

Introduction to the FLOT Line - Part 1

Transcript of the FLOT Line Introduction Series - Episode 1

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line, the new talk radio show in your area. I'm Rick Hughes, the host, and I would like to welcome you to the first of many shows that we hope to be playing in your area. Thank you for listening. Let me tell you a little bit about myself and about our radio show. First of all, I'll start off by saying there's no manipulation, no requesting money, we're not selling anything, we're not asking for anything. This is thirty minutes of motivation, inspiration, education, all done without any type of manipulation. No human viewpoint thinking. We want to give some divine viewpoint - that means it comes out of the Bible, out of the Word of God. What I'd like to try to show you is how even though **adversity is inevitable in your life, stress is optional**. I will show you from the Word of God how you can't help but have adversity. The Bible promises that in 1 Corinthians 10:13, "*No test has overtaken you that is not common to man.*" We're going to face adversity because we live in the devil's world but we do not have to have stress. **Adversity is what circumstances do to us and stress is what we do to ourselves**. Adversity can be self-created, by the way, it can be something that we did ourselves like mismanage our finances, mismanage our marriage, mismanage our health, mismanage a lot of things and that adversity can come crashing in around us creating all sorts of suffering in our life. But stress, well that's something that we absolutely do to ourselves. You don't always create all the adversity. Sometimes you don't have a choice - weather related adversity, social adversity, whatever. But stress, the Bible says you never have to worry, you never have to be afraid, you never have to be angry, you never have to be bitter, you never have to be hostile. See, these are the unique things about the Christian life that make it so different. Living a life the world doesn't understand. Living a life where you can have a totally relaxed mental attitude in spite of any circumstances you may face. That's what we're going to show you on this new talk show here in your area. How to live that sort of life using a FLOT line, a forward line of troops, in your soul. That's a metaphor, that's an analogy. I'm going to show you some unique problem-solving devices found in the Bible. **I will verify all of these problem-solving devices with Scripture and you will see how God gives you tremendous protection from the outside sources of adversity before you ever create the inside source of stress**. So before we do, let me tell you about myself [insert].

I founded the Rick Hughes Evangelistic Ministries to communicate clear and concise Biblical principles for hearers to choose to use in their lives. I've hosted *The FLOT Line* radio show weekly since July 2005. For over fifty years I've presented the truth to thousands of students during Spiritual Emphasis Weeks and spoken at hundreds of schools and churches. I've authored several books and host a daily podcast of *The FLOT Line* episodes available on Anchor, Apple, Spotify, Google, Breaker and RadioPublic. My

ministry is non-denominational and grace based. All of my materials are available, for free, on my website rickhughesministries.org.

I was born in Birmingham, Alabama. I never knew my father. I was raised in a federal housing project by my mother, and because of difficulties associated with single parenthood was placed with several guardians. Lacking self-discipline and authority orientation, I was a low academic achiever in school. I did distinguished myself through excellence in athletics being named to the High School All American football team and I set state records in the shot put and discus. The University of Florida signed me to a full football scholarship, but my SAT scores were too low so the scholarship was withdrawn. Challenged by my coach to overcome this failure, I accepted tutoring and applied myself in the classroom, as I had done on the field, and improved my test scores. The University of Alabama learned of my dilemma and offered me a scholarship if I could pass the ACT test and I did. I got a second chance and entered the University of Alabama as a football player under the training of the prestigious coach Paul “Bear” Bryant. I was a freshman on the 1964 National Championship Team.

After just one successful year, however, I quit school and drifted down the My Way Highway. That bad decision limited my future options. I spent three years frustrated, angry and worried. I was extremely lonely, and arrogance filled me with self-pity and bitterness. I believed people would use me and lose me. Nothing in life meant anything, and I continually blamed others for my own mistakes and problems.

The turning point in my life came when I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior, by faith alone in Christ alone. This is the most important decision in your life also.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, lest a man would brag about it. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:19)

I will never leave you, nor will I ever forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5)

I give to them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one shall pluck them out of My hand. (John 10:28)

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

My decision to accept God's grace gift of salvation opened a new path for me, not of football, but one personally designed for me by God. I returned to college and attended Southeastern Bible College in Birmingham for two years. Through the ministry of Berachah Church in Houston, Texas, and its pastors, R. B. Thieme, Jr., and now R. B. Thieme III, I learned principles and promises of God's Word that directed me into a life of Christian ministry. My life is proof that when you leave your own agenda behind and walk into God's plan, you can have fulfillment and happiness beyond your imagination. "For with God, nothing will be impossible" (Luke 1:37). My wife, Lydia, and I live in Cropwell, Alabama. We have three daughters, one son and six grandchildren.

Since the year that I received Christ as my Savior I have learned that you're either going to have two birthdays or you're going to die two deaths. The first birthday is obviously the day you are born and the first death is the day you die, "*it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment*" (Hebrews 9:27). The second death is found in Revelation 20:14-15 where it says, "*And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*" Anyone who rejects Jesus Christ as his Savior will leave the justice of God no choice. It's not like God hasn't provided for them already. He sent His uniquely born Son to pay for their sin. "*He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him*" (2 Corinthians 5:21). **The entrance to having a relationship with God is through Christ. Christ said, "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved and will enter in and find green pasture" (John 10:9).** Yes, it's through Christ that I entered and it's through Christ that I came to know my heavenly Father. The real Father that I never had. The real Father that guides me. The Father that I talk to on a daily basis. The Father that supports me and keeps me going. What an awesome thing to have a father like this. God my Father and Jesus Christ my Lord and my Savior. That's the question that I have to ask you. If you died today would you in fact go to heaven? Do you know that for a fact? The Bible says in 1 John 5:13, "*These things are written ... so that you might know that you have eternal life.*" I know many of you that I'm talking to are church members, many of you are fine, wonderful, upstanding community folk. I understand that, but I need to ask you this question. Are you sure you are going to heaven? Do you have the peace that you will be before God, righteous in His eyes through Jesus Christ? **There's no way that you can produce your own righteousness; you can't impress God by being good.** The Bible tells us, "*There are none that are righteous, no not one*"

and *“all of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag”* (Isaiah 64:6) in God's eyes. So maybe you don't drink, maybe you don't smoke, maybe you don't cuss, maybe you are faithful, maybe you're the most moral, wonderful man or woman in the community, but without Jesus Christ you're lost and you will die a second death. If you don't have confidence in your eternal security, you should, because the Bible clearly says, *“Whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Romans 10:19). In the closing moments of this radio show, you can simply bow your head and you can tell God the Father, you're not confident and you're not sure and you want to clear it up. **You can say Father, I believe in Jesus Christ and receive Him as my Savior. It's a simple prayer but it's a prayer that will change you forever.** The reason is because Jesus Christ will come and live inside of you, God the Holy Spirit will live inside of you and you will have a relationship with God the Father like never before. Think about it. Pray about it. Do this while you have the time. I will be back next week, same time, same place, same station. I hope you'll come join me for the first of what will be many shows called the FLOT Line. Until then, I'm your host Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening today.

Introduction to the FLOT Line - Part 2

Transcript of the FLOT Line Introduction Series - Episode 2

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and I'd like to invite you for the next thirty minutes to stay tuned. It will be thirty minutes of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education but we'll do it all with no manipulation. No appeals for money, we're not going to ask you to join up, we're not going to ask you to give anything up, we're not going to ask you to fess up. We're just going to ask you to listen up. Listen to me as I try to explain God's wonderful problem-solving devices for you. We want you to know that God has a phenomenal plan for your life and that adversity, even though it's inevitable, stress is always optional. **By learning God's wonderful problem-solving devices you'll develop a FLOT line in your soul.** You wonder what FLOT is? It stands for the Forward Line of Troops. It's a military analogy. Forward line of troops is a main line of resistance. Whenever the military goes into battle they always deploy a main line of resistance or a forward line of troops. What I'm going to teach you is that by using God's Word you can establish a main line of troops, a forward line of troops, to stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever penetrate and become stress in your soul. That's why I say adversity is inevitable, stress is optional. **Adversity is what the circumstances do to you. Stress is what you choose to do to yourself.** My objective is to verify and identify God's plan for your life. Your objective, should you choose to do it, is to orient and adjust to the plan - that's up to you. I'll be accurate, no human viewpoint thinking, no human speculation, just some divine revelation. I'm not representing any denomination. I'm not trying to get you to join anything. I would like to see you involved in a great local church where the pastor is teaching God's Word, there's no doubt about that, but in this show I'm not a pastor, I'm simply an evangelist. I'm simply someone who is going to be on the radio here for you on this station for many months to come and hopefully you will listen. Hopefully you begin to learn something. Hopefully it will be a challenge and an inspiration to you. That's my prayer and that's why I'm doing this. The FLOT Line (Forward Line Of Troops) is made up of ten unique problem-solving devices. The first problem we have, if you're a Christian, if you've made a decision to believe in Jesus Christ, you've got a problem. **The problem is we have a genetically formed sin nature that we got from Adam.** The Bible says, "...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and now death is passed upon all..." (Romans 5:12) "*For the wages of sin is death...*" (Romans 6:23a). If you're not a Christian, I want you to know, you were born spiritually dead - spiritually separated from God. This is why you must be born again. If you want to have any fellowship with God it has to be done through the Holy Spirit, but you are spiritually dead. Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3 that he needed to be born again. Nicodemus was amazed. He didn't understand this. Jesus chastised him and said you of all people should understand this. A regenerate Jew was a Jew that believed in the Messiah. Nicodemus

