

Some Practical Tips on the Subject of

COUNSELLING AND DELIVERANCE

By Rodney W. Francis

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FOREWORD:

I met Rodney for the first time at a men's ministry night at the "Elim Christian Church," (Howick, Auckland, NZ), back in the year 2000. Since that time I have been involved in "The Gospel Faith Messenger" Ministry with him. I have witnessed Rodney and Jean's dedication to the ministry and their obedience to the voice of God, to go and to do what God has called them to do, to minister into the nations of the world.

In this Manual, Rodney teaches on practical principals of Counselling and Deliverance. The material covered in this handbook equips every Counsellor, Believer and Leader that is serious about the ministry of making people whole. This important subject is a growing need within the body of Christ and our communities today.

With over 45 years of ministry experience, Rodney is well qualified to present this effective handbook. He has ministered Counselling and Deliverance with increasing authority - and a powerful prophetic insight - that discerns the specific needs. Rodney emphasizes the love and compassion needed that will release the captive into liberty, freedom and healing in the Holy Spirit.

Over a number of years I have also been involved in the ministry of Deliverance, and I believe more and more Christians will benefit from the knowledge on this vital subject as countless have been set free - and are being set free by a practical, "down to earth" Biblical approach to the needs of many people.

Len Buttner

Prophetic Ministry, and

Trustee: "The Gospel Faith Messenger" Ministry.

INTRODUCTION:

The following material and principles are that which I teach on the subject of "Counselling and Deliverance." They are a sincere attempt to present a balanced, Bible-based, Christian method to help those who are in genuine need of help, and also incorporates the importance of exercising the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12) in the meeting of the needs of the people. They are by no means complete. Counselling covers a vast area of demand in society today, and the methods or ways by which Counsellors operate can vary greatly. Those who counsel, therefore, should not be afraid to have the hard questions asked of us as to our credibility, accountability, church commitment, Pastoral acknowledgement, etc. If we want to see those coming for counselling effectively ministered to, then it certainly helps their confidence if they know we are ministering in a creditable way to the Glory of God and His Kingdom. We have discovered that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as laid out in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 are a great advantage in helping people find real answers to their varied problems. The Holy Spirit knows best what is the "root cause" of our problems and, if we allow Him to direct and guide us, He will show us the way to gain the victory.

May these Seminar notes prove to be very beneficial to you in your life and Christian Ministry.

~ Rodney W. Francis.

Chapter 1 **INTRODUCTION TO COUNSELLING AND DELIVERANCE**

By Rodney W. Francis.

THE SUBJECT OF "Counselling And Deliverance" is vast. It can bring you face to face with distraught and needy people who have problems that are giving them a life-style that is not normal. There has to be some positive answers from those of us who call ourselves "Christian," as the Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about the healing and "putting together" those lives that have been "wrecked" by the devil and/or the circumstances of life. This Manual seeks to look at what makes people like they are, and how we can effectively help them to come to know a more abundant life-style in Jesus Christ.

We live in a problem-orientated world. Many of those problems - and the people with them - can be very complex indeed. If they have not crossed your path already, sooner or later they will. Problems often drive people to churches to find help. They believe (or feel) that

God is somewhere to be found with an answer for them, and you are that person or leader that should be able to help them.

MY INTRODUCTION TO COUNSELLING AND DELIVERANCE MINISTRY

- In 1976 God spoke to me, saying, "I am going to teach you how to love people." This shocked me, as I had already been a Pentecostal preacher for 16 years! God began to send to me "problem" people; those whose life-styles and habits I previously could not tolerate!
- I had to change my attitudes and thinking about those people!
- This stirred up legalistic and judgmental Christians against me, who began to point the finger and criticize me for my involvement with such people.
- Self-styled "prophets" began "dropping heavy words" on me, to try to influence and/or manipulate me to stop those "problem people" from coming into the church for help. They said I was "defiling the sanctuary." (I could not believe that that attitude was prevailing amongst the Christian community, but I soon learnt that it was there in some).
- God gave me a real love for the unlovely, and we saw good results in the lives of the people seeking help. (Out of the above experiences came my book, **"You Can Measure Your Love For God,"** which has blessed and impacted many people).

In commencing this teaching, I want to start with the most important challenge of all to those of us who are involved in ministering to others, or who have a desire to become more involved. **Our motivation for all ministry in the name of Jesus must be LOVE – LOVE for God and LOVE for people.** Without that we will not be able to correctly discern the root cause of many problems, because of our prejudices, bigotry, lack of acceptance of the people, etc.

Chapter 2 NOTHING WITHOUT LOVE!

All around the world today the Christian message is being challenged by false religions, Satanic cults, modernistic beliefs and anti-Bible teachings right within our churches, and a secular, humanistic, God-rejecting society. These false-belief systems are all producing negative results within people, which then propagate huge needs within their lives and families – spiritual needs, emotional needs and physical needs. This surely must be cause for us to rethink our priorities on what is expected of us Christians in our day-to-day living. If we are going to combat these negativities and bring some positive answers to people, it is very important that we know God's order of priority for us. He has made that very clear in His Word. **We are nothing without love!** This love is much more than our love for God – it must also include a great love for one another, and for all people! This is what the Bible says:

- ***"And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a***

clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-3, NIV).

- ***“Pay all your debts except the debt of love for others – never finish paying that! For if you love them, you will be obeying all of God’s laws, fulfilling all His requirements. If you love your neighbour as much as you love yourself you will not want to harm or cheat him, or kill him or steal from him. And you won’t sin with his wife or want what is his, or do anything else the Ten Commandments say is wrong. All ten are wrapped up in this one, to love your neighbour as you love yourself. Love does no wrong to anyone. That’s why it fully satisfies all of God’s requirements. It is the only law you need”*** (Romans 13:8-10, TLB).
- ***“Whoever loves his brother [believer] abides (lives) in the Light, and in It or in Him there is no occasion for stumbling or cause for error or sin”*** (1 John 2:10, AMP.).

No matter which way we try and interpret the Bible, when we look at the clear teachings of Jesus on how we should serve Him, it always comes back to **how we love and serve one another**. We are told that it is possible for us to rise to great spiritual heights in being able to:

- Speak with the tongues of men and angels
- Have the gift of prophecy
- Understand all mysteries
- Have all knowledge
- Have all faith to remove mountains
- Give to feed the poor
- Even give our body to be a burnt sacrifice – BUT!

But if we do not love one another it is all a waste of time! As far as God is concerned we are NOTHING WITHOUT LOVE! Love is the key to every Christian answer! (See 1 Corinthians 13).

Jesus said the world would know we are His disciples by our love for one another:

- ***“And so I am giving a new commandment to you now – love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are My disciples”*** (John 13:34-35, TLB).

It is not by our church attendance, good works, sound doctrine (teaching), our preaching, or our ability to speak fluently in tongues, or to prophesy, **but by our love – “our love” must be a STRONG LOVE! Love fulfils all of God’s requirements for us!** (Love must be the motivating force of those afore-mentioned very good things.) The questions have got to be asked:

- **Why do we Christians spend so much time giving attention to the lesser things of life, and so little time to the more important things?**

- Is it because we struggle to build close personal relationships with other people?
- Are we afraid to genuinely love other people?

Why do we not believe what Jesus teaches us? If it is true that we are nothing without love, then it must also be true that we are everything with love! The Bible directly apportioned our love for Him as being only as great as our love for one another. We cannot say we love God Who we have not seen, if we do not genuinely love our brother and sister who we have seen. That is the clear command of Scripture:

- ***“If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother”*** (1 John 4:20-21, NIV).

There is no other way than this. Relationship with God is only as strong as our relationship with people. (It is also true that our trusting of God is only as great as we can trust people.) The reality of the spiritual realm is worked out in the natural realm we live in. We cannot say we love God and, at the same time, hate people:

- ***“We know that we have passed over out of the death into the Life by the fact that we love the brethren, [our fellow Christians]. He who does not love abides – remains, is held and kept continually – in [spiritual] death. Any one who (abominates, detests) hates his brother [in Christ] is [at heart] a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding (persevering) within him. By this we come to know – progressively to recognize, to perceive, to understand the [essential] love: that He laid down His [own] life for us; and we ought to lay [our] lives down for [those who are our] brothers [in Him]”*** (1 John 3:14-16, AMP.).

We are called to lay down our life for one another – every bit as much as we are commanded to lay down our life for Jesus! I find it amazing that there are religious zealots in the world today who are willing and prepared to lay down their physical lives for a lost cause, while often we Christians are not even willing and prepared to live for ours! The truth we have in Jesus must make us willing to live and die for! Otherwise we have to question how real Jesus really is in within us?

Those who have heard my testimony know that God had to teach me how to love people. Even though I had been a Pentecostal preacher for 16 years, I still did not know how to genuinely love and relate to people. Yet in that time I spent hours and hours seeking the face of God, pouring over the pages of my Bible, never missed a church meeting, etc. But it was not what the Lord was really looking for. **He wanted me to learn the priority of how to love people!** That is His Number One requirement of us.

God used different kinds of people to change my heart and attitudes, so I could express love to the unlovely, so I could relate to people I could not relate to previously (and did not know how to!). After several years of being tested and changed (which included three death contracts on my life from the Satanists over a five year period!), God taught me a

whole new way of ministry. It has caused me to see life and the Christian Ministry in a whole new light. The result has been marvellous. I have the joy of travelling the world and releasing this wonderful love of God into scores of people. They get impacted and transformed by an impartation of God's love through me.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LOVE?

In the New Testament the Greek word most commonly used to express love is "agape." "Agape" love "is self-denying and compassionately devoted to its object; love in its fullest conceivable form . . . toward God, the brethren, and all" (Bullinger's).

- **What is love?** It is behaviour that is self-denying.
- **What is love?** It is behaviour that is compassionately devoted to its object (the "object" being other people).
- **What is love?** It is behaviour that is fully devoted in its expression toward God, toward other Christian believers, and toward all the unsaved.

Love enables us to put ourselves in to the other person's shoes. The dictionary has this to say:

- "To have a great attachment to and affection for . . . an intense emotion of affection, warmth, fondness and regard towards a person or thing" (Collins).
- "An intense feeling of deep affection or fondness for a person or thing; great liking . . . a beloved one . . . delight in; admire; greatly cherish; greatly enjoy" (Oxford).
- "Love is the pre-eminent virtue inculcated ("to instil by forceful or insistent repetition" - Collins) and produced by Christianity. The whole law is summed up in love, not in the sense of rendering all other requirements nugatory ("of little value" - Collins), but in the sense that love is fundamental, and expresses the spirit of all others, and with enlightenment will lead to the observance of all others (see Matthew 22:37-39; 5:43-48; John 14:15, 21; 15:12-14; Romans 13:8; 1 Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:14). Accordingly love is declared to be the chief test of Christian discipleship (see John 13:35; Matthew 5:44; 1 John 3:14). Also, love is the highest motive or ground of moral actions. Without this all other motives fall short of furnishing the true stimulus of Christian living . . . " (Unger's Bible Dictionary).

Christian – I believe we are absolutely nothing without love. It makes no difference who or what we are, or what position in the church we may hold, whether we are a priest or a pauper, without the love of Jesus flowing out of our heart and life WE ARE NOTHING! And nothing amounts to nothing, no matter how many times we try to multiply it!

- **So, why do we struggle to love our neighbour?**
- **What is it that keeps us "locked up inside of ourselves," hiding behind a religious facade, not able to freely express our love for one another?**

We have to face this issue. We cannot keep suppressing the truth.

- **What is it that stops you from freely expressing your love to others?**
- **Is it fear?** If it is, then ***"perfect love casts out fear"*** (1 John 4:18). Face your fears and deal with them through loving others more.

