

Session One: A True Foundation for Life

† The God Of All Hope (Affirmation Of Rom. 15:13)

† Reasons The Enemy Hates Us

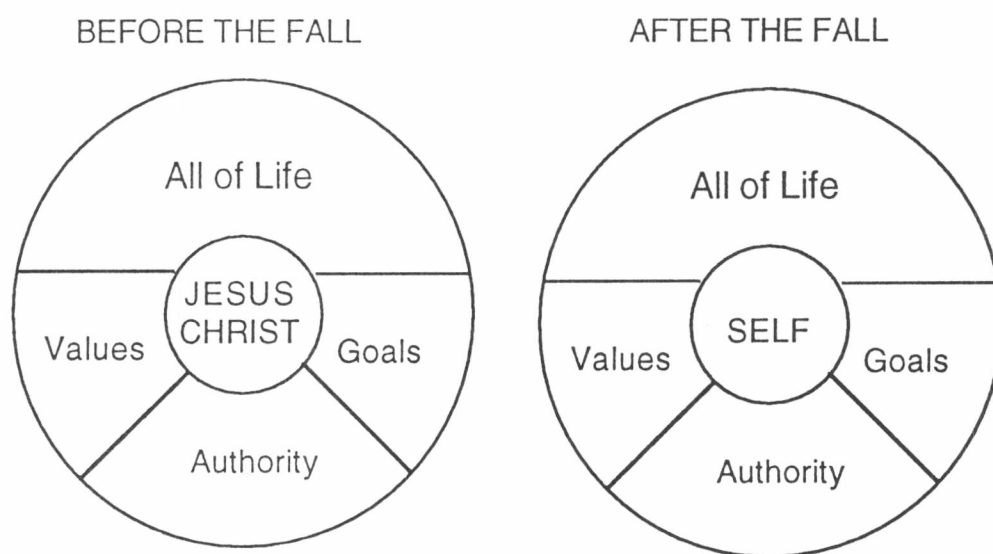
† Important Foundational Truths

- ☐ God Made You
- ☐ God Made You For Himself
- ☐ God Made You And Designed You To Enjoy Him
- ☐ God Made You So He Could Pour Out His Love Into You
- ☐ God Made You So You Could Enjoy Him And His Love
- ☐ God Made You So He Could Enjoy You Enjoying His Love
- ☐ God Made You To Glorify Him As You Enjoyed Him

† How God Made Us

A Person
A Spirit Person
Designed by God to receive His love
in Worship, love and service.

† How the Fall Distorted God's Design



† Getting Help Through Healing Prayer (James 5:16)

† Understanding the Battle We Are In

Your Enemy and His Plan for You

☐ Dry Up Your Power Sources
(Prayer, Bible, Growth)

☐ Distort the Truth:

Regarding God

Regarding the Bible

Regarding Yourself

Regarding the Church

Regarding Life

Regarding Himself

Condition of Many Believers



WONDERFUL TRUTHS

Grace
Love
Peace
Joy
Prayer

Power
Growth
Fellowship
Service
Worship

† Why Jesus Came: His Mission (Lk 4:18 - 19)

† Understanding True Christianity

The Meaning of Christianity

- ☐ Christianity is a Person
(Therefore a Relationship)
- ☐ Christianity is a Revelation
(Therefore an Authority)
- ☐ Christianity is a Redemption
(Therefore a Dynamic)

† A Necessary Perspective: The Priority of the Spiritual

God chose you and He made you for His own enjoyment -- so He could pour out His love into your life and so you could enjoy Him.

If God did not want you, you would not be here. And, if you are a believer, He totally accepts you for simply WHO you are. You do not need to, nor can you by any means, make yourself more acceptable to Him. You can please Him more and more by what you do, but He does not accept you because you please him.

God made you like Himself; He was your pattern. Therefore, you are a person with many rights and great ability. And the kind of a person you are is that you are like the kind of person that God is -- spirit. You are not basically mind, emotions, will, body or a social person. Your greatest need, value, potential and gifts are all in that spirit area.

God made you and redeemed you so He could give HIMSELF to you. He wants you to know that He accepts you, loves you, and desires to bless you, without any reservation or limit. His acceptance, love and desire are of an infinite (unlimited) kind, and He has all the resources of Heaven (infinity) to do what He wants to do -- bless you. God is not stingy. His desire to bless you and meet your deepest need is beyond your wildest imagination. Jesus Christ came for you, died for you, and offers Himself to you. The enemy is dead set against you learning these truths.

God wants you to simply receive Him, in His love, care, blessing, grace, Word and in the loving care of His people and their healing prayer. He wants you to experience more of Him everyday. You may never have received Him, or know very much about Him in your experience because you approach Him and His love analytically. Believe me, God will never violate your personality or your mind. He will never manipulate you. However, you must come to the place of believing what God knows what you need far better than you do and learn to abandon yourself to Him and let Him love you. We do not understand or experience love by rational analysis.

