

# CHRISTIAN PROBLEM SOLVING

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*"He will lead you and guide you into all truth."  
John 16:13*



**Rick Hughes**  
EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES



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## RADIO

*The FLOT Line* broadcasts every Sunday on radio stations across the USA. Stations and times are listed on our website. Listen via radio, a station link or radio app. The goal of the show is to help you verify and identify the Plan of God for your life.

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Faith Alone  
God Loves You  
God's Problem-Solving Devices  
Prayer  
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# **CHRISTIAN PROBLEM SOLVING**

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## PREFACE

Let's face it, humans manufacture problems. We use our volition, our free will, to make decisions that often cause us tremendous difficulties and grief.

If you have made the decision to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, "*For God so loved the world, that He gave us His uniquely born Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life*" (John 3:16), God provides an amazing way to live based on the ministry of the Holy Spirit and God's Word, the Bible. This is the Christian life. When you learn and execute the mechanics, you can have peace and security even in the worst of circumstances.

In this book I will present Biblical principles taught to me by my pastor, R. B. Thieme, Jr. He pastored Berachah Church in Houston, Texas for fifty-three years. Reverend Thieme was a retired military officer and often used military analogies to describe the Christian way of life. He developed the tremendous concept of ten unique problem-solving devices taught in the Scripture and referred to them as a FLOT line. It is with his encouragement and permission I share them with you.

FLOT is an acronym that stands for forward line of troops. When God's problem-solving devices are learned and applied, they act as a main line of resistance in the Christian's soul, a FLOT line, preventing the outside sources of adversity from becoming the inside pressure of stress in the soul.

Adversity is inevitable. Stress is optional.

By using God's divine provisions, Christians are able to overcome adversity and stop it from becoming stress sins such as anxiety, worry, bitterness and self-pity.

Salvation is the starting point. Jesus Christ's substitutionary spiritual death on the cross was required to satisfy the justice of God. *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we may be made the righteousness of God through Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Jesus Christ's resurrection is proof positive that Christians will be resurrected to eternal life with Him in heaven, *"This is the will of My Father who sent Me, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day"* (John 6:40).

Adversity is what circumstances do to you.

Stress is what you do to yourself.

The Christian way of life is designed to be lived free of stress. God gives us this mandate, *"Be anxious for nothing"* (Philippians 4:6). You may say, "Sounds too simple." Well, it is simple if you use your advantage of God's problem-solving devices. However, before I was saved, it wasn't simple for me. My life was full of stress. This all changed when I made the most important decision anyone makes in life:

What think you of Christ? (Matthew 22:42)

Here's my story of how I came to know our Savior.

## MY TESTIMONY

I grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, in a federal housing project single-parent home. Because of crime and other issues my mother would send me off to live with different guardians, people I didn't really know. I would ride the bus to a guardian's house on Sunday night, stay there until Friday, come home for the weekend and then return on Sunday night. When I was thirteen, I ran home. I told my mom I wasn't living with any more strangers. I was going to stay with her, and I did.

At Woodlawn High School a coach recruited me to play football. Coach Johnny Howell was the closest thing I had to a father. Football was fun. I distinguished myself through athletics being named to the High School All-American football team and setting state records in the shot put and discus. One of the colleges that recruited me was the University of Florida. But there was a problem, my academics. My scholarship was denied due to academic credibility based on my SAT entrance exam score. I wasn't stupid; I just didn't apply myself.

I went to Coach Howell, "What's going to happen?" He said, "You're going to die, boy." He explained my alternative was being drafted to the Vietnam War. 6'2" and 235 lbs? I could see myself trying to hide behind a piece of bamboo. Coach was right. The outlook was not good. He said, "If I was you, I'd meet with your teachers and do some apologizing. Ask for help and get those grades up." I did. Amazingly my teachers said, "We wanted to help you all along but you wouldn't listen."

After I re-tested and passed the exam, the University of Alabama offered me a full football scholarship. I played alongside famous players like Joe Namath, and for legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant.

But after the first year I quit. One of the alumni got me a job for the summer. For the first time in my life I was making money, but I was goofing off. When it came time in August to report back for two-a-day, I called the coach and told him I wasn't coming. He let me have it. He told me they were counting on me, and I needed to get my fanny back where it belonged.

However, if you're arrogant like I was, you don't see yourself as you really are. You see yourself as you think you are. Arrogant people justify why they're right and everybody else is wrong. I wouldn't listen. I mean, I had an apartment, a car, a job, some money, girlfriends. Why did I need school? Is this dumb or what? And so I went down what we call the My Way Highway.

After about three years, I saw the mistake I made. My life boomeranged from misery and unhappiness to even more misery and unhappiness. When I would lie in bed at night there was a searchlight that would go around in my head and show me all the stupid things I'd done. I didn't have peace with God. I didn't even think about God. No one in my family went to church.

I went to Panama City and hung out with friends. We would drink beer, chase girls and fight on the beach. After awhile it got old. I jumped in my little Mustang and returned to Birmingham. My roommate asked, "What are you doing back? What's wrong?" I told him, "I don't know man." Nothing was adding up. He said, "Tell you what. Let's go to the river." He had a boat, and we would park it on the sandbar and watch the girls.

That was our objective for Sunday. But on Saturday I ran into Jane in a shopping area. I'd known her in high school and we started talking. She was beautiful so of course I was flirting. "Would you go out with me?" I asked. "Where do you want to go?" I suggested the drive-in. She wasn't for that. She agreed to a date on Sunday if I'd go to church. What? Go where? I hear you laughing. Listen, if you're hard up for a date, you'll take church.

I picked her up and went to the church. At my insistence we sat in the back. I did not pay attention. I was looking around at all the people. I thought, if I get out of here, I'm not coming back. The pastor gave an invitation asking people to come forward. Jane grabbed my hand and tried to get me to go. When I said No, she said, "I'm going down there and pray for you."

I walked outside, cranked the car up and thought about leaving. While I was out in the parking lot, Larry, a fellow football player from high school, came up to me. "Aren't you Big Rick?" he asked. He was a freshman when I was a senior. He had looked up to me and was surprised I wasn't still at Alabama playing football. I beat around the bush for an answer. Then he told me something unbelievable.

"I met somebody who changed my life," he said. "And you need to meet Him." I thought he was talking about a coach. "Who?" He responded, "It's Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and you really need Him, Rick." I was stunned.

About that time, Jane came out, jumped in the car and we went to a party. It wasn't what I expected. It was a Bible study. I was twenty-two and most folks there were younger. A gentleman from South Africa named Winston spoke. He called on people to give their testimony. One after another said they knew if they died, they would go to heaven. They were certain. I knew if I died, I was not going to heaven. As I sat there and listened, I decided I should talk with Winston. I'd never talked to people about stuff like this.

I asked Winston if we could talk. Winston produced a Bible and began to read Scripture to me. Then he asked me that question, "If you died today, would you go to heaven?" I didn't think so. "Would you like to?" "Yes," I said. He asked me if I knew how.

I said, "Well you know, straighten up and fly right, quit cussing, quit drinking, quit fighting and maybe God will let me come in."



He laughed and told me, “No, that’s not the way it is. Scripture says, *‘For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast’* (Ephesians 2:8-9).”

He told me I could be saved right there, that day, not by trying to be good but by being obedient. He read to me, *“For whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved”* (Romans 10:13). He asked me if I believed Jesus Christ was the Son of God and if I was willing to accept Him as my Savior. And I said, “Yes, I will.”

We got on our knees and he led me in prayer. I don’t remember the words exactly but I said something like, “Father, I know I’m a sinner. I believe Your Son died for me and I’m willing to accept Him as my Savior.”

I expressed my faith in prayer. I didn’t feel anything, no flashing lights, no trumpets, no harps, but now I was certain I was going to heaven. Winston asked, “Where do you think Christ is now?” I said, “I guess He’s in me.” He confirmed this. He showed me God’s promises found in Hebrews 13:5, *“I will never leave you, I will never forsake you,”* and John 10:28, *“I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, neither shall any man ever pluck them out of My hand.”*

So that was the day I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. Jane was thrilled. Her younger sister was with us and on the way home she started crying. “I have never been saved,” she said. I said, “Why don’t you do what I did?” When we got to Jane’s house, I led her sister in the same prayer Winston had prayed with me. Jane’s little sister accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior. That night when I went to sleep, I had peace with God.

It wasn’t long after this that Larry, the football player at Alabama, had an invitation to speak in a little Methodist church in Sandusky, Alabama. He asked me to go with him. After Larry spoke, the pastor issued an invitation but no one came forward. So, he called on me

to say something. I don't remember what I said but whatever it was it spoke to those in attendance. At the end, we had an altar full of people. After we left, Larry said, "God's got His hand on you. Something is going on."

Later that week about ten of us were in Bible study, and I had this verse to read, "*Pray for me, that utterance may be given to me to open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in bonds*" (Ephesians 6:19-20). Everybody kind of looked at me, "Do you know what you read?" "I don't know what it means, but yes, I know what I read."

I had to decide, go back to the University of Alabama or go on a different path. I decided to enroll in Southeastern Bible College in Birmingham. There I began to work with Youth for Christ International hosting Bible study clubs in various high schools across Birmingham. Through this I had my first opportunity to speak to a high school assembly at Banks High School. That was 1968. There must have been eighteen hundred students in the gym, nine hundred on one side and nine hundred on the other side and Big Rick in the middle. I talked truth from the Word of God. They listened politely. My old high school coach was the principal. When it was over several students came up to me and told me they had committed their lives to Christ.

Things began to happen fast after that. Three men who were well-connected in the state of Mississippi heard me speak. They asked if they could get permission of the governor would I go to every school in the state and speak?

So from 1971 through 1973, I spoke in four hundred and thirty high schools across Mississippi. We had three assemblies a day, fifteen assemblies a week, week in and week out. It took a lot of energy but I was young. We had thousands of students tell us they had accepted Christ. Eventually we transitioned to going to a school for a week

at a time. The longer time with the students was what needed to happen. This is what it's all about. God's plan, His grace.

I founded the Rick Hughes Evangelistic Ministries to communicate clear and concise Biblical principles for hearers to choose to use in their lives. For over fifty years I've presented the truth to thousands during Spiritual Emphasis Weeks and spoken at hundreds of churches. As a strong advocate of *Littera Scripta Manet*, "The written word lasts forever," I've authored many books. I have hosted The FLOT Line radio show weekly since July 2005 and the podcast since 2019. It's all grace.

