GOD** (Romans 13:8-10 and John 13:34-35).

That love shows itself through compassion, understanding and responsibility ~ that the will of the Lord be wonderfully done. Amen!

Finally, if after having read this book you have been encouraged in this kind of ministry, please do not rush out and seek to convince people that you can set them free. If this IS the ministry for you, **those in need will recognize your gentle spirit AND WILL SEEK YOU OUT.** When that happens be ready to allow the Spirit of the Lord within you to ***“heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed (“downtrodden”)***” (Luke 4:18; Isaiah 61:1-4).

- ***“The yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing (in YOU)”*** (Isaiah 10:27).

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