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SPIRITUAL WARFARE COMBAT TIPS

Satan’s Tactic: The Illusory Victory – No Perseverance Required

Satan uses what we call the “illusory victory tactic” in two kinds of situations.

1. The first is when the results of a trial (or trials) appear to have been handled victoriously “in Christ,” but it actually wasn’t a victory; it simply appeared that way.
2. The second is when we actually had a victory in Christ during a trial; Satan lost. So, Satan works to make us stumble and fall by attacking us in the same way again later in a *spiritually* similar trial.

Let’s look at the first kind of “illusory victory.” **When we think we’ve handled a trial as God would have us to but really haven’t**, one of two things will happen (maybe both).

1. First, we will experience similar trials again. Why? Satan sees we are vulnerable and aren’t listening to the Lord concerning a particular part of our spiritual growth, so Satan attacks again in that area in an attempt to solidify our resistance to part of the Holy Spirit’s leadership. Alternately, similar trials are part of the Lord’s discipline. God seeks to discipline us to hear and obey His leadership by growing further in our new selves in Christ whenever Satan attacks. God does this because He loves us! This part is pretty straight forward.
2. A second result follows when we approach spiritually similar trials in the same way believing we understand how God wants us to, but it isn’t actually the way God wants us to approach them. If we think we are changing in the way God would have us to in certain kinds of trials, but we actually aren’t changing, then we may become partially spiritually deaf. So while we may believe our spiritual ears are open, our hearts can begin to harden. Even as believers, we sometimes turn a deaf ear to the Lord in certain kinds of trials, even when we are successful in other trials. We may focus on our successes in ways that lead us, inadvertently, to overlook areas in which we need to grow. We can begin to cling to an illusion of continual victories in Christ, yet grow lax in seeking out continual change of the Spirit. The only way to catch this is to have solid self-examination skills. Satan works hard against that. What’s worse, though, is that if we do not realize when we are hardening our hearts, then we may pray to the Lord, talk about the Lord and even be used by the Lord, *except* when it comes to being consistent in further changing ourselves. When this happens, we often measure our spiritual maturity by how much God uses us to change others or by the number of years we’ve served God, instead of by how much we ourselves continually change in Him. Just as a partial blockage of our physical hearts can be fatal, so too a hardening of the spiritual heart in a few areas of life can cause our spiritual growth to wane dangerously! Ultimately, Satan gets us to “persevere” in old self ways, which is not the persevering the Lord seeks from us.

That is one way Satan uses the “illusory victory” tactic. In the remainder of this article, we will examine the second kind of “illusory victory.” **Satan often uses the “illusory victory” tactic after we actually have been victorious in Christ in a spiritually similar trial.** In other words, we faced a trial and correctly heard the Holy Spirit’s counsel in a trial, we changed what God wanted us to change, and we experienced peace in the trial; so then, Satan may use his “illusory victory” tactic.

One way that you can tell when Satan may be using this tactic is when the trial really brings you down though you’ve experienced a strong sense of peace in a spiritually similar trial! Another way you can tell is when you see spiritual similarities to past trials. The trial at hand is a “repeat,” or what we (the authors) call a “do-over.” (*Feelings 101* Readers – see note for F101 Readers on page 10.)

The power that Satan wields by using this tactic is to deceive us into wrongfully believing that when we handle an issue “properly” or “in Christ,” we will not, or should not, need to deal with that issue again! As a result, our initial reaction is, “Not Again,” because Satan is convincing us that we *shouldn’t have to* deal with it. Satan doesn’t want us to “press on toward the goal.” This tactic often raises unhealthy doubt about our understanding of God’s previous guidance. Satan causes us to feel as though living for God “shouldn’t be that hard or complicated!” Satan tries to get us to think that living as a follower of Christ involves spiritual warfare, but without the warfare! **While Satan’s “illusory victory” tactic can have varied effects on each of us (any of which are NOT good), Satan’s fundamental goal is to get us to approach the new trial as if no further perseverance is, or should be, required, as we were “victorious” once before!**

Generally, we experience the following when Satan uses this version of the “illusory victory” tactic:

1. We are spiritually disoriented (though we may not think of ourselves as being disoriented).
2. We are spiritually deceived (though we may not think of ourselves as being deceived).
3. We are distorting the Truth (though we probably aren’t intending to do so).