didn't know His name. He didn't know His name was going to be Jesus of Nazareth but he believed in what he was taught by means of the ritual of the sacrifice and the shedding of the blood of the innocent animal. He believed that someone would come and die for him and take his place. Jesus Christ was that someone. He was God and man in one body forever. That's why the Bible says, "***He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him***" (2 Corinthians 5:21). **The only way we can ever have any fellowship with God is to come through Jesus Christ and be born again - to have a spiritual birth.** The Bible says, "*those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24). Trying to impress God with your life, with your good deeds, with your giving, with your lifestyle doesn't work. The Bible says, "*There are none that are righteous, no not even one*" (Romans 3:10) and "*all of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag*" (Isaiah 64:6). He's perfectly righteous and we are perfectly unrighteous. So when we believe in Jesus Christ, again the verse says, "*He who knew no sin was made sin for us so that we could be made the righteousness of God through Him.*" That's how you have a relationship with God - through Jesus Christ. That's how you get on a level playing field with God - equal righteousness, not manufactured by means of your own production but given to you through faith alone in Christ alone so that when God looks at you He sees the imputation of the righteousness of Jesus Christ in your life and you get this by faith. That's why the Bible says, "***For by grace are you saved through faith...it is the gift from God; not of works, lest anyone should boast about it***" (Ephesians 2:8-9). The problem we have is in our position and in our experience; they are two different things. As a Christian in your position, you are set apart to God, you're a member of the royal family of God, you've accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior - that's your position in eternity. But in time, and you know this better than anyone else, in time in your experience you still sin. You still commit sin, you know you do. Let me identify sin for you. Sin comes in three different packages. It can be a sin of the tongue like slander, gossip, maligning, criticizing. If someone asks you what do you think about old Joe Blow over there, don't answer that unless you can say he's a wonderful person. When you begin to say, 'Well I'll tell you what about old Joe, he's a great guy but he has some problems' - then you're gossiping, then you're slandering. You know from what we're seeing today in politics the public lie means if you tell it often enough, loud enough and long enough somebody's going to believe it. You can't afford to lie about people. Slander, gossip, maligning, criticizing, backbiting, these are all sins of the tongue along with lying and you can't afford to do that. **Sin breaks fellowship with God in time.** It doesn't ruin your relationship with God in eternity because you've been given the righteousness of Jesus Christ. You may wonder why you still sin. You thought once you became a Christian, you wouldn't have a problem with those things anymore, yet you still do. Sins of the tongue. Also there are the overt sins. Things you may do that are open like drunkenness or stealing, adultery, fornication - these are overt sins. And

then there are also the sins that no one sees, they're the mental attitude sins. The sins of fear and jealousy and anger, implacability, and lack of forgiveness. These sins can ruin your relationship with God in time and quench the Holy Spirit whom God has given to you. When Jesus Christ our Lord ascended He gave the Holy Spirit. He told the disciples they were going to get the Holy Spirit, that the Holy Spirit was going to come live in them. In John 14:26, He said, *"But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance whatever I have said to you."* Jesus Christ our Lord promised that when He went away He was going to send a mentor or a tutor to the disciples and that He would live in them. In John 15:26, *"When the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father; even the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."* **If you are a Christian, having believed in Jesus Christ, you have God the Holy Spirit living in you.** The Bible says, *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit..."* (1 Corinthians 6:19). He lives in you. When you sin you quench the Holy Spirit. When you sin you grieve the Holy Spirit. Quenching is like you taking a garden hose that's running water and bending it so the water won't come out. When you sin you quench the Holy Spirit and He can't help you. He can't guide you. He can't strengthen you. He can't empower you. He can't assist you in your prayers. And when you grieve the Holy Spirit, you sadden the Holy Spirit so to say. He wants to do these things but He can't because your personal sin blocks it. So God gave us a way to deal with sin. The first problem I found after I became a Christian was I still sinned. What did I do about it? The first thing I thought was I really even saved? If I was saved why would I do these things? Why would I have these desires? I remember one time I was speaking in a church in a small town in Mississippi, and I gave an invitation (I didn't know much in those days) for someone to rededicate their life. A man came forward and said he wanted to rededicate his life. I said that's wonderful my friend, go ahead and rededicate. He said I tried, it didn't work. He said how do you do it? I said, what do you mean? He said, how do you rededicate? What are the mechanics to that? I'm thinking '123 rededicate me' is how you do it. No, it's much more than that. I realized at that time that I knew some cliché terms Christian wise but I didn't know the mechanics. This is what my show the FLOT Line is about. **This show is about teaching you the mechanics of how the Christian life operates.** Not just giving you clichés, not just saying praise the Lord brother, let God have it all. Let God have it all, what exactly does that mean? What are the mechanics? If you want to rededicate your life to the Lord, what are the mechanics? I had to learn the mechanics. Sadly, I didn't know what to tell the gentleman that night. I just tried to encourage him but I'm sure he went off wondering what that was all about. What does it mean to rededicate your life? What are the mechanics for staying in fellowship with God? This is the first problem-solving device on the FLOT Line of your soul - the main line of resistance to stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside

source of stress. **The first problem-solving device you have to learn is how to recover from sin.** How do you do it? The Bible is clear that we have the Holy Spirit and the Bible is clear that we have a sin nature. It says in Galatians 5:17, *“The flesh wars against the Spirit, and the Spirit wars against the flesh; for these are contrary one to the other, so that you may not do that what you would.”* You have a battle going on every day. **The Bible actually identifies three enemies that we face: the world, the flesh and the devil. We face the lure of the world, the lust of the flesh and the deception of the devil.** How do you deal with the flesh and how do you deal with the lure of the world? Let’s take the flesh. A lot of people have lust patterns. They don't all lust for the same thing. I mean it is not always sex lust. It could be power lust, or money lust, or approbation lust, or lust for happiness, or lust for success - anything that takes the place of God in your life in a frantic search for happiness. In other words, if you think sex outside of marriage will make you happy and you lust for that, then you will find, like so many other people have found, that it’s not going to make you happy it’s going to increase your misery in the long run. If you think that striking it rich and winning the lottery is going to make you happy then you’ll find that **unhappy people take their unhappiness with them wherever they go.** It doesn't mean if you have a lot of money that you can’t be happy, but if you have a lot of money you can just be miserable in comfort. Is that what you want to be miserable in comfort? You were miserable before you ever became comfortable. If you want to be rich, that’s not the key to it. Learning what to do, learning how to handle these lust patterns, learning how to handle the failure, learning how to dodge the deception of Satan is critical. **It means that you must absolutely allow the Holy Spirit to control your life.** Ephesians 5:18, *“be filled with the Spirit”* is not a request, it’s a mandate. This is a mandate from the apostle Paul in the Greek New Testament. It is an imperative mood verb *pleroo* meaning fill it up, be filled with the Spirit. You’re already indwelt with the Spirit. God the Holy Spirit entered you at salvation as stated in Ephesians 1:12 and He seals you until the day of redemption the Bible says. But now you're told to be filled with the Spirit. This means that as a Christian you can live under two ways: you can live in the energy of the flesh (even as a Christian, just like the lost man does, he lives under the energy of the flesh) or you can live under the power of God the Holy Spirit. You take your choice but I can assure you if you're living under the power of the Holy Spirit you’re going to have a much more profitable life because you’re going to have insight, the availability of God’s resources and His power. You’re going to have some things the world doesn't have. You’re going to have advantages the world doesn't have. This is what's fantastic about being a Christian. They are disadvantaged. They don't have the advantages we have. They don't have the ability to live a life without worrying - we do. They don't have the ability to live a life trusting in a future and knowing where their future is - we have that advantage. We have the advantage of the Holy Spirit to guide us, to direct us, to lead us, to empower us. They

don't have it. We can pray and ask God the Father what to do about a situation. No lost person has that. He's at a disadvantage in life. We're one up on them. You must learn to allow the Holy Spirit to control your life 24x7. What quenches the Holy Spirit? Your sin. When you sin you grieve the Holy Spirit. That's why the Bible says, *"walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh"* (Galatians 5:16). When you sin, let's assume you go to church. I'll give you a good illustration. You go to church on Sunday morning and across the aisle from you is that jerk of a neighbor that you can't stand, the one that lives down the street, you know the one that borrowed money and never paid you back and never returned your lawnmower and leaves a mess. This guy just drives you bonkers. You have a hard time with this person and you see him sitting over there and your teeth begin to grind and you think 'What is that jerk doing here? He doesn't care about God.' And you get mad. You are in the right place, church, doing the right thing, worshiping, but in the wrong way because you just quenched the Holy Spirit. If you are going to church and you get in an argument with your wife or with your children you quench the Holy Spirit. Going to church is the right thing on Sunday morning, sure, but the right way is to be in fellowship with God. **If you have unconfessed sin in your life, you're out of fellowship with God. So even though you're in the right place, doing the right thing you're doing it the wrong way and it doesn't count. No, it doesn't count. It's going to be human good production.** God can't reward it because you did it in the energy of the flesh. Even a lost man could do what you did. The Christian life is not the energy of the flesh. The Christian life is living in the power of God the Holy Spirit. He indwells you. He seals you. He can fill you. He can guide you. But not with sin in your life. I learned this a long time ago. I learned the **first problem-solving device** that I needed to know was what my pastor taught me called rebound. You know, like basketball, if you miss a shot you rebound it and put it back up. **Rebound means this is how you recover from your sin. When you are aware that you sinned you must rebound immediately.** The Holy Spirit will let you know. He will tap you gently on the shoulder and say you just did a dumb thing. He will let you know you sinned unless you've hardened your heart by sinning so much that you don't even feel conviction or guilt anymore. If you've gotten to that place in your life you have a lot of scar tissue and you are in serious trouble. If you can't feel guilt for your lies, for your theft, for your deception - if it doesn't bother you, you are in serious trouble because you've allowed your heart to get hard and the Holy Spirit is not able to do His job. Assuming that hasn't happened and assuming you still have some bit of sensitivity, when you sin the Holy Spirit is going to convict you of the sin. He's going to tap you on the shoulder. He's going to say that's wrong. You have one or two choices: you can say, 'I don't care, I enjoyed doing it and I'm going to do it again' or you can say, 'You are right Father, I just made a fool of myself.' If you want to deal with your sin you must do what the Bible says not only in the New Testament but also in the Old Testament. The Bible says, *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive*

