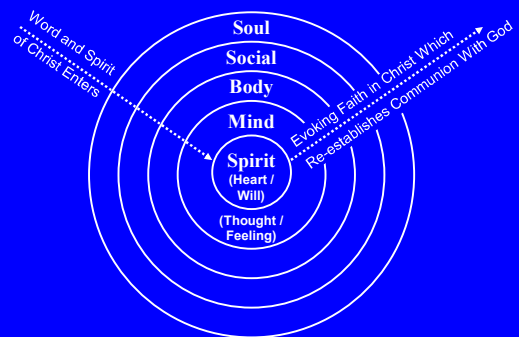


HEALING THE HEART AND LIFE BY WALKING WITH JESUS CHRIST DAILY: IV

A Series Of Studies In
The Reality Of Spiritual Life
Here And Now

1

Our Basic Theme: Bringing Christ into All Dimensions of Our Life



2

To This Point We Have Focused Upon the Will and the Mind (Thought and Feelings)

- ❖ Worship is intense focusing of a surrendered will, with mind and feelings, on the greatness and goodness of God.
- ❖ In the midst of worship we stand secure against sin and evil. In the moment, it is the most powerful discipline of all.
- ❖ We can learn to live there, which is what Paul did: "I have learned to be content no matter what."

3

My Portion Is The Lord

"Whom have I in heaven but Thee?
And besides Thee, I desire nothing on
earth. My flesh and my heart may
fail, but God is the strength of my
heart and my portion forever."

(Ps. 73:25-26. See also Ps. 16:5-6,
119:57 & 165, and 142:5).

4

Now We Look At The Body And Relations To Others

1. In this life these always go together. The human body is essentially social, and social relations are essentially bodily.
2. They together create the world that forms us as we enter as infants, an already moving flow of life that takes us into its flow. This is basically a good thing. But not entirely.

5

What Is Our Body?

- ❖ Potential energy available to us to act with.
- ❖ "Made for the Lord." I Cor. 6:13-20
- ❖ To be His temple, indwelt by Him.
- ❖ Degraded by sin. Rom. 1:26-27
- ❖ Quickened by the redeeming Spirit. Rom. 8:11-13

6

Its Tendencies Embody Our Character and Our Experience:

- ❖ This is basically a good thing, a God created arrangement. We could not live without it.
- ❖ But when our character and experience is not good, then evil acts “automatically” in our body and in our bodies together in society.
- ❖ That is why so much of human life seems to be out of control. Strictly, it is.
- ❖ “The body is dead because of sin.” Rom 8:10

7

Where Sin—Not Sins—Dwells

- ❖ Sin (singular) dwells in our body (its ‘automatic’ responses) and in the ‘automatic’ tendencies of social settings.
- ❖ It is not just that we are *wrong*, we are *wrung*, distorted—*broken!*
- ❖ Far beyond what our unredeemed character and intentions can manage.

8

Peter’s Denials

- ❖ Jesus is here teaching him and us about the power of sin in us and our world. Luke 22:31-34 & 54-62
- ❖ Sin is much deeper than Sins, *and it is sin, not sins, that must be dealt with in the healing of the broken life by walking with Jesus.*

9

By Contrast, JESUS

- ❖ “The ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.” (John 14:30)
- ❖ There was nothing in Jesus—remember our circle diagram—which Satan could get ahold of, in his attempt to keep Jesus from the Cross.
- ❖ The great struggle in the garden was a struggle to *get to* the cross, not to avoid it. (Heb. 5:7)
- ❖ Satan’s last chance to stop him.

10

The Two Main Social Sins

- ❖ Attack and Withdrawal are the two main forms of sin in social relations, relations to others.
- ❖ The story of the “Good Samaritan” (Luke 10:30-37) illustrates both, and what should replace these forms of lovelessness —“compassion.”

11

Already In Our Bodies

- ❖ Normal social relations show our bodies poised to attack and withdraw.
- ❖ Think of where contempt and anger and looking to lust and envy and resentment are located. “Body language.” What we do “without thinking.”
- ❖ Our “belly” our god (Rom. 16:18), or a source of “living water” (John 4:14, 7:38)

12

Not Getting On The Conveyor Belt To Sin

- ❖ The people wise in Christ and graced by His presence know what is going on within them and around them.
- ❖ The old ques to sin are now ques to avoid it.
- ❖ For example: contempt, anger, lies, gossip, theft, sex, “pecking order.”
- ❖ We learn how to “not go there.”

13

Preparation For This

- ❖ Assurance that I am not “missing out” by not sinning.
- ❖ Having decided to not sin.
- ❖ Taking care of my body.
- ❖ Training it in righteousness: “If you through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, you shall live.” (Rom. 8:13; see 6:12-14)

14

Training The Body:

- ❖ Means not using it as a pleasure and power source to manage your kingdom/queendom.
- ❖ Means allowing more than adequate physical rest.
- ❖ Means having times when you do nothing.
- ❖ Practicing surrender of it to the Lord:
 - In worship
 - In service to others
 - In simply doing the right thing

15

In Christian Groups

- ❖ Totally eliminate attack and withdrawal.
- ❖ Dare to be really present to others before the Lord.
 - Don’t hurry.
 - Listen more than you talk.
 - Expect from the Lord, not people
 - “I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.” (1 Cor. 2:2)

16

- ❖ Christian groups have been said to be the only army that shoots its wounded.
- ❖ When one comes among disciples of Jesus—two or three gathered in his name—the one thing they should be completely assured of is that they would not face attacks and distancing.
- ❖ This is a great grace, but must be learned through discipleship to Jesus. Consciously chosen and practiced under leadership.

17

I Corinthians 13

- ❖ For the next two weeks, please meditate twice daily on I Cor. 13.
- ❖ The best thing would be to memorize it, and, as you do so, constantly turn it in your mind as you go through the day, drive to work, stand in line, etc.
- ❖ Or do you have something better to do?
- ❖ Frank Laubach’s “Game with Minutes.”

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