- **Is it a cultural thing?** If it is, the truth of the Gospel has to become greater than your culture.
- **Is it past hurts and abuses?** If it is, then you have to practice forgiveness toward those who have hurt or abused you, be released from the power of them and their actions, and then to get healed from the affects of them.
- **Is it inferiority?** If it is, then you have to know you are totally accepted by God, rise in the truth of that knowledge, and live to the glory of God – in love. You are not a second-rate citizen!
- **Is it pride?** If it is, then you need to face it and deal with it. We are fools to let pride stand in the way of our ministering God's love to others. ***“Humble yourself in the sight of God . . . ”*** and ***“Be clothed with humility: for God resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble”*** (James 4:10 and 1 Peter 5:5, KJV).

There could be a whole host of things and reasons as to why we struggle to show unreserved and genuine love to others. Whatever they are, we need to face them, deal with them, and then learn to love others as Jesus loves us! That is His commandment to us:

- ***“That you love one another as I have loved you.”***

Now that is a very powerful love, but Jesus said that is the priority. No excuses – no “ifs and buts”!

The power and effectiveness of Holy Spirit ministry, the operation of the nine Spiritual Gifts, the prophetic realm – in fact everything – is only as great as our ability to love other people. All ministry gifts functioning without love have dangerous tendencies. They get misused and abused – and people get hurt and damaged. In “The GFM” Ministry we place a very high priority in ministering in LOVE. It is what makes our prophetic input so powerful. That is why we include this LOVE message in our International Training Schools and Conferences. It is the Number One priority as far as Jesus is concerned. Therefore it has to be our Number One priority as well. We make no apologies for this.

We are taught to ***“love one another with a pure heart fervently*** (“in an outstretched manner”):

- ***“Now that you have, by obeying the truth, made your souls clean enough for a genuine love of your fellows, see that you do love each other, fervently and from the heart. For you are sons of God now; the live, permanent Word of the living God has given you His own indestructible hereditary”*** (1 Peter 1:22-23, J.B. Phillips).

It has to be genuine love – nothing hypocritical – not make believe or a “play act.” Our love for one another has to be real! It has to be so real that we are willing to ***“lay down our lives for one another”*** (1 John 3:14-16)!

- **Is your love for others that strong?**
- **Is mine?**

Each of us has to answer for him or herself.

The message is clear. If we Christians are going to impact our generation for Jesus, then it will be because of our love for one another! The world's answer to everything is "more education"; but God's answer is "MORE LOVE"! Let us not be guilty of hiding behind Bible knowledge (and more Bible education) at the expense of LOVE.

There is no weakness in the Bible kind of love. It does not make us "wishy-washy" people who are blinded to where a person is really at in their life. Love sees the need, sees the potential of the person, and gives us the way to minister to that person without further damage to their spirit, soul or body. People long to be loved and accepted with that pure love of Jesus flowing out of us.

Our generation is love starved!

You and I – the Holy Spirit-filled Christians - have God's answer to that problem, and the answer comes when we demonstrate LOVE in a real way amongst ourselves, and wherever we go. Yes, we can rise to great spiritual heights without love, but we are still nothing. How much better to rise to great spiritual heights immersed in the love of Jesus for others, so that even if they do not understand what we say or believe, they will know our LOVE in a very powerful way.

Why not reach out to someone else right now and tell him or her you love them? Show them you do by giving them a genuine hug to go with it. God bless you!

- ***"We know how much God loves us because we have felt His love and because we believe Him when He tells us that He loves us dearly and anyone who lives in love is living with God and God is living in him. And as we live with Christ, our love grows more perfect and complete; so we will not be ashamed and embarrassed at the Day of Judgment, but can face Him with confidence and joy, because He loves us and we love Him too. We need have no fear of someone who loves us perfectly; His perfect love for us eliminates all dread of what He might do to us. If we are afraid, it is for fear of what He might do to us, and shows that we are not fully convinced that He really loves us. So you see, our love for Him comes as a result of His loving us first. If anyone says, 'I love God,' but keeps on hating his brother, he is a liar; for if he doesn't love his brother who is right there in front of him, how can he love God Whom he has never seen? And God Himself has said that one must love not only God, but his brother too"*** (1 John 4:16-21, TLB).

It is God's first requirement of us!

Recommended reading: **"You Can Measure Your Love For God"** (By Rodney W. Francis). Price within New Zealand (\$15.00), within Malaysia (RM30.00), United Kingdom (7 Pounds) and USA (\$10.00).

Chapter 3

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

The Gospel of Luke 10:25-37 shares with us the healing ministry of the Good Samaritan. It is the story Jesus gave to **“a certain lawyer”** (v.25) who was **“testing Him”** (v.25) and who wanted to know the meaning of who his neighbour was. The scene is that of **“a certain man”** (v.30) travelling between Jerusalem and Jericho, who, on the way, was accosted by a bunch of robbers. They mercilessly stole everything from him – including his clothing – physically beat him up, and left him dying by the side of the road. The man was a victim of being in “the wrong place at the wrong time” and finished up unexpectedly being smashed around and robbed of his possessions. The story is that of a physical experience, but it is also applicable to that which happens when people are “beaten and robbed” in the emotional and spiritual realms as well. They are left on the highway of life **“half dead”** (v.30).

That day, as the innocent victim lay dying on the side of the road, at different times, three people passed by and saw the wounded man in his dilemma. The first was **“a certain priest”** (v.31). The Bible records that that certain priest **“passed by on the other side”** (v.31). Even though supposedly trained in the ways of God, that priest was either unwilling or unable to meet the need of the one lying there in front of him. He quickly made a decision **“to pass by on the other side”** as though he had not seen him. He absolved himself of any responsibility to help someone in desperate and urgent need.

“It is said that not less than 12,000 priests and Levites dwelt at Jericho; and as their business was at Jerusalem, of course there would be many of them constantly travelling on that road” (from Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by Biblesoft).

The second man was **“a Levite”** (v.32). He also **“came and looked, and passed by on the other side”** (v.32).

“The Levites, as well as the priests, were of the tribe of Levi, and were set apart to the duties of religion. The special duty of the priest was ‘to offer sacrifice’ at the temple; to present incense; to conduct the morning and evening services of the temple, etc. The office or duty of the ‘Levites’ was to render assistance to the priests in their services. In the journey of the Israelites through the wilderness, it was their duty to transport the various parts of the tabernacle and the sacred utensils. It was their duty to see that the tabernacle and the temple were kept clean; to prepare supplies for the sanctuary, such as oil, incense, wine, etc. They had also the care of the sacred revenues, and after the time of David they conducted the sacred ‘music’ of the temple service, Numbers 8:5-22; 1 Chronicles 23:3-5, 24-32; 24:27-31 (from Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by Biblesoft).

“Priest and Levite are mentioned here, partly because they were the most frequent travellers on this road, and partly to show that these were the persons who, from the nature of their office, were most obliged to perform works of mercy; and from whom a person in distress had a right to expect immediate succour and comfort; and their inhuman conduct here was a flat breach of the law, Deuteronomy 22:1-4”
(from Adam Clarke's Commentary).

Regarding the phrase, **“Came and looked on him”**: It is remarked by critics, here, that the expression used does not denote, as in the case of the priest, that he accidentally saw him and took no farther notice of him, but that he came and looked on him more attentively, but still did nothing to relieve him (from Barnes' Notes).

Both men should have stopped and helped the wounded man. But neither did. Their religion had no heart for a practical outworking of the reality of actually being able to help another in desperate need. **They had religion but not reality! They had theories but no answers!**

The third man to pass by the wounded man was ***“a certain Samaritan”*** (v.33). ***“When he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine . . . ”*** (v.34).

That Samaritan was the least “qualified” to bring help to the wounded man. The Samaritans were “despised” by the Jews, and so did not have “acceptability” in the community – ***“For Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans”*** (John 4:9).

“Samaritan is mentioned merely to show that he was a person from whom a Jew had no right to expect any help or relief, because of the enmity which subsisted between the two nations” (from Adam Clarke's Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1996 by Biblesoft).

The least, and the least expected, was the one who responded to the seen need. The Good Samaritan had no “reputation” to live up to – as he had none amongst the Jews – and so he was really free to follow his own heart of compassion. Compassion had taught him how to respond to the need, and what to do. He carried with him the necessary ingredients to bring healing, restoration and life to the wounded man. The Good Samaritan carried “oil and wine” and he knew how to use it. He poured them on to the man’s wounds.

Why Did The Good Samaritan Use Oil?

Its three principal uses among the Hebrews were:

- To anoint the body so as to mollify the skin, heal injuries, and strengthen muscles (Psalm 104:15; 109:18; 141:5; Isaiah 1:6; Luke 10:34; 2 Chronicles 28:15; Mark 6:13; James 5:14).
- As we use butter, as food (Numbers 11:8; 1 Kings 17:12; 1 Chronicles 12:40; Ezekiel 16:13,19; Hosea 2:5).
- To burn in lamps (Exodus 25:6; Matthew 25:3). Type of the Holy Spirit's unction (2 Corinthians 1:21; 1 John 2:20,27) and illumination (Zechariah 4:11-12). The supply of grace comes not from a dead reservoir of oil, but through living "olive trees" (from Fausset's Bible Dictionary, Electronic Database Copyright (c)1998 by Biblesoft).

Why Did The Good Samaritan Use Wine?

“Wine is figurative of the blood of Christ (Matthew 26:27-29); of the blessings of the Gospel (Proverbs 9:2,5; Isaiah 25:6; 55:1); of the exhilarating effect of the Holy Spirit's fullness (Ephesians 5:18); of the wrath and judgments of God (Psalm 60:3; 75:8; Jeremiah 13:12-14; 25:15-18); of the abominations of the apostasy (Revelation 17:2; 18:3); of violence (Proverbs 4:17)” (from The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Originally published by Moody Press of Chicago, Illinois. Copyright (c) 1988.)

The Good Samaritan demonstrates to us the importance of being equipped by the Lord Himself to carry with us those necessary ingredients that are able to bring help and healing to others. We never know whom we are going to come across next in our travels, and it is important that we are able to bring positive answers into negative situations. The Good Samaritan not only poured in the oil and the wine, but he bandaged his wounds, and set him on his own animal (means of transport). He did not take away from the man his own “freedom” through making him dependent upon his ongoing help. He took him to an inn where he could rest while the healing virtues of the oil and the wine took effect. He also

financially paid for the cost of the accommodation during the wounded man's recovery period.

Jesus made it very clear that it was the Good Samaritan who was the neighbour to the wounded man – not the religious priest or the religious Levite. The despised Samaritan was held up as an example of a ministry of mercy. Counselling and Deliverance are ministries (often criticized and/or despised) of mercy to those who ***“have fallen among the thieves”*** of this world, and who are in desperate need of being made whole again. True Christian Counselling and Deliverance knows how to apply the ***“oil and the wine”*** of God's truth into the lives of those who seek our help, or of those we come across in our travel through life. The greatest challenge we have is to not only be able to bring healing to people in time, but to see them healed throughout time and eternity. And that takes the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, which is knowing how to apply the ***“oil and the wine!”***

Recommended Reading: **“Divine Healing – A Key To The Growth Of The Christian Church”** (by Rodney W. Francis) Price within New Zealand (\$20.00), within Malaysia (RM35.00), United Kingdom (8 Pounds) and USA (\$15.00).

Now, with the challenge of God's love and mercy in your heart, see how God will use you *“to heal the broken hearted and to set the captives free”* (Isaiah 61:1-4; Luke 4:18-19).

Chapter 4

THE ART OF COUNSELLING AND DELIVERANCE

BE A GOOD LISTENER!