Disorientation. This experience is involves being in the present yet living in the past because we focus on past victories in Christ too much. Yes, that is possible. When Satan gets us disoriented, our spiritual sight dims in similar trials. Though we’ve been victorious in Christ before, disorientation creates a desire to avoid experiencing an uncomfortable trial, even though God can see how we may need it spiritually. Of course it is a “good” desire to avoid trials; however, when the trial is at hand, then that desire is no longer realistic in the sense that we are in a trial and have to deal with it in Christ! One of Satan’s goals is to get us to try to avoid a trial when we are already up to our spiritual necks in it! Usually we do not intend to avoid the Lord’s discipline, yet when we do (even unconsciously); it is the result of this tactic. Satan uses the fact that we don’t consciously walk around seeking to avoid the Lord’s discipline to cause us to be rather shocked or surprised when similar trials come up again. This is especially true when we find ourselves dealing with something we thought we already overcame! Regardless, the desire to avoid finding ourselves in a similar trial is a heart disturbance which may also be accompanied by frustration, discouragement, etc. We may also become anxious, overwhelmed or even fearful when similar situations arise, or when we are around people often associated with our heart disturbances and trials.

Quickly transforming our hearts to peace by listening to The Teacher’s counsel is critical in order to confirm God’s will for us in the trial. God’s will may or may not include avoiding people or situations that are associated with our own spiritual disorientation, which is a result of the “illusory victory tactic.” The challenge is to clearly and accurately hear God’s will for you in these trials. Obviously, when we experience such trials repeatedly, and are having difficulty in the “transformation and clearly hearing God’s will departments,” we may become worn down over time by spiritually similar trials. Only by consistently transforming our hearts in Christ during each trial will we have the strength, will, and energy to handle what the Lord allows in these trials.

A vital part of overcoming the disorientation experience is to embrace the fact that God created us with an unconscious mind. This means that our conscious thoughts are NOT the only ones which come into play in spiritual warfare. Satan’s attack on Christ IN us during a trial always begins in the unconscious parts of the mind. Catching this spiritual disorientation involves new-self honesty about when our hearts are disturbed. When we become spiritually disoriented, Satan influences our thinking such that *unconsciously* we begin to conduct ourselves as if the spiritual battle “should” end if we are “living right.” These kinds of thoughts or assumptions do not mesh with the living the Christian life as is demonstrated in the New Testament. The disorienting experiences of this tactic can lead to denial concerning some of our own trials while they are actually happening!

Spiritual disorientation in our own lives can also cause us to be sinfully judgmental of others when we see them experiencing difficult trial after trial. This is particularly true when it seems they are not “advancing” or spiritually growing past the spiritual temptations in their trials. The disorienting experience of Satan’s “illusory victory” tactic is his first step towards halting perseverance, and preventing, or at least unnecessarily delaying, transformation during the trial. Spiritual disorientation in a trial facilitates Satan’s deeper deceptions in the trial.

Deception. Clearly deception is part of every attack Satan initiates; this is why he is called, “The Deceiver.” However, in the “illusory victory” tactic, Satan seeks to make us deny the truth about our need to change *again* in another similar trial. When we know what God wants us to change, then in these trials the issue has to do with embracing and applying that change *again*. Satan’s deception includes causing us to continue to struggle against taking the time to try to hear God again concerning a similar issue. As a result, we often want to hurry up and do what we think God wants, in order to end the trial (so we’ll feel better). This causes us to miss out on transforming the heart disturbances to peace. That causes us to miss out on the totality of what the Lord is trying to teach us in a trial, all because we don’t make ourselves take the necessary time to listen closely with our hearts. Again, while Satan may sometimes seek to get us to doubt what we heard the Lord tell us before, more frequently he gets us to doubt that spiritual warfare “should be that hard.”