For example, consider how The FLOT Line got started. I was in Birmingham making a commercial for Bass Pro Shops with a local radio station. I love to bass fish and could have been a professional angler. The Lord had other plans. The technician at the radio station said, "You've got a great voice for radio, you should do a radio show." So, we did. We started out small, airing on only a few stations. Then one thing led to another. Now The FLOT Line airs on Sunday mornings across America and the daily podcast has listeners around the world. All of this is only possible by God's amazing grace provisions.

If you were paying attention, you read how the Lord provided everything. I started out in lousy circumstances, by human perspective, but God had a plan for my life. I had problems but His provision of the Christian life gave me the solutions.

Enough about me. Let me introduce you to *Christian Problem Solving*.

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## INTRODUCTION

Here's the truth about Christian problems and God's problem-solving devices. Every problem in life has a solution stated in the Bible. You find the solutions by learning God's Word in the power of the Filling of the Holy Spirit and studying under a well-qualified pastor.

He [God the Holy Spirit] will lead you and guide you into all truth. (John 16:13)

In *Christian Problem Solving* I will present some mechanics, the nuts and bolts, on how to verify and identify God's plan for your life once you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior. I'll explain your options when experiencing chaotic times. And that is what they are, options. You must use your volition to decide to use them. If you do, you will have the means to handle any problem that comes your way. We will discuss these ten unique problem-solving devices:

- #1 Rebound.  
Solves the problem of personal sins.
- #2 Filling of the Holy Spirit.  
Solves the problem of the sin nature.
- #3 Faith-Rest Drill.  
Solves the problem of adversity.
- #4 Grace Orientation.  
Solves the problem of man trying to please God through his own efforts.
- #5 Doctrinal Orientation.  
Provides the solutions to all problems.

- #6 Personal Sense of Destiny.  
Solves the problem of self-absorption and arrogance.
- #7 Personal Love for God.  
Provides the motivation to be obedient to God and His protocol plan.
- #8 Impersonal Love for All Mankind.  
Solves people problems.
- #9 Sharing the Happiness of God.  
Provides lasting happiness, tranquility of soul.
- #10 Occupation with Christ.  
Solves the problem of unrealistic expectations, sets the priorities for life.

Some problems seem insurmountable. They're not. The trick is to use God's problem-solving devices. You can't learn them overnight. They build on one another as you grow spiritually. Your faith muscles get stronger through exercise. I pray you will be encouraged to advance in your spiritual life daily.

For in Him are all the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:3)

Learning to think with the mind of Christ is the key to living the Christian life. This will give you what I call spiritual x-ray vision. You'll see things differently than those without God's wisdom because you have a different viewpoint than the unbelieving world. Divine viewpoint thinking replaces human viewpoint.

**Human solutions are no solutions  
God's solutions are the only solutions**

## **REBOUND**

### **Problem-Solving Device #1**

Rebound is confessing our sins to God the Father. **This is the most important problem-solving device.**

The word, Rebound, describes confession of known sin. Think of it like a basketball. You bounce out of fellowship with God by committing personal sin; you bounce back in by confessing your sin. **God gives you this divine provision to recover from sin.** Rebound is taught in the Christian's textbook, the Bible.

If we confess our [known] sins He is faithful  
and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse  
us from all unrighteousness [known,  
unknown and forgotten sins]. (1 John 1:9)

Engrave this verse in your heart. Without using it, you can't live your spiritual life and will be a failure in God's eyes. When you confess your sin, it puts you back in fellowship with God the Father and filled with God the Holy Spirit. Then you can use the other problem-solving devices.

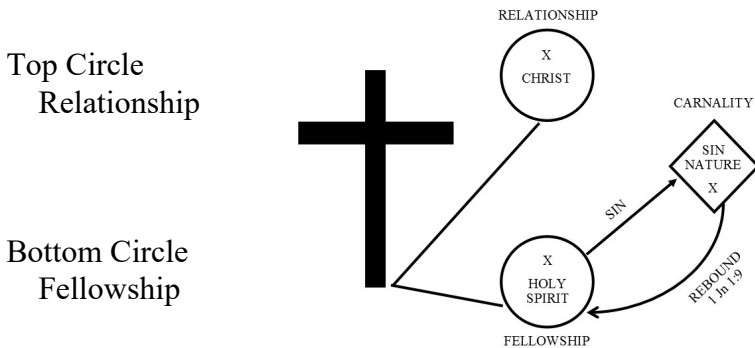
### **If you do not use Rebound the other nine problem-solving devices do not work**

After becoming a Christian, I found I still sinned and it frustrated me. After all, sin is something that displeases God. I wondered if I was even saved. If I was, why would I do these things? Back then, I did not know the mechanics of the Christian life. It's necessary for all of us to learn them, how the Christian life operates. As far as sin, we must learn how to recover. That's Rebound.

## The Rebound Function

As a Christian, positionally, you are set apart to God. You've accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and that's your permanent position with Him in eternity. In time, even after salvation, you sin. Everyone does, including Christians. *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"* (1 John 1:8). It's a problem. But God has provided the solution and the path to optimize using the problem-solving devices to grow to spiritual maturity.

God says, if you will admit your sin and not try to hide it, He is faithful and just to forgive your sin. What happens is represented by this simple drawing.



The top circle represents the believer's permanent relationship with Jesus Christ. We are eternally secure in our future with Him. Our relationship with God is permanent. We can't leave the top circle.

The bottom circle represents the believer's fellowship with God. When we have no unconfessed sin in our lives we are in fellowship with God. When we commit a sin, we bounce out of the bottom circle and lose fellowship. We are still saved, secure in our permanent relationship with Christ, but living outside God's plan. The way to recover fellowship is to use Rebound. The moment we do, we are back in fellowship, back in the bottom circle.



When you sin, God expects you to cite or name your sin to Him, immediately. Do not wait until you go to bed to Rebound. Don't wait an hour. As soon as you recognize you have sinned, go to God the Father in silent prayer saying something like this, "Heavenly Father, I name my sin of arrogance. Thank you for your forgiveness. In Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

It is your responsibility to go to God and admit your sins. This is using problem-solving device #1 Rebound. Now you are back in fellowship and able to resume living the Christian way of life.

### **Sin breaks fellowship with God**

This is important to remember. When you are in fellowship you are controlled by God the Holy Spirit. This is spirituality. When you are out of fellowship you are controlled by your sin nature. This is carnality. At this moment you are either carnal (out of fellowship) or spiritual (in fellowship), there is no middle ground. Spirituality is an absolute.

Without using Rebound you will chain sin and destroy yourself. You will allow the sin nature to take control totally and end up being disqualified to serve God. You will become a Christian casualty in God's plan. You didn't lose your salvation, you can't lose your salvation, but you are going backwards in your spiritual life.

If you choose to disobey God, you choose to be miserable. You are a victim of your decisions, not your circumstances. **Staying in fellowship is a choice.** Choose wisely. Turn away from carnality and admit your sin to God. You may fall back to the same sin, afterward. If you do, confess it and move on in your spiritual life. Simple.

Keep a short account of sin. "*Do not let sin reign in your body so that you obey it*" (Romans 6:12). This is the way to prevent the sin nature from controlling your life. As you grow spiritually, you will find you sin less.

There may be sins you're not even aware you did. You may commit many sins before you recognize one and name it. You might not remember the others. It's OK. God's grace has you covered. Name the sin you recognize and move on. God says, "If you will name the sins you identify, I will be faithful and just to cleanse you, even from the ones you don't remember."

I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins. (Isaiah 43:25)

I acknowledged my sin to You. My iniquity I did not hide. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

Sometimes we do things we think we are not capable of doing. God isn't shocked. Just admit them. Tell God what you've done. That's what confess means. And you don't have to ask Him for forgiveness. 1 John 1:9 says if you name the sin, He will forgive you.

## **Recognizing Sin**

Let's identify what sin is. Sin comes in three different packages:

**Sins you say** (such as lying, slander, gossip, cursing, maligning, criticizing, bullying, backbiting).

**Sins you do** (such as addiction, drunkenness, stealing, abuse, adultery, fornication, pornography).

**Sins you think** (such as fear, worry, jealousy, anger, guilt, judging, covetousness, lack of forgiveness, arrogance, envy, pride, vindictiveness, self-pity).

These are not all the sins recorded in the Bible. This is to give you an idea of the things God identifies as sin.

The acrostic NICE may help you recall how to use problem-solving device #1:

**N - Name It.** Name your sin to God the Father in silent prayer. A lot of people say, "I don't feel bad about it, so how can I confess it and be forgiven?" Confessing doesn't have anything to do with how you feel about it. Rather it is an acknowledgment.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

**I - Isolate It.** Don't let one sin expand into others. Don't be a chain sinner.

See to it that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble. (Hebrews 12:15)

**C - Clear Your Conscience.** Forget the sin. Don't have guilt. Don't promise God you'll never do it again; you probably will.

One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead. (Philippians 3:13)

**E - Execute.** Move on, execute your spiritual life. If you aren't progressing, you are regressing.

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)

God's grace provision for us to handle personal sin is NICE. Actually it is much more than nice, it is fantastic!

## **Rebound is required for the Filling of the Holy Spirit**

Problems aren't just the bad things you experience. Prosperity can bring problems also. Some problems seem overwhelming. With God's resources they are not. Rebound is the first and most important step. Rebound gives us recovery from the failure of sin and lets us get back in the game. **Rebound is essential for all the other problem-solving devices to function.** It is the key to the door of your positive Christian life.

### **God gives you the solutions**

Be encouraged knowing you can find the solution to every problem you will face in life by learning God's Word. Don't ever forget, you can only do this if you are in fellowship (in the bottom circle) with no unconfessed sin in your life. You must be Filled with the Holy Spirit to learn God's Word and use His solutions.

This is where problem-solving device #1 leads you to problem-solving device #2, the Filling of the Holy Spirit.

That God may grant you to be made strong by means of the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 3:16)

## **FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### **Problem-Solving Device #2**

Every problem in life has a solution stated in the Word of God. But you can only use these divine solutions with the Filling of the Holy Spirit. *“Be filled with the Holy Spirit,”* (Ephesians 5:18), is not a request. It’s a mandate.