The art of Counselling and Deliverance is to be a good listener. Listen to what the person with the problem is saying to you. Guard against preconceived ideas that lead you to pre-judging that person. Avoid frivolous quoting of Scripture and telling them “to pray more.” That is not what they need at this point. **If you do not listen to their heart you will often miss “the keys” that can unlock them from their bondage.** They come to you because they believe you may be able to help them. Often they are desperate! The problem has caused them to “swallow their pride and self-respect” and come for help. Coming for Counselling is an acknowledgement that they, themselves, have not been able to find an answer. In their seeking to discover your genuineness of desire to help them, they will not tell you the main issues they face (as they are too painful to trust to someone they have not been able to trust as yet). You will most likely need to discern that.

THE PERSON WITH THE PROBLEM:

- Do I as a Counsellor see him/her as a “problem,” or a person for who Christ died, and who in Christ can have total freedom?
- Am I sensitive to his/her sensitivity – and need?
- He/she comes to me because he/she sees in me hope - hope that I will accept and not reject him/her because of his/her problem.

- He/she comes to me because he/she sees in me the possibility of an answer – an end to their problem.
- He/she feels he/she can trust me. (Can you be trusted to “keep safe” that which they share with you in confidence?)
- He/she comes because he/she is motivated by concern that he/she must find an answer to his/her problem.
- He/she comes because he/she has been unable to solve it himself/ herself.
- His/her problem is causing guilt, condemnation, anxiety, frustration, self-rejection, withdrawal into isolation, etc.
- He/she feels I will somehow understand and therefore be able to help him/her come out of his/her dilemma. When we don't understand a person, we gain a wrong impression; our attitude toward them is affected, and the things we then say about, or to them, are often that which can drive them deeper into despair.
- He/she comes, often out of desperation, having to break through the barrier of their personal pride, and admitting defeat. This is not an easy thing to do.

THE FOUNDATION FOR COUNSELLING AND DELIVERANCE

They must see in me:

LOVE:

All Christian Ministry must be firmly based on God's love (1 Corinthians 13). The Greek word for this love is "agape" (noun) and "agapao" (verb) which means: "Love, love that is self-denying and compassionately devoted to its object; love in its fullest conceivable form: towards God, the brethren and all" (Bullinger's). (See Chapter 2 - "Nothing Without Love").

The Good Samaritan (as we have already seen in Chapter 3) is a wonderful example of how to minister to the wounded and fallen (Luke 10:25-37). He knew how to respond, and what to do, ***“pouring in the oil and the wine . . . and taking good care of him.”***

- See also Proverbs 10:12, ***“Love covers all sins.”***
- Proverbs 17:9, ***“He who covers over an offence promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends”*** (NIV).
- Romans 13:9-10, ***“ . . . Love does no harm to its neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law”*** (NIV).
- Galatians 5:13-14, ***“For, you, brethren, have been called to liberty (“freedom to go where one will”); only do not use liberty as an opportunity (“excitement, impulse”) for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbour as yourself”*** (NKJV).
- 1 Peter 4:8, ***“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins”*** (NIV).
- 1 John 3:14-18, ***“We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has***

material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth" (NIV).

We need love! The Scriptures are very clear on this!

COMPASSION:

To have "compassion" means "to show mercy, (more than have compassion), to have the desire of relieving the miserable, to show kindness by beneficence or help." It means to: "suffer with another, to be affected in like manner" (Bullinger's).

In the story of the Prodigal Son, we see that his father had compassion on him, even after he had strayed far from home, "blown" or spent all of his inheritance, etc., and disgraced the family name (Luke 15:11-32). He (the father) demonstrated love, acceptance and forgiveness.

We need compassion!

UNDERSTANDING:

The word, "understand," means: "To realize or grasp something; to perceive, obtain a knowledge of or insight into; to understand what is known."

- Solomon prayed, ***"Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge*** ("act as a magistrate") ***Your people, that I may discern*** ("to cause to understand, instruct; to recognize or perceive differences clearly") ***between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"*** (1 Kings 3:9, NKJV).
- Moses thought the people would have understood God's call on his life: they did not! (Acts 7:25).
- The sons of Issachar were ***"men that had understanding of the times, to know*** ("declare, discern, instruct") ***what Israel ought to do . . ."*** (1 Chronicles 12:32, KJV).
- Proverbs 20:5, ***"Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out"*** (KJV).

We need understanding!

PATIENCE:

To have "patience" means: "To be long suffering, slow to anger; tolerant and even-tempered perseverance; the capacity to endure calmly in trying situations." Patience reveals hope!

- ***"Have patience with me and I will pay you all . . ."*** (Matthew 18:26,29).
- ***"Tribulation*** ("pressure, affliction, distress; to squeeze") ***produces perseverance . . ."*** (Romans 5:3, KJV).

Think of God's patience with us!

Think of God's patience with great men of the Bible, e.g., Abraham, Moses, Jacob, Samson, Eli, Jonah, Peter, Paul, etc. Patience involves time - lots of it!

We need patience!

THE SPIRIT OF MEEKNESS:

“**M**eekness” is “mildness, gentleness, enduring all things with an even temper, free from haughty self-sufficiency, tender of spirit which shows itself in dealing with others.”

- ***“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass*** (“a mishap, a falling aside into sin owing to the weakness of the person, an imperfection, failing or defect, a flaw, a mistake or error; an offence or misdeed”), ***you who are spiritual restore*** (“make fully ready, put in full order, especially that which is broken”) ***such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted*** (“put to the test the same way”)” (Galatians 6:1, NKJV).
- ***“Mercy rejoices against judgment”*** (James 2:13).
- Moses became the meekest man in all the earth (Numbers 12:3)... and one of history's greatest leaders.

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

We need meekness!

GENTLENESS:

“**G**entleness” is “goodness that shows itself in kindness and humility.”

- ***“And the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient”*** (2 Timothy 2:24, KJV).

Put yourself in the shoes of the one who has come to you for help!
Do we turn people away from, or into the Kingdom of God?

We need gentleness!

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

We need to be cultivating the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives daily:

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

Fruit takes time to come to maturity. We must continually allow the Holy Spirit to produce His fruit within us, so we can be more effective in the work of the Lord. Then we will see the following verses of this chapter fulfilled:

- ***“And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another”*** (Galatians 5:24-26, NKJV).

We need to be developing the fruit of the Holy Spirit!

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are "key" weapons that need to be operating in and through our lives when we are involved in a ministry of Counselling and Deliverance. The nine Spiritual Gifts are the Holy Spirit-filled believer's "tools of the Christian trade." They have already been given to us to enable us to minister much more effectively through the power of the Holy Spirit, to help us to get to the root of the problems that bind people. Make sure you know what the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are – then see the importance of having them working out of your life to bless and heal others. You need to **"earnestly desire"** these Spiritual Gifts, as they are given to enable you to build up the people of God, and to minister to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 31). The Gifts of the Holy Spirit enable us to bring "revelation knowledge, discernment and faith" into the situation that can lead on to a wonderful healing and miracle in the life of the person sharing with you. Many problems will never be solved by mere natural or educational knowledge on the subject.

We need to be exercising the Gifts of the Holy Spirit!

A SOUND KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD:

Jesus, in His encounters with Satan, always stood against him by the Word of God (Matthew 4:1-11). And so must we! But we cannot do that unless we have a good knowledge of the Bible, which is God's written yet living Word. It is our responsibility to put that Word of God into our hearts. If we do not, no one else will. Ignorance is not an excuse for us! When the Word of God is in our heart, then the Holy Spirit has something to work on in bringing true revelation to our heart to help us to discern the answers we require in ministering to others (Ephesians 6:17). A good Christian counsellor will be continually reading, feeding and meditating on the Word of God in order to keep growing in the truth of God's revelation to us:

- ***"For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account"*** (Hebrews 4:12-13, NKJV).

We must have a sound knowledge of the Word of God!

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY:

To "take responsibility" is "to care for, nurture, encourage and protect those who come to us for help; especially where there is need for ongoing support to see a person through to the place of wholeness. The Good Samaritan took responsibility for the wounded man he encountered on the side of the road (Luke 10:33-37).

We need to take responsibility to care for others!

TAKE TIME TO BUILD TRUST:

Most people who come to us for Counselling will test or "suss" us out to see whether or not we are genuinely interested in them and their "problem." That trust will not be built in one appointment. It may take a number of appointments, depending on the extent of previous "bad experiences" they have had with sharing their lives in a personal, and often painful way. If we demonstrate a lack of interest in what they are saying, or try to rush through things "to get it over and done with," we may in fact be aggravating and deepening their problem. Most "problem" people feel they are not listened to, nor understood, or that it

is “all in their mind” and they need “to get over it.” We must put ourselves into their shoes. What if it was you sitting on the “receiving end” of what you, your mannerism, and your body language are saying to them?

Are you willing to take the time to build trust?

Recommended Reading: “Counselling And Deliverance” book (by Rodney W. Francis). Price within New Zealand (\$8.00), within Malaysia (RM20.00), United Kingdom (4 Pounds) and USA (\$10.00).

Chapter 5

SEEKING TO DISCERN THE PROBLEM AREA

We shall now look at discovering the “problem” of the person coming to you for counselling, and whatever healing or deliverance that may be necessary. Getting to the root of the problem - and knowing how to minister to that problem accordingly - is very important. There can be a host of reasons as to why people are in the situations they find themselves in. **Listening earnestly and sensitively to the voice of the Holy Spirit at this point can help you to “break through” more quickly.** Here are some areas to look out for. You will need to discover whether or not the problem is:

1. SPIRITUAL?

"Relating to the spirit or soul." If the problem is evil spirit based, then there will need to be the recognition of what spirit is ruling in the life. Providing the one who is inflicted by an evil spirit is willing to be set free of it, you can get them to renounce it in Jesus' name, take authority over it, and cast it out. (Please see Chapter 12 - “Dealing With Evil Spirits”). If it is spiritual, yet not in the evil spirit category, then it will be a matter of guiding the person with the need into more of the way of truth, for it is **“The knowing of the truth that sets people free”** (John 8:31-36). Always remember, Jesus is the way of truth – He is the truth! (John 14:6), and **“Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice,”** Jesus said (John 18:37). His Words are **“spirit and they are life”** (John 6:63).

2. EMOTIONAL?

"Caused, determined or activated by emotions, rather than reason." Emotions are strong feelings, as of joy, sorrow, or fear. In today's world these can be easily damaged. Repeated emotional experiences of the negative kind can eventually destroy a person.

3. A WOUNDED SPIRIT?

This is when a person's spirit becomes damaged and wounded through various happenings in their life. There are many people who are suffering from this today. (Please see Chapter 9 on “A Wounded Spirit”).

4. PSYCHOLOGICAL?

"The mental make-up or structure of an individual that causes him/her to think or act in a way he/she does; relating to the mind." Whether we realize it or not, the pressures of a godless, modernistic and humanistic society are creating an increasing number of psychological problems amongst many today. Many "expectations" placed upon us by family, friends, church, work demands, etc., can often be unrealistic and can lead to things "snapping" in the mind.

5. NATURAL?

"According to human nature." Yes, some problems can be natural problems. Things such as personal weight, looks, poor self-esteem, self-consciousness, failure complex, etc., can all have a negative affect upon a person. Far too many people see themselves as being ugly and/or not as good as others.

6. INHERITED?

"A characteristic through genetic transmission from one generation to another: ancestral." Numbers of problems are caused through generational traits and curses that come down through the family line on either the father or mother's side, or both. This applies especially where there has been witchcraft, demonic cultural practices, sexual immorality, incest, alcohol, drugs, etc.

7. SELF-PITY?

"Sympathy or sorrow felt for one's self, which affects lifestyle negatively: drawing attention to self," etc. Self-inflicted problems can be included here. Sadly, some people actually enjoy self-pity, for the attention it gives them.