Taking the time to transform our hearts to peace is part of how the Lord disciplines us to strengthen our new selves more practically in Christ. This is part of how we bear our crosses. Facing similar trials repeatedly challenges us to cultivate a more realistic level of trust in God’s plan. It prepares us for greater responsibilities and more difficult trials. This is why it is so important to transform the heart in Christ before acting, so we may know for sure *exactly* what God wants of us in the trial. Having that certainty is where the listening to God skill comes in (*7 Spiritual Principles*).

One of Satan’s goals is to cause us to view perseverance as “enduring” the trial, so we miss the singularly critical aspect of transformation!

Perseverance is an extremely real spiritual skill. The views we have of perseverance while we are NOT in trials mostly deals with knowledge *about* perseverance. The reality of applying perseverance is quite different in trials because in trials our hearts start off being disturbed, which is often quite uncomfortable. Transforming those disturbances to peace is required to persevere in a godly way. One of Satan’s goals is to cause us to view perseverance as “enduring” the trial, so we miss the singularly critical aspect of transformation.

There is a difference between the following:

1. Persevering in trials with inner peace while knowing exactly what God wants you to do.
2. Enduring trials with unpleasant feelings and unfulfilled desires while making decisions in hopes that the trial will end!

When, for whatever reason, we miss or fail to completely transform our hearts by connecting with who we are in Christ during the trial, then in that trial we will stuff emotions and/or disregard selfish desires as mechanisms for coping. We will seek alternate means for stress relief and to feel happy and content. The peace and contentment are possible in Christ, but only when we submit to the “things of the Spirit” (Romans 8:5). Satan works to deceive us into avoiding transformation as part of listening to the counsel of God’s Spirit. Satan wants us to work to fix the trial as the means to finding peace. That is one way we lean on our own understanding without actually trusting with the heart (Proverbs 3:5). It is different from transforming the heart and finding peace in order to discover how God would have us to respond to the trial.

There is a difference between the following:

1. The inner struggle we experience at the beginning of a several trials, but which ends *during* the trials because we partner with The Teacher. This involves transforming inner struggle to peace *before* the trial is over!
2. The struggles we experience throughout trials because we do not or cannot transform our hearts to peace in Christ until we know the outcome of the trial. This also includes struggling unnecessarily for long periods of time before we finally transform heart disturbances in Christ.

When we “hit a spiritual wall,” i.e. when we struggle for a while to embrace a change God wants us to make, Satan is at work. Part of Satan’s influence is to deceive us into believing that the Lord’s discipline is not difficult sometimes. That deception is contrary to Hebrews 12:4-11 and other Scriptural teachings on the Lord’s discipline. When we cannot embrace this fact, Satan’s deception can cause us to distort how we apply God’s Truth to trials, without intending to do so.

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Distortion. Satan works to distort our view of God and His love for us, especially when God’s love is expressed using the challenges of growth through trials. The Lord disciplines those He loves (Proverbs 3:12; Hebrews 12:6, 10; Revelation 3:19)! In Revelation 3:19-20, the Lord says He disciplines those He loves. That passage also says that when this is happening, He is standing at *our* door and knocking! We often associate the “knocking on the door of the heart” concept strictly with meaning salvation for non-believers; however, Revelation 3:19-20 is spoken for believers! It deals with Him knocking on the door of our heart when a variety of doors are presented to us in a trial.

When we are being disciplined by God, Satan’s tactics work to distort our concept of the Truth. This means that we must hear the Lord speaking to us about that which we must see and change in us. Growth involves change for us as believers! When our old selves are distorting the trial and misunderstanding it, we may even come to think God is punishing us when in fact He is working to help us grow in our new self identity in Christ. On the other hand, our old selves may think, “I’m not the one that needs to change,” or “The Lord is putting me in this trial to point out ____ to the other person!” Either extreme view is not looking *inward* with new-self honesty! It is often easier to focus on how others in a trial appear to need change. It is often easier to view ourselves as if our sole purpose for experiencing a trial is to be used as God’s instrument for facilitating change in others. While God *may* use us to reach others, the challenge of spiritual battles is to see that when Satan is causing us to distort the spiritual situation, we may not be focusing enough on how we must change personally. (For more on this, see also [Can God Use Your Heart To Reach You?](#)) Allowing the Lord’s discipline to transform our hearts and renew our minds requires developing the new-self “heartset” that growth requires change. A “heartset” is different than a “mindset.”