us of our sin and purify us from all of our wrongdoing” (1 John 1:9). That’s how we rebound. Psalm 82:2-4 says the same thing. We have to understand this. We cannot afford to let sin get in our life and not deal with it. When I sin - me, Rick Hughes, your host - when I sin, most often in traffic, I’ll admit it because people drive me crazy when I’m trying to travel on the road and they cut you off or shoot in front of you or they run you off the road. You can be going 70 and they blow-by you like you’re standing still. They don't pay any attention to the speed limit. Sometimes I get bent out of shape and I know that it is a sin to get angry and so I have to do what the Bible says, *If we confess our sin...* “If” is a big conditional clause - maybe you will, maybe you won't. But if you will confess your sin... Confess, is the Greek word *homologeō*. It's a compound word of two things, *homo* meaning the same (we use that English word today under homosexual) *homologeō* is not the same sex, it’s to say the same, *logeō* means to say. The Bible says, if we say the same, if we confess, *homologeō*, say the same, that verb is a subjunctive verb meaning maybe you will and maybe you won’t and that's why you have the word if with it. Maybe you have enough humility to admit your sin or maybe you're so arrogant that you will justify why your sin is okay and deceive yourself into believing that. That’s a good way to get under discipline from God. When you fail to rebound, God, in His loving graciousness, will discipline you. Hebrews 12:6 says, *“Those whom the Lord loves He disciplines and He chastises ...”* Sometimes He disciplines us lightly with a message you may hear from a pastor or someone like me or sometimes He may actually have to take you out to the woodshed and bend you over His knee - no pain, no gain; you know, a little attitude adjustment - but He will get your attention. You must make a decision either in humility you admit your sin and confess it to God or in your arrogance you bow up and you bend up against God and won't admit what you did was wrong. *If we confess our sin...* The present tense means there's never a time when you're not to confess your sin. You don't wait until you go to bed at night, you don't wait until 10 P.M. to get down on your knees and say, ‘Dear Lord, at 7 A.M. I committed a sin.’ When you sin, you immediately, on the spot, right then, right there tell God exactly what you did. **This may be a reason why your prayers are not being answered because you're letting sin get into your life and you're not dealing with it, you’re not admitting it.** I know you feel bad about it and you want to do something about it. The first thing is to confess it to God. When you go to God and confess the sin then this allows the Holy Spirit to resume command of your soul. Until you confess the sin, He’s quenched. Until you confess the sin, He’s grieved. Until you confess the sin you're living under your own power, your own energy, your own flesh. Even though you may be going to church and even though you may be singing in the choir and even though you may be going on a mission trip, even though you may be giving some money - it’s right things all done in the wrong way. Even a lost person could do what you're doing. You must do a right thing in a right way. That means first of all, if you want to have any recognition in heaven and if you want to

hear those words, “*well done My good and My faithful servant*”, you’ve got to do a right thing in a right way. That’s why there’s protocol in the plan of God. Protocol says a right thing has to be done in a right way. I got news for you, when you get to heaven, you’re not going to run up and jump in God’s lap like that Santa Claus guy at the store and say, ‘Hey God, it’s me Herbie. I made it finally.’ There’s protocol in heaven and there’s protocol when you deal with God. You must follow protocol. **You must follow protocol in prayer for example. The Bible tells you to pray to the Father, in the name of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.** It doesn’t tell you to pray to Jesus Christ. Pray to the Father in the name of Christ. It doesn’t tell you to pray to the Holy Spirit. Protocol means we must confess our sin when it occurs instantly, not later that night. In my case, I’m driving down the road and I get out of fellowship because I got angry about some way some guy shot around me and cut me off and I let my temper go, then I have to say, ‘Father I just blew it. I just sinned. I admit my sin to You.’ *He is faithful and just to forgive us.* Faithful means He’ll do it every time and it means that He doesn’t compromise His righteousness by doing this. Anytime you name your sin to God, He will faithfully forgive you and it’s in His justice to do so. That is the first problem-solving device. **If you don’t learn how to rebound nothing will work in the Christian life because you will be trying to do it in the energy of the flesh and you can’t live it that way. You must live the Christian life under the power and the filling of the Holy Spirit and then the rest of it begins to fall in place.** That’s where it starts - learning to turn your life over and give direction to God the Holy Spirit. Are you listening? Have you been doing this? Maybe I’m telling you something you already know but I’m telling it to you in a way you’ve never heard it put before. Maybe I’m just reinforcing something. I trust your pastor has taught you this before. You must remember to think, am I filled with the Spirit? Is there any unconfessed sin in my life? If there is, then I’m not filled with the Spirit. Confess your sin to God faithfully as soon as it happens and you will be filled with the Holy Spirit. That’s the first problem-solving device and everything else will hinge on that. You got it? Okay, I hope you’ll come back next Sunday same time, same place. Until then, this is your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Introduction to the FLOT Line - Part 3

Transcript of the FLOT Line Introduction Series - Episode 3

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. You're listening to the newest talk radio show in your area. Thank you for being here. If you'll stay with me it will be thirty minutes of motivation, some information, a whole lot of education. And we do all of this with no manipulation, no hidden agendas. We're not trying to solicit membership, we're not trying to sell you anything, we're not going to ask you for anything. My job is to give you something. I'm here to give you some accurate information. Information which I pray will help you verify as well as identify God's plan for your life. If you can do that, then you have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan. That's always up to you. My job is to be accurate and get it right. Through our show the FLOT Line - if you've never heard that term before let me explain what it means. Do you remember in the Bible, if you're a Christian maybe you do, do you remember Ephesians 6 where Paul talked about putting on the armor of God and he uses a military analogy for the believer. The breastplate of righteousness, picking up the sword of the Spirit, the shield of faith - remember that? Well, the FLOT Line is the same thing, it's a military analogy. What we're talking about here is a forward line of troops - FLOT. We're using this as an example telling you that there are at least ten problem-solving devices that you can learn from God's Word and deploy in the forward compartment of your soul like a forward line of troops. If you learn them and use them you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress. Adversity is definitely inevitable but stress is definitely optional. Adversity is what circumstances do to you. Stress is what you do to yourself. As a Christian, as a believer in Jesus Christ, the spiritual life guarantees that you don't have to worry, you don't have to be afraid, you don't have to seek revenge, you don't have to be bitter, you don't have to be jealous, you don't have to be envious, you don't have to be implacable. These are things that the world can't get away from. Yet you, **as a Christian, by means of God the Holy Spirit, have a totally different mindset called the mind of Christ.** In Philippians 2:5, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus."* I call it, **thinking divine viewpoint.** There are two ways to think: thinking human viewpoint (that is what does the world say, what does the world offer) or you can think divine viewpoint (what does God say, what does He offer). I have found in my life if you think divine viewpoint that you're going to be a lot better off. That's why Romans 12:3 says, *"Stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think; but think in terms of humility as God has given to us a standard of thinking from His Word."* That's a sort of a modified expanded translation of that passage. Arrogance is the enemy of all believers. Arrogance is rarely preached on, rarely spoken about, we talk about sin a lot but we don't talk much about arrogance which is sin. Arrogance is always identified by three things. You can tell when a person is being arrogant when they justify why they're right and you're wrong -

self-justification. You can see it in a school where a kid says, 'My teacher doesn't like me so I don't have to do my homework. My parents are unfair so I don't have to come in at night.' They always come up with some sort of way to justify why they're right and everybody else is wrong. Self-justification leads to self-deception. Self-deception is when now they begin to lie to themselves. Self-deception leads to self-absorption. This is where you totally get preoccupied with whatever it is you're doing. Self-absorption will eventually, if you don't stop it, lead to self-destruction. You can see an alcoholic, a drug addict, an unfaithful person they justify why it's okay to do what they do, they deceive themselves into thinking that it's not wrong, they begin to be absorbed with it and eventually they let it destroy them. The spiritual life combats that sort of stuff. If you will listen to these ten problem-solving devices and learn them then you will be able to overcome these sort of difficulties in your life. I started off with the first one last week on this radio show. I started off with the problem of sin. We all have sin. We're all related to Adam and we all have a sin nature. Having the sin nature causes us to sin. We saw that sin can be a mental attitude sin, it can be a sin of the tongue or it can be an overt sin. We saw that when the Christian sins he breaks fellowship with God. By this I mean he quenches the Holy Spirit who lives in him and he grieves the Holy Spirit who is there to assist him and help him. As a matter fact, the Lord Jesus Christ said when I go away I'm going to send My Spirit and He will be your tutor. Well, I mean He can't help you if you quench Him. That's like taking a garden hose and bending it so the water won't come out. When you quench the Holy Spirit your prayers are not effective. The Bible says, "*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear*" (Psalm 66:18). You can be praying all you want to but if you have quenched the Holy Spirit by having unconfessed sin in your life then your prayers are not going to be answered. I can hear you already saying, 'I can't remember every sin I do.' Well, heck nobody can. That's why the verse in 1 John 1:9 says, "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and purify us from all wrongdoing.*" You just name any sin you're aware of and even the ones you have forgotten about God will cleanse you from those as well. But if you have unconfessed sin in your life you have quenched the Holy Spirit, grieved the Holy Spirit and you're out of fellowship with God. Yes, you're still in the relationship. Yes, you're going to heaven, even if you die with unconfessed sin in your life, you're going to be in heaven. But you are not going to hear, "*Well done My good and faithful servant,*" that's for sure because in your arrogance you justified why it was okay to keep doing that. So you can't let arrogance destroy you. This is exactly what Satan used to appeal to Eve. He used her arrogance. He told her that God just didn't want her to be as smart as He is. Go ahead take a bite of that thing, it's okay. And in her arrogance she justified why it was okay to disobey her husband Adam and go ahead and take of the forbidden fruit. **This spiritual life is really a unique thing we have. It requires we follow protocol which means that a right thing has to be done in a right way.** If you don't do a right thing in a right way