8. PRODUCT OF CIRCUMSTANCES?

As we journey through life, from time to time some things happen to us that are right outside of our realm of control. For example: loss of a loved one(s), marriage break-up, family problems, rebellious children, rejection from others, misunderstanding, rape, incest, ritual abuse, physical assault or torture, tragedy, violence and fear.

9. CHURCH RELATED PROBLEMS?

Scores of Christians have been offended, hurt and wounded in their church experiences. For example: lack of friendship and relationship toward and with leaderships and/or church people; rejection through criticism; having been "knocked back" in their usage of talents or Gifts of the Holy Spirit; poor communication that led to hurts being taken on board; an unteachable spirit; a lack of, or wrong understanding of submission to authority; a fear of those in positions of authority; an abuse by those in spiritual authority; sin in the lives of trusted church people; breaking of confidences, church splits, etc. These can all cause disillusionment and dismay, as the expectations often are that Christian leaders, and Christians in general "should know better" than to speak or behave the way they sometimes do.

10. SEXUAL ABUSES OR SEXUAL IMMORALITY?

People who have been sexually abused in their younger years usually grow up with enormous traumatic problems that cause them to go inward and become reclusive, or they can grow up and become promiscuous, giving themselves over to all kinds of wrong and/or deviant sexual behaviour. Sexual immorality (which includes all sexual relationships outside the sanctity of marriage) also produces an array of problems for the individual

concerned. Sexual sins are committed against God, as well as our own body (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). Nothing produces guilt, and condemns us before God more quickly than in the area of sexual sins. It affects every part of our being – spirit, body, soul, emotions, conscience and the way we behave.

These ten areas will often be inter-twined or connected, so do not seek to rigidly separate each one. Most problems can be spiritually related, but not all problems are demonic. Too many people today are "demon conscious" and, as a result, are either hiding behind that belief to avoid "facing up" to the responsibility of changing their lifestyle and habits, or looking for a "magic instant answer" from you, the Counsellor.

Keep your eyes and ears open! Listen to their spirit! And to the promptings of the Holy Spirit!

Chapter 6

DISCERNING THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM – ONCE THE PROBLEM AREA HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED

Having sorted through the area where you believe the problem lies, you will now need to get more specific. This is where you need to be listening earnestly and sensitively to the Holy Spirit, asking Him, "What is the root cause of this person's problem?" You can expect the word of knowledge, the word of wisdom and the gift of the discerning of spirits to give you insight, as well as revelation on knowing which area to concentrate on. Is the "root cause" of the problem the result of:

1. LACK OF LOVE?

For example: (1) being an unwanted child, (2) unsettling or broken home life, (3) lack of friends at home, school, work or church? (4) Ongoing broken friendships and relationships?

2. HEREDITARY FAMILY BONDAGES?

Listen for any "tell-tale" signs that would lead you to recognize that there is something that has been "handed down" or inherited from the father or mother's side of the family. Recurring problems or symptoms that were in the grandfather or grandmother, and are also present in the father or the mother, etc.

3. UNREALISTIC FAMILY RESTRICTIONS?

These can be a very real thing in the lives of those who have been brought up in strict religious ways, or having restrictions placed on them as a result of fear-instilling tactics, or seeing the whole world as a very wicked place.

4. TYPE OF UPBRINGING?

This can be detrimental when it restricts a child from growing up naturally (like No. 3). Some children are ruled by fear, others by strict discipline, or by religious rituals, all of which can have negative affects in later life. Parents and adult family members can have a huge influence over us – both positively and negatively – in our growing up years.

5. ENVIRONMENT?

Bad influences from other people, friends, home-life, bad relationship with a stepfather or stepmother, fantasy, occult, drug scene, or alcohol? There are so many “environments” today that can have negative and lasting affects upon us.

6. REJECTION?

This is very common today, with the growing breakdown of marriages and secure home situations. Also the areas of abuse – sexual, emotional, physical and spiritual – have the effect of breeding insecurity and inferiority in a person’s life, all of which contribute to rejection.

7. ISOLATION?

There are many things that can cause people to withdraw into an isolated type of existence. We need to discover what it is that is causing a person to isolate. Incest is a major one here.

8. UNFORGIVENESS?

This is a very real thing for those whose rights have been violated through sexual or ritual abuse, incest, rape, harsh criticism, slander, rejection, betrayal, etc. As difficult as it may seem, the sooner we are able to forgive those who **“have trespassed against us,”** (Matthew 6:6-15), the sooner we will be able to “put our lives back together again.” We cannot afford to let those who have wronged us to then “control” and/or “destroy” our quality of life because of our inability - or unwillingness – to forgive.

9. ANGER?

Many today are angry at, or toward God, their parents, those in positions of authority, even everyone, all of which causes them to fester inwardly. Anger is always “fed” by something, and it is important to find out what it is that is feeding that anger. Until the root source of that anger is faced, confessed and turned away from, it will be like a “time bomb” waiting to explode. That can have disastrous results.

10. BITTERNESS?

Bitterness is usually the next step on from anger. It absolutely spoils, and then ruins, any life that is caught up in its clutches.

11. HATRED?

Since the bombing of the Twin Towers in New York, USA, on the 9th September 2001, we have come to realize a lot more the extent of hatred that is now prevalent in our world. This is having a huge and negative impact upon multitudes of people around the world. An angry heart is a dangerous heart. Your hatred may not be as deep as those who plotted

the 9/11 disaster, but hatred is something you cannot afford to let fester in your heart and mind. It will cause you to make some bad decisions and can eventually destroy everything.

12. RESENTMENT?

The consciousness of having been wronged feeds this. It is like a poison that pollutes the soul and causes those with it to lash out at others in all kinds of nasty ways.

13. JEALOUSY?

One of mankind's biggest enemies! Yet in the Christian scene, who admits to it? It is a powerful and cruel emotion that is destroying many lives today. Is there anyone you are jealous of right now? Be willing and prepared to deal with it. The Bible tells us:

- ***“Jealousy is as cruel as the grave”*** (Song of Solomon 8:6).

14. SELF-INFLICTION?

This can take many forms. For some it is displaying unusual habits of, for example, always combing their hair, or always washing themselves, as they never feel clean enough. It can be a denying of things they love or enjoy as a means of self-punishment, or it can be the cutting of wrists, arms or legs, causing blood to run (this last one is demonic – see 1 Kings 18:26-28).

15. SEXUAL "HANG-UPS"?

Sex is thrown at us from every angle today, and is causing much heartache and sorrow. That which God has created for the marriage bed, the devil – and a society that has no “bottom line” in moral standards - has enticed humanity to indulge in all kinds of sexual practices and deviations. This has left humanity in the grip of rapidly spreading sexual diseases of such enormity that it is literally causing the possible wiping out of some nations! Yet many Governments continue to pass legislation that encourages people to live immorally and totally against God’s instructions for a healthy, happy life. In this area alone, Counsellors will never be out of work!!

16. BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS?

Sexual, and otherwise, i.e. long-term friendships breaking up, even the loss of a family pet. People are often very vulnerable at this point and will do some "dumb" things. When the break up of friendships and relationships happen, it can cause all kinds of reactions from those affected.

17. UNFAITHFULNESS BY HUSBAND OR WIFE?

Though those who get caught up in sexual relationships outside of marriage might feel justified by their actions (at the beginning anyway), the truth is that they are opening the door to a whole heap of problems that they will come to severely regret. I have never yet counselled a happy adulterer!

18. A MARRIAGE SEPARATION, OR BREAK-UP?

What tragedies are caused when a man and a woman (who once loved each other enough to be married), can no longer tolerate even living together any longer. This creates huge emotional problems in both parties, and especially any children of that marriage. We

must be careful not to reject or condemn in such situations, but seek to understand all the circumstances involved – on both sides.

19. DIVORCE?

We need to be extremely wise and understanding here. While we may not believe in divorce, we nevertheless need to be aware that for some people it is their only hope of a better future. This is especially so where there has been adultery and physical abuse.

20. RE-MARRIAGE?

Here again we need to be wise and discerning. Many are unable to live alone, and need love and companionship that only marriage can bring. We should remember, too, that God used Queen Esther – who married a divorced king – to bring about salvation and deliverance to the Jews in her day (See The Book of Esther).

21. ABORTION?

Many women suffer emotional and spiritual “side-effects” after having an abortion, i.e. a spirit of rejection, condemnation, death, and/or murder. Forgiveness and healing are important here.

22. HOMOSEXUALITY AND LESBIANISM?

While the Christian message does not condone these things, we must be loving and accepting enough to be able to separate the sinner from his/her sin. You and I may be the only hope they have of a new life free of the guilt and condemnation that many suffer from. Love and acceptance of the person is crucial if Christians are going to make any impact in seeing lasting changes amongst the Gay Community.

23. FANTASIES?

In many cases fantasies have become the real world for some people! That is because the real world, as they know it, has become too painful to face anymore. We need discernment and wisdom to be able to separate the fantasy from the real.

24. MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES?

This is a problem whereby people can change into several different personalities (one at a time), and display the behavioural patterns of those personalities. For example, someone may take on the personality of a man and/or a woman, a boy and/or a girl, and behave according to the person they believe they are. This is also demonic, and needs to be renounced in Jesus’ name.

25. THE OCCULT REALM?

For example: witchcraft, partaking in seances, black and white magic, sorcery, talking to the dead, fortune telling, martial arts, secret societies like freemasonry, ritualistic abuse, Satanism, druids, hypnosis, palm reading, tea cup reading, Eastern mysticism, yoga, Transcendental Meditation (TM), heavy metal music and so on... Many of these things can start off innocently through the watching of occult videos, TV, involvement in so-called “fun” happenings like Halloween, etc. Many do not know that Halloween is the strongest date on the satanic calendar each year. Mankind is continually searching for the supernatural and, because the Christians do not (generally) display the true supernatural realm of God, these other things become the devil’s substitutes to fill that void within the human heart.

To be free of any of the above means there will need to be a confession (an acknowledgment that there has been involvement with such), a renunciation of that spirit and involvement, and a prayer of release from it. The using of the authority of the name of Jesus and His cleansing blood is important here.

26. CURSES?

For example: ancestral occult curses, native curses, false gods via the worship or allegiance to carvings, ornaments, trinkets, rings, good luck charms, tattoos, etc. If the person is wearing such things, they need to be removed voluntarily, renounced and thrown away – destroyed. If they are something that is not worn, but kept at home, then that likewise needs to be renounced and thrown away – destroyed.

Please note that in deliverance we cannot violate a person's will. There must be total honesty here. If they do not long to be free of the bondages of their evil spirits and curses, then we cannot overrule them. And God will not violate their will either!

27. EVIL SPIRITS?

More on this subject further on (see Chapter 12 – “Dealing With Evil Spirits”).

28. RELIGIOUS UPBRINGING?

For example legalism, or a religious spirit, can have a very negative influence in the lives of numbers of children of religious parents. Extreme love, acceptance and patience will be required here, as you will be regarded as “another one” who wants to “bind and restrict” them in a religious way. Many of these people end up rebelling against their parents, God, and church, as they see God as a “kill-joy.” Sad, but true.

29. FINANCES?

Many problems develop out of this area. For those who are continually struggling with getting into debt – or are not good at the way they handle their finances - a good budgeting service can be a wise way to encourage/direct them to. Unless some practical changes are made to break the cycle, nothing will change. Pride is a big hindrance, and needs to be broken through.

30. UNEMPLOYMENT?

Incorporating boredom, lack of motivation, feeling of uselessness, lack of self-worth, etc. These things can all be very demoralizing for those in this position over a long period of time.

31. CULTURAL CONFLICTS?

It is important to listen well here, as we can be so very ignorant as to the many different cultural ways of those of a different race and culture to us. It is helpful to know why they say and do the things they do as a result of their cultural upbringing. Most of us are now living in multi-cultural societies, and it can affect every one of us.