At the moment of salvation, you are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit and your dead human spirit is brought to life. You become trichotomous. This means you have a body, a soul and a human spirit. That spirit which is now alive, means you are born again. *“Jesus said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God,’”* (John 3:3).

You are also sealed with the Holy Spirit guaranteeing your eternal inheritance and you are placed into union with Christ. You now share His destiny. **God the Holy Spirit resides in you and so does Jesus Christ.** Isn’t this amazing? Their presence in your life becomes a very distinguishing identification. You are a Christian.

In Him, you also, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise who is the guarantee of our inheritance. (Eph 1:13-14)

There is more. You are automatically Filled with the Holy Spirit and therefore, in fellowship with God. This isn’t some sensational thing. You won’t feel anything nor see a halo. It’s when you have no unconfessed sin in your life. Being in fellowship lasts until you commit a sin. Then you need to use Rebound to resume the Filling of the Holy Spirit.

Now, the objective of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is to enable you and me to overcome the demands of our sin nature, called the flesh. You will sin because you have a sin nature. You were born with it; we all were. The sin nature is battling constantly for control of our thoughts and actions. Whether it wins or not, is up to us. God gives us volition, the freedom to choose, to decide who controls. It's an absolute. Every moment of your life either the Holy Spirit is in control or the sin nature.

When you sin, you quench the Holy Spirit. This means you shut off the power of the Holy Spirit, as if you took a water hose, crimped it while the water was still on, and the flow ceased. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 says, "*Do not quench the Spirit.*" You also grieve, or sadden, the Holy Spirit when you sin. Ephesians 4:30 says, "*Do not grieve the Spirit.*" These are two mandates from God.

The problem and the solution are like being in a room without any windows. When the power goes off, you are in pitch darkness. Carnality is similar. You sin and the power goes off in your spiritual life. Now you are out of fellowship, under the control of your sin nature. The Holy Spirit can no longer help, guide nor empower you. He can't assist your prayers, either. Then you Rebound, and the power comes back on. You are again empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**You have three enemies identified in the Bible: the world, the flesh and the devil** - the lure of the world, the lust of the flesh and the deception of the devil. How can you handle this?

The lure is of the world and material things in it. The Bible tells us what to do. "*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh*" (Galatians 5:16). Lusts come in patterns. It is not just about sex. There are also lusts for power, money, approbation and success. It can be any lust pattern taking the place of God in a frantic search for happiness. If you think sex outside of marriage or winning the lottery will

make you happy, and you go for that thing, you will find (like others have) not only does it not make you happy, but you are still miserable. Frankly, your misery has increased. **People take their misery with them wherever they go.** This doesn't mean a rich person can't be happy. It means you can still be miserable in comfort. Being rich is not the answer. Learning what to do, and how to handle lust patterns, failure and the deceptions of Satan, is.

Satan is our enemy. He is the ruler of this world and we live in it. That means there's no way we can live without having adversity. Our Lord faced opposition during His earthly ministry and so do we Christians. But let's be realistic, if we can't handle the lure and the lust, Satan is not going to bother with us. Often our greatest enemy is ourselves.

Do not let sin reign in your body so that you obey it. (Romans 6:12)

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. He is one part of our divine God The Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a rightful and equal member of the Godhead. *"God is a spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth,"* (John 4:24). **You can't worship God if you are out of fellowship.** Rebound allows you to recover the Filling of the Holy Spirit.

Let's go back to the source of this grace gift. Jesus said when He left this earth He wasn't leaving His disciples alone to survive in the devil's world. He would send the Holy Spirit to help, guide and mentor them, and us. When the disciples were learning from Christ, they didn't have a tape recorder or anyone following them around taking notes. Yet they were able to recall to mind information that is recorded in the New Testament. How? The recall ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring them to your remembrance whatever I have said to you.  
(John 14:26)

Jesus Christ was telling the disciples that after He was gone, obviously there would not be any more face-to-face teaching from Him. They would have to use faith perception to learn the Father's plan and live it. Just as we do now.

You have the Holy Spirit's power in you. You tap into it through the Filling of the Holy Spirit. This is your power to learn God's Word, understand and retain it, and then recall it for application. 1 Corinthians 2:10 says, "*The Spirit searches all things.*" **You cannot live the Christian life without being filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit.**

When you sin the Holy Spirit convicts you. He is going to tell you, "That's wrong." Then you have a choice. You can say, "I don't care" or "You're right. I just disobeyed God by sinning." You know what to do. It's in Chapter 1. The solution to sin is Rebound.

Only when you are Filled with the Holy Spirit can the ministry of the Holy Spirit work. This is the power in the grace provision of problem-solving device #2.

That God would grant you to be made strong by means of the Holy Spirit. (Eph 3:16)

Note you can't live the Christian way of life in carnality; it needs the Filling of the Holy Spirit. Then the rest of it begins to fall in place. You turn your life over to God the Holy Spirit to direct you.

In 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, our life is described in terms of a home:



For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay and stubble, each one's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Did you notice the word *foundation*? That is your salvation. It's like the concrete foundation in a home that will be left standing even after a fire has destroyed everything else. Your salvation is not in question in this passage; it's your production after salvation that is being tried. Notice the word *fire*. The passage says the fire will try every man's works. Gold, silver and precious stones, and wood, hay and stubble are mentioned. Let me explain these things to you.

For instance, take giving money to the church. It is not sinful to give money to the church unless you give it while there is unconfessed sin in your life. In carnality, you are only able to produce human good, things that fire will destroy (wood, hay and stubble). If you give the same money and you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then it's worthy (gold, silver and precious stones) and will be rewarded by God, part of His retirement plan for you.

**The Filling of the Holy Spirit guarantees production of what's called divine good.** This is work acceptable to God. That means you are living in His protocol plan. Human good, anything done in the energy of the flesh, will be destroyed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. That's because it is unacceptable to God. Everything you do out of fellowship, even going to church, singing in the choir,

traveling on a mission trip, whatever, is human good. Everything you do while you are filled with the Holy Spirit is divine good. It is rewardable.

After salvation, you are to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **You cannot grow spiritually unless you are filled with the Holy Spirit.** This is the only way to advance in your spiritual life. It requires we follow God's protocol. Protocol means a right thing has to be done in a right way. This spiritual life is a unique life. To understand and live it, you need the unique resources of the ministry of God the Holy Spirit and the Bible, God's Living Word.

If you don't do a right thing in a right way, it's wrong. For example, prayer: there is a right and wrong way to pray. **Follow God's protocol for prayer.** The Bible tells you to pray to God the Father, in the name of Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. *"The Holy Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us"* (Romans 8:26). Your prayer is not going to get answered if you're praying with unconfessed sin.

The Filling of the Holy Spirit is required for effective prayer, and everything else. It's the only way to learn Biblical principles and recall divine viewpoint rationales. I can't emphasize enough the importance of the consistent use of Rebound to stay filled with the Holy Spirit. Your life depends on it.

This is the devil's world so there will be problems. You can't solve them by yourself. **You must be filled with the Holy Spirit to exercise your faith in God and use His problem-solving devices.** If you allow the Holy Spirit to control your life, you can operate under these devices, including the next one, the Faith-Rest Drill.

Put your faith in the power of God and not in the wisdom of men. (1 Corinthians 2:5)

## **FAITH-REST DRILL**

### **Problem-Solving Device #3**

The Faith-Rest Drill is you standing on God's Word and His promises. For it to be effective you must be in fellowship with God, filled with the Holy Spirit. Unconfessed sin in your life negates faith-rest.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

Let's start with the word *faith*. Faith is belief in things not seen. To be saved we must have faith (believe) in Jesus Christ, and it takes faith to live the supernatural Christian way of life.

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Faith is spiritual stamina, spiritual muscle developed by learning and applying God's Word. Faith is determining something to be true through confidence in the source of that knowledge. God is truth. His Word is truth. So put your trust in the Source. As mandated in Proverbs 3:5, "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart.*"

Military metaphors are sometimes used in the Bible to describe the Christian life. In the days of the New Testament, each Roman soldier had a shield that he carried into combat. It protected him from enemy arrows and spears. The Apostle Paul tells us we also have a shield as part of the armor of God, except ours is not made of wood or steel. It is made from the Word of God stored in our souls. "*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!*" (Romans 11:33).

“*Taking up the shield of faith*” (Ephesians 6:16) is the key to deploying your FLOT line to keep adversity from becoming stress. It is using God’s problem-solving devices to defend against your three enemies: the world, the flesh and the devil.

Your shield may not be strong if you have not prioritized growing spiritually, but don’t be discouraged. Remember, faith is spiritual muscle so you can make it stronger through exercise.

### **God’s Word is an antidote to anxiety**

Applying God’s Word puts muscle on your faith and gives you the ability to handle difficulties without anxiety. Through His Word, recognizing its truth and power, and then “*doing the will of God from the heart*” (Ephesians 6:6), you exercise your faith in responding to adversity. *Taking up the shield of faith* includes mixing the promises of God with your faith. **God’s promises don’t work without faith.**

God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:19)

Do you believe this promise? You should. He has already provided your salvation. He did the most for you, so why would He not do smaller things for you? God provides everything you need. He gives you divine resources to live stress-free. Are you willing to trust Him and use them? Or do you think you have a better way? **You trust God with your life. Trust Him with the details.**

The Bible contains over 7,000 promises from God. But you need to know some to use them. I encourage you to memorize several so you have them ‘at the ready’ when an unforeseen circumstance hits you. You may even want to develop a list of your favorite promises.

## **Adversity is inevitable - Stress is optional**

The Faith-Rest Drill has several steps:

- Be sure you are in fellowship with God, filled with the Holy Spirit (Rebound, 1 John 1:9). You need the power of the Holy Spirit for this to work.

- Claim one of God's promises. Do this by recalling a known promise, or if the situation and time allow, selecting one from your list. This stabilizes you and stops panic. For example, "*Be strong and courageous. Do not tremble or be dismayed. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go*" (Joshua 1:9). Express your thoughts to God the Father in prayer reciting His promise to you, and thanking Him for taking care of you.