Perhaps at times we haven’t done anything wrong to precipitate a trial, yet we are still presented with a trial during which we have to hear the Helper’s guidance and change. (This particular kind of trial presents one of the two difficult challenges discussed in F101, pgs. 142-144.) Regardless, overcoming spiritual distortion requires hearing the Holy Spirit’s guidance and discerning how He is challenging us to change and grow. Mentally we know God’s correction is associated with His love for us. Still, as adults, it is often hard to view ourselves as children needing spiritual correction! Yet we are His children! When our hearts transform to peace in a trial, we find true contentment in changing as God desires. We experience “His yoke is easy and His burden is light” (Matthew 11:30).

Here are four key parts to overcoming the “illusory victory” tactic.

1. As we’ve mentioned several times, we must continually improve in drawing on the Lord in the heart and partnering with the Holy Spirit to transform pain to peace **before** seeking solutions to the external aspects of trials.
2. Self-examination is an important part of number 1 above. “Fighting against your old self” is part of learning from the Lord’s discipline – for more, see [June 2010 “Hearts Up”](#) (Spiritual Warfare Combat Tips feature article). It is absolutely essential to have a solid, effective practice of self-examination. Self-examination isn’t just supposed to reveal what we are doing right, but what God would have us to **change**. That change WILL NOT be comfortable to our old selves! Self-examination, or introspection, helps us to recognize the real-life situations in which we need to go to the Lord more. It helps us see why we must transform our hearts in the trial, and it prepares us to recognize what we must change.

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3. Fulfill your responsibilities in accepting forgiveness each time you fail and require forgiveness. This applies both in your relationship with God and with those around you.
4. Partner with like-minded believers who can support you in cultivating these spiritual skill sets, and whom you can support in turn.

To conclude, let's take a brief look at #3 above. A key part of accepting forgiveness is for the person being forgiven to actively remember that which was forgiven. This is vital to truly behaving like “moldable clay” in the Potter's hands. The saying is “forgive and forget.” The application of that is the offending person must remember the offense so that the offended person can forget the offense. Remembering your old self patterns and failures is vital to keeping watch over the heart so as to notice when the Spirit is alerting you that Satan is again at work against Christ *in* you. This aspect of responsibly accepting forgiveness isn't necessarily about remembering the external aspects of trials in which we failed, because the external always changes a least a little bit from one trial to another –

A key part of accepting forgiveness is for the person being forgiven to actively remember that which was forgiven. This is vital to truly behaving like “moldable clay” in the Potter's hands!

sometimes a lot. We must remember the *spiritual dynamics* behind our own, personal trials. Failing to remember that is part of what causes us to miss Satan's deceptions when the external is different. Receiving forgiveness and forgetting the spiritual dynamics and old self patterns behind our past trials is NOT what helps us remain alert to their presence in the future. When this is a *continual pattern*, we have to keep asking for forgiveness from others and God because we are not responding to the Holy Spirit's personalized guidance that deals with changes we personally must make to grow. The Holy Spirit works to help us

remember not only what Jesus has said and what is in God's written Word, but also the specific areas in which His word and leadership in our hearts challenges us to grow. When we do not quench the Teacher's instruction in a trial, we grow and change in Christ. We can consistently reduce the number of times we must ask for forgiveness by increasing the number of times we submit to and obey the Lord. Seeking to follow the Lord and developing this dedication to Him hinges, of course, on being more aware of the spiritual dynamics of our minds and hearts, and studying the old self patterns in our lives, which Satan seeks to keep alive and active.

Having said that, we may find challenges in trials where *we* are the ones having to forgive someone else's pattern of sin against us. This can happen among believers. All believers have a common bond in Christ. We can each work to apply the principles of listening to the Holy Spirit's guidance within, we can review our own old self patterns, we can hear the Spirit pointing to Satan's influence on us, and we can change as the Holy Spirit directs us so that we overcome the deceptions of Satan in us.

