

A large, ancient tree with thick, gnarled roots and a trunk, surrounded by autumn foliage. The tree's roots are exposed and twisted, some showing hollows. The trunk is covered in rough, grey bark. The background is filled with trees with orange and yellow leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. A small blue tag is visible on the trunk.

HOW TO DESTROY THE EVIL TREE

Overcoming the failures of our forefathers

BASIL FRASURE

HOW TO DESTROY THE EVIL TREE

by
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**Scripture quotations used in this book are from the
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How To Destroy The Evil Tree

Thesis Statement: The scriptural analogy of trees serves as a vehicle to communicate how one may break generational curses and overcome sinful habits. Through the work of God in Christ, one can plant a good tree and cut the roots to the evil tree. Through the nurturing of the good tree, one can become victorious over the effects of the evil tree.

Dedicated to:

All those people who struggle with a bondage to the enemy and have an earnest desire to have the chains broken and the prison doors opened.

**"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me . . .
the LORD hath anointed me . . . He hath
sent me . . . to proclaim liberty to the
captives, and the opening of prison to them
that are bound" (Isaiah 61:1).**

CONTENTS

<u>Introduction & Testimonies</u>	8
I. <u>Discovering The Basis For The Evil Tree</u>	10
II. <u>Establishing The Good Tree</u>	16
• A. Planting a Good Tree	
• B. Finding the Good Soil	
• C. Caring for the Good Tree	
III. <u>Sizing Up The Evil Tree</u>	26
• A. Looking at the Symbolism	
• B. Discovering the Tree's Beginning	
• C. Finding the Most Effective Method	
• D. Understanding the Roots	
IV. <u>Taking Steps To Cut Down The Evil Tree</u>	38
• A. Examining Your Evil Tree	
• B. Uncovering the Roots	
• C. Sharpening the Ax Blade	
• D. Strengthening Your Arm	
• E. Cutting the Roots	
V. <u>Learning How To Grow The Good Tree</u>	51
• A. Understanding the Nature of the Good Tree	
• B. Growing in Good Soil	
• C. Feeding the Tree	
• D. Letting the Tree Breathe	
VI. <u>Bringing the Good Tree To Maturity</u>	61
• A. Watering the Tree	
• B. Letting the Trees Clap Their hands	
• C. Living Among Other Trees	
VII. <u>Making The Good Tree Become Fruitful</u>	71

- A. Caring for One Another
- B. Submitting to the Chief Gardener
- C. Pruning the Tree

[Appendixes](#) 84

[Notes](#)..... 113

[Bibliography](#).....
114

[About The Author](#) 115

Introduction

Are you facing compulsive or addictive behavior in your life? Generational curses are inherited negative life traits which are passed down from one generation to the next. In addition to generational curses, word curses may become a destructive factor in one's life. ***How To Destroy The Evil Tree*** gives a Biblical insight into how the wrong choices of our forefathers play a significance role in our lives. Although, generational curses and word curses often lead to the most severe addictions, this book also reveals some lasting solutions in **overcoming** the effects of both generational curses and word curses.

Both counselor and counselee may benefit by reading ***How To Destroy The Evil Tree***.

A Few Testimonies

I obtained one of your books on the "Evil Tree." The ladies from a friends Church had a Ladies retreat and we used some of your material. I had some material on the Evil Tree. But we drew a blank tree and used yours as an example and looked at the different issues we were dealing with and formed our own tree. We prayed to break the various strongholds. There was much deliverance. A pastor was there that was delivered of fear and the stronghold of fear.

Sara A.

Dear Dr. Frasure, I greatly appreciate your book on the web. The Lord has been teaching a dear friend of my in Christ about some of these principals. We have both been believers a long time and have seen many battles but no sustained victory. The iniquities that are present in each of us has been the focus of what my friend has been taught by the Lord. We are now praying and asking the Lord the reveal and remove these in our lives and

our families. We are following the principals you have laid down in your book. It seems to be working not only with us but with our families as well. When we experience a situation instead of reacting to the person we are committing it to God and praying about the root that has caused. It has been a blessing to find this on your site.By the way my husband is down stairs reading your book. I can't think of any book he has ever read. I took the liberty of sending your site to several friends. We are all tired of living a life in Christ with little victory.

Bless you, Terry S.

I have read your book and it has been of significant help to me. The day I downloaded the manuscript, I suffered from severe chest pains. I felt that it was not serious, but I felt terrible. Several times, I thought about going home to bed, but my job was demanding and I "tuffed" it out. That evening, Juli and I began to a study of your book, but only after we prayed and I bound the spirit(s) that afflicted me. Less than 20-30 minutes into our study, I realized that I no longer felt the pain or the physical discomforts that had plagued me. Over the next week I began to feel much better physically and emotionally. I do not feel that my depression is over--but I feel that I have a better understanding of my situation.

Michael C.

I was delighted to receive the actual book copy so I could send to my daughter in Dallas. I told her all about you and your book, and again, the timing was perfect. She had been going through some tremendous spiritual oppression to the point that she was exhausted. Her dad was killed in an airplane crash when she was seven years old, and the Holy Spirit revealed to us that she needed to forgive her father for "leaving" her. She also felt rejection and fears that we believe stemmed from the loss of her

father. We prayed through her forgiveness of her father, and as a result of your Evil Tree diagram and explanation, we both learned a lot about why we have had some yuck in our lives. Praise God that his timing is so perfect...And thank you for being so giving on your web site of all the information readily available. It was so helpful and will continue to be as we pray in our personal lives, but also as we minister to others. May God richly bless you for your work and your obedience.

Carol W.

I would like to tell you how much I have been helped by your book *The Evil Tree*. God has been doing such a cleansing and deliverance work in me the last few weeks, I have/had an addictive personality, drug problems for years, nicotine but never really alcohol. God delivered me from that and then through my complete surrender to Him he has been gradually showing me the reasons behind my actions. Looking to other people for reassurance, struggling to compete and be better than everybody else, lack of self-esteem and trust and a feeling of not being worthy to be loved. So many things I had bottled up inside me. I have been a Christian for five years and only now do I truly feel born-again - a new creation in Christ. Praise God!

Yesterday I finally remembered things from my childhood - my father sexually abusing me, and my mother's seeming lack of concern. I was shown that this was the root cause of all my problems.

The funny thing is, this all started when I was doing a University course on Psychology and Film Studies. Jung fascinated me and reinforced my faith and belief in God. Then all these things from my unconscious started re-emerging. A sort of individuation process, but with God as my strength and guide (perhaps)? I'm nearly 42.

It was very difficult, but I believe He led me to your web page and your book. I drew my evil tree, and following your steps was released from the generational curses and there were plenty I have to say. The Holy Spirit just kept bringing them to mind and I didn't really know my grandparents on either side. Now I'm standing on the word, increasing my faith, trusting in God's love and every day asking for more of His Holy Spirit - my comforter and friend. So thank you and I pray that God continues to bless you in the great work you are doing in His name. I am totally released now, it's all over and my faith is increasing day by day.

Your sister in Christ

Michelle

Chapter One

Discovering The Basis For the Evil Tree

Some years ago, when I was on a church staff, a man desperately in need of help came to me for counsel. We will call him "Peter" to protect his identity. Peter had lived an extremely rough life. He had been involved in almost every conceivable kind of sin and now had a large number of repulsive habits. However, in the first session, I discovered that Peter had recently made a decision to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Great! Peter was a Christian. My first step was to begin to establish Peter in the foundation of who he was in Christ.

Then Peter began to explain that he had been trying desperately to break his sinful habits. The enemy still had control over Peter through these habits. Although Peter tried his best, he had continued to fail. He kept doing the very sinful acts that he did not want to do. I discerned that Peter was also infested with a multitude of demonic spirits. One could envision that Peter had a snake pit full of snakes within him. I listened to Peter's struggles, tried to give him some encouragement, and prayed with him. Then I set up another appointment with Peter for a few days later.

Discernment is necessary and good, but discernment alone may not always be sufficient to meet the need of the hour. We are often creatures of habit. My discernment with Peter was that he had a great number of demonic spirits. Counseling experience dictated that deliverance would be the first order of business. I had the thought of spiritually charging the individual in the name of Jesus and casting out evil spirits to the right and to the left. However, I felt a check in my spirit. This called for much earnest prayer. Through the prayer, God said, "You are not to go into deliverance with this individual." If one does not enter into deliverance with the individual, what can he do to get rid of all those obvious evil spirits? The Holy Spirit said,

"Do you remember what Jesus said about the good tree and the evil tree?" Although I remembered something of what the scripture said, I looked up the passages of scripture and reviewed them. The Holy Spirit then led me through the following thoughts. Jesus said that a good tree produces good fruit and an evil tree produces evil fruit. This person was a Christian, therefore, he had a good tree growing in him. Peter had an earnest desire to produce good fruit. Nevertheless, Peter also had a big crop of evil fruit indicating there also had to be an evil tree.

How does one destroy an evil tree? Just picking the fruit will not have lasting results. One can cut off the limbs, but they will grow back. One can saw off the tree at the trunk, but in time it will come back by the roots. One must discover where the roots are, dig them up, cut them, and then the tree will naturally die. When Peter came into my office, I explained the revelation that God had given me through prayer. I took a pencil and a sheet of paper and drew an outline of a tree and explained the process. I then drew some circles on the tree explaining to Peter that these circles represented the evil fruit. Then I asked Peter to name his evil fruit (sin habits). I put the names for the evil fruit in the circles on tree. The next step was to explain that the roots to the tree would be the sin habits of his forefathers (parents and grandparents). I then drew some lines at the foot of the tree representing the roots of the tree. Peter gave a list of the sin habits of his parents and grandparents. In a matter of minutes Peter began to see the relation between the sin habits of his forefathers and his own sin habits. This has not been the case only with Peter, but with almost everyone with whom I have worked in this area of counseling. The inherited relationship with the forefathers is obvious. I also explained that these were generational curses and that Peter's forefathers had passed them along to him. I also explained that Jesus became a curse for us when he died upon the cross. I explained that we should make a profession of faith declaring that the curses are broken through the work of Jesus upon the cross.

Through confession, forgiveness, repentance, and a breaking of curses Peter was set free. Peter's countenance changed dramatically in

less than thirty minutes. The face that had been like stone became soft and also radiant. A short time later Peter moved to another city where I was unable to do any personal follow-up. However, I received two delightful reports back that Peter was doing very well.

The next several pages of this book will give an overview of breaking generational curses and overcoming sinful habits. However, the following chapters will give a more detailed study of the subject.

As a Christian counselor, I often have people come to me with various kinds of problems. People frequently bring up the problem of habitual sin. Quite often the people who come to me are Christians. Many of these people faithfully read their Bibles, attend church, and pray. Some are even in positions of church leadership. Generally, they have a sincere desire to live a holy life, a life that is above reproach. However, they have one or more areas in their lives in which they have had continual failures. They want to do right, but they find themselves declaring with Paul, *"For I know that in me (that is in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do"* (Romans 7:18-19). They become discouraged, depressed, and sometimes even wonder if God has saved them. They raise the question, "How can I feel this way, keep on failing, and still be a Christian?" Many Christians that I see have even suicidal thoughts to varying degrees. They see no end to the battle. They see no victory.

As a counselor, I must recognize there are many factors that contribute to these kinds of problems. There is no one, absolute, cure-all. When I teach a course on Principles of Christian Counseling, I explain that I only give the Biblical principles. The individual counselor must rely upon the Holy Spirit for application of the principles. Only the Holy Spirit can tell us which principles to apply and when to apply them.

Actually, counseling is often like having a jigsaw puzzle with all the pieces scattered before you. The pieces represent the Biblical principles that need to be applied in the life of the counselee. It is

absurd to think by fitting two pieces together that you complete the puzzle. However, I usually have some general steps in my mind when I counsel someone in this area. I normally begin by determining if they are in Christ. I will lead them to make a faith commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord if they have not done so. The next step is to build upon this foundation and help them understand who they are in Christ. Then I lead them into inner healing for emotional hurts. On various occasions, I may need to lead them through steps of deliverance. This depends on the specific needs of the individual. Again, I stress the importance of the leading of the Holy Spirit and not the specific order of steps.

The next step is very important. I lead the person through the breaking of generational curses. I usually begin by explaining the scripture which teaches that God visits the iniquity of the Father upon the children unto the third and fourth generations (Exodus 20:5). Iniquity is more than just sin, but it is the tendency toward sin. This would include tendencies toward pornography, adultery, alcoholism, witchcraft, overeating, fear, bitterness, homosexuality, rage, greed, pride, lying, and cursing.

There is a spiritual analogy in the book of Ezekiel of Jerusalem's abominations. *"Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite"* (Ezekiel 16:3). Canaan is symbolic of sin and bondage. The Amorites and Hittites were sinful people. The LORD reveals, *"And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all"* (Ezekiel 16:4). Jerusalem was still spiritually connected (by the umbilical cord) to the sins of her parents. This is a picture of the bondage of iniquity passed from one generation to another. The cord to the forefathers' sins needs to be cut. The contamination needs to be washed from the child. Salt needs to be applied for purification. Then the child needs to be clothed. In like fashion, we need to cut the generational roots. We need to be washed by the water of the Word, salted with truth, and clothed in righteousness. Then we become acceptable in the eyes of others.

Jesus used the example of a good tree and an evil tree. *"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them"* (Matthew 7:16-20). We should understand that a good tree is Jesus. *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing"* (John 15:1, 5). The good tree has the purpose to bring forth good fruit. However, there may also be an evil tree that is growing within us that is producing evil fruit.

What does one do with an evil tree? Destroy it! How does one destroy an evil tree? We destroy the evil tree by discovering where its roots are and severing them. The roots are the iniquities of the forefathers that have been passed along to us. We cut the roots by a declaration of faith in what Christ did through the cross event. We must recognize, *"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree"*: (Galatians 3:13). Knowledge is great, but we must also make a profession of faith based upon the knowledge.

Therefore, I lead counselees through confessing and forgiving the iniquities of their forefathers. They must also confess, repent, and seek forgiveness of their own participation in the sins. Then through the understanding that God has delegated his authority to us, I lead them to declare that each curse is broken by the name and blood of Jesus. In conclusion, they are to declare that the old tree is dead. To reinforce this procedure of breaking the generational curses, I often turn to the book of Romans, Chapter Six. Paul writes that we are grafted together with Christ in his death and in his resurrection. Paul emphatically states, *"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin"* (Romans 6:6). The body of sin is considered the evil tree. Paul continues, *"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be*

dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:11). We are to consider the old tree dead, then begin to focus on the life of the new tree. I have seen many people overcome sin habits through the application of this revelation of scripture.

Brenda is a young lady who faced breaking numerous generational curses associated with Satanism. The following is part of her testimony:

"Breaking generational curses also brought much more freedom to me, although it was the most uncomfortable thing we did in my counseling sessions. Many physical illness symptoms arose each time - such as nausea and seizure symptoms. But once the curse was broken and the demons associated with it were rebuked in the name of Jesus, I felt a release and a new level of freedom in Christ was gained.... God has brought more healing to me in a little over 1 year than seeing the best psychiatrists available for 10 yrs."

Chapter Two

Establishing The Good Tree

Planting the Good Tree

Before looking closely at the evil tree, we need to begin with a good tree. We do not want to leave a void after we destroy the evil tree. Therefore, we want to begin by establishing a good tree. What is a good tree? Where does one come from? One can find several scriptural analogies at this point. I have already mentioned the first analogy. Jesus said that he was to be the vine and that we are to be the branches (John 15:1). The analogy is that Jesus is to be the good tree. Jesus is to live within us, but how does this come into being?

One may find the second analogy in the understanding of the kingdom of God. Jesus said, *"Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it"* (Mark 4:30-32). We find that the good tree begins with a very small seed but continues to grow until it becomes a large tree. It becomes a place of refuge. This passage also gives an analogy of the kingdom of God in the life of an individual.

Some years ago, when I was a child, I lived in a rural farming community. My father pastored a small country church. My parents carried me to church from the time of my birth. I remember when I was nine years old that we had a guest preacher come to our church to hold a revival. Of course, there was a big evangelistic thrust in the nightly meetings. The evangelist preached about being lost and going to hell. He also spoke about being saved and going to heaven. I asked my parents about the meaning of these terms: lost and saved. My

mother explained that everyone that disobeyed God was a sinner and was also lost. She further explained that anyone that does not believe in Jesus would go to hell when they died. However, she explained that Jesus died for our sins and that through trusting in him we could be saved and go to heaven. I knew enough about hell to know that I did not want to go there when I died. I also knew enough about heaven to know that was where God lived. I wanted to go to heaven and not to hell. Therefore, as I lay on the bed one night, I struggled with what I perceived as being the destiny of my life. No one told me exactly what to do, nor did they lead me in a prayer. By myself that night, in childlike faith, I gave my life to God believing that Jesus died for me. Something happened within me!

The next night at the revival meeting, I went forward in tears, trying to express that I was giving my life to Jesus. That night everything seemed somewhat confusing. The minister and my dad asked several questions that I did not fully understand. However, I knew that something had changed inside of me the night before. God planted a good tree inside of me that began to grow. However, it was not until some twenty-four years later that I began to understand a fuller meaning of what happened within me that night. One day, about five years after I graduated from seminary, God started revealing some deeper truths.

