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[Statement of Faith](#)

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SPIRITUAL WARFARE COMBAT TIPS

Holy Spirit’s Leadership: Recognizing, Transforming Dynamics of the Mind

On our website, we indicate that one of the Keys to understanding life, especially as a believer, is the mind. There are many, many Scriptures and Scriptural concepts which relate to the mind and the godly and ungodly spiritual dynamics we may experience in it. While the mind is represented by only one of the Keys, in this article we will look briefly at how it has two parts that work in relationship to one another. The mind also works in relationship with the heart. All of these relationships function according to biological, intellectual and emotional principles, but they also function according to greater spiritual principles. The challenge of walking with Christ includes abiding by these principles and improving how we submit our minds to God. In so doing, the spiritual dynamics we experience can be transformed as God directs which leads us to become increasingly holy.

Feelings 101: Pain to Peace examines these dynamics and principles, and it explains (in everyday terms) some interesting scientific findings relevant to, and can help us better understand, the spiritual dynamics of the heart and mind which we see described in the Scriptures. For a more thorough examination of all these areas, we recommend you read that book.

The Mind: Two Parts That Relate to Spiritual, Inner Conflict

God designed our mind to function in some very specific ways. There are two primary parts to our minds. There is the conscious part and the unconscious part. God designed these two parts to work relationship to one another to facilitate, among other things, free will. God also designed the mind to work in relationship to the heart to make it to where we have a need to interact with Him in order to think and act in godly ways. In short, when Satan is attacking us, we are not able to think and act in godly ways without interacting with God in our hearts. We can’t do that on our own. We still have free will; we still get to make choices for ourselves. When Satan is attacking us during some real-life situation, then regardless how trivial or traumatic that trial may seem, **from a spiritual standpoint** our free will choices are limited to picking between God’s Truth and Satan’s UNtruth. In terms of the external situation, we will make decisions, we will say things, we will do things, and we will not say and do other things all based on the spiritual contents of our hearts during that trial.

“KEY CONCEPT:

We are able to experience inner conflict between Truth and UNtruth. This conflict is a dynamic involving the unconscious part of us. The Lord seeks to help us become conscious of this inner conflict whenever it arises. Giving in to UNtruth is like a habit and is defined as ‘the flesh.’”¹

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Romans 7:15-21 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

In Romans 7:15-21 we see Paul describing the spiritual dynamics which, for us who have been born into sin, are what he calls, “The flesh.” The flesh asserts itself as a result of Satan’s attack in the more powerful UNconscious parts of our minds. Paul describes how there are times when we may have a conscious intention or willingness to do one thing, but that is not enough to cause us to actually do the good thing we know we must do and may even want to do! This is because Satan’s influence and attack remains untransformed in the powerful and dominant unconscious part of our minds. This is why “works” alone do not make us right with God. We are not capable of godly works from a godly heart without interacting with Him in our hearts.

To be fair, just as we may UNconsciously cooperate with Satan during a trial, we may also UNconsciously cooperate with God. Honestly, while that may sound good, and from a limited perspective it may be, a personal relationship with God (walking with the Lord as His disciple) is based on conscious intention, not unconscious interactions.

Conscious intention and motive to do a thing according to the glory of the Lord is not enough to ensure it is actually done in accordance to the glory of the Lord **when inner conflict is present**. That inner conflict is present does not *necessarily* equate to sin, although it might; however, untransformed it will always lead to sin. Paul also talks about inner conflict in his letter to the Galatians.

Galatians 5:16-17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Again we see that inner conflict is a normal part of spiritual warfare in the sense that it indicates when, as individual disciples of Christ, we must make choices that carry spiritual implications. The point is not for inner conflict to persist in a trial. If it does, then it may indicate either transformation has not taken place or that Satan has initiated a new attack very soon after the transformation (which would require going through the transformation process and seeking out the Spirit’s counsel again). In Galatians 5:16-17, Paul tells us that walking by the Spirit (as disciples of Christ) means we will not be doing the things we (our old selves) want!

When we first experience inner conflict we have a certain set of desires that may, at one point, have even begun as godly. When these desires are accompanied by inner conflict, they are somehow tainted by Satan’s attack. When we begin to actively listen to the Spirit of God with the heart, and

center on who we are in Christ and transform, we begin to become aware of a renewed set of desires that are more centered on God. This enables us to begin to see the desires of our hearts in the trial more clearly in the light of God. We can see how they became influenced by Satan’s attack. As our hearts become unfettered and filled with peace and trust, our desires and motives shift. Our minds become clear and we can see how God would have us act now in accordance with His plans now. Accordingly, our actions will change with the orientation of both our hearts and our minds.