These things are possible, though not automatic, because we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, The Teacher. They form the basis for working to resolve the issues by allowing The Teacher to walk us through the process of first transforming our own hearts to peace when *we* are wronged. While you

and the offending believer may each do your parts in the Spirit, and while the offender may recognize how their failure corresponds to sin and failing to hear the Spirit’s counsel before acting in sin, sometimes the offender keeps doing the same hurtful things over and over. This means the offending person is struggling to embrace the changes for which he or she continually apologizes. **However**, this can be a prime time when Satan seeks to use the “illusory victory” tactic against *you* (the one being wronged). Again, while the fault of the offender may be obvious, the “illusory victory” tactic may still be used against *you*. When it is, you will still have to deal with the challenge of transforming your own heart from Satan’s deception on you. Jesus says (Matthew 18:21-22) we are to continually forgive. This isn’t to be done begrudgingly or just mentally, but from the heart and with peace. It can be hard when trials are spiritually repetitious. Still, the Spirit seeks to provide the counsel you need. Using the *7 Spiritual Principles* of listening to God helps you hear that counsel clearly each time, and to be honest about the contents of your heart and mind in the process.

Note for *Feelings 101* Readers when seeking to follow the Lord while dealing with Satan’s “Illusory Victory” tactic.

Chapter 7 of [*Feelings 101: Pain to Peace*](#) examines the *7 Spiritual Principles* of listening to God. In Principle 7, on page 306, there is a list of five results that are related to “do-overs.” This article explains a bit more about #5 on that list. It is important to view perseverance in the general sense of having to persevere in life because we will face many trials. But as we grow and allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen our spiritual listening skills, we can begin to see that it is also important to view perseverance in specific ways that are unique to our own individual trials. Once we understand a particular change to which the Holy Spirit has counseled us we must persevere in embracing it, whether we are the wrong-doer or the one being wronged. This is part of following the Lord’s lead. It is part of how the Holy Spirit, The Teacher, disciples (teaches) us in real-life situations. It is a big part of accepting the Lord’s discipline, which isn’t always pleasant at first. It is a big part of allowing ourselves to be molded in the image of Christ.

Sometimes we make incorrect assumptions about how God designed us to think, to use our hearts, and how He enables us to apply our Scriptural knowledge to trials. Understanding how God created our minds and hearts is a very useful part of Christian education in spiritual warfare on a personal level. Chapters 3 and 4 of F101 closely examine the relationship between the conscious and unconscious aspects of our minds, in terms of how they relate to Satan’s attacks and spiritual warfare. These chapters, particularly the Scriptures examined in them, are worth reviewing from time-to-time when you *aren’t* experiencing trials. Doing so can help you to be aware of the spiritual dynamics you experience when both God and Satan are working to influence in you during trials.

Discerning spiritual dynamics in you is exactly what the Painful Pattern Tool helps you to do, even when you are the one being wronged. It focuses on the first portions of the listening to God process. This tool helps us to increase our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit’s counsel as He warns us of Satan’s attack and influences in a trial. Scriptures demonstrate how it is important to recognize these aspects of our spiritual battles. Remember, the first portion of the Holy Spirit’s leadership orients on acknowledging when our inner peace in Christ is disturbed and seeing how Satan is attacking our identity in Christ. This part of His instruction helps us to see more clearly in trials by applying the principles of listening with the heart. It helps us apply Scriptural truths to real-life trials, particularly when trials are more complex and challenging.

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KEY IN-SIGHTS

“Peace, like heart disturbances, is a *result* of what is going on [spiritually] inside us. Experiencing the peace of Christ is a trial-by-trial possibility. Whether we experience peace is determined by *how* we engage with the ‘invisible attributes’ of God in His creation during the trial. Peace is NOT a unilateral gift from God coming automatically, nor is it random.”¹

Feelings 101: Pain to Peace

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of Christ, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

While the presence of peace in our hearts is important, its absence is also important. Both indicate when the spiritual dynamics of our hearts and minds are changing or have changed. As we get better at understanding the significance of those spiritual dynamics, God’s Spirit can help us to understand why they change and what God would have us do in response.