We must begin by understanding that a tree does not just occur by itself. In order to plant a good tree, one must have good seed. The good seed is not just a good idea. The good seed is not just an idealistic philosophy of some man or religious group of people. The good seed is the Word of God. Luke says in his gospel, *"The seed is the word of God"* (Luke 8:11). Peter explains, *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever"* (I Peter 1:23). Peter furthermore states, *"But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you"* (I Peter 1:25). Jesus challenges us by declaring, *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me"* (John 5:39).

Let us be more specific. What is this gospel which the Bible declares to be the seed for the planting of the new tree? Paul gives a summary of the gospel by saying, *"...how that Christ died for our sins according to the scripture; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures"* (I Corinthians 15:3-4). Jesus is the Christ. God anointed Jesus to become the savior of man. Jesus was the Son of God, who was born of Mary, the virgin. He lived a perfect life, then became the substitute for mankind's sin by dying on the cross. He also then spent three days in Hell and arose from the dead. Although that is the gospel in a nutshell, most people need more understanding.

On one occasion, I went to the home of a ten year old boy who had come forward during an invitation to accept Jesus at a showing of a Christian movie. I was met by his mother at the door. She was quite cordial. I sat down with her and her son to explain the gospel to them. The son readily understood, but the mother did not comprehend. I asked her if she had ever given her life to Jesus as her lord. She said that she was trying to get her life in order and that some day that she might do that. She thought that one day she might get good enough for God to accept her.

I spent almost an hour trying to communicate to her that she could not become that good by her own good works. Finally, I prayed within myself and told God that I would try one more time if He would give me a way to get through to her. God did just that. I turned in my Bible to the book of Isaiah and read, *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags"* (Isaiah 64:6). I explained that from God's view, everything that she had done as a good work was but filthy, blood stained, clothing. It was at that point she discovered she was a sinner and could not please God by her own good works. All too often people believe that they can balance the scales by doing something good. However, God says that even what good they may think they are doing is worthless to Him.

Therefore, the **first** step in becoming a Christian is to understand that we have sinned and are sinners. Paul informs us, *"As it is written,*

There is none righteous, no, not one": (Romans 3:10). He furthermore states, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God";* (Romans 3:23). I have a hunting bow and for several years I had a large target set up next to my house. Occasionally, I would go out and back off from the target about thirty-five yards and try my very best to hit the bull's eye. However, in spite of my best efforts, my arrows all too often fell short. We may try our very best to please God, but our best is not good enough. We still fall short of living a perfectly righteous life. One interesting Greek word translated sin is a word that means missing the mark.

A **second** step is to understand there is a penalty for sin. Sin results in death. Paul writes, *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned":* (Romans 5:12). When Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, lived in the garden of Eden, God gave them a specific warning. He told them that they could eat of any of the trees in the garden except for one tree. The forbidden tree was the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God warned them by saying, *"But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"* (Genesis 2:17). They disobeyed God by eating of the tree. All disobedience to God is sin. God said that in the day they sinned that they would die.

Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden, never to return. However, they lived for many years after the day that they had sinned. Adam became one of the oldest men recorded in the Bible. He lived to be nine hundred and thirty years old. Certainly, God was not a liar! A literal translation is, "In dying, ye shall die." In other words, God said that death would begin on the inside and spread to the outside. The day that Adam sinned he died in his spirit. That death spread to his soul and ultimately to his body. As each of us come to know the difference between good and evil, we choose evil and die in the spirit. We become separated from the God of Life and become dead to Him. Paul asserts, *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 6:23). When one goes to work he expects something in return for his labor. When one

sins he can expect death in return for his actions.

The **third** step is to understand that Jesus paid the full penalty for our sins. Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet, prophesied, *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all"* (Isaiah 53:6). For Jesus to pay the penalty, he first had to become a substitute for our sins. Paul explains this by stating, *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). When the soldiers took Jesus to the cross, he took our sins upon himself. As he carried our sins, he had to also carry our judgment. Isaiah looks forward to the event by recording, *"...yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed"* (Isaiah 53:4-5).

The **fourth** step is to yield our life to Jesus as Lord. Paul clearly states, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved"* (Romans 10:9). To accept Jesus as Lord is to make him our ruler, king, or boss. There is a story of a man who was a professional tightrope walker. He advertised that he would walk across a portion of Niagara Falls. He gathered a large crowd and asked them, "Do you believe that I can walk across the falls on the rope?" The crowd's response was, "Yes, we believe." With professional ease, the man made the walk and returned. Then the man asked the crowd, "Do you believe that I can put a wheelbarrow on the rope and push it across?" The crowd responded, "We believe." Again, the man fulfilled the challenge in the style of one who had years of experience. As the man returned, he asked the crowd, "Do you believe that I can put a man in the wheelbarrow and push him across?" The crowd answered with a hearty, "Yes!" The man turned to one unsuspecting gentleman and asked, "Sir, do you believe?" The gentleman responded, "Well, yes, I believe you can." The tightrope walker commanded, "Well, sir, get into the wheelbarrow." The moment of truth had arrived for the poor gentleman. If he really

believed, he must act upon his belief. So it is with us. If we really believe in Jesus, then we must give our lives to him as our **Lord** and **Saviour**. The understanding of these four simple steps is important, but we must also **believe** and **apply** them to our lives.

Finding the Good Soil

Returning to the analogy of the seed, there must be good ground upon which to plant the seed of God's Word. Jesus gave a parable of the sower and the kinds of ground. *"A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold"* (Luke 8:5-8). The way side is the beaten path. It would be the person who learns of the gospel for the sake of learning. The gospel would be just more information to such a person. He would study Christianity as he would any other religion of the world. The devil will come and take the seed away. The devil will use doubt, deception, fear, and outright lies.

The rocky ground has a thin layer of soil on the surface. This type of person receives the Word with joy. This person will get all excited and really thinks that the gospel is the best news yet. However, because there is rock under the soil, he can not establish life sustaining roots. The seed will soon die. This person may intellectually or emotionally assent to the Word, but when he comes to realize that it requires a commitment, he walks away from it.

The third type of soil is the thorny ground. The person may listen to the gospel, but has too great a desire to sow his own wild oats. The desires, riches, and pleasures choke out the good seed. The Word says, *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father; but is of the world"* (I John 2:16). The good seed does not have a chance to grow and produce mature fruit.

The last type of soil is the good ground. Jesus says, *"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience"* (Luke 8:15). It is the good ground that becomes productive. However, one must even prepare the good ground to receive the good seed. Jeremiah the prophet records, *"For thus saith the LORD ... Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns"* (Jeremiah 4:3). We should note that the first key here is honesty. Until you first admit that you are a sinner and have need of Jesus, you will not receive him.

Actually, God usually brings people to the end of their rope. As a counselor, I am able to lead many to the Lord. Because the people who come for counseling have their lives torn apart, the Word is able to fall into the cracks. I once watched a video of a mountain climber who scaled some sheer rock-faced bluffs. He looked for the cracks to secure the metal spikes as he made his way up the rock wall. God looks for the cracks in which to drop His seed. We must also remember that sometimes the Word needs time to germinate, sprout, and grow before it produces the fruit.

Let us now review the four steps in receiving the good seed. This time let us put them into a form of a prayer that you can pray:

DEAR GOD...

1. I **confess** that I have sinned (disobeyed you). (Romans 3:10, 23).
2. I **understand** that the penalty for sin is death on the inside. (Roman 5:12, 6:23).
3. I **believe** that Jesus Christ paid that penalty by dying on the cross. (Romans 5:8).
4. **Therefore, I receive** you, Jesus into my life, letting you become my Lord and Saviour. Amen. (Romans 10:9-10)

Congratulations! If you have just prayed this prayer for the first

time, you have received the good seed of the Word of God. You now have a good tree growing inside of you.

Caring for the Good Tree

After we have planted a good tree, it is important that we care for that tree. Again, we want the tree to grow, mature, and become fruitful. There are ten simple steps that we should be willing to take. As we take each of these steps, we should realize some spiritual growth in our lives.

1. We should be baptized. This means that we, as Believers, are to submit ourselves to water baptism by immersion. Luke records in the book of Acts, *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized"*: (Acts 2:41).
2. We should go to church. This means that we are to join ourselves to a local Bible believing body of Christians. *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together; as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"* (Hebrews 10:25).
3. We should spend time in prayer daily. This is one way that we communicate with our Heavenly Father. We are to have an attitude of prayer at all times. Paul exhorts us, *"Pray without ceasing"* (I Thessalonians 5:17).
4. We should read the Bible daily. The Bible is the nourishment that the baby Christian needs. Peter encourages us, *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"*: (I Peter 2:2).
5. We should receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Every Christian receives a down payment of the Holy Spirit when they are born of the Spirit. However, there is more. One may be baptized in the Holy Spirit whereby they may

also be filled with the power of God. The Word says, *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me ..."* (Acts 1:8).

6. We should seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis. Yesterday's filling is not sufficient for today. Paul commands, *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit";* (Ephesians 5:18).

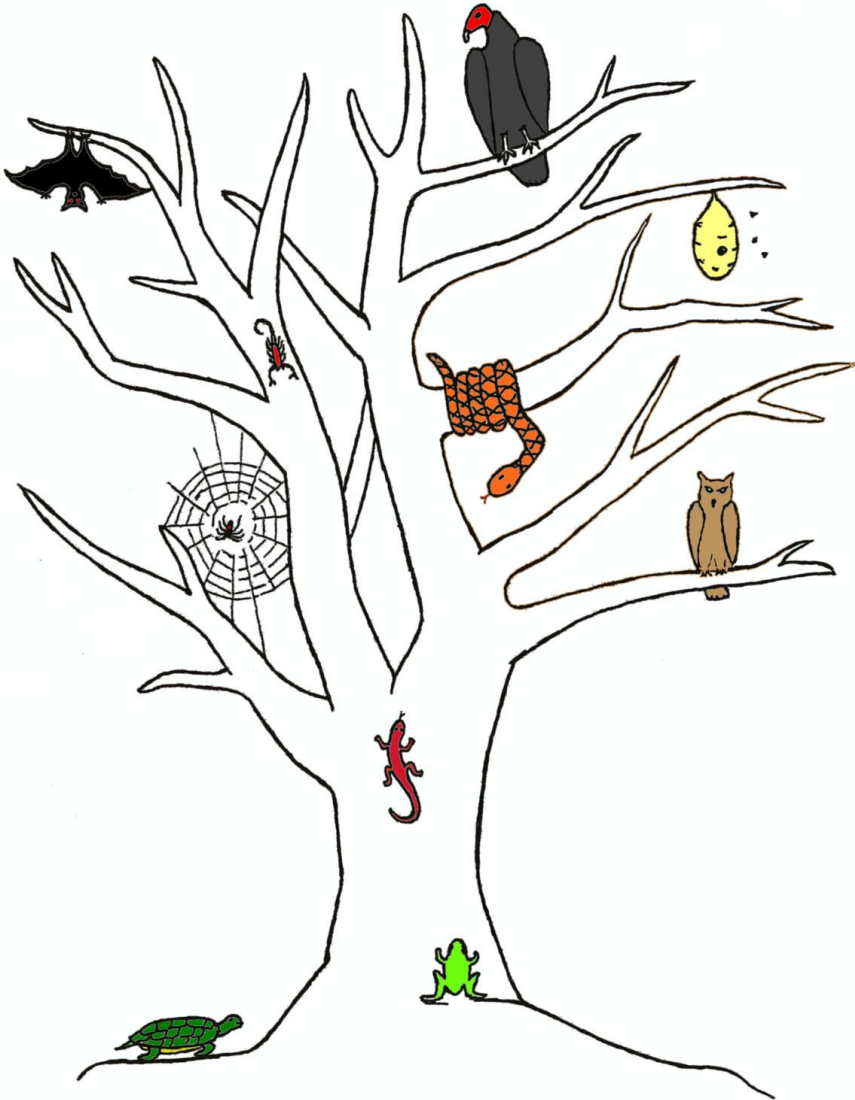
7. We should live for Jesus. We should place living for Christ above everything else in our lives. Jesus said, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"* (Matthew 5:16).

8. We should share our faith. A dam on a lake without an outlet will cause the water to become stagnant. Jesus commanded, *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15).

9. We should depend upon God. Even as Christians, we must come to depend upon God rather than ourselves. Paul explains, *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"* (Philippians 2:13).

10. We should bear spiritual fruit. Spiritual fruit is grown through time and faithfulness. Paul describes the fruit by stating, *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law"* (Galatians 5:22-23).

The Naked Tree:



Chapter Three

Sizing Up The Evil Tree

Looking at the Symbolism

Please take another look at the [naked tree](#). As you look, you see not only a rough looking old tree, but will also see some gruesome creatures on and about that tree. According to the scriptures, God considers all but one of these as being unclean (Leviticus 11:1-47). The Word does not specifically name the spider as being unclean; however, Isaiah says that the person that eats the eggs of a spider will die (Isaiah 59:5). These unclean creatures represent the evil fruit that one would find on an evil tree. Each of the creatures represents the nature of specific sin tendencies. The Word of God declares, *"... I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me";* (Exodus 20:5). The word iniquity implies a tendency toward committing specific sins. It is a **bent** in a specific direction.

Lizards are generally known for their fear. Where I grew up on the farm, we had several variety of lizards. Most of them would run and hide at the blink of the eye. The lizard on the trunk of the tree represents the tendency to fear. Fear of man and fear of evil are not from God. Such fears are often inherent in families. Such a bent to fear may be passed on from one generation to another. Another characteristic of some species of lizards is that they have the ability to change colors. They just blend into whatever environment they find themselves. Of course, this is for their protection. It is a response to a fear of being harmed. You may know people who have the tendency to do the same thing. In order to be accepted, they just go along with the crowd.

Bats are known for being blind. I once saw a video of a snake lying on a ledge of the mouth of a large cave. The snake would simply

stretch his head and neck out and grab the blind bats as they flew out of the cave. Some people have a tendency to be spiritually blind. In their blindness they fly right into the mouth of all kinds of false religions.

The **snake** has always been the symbol of deception and lies. His tongue is forked. From the Garden of Eden to the book of Revelation, the Word depicts Satan, the liar, as the serpent. Therefore, the snake is symbolic of the tendencies of lying and deception.

The **owl**, another unclean creature, has been used as a symbol of wisdom or knowledge. The first recorded sin as found in Scripture was that of a seeking of knowledge. Eve was tempted to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The serpent told Eve that if she would eat of the tree that she would become as gods, knowing good and evil (Genesis 3:4). The owl then is a symbol of false knowledge or a symbol of idolatry. Idolatry is saying that we know more than God. Idolatry may well be another inherited tendency.

The **vulture** is an unclean bird. We associate the vulture with dead animals. We know that by nature the vulture eats creatures that have already died and begun to decay. Therefore, the vulture is a symbol of tendencies that are associated with death. These would include suicidal or homicidal tendencies.

Frogs are known for multiplication and for their jumping. There are also people who have tendencies to jump into situations without thinking. Some jump from one bed to the other as well. Therefore, the frog is a symbol of carnal or sexual sin tendencies.

The **spider** is known for her web. One of the strongest and most dangerous webs that a man can weave is possessiveness. Therefore, the spider in the web represents such tendencies as greed, selfishness, and jealousy.

The **scorpion** is a creature that we may often overlook. It is also a creature that inflicts a great amount of pain. There are many people who have a tendency to dwell upon the emotional hurts and pain that they have received. Thus, the scorpion is a symbol of a tendency

toward pain.

The **hornets** are also known for their ability to inflict pain, but they are also known for their anger and aggressive attack. Therefore, the hornets are a symbol of a tendency toward anger, rage, bitterness, and revenge.

The **turtle** is usually seen as a creature that moves very slowly. It sticks its head in its shell when trouble comes. Some people also get very little accomplished. They often shirk responsibility when they need to assert themselves. Thus, the turtle is the symbol of such tendencies as laziness and procrastination.

These unclean creatures are therefore representative of tendencies toward the sin that we find in our lives. Again, we should understand and keep in mind that the evil tree with evil fruit on it must come from somewhere. The fruit does not suddenly appear out of nowhere. God's Word reminds us, *"As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come"* (Proverbs 26:2). We do not have an effect where there is no cause.

Discovering the Tree's Beginning

The iniquities of our forefathers are often like seeds of evil that are planted deep within the soil of our SOUL (mind, will, and emotions). Sometimes they are planted within us even before we are born. Others are planted through our early childhood experiences. Some seeds never fully sprout, but simply lie dormant. Others, given the right environment, not only sprout, but become strong trees producing evil fruit. When we act upon and nurture by habitual involvement sin tendencies, they often become overwhelming, full-grown trees producing fruit of alluring, sometimes driving, and compelling evil in our lives.

What is the source of the evil seed? Jesus gives us an interesting parable in the gospel of Matthew. He said that the kingdom of heaven is like a man who sows good seed in a field, but the enemy came and sowed tares among the good seed (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43). We should understand that a parable has one basic meaning. The basic

meaning of this parable is that the children of God must coexist along with the children of the devil until the Son of man sends his angels to separate the two. However, we can also see another principle. The principle is that the enemy is the one that plants evil seed. We should give credit where credit is due. Generational curses are another work of the Devil.