- Recall relevant Biblical principles you have learned so you will have sound options to consider. This is where God's promise and provision of the ministry of the Holy Spirit comes into play. For example, recall a Biblical rationale (objective explanation) of the essence of God. He is love. He has never quit loving you. He is all knowing. He knows exactly what you're going through. Remember, He's in you. He has authority and supreme power over all. You see, by using certain Biblical principles, you can decide on an option and form a response.

- Next mix your faith in God and His promise with the relevant Biblical principle. Apply this discernment in how you respond to the adversity and you will persevere.

- Now you conclude, "*If God is for us, who is against us?*" (Romans 8:31). God is for you. What can defeat you? Who can harm you? No matter what your adversity may be, you are relaxed and calm. This is how the Christian way of life is to be lived, with a relaxed mental attitude, an RMA.

## **Live by Faith - Relax in the Lord**

- Then stand still. *“Stand still and watch what God is about to do”* (Exodus 14:13). To crack the sound barrier it requires excessive speed. If you want to crack the faith barrier, it requires you to stand absolutely still.

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

It is all God’s Grace. His amazing plan has you covered, completely. God wants you to have His peace and not live under anxiety and stress. When you have a problem, go to the Supreme Court of Heaven; it’s open 24 hours a day. Prayer is not a problem-solving device but it is your direct contact with God. Put your problem in His hands and then walk away from it. ***“Cast all your anxiety on Him for He cares for you”*** (1 Peter 5:7).

Did you know God said He would not allow us to be tested more than we can stand? *“No testing has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tested beyond what you are able, but with the testing will provide the way of escape so that you will be able to endure it”* (1 Cor 10:13).

Without using the Faith-Rest Drill, I guarantee you will have a stress-full life. If you aren’t using God’s resources, you will convert adversity into worry, anxiety and fear. Why? Because human solutions don’t work and won’t give you relief from the burdens of life. You can’t live stress-free in the devil’s world doing it your way.

### **Do not worry. (Luke 12:29)**

Worry is taking on unassigned responsibilities. Some people like the attention of worrying. Worry is a sin. It will derail your spiritual advance. Worry is self-torment and leads to anxiety. The solution is to orient to God’s unique plan for your life. God promises to provide

everything you need. What is there to worry about? One of my favorite anti-worry Scriptures is Matthew 6:25-34. I encourage you to mark it in your Bible. This is a logistical grace promise.

### **Be anxious for nothing. (Philippians 4:6)**

Anxiety is a consuming, powerful force. If you choose to be anxious, it can cause you to dread calamity, anticipate misfortune, have undue and not specific concern for yourself or those you love. It will explode in your soul like a grenade and fragment into various mental attitude sins. Now you have stress in the soul! When this happens, you'll be incapable of handling even minor pressures. No surprise, there is a connection between what we think and our health. Worry, anxiety, doubt and constant mental tension all adversely affect our bodies.

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.  
(Isaiah 41:10)

We humans may fear a lot of different things. Perhaps you fear the future, financial need, weather events, aging, your children's safety or the state of our nation. Many people fear dying. Satan loves to use this to manipulate us. **Worry, anxiety and fear are emotional sins of arrogance.** When we sink into one of them, when we fall victim to our sin nature, we fail to trust and use faith. Why? Because we have our eyes on ourselves and not on the Lord. Do you remember Peter walking on the water? When he took his eyes off the Lord, he started to sink, just like we do when we get into self-pity. "*You of little faith, why did you doubt?*" (Matthew 14:31).

Stress prevents you from having the capacity for life God intends. God has designed an amazing plan for you. *Take up the shield of faith* and live it.

**Adversity brings unique opportunities to glorify God.** In Matthew 8:23-27 Jesus took some disciples out in a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. A storm came up. The disciples panicked. Focusing on the circumstances, they were convinced they would die. Jesus said, “*You of little faith.*” This was a direct condemnation for not using faith to stabilize themselves. He calmed them down with one word, “*Peace.*”

These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage, I have overcome the world. (John 16:33)

When you are in the storms of life, focus on Jesus Christ and His provisions, not yourself. God provides real answers for you. ***These things are found in the Bible.*** Here is your challenge. Learn God’s Word. Put your trust and security in Him. Use the Faith-Rest Drill so you will not be a Christian casualty on the battlefield of life.

You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for in God the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock.  
(Isaiah 26:3-4)

God intends for you to have perfect peace and tranquility of soul. His Grace embraces you, always. Your job is to be oriented to it, depend on it, glorify Him in it.

Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him. Do not fret because of those who carry out wicked schemes. (Psalm 37:7)



## **GRACE ORIENTATION**

### **Problem-Solving Device #4**

Orienting to the grace of God is a perfect corollary to using the Faith-Rest Drill. This solves the problem of legalism and man trying to appease God through human effort rather than relying solely on God and His grace provisions.

**Grace is God's policy.** Grace is everything God is free to do for all of us without compromising His essence. Grace is neither earned nor deserved. Grace orientation is a critical perspective we need to have as a Christian. It is a learned attribute as we come to understand the God we know. We are to reflect God's grace through our thoughts, through our motives and through our actions.

Grace is often used in the Bible to describe how we were saved. Salvation is God's grace gift to all. No one can be saved by doing good deeds or by giving up bad habits. That would be working for salvation. Jesus Christ saved us. We can't save ourselves. God did all the work based on who and what He is.

### **Salvation is God's grace gift to all**

Scripture says we are saved freely, by grace.

To each one of us grace is given according to the measure of Christ's gift. (Ephesians 4:7)

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

God gives us grace before salvation. He doesn't desire for anyone to spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. So He has provided His gospel to be heard by all. This is referred to as common grace. It is a divine call to all humans to believe in Jesus Christ as Savior.

**Saving grace** refers to everything God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit did for us so that we might be saved. It is what we experience when we believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. At salvation, grace is made effective when God takes our faith in the truth of the gospel, which we hear and respond to, and He saves us. He puts us into His Royal Family. We all become equal in His eyes. He takes us when spiritually dead and makes us spiritually alive. This is efficacious grace. At that point we are eternally saved.

By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

(1 Corinthians 15:10)

**The enemy of grace is legalism, Christian works.** The legalist is someone who thinks God is impressed with his good deeds. He often becomes self-righteous because of a legalistic lifestyle. The legalist thinks it's okay to judge others and criticize their actions, and often tries to control them by demanding they follow some set of traditions or rules to acquire God's favor.

In contrast, the grace-oriented Christian does not judge nor criticize. He minds his own spiritual life and keeps his nose out of the lives of others.

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it may be defiled.  
(Hebrews 12:15)

Once you are saved you are now covered by God's **living grace**. This is God supplying your daily needs. Many call this logistical grace after a military term "logistics" that refers to everything a military unit needs to function. The point is, God provides for all your logistics, your needs. No Christian can live apart from God's promise and provision of living grace.

My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.  
(Philippians 4:19)

### **We have a mandate from God to grow in grace**

Grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)

To grow in grace and knowledge, you need to use the supernatural resources God has given you, the Filling of the Holy Spirit and the dynamics of the Word of God in your soul. Specifically, stay Filled with the Holy Spirit problem-solving device #2, by using Rebound device #1 then learn God's Word on a consistent and daily basis.

And you shall seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.  
(Jeremiah 29:13)

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)

The Christian life is about making good decisions every day based on Biblical principles. This isn't as hard as it sounds. As you learn more Bible Doctrine, you are able to make good decisions from a position of strength from His thinking, which we call divine viewpoint. This is a new way to think.

## **Man looks on the outside, God looks on the inside**

Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind so you may prove what is the will of God, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.  
(Romans 12:2)

This is God commanding you to renew your mind. Renew means to renovate, to change how you think. **God wants you to change from human viewpoint thinking to divine viewpoint thinking.** Why? Because this is the way to fulfill His plan for your life. You will have a greater appreciation of how God cares for you. You will be motivated to treat others with grace. I love to grace out servers with large tips. Gracing out others doesn't just mean with money. It can be with your time or your attention; it's an expression of your Grace Orientation.

One of the ways that God guides us, leads us, teaches us is through undeserved suffering. **Often Christian suffering is designed to orient us to grace.** God has provided everything we need to traverse times of testing. Testing is a means to an end. It gets us where we need to go when we orient to God's enabling grace.

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Then at the end of our mission, God even gives us **dying grace.** This is promised to those who are advancing in the plan of God. This is a time of maximum blessings from God and opportunities to glorify Him.

Blessed are those who die in the Lord.  
(Revelation 14:13)

**Learn to appreciate the grace of God**

Nor do I consider my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. (Acts 20:24)

As you advance to spiritual maturity, God will grace you out with blessings in time which lead to blessings and rewards experienced in heaven. This is **surpassing grace**. You have an amazing retirement plan! Your production of divine good in time will be multiplied as rewards in eternity. Faithfulness to the Lord and learning and applying Biblical wisdom are rewardable.

The eye has not seen, the ear has not heard, the heart has never felt the amazing things God has waiting for you. (Isaiah 64:4)

**Prayer is a grace provision and mandate from God.** “*Pray without ceasing*” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). **Prayer is not a problem-solving device.** Prayer is our means to communicate directly with God.

Let us come boldly to the throne of grace that we obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

Grace Orientation is the mindset of the Christian who knows that everything he or she is, and will ever be, depends on God. Simply put, it means you live, experience and demonstrate God’s grace each day.

All things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 4:15)

With respect to the promise of God, he did not waiver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was also able to perform. (Romans 4:20-21)

The grace-oriented Christian thinks grace, lives by grace and graces out others, expecting nothing in return. *“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask the more”* (Luke 12:48).

### **Grace Orientation is learning, exploiting, promoting and sharing the grace of God**

I hope you will learn to use God’s wonderful policy of grace in your dealings with others. You are to be a spiritual influencer in the devil’s world. Grace Orientation is the way you must live. As God’s grace flows through you, you are a witness to others in your spheres of influence. *“He who is wise wins souls”* (Proverbs 11:30).

In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:3)

Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these other things will be added to you.  
(Matthew 6:33)

While He was on earth, Christ lived oriented to grace. **His thoughts as recorded in the Word of God are the template for living the Christian way of life.** We are Christians; we are Christ-like and we are to live using the same assets He used during His earthly ministry. This is why we must *grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior*, problem-solving device #5 Doctrinal Orientation.