HEARING THE HYMNS

Bless Be The Tie²

When Jesus was facing His coming death and departure from earth, He prayed to God the Father for His disciples. They would be alone after He is gone without His physical presence. Among the things Jesus prayed for, He prayed that as the Trinity experiences unity, so may believers. John 17:11: “...that they may be one even as we are.” This hymn expresses that sentiment.

Verse 1 – Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Verse 2 – Before our Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

Verse 3 – We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

Verse 4 – When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

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Verse 1 of this hymn speaks of the tie that binds us together: our common belief in Jesus Christ and seeking His leadership in our lives. It is by Christ’s love manifesting in our lives that we are better able to unite with other believers, and to be of like mind. In Romans 10:9-10 and 13 this belief is described as a matter of the heart.

Verse 2 speaks of the privilege we have as believers to share with our Heavenly Father in prayer our fears, hopes, aims, comforts, and cares. As believers, one body in Christ, our fears, hopes, and aims can be one, even though we are each unique and have differences. If ever we must experience this more consistently, then we must get better in applying Philippians 2:2: God’s people are instructed to be of the same mind, to maintain the same love, to be united in spirit and intent on one purpose. Again, we can come before the very throne of God the Father in prayer. With prayer centered on conforming to God’s will, we can draw upon Him to better experience unity within the Body.

Verse 3 echoes what the Apostle Paul instructed believers in Galatians 6:2: We are to share our burdens and woes with like-minded believers who are willing to carry them with us. This is a vital part of fellowship. Still, this aspect of fellowship goes beyond the important gathering of believers to share in an activity. It is different from “venting” or sharing ideas about God’s written Word. This mutual sharing involves spiritual intimacy. It is to support us in learning to see and hear spiritually concerning trials in our lives. It involves improving as we seek to listen to the indwelling Spirit of God, so that we may embrace His specific counsel to our hearts. It involves improving in our parts of transforming our troubles to peace by submitting to the Lord in trials, so we can get our own old selves out of the way. It involves supporting others to do the same with their hearts.

Verse 4 emphasizes that believers are to be joined in heart. The spiritual heart is the seat of our emotions and desires. In Christ we are to have and show a transformed heart when we face life’s difficulties and trials. God’s law is written on our hearts, and our motivations are to come from a heart of love for Him. With this new heart and the power of God’s indwelling Holy Spirit, we can transform during our painful experiences and live in peace.

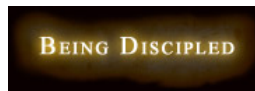
How thankful we can be for all we are and have available to us because together, we are “in Christ.”

Words: John Fawcett, 1740-1817
Music: Johann G. Nageli, 1773-1836
Arranged by: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

KEYS WEBSITE ALERTS

There will not be a December 2010 “Hearts Up” edition. We will resume “Hearts Up” with the January 2011 edition. In addition to giving our small staff a break for the Christmas season, we are also going to redouble our efforts on some supplementary material for *Feelings 101*. We hope to be able to post that material to the Supplemental Information section early next year.

The following web pages were revised with new materials this last month. They can be found under the *Keys* website navigation menu button(s) shown below (remember, you must be connected to the internet for the blue links to work):



Under the Practical Application Section: [Can God Use Your Heart To Reach You?](#) A significant amount was added. It looks at how our conscious intentions may be good, yet Satan’s deceptive attacks can still lead us to sin without knowing it, unless our hearts first transform during the trial.



We have changed some of the copyright permissions for “Hearts Up” editions making it even easier for interested church organizations to share the editions (in their unmodified entirety) with other believers and friends. These permissions apply to all previous editions of “Hearts Up”. You can see the new permissions on page 2 of this edition (copyright page). You can also see the permissions on the [“Hearts Up” Editions](#) page (link is in the 2nd paragraph of that page).