The enemy is not our earthly father, grandfather, or great grandfather. Therefore, we should understand the nature and work of Satan at this point. The Devil enjoys working in darkness. He relies for his strategy upon the ignorance of Believers who fail to acquaint themselves with his nature and the ways in which he works. Paul informs us, *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices"* (II Corinthians 2:11). Peter also warns us to, *"Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith..."* (I Peter 5:8-9). The following are some names, titles, and descriptions of our enemy:

1. SON OF PERDITION (destruction, ruin, waste, and loss)
(John 17:12).
2. MAN OF SIN (II Thessalonians 2:3).
3. ANTICHRIST (I John 4:3).
4. MURDERER (John 8:44).
5. WORMWOOD (bitterness) (Revelation 8:11).
6. UNCLEANNES (Revelation 16:13-14).
7. BELIAL (worthlessness) (II Corinthians 6:15).
8. THE ACCUSER (Revelation 12:10).
9. GOD OF THIS WORLD (II Corinthians 4:4).
10. PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR (Ephesians 2:2).
11. THE TEMPTER (Matthew 4:3).

12. THE ENEMY (Matthew 13:25).
13. FATHER OF ALL LIES (John 8:44).
14. BEELZEBUB (dung-god, father of flies) (Matthew 12:24).
15. PRINCE OF DEVILS (Matthew 12:24).
16. APOLLYON (destroyer) (Revelation 9:11).
17. ANGEL OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT (Revelation 9:11).
18. THE DEVIL (slanderer) (Matthew 4:1).
19. THE ADVERSARY (one who stands against) (I Peter 5:8).
20. RULER OF DARKNESS (Ephesians 6:12).
21. SERPENT (Genesis 3:4, Revelation 12:9).
22. ANGEL OF LIGHT (in disguise) (II Corinthians 11:14).
23. PRINCE OF THE WORLD (John 14:30).
24. THE WICKED ONE (Matthew 13:19).
25. THE DEVOURER (Malachi 3:11).
26. THE THIEF (John 10:10).
27. THE GREAT DRAGON (Revelation 12:9).

Jesus describes Satan by saying, *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy..."* (John 10:10). One of his tactics is to make us believe that other people are our enemies. If he can make us believe this, he will have us destroying one another. Another tactic is to make us believe that he is stronger than God. Finally, he also will try to get us to ignore him. However, we must recognize that he does exist and that he is our enemy. We should also know that he is the sower of the evil seed that produces the evil tree.

Finding the Most Effective Method

In the area of the country in which I live, we have many mesquite

trees. These trees are known for their stamina. They can withstand most kinds of weather and are extremely difficult to kill. These trees remind me of the nature of the evil tree. One could pick all the mesquite beans off the tree and throw them away, but that would be rather useless. The tree would just produce more beans later. I have seen this done in counseling. I have seen people go through deliverance and all kinds of repentance, but just fall back into the same sin habits within a few weeks.

One could trim back a few limbs on the tree, but that would give only a very small amount of temporary damage to the tree. The limbs will grow back. I have seen people concentrate on overcoming a specific area of sin. They may do well for a while but within a few months the sin returns.

One may even cut down a mesquite tree and think that they have killed it, but it will come back from the trunk. I have seen Christians wage rugged battles against the sin tendencies in their lives and then have to face them again at a later date. We should also note that it is difficult to just try to root up a mesquite tree. The roots usually run quite deep and will even break before they come out of the ground. What roots remain, remain alive and will again produce a tree with beans on it. I have seen people who think that by doing some radical surgery on their sin habits that they have solved their problems. Again, within a year or so they find themselves fighting the same old sin tendencies. What once seemed to be a victory, now becomes a renewed battle field.

The most effective way to kill a mesquite tree is to cut the roots below the surface of the ground. Then the tree will die! In similar fashion, we must cut the roots of the evil tree. If one can cut the roots and destroy them, the tree must die. What are the roots to the evil tree? Where did they come from? How are they destroyed? John the Baptist stated, *"And now also the axe is laid unto the roots of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hew down, and cast into the fire"* (Luke 3:9).

This may be hard for some to accept, but we find the roots in the

sins and iniquities of our forefathers. This truth will be further illustrated in a later chapter. We should begin by understanding that God demands a perfect obedience of His law. God states, *"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God"* (Deuteronomy 28:1-2). The next twelve verses describe all kinds of blessings. However, God says that curses come with disobedience. *"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee":* (Deuteronomy 28:15). The next fifty-two verses deal with various types of curses which include poverty, illness, and social problems.

Understanding the Roots

It is very important that we see the difference between two words that we often take to have the same meaning. The one word is *sin* and the other word is *iniquity*. The scripture gives a definite distinction between the two. Sin is basically a transgression of the law of God. However, iniquity is the result of sin. *"And if a soul sin, and commit any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD; though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity"* (Leviticus 5:17). The Hebrew word that the scholars translate *iniquity* means *perversity*. It is a bent or twist in something. I have some boxelder shrubs planted next to our brick house. The sun warms the brick and the shrubs bend their branches toward the warm brick. In a similar fashion when one sins, a bent toward that sin is established deep within them. A flaw is established in their character. When a man looks upon a woman with lust as she walks by, he may twist his head to get a better look. However, a new twist inside also occurs. We call this, *"iniquity."*

The catch is that this bent or twist toward the sin is passed on to

other generations. A portion of God's law states, *"Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation"* (Exodus 34:7). The book of Lamentations gives a very clear order of events. *"Our fathers have sinned, and are not; and we have borne their iniquities"* (Lamentations 5:7).

Burton Stokes and Lynn Lucas devote an entire chapter in their book, *No Longer A Victim*, discussing iniquity. Their explanation is the clearest that I have seen in print. They are right in saying, "A careful reading of selected scriptures reveals that sin is committed and iniquity is 'passed down' to the children, to the third and fourth generation." **1** = (see [notes](#) at end of book). They further state, "When a person transgresses the law, iniquity is created in him and that iniquity is passed to his children. The offspring will be weak to temptation to the same kind of sin." **2** = (see [notes](#) at end of book).

The Scripture also clearly gives the fulfillment of iniquity. *"Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger; they are gone away backward"* (Isaiah 1:4). Isaiah is saying that one can trace the sins of the children back to the iniquity of the forefathers. The authors of *No Longer A Victim* state, "If the father commits certain kinds of sin, his offspring are prone to the same kinds of sin, regardless of their training, or the social, cultural, and environmental influences on them." **3** = (see [notes](#) at the end of the book). Daniel affirms this reality by writing, *"...because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people become a reproach to all that are about us"* (Daniel 9:16). The iniquities of the fathers had opened the door for the people to commit sin.

We don't have to look too hard to find an example of iniquity in the lives of Biblical characters. In Genesis Chapter Twenty we find that Abraham declared that Sarah was his sister for fear that the Pharaoh might kill him for his wife. The truth was that Sarah was his

half sister. Abraham had told a half truth. However, when Isaac, Abraham's son, was in a similar situation, he said that Rebekah, his wife, was his sister. Rebekah was his wife only. Isaac told a whole lie. In brief, Abraham sinned by telling a half truth which set up iniquity within him. He then passed that iniquity along to his son Isaac. Isaac was born with a weakness toward telling a half truth. David declared, "... *I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me*" (Psalms 51:5). When temptation came, Isaac gave in to the iniquity. However, he went one step further. Iniquity usually increases from generation to the next generation.

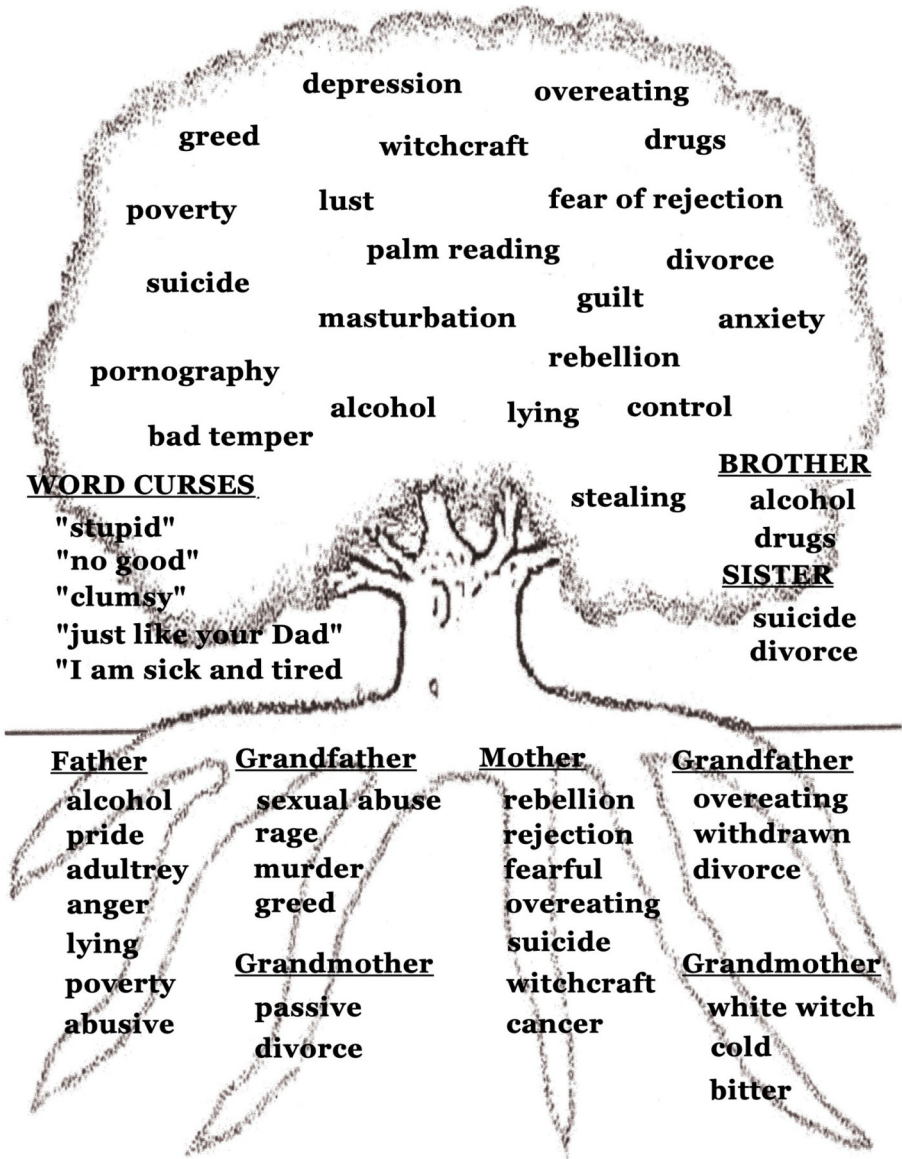
We find a vivid example of iniquity being passed from generation to generation in the life of David. David first married Michal the daughter of Saul (I Samuel 18:27). However, David was not satisfied with just one wife. He looked with lust upon Bathsheba and had her husband, Uriah, killed that he might take her to be his wife (II Samuel 11:1-27). Most of us, however, have never stopped to realize that David also had other wives: Ahinoam (I Samuel 14:50), Abigail (I Samuel 25:39), Maachah, Haggith, Abita, and Egalah (I Chronicles 3:2-3). David also had ten concubines (II Samuel 19:5). We also see this iniquity of lust being passed on to the next generation. Amnon, the son of David, raped his sister, Tamar (II Samuel 13:1-15). Solomon, the son of David, had seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines, which led him into further sin of worshiping other gods (I Kings 11:3-4).

Solomon's son, Rehoboam, was unable to resist the children of Belial who worshiped pagan gods (II Chronicles 13:7). Concerning the reign of Rehoboam, the Word says, "And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree. And there was also sodomites in the land: and they did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel" (I Kings 14:22-24).

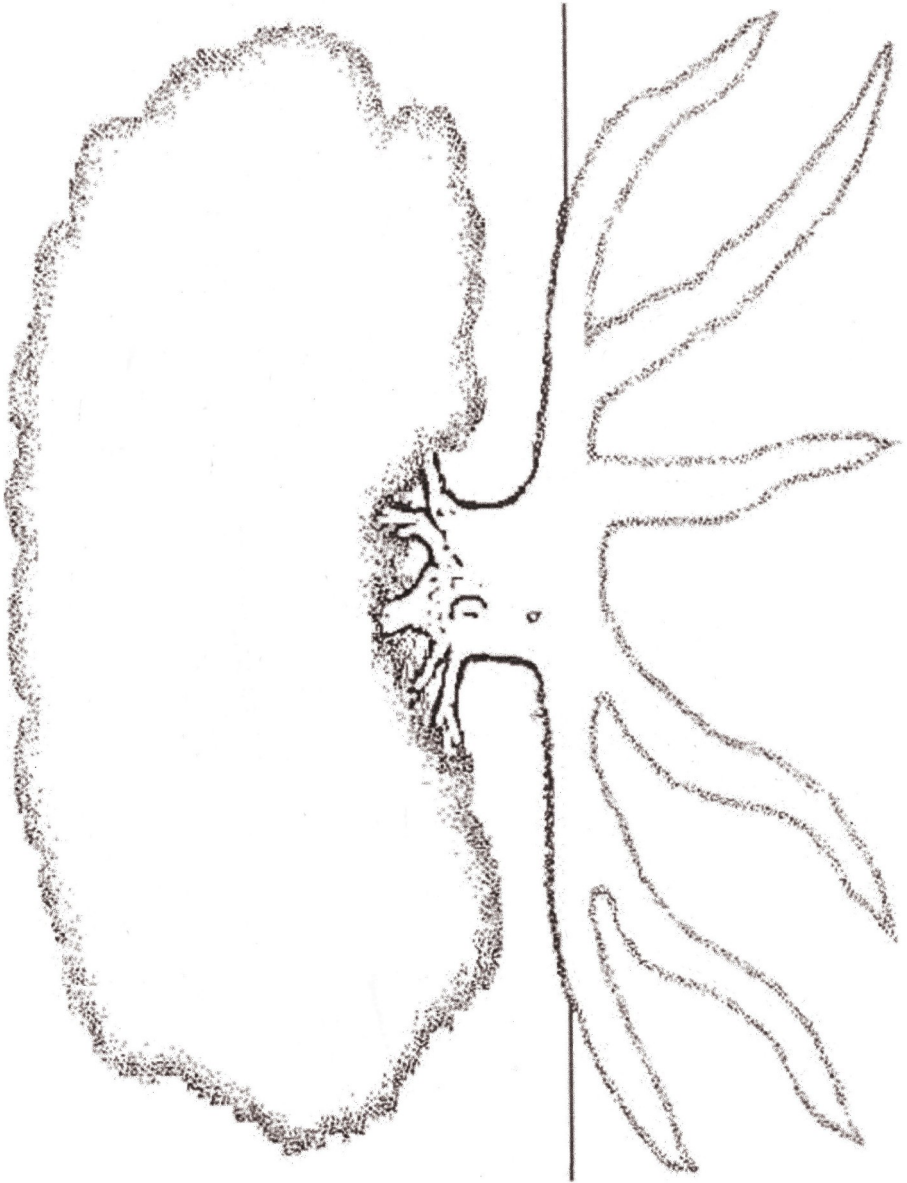
The son of Rehoboam, Abijam, was the great grandson of David. He picked up the iniquity of his father. "And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father" (I Kings 15:3). We can clearly see that the iniquity is passed from generation to generation and also increases in intensity.

There is some **GOOD NEWS!** The chain can be broken. We don't have to live with the iniquity of our forefathers. *"In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge. But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge. Behold, the days come saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant..."* (Jeremiah 31:29-31). We don't have to be in bondage to sin just because our forefathers were! How, then, does one escape the curse of the iniquity that was passed along to him?

In brief, one must see that Jesus Christ took the curse upon himself. *"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all"* (Isaiah 53:5-6). Just as Jesus became a sin substitute for us, he also became an iniquity substitute. The curse is broken by a declaration of faith in what Christ has already done.



A Composite Tree



What Does Your Tree Look Like?

Chapter Four

Taking Steps To Cut Down The Evil Tree

Examining Your Evil Tree

Knowledge is of little good until we put that knowledge into practice. I often give the person that I am working with a sample of a completed evil tree. Actually the previous sample tree is a composite taken from several different people's trees. This sample aids the person in seeing what a finished tree may look like and will often trigger hidden thoughts about his own tree.

Please print the blank tree on the previous page or take a blank sheet of notebook paper and draw a line across the middle of the paper. This line represents ground level. On the upper portion of the paper draw the outline of a large tree. The reader may wish to give a title of, "My Evil Tree," at the top. Below the middle line you may draw an outline of some roots for the tree. When I am working with a person, I have the tree drawn out on a sheet of paper before me. I have the person to list their evil fruit and other information while I record it on the paper. I do this because the person may otherwise become very emotional, or confused, or distracted. I also do this because I want to have the picture before me. I want to be able to pray over the tree as we discover the various aspects of it. It gives me the opportunity to see the various connections and reveal some areas in which the person may have blindness. It is very important that both the counselor and the counselee are open to the revelation of the Holy Spirit during this time. The counselor needs to be observant to what the person is experiencing and what the Holy Spirit is revealing.

Let us do some review and summarize. The evil tree represents the body of iniquity that you may find in your life. The fruit on the evil tree represents habitual sins. These are areas of repeated failure. For example, one person for years may have tried to quit getting angry.

He knows that it is wrong. He has read various scriptural verses on anger. He prays and repents of the anger when he loses control, but it keeps coming back. He has made numerous commitments to the Lord that he would never get angry again, but he has broken those vows. He ends up feeling like a total failure. He may even feel that God has let him down. The habitual anger is an evil fruit.