In recognizing the significance of these things, we can see why Paul emphasized the significance of Abraham’s faith in the promises of God (Romans 4). Abraham had trials in which he fell to temptation, but ultimately he overcame his desire to make God’s promises happen his own way, and he transformed. As Paul brings out the importance of Abraham’s faith and righteousness, he goes on to say...

Romans 5:3-5 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

When we recognize the transformative value of our trials, we can exult in them. Love can pour through our hearts during our trials and tribulations through the Holy Spirit Who was given to us. When we transform in trials, we grow more in the image of Christ.

Examples of Application

Let’s look at some examples of how these concepts we’ve discussed can relate to certain kinds of real-life situations we may experience. Specifically, let’s look at trials in which we really may not be able to control, fix, or make the situation “right.” Let’s look at the trials in which we become driven, compelled, or pressured to try to fix the situation not because we are at peace, but because we may feel guilty, wrong or badly if we don’t change the situation to be the way we think it should be.

These examples and the discussion of them are not all encompassing and there will be exceptions based on the uniqueness of your own trials. However, as you look at the examples and the implications of the spiritual dynamics of the mind and of Spirit-led transformation during trials, challenge yourself to recognize times when you have experienced similar dynamics and seek out how they come to bear in your own life. These kinds of introspective observations and applications as they figure in your own life are important to your own regular self-testing before the Lord during your trials.

For example, perhaps you are in a work situation and you are doing everything you can to produce, yet no matter how hard you work, no matter what you do, the results just don’t come. Or, perhaps in a relationship you try and try to connect with someone (partner, child, friend, neighbor, boss), but the person will not respond to you the way you’d like regardless what you do. Or, perhaps in seeking to accomplish a particular goal, no matter how much you work to do your part, the results do not come and the goal does not seem to come to fruition.

When we are in these kinds of situations, we may respond in a variety of ways. Not all of our responses may be ungodly. The key to evaluating your own responses is to notice whether you are experiencing inner conflict or peace. Inner conflict indicates just that – conflict. This means not only external conflict, perhaps between people, competing desires, interests, or priorities, but also internal, spiritual conflict within you. The internal conflict you experience involves Satan attacking you and the Spirit of God working to get your attention, to offer you His counsel, and to guide you through necessary changes and transformation.

When you notice your inner conflict in such situations, it is a trial for you. It may be a trial for others too, but start by working your trial first. It is critical to re-establish yourself in who you are in Christ. It is vital to actively connect with Him by focusing your attention on Him such that your heart transforms to peace. To keep your heart there during the trial, you will have to make changes in you and the Spirit will want to guide you to these.

In seeking these changes out, it may help to try to observe whether your mind has the following kinds of thoughts in amongst its reasoning. These thoughts may not be at the forefront of your train of thought. In fact, they will more than likely be buried “a few layers down,” in your unconscious. Give them some serious reflection. If you have the heart to know whether these are part of your unconscious thinking processes, then if you focus your attention on them, you can become consciously aware. If you are struggling to be at peace during the trial, look particularly for numbers 4 and 5/6. See if you can sense the train of thought in the example below.

Possible UNconscious Thoughts in the Example Trials
(which you can become aware of by seeking them out with intention of the Spirit)

1. God designed me with a brain to think and solve problems.
2. I am supposed to work to fix this problem.
3. Fixing this problem is the right thing to do.
4. Being at peace in the situation is almost like accepting the situation as OK, but the situation isn't OK, therefore, I shouldn't be at peace.*
5. If I am at peace in the situation, I am afraid or concerned* that I won't really care what happens and I am afraid or concerned* that I won't do what I need to do to handle/fix the problem(s).
6. If I am at peace in the situation, I am afraid or concerned* that others may not change, and that is a problem.

* Notice that number 4 contains unconscious judgments about the situation and its relationship with peace. Numbers 5/6 contains the unconscious reason why those judgments appear to be valid. Also in numbers 5/6, the unconscious rationale contains heart disturbances as part of its rationale. This thought process is an example of how the unconscious anticipates potential heart disturbances as a result of Satan's attacks. When the unconscious instinctively and automatically “protects” us in this “knee-jerk” way, it inadvertently exposes us to acting on Satan's influence since we likely will not catch and transform it! Improving our part of noticing this, paying attention to inner conflict, and partnering with God's Spirit to transform inner conflict to peace are key elements to renewing the mind during the trial.