32. FEAR?

Of man (and woman!), of job loss, of a marriage break-up, of rejection, of the dark, of enclosed spaces, of the future, of evil spirit visitations, of an incurable disease or sickness, etc. The list can be endless. What may seem silly to you can be a very binding fear in someone else's life. Do not laugh at nor ridicule them for their fear(s), but be available to

help them walk out of it (them) through love. Remember, it is ***“perfect love that casts out all fear”*** (1 John 4:18).

33. DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES?

There are good and bad dreams – but only bad nightmares. If possible, try and get them to give you their interpretation of their dreams. You may need to talk to someone else who is more experienced in this area than maybe you are?

34. SOME PROPHETICAL UTTERANCES?

Many negative, judgmental things have been spoken over peoples' lives by those who believe they are “prophets of God,” (but do not have the acceptance of genuinely being that), etc. Look for any kind of manipulation and control exercised by the “prophet” – or a misinterpretation of what has been spoken that is causing the current negativities.

It may not be the prophetic utterance at all, but the way it has been received and/or misinterpreted? If a tape or a written copy is available of what was prophesied, it is important to hear or read what was said originally, as the emotions may have interpreted what was said wrongly, thus giving rise to the way they are re-acting to the “pronouncements.”

35. PERSONAL "HANG-UPS" ON JUDGMENTAL OR NEGATIVE SCRIPTURAL INTERPRETATIONS THAT ARE TAKEN OUT OF THEIR BIBLICAL CONTEXT?

"I've committed the unpardonable sin" confession is a major one for many people. Divorce and re-marriage, disobedience to God, Breaking the Sabbath, etc., are others. The enemy loves to use the Bible to condemn people!

36. LOW SELF-ESTEEM?

This is a major problem area for many people. Try and discover the main cause of why they are thinking and feeling the way they do about themselves. The building up of a person's self-esteem may take some time (depending on how long they have “suffered” with it).

37. INFERIORITY COMPLEX?

This often accompanies low self-esteem, and leaves people feeling they are “second rate” citizens, and never as good as other people. Their decisions and actions reveal their inferiority.

38. SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS AND SHYNESS?

This accompanies the afore-mentioned two, and can have a very negative impact within their lives. Far too often we allow self-consciousness to dictate what we can or cannot do in life. As Christians we need to see it for what it is and break out of it as soon as we possibly can. It is a major cause of disobedience to God! (When we are more conscious of what others may say or think about what God has asked us to say or do – if we do it - it causes us to disobey Him).

39. LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN ONE'S FAITH, ABILITY, OR SELF?

This is another area of life that is often combined with the afore-mentioned three.

40. INSECURITY?

This is a very real trait, which can be caused by a host of different problems. It prevents people from rising to fulfil the dream and desires of their hearts. It is all too prevalent in many who are appointed to leadership positions, and they then “hide” behind the position, operating out of the authority of the position rather than the security of their calling in God.

Chapter 7

RECOGNIZING CERTAIN PATTERNS – AND COMBINATIONS - IN PROBLEMS

We will now look at the area of the need to recognize certain patterns or combinations that show themselves in some people, especially where there has been a lack of real love and caring in upbringing, where certain trends can and have developed. For example, as follows:

- 1. Lack of positive love and Christian principles** leads to:
- 2. Feeling unloved and unwanted.** This feeds:
- 3. Rejection,** and rejection is often the cause of rebellion against authorities, wrong company, hardening of attitudes towards parents, God, the Church, society, accepted standards, etc.; crime, sexual impurity, ancestral problems, the occult, drugs, hard rock and heavy metal scene ... all come out into the open as it were. Rejection breeds:
- 4. Distrust.** Where there is no trust there is:
- 5. No confidence in others, or in self.** This will make a person go one of two ways:
- 6. (a) Be very proud,** or **(b) Have no self-esteem.**
- 7. Pride produces arrogance and hardness of heart.**
- 8. A low self-esteem breeds self-pity.**
- 9. Self-pity opens us up to physical, emotional and spiritual sicknesses.** This can lead on to:
- 10. Insecurity,** which leads to:
- 11. Introversion,** which leads to:
- 12. Isolation.**
- 13. Anger, hatred and bitterness against people and life in general.**
- 14. Suicide,** which is either (a) A desperate crying out for help, or (b) Satan has so blinded their minds that they have been driven to self-destruction, i.e. Judas Iscariot (John 13:37 and Matthew 27:3-5); King Saul (1 Samuel 31:3-5 and 1 Chronicles 10); Ahithophel (2 Samuel 16:23 and 2 Samuel 17:23); and Zimri (1 Kings 16:9-13, 16-20).

SOME PATTERNS OF SOME PROBLEMS

While we must be careful not to put people and their problems into rigid categories, there are, nevertheless, some “problems” which can run certain courses that we need to be aware of. Here are a few examples:

- **Rejection** can lead to **unforgiveness**, which can lead to **withdrawing**, which can lead to **isolation**, which can lead to **anger**, which can lead to **hatred**, which can lead to **bitterness**, which can lead to **murder**.
- **Lust** can lead to **immorality, rape and/or pornography**, which can lead to **jealousy**, which can lead to **selfishness**, which can lead to **spiritual confusion**, which can lead to **guilt**, which can lead to **condemnation**, which can lead to **violation of conscience**, which can lead to **disease**, which can lead to **self-destruction**.
- **Incest** makes a person a **victim**, which leads to feelings of **guilt**, feelings of **self-blame**, feelings of **uncleanness**, which breeds **rejection**, which breeds **isolation**, which breeds **fear**, which breeds **torment**, which develops **insanity**, which can lead to **suicide**.
- Having an **abortion** can lead to **guilt**, which can lead to **depression**, which can lead to **condemnation**. It can also carry with it a **spirit of death**, a **spirit of remorse**, and a **spirit of murder**.
- **Drug dependency** can take a person in to **rebellion, immorality, sorcery** (the Greek word is "pharmakeia" meaning "enchantment with drugs" - Revelation 9:21 and Revelation 18:23, KJV), **escapism, fantasy, witchcraft**, and **self-destruction**.
- **The Occult** takes one into **Witchcraft** and **Satanism** (there are many forms of these things) - which start off as a **"work of the flesh"** (Galatians 5:19-21) - **greed for gain through power** (over other people), **money** and **sexual partner(s)** of their choice. It soon turns into **spiritual bondage** and **evil spirit possession, rebellion against God**, gives an **anti-Christ spirit**, which opens them up to all manner of **demonic activity, torment, fear, pain, suffering, and death**.
- **The Martial Arts** open people up to **Eastern mysticism** and **ancestral spirits**, which can lead to **false meditation** and **incantations**, which can lead to **anger**, which can lead to **hatred**, which can lead to a **hard spirit**, which can lead to a **"deadness" toward God**.
- **Self-pity** can lead to **attention seeking**, which can lead to **wanting sympathy**, which can lead to **an undisciplined life style**, which can lead to one being **jealous of others** who may be getting attention, which can lead to **possessive behaviour**, which can lead to **manipulation and control** by various mood swings, which can produce a **reluctance to change**. (These ones can waste your time and test your patience. There could be a need to handle the situation firmly ... but make sure the "problem" is self-pity to start with!).

Chapter 8

THE TRAGEDY OF RAPE

There are many women – and some men – in our societies today who have been (and are) the victims of rape. I have personally heard the experiences of women who were raped many times a day during wartime, of others who were raped numbers of times by family members as they grew up, to others who were blackmailed into sexual relationships (that really amounted to rape), and of those who have been initiated into Satanic covens; those “initiations” included having to be “sexually active” with both the men and women of those covens! I have also listened to some shocking confessions of some who have been raped at or after church functions! Numbers of young men have been “raped” in religious

institutions by adults – even ministers - who are paedophiles. These experiences all leave tremendous “scars” on the personalities of those people. It is heart-rending to hear what our fellow human beings can inflict upon others in order to satisfy and fulfil their own evil desires. The Bible is not silent on the subject of rape, and records the sad events that followed in the lives of both Amnon (the perpetrator) and Tamar (the victim) after Amnon had raped her.

THE STORY OF AMNON AND TAMAR:

In 2 Samuel 13 we read of the tragic events that led to the destruction of Amnon and Tamar (Yes ... both were destroyed)!

AMNON ~ Was King David's oldest son (his mother's name was Ahinoam).

- He had a "Christian" upbringing.
- He knew right from wrong.
- His lust for his half-sister (Tamar) so tormented him that he physically lost weight - to the point that his friend and first cousin, Jonadab, talked to him about it. Jonadab ***"was a very subtle man"*** (verse 3).
- Amnon acted on Jonadab's bad advice. He knew he was "setting up" a situation for Tamar that was unlawful and wrong.
- Amnon's lust caused him to handle things badly: He became blinded to the results of his desires, and corresponding actions.
- Reason went out the door!
- He would not listen to the pleadings of Tamar.
- He raped her!
- Then his "love" turned to great hatred!
- He rejected her; despised her!
- He shamed her: privately and publicly!
- He drove her away.
- He broke her spirit: she went away crying.
- He ruined her whole life!
- Amnon stirred anger in King David (verse 21), hatred in Absalom (Tamar's brother), to the point that Absalom was prepared to murder Amnon ... which he did two years later (verses 22-32).
- Amnon's act of rape brought death for himself.
- He brought great reproach upon the name of God, and the family of David.
- The act of rape was an absolute disaster!

TAMAR ~ Was the king's daughter.

- She had a "Christian" upbringing.
- She was a beautiful and innocent young woman.
- She trusted Amnon ... he was her half-brother!
- When she learned Amnon's intentions, she was even prepared to marry him ... to sacrifice her life and future to save Amnon's neck!
- She knew right from wrong.
- She chose right, but was forced against her will.
- Her body, emotions and spirit were violated to the point her life was never the same again.
- Amnon so destroyed her spirit that her life, dreams and ambitions were shattered.

- Her desires to live a Christian life with a Christian husband, with Christian children, were never realized.
- Rape - and the attitudes towards rape - destroyed her!
- She never again felt beautiful.
- She became a recluse in Absalom's house. The Scripture word used is **"desolate"** from the Hebrew "shamem" meaning "to stun, numb, stupefy (render lethargic), make destitute, waste, ruined." What a tragedy! And none of it was her fault! Absalom and King David did not seem to have an answer for the recovery of Tamar. They locked her away in Absalom's house (verse 20). It seems Absalom tried to "blot out" the memory of Tamar in making her a recluse – then later naming his daughter Tamar (2 Samuel 14:27). That would mean the focus on the name "Tamar" would shift to that of his daughter rather than to that of his sister? For the Tamar who had been raped, that could have been a huge rejection that she felt when her niece, Tamar, was named.

How would you handle such an experience that Tamar went through? Would it destroy you like Tamar? Or, is your spirit strong enough to be healed so you can rise again and get on with life?

To be restored and healed of such a traumatic experience it is important that **forgiveness** is worked on and worked through.

I believe there are positive answers in Jesus Christ and, rape victims, through practical Christian love, can be restored back to life and health! They may never forget the ordeal, but they can come to live a quality of life-style that gives them a hope and a better future.

Chapter 9

A WOUNDED SPIRIT

In my travels I am continually meeting, and being led (through the word of knowledge) to minister to people who are carrying a wounded spirit. Something has happened in their lives, that has "knocked them back," and from which they have been unable to rise above, or get totally free from. When we are afflicted by a wounded spirit we are unable to step out boldly to obey the Holy Spirit, and therefore so much of God's purposes for us are lost through our inability to release faith in a consistent manner. The subject of a wounded spirit is an important one, as it affects so many people. Many don't even understand what it is, or how it can affect us. The Book of Proverbs Chapter 18 is a key chapter on this subject. Proverbs 18:14 makes a statement, then asks a vital question:

- ***"The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity* ("sickness, disease, weakness"), *but a wounded spirit who can bear?"***

We can endure all kinds of physical affliction, but when our spirit is wounded – and a wounded spirited person is someone who has been hurt and bruised and/or damaged in their spirit – it can be very painful.