Someone else may have a problem with lying or with a drinking or drug habit. You should consider any known bent or drawing toward a sin as an evil fruit. You should realize that some evil fruit exists whether or not you have participated in it. For example, one person that I worked with had some homosexual tendencies, but this person had never acted upon those tendencies. Furthermore, no one considered the person to be a homosexual. You should also include as evil fruit such problems as compulsive behaviors. You should consider overeating, excessive talking, and tendencies toward being a workaholic as evil fruit. You should also include any and all emotional problems such as depression and bipolar behaviors such as manic depression. You should include panic attacks and phobias (fears). The law states, *"The LORD shall smite thee with madness, blindness, and astonishment of heart"*: (Deuteronomy 28:28).

The categories of generational curses may stretch our imaginations. The inability to have children is a curse (Deuteronomy 28:18). The law implies that divorce and adultery are curses (Deuteronomy 28:30). Rebellion or loss of our children is a curse (Deuteronomy 28:32). Having to go into debt is a curse (Deuteronomy 28:44). Our property may be under a curse (Deuteronomy 28:38-42). *"And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants"* (Leviticus 18:25). Marilyn Hickey in ***Break The Generation Curse***, gives a rather lengthy testimony of a couple who purchased some property that had been used in pagan worship by some Indians many years ago. There was a curse upon the land. There was a leafy spurge that had infected the land. They spent a considerable amount of money trying to kill it, but with no success. The poisons that they used began to contaminate their water supply. However, when they broke the curse over the

property, the weeds began to turn brown and die. *I*= (see [notes](#) at the end of the book).

Although this book deals primarily with direct sin issues, you can also include any hereditary disease. Disease often develops as a direct result of sin in our lives. When we worry we may develop ulcers or high blood pressure. Some research has linked arthritis, kidney and gallbladder problems to bitterness. When we go to the doctor with heart disease, cancer, or diabetes, the doctor will ask, "Is there a history of this disease in your family?" The medical profession is becoming more and more aware of various diseases, or the tendency for various diseases, being passed from one generation to the next. It would be well to read Deuteronomy Chapter twenty-eight to see the various listings of diseases. Of course the curse also includes all those diseases that are not listed (Deuteronomy 28:61). One may see a further relationship between sin and disease in the book, *None Of These Diseases*, which was written by S. I. McMillen, M.D. and published by Fleming H. Revell.

You may wish to have a trusted friend, pastor, or Christian counselor work with you on the tree. James exhorts us saying, *"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"* (James 5:16). Remember, we are dealing in a spiritual area as well as an observable realm. A second person may have spiritual discernment where we may have blind spots. The second person can also give additional prayer support. Jesus promised, *"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done of them of my Father which is in heaven"* (Matthew 18:19). There is a multiplication factor involved. Moses states that if one can chase a thousand, then two can chase ten thousand (Deuteronomy 32:30).

A word of caution should be given. As you begin to deal with the enemy where he has set up strongholds, you may experience direct mental or physical attack. Some evil spirits are called *familiar spirits*. Such spirits may follow a family down from one generation to the

next, looking for an opening to enter (I Samuel 28:3). When one commits iniquity and that sin becomes habitual, it opens a door for spirits to enter. Especially, any direct involvement in the occult, palm reading, and fortune telling is an open door. Mind control and fantasy games are extremely dangerous, particularly when a spirit guide is involved. Some of the clients that I have worked with have experienced such symptoms as sudden confusion, migraine headaches, profuse sweating, sudden sleepiness, sharp pains in the back or head, choking or sneezing, and uncontrollable yawning. In some cases the people became dumb and could not speak for a short time.

If the person has had a history of seizures, there may be a sudden onset of a seizure. This is another reason to have someone work with you through the procedure. I usually just ignore minor symptoms. However, with a more severe disturbance, I guide the person to take authority over the enemy in the name of Jesus. We should remember that the enemy is already defeated in Jesus. We should also remember, *"... greater is he in you, than he that is in the world"* (I John 4:4). In extreme cases when the person was unable to speak or was otherwise incapacitated, I have had to take authority over the enemy myself. Sometimes the Lord gives discernment to me and sometimes he doesn't.

On one occasion, a person came back a week after we had worked through the evil tree and declared that she had seen the evil spirit as it left her mind. She gave a vivid description of the spirit. However, I had been totally unaware of the event. Again, we should remember that a major weapon of the enemy is fear. Fear is not of God (II Timothy 1:7). In fact, we are to fear no evil (Psalms 23:4). Therefore, the preceding explanation is to be for your benefit and not to bring fear to anyone.

Are you ready? The tree is your tree; therefore, you must be the one to put the fruit on it. You should take time and allowing the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind the evil fruit. I often tell the person to put whatever fruit he would like to get rid of on the tree. Remember, this

may be habitual sin or just tendencies toward a sin. I know of someone who had a strong drawing toward hypnotism, but did no more than read some books and practice some self-hypnosis. He always had a check in his spirit about hypnotizing anyone else. Once, prior to minor surgery, an anesthesiologist, who had studied hypnotism, gave this man the option of hypnotism. After due consideration, however, he declined. Later, he discovered the spiritual dangers of hypnotism. Also, he found out from a relative that his grandfather had once been rather deeply involved in hypnotism. Upon learning about generational curses, he broke the curse of hypnotism. Since that time, he has had no desire to practice hypnotism or to investigate it any further. Of course, other curses such as diseases, poverty, divorce, or mental illness can also be put on the tree.

The next step is to list any blood related siblings (brothers or sisters) to the right side of the tree. You may be able to take an objective look at the weaknesses and failures that he or she has experienced and list those failures under them. This is not meant to degrade them. However, we can often see flaws in them that we don't see in ourselves. I usually have the person list his siblings and their failures. Then I ask the person, "Do you have any of these failures? Should I put any of these failures on your tree as evil fruit?" Quite often the answer is, "Yes, I also have a problem in that area."

After the looking at the weaknesses of the siblings, I would suggest that you consider the issue of word curses. In the world of the occult, the witch understands the power of speaking word curses over people. Also, in Scripture we find that Noah cursed his very own grandson, Canaan. *"And Noah awoke from his wine ... and he said, 'Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren'"* (Genesis 9:24-25). That curse was passed along to the descendants of Canaan. Marilyn Hickey points out that the Amorites, the Hittites, the Hivites are all descendants of Canaan. **2** = (see [notes](#) at the end of the book). Furthermore, Esau considered the words of his father, Isaac, as having a strong effect. He cried out in despair when he found out that Isaac had blessed Jacob rather than him (Genesis 27:34). Word curses are curses that anyone in authority has

spoken over a person. This would include parents, grandparents, physicians, teachers, and even religious leaders such as pastors.

Word curses attack the very being of the individual. A parent may say, "I wish you were never born." This would imply that you are unwanted. They may have said, "You are bad seed." A grandparent may give a negative remark, "You are just like so-and-so." A physician may give the diagnosis that you are a diabetic. There is a difference in saying that you have a disease of diabetes and saying that your are a diabetic. The latter ascribes a characteristic to your being. A teacher may state, "You can't do anything right." A minister may announce, "You are an alcoholic." Paul contrasts our past to the present by saying, *"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God"* (I Corinthians 6:11). The Word ascribes that every Christian is a saint (I Corinthians 1:2). You may also curse yourself by saying, "I am a failure." I used to curse myself with the words, "I am sick."

Uncovering the Roots

It is now time to look at the roots of the tree. I begin with the individual's father. "What sins, habits, or failures do you know of in your father's life?" I should interject at this point that some people have a great deal of difficulty seeing anything wrong in their parents. A person may idolize their father or mother and have problems looking at them from this perspective. I encourage such a person by saying, "We are not here to condemn your parents, but to correct some problems in your life by discovering the roots." One may simply write the word "Father" on the left side of the page under the middle line and begin listing his sins and iniquities. Quite often sins and iniquities that we think we have buried surface in our minds. As a counselor, I will ask probing questions such as, "Was your father ever involved in the occult or witchcraft?" Often such questions are prompted by the Holy Spirit to reveal secret sins.

The next step is to go to your fraternal grandparents and go through their failures. After you cover the father's side of the family,

then you can cover the mother's side of the family in the same fashion. Again, it is important to look at the sins and iniquities of the forefathers in relation to the fruit on the tree. As the sins and iniquities of the forefather are charted, you may discover additional areas of iniquities in your own life. People often ask, "What do you do if you don't know anything about your parents or grandparents?" My response is, "God's grace will take care of that. However, if you have evil fruit on the tree, you can know that it came from somewhere." We can assume that the evil fruit had its beginning in the sins and iniquities of the forefathers. After the tree is completed, I hand the copy of the tree to the person for review. There is often a surprised look on his face. The person may for the first time see the reality of the evil tree and the significance of it. Also, the overall picture may trigger the need to put additional fruit on the tree.

There are basically twelve steps that you may use as a guide for breaking the generational curses. For simplification I have divided them into three categories: "Sharpening the Ax Blade," "Strengthening your Arm," and "Cutting the Roots."

Sharpening the Ax Blade

The **first** step is to acknowledge and confess the sins and the iniquities of your forefathers. Moses records, *"If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me";* (Leviticus 26:40). Nehemiah records, *"And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers"* (Nehemiah 9:2). Jeremiah also gives us a clear example, *"We acknowledge, O LORD, our wickedness, and the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee"* (Jeremiah 14:20). This is difficult for some people, because they have idolized one of their parents or grandparents.

The **second** step is to personally forgive your forefathers for any iniquity that has been passed down to you. Jesus states in the model prayer, *"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors"*

(Matthew 6:12). He further warns, *"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"* (Matthew 6:14-15). Later, in Matthew, Chapter Eighteen, Peter asks how many times one should forgive another. Jesus responds that one should forgive seventy times seven. He simply means to keep on forgiving. People often hold blame against their parents or grandparents. However, Jesus warns that if one is like the master servant who was unwilling to receive forgiveness from his lord, then he will, in turn, not forgive others. The person will, however, demand payment of others' small debts.

Have you ever considered why the lord threw the master servant in prison and turned him over to the tormentors? Why was he to remain in prison until such time he could pay the debt? How could he pay the debt when he would have not a way to work while he was in prison? The Lord was waiting on the servant to come to the realization that he was unable to pay the debt. Remember, the master servant had only asked for an extension of his debt and not for forgiveness. The master servant needed to come to a place of humility. He needed to simply ask for forgiveness and receive it. Then he could forgive his own servant. As we receive grace, then we can give grace to others. Look at the warning that Jesus gives, *"So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses"* (Matthew 18:35).

The **third** step is to ask God to forgive the specific sins of now living forefathers. As children of God, we have the priestly authority to forgive certain sins. *"Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained"* (John 20:23). We should have an attitude of placing the judgment of others into God's hands and then ask Him to forgive them. Jesus spoke to the Father concerning those who were crucifying him, *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..."* (Luke 23:34). As the religious group stoned Stephen, he declared, *"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge"* (Acts 7:60).

The **fourth** step is to confess any participation that you may have had in the iniquities of the forefathers. The Word reminds us, *"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy"* (Proverbs 28:13). Paul exhorts us, *"Neither give place to the devil"* (Ephesians 4:27). If we do not confess our sins, then we give a place for the devil to set up a stronghold in our lives (the soul = mind, will, and emotions).

The **fifth** step is to ask God to both forgive and to cleanse you. John encourages us by saying, *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have not sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (I John 1:7-9).

Strengthening your Arm

The **sixth** step is to submit your will unto God, purposing, with God's help, never to commit those sins again. This is the step of true repentance. To repent means to do an about face. *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land"* (II Chronicles 7:14). James reminds us, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you"* (James 4:7). We should also understand that God's will and the ability to do that will is in the Christian (Philippians 2:13). The real key is to yield our will to God's will.

The **seventh** step is to understand that Jesus has suffered the curse for us and overcome all the works of the Devil. Jesus became sin for us. *"For he had made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"* (II Corinthians 5:21). The Word is clear about Jesus suffering for both our sins and iniquities. *"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed"* (Isaiah 53:5). Paul writes to

Titus concerning Jesus Christ, *"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works"* (Titus 2:14). *"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith"* (Galatians 3:13-14). *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil"* (I John 3:8). Of course one work of the enemy is generational curses.

The **eighth step** is to recognize that God is the source of all authority and that He has given that authority to the Church (all Believers) through Jesus. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of the Chaldeans, expressed the authority of God by saying, *"... he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"* (Daniel 4:35). God is the absolute sovereign authority. However, he has delegated that authority to Jesus and ultimately to the Church. Paul's prayer is for Believers to see, *"... what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all"* (Ephesians 1:19-23). Again, I must emphasize that Jesus delegated the authority that he had to Believers. Jesus firmly declared, *"Behold, I give unto you power (authority) to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you"* (Luke 10:19). We, through the finished work of Jesus Christ, have the authority to declare that the generational curses are broken.

Cutting the Roots

The **ninth** step is to use the authority of the name of Jesus. Jesus declared, *"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover"* (Mark 16:17-18). Jesus furthermore stated, *"And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full"* (John 16:23-24). I believe that we far underestimate the power and authority in the name of Jesus. He has given us the power of attorney to use his name according to his will. Paul says that we are ambassadors for Christ (II Corinthians 5:20). An ambassador is a representative sent from one ruler to another. Our ruler is Jesus. Our home is in heaven, but we are his representatives here on earth.

The **tenth** step is to declare the power of the blood of Jesus. The Word explicitly states, *"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission"* (Hebrews 9:22). On one occasion I was working with someone who was being controlled by evil spirits. I spent a frustrating hour talking with the person. In reality, I was in a mind and word battle with the spirits that controlled the person. There was to be a thirty minute break before I was to meet with the person again. I thought, "This is ridiculous! Jesus has already had victory over the enemy and all his powers." I earnestly asked the Lord what to do. He directed me to go to a computer and make a copy of New Testament scriptures on the blood of Christ. When the counselee returned, I instructed her to say nothing, but to listen. I instructed a person helping me to read each of the verses, one at a time. After my assistant read a verse, I made a declaration of faith over the counselee. As we began the process, the counselee sat glaring at me. In a few moments she began to lower her head in a state of shame. However, by the time that we finished the process, she was sitting up straight. Her countenance had become soft and her eyes were clear. She was free! *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved*

not their lives unto the death" (Revelation 12:11).

The **eleventh** step is to declare that all the curses are broken, naming each of them: words, actions, and attitudes. A witch doctor may speak a word curse over someone, but Christians have the power in the name of Jesus to break curses by declaring that they are broken. Jesus exhorts us by saying, *"Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven"* (Matthew 18:18-19). Christians have the power to bind and loose in the spiritual realm. Jesus spoke to a fig tree and dried it up by the roots. The next day when Peter saw the dead tree, he recalled the words of Jesus. Jesus immediately responded, *"Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith"* (Mark 11:22-23). We should note Jesus' emphasis on speaking. We should also see the potential of the effects of our speaking.

Let us look now at a summary of what is being done. Open your Bible to Romans, Chapter Six, and read the entire passage. Allow me to give a few words of clarification. If you are reading from the King James Version you may want to change the word translated *into* to the word **unto**. This is a proper language translation. I would also make one other change for clarification in verse five. The words planted together can better be translated **grafted together**. When we make a faith commitment to Jesus Christ as our Lord, then through a spiritual baptism, we become united with Jesus, retroactively. We are **joined unto** Christ!

Whatever happened to Jesus also happened to us. Well, what happened to Jesus? He died on the cross. So we also died. He was resurrected. So we also were resurrected. *"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed,*

that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:6). Do you see the picture? When Jesus was crucified, that old evil tree of ours was also crucified with him. That body of sin (the fruit on the tree) was destroyed, that we should become free from it. A dead dog can't bite! Neither can the old man if it is crucified.

Please take note of the following verse. *"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 6:11). The word **"RECKON"** means to consider it to be an accomplished fact. We must start with the spiritual fact. Then we add to that spiritual fact revelational knowledge of that fact. Next, we add to the revelational knowledge a confession of truth. This is exactly what we did when we declared that the curses are broken. When we believe what we say and it agrees with the Word, it becomes an appropriated reality.

Step number **twelve** is to begin to speak blessings over your life even as God has. God has blessed richly, even as he had blessed Israel. Balaam the prophet declared, *"How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied?"* (Numbers 23:8). *"If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the LORD saith, that will I speak"* (Numbers 24:13). Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have been blessed with the blessings of Abraham. *"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse ... that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles [most of us are Gentiles] through Jesus Christ..."* (Galatians 3:13-14). Paul says that we have been blessed with *"all spiritual blessings in heavenly places"* through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

Chapter Five

Learning How To Grow The Good Tree

Understanding the Nature of the Good Tree

Recently, I mentioned that I was a Christian counselor to someone whom I had just met. In response, he said that he was interested in talking with me. He made the statement, "I am a melancholy." I responded, "I am a Christian." The young man got the point, I think. We need to understand who we are in Christ. I grew up in a denomination which defined a **Christian** as being a sinner saved by grace. When I first heard it, I felt uncomfortable with it. I was a sinner. However, God saved me by his grace, according to the Bible, and made me a **saint**. I like to call my Christian brothers and sisters, "Saint _____," and watch a smile form on his or her face. If we see ourselves as sinners, then that is exactly the way that we will act. However, if we see ourselves as saints, then we begin to act as saints. If we see ourselves as victims, then we will act that way. However, if we see ourselves as victors, then we will act as victors.

