

## Session III: How We Get Into The Red Zone: Roots of Bitterness

### A. God's Design For Life is perfect health, safety, blessing, peace

– I Pet 2:24; Matt 8:17; 3 John 2; Philippians 4:4-9

#### ┌ God of the Old Covenant

- I will be your God, You will be My people
- I will remember your sins and iniquities no more
- Do the law (it will keep you out of sin and exploitation by the devil)
- Results: No feeble knees, worn out shoe soles, and free food every day for 40 years!

#### ┌ God of the New Covenant

- I will be your God, You will be My people
- I will remember your sins and iniquities no more
- I will write My Word on the fleshly tables of your heart
  - The Word is Jesus – an active relationship is everything – Rev 3:14-21
  - Matt 4:4 – live by every *rhema* word that proceeds out of His mouth
  - Psalm 91:1-9 – learn to dwell in the secret place of the Most High
  - Deut 28:1-14 – the blessings of living by hearing and obeying His voice
  - Deut 28:15-68 – the cursings of not living by hearing His voice and obeying. Take an inventory. There IS an answer!
- Results: Blessings, peace, prosperity PLUS all the benefits of the old covenant

- ┌ All these blessings come from cultivating a close, personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and God will do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think when this relationship is growing!

Further Study References (see last page):

1. *Dining At The Master's Table: Learning To Hear The Voice of the Lord* (Norcross)
2. *The Voice Upon The Waters* (Norcross)
3. *Turning Curses Into Blessings* (Fox)
4. *Breaking The Authority Of The Bastard Curse* (Fox/Norcross)
5. *Succeeding In Spiritual Warfare: Lessons From Joshua* (Norcross)
6. *In The Secret Place* (Norcross)

### B. When Things Go Wrong

#### ┌ Spirit, Soul, Body – a hierarchy of authority I Thess 5:23

- Spirit – houses your will, the place of highest decision-making
  - You willed to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord
  - Jesus Christ re-manufactured your spirit to become Christ's Spirit, the gift of the Holy Spirit within you
  - It is an eternal life spirit
  - It provides access, communication, and empowerment to and from the Spirit of God – John 7:37-38; Acts 1:8; I Cor 12:7-11

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- To be able to do Proverbs 3:5-6 **REQUIRES** an active relationship through the Spirit with the Lord
- Soul – houses your personality, emotions, thoughts, reasoning, intellect
  - People are to lead it captive to the obedience (Spirit) of Christ (2 Cor 10:3-6); and renew it day by day (Eph 4:22-32; Rom 12:1-3) by allowing the written Word of God to change and perfect their thoughts (2 Tim 3:16-17; James 1:21; Hebrews 12:1-3) thereby perfecting their souls so as to be in alignment under the authority of the Spirit of Christ that is within them (Romans chapter 8).
  - The power of positive thinking, cybernetics, positive confession/affirmation, etc. are secular applications of the Biblical principle that the mind carries a great deal of (but nowhere near all!) authority over physical things.
  - Most people “live” in their thoughts, and allow their thoughts to control them
- Body – the physical vessel which houses the soul and the spirit.
  - The body is subject to (must obey) the soul (i.e. the mind) just as the mind must be disciplined to obey the spirit
  - Mind over matter is another worldly application of the Biblical principle that things of the physical body must bow to the next higher realm such as the mind.
  - Usually characterized by auto-triggers to stimuli such as hunger, fight or flight, sexual lust, heat, cold, etc.

] Where Are You Living? Check your fruit (Gal 5:16-25) – is it fleshly or is it the love, joy peace.... of the Spirit?

So When Things Go Wrong – it is usually a result of misalignment (imbalance) in one of these three arenas –

- Spirit – becomes imbalanced/broken relationship with God (such as happens when a person sins)
- Or the Soul – becomes imbalanced/broken relationship with the Spirit (such as happens when the mind chooses to disobey or neglect the word of God)
- Or the Body – becomes imbalanced/broken relationship with the soul (such as happens when the lusts of the body over control what the mind and the Spirit know is truth/right behavior)
- No rocket science in these thoughts except....they each impact our ability to carry out the great commandment (Matt 26:36-40; Mark 12:28-34). The great commandment tells us to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart (spirit), soul (including the mind), and strength (body). Thus an imbalance in either spirit, soul, or body affects one’s ability to obey the great commandment.

] Roots of Bitterness – an amazingly effective stealth weapon of satan

- Satan’s “ministry” is John 10:10a

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- He was cast down, and has no spiritual authority of his own (Col 2:10-15; Gen 3:14-15)
- To gain advantage over believers, satan must have legal access/authority
- He gets this authority most often from believers. How? By working in the soulish realm (into which he was cast down – Gen 3:14; Rev 12:9-17; Col 2:6-15)
  - 2 Cor 2:7-11 – unforgiveness enables satanic authority to gain an advantage (*pleonekteo* = to gain a superior position) over us
  - Eph 4:26-27 – unresolved anger gives satan place (*topos* = territory) in your life
  - Heb 12:11-15 – satan gets YOU to establish a root of bitterness in your soul which defiles (*miaino* = to stain, dye, pollute) you
  - This gives satan the legal permission to quietly pollute God's people, taking territory in their souls.
- Thus, a root of bitterness is one means of legal access that a person gives to satan each time that person chooses to hold onto a negative emotion (such as anger, resentment, hatred, disappointment, deep regret, etc.) towards any other person.
  - Any broken relationship involving a painful emotion or memory always involves sufficient unforgiveness to enable satan to gain a lasting advantage which can only be broken by repentance and forgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15; I John 1:3-9) in order to restore fellowship with the Father, with Jesus Christ, and with other believers.
  - Put in another way if there is a pain in any memory, there will be always root of bitterness behind it, keeping it alive and emotionally hurtful in your heart.
  - Broken relationships towards people or God are at the heart of every unforgiveness, and
  - behind every unforgiveness there is a root of bitterness which defiles the soul.
  - A broken relationship will always show up in unforgiveness and negative emotion (such as anger, resentment, disappointment, notable indifference, etc.) toward either:
    1. God
    2. Others
    3. Self

**Roots of bitterness cause people to live IN THE RED ZONE!!!**

**They fester like a cancer to defile the soul, which then negatively affects the whole body:**

*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine [i.e. a cure or healing]: but a broken [stricken or wounded] spirit drieth the bones [where the body's immune system is manufactured].*

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*Proverbs 17:22*

**A compromised immune and/or endocrine system is a primary factor in most illnesses  
(including cancer)**

(and you thought it was all because of because of a bad diet, genes, and poor exercise)

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