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When at first we do not notice these kinds of thoughts in the train of our thinking, it is because these thoughts are assumptions that our unconscious part includes in its thinking processes. Again, you can become aware of them, but often times you won't unless your conscious attention shifts to seek them out for whatever reason. This is why we must seek out the changes. The Holy Spirit wants you to be aware of them, but if you aren't skillfully attuned to your heart, you won't hear His corrective voice blowing the whistle on your thinking! While some parts of those thoughts contain truth, not all of them may be true in the spiritual context of your trial. Some of them are simply not true at all. Still, those kinds of thoughts come from the unconscious, are related to the inner conflict, and are a result of Satan's attack there. We will come back to this.

The problem with those kinds of thoughts is that, at a deeper level, they are used by Satan to tie your sense of worth, your sense of value, and sense of identity to the results of the external situation. As believers, as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, our sense of worth, value, and identity is to come from Him alone. We are children of God. It is God Who created us; Who sent His Son to be a sacrifice for us; Who has given us His Holy Spirit to teach and work with us; and Who enables us to begin a good work, to continue to pursue what work He would have us to, and Who can seek to move us in any direction as He sees fit. We must not forget that God knows what problems we are encountering in our trials; He may be permitting those problems for purposes we do not understand. Remember, God disciplines those He loves (Hebrews 12:5-6).

God is fully aware of the external problems we face, even when we are facing trials like we described in the example trials in which we cannot control the outcome of the situation. When God allows them to continue in spite of our efforts and desires to alter or fix problems, then our challenge is to be at peace within. When we are working hard to accomplish something and nothing seems to be happening except that we hit continual obstacles and are experiencing inner conflict, these kinds of trials require solid spiritual hearing skills. They require us to listen with each trial. They require us to have faith, to trust God's plan and will, and to align our desires with His, even though the outcome of the trial may not appear to be what *we* think it ought to be. These kinds of trials also require us to seek out what the Holy Spirit would teach us to learn and to change within ourselves so that we might grow stronger as disciples of Christ. In other words, we must seek out how our heavenly Father may be using the trial to discipline us to grow in faith in our actions, to relinquish control to Him inwardly, to make the inward changes that center us more in peace, and to learn to trust Him in practical ways in situations where literally the main thing we can control is how much control we seek to exert over our old selves! We may be getting an opportunity to examine the motives in our hearts, to experience the blessing of trusting in the Lord, and to ensure our actions are truly in His service and not for the fulfillment of *our* own “good” desires (which could be contrary to the desires of the Lord).

It is vital we hear His Spirit's guidance to us as individuals with each obstacle and problem we encounter in such trials. If we are actually doing what He would have us to do, then we will be able to be at peace without second-guessing ourselves. In other words, Satan can tempt with desires for certain outcomes to a trial such that we feel guilty for being at peace when “bad” external situations may not actually change. However, if the Spirit's counsel is to trust the Lord and to be at peace, then

we will be able to do our part to act in the trial, but we won’t do it from a place of compulsion that comes from guilt, fear of the future, or for mere personal or familial interests. We will be able to continue to do our part in the external situation in a balanced way. We will be able to act with a heart that is centered in Christ, assured, joyful in the Lord, and confident that the outcome to the trial will be as God will have it to be. We will be able to do our part trusting the outcome of the trial to the Lord, as opposed experiencing inner conflict, striving with the situation and fighting against unseen forces behind it which are usually not possible for us to consistently control anyway.

It is entirely possible that one of the changes the Spirit of God may speak to is one in which we are challenged to give up the goal which He originally had us pursuing. This may not always be true, but we must be willing to ask the Lord if this is His will, and challenge ourselves whether we are honest enough to handle the answer. Are our listening skills honed enough such that if He told us to stop, our new selves would be able to hear that answer even though our old selves did not like the answer? On the other hand, the Lord may want us to continue what we are doing, but with a heart that is pure, peaceful and focused on Him – not one that is experiencing inner conflict. Either way, peace is to rule our hearts and the goal is to experience true peace in Christ during the trial. Anything less and we are missing something of His counsel. Hearing His counsel clearly is vital because, when Satan attacks and inner conflict arises, only by centering ourselves in the peace of Christ within our hearts can we be certain Satan is not deceiving us.

Concluding Thoughts

Most of the time, painful inner conflict is what gets our attention, so this is the basic form of inner conflict on which the *Keys To Understanding Life Series* authors’ usually orient. However, it is completely possible, and even sometimes frequent, for us to fail to notice some of our inner conflicts. This spiritual oversight is in part due to the activity of the unconscious. The unconscious can, for reasons that vary by individual, become trained to assist in the “tuning out” of certain disturbances in the heart. When your unconscious conditions you to “tune out” certain heart disturbances as a way of “helping you” cope, this does not mean that you will never become aware of inner conflict. It is simply a limited form of spiritual “hardening of the heart” or “quenching of the Spirit.” This can be changed by improving our individual abilities in applying effective, practical self-testing and examination before the Lord.