You have seen elderly couples who look alike, talk alike, and act alike. There is a reason for this. They have been focusing on each other for a long, long time. Whatever you focus on is what you act like. A child who focuses on a violent parent will also normally become violent in his actions. Brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to focus on who we are in Christ so we will act like who we are. One may be a child of God, but to act like one is something else. *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit"* (Galatians 5:25). The question is, "Who are we in Christ?"

Paul declares, *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (II Corinthians 5:17). As a Christian counselor, my first goal is to lead people to Christ. My second goal is to establish the meaning of

who they are as a new creation. We need to see ourselves as who we are in the spirit-man. I have gleaned the following material from the Word on the meaning of being a new creation.

We are born again. The first birth was a fleshly birth, but the second birth is a spiritual birth (John 3:1-8). This birth is from above. We are born not of seed that is corruptible, but of incorruptible seed. We are born of the Word of God, which lives and dwells in us forever (I Peter 1:23). This means that when we do choose to sin within the soul, that we will not corrupt the spirit. When we are born again in the spirit, we are not able to sin in the spirit. We can not sin because God's seed lives within us (I John 3:8). Satan can't touch the spirit of the believer to destroy it (I John 5:18). We are taken out of Satan's kingdom of darkness and have been translated into the kingdom of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:13). We have been joined unto Christ (I Corinthians 6:17). In Christ we are complete. We need nothing more (Colossians 2:10). We are sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).

We were spiritually dead to the things of God. We were actually dead in our spirits, but we have been made alive by the spirit of Christ (Ephesians 2:5). We were considered sinners, but now we are made the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 5:21). Because of the righteousness that we have in Christ, we are fully accepted of God (Ephesians 1:6). We are actually called saints. We are set apart from the world unto the living God (I Corinthians 1:2). We are not condemned as we live in Christ (Romans 8:1). We actually have the divine nature of God dwelling within us (II Peter 1:4). In the spirit we are seated with Christ Jesus in heaven (Ephesians 2:6). We have eternal life in Christ. From the very moment that we receive Christ, until the end, we shall not perish. Why? Because Jesus keeps us and God, the Father, keeps us (John 10:28-29).

We should see that God has called us unto Himself, but not according to our works, but by His own gift of grace (II Timothy 1:9). He has elected us to be holy and receive his love (Colossians 3:12). He has predestinated that we be formed into the image of Jesus Christ

(Romans 8:29). God has confirmed us unto the very end. We are considered to be without blame (I Corinthians 1:8). We can be confident that since God began the work in us that he will continue that work until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6). God will keep that which we have committed unto Him until the day of judgment (II Timothy 1:12).

As new creations, we are made free through Jesus from the power of the enemy (John 8:36). Since we are born of God, we have overcome the world. We have victory over the world through our faith (I John 5:4). We are more than conquerors through God that loves us (Romans 8:37). In fact, nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:35). The spirit of Jesus that lives in us is greater than the enemy in the world (I John 4:4). God always causes us to triumph in Christ (II Corinthians 2:14).

As new creations, we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. What the Father gave to Jesus, also belongs to us (Romans 8:17). We have access to all of the promises of God in Christ. God says, "Yes" and "So let it be" (I Corinthians 1:20). We are blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). God has redeemed us from the curse of the law that he might give us the promises of Abraham (Galatians 3:13-14).

As new creations, we have the capacity to hear and obey the voice of Jesus (John 10:27). We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works (Ephesians 2:10). We have the ability in Jesus to do anything that God asks us to do. We are the light of the world, giving off the light of Christ (Matthew 5:14). We are the salt that gives life flavor and the salt that preserves purity (Matthew 5:13).

We are a chosen people, a kingly priesthood, a holy nation, and a God-possessed people who should declare the praises of God who has called us out of darkness unto His marvelous light (I Peter 2:9). NOTE: Now read through this section again, making personal application. Use your name or "I" where the pronoun "we" is used.

Growing in Good Soil

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalms 1:1-3). Let us consider what the good soil is not. It is not walking in ungodly counsel. It is amazing how many Christians go to counselors for help without considering whether or not the counselors are Christians. They go to the counselors because they are "professionals" not considering if or not they use Biblical principles in counseling. Then they wonder why they did not find lasting solutions to their problems. At this point the prophet in me comes out to warn, "Just because someone is a Christian counselor or even a minister of the gospel does not mean that they use Christian principles in counseling." God's Word warns us, *"There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD"* (Proverbs 21:30). We should be careful about seeking ungodly advice of any kind! For example, ungodly financial advice such as encouraging us to buy on credit will often lead us into deep financial bondage (Proverbs 22:7).

Good soil is not standing around listening to sinners. Teenagers often say, "Well, they aren't my close friends. We are just friends." Being just friends is dangerous! Yes, I know about friendship-evangelism, but I am talking about listening to sinful people. There is an expression among those who talk about computers that says, "Garbage in ... garbage out." This means whatever we put in the computer is also what comes out of it. It is impossible to listen to the words of sinful people without becoming contaminated by them! Even as a Christian counselor, one can become contaminated. Exposure is inevitable. I often have to ask the Lord to cleanse my mind of the words that I hear and the mental pictures that I visualize while counseling. It is essential for me to keep a clear mind.

Good soil is not sitting down to learn of those that are scornful. The picture is of one being seated in the position of a student sitting at the feet of a sarcastic teacher. The Hebrew word used in Psalms 1:1

means to scorn, make mouths at, or to talk arrogantly. This reminds me of some university classes that I was taking in the field of psychology. Often the teachers were arrogant and boastful about their knowledge about man. They also put down the Biblical view that God created man. They esteemed the views of Freud, Adler, and Maslow above that of the Word of God. Many of our youth are planted in the poor soil of our secular school system that derides the truths of the Bible. Bad soil also reminds me of a Sunday School class in which I sat. Various class members mocked me for bringing my Bible. I had simply suggested that the Bible might have some answers to their discussion topics. Any church that denies the authority of, the application of, and the practice of, God's Word is bad soil.

What then is good soil? The good soil is God's Word. Joshua 1:8 states, *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."* Everything that comes out of our mouths should be in accord with the Word of God. For such to happen, we must first get the Scripture inside of us. In one sense we must plant ourselves in the Word. We must delight ourselves in God's Word. We must agree with Job (Job 23:12) that the words from the mouth of God are more important than our necessary food. We are to meditate in the Word day and night. Meditation is like a sheep chewing it's cud. The sheep has several different stomachs. First, the sheep must bite the grass off, chew it slightly, and swallow it. Then at a later time, it belches it up and chews the cud. The Word states in several places that we are like sheep. We are to read the Word (Revelation 1:3) and memorize (Deuteronomy 6:6) the Word. Then we are to recall the Word and ponder on it.

Meditation is turning the Word over in your mind through a process of visualization. We should visualize what the Word is saying. When I was a small boy, my dad would occasionally take me fishing. I just loved fishing. The river was about ten miles away from my house. As a small lad, I did not know how to get to the river. There

were small mesquite trees on much of the pasture land around where we lived. However, at the river, there were big tall pecan trees. When we came near the river, I would spot the pecan trees and my heart would almost leap inside. This is the picture I get when I think about Psalms 1:3. I see those big pecan trees planted by the river. Their roots were down in the earth where they could get the water. They didn't concern themselves about how much it rained that year as long as there was water in the river. Their leaves were always green in the summer and they produced an abundance of pecans.

Feeding the Tree

For any tree to grow, to mature, and produce fruit, it must receive the proper nutrients. When a logger cuts a tree down, he can examine the rings of the tree and tell what years the tree received food for growth and what years it did not. The thicker the rings, the more nutrients the tree received that year. As baby Christians, we are to feed upon the milk of God's Word. Peter writes, *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby";* (1 Peter 2:2). We should learn some basic doctrines. The Bible lists these doctrines in Hebrews 6:1. They are the doctrines of repentance from dead works, of faith toward God, of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. What do you know about each of these doctrines? Would you be able to share the meaning of each with an honest inquirer?

1. Do you understand that any work that you do to obtain or maintain your salvation is a dead work? Yes, a DEAD work. The Word states, *"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* (Hebrews 9:14).
2. Do you understand that a Christian is not to live by his intellect, will power, or emotions, but by a faith in God? Where does that faith come from? How does one get faith? The faith is strictly a gift of God. Faith comes through a revelation of the Word of God. When Simon Peter declared

that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus said, *"Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is heaven"* (Matthew 16:17).

3. Do you understand the doctrine of baptisms (plural)? There is a spiritual baptism in which the Holy Spirit baptizes us in the Word and joins us unto Christ in his death and burial (Romans 6:3-4). There is a water baptism for the purpose of saving the soul (mind, will, and emotions) (I Peter 3:21). There is a baptism where Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit for the purpose of receiving power for witnessing unto Jesus (Acts 1:5, 8). There is also a baptism of which we normally hear little. This baptism is the baptism of suffering, even unto death (Luke 12:50).
4. What do you know of the laying on of hands? Have you laid hands on anyone or have you had anyone to lay hands upon you? There can be a transference of anointing, spiritual gifts, and healing through the laying on of hands (Deuteronomy 34:9, II Timothy 1:6, Mark 16:18).
5. Did you know there are two resurrections? One is for the saved and the other for the unsaved. *"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren ... for the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord"* (I Thessalonians 4:13, 16-17). There is also the resurrection of the unsaved. *"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished"* (Revelation 20:5).
6. Do you know there are two judgments? One is for the saved and another for the unsaved (Daniel 12:2). Jesus is to be a Contest Judge to those saved, handing out rewards. *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every*

one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10). However, Jesus also is to be a Court Judge to the unsaved. "And I saw a great white throne ... and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:11, 15).

Please understand that the preceding discussion is only meant to be an introduction to each of the doctrines, a challenge to the new born Christian, and not a comprehensive study. There is milk to babes and meat for the mature. *"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14). Maturity comes by a continual feeding upon the word. "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little": (Isaiah 28:9-10). It is like building a house. You lay down one row of brick, then put another row of brick on top. We are to understand that this comes with work and patience.*

Letting the Tree Breathe

How does a tree breathe? It takes in carbon dioxide and breathes out oxygen. As sunlight falls upon the leaves of the plant, chlorophyll combines water with carbon dioxide to start a chemical process. Through this process the tree digests its food. Also by this process the tree gives off oxygen. The tree must have its leaves in the sunlight for the process to occur. We must also have our leaves in the light of the Son. We place our leaves in the Son by getting into the Word which is light. We also place our leaves in the Son by the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). As we search the Word, we find the light of Christ. David declared in the Psalms, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"*

(Psalms 119:105). David also exclaimed, *"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple"* (Psalms 119:130). Solomon also said, *"For the commandment is a lamp; and law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life"* (Proverbs 6:23). Peter sums it up by saying, *"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation"* (II Peter 1:19-20). We walk in the **SON LIGHT** by reading, memorizing, and meditating upon the Word. The way that we know that we are walking in the **SON LIGHT** is by studying the Word.

I like the prayer of Paul for the church at Ephesus. *"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe..."* (Ephesians 1:17-19). The way that the Word becomes alive and gives light is through the revelation of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth that leads us into all truth (John 16:13). John also states that the Holy Spirit reveals the SON to us (John 15:26). The Holy Spirit also reveals to us what our inheritance is in Christ (John 16:14-15).

We are to spend time in the Word and receive revelation of the Word. The engrafting of the revealed Word causes us to walk in the **LIGHT**. The light of the Word scatters the darkness! David beautifully wrote, *"Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me"* (Psalms 119:133). However, the process does not stop there. There is to be a breathing process. We are not only to take in the Word, but we are also to breathe out the Word. *"And the things that thou has heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also"* (II Timothy 2:2). There is to be the inhaling of the written Word and the exhaling of the spoken Word. This serves as a means of

growth to the good tree and also growth for other good trees.

Chapter Six

Bringing The Good Tree To Maturity

Watering the Tree

The mass of the tree which one sees above the ground is a good indication of the size of the root system which is below the surface. For a tree to grow big and tall, its roots must be deep enough to find plenty of water. Therefore, where does the good tree find an abundance of water?

"Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth" (Hosea 6:3). Much like the area where I live in Texas, Israel has two rainy seasons. The early rain comes in the fall, beginning in October, and running through December. These rains are light and general and are for the planting of the crop. The latter rains are heavy rains that begin in April and May. They are for the growth and maturing of the crop. In like fashion, the Holy Spirit comes to us as the early rain, for the planting of the seed of the Word, that we may be saved. Then there is the latter rain of the Holy Spirit that comes as a downpour for our growth, maturity, and fruit bearing. To receive the latter rain, we must follow on to know the Lord.

Many people get saved ... get their ticket to heaven ... and think that is all there is to the Christian life. On the day of the Feast of Tabernacles, when the priest stood at the temple and poured out a pitcher of water, Jesus cried, *"If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink" (John 7:37).* Every Believer has had a thirst for Christ, received of that water, and taken a drink. Every believer has received of the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9). However, Jesus did not stop there! He continued, *"He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38).*

There is something more than just getting a glass with some water and taking a drink of that water. We also need rivers of water to share Christ with others. We need to get dunked in a river of water ... or rather baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus describes the two aspects when he said, "*... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly*" (John 10:10). Every Believer receives life when he is saved. Like the previous illustration, he has water in the glass. However, Jesus goes a step further to talk about the glass being full and running over. The words "more abundantly" literally mean above measure. One can measure the water to the brim of the glass. However, it is difficult to measure the water when the glass is overflowing.

Paul explains the same concept using a different analogy. He says that each Believer has received an earnest of the Spirit (II Corinthians 1:22, 5:5). If someone was to sign a contract to purchase your house, he would probably put some earnest money down to show his sincerity. You would however, expect a full payment later. God has given every Believer an earnest of His Spirit, but we can expect the fullness of the Spirit later. We can see this truth fulfilled in historical biblical events.

After the first ascension, on the day of the resurrection, Jesus returned to meet with his disciples. In brief, he said that peace had been made with the Father and that he was offering them the rebirth experience (John 20:21). "*And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith, unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost*" (John 20:22). This was his down payment of the Spirit. However, he told them to wait in Jerusalem until they would be endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49). He said that he would baptize them in the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, he told them that they would receive power to be witnesses unto him (Acts 1:5, 8). Then, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon them and filled them (Acts 2:1-4). On the day of Pentecost, they received the fullness of the Spirit. There is a distinct difference between having the earnest of the Spirit and having the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

The Old Testament prophet of Zechariah exhorts, *"Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field"* (Zechariah 10:1). The key is ASKING! We can see from Scripture that Jesus prayed (asked) for the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:21-22). When the disciples of Jesus asked him to teach them to pray, as John taught his disciples to pray, he taught them to ask for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:1-13). Jesus said, *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"* (Luke 11:13). On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were in the upper room for one purpose. They were asking for the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1).

I gave my life to Jesus when I was nine years old. At that time, I was born of the Spirit. I became a child of God. I went to church and was a fairly good Christian. At the end of my second year of college, I felt God's call into pastoral ministry. I switched from a state junior college to a Christian university. There, I got a degree in Bible. Then I studied for three years at a denominational seminary. I received a Master of Divinity degree. Next, I pastored a church for about a year until I got sick and had to resign the church. For several years I did secular work and taught various classes in the local church where my family and I attended. I had a hunger to share the gospel with people, but had little success in winning people to the Lord. I began to read about and thirst for the power of the Holy Spirit in my life. I earnestly desired to have the power of God, that I might share Jesus with others. One Sunday afternoon, as I earnestly cried out to God, asking for His power, I experienced an unusual phenomenon. I was sitting on a couch next to the window in my study. I heard a crackling sound or possibly a wind sound. Then a bright beam of light came through the window. It rested for a second, in the form of a large ball of light, next to my desk. My desk sat about five feet directly in front of me. The ball of light exploded with a loud bang that caused me to throw my arms apart over my head. I actually thought that the room was exploding. In the silence that followed, I heard the Spirit of God, within, say, "If you want my power you will have to die." At that

moment, I was not sure that I wanted God's power any more. For about a week I dropped the topic. Then the thirst again arose within me. God directed me to have someone I knew lay hands upon me and pray for me. This time the Holy Spirit came in the form of the Comforter. I sensed the presence of the Comforter in a greater way that day than I had ever before in my life. Since that time, I have had the privilege of leading many to the Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul gives us a command! He says, *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit"* (Ephesians 5:18). He is exhorting each of us not just to live upon a past experience, but to be continually filled with the HOLY SPIRIT. Aaron and his sons were to fill the lamp daily with oil that they might continually burn in the tabernacle before the LORD. *"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually. Without the vail of the testimony, in the tabernacle of the congregation, shall Aaron order it from the evening unto the morning before the LORD continually: it shall be a statute for ever in your generations. He shall order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the LORD continually"* (Leviticus 24:1-4). We can not depend upon yesterday's filling to carry us through today. Neither can we depend upon today's filling to carry us through tomorrow. We need a fresh filling of the Spirit each day.

I must conclude this topic by sharing with you that the breaking of the generational curses is not a cure-all for overcoming sinful habits. Without exception, everyone has a void in his life that needs to be filled. We may try to fill our lives with any number of things. Some try to fill their lives with excitement, while others look for tranquillity. Some may try to fill the space with marriage, children, or grandchildren. Some try to fill the hole with work, while others try to fill it with recreation. Some try to fill the void with creativity, while others seek a mission. Some try to fill the emptiness with education, while others use folly. Some try to fill the chasm with material possessions, while others look to religions. Some try to fill the abyss

with food, while others use alcohol or various drugs.