## DOCTRINAL ORIENTATION

### Problem-Solving Device #5

The term Bible Doctrine refers to all of the information God intends for us to know and use. The Bible is where it is recorded and preserved for us to study. Without orienting to the Bible, we can't learn God's plan, purpose and will for our lives. Doctrinal (Biblical) Orientation is essentially "What does the Bible say about this?" directing our thoughts and actions. It's thinking with the mind of Christ and living life based on divine viewpoint.

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and through eternity. (2 Peter 3:18)

Why study the Bible? "*And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free*" (John 8:32). The Bible is not merely a book of history with dos and don'ts. It is a map and compass, a guide. The Bible is also known as the completed canon of Scripture. The word canon is from the Greek word *kanon* meaning measuring stick or standard. God's Word sets our standards. Everything in the Bible is inspired by God for a reason. This is because God wants every human to have and know the truth.

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* (John 1:1). **God is truth and His Word, the Bible, is absolute truth.** The truth of God's Word lights the way from eternal damnation in the Lake of Fire to salvation and eternal life in heaven. It directs our path to avoid sin and leads us from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity, the Christ-like life.

There's more, but you must look to the Bible to find it.

God speaks to you through the Bible and this is why it's so important you become a student of God's Word. This is the only way to execute His plan and to grow to spiritual maturity. This is your objective as a Christian.

2 Timothy 2:15 says, "*Study to show yourself approved to God as a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*"

## **Don't bend to the demands of the world Don't blend God's Word to meet your desires**

*Rightly dividing* means to make straight. You must keep Bible Doctrine straight. This is why you are to study under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor who knows the original languages of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic. This allows the pastor to correctly interpret the Bible.

The classroom ideally is the local church and the important element is the pastor-teacher. God gives certain men this spiritual gift as described in Ephesians 4:12, "*For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.*" In the Greek the word for pastor is *poimen kai didaskalos* and it means pastor-teacher. These are men who prepare for a lifetime of service studying and teaching the Bible and pushing out Bible Doctrine. All Christians need the expertise of pastors to be effective in their spiritual lives. **You can't grow to spiritual maturity on your own.**

Unfortunately, many Christians are starving for God's Word because their pastors aren't feeding them full course meals. Pastors are spending their time visiting and counseling, rather than teaching accurately prepared Scripture. Today we have too many preacher-performers and not enough pastor-teachers. Here's a tip: if your song service is longer than the teaching, you're getting gypped.

Should you realize you aren't being fed enough to grow to spiritual maturity, leave your church quietly and seek another pastor. Bring your request to God in prayer.



God has a pastor for you and He will lead you to him. There are many sound Biblical studies available in books and electronic conveniences for your use. Never pay for God's Word. It should always be provided free, at no charge.

As a student of God's Word, have the self-discipline to develop effective study habits. You need a Bible, it is your textbook. The Bible is not a novel to be read. God designed it to be taught. Concentrate while studying. Most people retain less than twenty percent of what they hear or read. I encourage you to take notes and refer to them often. This will dramatically improve how much you remember. Be faithful to study daily. Your rate of learning must exceed your rate of forgetting.

The process of getting God's Word in our souls, where it is usable, is called metabolizing Bible Doctrine. **The only way we can understand spiritual truths is through the Filling of the Holy Spirit and His empowering ministry.** This is why we must be sure to Rebound before studying. Doctrinal Orientation doesn't come through emotional stimulation. It comes through the conversion of academic knowledge into full knowledge.

Conversion requires faith to believe what you have learned and then application. *"So that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God"* (1 Corinthians 2:5). Bible Doctrine heard and understood is one thing. It does you no good if it is not applied. One of my friends phrased this process as LAG. Learn and Apply His Word. Glorify God.

**Doctrine guides and encourages you with truth.** Psalm 73:24, *"You will guide me with Your Word in my soul."* Proverbs 4:11-13, *"I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. When you walk your steps will not be impeded; and if you run, you will not stumble. Take hold of instruction; do not let go."*

**You can't apply what you don't know**

That the Father of glory may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. (Ephesians 1:17)

I use the **Four C's** as a way to describe how you learn God's Word and the importance of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the process. The Word of God is: **Communicated** to you by a pastor who presents God's Word accurately. **Captured** in your soul by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit. **Comprehended** and metabolized through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. **Complied** with through your thoughts, intentions and actions. "*For to us God revealed them through the Holy Spirit*" (1 Corinthians 2:10).

Biblical wisdom allows you to stand against your adversary, Satan. He is your enemy. Understand, that once you become a believer in Jesus Christ you are in a war called the angelic conflict. **Without God's truth in your soul, you are not able to spot Satan's nefarious work.** He will try to distract you, deceive you, discourage you, and if you let him, defeat you. He would love to do that. Doctrinal Orientation is your protection. You can't survive in Satan's world without it.

Even our Lord Jesus Christ in His humanity learned Scripture and used it for protection. He stood on the promises of His Father. He quoted verses. This is what secured His deliverance from the temptations of Satan.

**The living Word of God worked for Christ  
And it will absolutely work for you!**

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Word will live forever. (Matthew 24:35)

Hebrews 4:12 states, "*The Word of God is alive and powerful*" and it is everlasting. It will be with us in heaven. Can you now see how vital it is for your life?

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:28-29)

**The Lord gives us three mandates and an amazing promise in this Scripture: Come .. Take .. Learn .. Find Rest.** We are to focus on Him and use His divine provisions. We are to take on the mindset of Jesus Christ. How? We learn from Him. And if we use our volition to choose to do this, He promises us tranquility and relief from the burdens of life.

Jesus Christ's earthly ministry gives us the template, the pattern to live the Christian way of life. Jesus took thirty years to develop the template and three years to demonstrate it. This is what *Take My yoke* means. Doctrinal Orientation is the ministry of the Holy Spirit cutting us into the image of Christ as we *Learn from Me*.

Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:5)

This is telling you to learn to think like Jesus Christ thought. We are to learn to think with divine viewpoint. The only way to assimilate the mind of Christ and develop divine viewpoint is to continuously learn God's Word. You will see how the Bible relates to every area of your life. This is an incremental, lifetime process.

**There is no short-cut to learning the Word of God**

Stop being conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind ... Think with sound judgment, as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word. (Romans 12:2-3)

God wants you to renew your mind, to change how you think. He mandates you to think with divine viewpoint rather than human viewpoint. Doctrinal Orientation provides a different and invigorating way to live.

Evaluate your spiritual life in the light of what God's Word teaches. *"Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!"* (2 Corinthians 13:5).

### **The Word of God is a mirror reflecting your life back to you**

The Bible never contradicts itself. Its truth is reassuring and elicits confidence amid the untruths and chaos surrounding us. The Bible gives us everything we need for this life. Doctrinal Orientation brings happiness, stability and long life. These are some of the amazing results of being a faithful student of God's Word:

Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father's word and keep it. (Luke 11:28)

Occupation with the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of God is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied and years of life will be added to you. (Proverbs 9:10-11)

### **Every problem has a solution stated in the Word of God**

Embed God's Word in your soul. It gives you the means to persevere through all adversity and prosperity. It will guide and encourage you. Be Doctrinally Oriented and you will find your Personal Sense of Destiny.

*Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.  
(Psalm 119:105)*

## PERSONAL SENSE OF DESTINY

### Problem-Solving Device #6

The problem-solving devices build on one another. When you understand you have a Personal Sense of Destiny you will be able to identify wrong priorities, stay out of self-absorption and answer, why am I here? It becomes a reality when you advance to keeping your focus on the Lord Jesus Christ rather than yourself. This is when you put His will over yours.

At this point you begin to comprehend the phenomenal plan God has designed for you. You can become the man or woman God intends by choosing to leave your agenda behind and moving forward in learning and living God's plan. This is how to discover and fulfill your Personal Sense of Destiny. Your life will take on meaning and purpose, His.

There are many plans in a man's heart but it is the Lord's purpose that will prevail.  
(Proverbs 19:21)

Here's an illustration. I'm a really good bass fisherman. I could have been a professional bass angler competing in national tournaments and making lots of money. But bass fishing is a passion in my life, not a priority. My priority is to re-present Jesus Christ as He opens doors for me to communicate the Gospel and Biblical principles. This is my destiny in time. You will need to make similar decisions in your life. Is it a priority or a passion?

Relationships are important in life but prioritizing them is even more important. **Your relationship with God must come first in your life.** If you can do this, everything else will stay in proper perspective.

Having a Personal Sense of Destiny is a wonderful way to live. It motivates you to get your priorities right, and it relieves you of the angst of trying to figure out what to do with your life. **God leaves you here for a reason. Your destiny is to fulfill the mission He has given you.** You simply follow the orders of your Heavenly Father as He reveals them by means of the Holy Spirit through the Scripture. Remember, the Christian way of life is unique. To find and fulfill your destiny, you need to use the unique resources He gives you, the Filling of the Holy Spirit and the living Word of God.

Your destiny will take you to spiritual self-esteem and carry you through spiritual autonomy and eventually to spiritual maturity. I learned these concepts from my pastor years ago. In spiritual self-esteem you have confidence from the Bible Doctrine you have stored in your soul and thinking with divine viewpoint. You are developing spiritual common sense.

In spiritual autonomy your confidence in your spiritual life has increased and you have independence from relying on others. You understand God's plan and are comfortable acting alone. You more readily apply what you have learned. You've become spiritually self-sustaining. You don't have to rely on others for counseling, motivation or to prop you up. You rely on God's Word as well as the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

In spiritual maturity you have a wealth of God's Word in your soul for use in handling any adversity or prosperity that comes your way. **Spiritual maturity is your mission objective, but it is not an end state.** You are to press on to your eternal destiny.

I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead. (Philippians 3:13)

**Be aware of choices that will get you off course from completing your mission.** Apathy (indifference) toward the Word of God is the big one. Letting people or circumstances or affliction distract you are others. As a Christian, your eternal destiny is guaranteed, your Personal Sense of Destiny is not. It is based on the choices you make with your time on earth, your TOE.

Every Christian is given a spiritual gift at salvation. Mine is evangelism. Other spiritual gifts include: pastor, leadership and administration in the church, helps, giving and prayer. All of these must be done under the Filling of the Holy Spirit to be of service and to glorify God. Whatever your gift is, this is what God empowers you to do to serve Him. Don't get worked up trying to figure out what your gift is. Your objective is to grow to spiritual maturity. It's not even necessary that you know what your gift is. God knows and He will use you with it.