We want to apologize for those who may have run into a "Not Found" page after clicking some of the internal links in a few of the past editions of “Hearts Up”. Over the past few weeks we have updated the editions as we worked through our own learning curve to correct some of the links in them which were not working properly. The links are correct now in the versions available on the site. We really appreciate the reader who pointed out some of the inoperative links to us!

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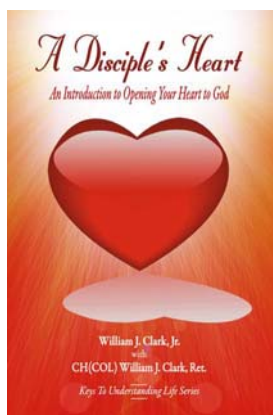
STATUS OF THE SERIES

Both *A Disciple's Heart* and *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace* are also available internationally from Amazon UK. Links directly to these books on Amazon UK can be found on their respective pages on the *Keys* website.

The following spiritual warfare and individual discipleship materials can be found by clicking the links in blue (remember, you must be connected to the internet for them to work) or by looking for them under this navigation menu button on the *Keys* website:



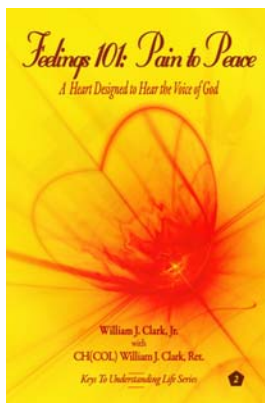
[A Disciple's Heart](#) (ADH):



This thought provoking book challenges readers to examine how well they are being discipled “beyond the elementary teachings of Christ” during real-life trials. In addition to examining why the Holy Spirit seeks to teach us during life’s difficulties, the material discusses the importance of learning more about the spiritual warfare dynamics within our hearts and minds. The Scriptural “how to” behind these concepts are presented in detail in the second *Keys Series* book, *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace*.

Available in hardback, paperback, Adobe Digital Edition™, Kindle™, iPhone, and iPad, both in the U.S. and internationally! You can find links to popular e-retailers at the bottom of www.ADisciplesHeart.com.

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



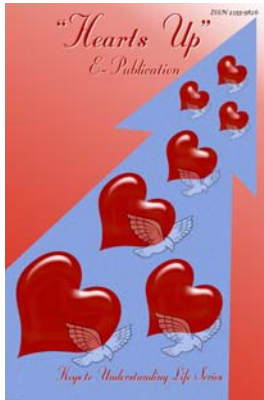
Feelings 101 focuses on the Scriptural “how to” of transforming the heart during trials by listening with intention to the counsel of God’s Spirit in times when Satan seeks to influence us otherwise. This resource offers multiple tools specifically oriented on assisting you to deal with your specific trials by connecting with The Teacher within. This handbook’s Scriptural examinations, as well as interesting and relevant scientific ones, are accompanied by personal practical application training tools and exercises. The book is also supported by Supplemental Information from the *Keys* website (the book indicates when to go to the website; the e-formatted versions of these books have links to these pages).

***Feelings 101* Readers:** Several places in *Feelings 101* reference supplemental materials and downloads that are provided to F101 readers on the *Keys* website. To access these materials from the *Keys* Homepage, *Feelings 101* readers must go to the Supplemental Information section listed on the bottom right-hand side of the *Keys To Understanding Life Series* navigation menu.

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Feelings 101: Pain to Peace is available in hardback, paperback, Adobe Digital Edition™, Kindle™, iPhone, and iPad, both in the U.S. and internationally! You can find links to popular e-retail sites based on the format you want by looking at the bottom of www.Feelings101.com.

“Hearts Up” e-Pub Editions:



When we want to alert one another to something important or perhaps even to a potential danger, we usually say, “Heads Up!!” To assist us in being alert to *spiritual dynamics* behind our real-life experiences, we offer “Hearts Up”! This e-publication focuses on aspects of discipleship that deal with practical application and listening more effectively and regularly to the Lord and The Teacher (the Holy Spirit, Whom He secured for us) during trials and challenges.