A wounded spirit comes as a result of a re-action to negative words, events, actions, or a violation of your person or rights – a re-action that crushes you, knocks you down and from which you cannot seem to recover. It crushes an area of your life – your spirit – out of which can develop some quite devastating ways it affects us. It seems we cannot heal ourselves of a wounded spirit. We need someone else to release it in positive, believing prayer.

There are eleven ways (I know of) that we can receive a wounded spirit:

1. **NEGATIVE, CRITICAL WORDS:**

Someone says something to you that “knocks you flat” and you cannot get over it. Those words have penetrated deeply into your spirit in a hurtful, crushing kind of way.

- ***“The words of a man’s mouth are as deep waters”*** (Proverbs 18:4).
- ***“Death and life are in the power of the tongue . . .”*** (Proverbs 18:21).

Words produce either death or life – in those who speak them, and in those who receive them. Marriages – even Christian marriages – are broken by the critical words spoken between a husband and a wife, and vice versa. Negative, critical words are like an arrow that gets stuck in our spirit and will not dislodge itself. It stays there “fester away” until such time as someone is able to minister to us and remove the offending thing.

- ***“A fool gets into constant fights. His mouth is his undoing! His words endanger him”*** (Proverbs 18:6, TLB).

The words we speak penetrate very deeply! The repeating of negative and critical gossip about others is not good. Like that arrow, they often penetrate further than we realize:

- ***“The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man’s inmost parts”*** (Proverbs 18:8, NIV). Those ***“inmost parts”*** are his spirit.

2. **SIN:**

Sin is the curse of humanity! **Sin is whatever comes between us, and God!** It affects our spirit! In Psalm 38 we read of David acknowledging a “wounding” in his life and spirit from piercing arrows:

- ***“Your arrows have pierced me, and Your hand has come down upon me . . . there is no health in my body; my bones have no soundness because of my sin. My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly . . .”*** (Psalm 38:1-5, NIV).
- ***“A wounded spirit who can bear?”***

David was hurting because of his guilt and consciousness of sin.

- ***“For your sin is an incurable bruise, a terrible wound. There is no one to help you or to bind up your wound and no medicine does any good. All your lovers have left you and don’t care anything about you any more; for I have wounded you cruelly, as though I were your enemy; mercilessly, as though I were an implacable foe; for your sins are so many, your guilt is so great”*** (Jeremiah 30:12-14, TLB).

Sin wounds us! Like a deep bruise, it penetrates and then becomes very painful whenever anything or anyone touches that spot. It is important that we acknowledge any known sin or guilt in our lives, and release it to God through asking His forgiveness. When we put sin out of our life (through genuine repentance), our spirit is released to heal of all its bruising.

3. SEXUAL IMMORALITY:

Sexual immorality is a breeder of wounded spirits. Perhaps more people get wounded in this area of human relationships than anywhere else? Every wrong sexual relationship can do damage to our spirit. The Bible separates sexual sins from all other sins:

- ***“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For ‘the two,’ He says, ‘shall become one flesh.’ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s”*** (1 Corinthians 6:15-20, NKJV).

Christians are joined to the Lord as ***“one spirit.”*** Sexual immorality joins us to the body of the other sexual partner. It is spiritual as much as it is emotional and physical. Sexual immorality affects every part of our being: spiritual, physical, emotional, our conscience and our mentality. It has the power to create another human being ***“in the image of God.”***

- ***“Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body”*** (1 Corinthians 6:18, NIV).

Regarding adultery, the Bible declares:

- ***“But the man who commits adultery is an utter fool, for he destroys his own soul. Wounds and constant disgrace are his lot . . . ”*** (Proverbs 6:32-35, TLB).

The physical act has spiritual consequences – a wounded spirit. (Proverbs 7 has more to say on this).

David picked up a wounded spirit as a result of his adultery with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11 and Psalm 51). According to his confession in Psalm 51, David lost so much in his relationship with God because of his adultery. He paid a high price spiritually, and he paid a high price physically. His family were also “wrecked” through immorality. David’s son (Amnon) raped David’s daughter (Tamar) (half sister) (2 Samuel 13), which led to murder, etc. (See Chapter 8 –

The Tragedy Of Rape). All in all, it was a great tragedy of ongoing events. It isn't worth it! (For further reading on this subject, see my book "Counselling And Deliverance").

In our modern, secular societies today, we are seeing more and more legislation passed by Governments that take a much softer action against prostitution, under-age sex, abortions, and same sex "marriages." Next we will be seeing paedophilia (adults being attracted to having sex with young children) becoming more acceptable! Once a society has no bottom line for standards and/or guidelines for morality – as the Bible teaches – then the "floodgates" get opened and the boundaries get pushed further and further back. All of these things are taking a huge toll on humanity today. So many lives are being "wrecked" before they even reach adulthood!

4. SATANIC ATTACK:

The thief comes to ***"steal, kill and destroy"*** (John 10:10). Satan (working in and through other people) loves to wound our spirit. He knows that when we carry a wounded spirit, we are no real threat to him. In Psalm 143:1-4 (KJV), David is crying to God because ***"the enemy has persecuted my soul. He has smitten"*** ("bruised and wounded") ***my life down to the ground . . . therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate*** ("laid waste" – Wilson's; "made numb, stunned, devastated" – Strong's)."

A wounded spirit brings us down. It devastates us! It never lifts us up. Satan knows this. He wants us down! The Good Samaritan is a good example of knowing how to lift up the wounded. He knew what to do. He knew to pour in ***"the oil and the wine."*** Why? He identified with the wounded man's condition (Luke 10:25-37). Samaritans knew what rejection was, as ***"the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans"*** (John 4:9). The man was restored. (See Chapter 3 – The Parable Of The Good Samaritan).

5. REJECTION FROM LEADERS:

As this paper is written in the Christian context, we will keep it to Church authorities - and other Christians. We have such high expectations of Leaders that when they fail us, or especially "knock us back," or overlook us, it is easy for us to get discouraged and wounded. David experienced that rejection with King Saul (1 Samuel Chapters 18 to 31).

It also happens when Leaders promise certain positions to individuals – and then do not deliver, or they do not communicate their change of plan. Numbers get wounded when they are encouraged to go through training courses in order to be better prepared for church ministry, but at the end of the training it does not happen. Broken promises lead to broken hearts and wounded spirits. Some have been wounded trying to obey the Lord in the exercising of Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-11) and been "rebuked" or "cut down" publicly. Those "woundings" are hard to recover from, especially if one is sensitive and shy in the first place. Whatever the conflict or misunderstanding, do not hold a grudge against Leaders. Pray for them! Give them over to God. Give the hurtful "happening" over to God – release it from your spirit. Get healed of any wounding of spirit. Press on in Jesus!

6. UNFORGIVENESS:

Withholding forgiveness from those who have disappointed and hurt us will "lock our spirit into" its condition of wounding. We cannot heal if we do not release the hurt to God. 2 Corinthians 2:1-11 teaches us that if we do not forgive those who have caused us harm, Satan will take advantage of us. Let us not be ignorant of him wanting to get his "sticky

paws” into wrecking our lives - and future ministries that will impact the nations (we must not lose sight of the call and goal of God for our lives and futures).

No matter how much someone has wounded us, we do need to come to a place of being able to release forgiveness to that person. If we do not forgive, then we will be the one who pays the highest price. We cannot afford to let anyone destroy us (because we cannot, or will not, forgive) and therefore cannot heal from the original damage caused.

- **“A crushed spirit who can bear?”** (Proverbs 18:14, NIV).

In discussing this subject further (in a large group), we discovered some people have suffered a wounded spirit through the following:

7. BETRAYAL:

This is indeed a very hurtful thing to work through, especially a betrayal of confidence. To be betrayed means “to disclose a secret or confidence treacherously; to break a promise, or be disloyal to a person’s trust; to disappoint the expectations of” (Collins).

When the children of Benjamin and Judah sought out David in the wilderness, one of the leading questions he asked them was, **“If you come to betray me to my enemies, seeing there is no wrong in my hands, the God of our fathers look thereon, and rebuke it”** (1 Chronicles 12:16-17, KJV). David knew the power and hurt of betrayal, and he guarded against it as much as possible. Jesus warned there would be **“many offended, and shall betray one another”** (Matthew 24:10). The keeping of promises and confidences is very necessary if we do not want to be guilty of wounding our friends. So many Christian ministries are restricted, and even wrecked, as a result of betrayal. That betrayal can “manifest” itself in people getting involved in a ministry already in operation, but all the time their main motive is their own personal agenda that can be very different to the vision and purpose of that ministry. The results of that can be numbers of people wounded in the “fall-out” that eventuates.

8. FALSE ACCUSATIONS:

From time to time there are people who, for various reasons, have delight in making false accusations. Sometimes it is because of jealousy, sometimes it is just enjoying seeing one put down; other times ignorant gossip. Many false accusations have no affect upon us, but then there comes one that is “a bit too close to the bone.” It is directed at a loved one, or yourself, or your ministry. If we do not see those false accusations as being what they are – false! – we can then take the accusation “on board” and it lodges within our spirit. We get wounded. This is where honesty is so important. We have to be honest with God, ourselves, and other people. If the accusation is false, keep it false. Don’t give room for the enemy to “take us out” because we re-act wrongly. (If the accusation happens to be true, then we need to do something about it).

9. DIVORCE:

This is another “biggie,” especially as it is so rampant in society today. To experience going from one extreme of being so in love with someone that you marry that person, and then to see it all change to the point where they can no longer love and live together, is a great tragedy. It affects the emotions, afflicts the mind, throws the children into turmoil, upsets the wider family and relatives, and changes the course of one’s life. Rejection can

become a huge issue. Many hurts are picked up. Attitudes are hardened. Later on, if those woundings are not dealt with and healed, the “baggage” from the broken marriage is carried over to a new relationship. Often the process repeats itself. More hurts and woundings eventuate.

10. RELATIONSHIPS CUT THROUGH A DEATH:

The loss of a close loved one, relative or friend, can be a devastating blow. We all face the losing of someone to the death process. It is a sad fact that many people do not know how to relate to those who are suffering loss and grieving the death of a husband, wife, child, parent, close friend, etc. Our spirit, which is very vulnerable at that time, can be wounded by the words and actions of someone who is insensitive to the situation, and does not understand what is going on inside the heart of those suffering loss. Sometimes the wounding happens because their close friends say and do nothing – just sitting in silence can sometimes be very hurtful. Other times people talk “rubbish” – or too much - and that can be equally hurtful. We need to be sensitive to the needs of those grieving the death of a loved one. If you are not sure, ask! Don’t let your friendship be cut off with those who grieve. Be mindful of the shock and “numbness” they are experiencing.

11. HAVING TO ACT AS AN ADULT WHILE STILL A CHILD:

This was an interesting discussion. To listen to those who had experienced being the eldest child in a large family and being made to take major responsibility for all the younger brothers and sisters – while they themselves were still so young – brought about a wounded spirit. To expect a tender young life to do what it is not made to do at that stage of their development can only cause damage. That damage is carried through in attitudes that cause hurt in others. There is a saying that is very true: “Hurt people hurt people.”

A wounded spirit comes into the lives of those children who are subjected to incest, prostitution, paedophilia, and other abuses (emotional, mental, physical, sexual, verbal, etc.). Many develop such a poor, low image of themselves, that they feel the only way out is suicide. And it is no secret that the numbers of young people committing suicide today is very high!