**Your spiritual gift and your talent are not the same thing.** Some people play the piano, sing, dance or write. These are talents, not spiritual gifts. God can use your talent to glorify Him, such as in your church or community, but your spiritual gift is different. **God gives you a spiritual gift to serve Him.**

Apart from salvation, the most important gift God gives you is time. Time is priceless and limited. Don't waste your TOE. I encourage you to evaluate everything you do as essential or non-essential to becoming spiritually mature since this is your objective. Time doesn't shout, it just runs out, sooner than you think.

**Redeem your time wisely  
Tomorrow is not guaranteed**

Redeem your time, because the days are evil.  
Do not be foolish, but understand what the  
will of the Lord is. (Ephesians 5:16-17)

Have you been defeated by small difficulties in your life? Listen to Jeremiah, *“You have raced with men on foot and they wore you out; how can you compete with horses? If you stumbled in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?”* (Jeremiah 12:5). See the analogy? If you can’t handle the little things, how can you handle the big things when they come along? This is why you need to use this problem-solving device. It gives you the confidence to trust God and His divine provisions.

“I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans for welfare and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

This confidence comes from understanding how God’s plan operates and then executing it using three of His grace provisions that are your primary spiritual skills: the Filling of the Holy Spirit, application of Bible Doctrine and use of God’s problem-solving devices. **These spiritual skills need to work in sync.** As with any skill, the more effort you put in, the more adept you will be. The same is true with spiritual skills.

My son, do not forget my teaching; let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life, plus prosperity, will be added to you ... Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:1-6)

You may be wondering, how can I know God’s will for my life? The answer is, this is part of growing up as a Christian. As you advance, you will see it.



## **I delight to do Your will. (Psalm 40:8)**

There are three checkpoints for knowing the directive will of God. Use them to stay on course in God's plan. First is the **geographical checkpoint**. Where does God want you to be? It's never too late to make a course correction in life.

### **God's direction may take you where you don't want to go**

The second is the **viewpoint checkpoint**. What does God want you to think? He wants you to think like Christ thought. During His earthly ministry, Jesus' mentality, what He thought, and His intentionality, what He did, are the pattern He left for us. They are how to think and live. It is all recorded in the New Testament. "*We have the thinking of Christ*" (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Third is the **operational checkpoint**. What does God want you to do? As you grow spiritually by learning and applying His Word, God will direct your life. He will also show you your spiritual gift and how to use it in service to Him. Always keep in mind, service is a result of spiritual advancement, not the cause.

Jesus Christ came to fulfill a destiny. He knew His destiny was to go to the cross and die for the sins of the world. He let nothing stop Him from fulfilling His destiny. You, too, have a Personal Sense of Destiny to fulfill. By learning God's Word and following His geographical, viewpoint and operational checkpoints, you will come to know God's directive will for your life.

Can you know what God's will is for you? Yes! If your task is to maneuver a ship through a channel, into a harbor and up to a dock, how do you do this at night without running into dangers? There are three lights in the channel to guide you. If you will keep these lights aligned with your task, you will make it safely to the dock.

Use these three lights as you validate knowing God's will for your life and how to live within it. The **Witness of God's Word**. God directs you through His Word, the Bible. As a personal example, while in a group reading the Bible a verse caught my attention, "*Pray for me that I may open my mouth boldly*" (Ephesians 6:19). It was God telling me my destiny was to go to Bible college.

The **Witness of Circumstances**. While trying to figure out how I would pay for Bible college a gentleman said, "If you go to Bible college, I'll pay for it." This is the witness of circumstances. God paid for my tuition by means of the grace of this gentleman.

The **Witness of the Holy Spirit**. This is the peace and contentment you'll have from knowing you are on the right path in God's plan and living God's agenda. There is no greater joy than knowing you are living directly in the middle of God's will for your life.

God will lead you in fulfilling your destiny. **Don't get impatient and try to get ahead of God**. This is a common mistake. Don't try to push doors open. Be patient. If you charge ahead, you are impetuous and will do things that aren't necessary and often are a waste of time and energy. It might be the right thing, but the wrong time. Wait on the three lights to align and then you can safely move forward.

**God's plan is perfect, and His timing is perfect.** With a Personal Sense of Destiny, there is no reason for you to be worried about the future. Be confident knowing that Jesus Christ controls history. As long as you are alive God still has a plan for you. Continue to *Take My yoke* and *Learn from Me*. The more you understand the God you know, the more you can love Him.

*We love, because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)*

Personal Love for God motivates you  
to fulfill your Personal Sense of Destiny

## **PERSONAL LOVE FOR GOD**

### **Problem-Solving Device #7**

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. (Matthew 22:37)

Love is a virtue. It is an attitude. Personal Love for God is the most powerful virtue and greatest motivation you can have. **This is what drives you to practice your Christianity.** If you fulfill your Personal Sense of Destiny, you will do it because you personally love God. Love, knowledge and obedience are three key concepts we will discuss, and they are linked.

Humanity has lost the meaning of love. It is used all the time but we really don't understand it. We need to, because it is a tremendous problem-solving device.

### **God loves you**

#### **He always has and He always will**

God's essence includes sovereignty, righteousness, justice and love. Love is a distinguishing characteristic of God. It is amazing that He loves us for starters. What is in us that's worth loving? Nothing. *"There are none that are righteous, no not one"* (Romans 3:10).

One of the first things to learn about God is that He loves us even though we are completely unlovable. We are born sinners, totally imperfect and without the possibility of a relationship with perfect God. *"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to be saved"* (2 Peter 3:9).

**John 3:16** tells us, *“God so loved the world that He gave His uniquely born Son,”* for all of us. The unique birth of Jesus was the start of His personal destiny to save us. He was here for a reason, to follow and fulfill the plan of God from womb to tomb. God the Father loved the world so much He sent His Son to be sacrificed as a substitute for us. Jesus Christ was judged for our sins when He had no sin because He was uniquely born of a virgin. Then after His death and burial, He was resurrected and lives in the presence of the Father today. We will also if we have accepted Christ as our Savior. This is love.

You may be thinking, “How can a loving God send anyone to the Lake of Fire?” It is because humanity is condemned. Unless you accept Jesus Christ as your Savior you are unacceptable to God’s righteousness. What His righteousness rejects, His justice must judge. **Rejecting Jesus Christ is the only unforgiveable sin.** *“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; he who does not believe in the Son shall not see life but the wrath of God abides on him”* (John 3:36).

I have a question for you. How can you love someone you don’t know? When the Bible tells us to love God, it implies we must know Him. If you don’t know His Word, you don’t know Him and you can’t love Him. This is why Bible study is necessary. The more you learn about Him, the more you love Him and want to understand Him even more. See how this problem-solving device motivates?

*“These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be in your heart. Teach them with diligence to your children. Talk of them when you sit in your house and talk of them when you walk and when you lie down and when you rise up”* (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). When you love someone, you think and talk about them ... all the time. It should be the same way with you and your love for God. **The only way to develop your Personal Love for God is to increase your knowledge of Him.**

This love for God is a mental attitude based on the Filling of the Holy Spirit and the content of God's Word in your soul. It is understanding and respecting Who and what God is. *"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"* (Romans 5:5).

You are motivated to serve Him because you know He loves you, unconditionally. You reciprocate His love for you when you love Him. **Reciprocal love motivation is one of the byproducts of Personal Love for God.** *"We love, because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19).

You've never seen God and you haven't touched Him, but you know He's real and His Word is real. You come to love Him through your soul, the invisible part of you.

Though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory. (1 Pet 1:8)

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

Sometimes when I'm speaking to a group of people I ask, "How many of you would like to meet God if I told you He was out there in the foyer now?" Most will raise their hands. But then I give them the verse that says, *"No man can see God and live"* (Exodus 33:20). All the hands go down.

You are not going to see God until you get to heaven but that doesn't mean you cannot love Him. We are mandated to love God by studying His Word, consistently, daily. The Bible tells us everything we need to know to develop our Personal Love for God.

You love God because He provides salvation for you through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. You love Him because He gives you the ministry of the Holy Spirit and His Word as guidance throughout your life. You love Him because He sustains you daily with divine provisions. You love Him for all of this, and more. **Everything you need, in fact everything your life is about, is provided by God and His grace.**

What motivated Jesus Christ to obey the mandate to go to the cross? It was His love for the Father. Note these last words Jesus spoke to His disciples the night before He was arrested and crucified, ***“So that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me” (John 14:31).*** This is powerful.

When I ask folks “Do you love God?” the response is usually, “Of course I love God.” But did you know you can’t love God unless you obey Him? So, love is a test. The test is, will you obey God?

Whoever keeps His Word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him; the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. (1 John 2:5-6)

For this is the love of God, that we keep His mandates and His mandates are not a burden. (1 John 5:3)

**The way you demonstrate your love for God is through obedience to keeping His mandates.** He doesn’t ask you to do something you can’t do.

This is a mandate from God, *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”* Then parents are commanded, *“Do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in*

*the discipline and instruction of the Lord”* (Eph 6:1-4). So, do you love God? If you do, obey these verses. This is where it gets tough. Personal Love for God will motivate you to obey passages like these.

You didn't find God. God found you! In eternity past God provided everything for you. He knew your name and everything about you. Here you are now, a Christian, either growing in grace and in knowledge of Him, or not advancing, having lost your first love - - God.

### **You are either serving God or you are serving Satan at any given moment**

Sometimes we mess up. One of the ways that we do is when we allow unconfessed sin to gouge into our lives. It scars the soul. Have you ever had your car keyed? Someone takes their keys and drags them along the side of your car. Well, scar tissue on the soul is like that. Unconfessed sin builds up and scars the soul. The Bible calls the soul, the heart. Failure to Rebound and advance in the Christian life is said to harden the heart. Then the believer starts to act like an unbeliever. The believer is still saved but he is not going in the right direction and not using divine wisdom anymore. He has turned away from God. You can't worship God with unconfessed sin in your life. You may turn your back on God, but He will never turn His back on you. **God will never throw you under the bus.** Rebound, and pick up with God's plan where you left it.