it's wrong. For example, go back to prayer. Is it right to pray? Yes, you should. Is there a right way to pray and a wrong way to pray? Yes, there is. If you're praying with unconfessed sin in your life it's not going to get answered because the Holy Spirit who is designed to intercede for you in prayer - according to Romans 8 - He can't do it. If you go to church with unconfessed sin in your life, you're in the right place but you're in the wrong way. You quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit and the pastor can't communicate to you. In other words, he may teach a fantastic message but God the Holy Spirit cannot help you cycle that truth into your soul because you quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit with unconfessed sin in your life. Look at it this way, if Deacon Smith is on the front row and Deacon Jones is on the other side and they hate each other, they can't stand each other, and the pastor calls on one of them to get up and pray and he gets behind the pulpit and prays a wonderful prayer, well it might have sounded nice but it didn't go above the ceiling because he had sin in his heart, he had mental attitude sins of hatred, implacability, hostility. It's the complete opposite of Ephesians 4:32, "*be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another...*" If you can't forgive someone, you're so angry and so bitter and you carry that in your soul - that's sin. **The Christian life requires you to deal with sin.** You must. As we study in this show, as we go through these ten problem-solving devices, I'm just beginning to scratch the surface. I don't know if you'll stick with me or not. By the way, I have a book about this called *Christian Problem Solving* and if you'll contact me I'll send it to you free. There is no charge ever for anything that we do. We never charge. We never send you anything else unless you request it. *Christian Problem Solving* lists all ten of these problem-solving devices. The first one is rebound - recovering from sin. *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord won't hear.* So let's get rid of it. Let's name it. *If we confess our sin...* Confess, is the Greek word *homologeō* it means to name, to cite, to say. It doesn't mean to promise God you'll never do it again because you probably will. It just means to admit it. When you admit it, He's faithful and just to forgive you. These problem-solving devices have been given to you by God - all ten of them. **Every problem in life has a solution and that solution is stated in the Word of God.** The three things that you will have to deal with in your life: first of all adversity (most of that usually is self-induced), prosperity (that's a real test that a lot of people fail) and death (dealing with death; how do you handle death?). These are problems that you must learn to handle. In 1 Corinthians 2:12, "*we have received...the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God.*" No charge. It doesn't cost anything. You don't have to buy the book. Just accept it and learn it from your pastor as he teaches it to you. Every problem we face was known by God in eternity past, millions of years ago. God knew who you would be. He knew all about you. That's why He is God. He is omniscient. He is all-knowing. He provided the solution for any problem you may have. For example, the Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24x7 so if you feel you got ripped off in some way or another and you want to seek revenge, that's

the wrong thing to do. You just take it to the Supreme Court of Heaven and give it to the Father and walk away and let God handle it. The justice of God can do a lot better job than you can. Protocol is required when we address or deal with God. A right thing must be done in a right way. Even in the Old Testament there was protocol involved in the ritual of worship. There was protocol involved in the ritual of sacrifice. You couldn't just walk into the Holy of Holies. You couldn't do that. You'd die on the spot. Here's the amazing thing, the Holy of Holies, where the Lord Jesus Christ Himself indwelt, is now in you according to 1 Corinthians 3. You are now the temple of God. The Shekinah Glory of the Old Testament lives in you. That ought to wake you up. Yeah, absolutely He lives in you. That's why it's the mystery of the church. You're now a member of the body of Christ. So as we study protocol, one thing you must remember is that it requires faith to live the Christian life. So here's problem-solving device #1: rebound - confessing your sins. **Here's problem-solving device #2: the filling of the Holy Spirit.** The filling of the Holy Spirit must be there if you're going to live the Christian life. Ephesians 5:18 says, *"be filled with the Spirit."* That's not a request, that's a mandate. The Bible says, *"walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh."* (Galatians 5:16-17). How am I filled with the Spirit? You are indwelt with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation, you're sealed with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation and you're filled with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. When you commit that first sin you don't lose the sealing and you don't lose the indwelling, you lose the filling because you quench Him. When you go to God and admit your sin then you are restarted, you resume your spiritual life, you are filled with the Spirit. **Any time you go to God and name a known sin you are instantaneously filled with the Holy Spirit.** That doesn't mean you're instantaneously a mature believer. That's a different situation. Spirituality and maturity are two different things. **Spirituality is you being filled with the Holy Spirit.** Your pastor cannot be more spiritual than you. If he's filled with the Holy Spirit and you're filled with the Holy Spirit it's the same Holy Spirit so you're both spiritual. But he might be more mature than you which means he has more content of God's Word in his soul than you do. **That's what maturity, growing up spiritually, means, to get the content of the Word of God in your soul.** That's why the Bible says, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). That's why it says, *"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"* (2 Peter 3:18). It's a mandate to grow spiritually, to grow up and become a mature believer. Once we understand how to rebound and once we understand how to walk in the Spirit every time we rebound then we come to the first problem-solving device that's really essential - it's called faith-rest. Using faith. You can't operate in the Christian life without faith. The Lord Jesus Christ did this in Matthew 4 when He began his public ministry and He was tested and tempted by the devil in the wilderness He used

the faith-rest drill. He quoted Scripture every time Satan tested Him. If you want to crack the sound barrier (I never have done it; I tried it a few times as a kid in my old fast Mustang but couldn't quite get up that fast) it requires some really excessive speed. But to crack the faith barrier it requires that you stand absolutely still. In Exodus 14:13 Moses told the Jews who were fleeing out of Egypt, running from the Pharaoh, he said, "...*Stand still and watch what God is about to do...*" Standing still is using the faith-rest drill. Ephesians 6:16 says, "*pick up the shield of faith with which you can quench the fiery darts of the wicked one.*" **The shield of faith is the content of the Word of God you have in your soul. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).** If you don't know the Word of God, you have no faith. It's not like a choo-choo saying I think I can, it's you quoting Scripture, you knowing Scripture. That's where your strength comes from. That's where conviction comes from. That's where the encouragement comes from. From the Scripture. There's no work, no movement involved at all when you're using faith. You just believe and trust the Lord and keep on believing and keep on trusting and keep on waiting. If you've trusted in Christ to save you (maybe you did, that's the biggest event in your entire life) can you now trust Him for the necessary needs and to face the problems and the difficulties that you may have in everyday life? If you trusted Him to save you, can you trust Him for these things? To handle any need, any problem, any difficulty. Are there some real answers for all of our heartaches, all of our problems, all of our adversities, all the frustrations - are there real answers? Yes, there are real answers. Listen to what Jesus Christ our Lord said, "*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you might have peace. In the world you will have tribulation but be of good cheer; I overcame the world*" (John 16:33). Sure you're going to have tribulation, trials, testing, temptation. This is not your home. If you are on a trip you can't wait to get back home in the comfort and security and safety of your home rather than that goofy motel room. This is not your home. Your home is in heaven. You are a sojourner. You are passing through. Yes, there are answers while you're on the road here on planet earth in what I call this arena of contention. Yes, there are provisions for you. Salvation not only means that you're going to heaven, sure it means that, absolutely but it also means that you can have stability and you can meet every problem and every difficulty with tranquility in your life. It's only when you're in the place of hopelessness, helplessness that you can then see the extraordinary power and the extraordinary grace of God. When there's no human solution, when you're numb from the shock of the pressure and you can't even pray sometimes, Romans 8:26 says, "...*the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings that cannot even be heard.*" Sometimes He intercedes for us in prayer, but not if you have unconfessed sin in your life, He can't, He's quenched and grieved. You have to be filled with the Spirit for the faith-rest drill to work. **The faith-rest drill is problem-solving device #3 and it requires the filling of the Holy Spirit.** It's only in desperate situations that you can avail yourself of God's perfect

provisions and enter into His perfect peace. In Exodus 17:1, according to the command of the Lord, the Lord led them to a place, was He now going to abandon them? He delivered them from Egypt through the Red Sea and out of this place called Rephidim. There was no water to drink. That was a test. It was an opportunity to trust God's perfect provision and enter into the perfect rest. People got mad at Moses and cursed him and scolded him and chided him. Sounds like what's going on in politics today, they're mad at each other. The people complained to Moses and they criticized and then they hit the panic button and they tempted God. In a time of crisis there are always people that are going to complain. But God never intended for you to complain in a time of crisis in your life. When we complain, when we criticize in a time of crisis then we demonstrate our unbelief and our failure to trust Him. Moses prayed to the Lord and he didn't enter into rebuttal or argument with those people in Exodus 17 he just went to the Lord and he prayed. He didn't argue with them, he didn't try to justify why they were there, he went right to the Lord for help. He was a leader. He did not criticize, complain, gripe. He was a quiet, strong, steady, quality professional. He could trust the Lord moment by moment. He went before that mob and he said, *"I stand before you all upon this rock"* and that's a typology. The rock that he was talking about was the picture of Christ. The rock being smitten for our sin, 1 Corinthians 10:4, that rock was Christ. And Moses did exactly what God told him to do and water came out of the rock. If you will harden your hearts as in the day of provocation, Psalm 95:8, *"Do not harden your hearts."* This is failing to use the faith-rest drill. Provocation is an old English word we don't hear much today but it means the same as a choice. It's the same word as *Meribah*, to choose, a choice, to chide, to complain. So, fear not, it's interesting, today I will hear His voice, *"Fear not, I'm with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness"* (Isaiah 41:10). 1 Peter 5:7, *"cast all your cares on Him, for He cares for you."* Psalm 55:22, *"Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never suffer the righteous to be moved."* Proverbs 3:5, *"Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, lean not to your own understanding."* **This is all faith-rest - trust in the Lord, cast your burden on the Lord, cast your cares on the Lord, don't be afraid.** Hebrews 3:15, *"if you will hear His voice, do not harden your heart."* If you will hear His voice. How do you hear the voice of God? Do you go out and stand under a pecan tree, stand under an oak tree and listen for a voice? No, you hear the voice of God through the Scripture. **God speaks through His Word.** God has moment by moment promises. He will put you and me in places of testing just to see if we believe the promises, 1 Corinthians 10:13 tells us that, *"No testing has overtaken us but such as is common to man."* **What is the real strength in the Christian life? It's faith.** Using the faith-rest drill. Standing still in God's gracious provisions, moment by moment, resting on His Word. Not looking left, not looking right, not getting into a panic, not chiding and complaining to the preacher, not griping and complaining to God. It is