We have quite a number of editions of “Hearts Up” available to view and download for free from the *Keys* website. If this is your first time reading an edition of “Hearts Up”, be sure to check out the other editions too!

Other purposes of this free monthly e-publication from the *Keys To Understanding Life Series* are:

1. To encourage us to seek out the many possibilities we may experience in our relationships with Christ, and to provide readers and small groups with “spiritually meaty” discussion topics.
2. To examine the practical application aspects of being discipled by The Teacher (God’s Spirit Whom the Lord secured for us) during our real-life trials, decision-making, and problem-solving.
3. To help us improve in recognizing how we experience Satan’s influences and deceptions in real-life trials, and the Holy Spirit’s efforts to lead us in them.
4. To help us become more familiar with the responsibilities we have to interact with the Lord in our hearts during trials, as well as the real-life obstacles to hearing and submitting to His counsel.
5. To provide readers with a “one-stop shop” that summarizes the latest changes and updates to the *Keys* website, and to the status of the *Keys To Understanding Life Series* publishing queue.
6. To offer readers the opportunity to submit practical application and discipleship topics they would like to see addressed by the *Keys Series* authors, and to allow them to submit their own stories, testimonies, experiences, and more for the Heart To Heart feature of “Hearts Up”.
7. To inform those who are reading *Keys Series* books about the latest Supplemental Information available from the website, and to highlight for those readers how the *Keys* spiritual warfare tools and materials may be applied to the lessons and topics which “Hearts Up” examines.

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HEART TO HEART

This poem was inspired by God's Four O'Clocks outside my window, by the reality of our trials, and by my sister, Beth, who bloomed brightly in Christ during the short season of her life. Beth's connection with the Lord within was a powerful testimony to those whose lives she touched.

God Knew When the Four O'Clocks Should Bloom

God knew the Four O'Clocks should bloom
In the waning parts of day,
When the sun draws down and darkness falls,
Even on cloudy days.

We often look for flowers to bloom
In the warmest of the day,
In spring and summer or in the fall
On pretty cloudless days.

Yet you can see these trumpets bright
A beauty our eyes want to keep,
When they sound their wonders with fragrant silence
In the eve and when we sleep.

So it is with us, God's children,
Whom He wants to bloom in season,
With colors bright, even at night,
And whose hearts can hear His reason.

When God is asking for us to bloom
In waning or dark hours,
Let our colors be bright by feeling His might,
For quiet hearts rest in His power.

It is common that flowers bloom by day
In the fairest, pleasant weather,
But in the Lord our hearts find more
When seasons we fret not, nor measure.

William J. Clark, Jr.

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If you write poems, psalms, lyrics or prose of faith, and would like to share one of them with others in a “Hearts Up” edition, you may submit it for consideration for the *Heart To Heart* feature. You may also submit a personal story or testimony of your own to share how one of the articles or the *Keys* materials helped you draw closer to God during a trial. Email your submission through the [Contact Us](#) page. Be sure to read the **Contribution Guidelines** before sending making your submission. You can view those guidelines by clicking the link provided on the contact page itself.

ENDNOTES

¹ *Feelings 101: Pain to Peace*, William J. Clark, Jr. with CH (COL) William J. Clark, Ret., Innovo Publishing, ©2010, 257-258

² “Bless Be The Tie”, John Fawcett, (1740-1817) as quoted in *The Baptist Hymnal*, Convention Press, Nashville, TN, 1991, 387

We decided to include this information on gifts and donations in response to questions some of our readers have asked. We have not been in the habit of pressing for, or even asking for, financial support. While “Hearts Up” is offered to readers at no cost, our ministry is indeed a faith ministry.

If you find this e-publication beneficial to your walk with Christ and would like to give a financial gift to the *Keys To Understanding Life* ministry, you may do so by mailing your gift to the following address:

William Clark
c/o Keys To Understanding Life
1551 N. Walnut Ave. STE 13-258
New Braunfels, Texas 78130

Gifts should be made to the name: William J. Clark.

At this time, our ministry isn’t a non-profit ministry, so any gift that is given is a true gift in the sense that it is not tax deductible.

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