I pray you will be aware of these eleven areas that can keep you down through a wounded spirit. If you feel you are suffering from a wounded spirit, seek out someone who is sensitive to the Holy Spirit and knows how to minister healing to you in a loving, compassionate way. Be prepared to forgive those who have (in your eyes) **“sinned against you”** (Matthew 6:12, TLB), and then forgive yourself. Do not tie the hands of God from healing your spirit because you will not forgive yourself.

Thank God, that in the love of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, people can be healed of a wounded spirit. Life can change for the better when we let Jesus heal all the hurts of the past. If you are aware of having a wounded spirit right now, seek out a Holy Spirit-filled Christian with love and compassion, and ask them to pray healing into your spirit. This is important, as you cannot heal yourself of this. Reach out today. If you are unable to find someone, then please contact us at “The GFM” Ministry, and we will do what we can to minister that healing to you. God bless you.

Chapter 10

PREPARING TO MINISTER

If you have been a good listener you will have discovered several things about the one you are counselling, both from them and the Holy Spirit. Counselling must be in the strictest confidence (in some countries the law is now demanding that counsellors share their information with authorities, especially in such areas as child sexual abuse), as some things can be quite devastating if you are not used to frank confessions. Cases of rape, incest, child sexual abuse (paedophilia), immorality, ritual abuse, bestiality, criminal activities, witchcraft and satanic practices, etc., can be sordid. You must be able to be TRUSTED! ... Can you be trusted?

- **Develop a "Manasseh" ministry.** The name "Manasseh" means, "causing forgetfulness," or "God has made me to forget." Joseph named his son Manasseh as a testimony to the fact that he was able to forget the terrible things his own brothers did to him (Genesis 41:15).
- **Learn to separate the "sinner" from the sin.** We must love the sinner, but not his sin!
- **Give re-assurance of God's - and your - love, acceptance, forgiveness and support.** You may be their last chance for positive, practical help.
- **Know your limits in counselling.** Get others to help if necessary.
- **Be aware of God's standards of conduct and behaviour when counselling and praying for people.** *"Abstain from all appearance of evil"* (1 Thessalonians 5:22, KJV).
- **Watch where you place your hands when praying!** (Hold their hand, hands, or place your hands on their head or shoulders.)
- **Seek to understand them as an individual** (what if it were you with the problem?).
- **Be patient!** Most results do not happen with the first appointment.
- **Help them to know they do not need to continue being a failure.** Jesus has answers for them (through you).
- **Introduce them to a loving Christian friend or friends, and a Church Fellowship** (if they do not already have one) **that is right for them.** (This can sometimes be easier said than done).
- **Be prepared to follow up.**
- **Protect them from ignorant, non-understanding, legalistic, judgmental Christians.**

Remember, you cannot violate the will of an individual (that would be manipulation and control). Even God does not violate our will. Keep praising the Lord!

Chapter 11

HOW TO MINISTER

Once you have heard the story and/or confession of the one coming to you for help, you then need to demonstrate your heart of love and acceptance, as one who carries an

answer of hope and restoration. **Keep tuned to the Holy Spirit, so you can know what the Lord has to say on anything particular:**

- **Minister in faith**, not fear!
- **Show you accept them** (in spite of how bad the "problem" may be).
- **Seek to build Jesus Christ's love and trust into their life.** Remember, they have to learn to trust you, as others have already failed them.
- **Have compassion.**
- **Give positive input and exhortation.** Lift them up in God. They do not need a lecture, or put on a further negative "guilt trip"!
- **Minister forgiveness.** Get them to put the problem (or the people who have hurt them) on to God's altar ... and to leave them there! Put the problem into God's hands.
- **Pray positively with them and for them** (get them to repeat a prayer out loud after you, that takes them through the problem, and has them asking Almighty God in the name of Jesus Christ to step into the problem and begin to solve it. Confession is a very powerful means of release ... positive confession that is).
- **Do not preach at them!** (Some of them may know the Scriptures better than you do!) They do not need that. They need your love, compassion, understanding, and ongoing support until they are free.
- **Let them ask questions.** Encouraging a two-way conversation is a very important means of building trust, and a relationship that can bring about lasting results to the glory of God.
- **Encourage a further appointment if necessary.**
- **Be available for them to phone you or to make contact as required.** Avoid making them become dependent upon you (some Counsellors can feed their own ego by doing this).

Chapter 12

DEALING WITH EVIL SPIRITS

There is a devil, and there are demonic forces that are out to wreck the human race ... us! An openhearted study of the Scriptures will confirm that. Jesus certainly cast them out of people - religious and otherwise - in His ministry on earth (look at Mark 1:12-13, 23-28, 32-34, 39; Mark 3:10-11, 22-30; Mark 5:1-20; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 4 and Acts 10:38 for a few references to help you). Jesus also taught His disciples to cast out evil spirits from the people, which they did (Mark 16:15-18; Matthew 10:1, 16, 24-28; Luke 9:1; Luke 10:17-20; Acts 5:1-11; Acts 8:5-8, 9-25; Acts 13:4-12; Acts 16:16-34; Acts 19:13-20 and Ephesians 6:10-18).

The Bible explicitly names some of the evil spirits that seek to affect peoples' lives. We need to rebuke and eject them in the name of Jesus Christ! The following are what the Bible calls them:

- Spirit of jealousy (Numbers 5:14).
- Evil spirit (1 Samuel 16:23).
- Lying spirit (1 Kings 22:23).
- Spirit of burning ("consuming") (Isaiah 4:4).

- Spirit of judgment (Isaiah 4:4).
- Spirit of confusion ("perverseness" - KJV; "dizziness" - NIV) (Isaiah 19:14).
- Spirit of a destroyer (Jeremiah 51:1).
- Spirit of harlotry ("whoredoms" - KJV; "prostitution" - NIV) (Hosea 4:12).
- Unclean spirit (Mark 1:23).
- Dumb spirit (Mark 9:17).
- Deaf spirit (Mark 9:25).
- Spirit of an unclean demon (Luke 4:33).
- Spirit of infirmity ("weakness") (Luke 13:11).
- Spirit of divination ("supposed insight into the future or the unknown gained by supernatural means; divining, especially by magic" - Oxford Dictionary) (Acts 16:16).
- Spirit of bondage (Romans 8:15).
- Spirit of stupor ("slumber" - KJV) (Romans 11:8).
- Spirit of the world (1 Corinthians 2:12).
- Spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7).
- Spirit of the anti-Christ (1 John 4:3).
- Spirit of error (1 John 4:6).

There are a host of different manifestations of evil spirit activity (we are coming up against new ones continually), and the Christian Counsellor needs to be very sensitive to the Holy Spirit . . . and to what the one being counselled is saying. Often there are "keys" that are given (or let slip out) by the one in need, as the problem gives itself away. Especially be on guard against a lying spirit seeking to deceive, to distract, and/or to keep you away from detecting the real problem. Evil spirits can only be commanded to leave a person's body when that person wants to be set free. They must be willing, otherwise we are only violating their will . . . and much time is wasted. When they are definitely willing, and will renounce the spirit(s), that gives us the authority in Jesus' name to command them to leave.

It is important to note that when an evil spirit is present in the life of a person, that spirit will make that person do what that spirit is there for. For example: a lying spirit makes people tell lies; an unclean spirit makes people do unclean things; a lustful spirit makes people lust after particular things or people; a deaf spirit makes people deaf, and so on.

EVIL SPIRITS REVEAL THEMSELVES IN:

- Unnatural behavioural patterns.
- Bondages, including depression and oppression.
- Unusual hereditary problems.
- Curses.
- Lies and contradictions.
- Occult practices, Eastern mysticism, secret societies, immorality, rebellion, anger, hatred, bitterness, arrogance, etc.
- No joy or freedom to express the name of Jesus Christ themselves, or when the name of Jesus Christ is mentioned.
- When the Blood of Jesus Christ is exalted.
- When the presence of God is felt.
- Agitations in the presence of a Holy Spirit-filled believer.
- When the gift of discerning of spirits is in operation, and other Gifts of the Holy Spirit as well.

- Through some physical afflictions, illnesses and allergies.
- Glassy eyes, vile breath, and other smells.

PREPARING TO MINISTER DELIVERANCE FROM EVIL SPIRITS

It is very important that we are not novices – nor ignorant - when dealing with evil spirits. If you have any doubts or fear at all as to what you are dealing with, then it is wisdom to get the help and/or advice of someone who is more mature in deliverance ministry. Remember, you are there to solve the problem – not to add another one to it! It is also good to know that you cannot cast an evil spirit out of a person if one is not in there in the first place! So be sure you are dealing with an evil spirit before you commence to minister. Here are some helpful things to do:

- **Know the Word of God.** Make sure that what you do is based on the Word of God.
- **Pray for God's WISDOM!**
- **Pray for the gifts of discerning of spirits and the word of knowledge to operate through you** (1 Corinthians 12:1-11).
- **Give the person you are counselling time to talk and share their heart. LISTEN!**
- There must be **TOTAL HONESTY**. This is a crucial key to deliverance from evil spirits. No one will be set free until there is a total honesty about the situations and problems for which they are seeking help. Evasion, half-truths and lies will keep people locked up in their bondages. Until the truth is out, don't expect great results to your deliverance prayers.
- **ARE YOU SURE it is an evil spirit?** Again I say, you cannot cast an evil spirit out of a person if there is not one there in the first place!!
- **Guard your own attitudes** toward the person who has come to you for help.
- **Be on guard against being influenced by pre-conceived ideas and opinions** that others may have "warned" you about.
- **BUILD LOVE and TRUST.** Know that it will take time to build this. Shattered lives do not love and trust again so easily. They have done that before and that's how they got "let down," bitterly disappointed and hurt deeply. Anyway, why should they trust you straight off? Trust has to be earned.
- **KNOW YOUR AUTHORITY IN JESUS CHRIST.**
- **WHEN PRAYING:** Unless the evil spirit(s) you are contending with are ancestral, then the evil spirit (s) have entered the life through an "open access" or a violation of the protection of God. Drugs, sexual immorality/perversion, rebellion, ritual

abuse, arrogance and wilful unforgiveness are examples of this. Even born-again Christians can open themselves up to the kingdom of darkness through the above things. What is ancestral inheritance? It is: "of, inherited from, or derived from ancestors" (Collins Dictionary); which means the person has inherited things at conception, in the womb, or at the death of a family member. Another name used is "hereditary" meaning "of, relating to, or denoting factors that can be transmitted genetically from one generation to another" (Collins).

- **FORGIVENESS:** Forgiveness is a powerful thing. A lot of pride, hate, anger, rebellion, bitterness, and even sicknesses, are the direct result of unforgiveness. Each of them can be evil spirits at work. The one wanting deliverance must be willing to release the pent-up pressures that unforgiveness creates. Christians especially must repent of unforgiveness! It is one of Satan's strategies against Christians. He wants us to get so hurt from fellow Christians that we will not forgive them. Unforgiveness plays right into Satan's hand! ***"A further reason for forgiveness is to keep from being outsmarted by Satan; for we know what he is trying to do"*** (2 Corinthians 2:11, The Living Bible).
- **Forgiveness releases!**
- **Forgiveness gives us power over the devil! RENOUNCE him!** Before I take authority over the evil spirit(s), I get the person to speak out a prayer of renunciation. If they have an unclean spirit I get them to renounce the unclean spirit in the name of Jesus Christ. If it is adultery, witchcraft, or murder, whatever it is, get them to release their will in a prayer of renunciation: **audibly!** It is a public confession before God and you. Often there will be a need to actually lead them in a prayer of renunciation (get them to repeat a prayer after you), as they can struggle to speak it out. It is a moment of deliverance for them!
- **TAKE AUTHORITY:** Once the evil spirit(s) have been renounced, then take authority over them, and command them to leave that person's body in the mighty name of JESUS CHRIST. When the person you are praying for has come to a place of as total honesty as possible, and shows a genuine will to be free from the devil's works, then there is no reason why the evil spirit(s) should not depart. **They have to bow in obedience to the name of Jesus Christ!**

THE TIMING OF DELIVERANCE:

The timing of deliverance can be (1) immediate, (2) in a short while, or (3) a gradual process of release and healing over a longer period. If there is no change whatever, then it could be:

- **The person is not fully ready for deliverance** (there is still more preparation needed through confession, honesty, forgiveness, or a strengthening against fear being manipulated from other people).
- **The "problem" is not an evil spirit at all.** It could be emotional, psychological, or physical. An understanding Christian doctor can be helpful in such cases.
- **The "root" cause has not been discovered.**
- **A lack of discernment and wisdom on the part of the Counsellor.**
- **A lack of Holy Spirit anointing, power and authority.** (The Counsellor may be "out of his depth" and unable to handle such a case).
- **The timing is not right.** God may want other areas to be faced first, which will bring about a better end result.