mixing God's promises with your faith. So here we go. There are over 7,000 promises in the Bible. How many of them do you know? How many of them can you claim? Because that's your cash. That's where you get your strength from. Those promises are what the faith-rest drill is built upon. They are. If you don't know them, how can you use them? The most difficult stage for the Christian to achieve is you or me being happy and it's one of those problem-solving devices that I'll talk to you about - sharing the happiness of God. But in this world it's harder to be happy as a Christian than to be happy as an unbeliever temporarily. The people who trust Christ often shoot themselves down. They deviate. They get into all sorts of ideas and activities and miss the perfect resting place that God has designed for each one of us. **They go down the My Way Highway. They get distracted by the devices of the devil and they get discouraged.** The faith-rest drill, Hebrews 4:2, *"the word they heard did not profit them because it was not mixed with faith."* If you don't believe it, it can't help you. **The promises of God's Word can only profit you if you mix it with faith. This involves you knowing them and you believing them.** Hebrews 4:3, *"For we who have believed do enter into rest."* That's the faith-rest drill. Many believers spend their whole life seeking an elusive thing called happiness. They spend money they don't have to buy things they don't need to impress people they don't even like. Isn't that crazy? We're all trying to find something that will give us stimulation, some sort of satisfaction, some peace and blessing but the more we search for it under our own power the more we reject what God has provided for us. God has given you a life of happiness. Christ said, *"My joy I give to you"* (John 15:11) and it starts by living the faith-rest drill. That takes the monkey off your back and puts the monkey on the Lord's back - it lets Him handle it. So think about this. I'm going to come back next week, same time, same place. I hope you'll be with me. The announcer at the end of the show will tell you how to contact me. If you'd like to contact me I'll always write back or respond. Don't send money, we're not asking you for money. But we'd love to hear from you if the Lord is dealing with you or teaching you something. We're not through with this faith-rest drill, there's more to talk about, a lot more to talk about. So hang with me okay? **If you're a believer in Jesus Christ the first problem-solving device is rebound, the second problem-solving device is the filling of the Holy Spirit, and the third problem-solving device is the faith-rest drill.** There are seven more to learn but we're not through with number three yet. Wait till you see how these form a tremendous forward line of troops in your soul to protect you from the outside sources of adversity. Until next week. I'm your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for being with me on the FLOT Line.

Introduction to the FLOT Line - Part 4

Transcript of the FLOT Line Introduction Series - Episode 4

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes please take time to stay with me. Just a short time of motivation, some inspiration, some education and we do that without any type of manipulation. That means we're not going to ask you for money, we're not going to ask you to join up, fess up, give up nothing like that. This show is designed for only one thing and that's the accurate communication of the plan of God for your life. Hopefully you can orient and adjust to the plan. If I can verify it and identify it hopefully you will orient and adjust to the plan. That's what I'm hoping for. Thank you for listening today. This is a new talk show in your area. You're just beginning to hear the FLOT Line. Let me remind you what FLOT stands for. That's a military term FLOT that stands for the Forward Line Of Troops. Anytime the military deploys into a foreign battle area they always set up the main line of resistance to keep the enemy out. That's the forward line of troops, the main line of resistance. What we're using is an analogy of how you can learn God's Word, specifically ten problem-solving devices we're going to teach you. If you will learn them and use them they will act as a main line of resistance. **These ten problem-solving devices will stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress.** That's why we say adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. Adversity is what circumstances do to you, stress is what you do to yourself. **The uniqueness about the Christian life, it's a unique life, it's really an advantage over the rest of the world.** They don't have it. They're disadvantaged because **we have the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit. We have the power of the Word of God alive and powerful in our soul. We have the opportunity to pray and intercede for others and go to God and petition our requests.** Think of the advantages that we have for living in the devil's world. It's an awesome life. A life where we don't have to worry. A life where we don't have to be afraid. A life where we don't have to be bitter. A life where we don't have to carry guilt and shame. All of these things are amazing because that's the way the Christian life is designed. As I go through our show called the FLOT Line we're going to teach you these ten unique problem-solving devices. It's not anything you wouldn't hear in your local church. It's not some new discovery. This is actually something my pastor taught me many years ago. When I talk about these ten unique problem-solving devices we're not trying to author a new book and sell it to you. We do have a book about this. We do have a book that lists all ten of them for you. If you'd like to have it all you have to do is write to us at rickhughesministries.org. You can hear about that at the end of the show or you can go to the website and just simply type in rickhughesministries.org and we'll send you the book free of charge. It's a small booklet and we won't ever send you anything else unless you request it. This booklet will list all ten of them for you. In the meantime the first problem-solving device is how we solve the problem of sin. We all sin.

The Bible says, *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves”* (1 John 1:8). It goes on to say, *“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). As a Christian I learned this right after I got saved I could still sin. I thought, you know, here I am a Christian, I thought I was saved why do I want to sin? Then I learned that I still have a sin nature. You have one and I have one also. I’m going to keep this sin nature until I die and get a new body. My resurrection body won't have the sin nature because it's not identified with Adam. The Bible says, *“For by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and now death is come upon all, for all have sinned”* (Romans 5:12). I got this sinful nature from Adam. That's the unique thing about the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, He was born sinless. He didn't have a sin nature and He chose never to sin. That's why He was qualified to go to the cross as the Lamb of God without spot and without blemish. You and I, on the other hand, we are sinful. The Bible says, *“There are none that are righteous, no, not even one”* (Romans 3:10). *“All of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag”* (Isaiah 64:6) in God's eyes. The best man can do is detestable to God. We don't have any righteousness. The only absolute perfect righteousness is God. God is absolutely righteous. Was Jesus Christ absolutely righteous? Yes, He was because He never sinned. If I add up +R for absolutely righteous and +R for absolutely righteous, God is +R and Christ is +R, those add up, those compute. But +R for God and -R for me (remember this from algebra?) they don't add up. How can I ever get absolutely righteous and have +R? The Bible says, *“He that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we may be made the righteousness of God by means of Him”* (2 Corinthians 5:21). When I come and put my faith in Christ, I'm given His righteousness. He took my sin on the cross, He gives me His righteousness at my salvation. Now I have +R just like God has +R but that's not related to my work it's related to grace. **The grace assets that I receive at salvation and the righteousness of Christ allows me to have a relationship with God, and allows Him to bring me into the royal family of God but yes, I can still sin in time.** When I sin in time what that does is that quenches God the Holy Spirit and it grieves God the Holy Spirit and it puts my spiritual life on hold. Until I confess that sin, until I admit that sin then I'm not going to be able to resume any spiritual advance because I have quenched the Holy Spirit and grieved the Holy Spirit. You know, we're told to walk in the Spirit and we won't fulfill the lust of the flesh. We're told in Ephesians 5 to be filled with the Spirit. We're told in Galatians the flesh wars against the Spirit. This is a real daily battle for all of us. When we sin, we must rebound (problem-solving device #1). Don't put it off until you go to bed at night. When you know you've sinned, immediately admit it to God and He will cleanse you from it. It's like getting your feet dirty and nasty and you need your feet washed. In John 13 the Lord washed the disciples' feet. He said you don't know what I'm doing now but you will understand it later. He was giving them an example of cleansing them from the defilement of sin in the world. The second problem-solving device is the filling of the

Holy Spirit. This solves the problem of our genetically formed sin nature running our life. You have the flesh and you have the Spirit. The question is, which one are you going to let control your life? **If you operate under the filling of the Holy Spirit then you're going to produce what's called divine good. If you operate under the flesh you are going to produce what's called human good. These are evaluated at the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).** The human good is called wood, hay and stubble. The divine good is gold, silver and precious stones. Guess which one is burned up and which one is rewarded? Anything you do under the filling of the Holy Spirit is divine good and that's rewardable. That's the gold, silver and precious stones. Anything you do under the energy of the flesh is human good and that's burned up as wood, hay and stubble. This is why it's essential, as a believer in Jesus Christ, you stay filled with the Holy Spirit. **If you're filled with the Holy Spirit you're spiritual. If you are under control of the flesh you're carnal.** Billy Graham or your pastor cannot be any more spiritual than you. If they're filled with the Spirit and you're filled with the Spirit, you're both spiritual. But there's another word called maturity and this is what God's Word centers on. God wants us to become mature believers. Your pastor may be a more mature believer than you because that's based on the content of the Word of God in his soul. Spirituality is based on the content of the filling of the Holy Spirit. So if you have no unconfessed sin in your life, you're filled with the Spirit but you might not be a mature believer. You have to grow into that. That's why the Bible says, ***"Grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). You must grow. That is critical for you.*** One of the ways you grow is by learning to use faith. The faith-rest drill is problem-solving device #3. Faith-rest, *"Stand still and watch what God will do for you"* (Exodus 14:13) is what Moses told those Jews that were fleeing out of Egypt with Pharaoh hot on their heels wanting to kill them. *Stand still and watch what God is about to do.* When you use the faith-rest drill you use the promises that God has provided for you. There are over 7,000 of them in the Bible. Learning these promises and exploiting those promises for your advantage is you using the faith-rest drill. The Supreme Court of Heaven is open 24x7 so you can go to the Father, you can take any situation, you can put it before His throne, and trust Him to handle the details. That's using faith. Faith is overcoming unseen obstacles. Faith is you, the Bible says, *"For by grace are you saved through faith..."* (Ephesians 2:8) so it's saving faith. And then there's living faith. That's you living every day trusting God for your provisions. If you will *"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..."* Matthew 6:33 says, then all these other things that it lists prior to that will be taken care of, you don't have to worry about it. So using faith to solve your problems, standing on the promises of God, not being afraid, not worrying, not being fearful, just trusting the Lord. **The faith-rest drill, problem-solving device #3, is claim a promise, reverse your thinking, go back and remember some of the Biblical logical reasonings as to why God would allow**