While God designed our minds to be able to think, He also designed it such that we need His Spirit’s counsel to get a handle on the spiritual aspects of our thought-life when Satan is attacking us. Our minds must be set on things above, the old must be passed away, and our minds renewed when Satan attacks us – for this we need the transformative power of the Holy Spirit as well as the counsel and guidance from His written Word and as He speaks to our hearts. While we need to do all these things, we are still fully capable of thinking while under the influence of Satan’s attack and acting under the influence of Satan’s attack. This may seem like a strong comparison, but nevertheless, like the drunk driver, in our old selves we may not perceive ourselves as being impaired at all when Satan is attacking us, thus we may not think we need to seek out the Spirit’s counsel on how we, ourselves, need to change!

Satan uses the unconscious aspects of our minds to facilitate his attacks against us, to tempt us, and to try to keep us distracted so we do not transform the corresponding disturbances in our hearts. When this happens, the unconscious part of the mind has certain thoughts within it which it is *not* passing along to the conscious part of our mind, because it does not deem those thoughts as being important. This is a mistake, but it happens within the parameters of the relationship between the unconscious and conscious parts of our minds. This may appear to sound like God’s design of our minds is flawed, but it isn’t. It may appear to sound like God made us “victims” of Satan’s attacks, but He didn’t. By the sacrifice of His own Son, God’s Spirit is always available to us to guide us and counsel us. God gave us a way out, a way to deal with the realities of trials and Satan’s attacks; it is through Him. It is up to us to keep pace with His Spirit, to seek out and to submit to His guidance, and to do our part in not quenching the Spirit’s influence within us. We have been made into disciples of Christ because we heeded the Spirit’s call and believed at some point in the past. Let us grow as disciples by hearing His counsel and transforming each time a trial is present.

In the May 2010 “Hearts Up”, we discussed the importance of having some means of testing yourself – seeking out the old in order to pass it away and build up the new during a trial. When you detect inner conflict within yourself (even if someone else is also experiencing inner conflict), this is the time for you to apply the Scriptural discipline of testing yourself, however you choose to do that. When you are experiencing inner conflict, it is important to discover what the old self wants you to do or not do, say or not say, think or avoid considering as a viable option. Testing yourself includes drawing upon lessons the Holy Spirit has taught you via your past trials, i.e. what your old self actions and desires have been during trials. This doesn’t just include trials from 10 years ago, but trials from one year ago, six months ago, and even last week, and visa versa. Your old self actions, inactions and desires will reveal key information about ways Satan often attacks you. Taking the time to bring yourself before the Lord to pursue Spirit-led testing is challenging. *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace* offers lessons that use the Painful Pattern Tool for these purposes. This tool was designed based on lessons learned from the successes and failures of men and women of the Scriptures in listening to God during their trials.

Note for *Feelings 101* Readers: When it comes to trying to allow the Spirit of God to reveal Satan’s influences on your unconscious thought-life (like the examples numbered 1-6 on page 7), you may find it useful to wait to attempt that until after you’ve transformed your heart to peace in Principle 4 (P4G2) of the listening process (if you are using the 7 *Spiritual Principles* of listening to God). This is pretty important. When you are in a trial and Satan is attacking, then he is influencing your mind and limiting your ability to observe practically anything in the light of God. This is the significance of connecting with the Spirit within and drawing on His power to center your heart in who you are in Christ (Principle 4). Once you are at peace and re-centered on who you are in Christ, your whole biology changes in response, according to God’s design of the human body – including the way your brain functions (F101, Chapter 6, *Biology of God’s Truth About You*). When you begin seeking out the changes God would have you to make, if anything comes up about relinquishing control, then look for those kinds of influences within your train of thought. At P4G3, questions E-H may be particularly helpful when control issues seem to be among the changes God is speaking to you about. At P5G1, questions G and I may be particularly useful. At P6, questions D and G may be helpful.

For more about all the topics in this article, see [Feelings 101: Pain to Peace](#) (including seeking out the old self; transforming heart disturbances; identifying old self patterns; discovering the Holy Spirit’s counsel and guidance; the 7 *Spiritual Principles* of hearing the Holy Spirit’s counsel with the heart; Painful Pattern Tool; heart and mind dynamics, roles, relationships, and biological responses to Satan’s attacks and transforming to peace; etc.).