Whatever we use to fill the void, other than the Holy Spirit, becomes an addiction. Why is this an addiction? It is simple. Nothing is completely filling. The more that we add from the world, the more that we need to add from the world. It is like trying to fill the black hole in space. Nothing quenches the God-given thirst except the **HOLY SPIRIT**. Furthermore, there are always consequences for using anything other than the Spirit to fill the hole. Even if one tries to fill his life with something that is good, there are severe consequences.

For example, let us say that one is trying to fill his life with his spouse. I often find this is the case in marriages. The person who uses his spouse as a filler, also has a death hold on his spouse. I call it a "death hold" because it will sooner or later bring death to their marriage. Jesus said, *"He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal"* (John 12:25). One could just substitute the word "spouse" for the word "life" in the first two places and see the truth. The more tightly that one holds on to their spouse, the more the spouse will resent it. The spouse that is being held will begin to feel smothered and begin to push away. A tug of war follows. The one pulls; the other pushes away.

Many people not only try to fill their lives with that which is good in itself (like marriage or work), but also that which is destructive in itself. Since many people use alcohol to try to fill the empty space, I have added a special appendix (See Appendix E) on alcohol to the book.

Letting the Trees Clap Their Hands

Isaiah encourages us by saying, *"For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands"* (Isaiah 55:12). This is a beautiful picture of praise and worship. Even the trees swing their long branches together allowing

the leaves to clap in praise to the Lord.

Since this book is about overcoming the enemy, we should look at praise and worship as a means of overcoming. In the book of Second Chronicles, the LORD gives us a splendid example of overcoming through praise and worship (II Chronicles 20:1-25). The Moabites, the Ammonites, and other enemies joined themselves to come up against Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah. Jehoshaphat saw that he was far outnumbered. Therefore, he called for a fast throughout all Judah. They cried unto God for help. The word came back that they should not be afraid. God would do the fighting for them. Jehoshaphat was to get the choir together and send the singers out in front of the army. The singers were to sing, *"Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever"* (II Chronicles 20:21). The Word declares, *"And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten"* (II Chronicles 20:22). Judah just came behind to pick up the spoil.

Another example is that of Jonah. Please read the first two chapters of the book of Jonah. Jonah got himself into a whale of a lot of trouble through his disobedience to God. When God told him to go and preach to the wicked, pagan city of Nineveh, Jonah caught a boat going the opposite direction. A bad storm arose on the sea and the sailors threw poor Jonah overboard. However, God had prepared a large fish to pick him up by swallowing him. As Jonah sat in the belly of this large fish with seaweed wrapped about his head, he decided that he would keep his commitment to God. After all, it wouldn't be as bad as dying inside the whale. Right? However, Jonah did something else. He began to praise the LORD. *"But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD"* (Jonah 2:9). When he did this, God caused the whale to vomit Jonah out upon the dry ground (Jonah 2:10).

We also see this principle of praise used to overcome the enemy in the New Testament. Please read Acts 16:16-34. At Thyatira, Paul and Silas cast an evil spirit out of a girl who used soothsaying. The local

people, who used the girl to get money, beat Paul and Silas and put them into the inner prison. They also put the feet of Paul and Silas into stocks. Sitting in a dark inner prison late at night with your feet locked in a fixed position is not the Holiday Inn. However, Luke records, *"And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them"* (Acts 16:25). They just began to praise the Lord. James says, *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations"* (James 1:2). I once heard a pastor preach on this scripture saying, "When you run into problems, have a party!" This is exactly what Paul and Silas did, and God showed up. *"And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed"* (Acts 16:26). The story does not stop there. Paul and Silas not only got out of prison, but the jailer and his family also got saved. It is no wonder that Paul wrote, *"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"* (I Thessalonians 5:18).

David, in the Psalms, gives a magnificent analogy, *"Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; to execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments unto the people; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD"* (Psalms 149:5-9). Please note that praise is like the two-edged sword used to fight the enemy. When the enemy comes against us, to tempt us to fall back into some old sin habit, we are to praise the Lord. We are to worship the Lord for his mercy and grace and HIS victory.

Living Among Other Trees

David speaks of a man, who meditates upon the Word, as being like a tree (Psalms 1:3). However, Isaiah tells of Believers as being like willow trees (plural). *"And they shall spring up among the grass, as willows by the water courses"* (Isaiah 44:4). Sometimes, we may think it would be really nice to just get away from everyone. I,

personally, like to get away from the city, and from people, and go hiking in the mountains. However, God created us to live among people.

As we think of trees, we must also think about all the different kinds of trees. Some trees are tall while others are short. There are broad trees and skinny trees. There are trees that like warm weather and other trees that prefer the colder climate. There are trees that stand upright and there are trees droop like the weeping willow. Some trees are symmetrical like the fir trees and others that are all bent out of shape like the mesquite. Some trees like a wet climate while others prefer the dry weather. Some trees are brown or black in color while others are more shades of green. People are like trees in that they also come in different sizes, shapes, colors, and with different preferences. Also, much like trees, people tend to live with and fellowship with their own kind.

The real difficulty lies in accepting the other trees. First, there must be a common ground upon which we can all accept other people. Second, there should also be a common ground upon which we accept other Believers.

First, we must be willing to accept all men on the basis that God created them. Paul declared in Athens, *"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth..."* (Acts 17:26). Second, we must accept others on the basis that God so loved them that He sent Jesus to die for them (John 3:16). Note the words of John, *"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world"* (I John 2:2). When I ministered in a prison some years ago, I would usually make some opening statements like the following ones. "We don't care where you are from ... We are not concerned about the color of your skin ... We don't care what you have done ... We believe that God loves you and that you deserve to have the privilege of hearing the gospel." You should understand that many of the inmates were illegals from other countries. Most of them were Mexicans from Mexico or Blacks from Haiti. Some of the inmates had committed murder, others burglary,

and many had peddled illegal drugs. However, we had to look beyond the natural to see what God had done for them. Guess what? Many heard the Word and received Christ, because by God's love, we had received them. Paul went so far to say, *"To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some"* (I Corinthians 9:22).

It is even more important that we accept other Believers. However, what is the basis for accepting another person as a Believer? When I share the gospel with others, I usually don't begin by asking, "Are you a Christian?" I generally explain the gospel, then ask, "Have you at any time in your life ever given your life to Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?" If the person respond positively, I try to accept him as a fellow Believer. Paul states, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved"* (Romans 10:9).

Furthermore, Paul plainly exhorts, *"Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God"* (Romans 15:7). How did God receive you? Did you reach a plateau of perfection so God could receive you? No! God received each of us while we were in our own sinful state. He accepted us, based upon what Christ did for us on the cross. Yes, we all were sinners! However, by faith, through the grace of God, He saved us. Now that God has saved us, He calls us saints (I Corinthians 1:2). He has set us apart from the world unto Himself. Therefore, we must receive other Believers as those who were sinners, but have become saints. We are to accept other Believers, not based upon their performance, but upon the grace of God that has been given to them. Of course, we must also understand that God has not finished his work in us, or in other Believers. He is still working on the saving of our souls (our minds, wills, and emotions).

Carrying this one step further, we should accept other Believers as brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul speaks of Believers as being a part of the family of God (Ephesians 3:15). In a family there are children

Bringing The Good Tree To Maturity

with distinct differences of appearance, character traits, giftings, beliefs, and interests. The same is true in the spiritual family of God.

Chapter Seven

Making The Good Tree Become Fruitful

Caring for One Another

It may seem strange, at first, to think of trees caring for one another, but they do. The leaves fall from the larger trees, giving ground cover, so that young trees may sprout and begin to grow. The larger trees may also protect the smaller ones that grow under their branches. At first, they protect the tender ones from the heat of the sun. They may later protect the youth from the wind storms. The roots of the older trees also provide a soil support system that prevents soil erosion. This helps assure soil for generations to come. In time, the older trees die and fall to the ground. As their wood decays, they provide fertilizer for the trees that remain, that they may grow to maturity and produce fruit.

God has ordained that Believers also care for one another. He has established His Church for that purpose. Paul says that we should not be ignorant in this area (I Corinthians 12:1). He says there are diversities of gifts, differences of administrations (service), and diversities of operations (workings). We will take a brief look at each. Furthermore, we are all to profit by the manifestation of the Spirit (I Corinthians 12:4-7).

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." (Romans 12:4-5) Paul follows these verses with a discussion of spiritual **gifts** (Romans 12:6-8). The spiritual gifts are **prophecy**, **ministry**, **teaching**, **exhorting** (encouraging), **giving**, **ruling** (administration), and **mercy**. These are God given gifts that move us to minister. As people discover their giftings, they can better define how God would have them fit into the work of the ministry. I often give a test for spiritual giftings, through

which people may discover their strengths and weakness. I encourage them to build upon their strengths and work on their weaknesses.

Through a better understanding of spiritual giftings, people also come to see why they are having conflicts with others in the body. For example, one who has a gift of mercy will usually desire to give immediate help to those in need. The person who has the gift of exhortation emphasizes that we should learn from our experiences. When these two people meet, they may clash. The mercy person may say, "Let's get that person (in need) out of trouble right now." The exhorter may object, saying, "Let him suffer there a while, because he needs to learn something from this experience." You can see the conflict. The frugal husband who has the gift of ruling (organization) may find it difficult to understand his wife who desires to give everything away. She just happens to have a gift of giving. As we understand how God has gifted each of us, we can better care for one another.

Let us look at the **administration** of the gifts. *"But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended upon high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-13).

An apostle is someone like, Paul (II Timothy 1:1), who goes into a new area and establishes churches. A prophet is a person like Agabus that would speak for God and foretells of coming events (Acts 11:28). An evangelist would be someone like Philip who would preach the salvation gospel to the lost. *"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them"* (Acts 8:5). Of course, the Lord confirmed the Word with many miracles (Acts 8:6-7).

Some scholars put the last two, the pastor and teacher, in the same

general category. A good example of this would be young pastor, Timothy. Paul earnestly exhorted Timothy, *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also"* (II Timothy 2:2). Paul also encourages Timothy, the pastor, to do the work of an evangelist (II Timothy 4:5). I also see a pastor as being separate from a teacher. A pastor is a shepherd over a local body of Believers. Although an apostle may establish a local body and set the leadership in order, at some point in time a pastor should shepherd that local body. However, within that local body there may be, and probably should be, the five-fold ministry. A tent may be used to explain the five-fold ministry. It may be said, that in the local body, the pastor was the center pole and the other four were corner poles to help hold up the whole tent.

We must not forget the teacher. The teacher researches the Word in depth and makes it palatable for others in the congregation. All of the ministry offices are for the purpose of building up the body. As the body matures, it is to do the work of the ministry. We need a vision of the whole body of Christ. We need a vision of all the members of the body functioning in ministry, caring for one another.

Another way to look at this caring for one another is to look at the **operation** of gifts (I Corinthians 12:6-31). Paul tells us that these gifts of the Spirit are for the purpose of ministry of the body. He concisely states, *"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ"* (I Corinthians 12:12). He speaks of the different parts of the body having different functions. The eye is for seeing, while the ear is for hearing. Each part is needed to make up the whole body.

On one occasion, someone came to visit the church of which I was a member. While making a follow-up visit with him, I discovered he was an evangelist. The Holy Spirit had endowed him with the gift of evangelism. Although he had worked as an evangelist for many years, he had **never** been a member of a local body. The Holy Spirit prompted me to speak frankly with him about becoming a member of

a local church. He responded that I was confirming the very truth that God had already been speaking to him. The gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and prophecy were working through me to minister to him. A few weeks later, I met him again. He told me that he had become a part of a local church body. I say bluntly, "Do not refuse to become a member of a local body and to minister there. You will deprive the body of Christ of ministry." We are to care for one another.

Submitting to the Chief Gardener

Very few trees that are left to their own care are as productive as those under the care of a gardener. The constant, meticulous care of a gardener enables the trees to be fruitful. He may build a fence about his trees (Isaiah 5:1, 2, 6). He will dig about them, water and fertilize them. He may also brace up the weak ones. He will also prune them, that they may produce more fruit.

Jesus said, *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples"* (John 15:4-8). To abide in Christ means to continually to submit your will to the will of God. Someone may say, "I did that when I got saved and became a Christian ten years ago." Fantastic! Have you done it since then?

The Christian life is more than just a one time experience. It is a daily walk with the Lord. Have you ever noticed the model prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) which Jesus said to pray? *"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread"* (Matthew 6:10-11). This would imply that we are to submit our will to God on a DAILY basis. Jesus also said, *"If any man will*

come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Jesus lays out a simple principle of the Word. If we are to follow Jesus, we must first come to a place of denying our own desires. We must place our own desires upon the shelf. Second, we must take up our cross. The disciples knew only of the Roman cross, the means of a cruel death. We must die to self. We will not make the third step of following Jesus until we make the first two steps.

There will be a major battle inside if we don't make the first two steps **first**. Paul describes the battle by saying, *"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other"* (Galatians 5:17). We must be willing to lay self on the shelf and then die to self. We are then **FREE** to follow Christ. We should also see that if we are following Christ, we will not be committing iniquity. We can't be sinning and obeying Christ at the same time. The two just don't mix.

When God met Moses at the burning bush, God asked him, *"What is that in thine hand?"* (Exodus 4:2). This seems to be a ridiculous question. Why would God ask a question for which he already knew the answer? The question was for the purpose of probing the heart of Moses. Moses' answer was simple and straight forward. *"A rod."* However, it was more than just a rod. It was his rod. Moses had taken it from a branch that he had chosen. He had carved it to fit his hand. In fact, this rod represented the very life of Moses. He had been in the shepherding business for forty years. It was a shepherd's rod.

Then God told Moses to throw it down upon the ground. When he did, it became a poisonous snake. A type of snake with which Moses was all too familiar. Moses fled from it! Then God told Moses to pick it up by the tail. This is not the way one picks up a poisonous snake. It could very easily turn, bite Moses, and inject its deadly venom. In a few short moments, Moses could be dead. However, by faith, Moses obeyed the LORD. When he picked it up, it became the rod of God. It became the power of God in his hand. It was the rod that was cast before the rods of the magicians and ate up their rods. It was the rod

that Moses used to bring many of the plagues upon the Egyptians. It was the rod that Moses held up to divide the waters of the Red Sea. It was the rod that Moses used to strike the rock, bringing an abundance of water. It was the rod that Moses held up to bring victory over the Amalekites. (Please read Exodus, Chapters Seven through Seventeen, for the preceding references.) Finally, it was the rod that budded, blossomed, and brought forth almonds (Numbers 17:8). This illustrated that God worked through those who he had placed in positions of authority.

Like Moses, we are to throw down our own lives before God. We are to throw down our skills, our education, our mental abilities. We are to throw down our desires, expectations, and possessions. We are to throw down everything that pertains to our lives. We are not to pick them up except at the *word* of God. If Moses had picked up the rod before God had told him to, it would have meant death to Moses. However, when God told him to pick it up, it became the power and authority of God in his hand.

Linda's life was filled with rejection. There was physical, mental, and sexual abuse. She lived in depression, fear, anger, bitterness, and revenge, for thirty years. The only glimpse of light in her life was her kind and gentle grandmother. Her grandmother took her to a little Baptist church when she was a very young child. She hated her dad who had taken her away from her grandmother when he remarried. Her dad and stepmother drank often and fought. Although Linda fell into the alcohol and drug trap, God reached down, in His mercy and grace, and saved her. However, the anger and depression continued to plague Linda. The following is a part of Linda's own testimony.

"One session was extremely hard for me, but I believe it was the most helpful. A release came that I never knew I even needed. I had compared, all my life, everyone to my Grandmother. She represented love and kindness and all things good. In doing so, no one could measure up to her, even though she was gone (deceased). I had grieved 15 years and had never released her into God's hands. I

couldn't even receive God's love, because I compared Him with Grandmother's love.

I had made her an idol! God's Word says to have no gods before Him. I didn't even realize I had done this, but the Holy Spirit led Basil to have me release her.

I don't know how to explain what happened, but as I tried to pray that prayer, my body began to lock up ... I was physically racked in my muscles. I couldn't speak the words, but I prayed in my mind and asked Jesus to help me. After what seemed an hour, Basil softly spoke the prayer again. This time ... still sobbing ... I relaxed, and was able to pray and release Grandmother, and asked God to forgive me for placing her where He belonged."

Peter both exhorts us and warns us. He says, *"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"* (I Peter 5:7-8). If we don't throw down what we have in our hand, we become subject to being devoured by the devil. I have heard it said that the devil was an old toothless lion that just roared to scare people. Don't believe it! Isaiah speaks of the young roaring lions taking away the prey to devour it (Isaiah 5:29). Yes, Jesus defeated the devil at the cross.

Yes, the devil must get God's permission to attack us. However, God considers anything to which we cling (even something good) an idol. Furthermore, God is a jealous god. Therefore, He releases Satan to attack us and devour us. It is only after we have fully submitted ourselves to the Lord that we can, in faith, resist him and he will flee from us. *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you"* (James 4:7). When Linda let go of her grandmother and submitted herself to God, then she was able to resist the devil (his powers) and he fled from her.