God's love is immutable which means it never changes. God's love is also perfect and unconditional; patient and forgiving; protective and promotes peace of mind; proven and persistent. Reciprocate His love by increasing the time you devote to *Take My yoke and Learn from Me.*

**God is always with you - You are never alone**

When virtue is detached from love and emotions take control, love can go awry. Think of love as a river. The banks that contain love are wisdom and knowledge acquired from Bible Doctrine. Wisdom and knowledge keep it from becoming an emotional overload. If love is not contained it will be distorted. People have even killed over love when it is out of its banks.

Here is something interesting, two of the most mature believers in all time, who knew the most about love as recorded in the Bible, were never married. They are the Apostle Paul and the prophet Jeremiah. These two men had an exceptional knowledge of God and therefore knew a lot about God's perfect love.

May the Lord direct your hearts into the love  
of God and into the steadfastness of Christ.

(2 Thessalonians 3:5)

The internal system of virtue Jesus Christ had during His earthly ministry is part of the template He left us, *Take My Yoke*. It is transferable to us as two problem-solving devices. This system of virtue is vertical and horizontal. Vertical virtue is related to your Personal Love for God. Horizontal virtue is related to Impersonal Love for All Mankind. This is the next problem-solving device we are going to discuss.

Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward  
outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

(Colossians 4:5)



## IMPERSONAL LOVE FOR ALL MANKIND

### Problem-Solving Device #8

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (Jn 13:34-35)

This mandate from God, *Love one another even as I have loved you*, is also known as the **Royal Law**. With regard to the unbelieving world, using this divine resource sets us apart as Christians.

Jesus announced this new mandate during His final Bible class with the disciples following what is known as The Last Supper. Once you master this problem-solving device, dealing with people will be manageable and maybe even fun, not angst-ridden. **Impersonal Love will resolve all sorts of problems in your life.**

For many, interaction with others often becomes people testing and gives them the most potential to stress. While our stress often comes from self-induced misery, humans can cause anxiety. That is, if we react with human viewpoint rather than respond with Impersonal Love.

Think about the most obnoxious people you know. I call these people WOJs - weird obnoxious jerks. God says you must also love the WOJs in your life. This is hard! It requires your use of Impersonal Love, not personal love. You love them based on your Personal Love for God and obedience to Him, not based on the merit of the WOJs.

People are imperfect and don't meet our expectations. All of us have a sin nature, and all of us sin. Love is not designed to work only when we are on good terms with someone. We are to express Impersonal Love moment by

moment, even to the worst of humanity, based on who we are, not who they are. This isn't easy, I admit. It takes lots of practice.

**The more Bible Doctrine you learn the more you will personally love God. The more you personally love God, the more you can problem-solve using Impersonal Love.** You are commanded to:

Love your neighbor as yourself. (Matt 22:39)

Issues arise when you try to love people using personal love. It is impossible to personally love everyone. People will let you down. Count on it. Those you are closest with often are the ones who hurt you the most or you hurt the most. There are people you might not like because they have displeasing personalities or have failed you in some way. Maybe you invested money, and they stole it. Maybe you invested time, and they abused it. Now you don't like them, intensely, for whatever reason. Then your impulse is to get angry, to retaliate, or to have self-pity.

**God says you must love the WOJs and those with OPDs (obnoxious personality disorders)**

Getting angry or reacting with some other mental or verbal sin is the wrong thing to do. You are out of fellowship and into chain sinning. These emotional sins will get you preoccupied with yourself. Don't do this. The right thing is to switch from personal love to Impersonal Love. You can love anyone because of this dynamic principle: Impersonal Love is based on you and your integrity, which comes from your Personal Love for God.

Did Jesus Christ die for the person you don't like? Yes. Did He die for you? Yes. So, what makes you different from that guy? He or she did something you don't like, so what? Love 'em. You don't have to spend time with them but you must love them with Impersonal Love.

God did the same with you. In John 3:16, the Bible says that God loved the world. The world was full of sin. God cannot love sin. So how did He do this great thing? He loved us based on who He is, not who we are. This is the model to follow. He is God; we are sinners. But He loves us. You can use the same sort of Impersonal Love to deal with people who are unloving toward you.

**Personal Love for God and  
Impersonal Love for Others  
can solve all of your people problems  
Use them**

The two greatest virtues in your life are Personal Love for God (your motivational virtue) and Impersonal Love for All Mankind (your functional virtue). In 1 John 4:19 we find both. "*We love God*" is motivational virtue. "*Because He first loved us*" is functional virtue. God requires us to use this internal system of vertical and horizontal virtue in living His plan.

Impersonal Love based on who you are, not who they are, puts the emphasis on the virtue of the subject (you) not the object (them). It is your virtue, not theirs. Impersonal Love is an expression of this virtue based on the Bible Doctrine in your soul. It also shows humility, not self-absorption.

This I pray, that your love may abound still  
more and more in real knowledge and all  
discernment. (Philippians 1:9)

There is tremendous importance placed on Impersonal Love throughout God's Word. You must understand this.

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted,  
forgiving each other, just as God in Christ  
also has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:32)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.  
(Ephesians 5:25)

You must love your spouse but sometimes your spouse is not lovable. This is especially hard if he or she gritches (this is a play on two words), is revengeful, gossips or does something you don't like. When you love someone, be it a parent or a friend or even a spouse, always keep in mind they are imperfect, just as you. They will disappoint you. Maybe they don't communicate or maybe they spend money you don't think you have. Then you get all torqued up and lash out. That's not loving. That's reacting. Loving someone that you are married or related to requires using Impersonal Love. Sometimes their decisions will make it difficult. You must still love them.

Simply, and quickly, switch virtues. Go from personal love based on what you know of them, to the virtue of Impersonal Love based on who you are. You must learn to think and do this when dealing with the people test of family (especially during holidays). Using your Personal Love for God, express Galatians 5:22-23, *"The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."*

**You can't change others  
You can only change yourself**

You must learn to think of others in terms of Impersonal Love. It is unconditional. This is the way we are to think daily toward all mankind, everyone in the human race. If you use Rebound and the Filling of the Holy Spirit you will have the correct mindset to accomplish this based on your Personal Love for God.

The Bible mandates us to have Personal Love for God and Impersonal Love for All Mankind.

If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also. (1 John 4:20-21)

The book of Philemon contains the account of Onesimus, a runaway slave. He faced the death penalty for what he stole. The Apostle Paul wrote to Philemon, “*Consider him no longer a slave but a beloved brother, especially to me, but much more to you both in the flesh and in the Lord. If you count me a partner receive him as you would receive me*” (Philemon 1:16-17). Onesimus had become a believer. Therefore, Paul was imploring Philemon to recognize this and treat him as a fellow Christian. Paul was encouraging Philemon to use Impersonal Love with Onesimus.

That is exactly what God did with you. Recall this verse, “*God so loved the world that He gave His uniquely born Son*” (John 3:16). Do you think you are such a wonderful person that God loved you so much He sacrificed His Son based on who you are? Our Lord did not save you because you are a wonderful person.

No. The fact is you’re a jerk. I’m a jerk. The human race is made up of jerks. And if it wasn’t for God’s wonderful grace, we would all be greasy spots by now. So, let’s get this straight. You’re not allowed to hold a grudge. You’re not allowed to hate anybody. You’re not allowed to be prejudiced or to be bitter.

You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord. (Leviticus 19:18)

## **The plan of God is for you to love others**

You may have to love them from across the street or around the corner, but you can love them with Impersonal Love. This means that you have a relaxed mental attitude toward them. You do not malign, judge, backbite or criticize others in public or in private. These are sins, whether you think them or say them. When you commit them, you quench and grieve the Holy Spirit. You are out of fellowship. Rebound whenever you find yourself in that state of being.

And if they are in need, you're there to help. That is what we are supposed to do.

But I say to you who hear, love your enemies,  
do good to those who hate you. (Luke 6:27)

The solace we all look for is in the problem-solving devices. Impersonal Love for All Mankind is the method by which you can have contentment and tranquility even if you are surrounded by WOJs. Just follow the plan of God and never forget what God did (and does) for you. He has impersonal love, He provided your salvation. Now you have His enveloping personal love.

Without Impersonal Love you're never going to have any happiness in life.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23:5-6)

## SHARING THE HAPPINESS OF GOD

### Problem-Solving Device #9

God wants you to be happy, always. He has given you everything you need to have His perfect happiness. You should never be unhappy. How is this possible? Happiness doesn't depend on people or circumstances. It is an attitude, and you control your thoughts. You choose to be happy or you choose otherwise. I bet you didn't realize having true happiness is this simple:

Happiness belongs to those who hear My Father's Word and keep it. (Luke 11:28)

**Sharing God's Happiness comes from your relationship with Jesus Christ.** As you acquire the mind of Christ through learning God's Word, this phenomenal problem-solving device will allow you to have tranquility of soul, contentment and an abundant capacity for life. This is a happiness that much of the world doesn't have. They don't know God nor hear and keep His Word.

These things I have taught you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. (John 15:11)

Jesus Christ wants your happiness to overflow. Notice the word *taught*. The key to having Christ's joy, Sharing God's Happiness, is threefold. First, keep your focus on Jesus Christ. Concurrently, learn *These Things* that Christ taught during His earthly ministry by studying God's Word on a consistent daily basis. Last but most importantly, use *These Things* to think and act with a divine viewpoint.

## **Happiness is a state of mind**

Sharing God's Happiness is not related to some sort of stimuli in your life. **Rather happiness depends on your volition and what you choose to put in your soul.** Happiness is self-contained. Being happy is your responsibility, not anyone else's, and it emanates from what is in your soul. Your stimulation comes from your spiritual life. You don't sit around waiting on someone or something to make you happy.

This same happiness from God is found in the Old Testament. "*Happiness belongs to the person who finds wisdom and gains understanding*" (Proverbs 3:13). Divine wisdom, in all times, is acquired by learning and applying the Word of God. This is the basis for happiness.

**There is no greater joy than knowing  
you are aligned with God's will  
and fulfilling His plan for your life**

Sharing God's Happiness is characterized by several things including tranquility of soul, contentment, capacity for life and self-motivation. Joy!

Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love that we may sing for joy and have inner happiness all of our days. (Psalm 90:14)

**Tranquility of soul refers to your inner peace, happiness.** You have peace amidst the chaos swirling around you because you trust God. You are confident He will watch over you and take care of your every need. This tranquility is an insulation from anxiety and being occupied with self.