KEY IN-SIGHTS

“**W**hen you do what God tells you to do to change [during a trial], He enables your new self to emerge victorious. But at the same time, your old self will be unfamiliar with the aspect of faith that, from your old self’s point of view, involves uncertainty and is counterintuitive to your survival instincts (Ephesians 4:17-24).”²

Satan will try to influence your decision-making processes and choices in real-life situations. When you are experiencing inner conflict during these kinds of real-life trials and are seeking God’s will, then it is important to remember that discovering and doing God’s will is not always going to “feel good, natural or comfortable” right off the bat. In other words, God’s will for you is going to “rub against the grain” of your old self (see Galatians 5:16-17 quoted on page 5). This is experienced in the initial stages of transformation of during a given trial, it is spiritually normal and is part of fighting an inner spiritual battle with perseverance and faith. It is true that the inner conflict must be transformed to peace, but not by gratifying the old self. It must be transformed through connection with God in the heart and change that takes you away from the patterns of your old ways.

THE BIBLE’S BIGGER PICTURES

How is it that we are discipled by the Holy Spirit,
The Teacher, yet we are known as disciples of Christ?

While we understand the Holy Spirit to be known as The Teacher, The Comforter, The Guide Who offers us counsel, guidance and instruction, when it comes to the role of the Holy Spirit in discipleship, we often attribute His role to be one of a behind the scenes kind of role. It is in this light that the question in the title of this article arises.

The Holy Spirit provides godly influences to our lives. We typically consider His role to be one of helping us to remember a Scripture verse we’ve previously committed to memory, or perhaps bringing to mind a particular insight or course of action we must take in a give situation. The problem is that the Scriptures indicate Satan brings influences to bear on us too. He influences our

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thinking and inspires our old selves to act. We usually don’t think in terms of interacting with the Holy Spirit in the way we might were we to compare it to interacting with the Lord Jesus Christ through prayer or perhaps singing praises to God.

We must be very careful. The difficulty with recognizing our Christ-secured opportunity to interact directly with the Holy Spirit during trials can stem inadvertently from perceiving our One True God, Who exists in three Persons, as being separate more than He really is. This may happen from mistakenly thinking that when the Old Testament says, “God did this,” or “God did that,” that it means some part of God did it and the Holy Spirit was excluded. It can come from thinking that simply because the entire Trinity is not named individually that it must mean the Persons not mentioned were uninvolved. This could not be farther from the truth, yet it can cause us to approach the real-life *application* of our Christian faith in ways that can mirror that of pagan religions who serve multiple gods! That is a strong statement, yet it is made only because the implications it has on practical application are very real and can impact one’s walk with the Lord terribly! Let’s get specific about what we mean here, and then let’s look at the Bible’s bigger picture.

We know we are disciples of Christ and that this means we are to learn from what Jesus said in God’s written Word. In this way, part of being discipled is quite clear in that we learn from what God has said in His written Word. But that’s not all, we will look at Scriptures below to see that because Jesus’ secured for us God’s Holy Spirit, this involves being discipled by THE Teacher, the Holy Spirit, Who *is* the Spirit of Christ in our hearts: the Holy Spirit = the Spirit of Christ = the Spirit of God. When we interact with the Spirit of Christ to be discipled in trials, it is about discipleship beyond the elementary teachings of Christ.

This is the nature of the Trinity. One God; three Persons. They are not separate distinct gods. There is no time when all three have not existed. There is no time when they were separate. We may refer to one of the three Persons based on the perspective of God to which we are relating, but that does not leave out the other two. Bear in mind that when Jesus is speaking, He speaks often from the perspective of the Person of the Son. This accentuates the distinction of the three Persons, but never is to be mistaken to imply there are three distinct gods.

In John 14:16-17 Jesus says, “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (παράκλητον), that He may be with you forever; *that* the Spirit of truth (πνεῦμα τῆς ἀληθείας), whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.” (Italics are part of translation)

- Helper = Spirit of Truth = Helper Who will indwell the believer

In John 14:26 Jesus says, “But the Helper (παράκλητος), the Holy Spirit (πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον), whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach (διδάξει) you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

- Again we see the name, “Helper,” used
- Helper = Holy Spirit = The Teacher of all things

In John 16:14 Jesus says, “He (the Spirit of Truth) will glorify (δοξάσει) Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.” (Words in parenthesis added by author; italics are part of translation).

- The Spirit of Truth is to focus on Jesus, not Himself, by taking of that which is of the Lord and disclosing it to His disciples, i.e. the disciples of Christ!

In Romans 8:9 Paul describes a very significant truth about the Spirit: “However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit (πνεύματι), if indeed the Spirit of God (πνεῦμα θεοῦ) dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ (πνεῦμα Χριστοῦ), he does not belong to Him.”