John wrote at the command of Jesus, *"Behold, I stand at the door;*

and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). These words were addressed to the church of the Laodiceans and ultimately to every Believer. The word, *Laodicea* literally means "the opinions of the people." The church of Laodicea was a democracy. It was a church of the people, by the people, and for the people. God wanted it to have a theocratic form of government. He wanted it to be a church of Christ, by Christ, and for Christ. Jesus was knocking on their souls' (mind, will, emotions) door. He wanted to come in as Lord. Often, we open the door to our house and allow Jesus to come into our formal living room to be seated. However, soon Jesus begins to knock on the doors of our kitchen, bedroom, den, and utility room. He desires to come into each of those rooms and become Lord. Only we can open the doors to let him come in.

I find that people who battle with overcoming addictions, try to do it in their own power. The world says, "If you think straight, then you will act straight." Therefore, the world tries to educate everyone on thinking straight. We currently have a campaign going that states, "Just say no" (to drugs). It will only have a very small degree of sociological effect upon the use of drugs. In contrast, I have heard ministers say, "You educate a criminal, and you get an educated criminal that can better carry out his crimes." Historically, a college professor was responsible for the wide-spread use of LSD. Therefore, education, in itself, does not provide the answer to addiction.

Mind control and will power only provide a limited solution to addictions. The person hooked on alcohol may repeatedly say, "I will not drink." "I WILL not drink." "I will NEVER drink again." Watch him. He **WILL** drink again. Why? God did not create us to live the Christian life through will power. We may do fairly good when everything is going great in our lives. However, what happens when circumstances are going terrible? What happens when we are worn out from the pressure? We fall! We fall flat on our faces and wonder how that happened. We may either go into denial at this point, or feel condemned, or do both. This is a horrendous way for anyone to live.

Some may go a step further to try adverse stimuli. I know of a college professor who gave himself electrical shock treatments to help him stop smoking. Now, when he thinks about it, goose bumps pop up on his arm. I think that he later substituted chewing gum for cigarettes. Many people try the substitution method. They simply become addicted to something else.

Other people try to live by their emotions. They maintain, "Whatever feels right, do it!" However, can one trust his emotions? No! To go by our emotions is to go on a wild roller coaster ride. One may be on an emotional high in the morning and an emotional low in the evening. The mood of an individual will often change dramatically even within a short time. Emotions also arise out of nowhere. That is, they may suddenly pop up without apparent stimuli. God did not intend for Christians to live by their feelings.

When a decision arises, there is usually a board meeting of the mind, will, emotions, and the Spirit. The **mind** may say, "I think that this should be done." The **will**, in connection with the mind, may say, "I remember my last decision. I believe that I can keep this commitment." The **emotions** may say, "Well, I feel pretty good about doing it this way." The **Spirit** may say, "God's Word says that this is the answer." Guess who makes the deciding vote? Needless to say, everyone has his position, but the **will** casts the deciding vote. Therefore, we must yield our **will** to the **WILL** of God for anything of value to come out of the decision. Paul explains, *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure"* (Philippians 2:13).

Let me share a personal story. I came home one day very exhausted. I thought (in my mind) that I would sit down and watch some TV programs while I rested. Before long, I found myself watching something that I knew (in my spirit) that I should not be watching. My emotions were saying, "It's O.K. You can use the stimulation." My mind reasoned, "You are tough enough that this program won't bother you." However, it did. My mind and will deliberated, "You can turn it off after a while." Finally, I said, "O.K.,

Holy Spirit, I yield my will unto you. What would you have me do?" Immediately, the Holy Spirit said, "Go, do some studying." For me to do the studying, I would need to turn off the T.V. Since I had made the commitment to do what the Holy Spirit told me, I turned off the T.V. and began studying. **Victory!** There was little temptation left to watch the ungodly T.V. program. I also accomplished the studying that God wanted me to do.

Pruning the Tree

Jesus exclaimed, *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit"* (John 15:1-2). We see two types of pruning. One cuts off the branches that produce no fruit. The other one cuts back the branches that produce fruit, so that they may produce more abundantly.

The gardener will cut off the branches that produce no fruit. He will then throw them into the fire to be burned. Does this mean that one could lose his salvation if he doesn't produce fruit? The question is a trick question. It is like the question, "Are you still beating your wife?" There is no true way to answer the question. There is a hidden presupposition. If the branch represents a person, then we are *supposing* there was life in the branch at the beginning. We should understand that Scripture interprets Scripture. A presupposed truth found at one place in the Bible should be found in other places. What we find from reading the book of James is that true faith will produce some good works. James issues a challenge, *"Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works"* (James 2:18). He furthermore states, *"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also"* (James 2:26). The application of James to the verse in John would be that a branch that produces no fruit is a dead branch. The person who produces no fruit of the Spirit is spiritually dead. He was **never** a Believer. God potentially grafted him into Christ (I John 2:2); however, he refused the gift of **Life**.

We may also give a second application to the cutting off of the dead branch that produces no fruit. There may be areas of our life that are dead. For example, how much spiritual life is there in spending every Sunday fishing? Please don't just think that I am trying to condemn everyone that likes to fish. I personally enjoy fishing, but there is more LIFE in fishing for men. If we can't give up some recreation or work or project, then most likely, it has become a dead idol to us. We must be willing to cut off anything that is dead and cast it aside.

Jesus also said that the branch that produced some fruit would also be pruned that it might produce more fruit. Let's say that someone has a music ministry and he works with the youth group of the church. There is life in the music ministry. It is fruitful. Kids are being drawn into the group through the music. However, for it to be more fruitful, God may ask the person to omit the so called "Christian Rock" and "Christian Rap" music. Rather than trying to give a comprehensive apology on the dangers of certain types of ungodly music, let me just say, that I was harassed as a child by an evil spirit that came with a *rap* beat. That was before I, or anyone I know, ever heard of the term rap beat. Periodically, I counsel people who leave a door open for spirits to enter into them and harass them. That door may be "Christian Rock" music. We should be aware that Satan uses *rock* music to take advantage of us.

Furthermore, even what we used to minister with yesterday, may need to be trimmed away for a greater ministry today. The picture is found in the trimming of the lamps in the tabernacle. Aaron was to *dress* the lamps morning and evening (Exodus 30:7-8). The lamps may represent individuals. As Aaron filled the lamps daily, God is to fill us daily. The pure olive oil represents the Holy Spirit. The wicks represent our souls. The wick was made of a fibrous material or braided cord. In like fashion, there is the intertwining of our minds, wills, and emotions. The oil was to flow up the wick through the fibers to the point of ignition. The Holy Spirit is to flow through our lives (minds, wills, and emotions) to the point of ignition. We are to give off the light of Christ. However, Aaron was to trim the wicks. He

was to cut off the burnt part from yesterday. If he did not remove it, it would hinder the flow of the fresh oil to the point of ignition. In like manner, God must trim away what He used yesterday in our lives. The catch is that we are creatures of habit. We get stuck in the groove. However, what God used yesterday in our lives may, or may not, be what He uses today.

Another analogy to note is that Aaron needed to adjust the wick in the vessel. If Aaron placed the wick too far down inside the vessel in the oil, the wick would not protrude enough for the flame to get oxygen. It would be difficult for it to burn and give off light. This is like an introverted Christian who spends all his time studying and praying. If Aaron placed the wick too high, the wick would not get the oil it needed. The wick would rapidly burn and the flame would go out. This is like an extroverted Christian who is a showman. Therefore, God also needs to adjust our souls (minds, wills, and emotions) to be both in the Holy Spirit and also exposed to the world. Then we can give the light of Christ to illuminate a darkened world.

The whole purpose of the pruning good limbs is so that they may produce more fruit. God's first commandment to man was, "*Be fruitful, and multiply...*" (Genesis 1:28). Yes, God was saying to be physically fruitful. However, he is also establishing a principle of fruitfulness. Jesus emphatically states, "*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name he may give it you*" (John 15:16).

Remember the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30)? Jesus began the parable by saying that *the kingdom of heaven is like...* The first two men used what the master had given them and multiplied it. One multiplied his five talents and the other multiplied his two talents. The master honored them as good and faithful servants. However, the one who was given one talent simply saved it to give it back to the master. The master rebuked him for not being fruitful. He said that he was a *wicked* and *slothful* (lazy) servant. The master took that which the servant had and gave it to the servant who had ten

talents. We may consider the servant who did not multiply his talent as being *unfaithful*. Let us be faithful and fruitful.

We are to be fruitful in leading others to the Lord. Jesus said, *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"* (Matthew 4:19). We are to be fruitful in our ministry in the body of Christ. Paul told Timothy, *"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands"* (II Timothy 1:6). Let us stir up the ministry gifts that God has given us, that we may effectively minister by the grace of God. We are to be fruitful in bearing the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Galatians 5:22-23).

Paul concludes the thought by saying, *"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lust. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit"* (Galatians 5:24-25). We have come full circle. First, we are to live in the Spirit, by faith in Jesus. Second, we are to destroy the evil tree by our identification with the crucifixion. Third, we are to see ourselves resurrected as new creatures. Fourth, we are to walk in the Spirit, through the continual submission to the resurrected Lord. The result is spiritual fruitfulness. Amen.

The Evil Tree Appendixes

Appendix A

(for [Chapter Four](#))

Freedom from Iniquity

Definitions:

1. "Sin" is an individual act of disobeying God. There are two types of sins: omission and commission. "Omission" is when God says **to do** something and we don't do it. "Commission" is when God says **not to do** something and we do it anyway.
2. "Iniquity" literally means "perversion" in the Hebrew. Iniquity is a **bent** toward sin.
3. The New Testament word "anomia" translated "iniquity" literally means "without law". The understanding would be "a bent away from God's law."

THESIS: When we sin, a perversion, a twist, or bent toward that sin is established within us. The bent, flaw, or weakness is called iniquity. This bent may be hereditarily passed upon our children down to the third and forth generation. Although the iniquity may be passed to the children and is a bent toward sin, they may or may not act upon it. If they act upon it and commit iniquity, then the enemy sets up a stronghold within them. "Familiar spirits" are spirits that follow a family down through the generations. They look for such openings as these to enter and take control.

1. Sin produces iniquity. (Leviticus 5:17).
2. Iniquity is passed to the children down to the third and

- fourth generations. (Exodus 20:5, 34:7, Numbers 14:17, Deuteronomy 5:9).
3. The children receive iniquity from the forefathers. (Lamentations 5:7).
 4. The sins of the children can be traced back to their forefathers. (Isaiah 1:4).
 5. The iniquities may cause one to fall into sin. (Hosea 14:1).
 6. Iniquities of forefathers open the door for children to sin. (Daniel 9:16).
 7. The iniquities take us away like the wind. (Isaiah 64:6).
 8. The iniquities are passed through conception. (Psalms 51:5).
 9. Iniquity tends to increase from generation to generation. (Romans 6:19, Psalms 69:27).
 10. The New Covenant gives hope of freedom from iniquities. (Ezekiel 18:20, Jeremiah 31:29-31).
 11. Jesus hated iniquity. (Hebrews 1:9)
 12. Jesus bore both the penalty for our sins (transgression) and our iniquities. (Isaiah 53:5-6, 11).
 13. Jesus gave himself to redeem (to take us back) us from all iniquity. (Titus 2:14).
 14. We need to confess the sins and the iniquities of our forefathers as well as our own. (Nehemiah 9:2, Jeremiah 14:20, Leviticus 26:40).
 15. We should ask God to wash us of our iniquity and cleanse us of our sin. (Psalms 51:2).
 16. We should ask God to blot out all our iniquities. (Psalms 51:9).
 17. When we confess our sins, Jesus forgives us and cleanses

- us from all unrighteousness (or iniquity). (I John 1:9).
18. God forgives all our iniquities and heals us from all our diseases. (Psalms 103:3).
 19. God takes away all iniquity and receives us graciously that we may offer a sacrifice of praise unto him. (Hosea 14:2, I Peter 2:9, Hebrews 13:15).
 20. God is to keep iniquity from having dominion over us. (Psalms 119:133).
 21. Although we may have yielded to iniquity in the past, we can now yield to righteousness which leads unto holiness. (Romans 6:19).
 22. Many are cold because of iniquity. (Matthew 24:12) We need to share the GOOD NEWS with others.

Appendix B

(For [Chapter Four](#))

DELIVERANCE PRAYER GUIDE

1. Commit your life unto Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

🌀 *"I give my life to you, Jesus, as my Lord and Saviour."*

2. Next, begin by asking the Holy Spirit for discernment.

🌀 *"Holy Spirit, I ask you to show me any evil spirits that are blocking my progress in my Christian walk."*

3. Upon discernment for the need of deliverance of a spirit of _____, confess your sin and ask for forgiveness and cleansing.

🌀 *"I confess to you, Lord Jesus, that I have opened the door for _____ to come in, by the sin of _____. Therefore, I ask you to forgive me of the sin of _____ and to also cleanse me of consequences of _____."*

4. Yield that area of your life totally to the Lord Jesus.

🌀 *"I yield the area of _____ totally to you, Lord Jesus."*

5. Declare that Jesus came to destroy all the works of the Devil.

🌀 *"I declare that Jesus came to destroy all the works of the Devil, including this area of _____."*

6. Receive the authority delegated to you.

🌀 *"I believe that Jesus was given all authority and then delegated that same authority to the Church. Therefore, I now receive that authority in the name of Jesus."*

7. Command, in the name of Jesus, that the spirit is bound and that it must leave.

🌀 *"In the name of Jesus, I bind the spirit of _____ and command it to leave my mind, will, emotions, and body, and*

not to come back."

8. Ask the Holy Spirit if you are clear in the area.

- 🌈 *"Holy Spirit, am I now clear of the spirit of _____?"*

Note: Often spirits group themselves together for strength. You may need to go down a long list, then command all of them to leave. Also, there may be a strong spirit that rules over lesser spirits. In such a case, you may need to cast out the strong spirit first.

9. Strengthen yourself now by confessing God's Word over the weak area where the spirits entered.

- 🌈 Example: (concerning fear) *"I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears"* (Psalms 34:4).

Appendix C

(For [Chapter Four](#))

Prayer of Commitment

Accepting Authority & Professions of Faith

Prayer of Commitment:

"Dear Heavenly Father, I surrender all these areas of my life to Jesus, allowing Him to become Lord over each area." (Romans 10:9, Philippians 2:9-11).

Accepting Authority:

"I understand that through the obedience of Christ all authority in Heaven and earth was given to Him and that He delegated that same authority to Believers. Therefore, in the name of Jesus, I receive that authority and make the following declarations:" (Matthew 28:18, Philippians 2:8-11, Ephesians 1:19-22, John 14:12, Mark 16:17-20, 11:22-24).

Professions of Faith:

"According to the Word of God, I declare:"

1. "That Jesus come to destroy (undo or loose) all the works of the Devil." (I John 3:8, Acts 10:38, Romans 6:6).
2. "That Jesus was made a curse for me, thereby redeeming me from the law." (Galatians 3:13, Romans 6:7).
3. "Therefore, I declare in the name of Jesus, that every curse (naming each) is **now broken** and that they will no longer have an effect over my life." (Romans 6:14).
4. "I declare that the evil tree is **dead** and that I am free from every evil fruit." (Romans 6:11, 21).
5. "I declare that any attachment of evil spirits to any curse is

now severed. I, in the name of Jesus, **bind** and **command** those evil spirits **to leave.**" (Matthew 12:29, Romans 6:17-18, Matthew 16:18-19, 12:29, Ephesians 4:27, James 4:7).

6. "I declare that I have a **good tree** growing within me and that the good tree will produce good fruit." (Romans 6:22, John 15:1-16).
7. "I furthermore declare, that as I obey the Word by grace, that I am in the position of grace to receive the promises and blessings of God into my life." (Galatians 3:14-16, Deuteronomy 28:1-13).

Appendix D

(For [Chapter Five](#))

Overcoming Habits

The Sources Of Bad Habits

1. Sins of the forefathers. Exodus 20:4-5.
2. Led astray by own desires. James 1:14-15.
3. Direct demonic influence. II Corinthians 2:11.

How To Overcome Bad Habits

1. Know who you are in Christ.
 - Eternal security. John 10:28.
 - Understand = body, soul, & spirit. Hebrews 4:12, I Thessalonians 5:23.
 - Consider who you are. Romans 6:1-8:39.
2. See sin as sin. (learn to hate evil). Proverbs 8:13, 9:10.
3. Repent of all known sin. Proverbs 28:13, Revelation 2:5, 16, 3:21. Ask God to reveal hidden sins also. Psalms 139:23.
4. Understand the grace of God.
 - I Corinthians 15:10.
 - I Corinthians 10:13.
 - Philippians 2:13.
5. Spend time daily in the Word. Ephesians 6:17.
 - Reading. Revelation 1:3.
 - Memorizing. Psalms 119:11. (Matthew 4:1-10).
 - Meditating. Joshua 1:8.
6. Spend time in Prayer.
 - Matthew 26:41.

- Ephesians 6:10-18.
 - I John 1:7.
7. Fasting is an aid to overcoming.
- Repentance. Jonah 3:5.
 - Humble soul. Psalms 69:10-13.
 - Break the yoke. Isaiah 58:6.
8. Worship is used to overcome habits.
- Praise is important. Psalms 149:1-9.
 - Praise overcomes. Isaiah. 61:3.
 - Praying in the Spirit. Jude 1:20.
9. Fellowship with other Believers.
- Church attendance. Hebrews 10:25.
 - General fellowship. I John 1:7.
10. Submission and accountability are critical.
- I Peter 5:5.
 - Ephesians 4:11-16.
11. One must submit himself unto God.
- James 4:7-10.
 - I Peter 5:6-7.
12. Resist the Devil.
- James 4:7
 - I Peter 5:8-9.