God wants to bless you in spite of how you feel. And, it is your feelings that may be standing in the way. You, like all of us, probably feel guilty, proud, dirty, ugly, and ashamed. Because you feel that way, you interpret the Word God has given you on the basis of your feelings. You do not do that for other people, but you usually will do that when you read that Bible and apply it to yourself. So, when you read that God wants to bless you with His joy (John 15:11; Romans 15:13) and you do not feel joyful or even hopeful, the verses seem irrelevant, mocking to you, and you pass over them. What you are doing is interpreting the Bible on the basis of the scars across your soul! It is these scars that control you through your emotions. Most of the time it is not your mind (what you know as truth) that controls you. It is usually your emotions. And, the enemy may be reaching into your life through those emotions, as well as in other ways.

Perhaps your very first step is to understand the above, face up to the lies being given you by your emotions and your enemy, be willing to receive healing prayer and ask God to come and find you and rescue you.

You may need to repent for any idolatry. In the Fall Satan deceived Adam and Eve and led them, and through them the whole human race,

into bondage to himself. We are born into the world in that bondage. You may, even as a believer, have areas in your life in which you are in bondage to him and his kingdom. Superstition, seeking healing in non-Biblical ways, believing and practicing error, giving people and things control over your life (greed is idolatry Col. 3:5) indicate only a few of these areas. You do need to learn of your enemy and how to resist him.

† Developing a Proper (True) World-and-Life-View

The Description of Reality

GOD (Infinite Being)

Eternal, All Powerful, All Knowing,
Everywhere Present,
Holy Love, Faithful
The Living God of Truth

Creation (Finite Being)

The Fallen World

Universe
Natural Law
Mankind
Fallen Angels
Hell

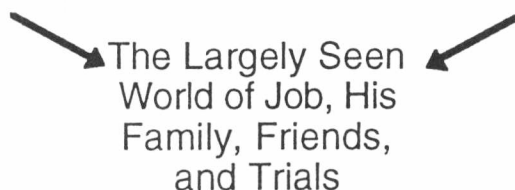
The Unfallen World

Good Angels
Spiritual Laws
Heaven
Glorified Believers

The “Worlds of Reality” Reflected in Job

The Largely Unseen
and Most Powerful
World of the Kingdom
of God and His Plan

The Largely Unseen
and Somewhat Powerful
World of the Kingdom of
Satan and His Plan



The Bible shows we can only understand Job and his trials by knowing how the “worlds” interrelate

This is the true condition for every believer. Ignorance of this truth makes one vulnerable to error and failure.

Biblical passages on the unseen spiritual war:

2 Cor 4:17 ff

Eph 2:1 ff

Eph 6:10 ff

† What’s Going on Behind the Scenes? (Gen 3:15)

1. The First Announcement of Redemption--Gen 3:15

Walter Kaiser in *Toward an Old Testament Theology*, pp36-37, states we have here a “Divinely implanted hostility. . . an enmity between the serpent and the woman [and] between your [serpent’s] seed and her seed.” He goes on to show that “seed” is a “collective” concept so that we have each representing a group -- those who belonged to the seed of the woman [the Lord Jesus] and those who belonged to the seed of the serpent [Satan]. He said, “History was not a contest between mere mortals, it was simultaneously a supernatural battle for domination, and Satan had his own succession of tyrants corresponding to God’s Davidic line as well as his climactic person, the tyrant of all tyrants.”p.240

In this important passage we have an explanation of the pattern history will always reflect. It will be a contest between God and his own (represented by the seed of the woman) and Satan and his own (represented by his seed). Notice how clearly this is further explained in Eph 2:12;6:12; Thes 2:3-14; and Rev 12.

We also have presented in this passage a description of what the redeeming work of Jesus Christ (the seed of the woman) is all about. He was born into the world and died on the cross in an act of substitution whereby Satan (the serpent and his seed) were defeated. Notice how this is summarized in 1Jn 3:8.

2. The Instructive Disclosure of a Larger Context to a Believer's Suffering - Job

From the book of Job we are led to understand that the battlefield between God and Satan is found in the life of Christians. While we cannot say that the dimension found in Job is true for all our trials, we must say all our trials reflect in some way the "contest" spoken of by Kaiser.

In considering these passages we must always keep in mind that Satan, while allowed by God some freedom to exercise his power, is but a fallen angel. In reality, with all his demons, is being used by God to carry out a divine purpose.

3. The Description of Destructive Power Behind Double-Minded Rulers-King Saul

In 1 Sam 15 we have a reminder of the serious nature of disobedience (vv22,23). King Saul, undoubtedly a believer, chose more and more to do his own will instead of the will of God. The shocking result is presented in 16:14; 18:10; 19:9; 1 Sam 28; and 1 Chron 10:13,14.

When Satan sees an opportunity to infiltrate a person, a family, a church, or a nation, deception is always used to hide his work. This was undoubtedly true for King Saul. How different the end of his life was from its beginning (see 1 Sam 10:6-11; 11:6; 15:17). Who in their right mind, would have made such foolish and self-destructive choices, when the issues were so obvious? How horrified he must have been after death when he realized what he had done -- and wonderfully he could have lived and served!