- A person cannot deny Christ yet claim the Spirit of God because Spirit = Spirit of God = Spirit of Christ

In 1 Peter 1:10-11 the Apostle Peter declares, “As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ (πνεῦμα Χριστοῦ) within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.”

- Peter is saying that the prophets of the Old Testament, who spoke of the sufferings of Christ, had the Spirit of Christ within them.
- This is the same Spirit of Christ Paul indicates we have in us and is also known as the Spirit of God (Romans 8:9 above).
- Isaiah is one of the prophets to whom Peter refers (Isaiah 52-54). Yet Isaiah himself says it is Jehovah (יהוה), or Yahweh, Who declares the things he is prophesying about (Isaiah 52:5). Jehovah is the Hebrew word for the personal name of God in the Old Testament.
- Peter and Isaiah refer to the same God, but each refers to different Persons in the Godhead.

In terms of the Scriptures, whether a person lived before or after Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, connecting with God and learning from Him always involved the heart. It always involved dealing with real-world trials and transforming the contents of the heart during Satan’s attacks. However, with Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice came the opportunity for total forgiveness of sins and the opportunity for a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The Old Testament Law with its many sacrifices was fulfilled by Jesus and His singular, ultimate sacrifice.

Again, with Jesus’ sacrifice came the opportunity to be permanently indwelt with the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ) to guide, counsel, and teach us in our walk as disciples of Christ. While Christ ascended, a relationship with Him involves being instructed by His Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God. Interacting with His Spirit is a huge part of walking with Christ.

The ultimate written authority is God’s written Word, the Bible. It was authored by the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Christ, the Helper, the Teacher). THE ultimate authority, however, is the Spirit of God Himself (1 John 3:24). It is by the Holy Spirit that we are “sealed until the day of redemption” (Ephesians 4:30). The Spirit of Christ resides within us, seeking to teach us all things that we need to know to live as His disciples. Discipleship beyond the elementary teachings of Christ (Hebrews 6:1-2) focuses on increasing our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit as The Teacher Who helps us live as disciples in practical ways. In so doing, we can persevere in trials, not merely by enduring them and expose ourselves to being unaware of how Satan may deceive us into sinning with a tainted heart,

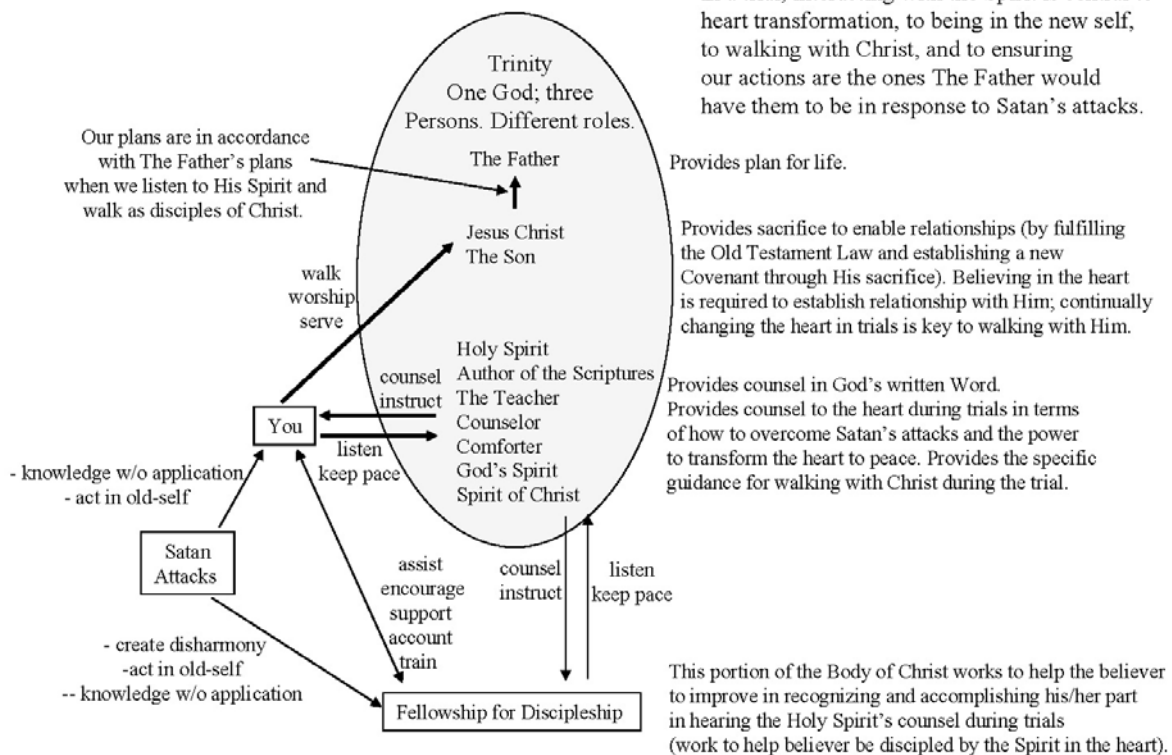
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and not by quenching or inadvertently tuning out the Spirit’s influence within in us (1 Thessalonians 5:19) through failure to pay attention.