When anxious thoughts multiple within me,  
Your comforts delight my soul. (Psalm 94:19)



## **Blessings come and blessings go The Source remains the same**

Contentment is being satisfied with what you have and who you are. You keep everything in perspective. The focus stays on the Giver and not the gifts. You don't get suckered into the lures of the world and become a slave to the details of life. You are content in adversity and in prosperity. Listen to what Paul had to say about this:

I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means and I know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. (Phil 4:11-13)

You may go through undeserved suffering. Do not be dismayed. You can have the perfect happiness Christ offers if you will stay filled with the Holy Spirit and use the Faith-Rest Drill. **Affliction is an opportunity for you to grow and increase your confidence in God.** This depends on how you respond to it. God wants you to use His problem-solving devices so He can bless you now and give you rewards in eternity.

Contentment develops capacity for living the Christian way of life. God is ready to pour out blessings on you. But without capacity, any blessing will distract you and may even destroy you. No capacity, no happiness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, how blessed is the man who trusts in You! (Psalm 84:11-12)

With tranquility of soul, contentment and capacity for life, you have motivation to stay happy. You realize happiness is not related to things, circumstances or people. No person can make you happy. People may stimulate you and be enjoyable but that is not the happiness God is offering.

**Sharing God's Happiness depends on the decisions you make regarding your spiritual life.** It is a result of soul strength. You have total control over the development of your soul. Think about this: your soul never grows old and it goes with you into eternity.

### **Unhappy people take their unhappiness with them wherever they go**

There is a pseudo-happiness out there. It is what the world offers you and it is temporary. Satan counterfeits God's grace policy with the false promise that things of his world can make you happy. It's a lie. **People spend money they don't have, to buy things they don't need, to impress people they don't even know.** Many people are motivated by pleasure rather than love for God and this leads to a frantic search for happiness. This search apart from God boomerangs, bringing more unhappiness and self-induced misery.

### **There is no reason to ever be unhappy**

God designed a happy life for you. Realize though, this life is not to be lived apart from Him. If you are trying to have a happy life without God, it won't work.

**The source of lasting happiness is clearly what God says and the path He provides.** The Lord described this in His teachings. Specifically, He said the sharing of His happiness would be ours, "*if you abide in Me and My words abide in you*" (John 15:7).

His path leads us to Occupation with Christ.

## OCCUPATION WITH CHRIST

### Problem-Solving Device #10

Occupation with Christ sets your focus and objective for life. Focus on Jesus Christ. Grow to spiritual maturity.

Fixing our eyes on Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of faith. (Hebrews 12:2)

This problem-solving device directs you to put the emphasis on God, rather than people, circumstances or things. **Fellowship with God becomes more important than fellowship with people.** Life takes on a divine perspective and purpose while remaining normal in other aspects.

It is no longer I but Christ in me.  
(Galatians 2:20)

Attaining Occupation with Christ is a gradual process as you advance to spiritual maturity. Jesus Christ becomes your best friend. By following Christ's mandates of *Take My yoke* and *Learn from Me* you realize He is your security. You seek encouragement from Him, not people. His Word gives you confidence and direction.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

There are no limitations to what God can do in your life. You must learn to trust Him, in good times and bad. Then follow Christ's lead.

## **We have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:16)**

Remember, Jesus Christ, in His earthly ministry, left us the template on how to live the Christian life. His thoughts are recorded and preserved for us in the Bible. We have the mind of Christ at our fingertips. We have the enabling power of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to cut us into a Christ-like image. God makes a direct demand on our volition to be Occupied with Christ. There is no excuse to not be.

## **The choices we make determine the life we lead**

This last problem-solving device is very important. Few people are loved the way they want to be loved or treated the way they want to be treated. This comes from unrealistic expectations. It is inevitable that these will cause frustration and instability. Without Doctrinal Orientation and refocusing away from self and back to Jesus Christ, stability and contentment are impossible.

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh nor fulfill its lust.  
(Romans 13:14)

Putting on Christ is being occupied with Him. It is the same principle. We are to live as He lived, to think as He thought. It is the choice for developing your personal love for Christ by increasing your knowledge of Him. Then it is using this virtue to motivate your spiritual life.

Come to know the love for Christ that goes beyond knowledge so that you may be filled with the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:19)

## **Fullness of God is Occupation with Christ**

Therefore if [and it is true] there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Holy Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. (Philippians 2:1-2)

This Scripture shows us how Occupation with Christ is a culmination of all of God's problem-solving devices. Note the highlights:

**Encouragement** and **comfort** from Personal Love for God, your greatest motivational virtue.

**Power** from being in fellowship with God through the use of Rebound; being Filled with the Holy Spirit and guided by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**Compassion** through Impersonal Love for Others.

**Happiness** from hearing and keeping His Word, Doctrinal Orientation.

**Thinking** with divine viewpoint rather than human viewpoint.

**United** and one in Christ. There are no racial, cultural or gender distinctions. *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus"* (Galatians 3:26).

**Confident** in God's plan and His divine provisions.

**One purpose**, to fulfill our Personal Sense of Destiny.

**Secure** in time and eternity through Jesus Christ.

**All because of God's policy of Grace.**

The peace of God which surpasses all comprehension will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

**The Christian way of life is not  
activity or productivity, it is conductivity  
We are transmitters of God's grace**

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be sober and fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:13)

Being Occupied with Christ is not living an emotionally charged life. It isn't acting sweet or avoiding taboos. It doesn't mean you go around saying, "Brother this or sister that." You don't have to wear a bracelet that says, "What would Jesus do?" Often these are symptoms of phoniness. Some people act this way to impress others.

Our Savior did not operate on emotions. As a man, He had to learn Scripture. He used His Father's Word and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This is what we are to do also. **Jesus Christ relied on divine resources, not emotions.**

We are to "*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18). Make Him the subject of our concentration. No celebrity, athlete or social media influencer is our model for life. Jesus Christ is our only true role model and celebrity.

Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:5)

The Bible tells you the thinking of Christ. God knows your questions. He always has. And He has the answers. The way to find out what Jesus would do is to learn Bible Doctrine. It fills in the information, gives you His plan, and supplies the problem-solving devices you need to execute His plan.

Go therefore and proclaim the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Mark 16:15)

**You are a personal representative of Jesus Christ**

**As a Christian, you have two royal commissions, believer priest and ambassador of Jesus Christ.** As a royal priest you represent yourself before God. You don't need a human to intervene. Prayer is your direct line to God. As an ambassador, you are a personal representative of the Lord. This is an incredible responsibility. You have a mission to re-present Jesus Christ to those who are lost in sin. You must reach out and talk to people.

If I am lifted up, I will draw men to Myself.  
(John 12:32)

**Jesus Christ is a magnet. You must lift Him up.** Those with positive volition will be attracted to Christ and pulled in to His truth. This requires you to communicate the Gospel. **You are mandated by God to re-present Jesus Christ.** This isn't a mission just for pastors and evangelists. God is counting on you.

Always be ready to answer anyone who asks you the reason you are confident in your eternal security and live with hope in the devil's world. You need to be ready to talk about Jesus Christ, and it needs to be accurate.

Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence. (1 Peter 3:15)

Every person you meet is an opportunity. I don't mean, "Well, I witness with my lifestyle." That's shirking your duty. **Your mission from God is to literally talk about Jesus Christ.** God the Holy Spirit will take your words and act on them. But He only uses what is accurate. You need to know God's Word to re-present it. You need to know what you're talking about.

**You are in full-time Christian service.** You didn't appoint yourself; God did. You don't support yourself; God does. Your instructions are in the Bible. Remember, your citizenship is in heaven. You are just passing through the devil's world on the way Home.

**Occupation with Christ is the greatest treasure a Christian can possess.** It is available to you by acquiring the mind of Jesus Christ. You demonstrate it in the way you think and live your life and in re-presenting Him to others. This problem-solving device eliminates human viewpoint thinking and keeps you oriented, away from yourself and on Jesus Christ.

We have this treasure in our earthly bodies so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves. (2 Cor 4:7)

What treasure is the Apostle Paul talking about? *“For God, who commanded, ‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ”* (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Jesus Christ is the teacher. The Bible reveals this to you. Re-present the Light, and glorify God.

***Christ in you, the hope of glory.  
(Colossians 1:27)***

To Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. (Jude 1:24-25)



## YOUR UNIQUE LIFE

Like skipping a rock on water, we have just touched the surface of God's 10 problem-solving devices. There is much more. This is why I encourage you to get under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor. He can teach you accurate details. Learning the Word of God is like peeling an onion, there are layers to understanding it.

The solution to every problem you'll face is found in the Bible. Now you know the means to find the answers. God gives you an abundance of divine resources to use, all based on the power of the Filling of the Holy Spirit. **Your unique life can't be lived apart from God and His resources.** If you try, you will be miserable.

The intent of this book is to assure you of God's love. He will take care of you in this life and throughout eternity. Trust Him. **Use these problem-solving devices to build a FLOT line in your soul and grow to spiritual maturity.** God promises you daily grace provisions. Rely on them.

This I recall to mind, therefore I have confidence. The Lord's mercies never cease, His compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is His faithfulness.  
(Lamentations 3:21-23)

Your life as a Christian is unique. God has the plan for you to live it. My prayer is you will choose to learn it and execute it, to His purpose and your benefit.

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time. (1 Peter 5:6)

*My soul, wait in silence for God only,  
For my hope is from Him.*

*He only is my rock and my salvation,  
My stronghold; I shall not be shaken.*

*On God my salvation and my glory rest;  
The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God.*

*Trust in Him at all times, O people;  
Pour out your heart before Him;  
God is a refuge for us. Selah.  
(Psalm 62:5-8)*

*The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
Whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the defense of my life;  
Whom shall I dread?*

*Though a host encamp against me,  
My heart will not fear;  
Though war arise against me,  
In spite of this I shall be confident.  
(Psalm 27:1,3)*

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# GOD'S PROBLEM SOLVING DEVICES

REBOUND

FILLING OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT

FAITH-REST DRILL

GRACE  
ORIENTATION

DOCTRINAL  
ORIENTATION

PERSONAL SENSE  
OF DESTINY

PERSONAL LOVE  
FOR GOD

IMPERSONAL  
LOVE FOR ALL  
MANKIND

SHARING THE  
HAPPINESS  
OF GOD

OCCUPATION  
WITH CHRIST

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**Rick Hughes**  
EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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