something like that to happen to you. For example, if a weather related adversity destroyed some of your property you may want to panic and get mad, get upset and complain. But you know God is sovereign and He's absolutely omniscient and omnipotent, omnipresent. He could have stopped it. He knew about it. He let it happen for a reason. Your job is by faith, to trust in God. **Trust God that there was a reason for it and trust God that He will provide the provisions that you need.** You will learn by using faith that your Father will never throw you under the bus. He's not going to desert you. He's not going to allow you to be tested more than you can stand, 1 Corinthians 10:13 tells you that. Using the faith-rest drill is critical. I could come to your church and teach on the faith-rest drill for a week I promise you. Listen to this, learn this, living by faith is critical. **The fourth problem-solving device is called Biblical Orientation. That's orienting to the Word of God in your life.** In 2 Timothy 2:15 it says, *"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* We start off in 2 Timothy 2:15 with a verb and if I were to dissect this verse for you, this verb "study," this is a verb, verbs show action and this verb is the Greek word *spoudazo*. It was written in Greek, it wasn't written in English, Greek. *Spoudazo* means to learn, to study, grow, learn. In the morphology of this verb (I used to hate this in school when I had to diagram sentences but now I understand) the morphology of this verb is what we call an aorist active imperative. That means the aorist tense is what we call the constative aorist, there's never a time you're not to study. The active voice says the subject produces the action of the verb and you are the subject. The imperative mood is the mood of command. This is not a request. This is a command from God through the apostle Paul to Timothy which you yourself are also to listen to. You are to study to show yourself approved to God. Now this doesn't mean you take your Bible and go out in the middle of the pasture and sit down under a tree and say, 'Okay, I'm going to learn everything there is to know about God. I'm going to read my Bible.' Some people read their Bible through once a year, twice a year and that's fine but **the Bible is a textbook it's not a novel. It was designed to be taught to you by people who have the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher.** That's why God provides the gift of pastor-teacher, in Ephesians 4 it's called in the Greek New Testament *poimen kai didaskalos* the shepherd and the teacher. As you're filled with the Holy Spirit and as you sit under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor he teaches you the Bible. That's studying. Then once you learn it you have to apply it so you have something one of my friends once phrased as **LAG - Learn, Apply, Glorify God. Learn His Word, apply His Word and glorify God.** That's how you LAG. This verse says, *"study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing..."* Rightly dividing is the word *orthotomeo* in the Greek New Testament. It means to cut straight. We get an English word from *orthotomeo* - orthodontist. It's the guy you go to to get the braces, he straightens your teeth out. What Paul is telling Timothy is you must keep it straight. You must keep the

Word of God straight. *“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.”* Dividing is division. Do you know what I mean? Two into four, six into twelve, ten into a hundred, you’re dividing. Bible study causes division. People study for the wrong reason sometimes. They study in the wrong way sometimes. Even those who teach, teach sometimes with a hidden agenda. Maybe they're trying to build a click of authority. Maybe they are teaching in ignorance, not knowing the languages, so they miss-teach the Word of God. Some even claim to have extra-Biblical revelations - stay away from those, no way. If God told us to be careful, if God told us to get it straight, then our Father must have known there was a possibility that some people could mess it up. And some people do mess it up. When you take the Word of God out of context, when you teach the Word of God in the wrong way, in the wrong manner - this is why it's critical that a pastor have resources, especially Greek and Hebrew resources because it was written in Greek and Hebrew and some Aramaic. You’ve got to be able to go back and to see the morphology of those verbs, the isagogics of those words, where they came from, what they meant then and what they mean now. You can't just jump into the Bible without understanding what you're doing. It is a book provided by God, inspired by God, which is *“alive and powerful, sharper than even a two-edged sword...”* (Hebrews 4:12). As you learn what's in the Bible and put those verses into your soul then you have the available assets of God at your fingertips. Those verses that you learn, that Scripture that you learn, it goes into your memory center, it goes into your frame of reference, it goes into your conscience and you're able to recall it and it's called wisdom. **When you recall Scripture that's called Biblical wisdom.** That’s the whole idea of God wanting you to be wise. He wants you to have some Biblical wisdom. That's why you must study. Why do you need Biblical wisdom? Well, so that you can stand against the adversary. Ephesians 6 tells you this in a military analogy just like the analogy that I'm using called the FLOT Line. Paul said put on the armor of God, put on the breastplate of righteousness, and the belt of truth - that means acquire Biblical wisdom. If you don't have some Biblical wisdom, you're not going to be able to know what the adversary is doing. You’re not going to be able to spot his nefarious work as he tries to distract you and deceive you and discourage you and eventually defeat you. Satan would love to do that. You must know the Word of God. You must have a Bible, you must have a pastor, you must have a local church where you can grow up. That's why God said be careful. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 14:33, *“God is not the author of confusion...”* The Greek word confusion is a triple compound word that means instability, a state of disorder, disturbance or confusion. It’s not God's objective to confuse anybody. Remember this, the Bible never contradicts itself. You say, ‘O, wait a minute, there's a lot.’ No, there is no contradiction in the Bible. If you know the Word of God from the original languages you will see this. It doesn't contradict Himself. Never. God is never unfair. God is never emotional. That’s why the Bible says in 2 Peter 3:18,

“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Biblical orientation requires Biblical growth. Look at it this way, you start out as a young Christian like I did. I went to Bible college after I got saved. I was 22 years old and I knew nothing about the Bible. Nothing. I never went to church and never had any Christians in my family that took me church. The first question they asked me at Bible college as I took the entrance exam, I mean, there were 100 questions and I could answer one. What color is the Bible? ‘Black, I got that one right. The Bible is black.’ I’d never seen a red Bible or green Bible before or a brown Bible just black. Listen, I didn't know anything about the Bible. I had to learn the Bible. I had to grow. It's the same with you. We all start out as a baby Christian, a baby on the breast, and we move through adolescence to be a mature believer. **That's God's objective for us in time - to become mature believers.** Once you become a mature believer, several things happen. (1) You begin to replicate the life of Christ. (2) You begin to be a member of the pivot that stabilizes the future of your nation. (3) You have an invisible impact, you have historical impact. You must be a mature believer. That's why God leaves you here. That's why He tells you to redeem the time, so you can grow. You say, ‘I love God.’ Well, are you growing? The Bible says, *“If you love Me, you will obey Me”* (John 14:15) and *“My mandates are not hard”* (1 John 5:3). One of the mandates Christ gave, *“Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me...”* (Matthew 11:28-29). **Learn, study, grow is all through the Bible.** If you send a kid to the first-grade and he goes an hour and a half a week he’s not going to get anything. Some Christians think they are growing because they go to church and get a 30-minute sermon on Sunday morning, a 30-minute sermon Sunday night, and a 30-minute sermon on Wednesday night. That’s an hour and a half a week. I'm going to go on record as saying you are never going to grow to spiritual maturity with an hour and a half a week. I like to study the Word of God every day and I do under my pastor who teaches me the Bible every day. He's got enough messages on DVD and MP3. As a matter fact, in my particular church my pastor is teaching a study on the life of Christ and we are now 1,022 hours into it. That’s right, 1,022 hours into the life of Christ. You say, ‘How could anybody teach that much on the life of Christ?’ You would be surprised. You have to understand this. If you're going to teach the Bible, you must exegete the Scriptures, line upon line, word upon word, verse upon verse so there's no confusion. Thus we have the mandate to grow, *auxano* in the Greek New Testament, grow. Remember that word study, *spoudazo* was an imperative mood? This one is also. This is a present active imperative, grow. The present tense is the durative presence which means we are always to grow. The active voice means you do the action and the imperative mood is a mood of command. You are to grow in the grace, *charis*, and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Growing in grace means you will understand logistical grace provisions by God (how God provides for you in time) as well as dying grace (how He provides for**

you in death) as well as surpassing grace (how He provides for you in eternity). Your children are told to grow in the Bible. Here's the key. The Bible says that if a child will grow, he'll live a long life, if he'll grow spiritually. Where does that come from? Ephesians 6:1-2, "*Children, obey your parents in the Lord...honor your father and your mother (which is the first mandate with a promise).*" Deuteronomy 5:16, "...that it may be well with you and you can have a long life on the earth." Orienting to the Word of God guarantees you a wonderful life. Ignoring the Word of God guarantees you a miserable life. There are a lot of ways to shorten your life but the quickest way is to ignore God's Word. I'm to grow in the grace and in the knowledge of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Knowledge is two words in the Greek New Testament, they're both translated knowledge in the English. One of those words is the word *gnosis* and the other word is *epignosis*. Both are translated in English as knowledge. One means the information you hear. Let's assume you're in church on Sunday morning and the pastor gives you a great message and you hear it - that's *gnosis*. But until you transfer it by faith into your heart and use it, it does not become *epignosis*. *Epignosis* is full knowledge (*epi* full + *gnosis* knowledge = full knowledge). **Full knowledge is the understanding and the application of the Word of God to your life.** So if you're sitting in church, first of all you're not even taking any notes, you're not writing anything down, you're not going to remember most of it. But if you do write some things down and go home and look over it and say, 'Wow, how does this apply to my life?' When you see how it applies to your life, then you have to make the application, you have to apply it. **You can't grow unless you apply the words that you learn and you can't learn unless you study. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17).** God provided a well-qualified pastor. He provided the local church. He provided the Bible. He provided the filling of the Holy Spirit. What are all those things for? So you can grow up and represent Jesus Christ, replicate His lifestyle through your life, using His personality of humility, using the divine problem-solving devices that He used like faith-rest drill in Matthew 4 when Satan confronted Him and tested Him. There is so much to teach here. I hope you're listening. I hope you're learning. This is just the beginning of our show in your area. I hope God will keep us on for a long time. I hope you'll stay with me and you'll come back week after week and learn. If you have any questions contact me. Don't hesitate any time. We will respond. Until next week, I'm your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Introduction to the FLOT Line - Part 5