Together, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit enable us to be disciplined, in daily living through our hearts, by their very nature. The relationships between the One in three Persons of God are linked to how God designed the relationships to work between our hearts and minds when we are confronted with real-world choices that carry spiritual implications between God’s Truth and Satan’s UNtruth.

The Godhead Facilitates Personal Discipleship through the Heart Via Roles and Relationships

Discipleship beyond the elementary teachings of Christ (Heb 6:1-2) is about being disciplined by the Spirit of Christ (the Holy Spirit) during a trial. Being disciplined! Perseverance! Faith!



Roles and relationships within the Godhead, as well as our relationship and capabilities for interacting with the Godhead (as disciples of Christ, i.e. believers) are germane to recognizing how we may be disciplined by the Holy Spirit during trials. Even Satan’s influences are relevant to understanding how the Scriptures describe us as being disciplined (growing, learning and being disciplined) through trials. We are responsible to study God’s written Word’s guidance so that we may better see the spiritual dangers in our lives, the possibilities we have in Christ, our Scriptural roles and responsibilities, and to learn from the successes and failures of those before us how to get better at submitting our own desires, wants, goals, and actions wholly to God.

As believers, the Spirit of Christ wants to work with us to bring all these things together in our personal trials. We are responsible to do our parts in paying attention to spiritual dynamics in us, to submitting to the Spirit, and to connecting with who we are in Christ in order to be transformed during a trial. This enables us to hear His guidance clearly. To fulfill these responsibilities, we must interact with God through prayer and listening with the heart. All these things are related to and define the practical application side of discipleship: discipleship beyond the elementary teachings of Christ.

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As we seek to live each day as disciples of Christ, let us not forget that it is The Holy Spirit, THE Teacher Who seeks to teach us and to guide us. He *IS* the Spirit of Christ Who seeks to do the discipling as we walk with Him – our part is to increase our ability to hear and listen.

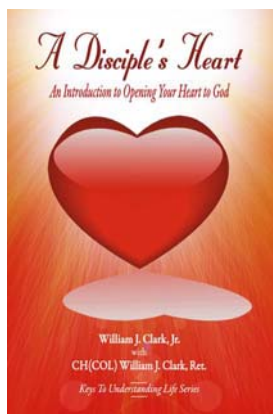
KEYS WEBSITE ALERTS

1. We will probably be adding some, if not all, of this month’s The Bible’s Bigger Pictures article to the web page dealing with THE Teacher: The Holy Spirit. We believe this article brings out important aspects of the relationship between the Holy Spirit’s role as Teacher and being disciples of Christ, which will assist visitors to KeysToUnderstandingLife.com.
2. We have created a couple of additional jpeg images that are modeled after the one which accompanies The Bible’s Bigger Pictures article. These will also be posted to the website this coming month as well. One image has been modified to show important relationships germane to discipleship beyond the basics. The others have been made to show the portions of discipleship beyond the basics on which each of the first three books of the *Keys To Understanding Life Series* focuses.

STATUS OF THE SERIES

We have added additional information about the first two books and “Hearts Up” to our author pages on Amazon.com. The information is fresh and wasn’t copied from something else we’ve written. If you know someone who may be interested in these, be sure to let them know that they can read more there. Here are links to those pages: [W. Sr.](#) [W. Jr.](#)

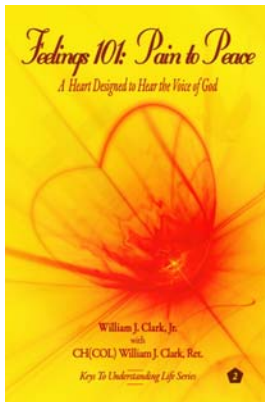
[*A Disciple's Heart*](#) (ADH):



Available in hardback, paperback, Adobe Reader™, Kindle™, iPhone, and iPad! Also available internationally. You can find links to popular e-retailers at the bottom of the page at www.adisciplesheart.com.