Appendix E

(For [Chapter Six](#))

Filling the Void

Since many people use alcohol to fill the void in their lives, I give the following model on alcohol. (See Chapter Six)

Alcohol was not for priests:

Leviticus 10:9 "Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: [it shall be] a statute for ever throughout your generations:"

Alcohol was not for Nazarites:

Numbers 6:3 "He shall separate [himself] from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried."

Alcohol was not for kings:

Proverbs 31:4-5 "[It is] not for kings, O Lemuel, [it is] not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted."

Alcohol was not for Daniel:

Daniel 1:8 "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

Alcohol was not for John the Baptist:

Luke 1:15 "For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and

shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb."

Warnings against the use of alcohol:

Proverbs 20:1 "Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

Proverbs 23:20-21 "Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe [a man] with rags."

Proverbs 23:29-35 "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, [when] it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, [shalt thou say, and] I was not sick; they have beaten me, [and] I felt [it] not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again."

Woe to alcoholics:

Isaiah 5:11 "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, [that] they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, [till] wine inflame them!"

Woe to social drinkers:

Isaiah 28:1 "Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty [is] a fading flower, which [are] on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!"

Woe to those who influence others to drink:

Habakkuk 2:15 "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to [him], and makest [him] drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!"

Romans 14:21 "[It is] good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor [any thing] whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."

We will miss kingdom living:

I Corinthians 6:10 "Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

We need to watch for the coming of Christ:

Luke 21:34 "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and [so] that day come upon you unawares."

We need to present our bodies as living sacrifices:

Romans 12:1 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service."

I Corinthians 3:16-17 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which [temple] ye are."

I Corinthians 6:19-20 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit:

Ephesians 5:18 "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"

Joshua was filled with the Spirit:

Deuteronomy 34:9 "And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses."

John the Baptist was filled with the Spirit:

Luke 1:15 "For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb."

Jesus was filled with the Spirit:

Luke 4:1 "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,"

The 120 disciples were filled with the Spirit:

Acts 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Peter was filled with the Spirit:

Acts 4:8 "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,"

The Believers were refilled with the Spirit:

Acts 4:31 "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

Stephen was filled with the Spirit:

Acts 7:55 "But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,"

Barnabas was filled with the Spirit:

Acts 11:24 "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord."

Paul was filled with the Spirit:

Acts 13:9 "Then Saul, (who also [is called] Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,"

The disciples were filled with the Spirit:

Acts 13:52 "And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost."

The Church is to be filled with the Spirit:

Ephesians 3:15-21 "Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what [is] the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him [be] glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Have you asked to be filled with the Spirit?

Luke 11:13 "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

As with the lamps we need to be filled daily:

Leviticus 24:2-4 "Command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamps to burn continually. Without the vail of the testimony, in the tabernacle of the congregation, shall Aaron order it from

the evening unto the morning before the LORD continually: [it shall be] a statute for ever in your generations. He shall order the lamps upon the pure candlestick before the LORD continually."

Exodus 30:7 "And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps he shall burn incense upon it."

Warning: an empty house is dangerous:

Matthew 12:43-45 "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth [it] empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last [state] of the man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation."

We are to seek to be filled with all our hearts and souls.

Deuteronomy 4:29 "But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find [him], if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul."

Luke 11:9-10 "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For ever one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Appendix F

(For [Chapter Six](#))

A GUIDE TO WORSHIP

Please note: The following is to be only a guide. The Holy spirit should be the one that leads us into worship. Jesus seeks those who will worship him in Spirit and Truth. (John 4:24)

Worshipping the Lord:

Psalms 122:1 "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD."

Hebrews 9:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Singing unto the Lord:

Psalms 47:6 "Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises."

Colossians 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Standing in worship:

Psalms 134:1 "Behold, bless ye the LORD, all [ye] servants of the LORD, which by night stand in the house of the LORD."

Psalms 135:2-3 "Ye that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God, Praise the LORD; for the LORD [is] good: sing praises unto his name; for [it is] pleasant."

Laying on of hands and anointing of oil:

Mark 16:18 "They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Acts 19:6 "And when Paul had laid [his] hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

James 5:14 "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:"

Kneeling before the Lord:

Psalms 95:6 "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker."

Ephesians 3:14 "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,"

Clapping of hands in praise:

Psalms 47:1 "O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph."

Isaiah 55:12 "For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap [their] hands."

Using musical instruments:

Psalms 150:3-6 "Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD."

Shouting for joy:

Ezra 3:11 "And they sang together by course in praising and

giving thanks unto the LORD; because [he is] good, for his mercy [endureth] for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid."

Psalms 5:11 "But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee."

Preaching the Word:

Acts 5:42 "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

Acts 10:42 "And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God [to be] the Judge of quick and dead."

Acts 20:27 "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."

Prophesying unto the people:

Ephesians 4:11 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;"

I Corinthians 14:1 "Follow after charity, and desire spiritual [gifts], but rather that ye may prophesy."

I Thessalonians 5:20: "Despise not prophesyings."

Praying in the Spirit:

Romans 8:26 "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

I Corinthians 14:5 "I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater [is] he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying."

Jude 1:20 "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,"

Singing in the Spirit:

Psalms 40:3 "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, [even] praise unto our God: many shall see [it], and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."

I Corinthians 14:15 "What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

Lifting up of hands in worship:

Nehemiah 8:6 "And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with [their] faces to the ground."

Psalms 134:2 "Lift up your hands [in] the sanctuary, and bless the LORD."

Psalms 143:6 "I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul [thirsteth] after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah."

Dancing unto the Lord:

Exodus 15:20 "And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances."

Psalms 149:3 "Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp."

Giving of tithes and offerings:

Malachi 3:10 "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that [there shall] not [be room] enough [to receive it]."

I Corinthians 16:2 "Upon the first [day] of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as [God] hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

Healing of diseases and hurts:

Luke 10:9 "And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you."

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,"

James 5:14-15 "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

Casting out of evil spirits:

Matthew 10:1 "And when he had called unto [him] his twelve disciples, he gave them power [against] unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."

Mark 16:17 "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;"

Reading of the Word:

Nehemiah 8:8 "So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused [them] to understand the reading."

Luke 4:16 "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read."

Saving the lost:

Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Acts 2:41 "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

Acts 2:47 "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Appendix G

(For [Chapter Seven](#))

DEALING WITH HABITS

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Ephesians 6:10-11)

1. **Belt of Truth.** (John 8:31-32, I Peter 1:13)

★ The results are a freedom from guilt and strength to be open.

- Repent of wrong.
- Confess the truth.

2. **Breastplate of Righteousness.** (I Thessalonians 5:8, Proverbs 4:23)

★ The results are love toward others and faithfulness in life.

- Learn the Fear of the Lord.
- Apply God's grace.

3. **Feet shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace.** (II Timothy 2:15, I Peter 3:15)

★ The results are the study of the Word and boldness to share.

- Live in God's peace.
- Live peaceably with others.

4. **Shield of Faith.** (Luke 7:8-9, Numbers 12:3)

★ The results are being under authority and meekness.

- Hear God's Word.
- Apply God's Word.

5. **Helmet of Salvation.** (Hebrews 9:14, Romans 15:7)

★ The results are a conscience purged and service.

- Resting in eternal security.

- Receiving others as Christ has.
- 6. **Sword of the Spirit.** (Hebrews 4:12, Matthew 4:4)
 - ★ The results are authority and life.
 - Hide God's Word in your heart.
 - Bring every thought captive.
- 7. **Prayer is an assault weapon.** (Matthew 26:41, I Timothy 2:1-6)
 - ★ The results are alertness and power.
 - Pray for one another.
 - Keep in personal prayer.
 - Ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."
(Ephesians 6:13).

Appendix H

(For [Chapter Seven](#))

Why and where to become a Church Member?

1. Jesus established the local church body. Matthew 16:18, Revelation 1:11, 20.
2. God's Word commands Believers to assemble together. Hebrews 10:24-25.
3. God has ordained that the Leaders care for our spiritual well being. Hebrews 13:17, Acts 20:28.
4. The Church is a place for prayer, praise, and preaching the Word of God. Luke 19:46, Colossians 3:16, Romans 10:14-17.
5. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers share what is necessary for our spiritual growth and maturity. Ephesians 4:11-15.
6. We are to bring your tithes and offerings unto the Church. Malachi 3:10, I Corinthians. 16:2.
7. Spiritual strength comes through assembled unity. Matthew 16:18, Acts 2:1-4.
8. The body of Christ, itself, needs every member of the body. I Corinthians 12:14-27.
9. One may need to call upon the Elders for prayer. James 5:14.
10. The Church is a place where Believers may settle their conflicts. Matthew 18:17-18.
11. The Church is the proper place to receive of the Lord's Supper. I Corinthians 11:20.
12. Every Believer is to be a member of a local body. Acts 2:41, 47, I John 2:19.

CHOOSE A CHURCH WHERE:

- * The Bible is the sole authority for doctrine. Psalms 119:105, II Timothy 3:16-17.
- * Believers confess Jesus is the Lord. Romans 10:9-10, Philippians 2:9-11.
- * Believers are submitted to each other and Godly leadership. Romans 13:1-7, Hebrews 13:17, Matthew. 20:25-28.
- * Children are trained in the knowledge and admonition of the Lord. Deuteronomy 6:7, Proverbs 22:6.
- * Believers are of all ages are fed the Word of God. John 21:15-17, I Peter 5:1-3.
- * Believers gather in the unity of the Spirit for prayer, Bible study, worship and ministry. Matthew 18:18-20, Ephesians 4:1-7, Acts 2:1, Romans 12:4- 5.
- * Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers minister unto the body for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry. Ephesians 4:8-16.
- * Everyone has the freedom in the Spirit to worship the Lord. Psalms 47:1, 134:1-2, 138:1, 150:1-6.
- * Believers are encouraged to minister according to their spiritual gifts. Romans 12:6-8, I Corinthians 12:1-12, I Peter 4:10-11.
- * The principles of the Kingdom are taught and practiced. Hebrews 6:9, II Corinthians 1:20, Matthew 6:33.
- * Believers accept you and love you as a fellow-member in the Family of God. Romans 14:1-3, I John 4:11, Ephesians 3:15.
- * Believers look forward to the return of the Lord Jesus. Titus 2:13, I Thessalonians 4:14-18, Revelation. 22:12.

Appendix I

(General Questions)

Some Often Asked Questions

1. "I have been a Christian for a number of years and I thought that the curses were taken care of when I was saved. Do I still need the breaking of the generational curses in my life?"

ANSWER: A Christian is positionally saved in Jesus Christ. When a Christian dies, he will go to heaven. Sin and iniquity are taken care of in that sense. However, until he dies, he is to work out his salvation (Philippians 2:12). This is sanctification in the present tense. Therefore it is important that we declare that old tree to be dead (Romans 6:11). This identification with the cross of Jesus helps to enable us to be free to live a consistent, righteous life.

2. "I don't feel like I should have to confess my sins or iniquities to anyone but to God. Why do I need to tell a counselor about my past?"

ANSWER: Strictly speaking you may not need to confess your sins to anyone but to God. Furthermore, you most definitely should not confess all your past failures to everyone you meet. However, the Word does tell us to confess our "faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed" (James 5:16). There are several other reasons to do this. The experience of doing this is humbling, which helps people to deal with pride. The confession also brings accountability to the individual. It also enables the counselor to help the counselee to work through the breaking of curses.

3. "I am adopted and know nothing about my forefathers. What

should I do?"

ANSWER: You should go ahead and fill out the evil tree, putting the evil fruit on the tree. Include the word curses and any information about your siblings if possible. Then you assume if there is evil fruit, that it came from the roots. Remember, fruit don't just happen. Next, break the curses and sever the assumed roots.

4. "I am a parent of a three year old boy and a ten year old girl. Can I break the curse for both children?"

ANSWER: Since the three year old boy has yet to come to the age of accountability of fully knowing good from evil, it is quite important for you to break the curses over him. God will honor your authority as a parent. Praying over the ten year old girl is somewhat different. However, I believe that we often underestimate our authority in praying for others. Therefore, you should go ahead and pray over the child, recognizing that the child should also go through breaking the curses for themselves.

5. "Can a Christian be demon possessed? How can an evil spirit, and the Holy Spirit, exist in the same person?"

ANSWER: Strictly speaking, a Christian cannot be demon possessed. Possession implies ownership. Since Christians are purchased by the blood of Jesus (I Corinthians 6:19-20), they can not be demon possessed. However, a Christian may be harassed by a spirit and become oppressed and even obsessed. Another way to look at the truth is to see that man has three parts: spirit, soul, and body. When a person becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit unites with his spirit and the person becomes a new person in the spirit-man. However, this leaves the soul (mind, will, and emotions) and body available to be occupied. We need to see that possession and occupation

are different. Therefore, the Christian may leave the door to his body or soul open for evil spirit occupation. In such a case, there is a tremendous inward conflict that occurs. The Holy Spirit is trying to lead the person one way, and the evil spirit(s) are pulling in another.

6. "If you are not sure whether or not you should put something on the tree, calling it evil fruit, what should you do?"

ANSWER: First, if the Holy Spirit has brought it to your mind, you should go ahead and put whatever it is on the tree. Second, I would rather attempt to get rid of something that did not exist, than to leave something evil that did exist. It is best to be on the safe side.

7. "Can generational curses be passed through adoptive parents?"

ANSWER: No. However, word curses from adoptive parents have a tremendous effect and are included on the evil tree. Furthermore, the wrong modeling of adoptive parents may bring additional temptation for one to participate in the iniquities of their forefathers. For example, maybe your birth mother was a drug addict and your adoptive mother is also a drug addict. The temptation of drug addiction may be doubled for you.

8. "I have gone once through the breaking of curses, but I still find myself falling back into the same old habits. What should I do?"

ANSWER: First, one may need to continue to break the curses over an extended period of time before the results become manifested. Second, the breaking of generational curses may be only one piece of the puzzle.

9. "What are word curses? Why do I need to break them and how?"

ANSWER: Word curses are negative statements that people who are in authority over you have spoken about

you as a person. Word curses are blows against your identity which the powers of the enemy (Satan) would desire to fulfill in your life. I have found that it is not uncommon that the attack will come at the point of God's purpose for one's life. We must remember that Satan is the "accuser" of the brethren (Revelation 12:10).

We need to declare what God's Word says about us. For example, God's Word says that we, as Believers, are Saints, Children of God, which can hear and obey His voice. Therefore, we should denounce anything to the contrary. We are not unrighteous, but righteous in Christ. We are not stupid, but wiser than our enemies. Of course, we should validate each truth with the Word. For example: "In the name of Jesus, I break the word curse spoken over me that said that I couldn't do anything right. I declare that I can do anything that God would have me to do. In Philippians 4:13 God says, 'I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.' Furthermore, I declare that God's Word is higher than the words of the curse. Amen."

Another example would be that we are not condemned, but free from the law of sin and death. The Scripture would be, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:1-1).

Notes

Chapter Three

1. Burton Stokes and Lynn Lucas, **No Longer A Victim** (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image Publishers, 1988), p. 25.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.

Chapter Four

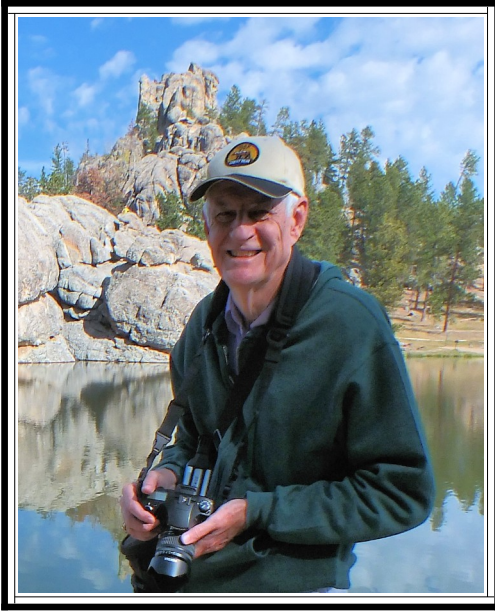
1. Marilyn Hickey, **Break The Generation Curse** (Denver, CO: Marilyn Hickey Ministries, 1989), pp. 1-14.
2. Ibid., p. 65.

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Dr. Basil Frasure is a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ and has served as an Ordained Minister and also as an Elder in the church. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in Bible and a minor in Sociology, a Master of Divinity Degree in Theology, and a Doctorate Degree in Christian Counseling. He has pastored and taught the Word both in churches and in prisons.

Basil unashamedly applies Biblical principles in a unique compassionate ministry of leading people through the healing of emotional wounds; however, he also ministers effectively in bringing freedom to those facing the most difficult habits. He has a Holy Spirit led ministry with a high degree of success in helping people receive and apply the truth of the Word.

Basil is married, has three daughters, and twelve grandchildren. He has a strong conviction about the permanency of marriage and the blessing of children. Basil also enjoys traveling and photography.

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." (Titus 2:13-15)

If you have received **benefit** from reading this book, please email me and let me know. Please consider **praying** for this ministry.

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