Transcript of the FLOT Line Introduction Series - Episode 5

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes I'd like to ask you to stay with me. It's always a short time of motivation, some inspiration, a whole lot of education and we do it with no manipulation, no hidden agendas, no asking for money, no selling anything, no asking you to join anything. This show is just about giving you accurate information. Hopefully information that will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If I can do that then you have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan - that's up to you. My job is to be accurate with Biblical information not human speculation. Human speculation or human viewpoint doesn't profit anybody. You might be able to market it, you might be able to sell it, you might be able to convince people that it's true but it's not. **This show is about giving you truth from the Word of God.** We call our show The FLOT Line. If this is the first time you've heard it on your local station, FLOT is a military term. This is not a military show but we're using an analogy, a military analogy. The FLOT Line stands for the Forward Line of Troops. What we're talking about is learning ten unique problem-solving devices. This is nothing new. This is not some new discovery. The ten problem-solving devices that have probably been taught in your church for years, I may just put them in a little different vernacular. If you learn these things and put them in the forward compartment of your soul they act as a defensive barrier. They stop the outside sources of adversity before they become the inside sources of stress. That's why we always say adversity is inevitable and stress is optional. **Learning the ten problem-solving devices is critical for any believer if they hope to fulfill the unique plan of God or what we call the protocol plan of God.** The reason I call it that, protocol, is because if you think about it, a right thing has to be done in a right way. A right thing done in a wrong way is wrong. Even though you might be doing the right thing, if you do it in the wrong way it's wrong. A right thing done in a right way is right. There's a right way and wrong way to do things. It doesn't depend on your talent or your ability like an athlete may be big, strong, fast, quick, good looking, handsome, whatever. But if they don't learn the plays than they can't play on the team. They have to submit to the authority of the coach. There are plays in the Bible, to use that analogy, there are things we have to learn principles and precepts and procedures. If we learn them and we use them then we glorify God to the maximum. But if we don't, **if we try to do it on our own energy under our own desires then we wind up going down the My Way Highway and that doesn't glorify anybody but self and it's a dead end eventually.** I've been through at least four of the problem-solving devices on our first few shows on your local radio station. They are: rebound, that solves the problem of sin. *"If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us..."* (1 John 1:9). There never is a time you're not to admit your sin to God and don't cover it up. If you name your sins to God He is faithful and just to forgive you. This opens the door to

problem-solving device #2 which is the filling of the Holy Spirit. When we rebound we are filled with the Spirit and this solves the problem of the sin infused human nature. You have a battle, the Bible says, *“the flesh wars against the Spirit and the Spirit wars against the flesh...”* (Galatians 5:17). *“Walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh”* (Galatians 5:16). Walking in the Spirit is you rebounding. Every time you sin you get up, you confess your sin and you keep moving. Then we moved into how without the filling of the Holy Spirit that everything you do for God (going to church or singing in the choir, mission trip, helping the little old lady across the street, whatever you do for God) if you do it in the energy of the flesh it's wood, hay and stubble. If you do it under the filling of the Holy Spirit it's gold, silver and precious stones, as taught in 1 Corinthians 3:11-16. **It's important to remember that rewardable deeds are deeds done under the filling of the Holy Spirit.** I mean, a lost man can come to church, a lost man can sing in the choir, a lost man can help a little old lady cross the street but a lost man cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit doesn't even live in him. You have that opportunity as a believer in Jesus Christ to manufacture divine good that will glorify God to the maximum and be rewarded to you in eternity future. Then we went into Biblical Orientation and the need for us to orient our lives to the Word of God. How we must get it straight and we must get it accurate and we must not allow ourselves to be confused and to think that the Word of God contradicts itself. We saw the mandates to study. *“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). We saw the mandate, *“Grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 3:18). We saw that. We've seen how the importance of a local church and a pastor is critical because God gave that man a gift, the gift of pastor-teacher. The Greek word for that in the New Testament is *poimen kai didaskalos* the shepherd and the teacher. His job is to shepherd his flock and teach his flock. We now want to move into why it's critical that we learn the Word of God. Why is it critical for you to learn the Word of God? Because here's what I'm about to tell you. As goes your spiritual life so goes the future of your nation. Why would God discipline a nation like the United States of America? I mean we've been blessed. We've been through some wars that we've won and some we haven't won because we didn't fight them to the full extent of what we had available. Particularly in WWII we had a great victory there. Particularly we've been through the Korean War, the Vietnam conflict. We've been through the Iraqi war, the Kuwait war. We've been through Afghanistan. All of these things. Now you see that the topography of America is changing. You read the paper like I do. You see where somebody puts up the Ten Commandments and some joker takes a car and runs over it. He hates it. You see where we can no longer even display a nativity scene on the courthouse yard. You see how we've been stopped from talking about Jesus Christ in the public school. But you would be surprised at the other things you can talk about and the other things you can promote.

But oh no don't promote anything that has to do with the Word of God. **We live in the devil's world.** This is part of what's going on. I speak in schools all the time and have been speaking in schools almost 50 years. When I began, I could speak in public schools, I could give the Word of God to students and they learned of their choice for salvation. Today I still speak in schools but 99.9% of them are private academies. That doesn't mean kids are not kids. I mean they're kids and they're there and they are having a chance to hear. The private schools are still open to teaching the Word of God to their constituents. Not the public schools. Satan has been successful in that. The Army has gone crazy with some of the things they are initiating. The Air Force has gone crazy with some of the things they are initiating. We're so into humanism, we're so into being politically correct. America is in trouble. **I think America is in trouble. Maybe you don't but I do. There is something in the Bible called the fifth cycle of discipline.** This is what you see that happened to Israel in 586 B.C. under Nebuchadnezzar. Remember the Israelis split into two kingdoms: the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom. The Northern Kingdom was destroyed by the Chaldeans and the Southern Kingdom by Nebuchadnezzar. Israel went under discipline again in A.D. 70 when Rome wiped it out. It was just recently, in 1948, that the Zionists came back, reestablished Jerusalem and have been living there ever since then, protected and watched over by us the Americans. Hopefully we will see what the Lord is going to do in the future there, I know we will see that. The fifth cycle of discipline is taught in Leviticus 26:14-39 and in Deuteronomy 28:49-57 and then in Hosea 4:1-6, this is what I want to read to you. Hosea 4:1-6 talks about why a nation would be destroyed, particularly a priest nation and we are a priest nation for God. **The United States of America is in fact one of those priest nations. We disseminate the Word of God, we send missionaries all over the world, we evangelize our own people.** So what's going on in this country? Why would God discipline us? The answer is very plain as seen in the book of Hosea. Hosea talks about why God disciplines His people and I'm going to read to you what it says. Hosea 4, *"Hear the Word of the Lord, you children of Israel, [Northern Kingdom] for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, no mercy nor knowledge of God in the land. [pay particular attention to the knowledge of God and remember I talked about Biblical orientation] There is swearing, lying, killing, stealing and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and everyone that dwells in it shall languish along with the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven; yes, the fish of the sea will be taken away. [this is when a nation goes under divine discipline] Yet no man strive nor reprove another; for the people are as they that strive with the priest. Therefore you will fall in the day, and the prophet will fall with you in the night; and I will destroy your mother. [now listen to the next verse; here's the bottom line; this is why God would discipline this nation, this most favored nation, this nation that has been blessed beyond blessing; listen] My people are*

destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will reject you from being My priest. Since you forgot the law of your God, I will forget your children.”

What is it that destroys a nation? Lack of knowledge. What is it that Satan wants to shut down? Knowledge. He doesn't want the Word of God to be disseminated. He doesn't want young people to hear the Word of God. He doesn't want you to hear the Word of God. Lack of knowledge is the road to destruction. Why is that? Because in Proverbs 1:7, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* **Unless you understand what's in the Word of God, you are going to have one miserable life.** In Proverbs 1:1-4, *“The Proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, to receive instruction in wisdom, righteousness, justice and equity; to give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.”* Knowledge and discretion. Listen, this is critical for you to understand. *“For wisdom will enter your heart and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will preserve you, understanding will keep you”* (Proverbs 2:10-11). **I call this the magnificent four: wisdom, knowledge, discretion and understanding.** Listen to what happens to a nation that rejects knowledge. In Proverbs 1:20-33, *“Wisdom cries outside, she utters her voice in the streets; she cries in the chief place of concourse; at the openings of the gates in the city she utters a word saying: ‘How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? And scoffers delight in their scoffing, and fools hate knowledge? [they don't want it; they don't want to hear the Word of God because it convicts and convinces] Turn you at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make known my words to you. [listen to verse 24] Because I called and you refused; I stretched out my hand and you would not regard it; and you neglected my counsel, and you would not listen to my reproof; thus, I will laugh at your calamity; I will mock you when your fear comes, when your fear comes as desolation and your destruction comes as a whirlwind, [remember Hosea 8:7, “they who sow to the wind will reap the whirlwind”] when distress and anguish come on you. Then they will call on me but I will not answer; they will seek me early but will not find me, because they hated knowledge and did not choose to respect the Lord. They would have none of my counsel, they despised all of my reproof. Therefore they shall eat of the fruit of their own way and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them. But whoever harkens to me shall dwell safely and be quiet from the fear of evil.”*

Knowledge is your protection. Knowledge of the Word of God is a provision for you. To reject that knowledge, to reject Biblical orientation is to guarantee a life of misery because you will never understand divine viewpoint, you will always be living on human viewpoint, you will always be seeking your solution. You know, for some, a bunch of people sit around and talk about the Bible and some guy says what does this mean to you? What does this mean to you? What does this mean to you? That may be good

sometimes but nine out of ten times it's goofy. What we need is the pastor to teach us what God is saying here not five or six different people give their opinion about it. If the United States of America is destroyed by God it's because we've rejected His Word. We've rejected the knowledge of the Word of God. We don't want it anymore. We are so prosperous, so full of ourselves, so arrogant that we can't see it. And as you see the shift in American politics you can see the scorning of any Christian, the mocking of the Word of God, the laughing at those who actually believe the Bible. This nation doesn't want knowledge. It doesn't want liberty. It doesn't want justice. That's not what it wants. It wants to change. It wants to change into a progressive socialist society just like most of Europe that's in trouble today. We are facing a disaster down the road if we continue to reject God's Word. **Listen, the fifth cycle of discipline will come onto this nation when we reject the knowledge of the Word of God, we get distracted by our own details in life. Hebrews 5:11-14 talks about this,** it says I'd like to teach you some things but you're not interested, you are "*dull of hearing.*" Let me ask you, when you go to church do you see people sleep through the pastor's sermon? The most insulting, rude, crude thing you could do is to fall asleep while the Word of God is being taught. If that's how important it is to you, you might as well stay home and stay in your nice comfy bed because you're not impressing God just because you showed up at church last Sunday. You may be one of those nod to God crowd - hello God, goodbye God, see you next Sunday God. That doesn't work. He's not impressed. **If you want to understand God's plan you better get under a good qualified pastor that will teach it to you. Then you can guarantee a long life, a wonderful life, a prosperous life.** But not the way you're going right now. Carnality is a dangerous thing. When, as a believer, we walk away from the Word of God, we don't use it, we don't study it, we don't learn it, there's no Biblical orientation in our life then we don't even get our prayers answered. Do you know there are reasons why your prayers don't get answered? You've been praying and nothing happens - there might be a reason for that you know. Why would God not answer your prayer? I mean, didn't He tell you to "*Call upon Me, ...and I will show you great and mighty things*" (Jeremiah 33:3)? Didn't He tell us to pray? Yes, He did. But if you are not filled with the Holy Spirit when you pray, if you have unconfessed sin in your life when you pray, the Bible says, "*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear*" (Psalm 66:18). **If you're not filled with the Holy Spirit when you pray, your prayer is not going any higher than the ceiling.** I don't care how magnificent that prayer is. I don't care what your oratory skills are. It's not going to be answered because you have shut off the power, you have quenched the Holy Spirit and grieved the Holy Spirit. That's one reason prayer is not answered. Another reason is because you don't use faith when you pray. In Matthew 21:22, "*And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive.*" Believing, if you have faith. Or if you are motivated by the wrong reason for your prayer. James 4:2-4, "*...You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, so that you can*