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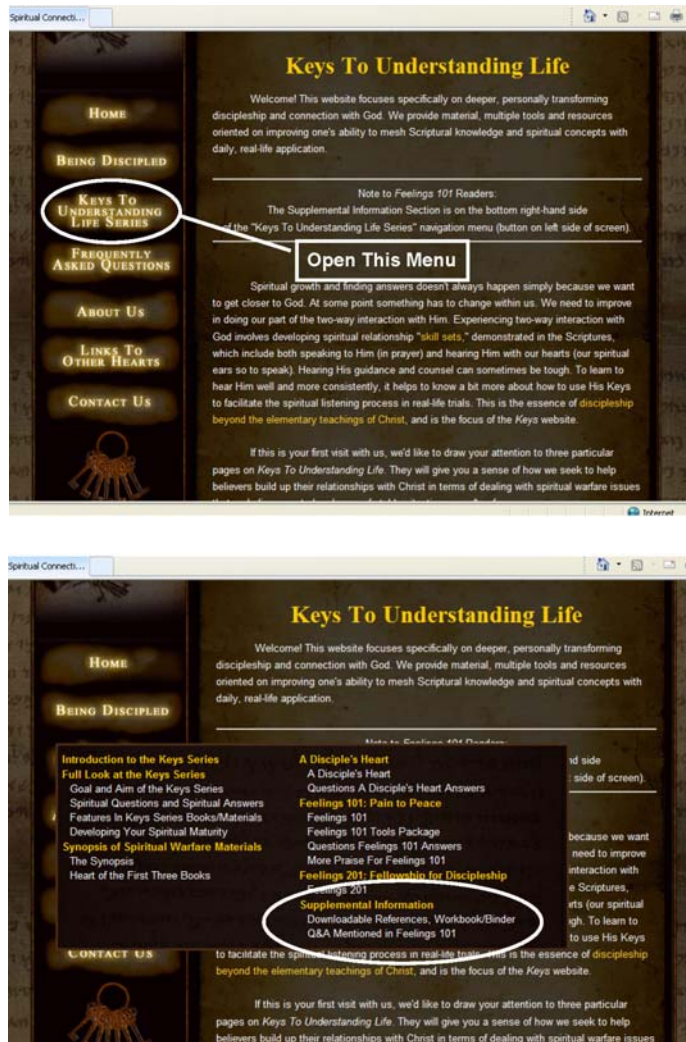
[Feelings 101: Pain to Peace](#) (F101):



Feelings 101: Pain to Peace is officially released in hardback, paperback, Adobe Reader™, Kindle™, iPhone, and iPad! You can find links to popular e-retail sites based on the format you want by looking at the bottom of the www.feelings101.com page.

Feelings 101 Readers: *Feelings 101* references supplemental materials and downloads available to F101 readers from the *Keys* website. To access these materials, *Feelings 101* readers must go to the Supplemental Information Section. Find it on the bottom right-hand side of the *Keys To Understanding Life Series* navigation menu. A version of this note also appears on the *Feelings 101* and Home pages of the website. The images below

can also be viewed from the website by clicking the “more help” link that accompanies the note.



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HEART TO HEART

In His Arms

In the beginning and for His glory
God gave us a spirit in a physical world.
And when heart and mind
Are properly aligned
In His arms we find peace.

There was once one choice, big as a tree
Satan's lie hidden by feelings and desires.
Can you see that in trials
God's help is required
If in *His* arms you will find peace?

Jesus' blood was shed on the cross
For all the world to see.
Though I may accept the gift
It is my own cross I must lift
So in His arms I may find peace.

The world in its ways offers "peace"
When things are going its way.
But to be fulfilled
By the intangible...
I must be in His arms to find peace.

When trains of thought build heads of steam
And inside my disturbances bid me act
Then Satan is behind it
His illusion is blinding
Only in the Lord's arms will I find peace.

Through the world Satan sells identities like wares
Using things I can do or can gain.
My citizenship is in heaven
Joy in trials is my testing
So in His arms I will find peace.

The peace of Christ renews my mind
When transforming in the trial at hand.
Changing by His Spirit to act
In ways the world wants not to react
Because in His arms I found peace.

William J. Clark, Jr.

ENDNOTES

¹ *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace*, by William J. Clark, Jr. with CH (COL) William J. Clark, Ret, Innovo Publishing, 2010, page 88

² *A Disciple’s Heart*, by William J. Clark, Jr. with CH (COL) William J. Clark, Ret., Innovo Publishing, 2009, page 51

Corrections to Previous “Hearts Up” Editions

With the publication of *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace*, we need to note a correction to the February 2010, The Bible’s Bigger Pictures article: “Jesus Transformed Satan’s Attacks on His Heart Too!” The article was adapted from F101 citing Chapter 6 as the location of the material; that changed in the final months prior to publication. The material the article was quoted and adapted from can be found in *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace* on pages 177-182, Chapter 5, Most of What Is Important Is NOT Visible.

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