- **Deliverance is an "excuse" or "escape" for some people.** What is really needed is a changing and developing of character; the strengthening of weak areas like indecisiveness, personal discipline, getting right motivation, changing habits or lifestyles that leave the doors open for more evil spirits to enter. Drugs, the occult, sexual immorality, ritual abuse and pornography involvement all demand definite decisions to break out of, or away from.
- **You may need more help and experienced people to be involved with you?** Do not be threatened by this. No one has all the answers, so be glad of any real assistance you can get.
- **Be open to God!** Be open to learn!

OTHER POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- **Do not be "performance" orientated.** By this I mean, seeking to make sure there has to be a manifestation of a spirit before it can be cast out. I have personally found some of those with little or no manifestation during the prayer time turn out to be the best results. At the same time be aware that in deliverance the unexpected can always happen! It does concern me when praying with some people for the first time, how often they turn on to what I call "manifestation mode," as though they have been taught that they have to do that. Sometimes it will take several appointments to tactfully get them out of that mind-set and for them to learn to relax - and to receive.
- **Is an environmental change necessary?** Some situations will not change until there is an environmental change; that is, to get them into a "safe house" where their warlords, queens or criminal or drug bosses are not able to have free access to them.
- **Deal with the spirit of fear!** Every kingdom outside of the Kingdom of God is operated and controlled by the spirit of fear. That fear makes people do all kinds of things in order to keep "on the right side" of whoever is controlling them. The Counsellor, too, needs to deal with fear in his/her own life. Otherwise the enemy has a foothold over us as well. **God's answer to fear is LOVE!**
- ***"We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit ... If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgement, because in His world we are like Him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love"*** (1 John 4:13-18, NIV).

USE YOUR SPIRITUAL WEAPONS (2 Corinthians 10:4-5), which are:

- **The All-Powerful and Mighty Name of JESUS!**
- **The Living Word of God!**
- **The Power of the Blood of Jesus and His finished work at Calvary!**
- **The Ability of the Holy Spirit Anointing!**
- **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit!**
- **Other trusted ministries!**

- **Be firm with evil spirits, but gentle with the person.** Break the devil's hold in the Name of Jesus, naming the spirit (whether it be or is rebellion, hate, pride, infirmity, lies, stubbornness, lust, sorcery, etc. Bind every spirit of fear).
- **Do not make fun of the devil.** Address him by Bible names only (Jude 9 and 1 Peter 5:8).

WARNING: Deliverance ministry is not for novices. It is not a glamorous thing. Too many rush in where "angels fear to tread" causing more harm than good, bringing a reproach upon the name of Christ and His Church. Young men and women need to work in with their church leaders where possible. Talk it through with them, so you know exactly where you stand. Do not work behind their backs! Do not work alone. Make sure you have sufficient "back-up" support to call on, should things start to get out of hand.

GUARDING AGAINST THE RE-ENTRY OF EVIL SPIRITS

Jesus said:

- ***"But when the unclean spirit has gone out of a man, he roams through dry places in search of rest, but he does not find any. Then he says, I will go back to my house from which I came out. And when he arrives he finds the place unoccupied, swept, put in order and decorated. Then he goes and brings with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they go in and make their home there. And the last condition of that man becomes worse than the first . . ."*** (Matthew 12:43-45, AMP).

Jesus said the enemy would try and come back. If he is allowed to, he brings in others much worse than himself - leaving the person worse off as well.

After deliverance there is need for teaching. There must be a change of life-style. Character and discipline must be developed. All connections with the evil spirit world must be turned from. It may mean taking a person out of their environment, providing a good Christian place to stay until they are strong enough to stand in the faith of Jesus Christ.

Many today are battling again with bondages and spirits they renounced years ago. There is a stirring up of the "old gods" all over the world, especially as people are seeking to "get back to their roots."

HOW DO SPIRITS RE-ENTER?

- **Mainly through the MIND:** When a person allows his/her mind to dwell on things of the past that has involved evil spirits, the enemy subtly activates the thought patterns. Once the mind yields to a certain stage, the spiritual side opens them up to the "old things."
- **Through sin and old habit patterns.**
- **Through disobedience to the revealed will of God:** This can sometimes be the direct result of ignorance of spiritual principles and practices. It can be because of "behind the scenes" pressures and threats being applied by connections in the underworld, etc. Or, it can be straight disobedience to God.

- **Rebellion.** By wilfully turning again to those things that are “forbidden” because of their negative influences that they have on a person.

Recommended Reading: “**The Evil Powers Of Canaan**” (by Rodney W. Francis). Price within New Zealand (\$10.00), within Malaysia (RM20.00), United Kingdom (4 Pounds) and USA (\$10.00).

Chapter 13

THE NEED FOR WISDOM AND BALANCE

In all areas of the Counselling and Deliverance ministry there is need for wisdom and balance. Extremes for and against are both wrong. We must respect other people's point of view, even if they are wrong. Forcing decisions through over-emphasis, over-enthusiasm and dogmatic beliefs does nothing for God's Kingdom. Even truth over-emphasized becomes error.

The test of Counselling and Deliverance is the fruit one's ministry is producing.

- **Are we really bringing people through to victory, or are we “using them” to make out we have got some kind of spectacular ministry?**
- **Every ministry that produces fruit for God's glory will be tested ... none more so that that which does direct battle with Satan himself!** When you are effective against the devil's kingdom, then he will do his best to discourage, deceive and discredit you. He hates his works being exposed and defeated. The power of doubt is another trick of his. I have never experienced the power of doubt so strongly as when I have been engaged in unlocking those bound up in satanic covens. Do not be ignorant of Satan's devices!

FINALLY:

DEVELOP THE CHARACTER IN SCRIPTURAL TRUTHS

DEVELOP THE CHARACTER:

Many "problems" people face are made worse because of a lack of character development. "Character" is "the combination of traits and qualities distinguishing the individual nature of a person or thing; moral force; integrity" (Collins English Dictionary).

People of weak character, with no personal disciplines in their lives, will struggle more than those who are of a strong character. In a Christian setting, it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit - love, joy, peace, long suffering (patience), gentleness (kindness), goodness, faith (faithfulness), meekness and temperance (self-control) - that make the character strong (Galatians 5:22-23). Those, for example, who have a problem with relating to other people, are often suffering from rejection that has robbed them of their peace - peace with God,

peace with themselves and peace with others. Minister God's peace into them and you will discover other areas of their lives will start to come into right order.

- ***"A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones"*** (Proverbs 14:30, NIV).
- The KJV says: ***"A sound ("healing, yielding") heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones."***

SCRIPTURE TRUTHS:

Often the problems that exist in Christians seeking counsel are made worse because they have not grasped some facts that the Scriptures teach. Let us look at a few:

- ***"A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones"*** (Proverbs 17:22, NKJV).

Note: A cheerful hearted person minister's life and health to him or herself, but one whose spirit is dejected and broken is dying on the inside.

- ***"A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit"*** (Proverbs 15:13, NIV).

Note: The heart condition affects the face! And the spirit! What about the confession of their tongue?

- ***"The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit"*** (Proverbs 18:21, NIV).

Our words justify (lift us up) or condemn (knock us down) – (Matthew 12:34-37). Jesus said we ***"shall have whatever we say"*** (Mark 11:23). Surely that applies both positively and negatively? The reason why the bones in the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel's vision were ***"very dry"*** (Ezekiel 37:2) was because of Israel's negative confession. Through that they lost hope. Their confession was: ***"Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off"*** (Ezekiel 37:11).

The answer for those Christians with the afore-mentioned problems is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 61:1-4; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8) - and even a fresh infilling for those who say they are already filled!! Then for them to be encouraged to actively believe the truth of the Word of God. That means we need to consciously accept and believe what the truth of God's Word says about **us**, rather than what **we** say about us! The fact is **we are what our believing is**. What we believe about ourselves will determine how positive and victorious we will live, or how negative we become. Others may not believe in us, and if we accept what they say, then we will not believe in ourselves either. But if we believe what God says about us – and act on that – then what others think will not have a detrimental affect upon us.

The whole purpose of this ministry is to see men and women set free from their problems, released into a new freedom in Jesus Christ, knowing total forgiveness and cleansing, and being put back into the community where they can live unashamed ... knowing God's love has transformed them into beautiful creatures for His praise and glory. Unless and until that happens, we cannot claim total success.

May God bless you in your ministry of “Counselling and Deliverance” to those who come to you for help – and give you many great victories for His own honour, praise and glory, Amen.

Other books, booklets and manuals by **Rodney W. Francis**

Books:

- Developing Prophetic Ministry
- Equipping For Leadership
- Divine Healing – A Key To The Growth Of The Christian Church! (*English, Nepalese, Telugu India, and Italian languages*)
- You Can Measure Your Love For God (*English, Nepalese, Telugu India, and Italian*)
- The Prophetic In The Exodus (*English and Italian*)
- God's Call Can Be Fulfilled!
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- Are You Called To The Ministry?
- The Evil Powers Of Canaan
- Discovering The God-Factor
- How To Handle Criticism
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- Do You Know And Understand The Prophetic Foundation Of Your Life And Your Church?
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- Capture Your Vision!
- The Prophetic Double Anointing
- The "Dunamis" Power Of God!

Manuals:

- School Of The Holy Spirit (*English and Italian*)
- The Book Of James (Verse by verse teaching)
- Bible Basics (Foundational teaching for newer Christians)
- Kingdom Living (Teaching on Matthew Chapters 5 to 7)
- Curses (What the Bible has to say) (By Rodney Francis, Len Buttner and Kerry Wright)
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Photo:

Rodney W. Francis was converted in 1959 at 17 years of age, and sovereignly baptized in the Holy Spirit in the midst of a herd of cows at 18 years of age. There he received the call of God to preach. Doors opened up for him to commence preaching a short time later, and he has been preaching ever since. He is the Founder/Director of “The Gospel Faith Messenger,” a many-faceted Ministry that reaches out to multiplied thousands of people around the world through Gospel literature, books, manuals, audio cassettes, E-Mail ministries, the World Wide Web: www.gospel.org.nz 3 Bible Correspondence Courses (free), International Training Schools, Prophetic Conferences, Training of Prophetic Teams, Personal Prophetic Ministry, Schools Of The Holy Spirit, Church meetings, Counselling, etc. For more than 40 years (commenced April 1964) this Ministry has impacted hundreds of thousands of people in over 90 nations.

Rodney and his wife, Jean, live by faith (trusting God for their support), and the Ministry has a number of dedicated, voluntary workers that enable us to make the financial donations go almost 100% toward reaching people for Christ. Your ongoing prayer support of “The GFM” Ministry is greatly appreciated.