spend it on your own lusts.” In other words you're asking for the wrong thing for the wrong reason. That prayer is not going to be answered. And if you have carnality in your life, as I told you, Psalm 66:18, *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear.”* If you're disobedient to God and you try to pray, 1 John 3:22, *“and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His mandates and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.”* So you get into sin, you disobey God, you don't keep His mandates, you're displeasing - your prayer is not going to be answered. Listen, **if you have an attitude of negative volition in regard to God's counsel your prayer is not going to be answered.** *“I called and you refused, [remember Proverbs 1:24] you wouldn't listen to Me.”* And then you want to go to God and ask God to help you when things get going tough? What do you think, God's a genie in the eight ball, He's going to pop out of the eight ball and make all your problems go away? You don't need Him until you have a problem? You're kidding yourself. Another thing, if you don't comply with the specific known will of God in your life; you know what God called you to do, you know what God told you to do and yet you don't do it and then you go to start asking God for something in prayer. Listen to 1 John 5:14, *“...if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”* We know that He hears us. But whatever we ask, we know we have the petitions we ask Him if it's according to His will. Listen, **if you have arrogance in your life your prayer is not going to be answered.** Proverbs 16:18, *“Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.”* That's your arrogance. If you have lack of compassion on needy people and you pray for yourself, prayer is not going to be answered. Proverbs 21:13, *“The one who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered.”* And what about this one? Fighting with your spouse, lack of domestic tranquility and then you are going to pray and ask God for something? 1 Peter 3:7, *“In like manner, you husbands, dwell with your wives in consideration, as the weaker vessel, and show them honor as fellow members of the grace of life, in this way nothing will hinder your prayers.”* There you go. Learning the Word of God is critical just so you know how to pray. Learning the Word of God is critical so you know how to live the faith-rest drill. **Learning the Word of God is critical so you can manufacture divine good and glorify God and reach spiritual maturity in your life and reflect Jesus Christ through everything that you do by re-presenting Him, taking on His mentality.** Yes, you have to take on the mentality of Christ. The Bible says, *“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 2:5). That means I have to learn to think like Him. I have to take on His personality profile. What? Take on His personality profile. What does that mean? He humbled Himself, in like manner we have to humble ourselves. That's His humility profile. We have to have the same profile. *“He that is last shall be first, and he that is first shall be last”* (Matthew 20:16). *“God makes war against the arrogant, but He gives grace to the humble”* (James 4:6). There you go. All of this is Biblical orientation. Learning God's Word. Orienting to God's Word. Sitting under a great

pastor that teaches you God's Word. Learning it and applying it. Learning it and applying it. Taking it from *gnosis* information to *epignosis* information. I told you that earlier. *Gnosis* is where you hear, *epignosis* is where you keep. Jesus our Lord said this in Luke 11:27-28 to the woman that interrupted Him so rudely when He was teaching and she cried out, "*Happiness belongs to the womb that bore You and to the breasts at which You nursed.*" And our Lord simply looked at her. I can't imagine what He said but He said these words, "*You are wrong, happiness belongs to the people who hear My Father's Word and keep it.*" Hear and keep. Hear and keep. That's momentum. When you develop spiritual momentum in your life you will stay filled with the Holy Spirit on a consistent basis by naming your sins when they occur and you will hear God's Word consistently on a daily basis and to the best of your ability keep what you learn. That doesn't mean you walk around like some self-righteous saint with your nose up in the air acting all holy. That means you take on the mentality of Christ, you take on the personality profile of Christ. That means you develop humility in your life which is orientation to authority and you glorify God with your deeds, with your actions, with your attitude. Every thought, every intention, every desire are brought into captivity for Jesus Christ. It's a new way of living folks. It's an amazing way of living, the Christian life. Most of the time we don't get it taught to us like that. Most of the time it's kind of gobbledygook stuff that doesn't make any sense. And so we go to church and people try to get us fired up on our emotions and get us all rah rah for Jesus. But that doesn't do anything for you in your spiritual life. **You must learn God's Word. You must apply God's Word. You are mandated in the Bible study, learn, grow - these are all there.** God wants you to be a mature believer. He wants you to glorify Jesus Christ to the maximum. But like Hebrews says in Hebrews 5:11-13, I think I need to turn over there and read that for you because it's a critical passage in Hebrews 5. This is something that I read often and think about. He says "*I have many things to say [this is the writer of Hebrews] but they are hard to be uttered since you are dull of hearing. You ought to be teachers, you ought to be teaching others, but you are like a baby that needs a bottle and you can't handle strong meat. Everyone who uses only milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness, for he is still a baby.*" You've got to grow up. You've got to understand God's plan for your life and it starts by getting with the program spiritually, staying filled with the Spirit, growing in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by sitting under the ministry of a pastor that will teach it to you and feed you and shepherd your soul so that you can begin to reflect Christ through you. "*Christ in you, the hope of glory*" (Colossians 1:27). It's amazing. **He lives in you. And He must shine through you. And the world must see Him in you.** And that's the only way it's going to happen. I hope you're listening. I hope you're paying attention. I thank you for being part of the show today. Until next week, I'm your host, Rick Hughes saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Introduction to the FLOT Line - Part 6

Transcript of the FLOT Line Introduction Series - Episode 6

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. The FLOT Line - F.L.O.T. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes you're going to be invited to stay tuned because we'll give you some motivation, some inspiration, some education and all that will be done without any type of manipulation. That means we don't try to squeeze you for any money, we're not going to ask you to join up, fess up, give up anything. We just want you to listen. Listen as I try to verify and identify the plan of God for your life. If you can hear that, you have the freedom and the privacy to orient and adjust to the plan. You always do. That's up to you. **Your life is based on your decisions. God gave you a volition in your soul, a chooser, a decider.** He did not make you a little automaton. The greatest decision you could ever make, the Bible says, "*What do you think about Christ*" (Matthew 22:42). Who is Jesus Christ? Is He the anointed Son of God or is He a lunatic and a liar? Well the obvious answer is, He is the anointed Son of God. Nobody could walk out of the grave after three days and still be alive unless He was God. No one else has done that. There have been a couple of people resuscitated but not resurrected. Christ is alive today. The most wonderful thing, this is what's amazing, is He will come and live in you "*...Christ in you, the hope of glory*" (Colossians 1:27). We have a fantastic life in Jesus Christ. And as we live as Christians, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ this morning I want you to listen carefully, God has designed tremendous problem-solving devices for you. **God didn't say the problems will go away. He said in 1 Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man..."** so you're going to go through adversity. It's inevitable. However, stress - things like, worry, fear, anxiety - are all optional. Because, as a believer in Jesus Christ, you have tremendous power options that you don't have to give into that stuff. There's a different way to live. You are very advantaged over the rest of the world. The unbelieving world doesn't have the advantages that you have. They don't have Christ in them to start with. They don't have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. They don't have the security of the Word of God that is alive and powerful. They don't have the opportunity to pray to the Father as a believer priest. You do. All of those are yours so there's no reason for you to ever be worrying or being afraid or panicking about anything. The FLOT line is made up of ten unique problem-solving devices and I'm using the military term FLOT which stands for the Forward Line of Troops. That means that you can put in your soul a main line of resistance to stop these adverse things. That main line of resistance in your soul will pick up the pushes by the enemy, pushes to overrun the command post of your soul which is your mentality where he will push to get you to panic, where he will push to get you to not think, he will push to get you to be impetuous, push to get you discouraged even defeated. So don't look at yourself, don't look at your failures. You're going to mess up. We all mess up. We are plagued with a sin infected human nature - we got it from

Adam. We'll always have it until we go to heaven to be with the Lord and we get a new body, a resurrection body. I assure you that resurrection body will not have a sinful nature. God made provisions for that sin. **We sin, we fail. Mental attitude sins, sins of the tongue, even overt outward sins - we commit them on a daily basis.** The Bible says, *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"* (1 John 1:8). I've met a few people that say I don't sin and once I made them mad enough they started sinning. We all can sin. If you don't believe you sin go drive in Atlanta traffic or Houston traffic or Los Angeles traffic you'll find out what mental attitude sins are when people run you off the road and do obnoxious things to you because they're impatient and they want you to get out of their way. You may even find that in church. You know it might be when you go to church and you sit in somebody's seat that they claim has been their seat for 25 years and you're a visitor and you sit in that seat and they give you the evil eye. 'You're sitting in my seat, brother.' People can do some really dumb weird things. But we have a problem-solving device called rebound. Rebound is when we confess our sin to God. If we get out of fellowship with God, problem-solving device #1 solves it. We can go to the Father and confess our sin. There never should be a day, an hour, or a moment that you're not keenly aware of any sin. And when you know you sin, you must name that sin to God. Psalm 32:4-5 talks about not naming the sin; as long as I kept silent I grew old and aged and almost died but when I confessed my sin, then God forgave me. It's true in the New Testament as well. God inspects our hearts. He inspects our minds. The Bible tells us He searches our thoughts. He knows when we sin, we can't hide it even if you turn the lights off and pull the cover up over your head. If you're a believer, your heavenly Father knows what you did. **So rebound gives us the opportunity to recover from the failure, recover from the sin, get back in the game.** Then there's the filling of the Holy Spirit (problem-solving device #2). This allows you to have victory over your sin infected flesh. The Bible tells you, *"For the flesh wars against the Spirit, and the Spirit wars against the flesh..."* (Galatians 5:17). These are both trying to control your thinking, the thoughts of your mind. That's where your spiritual life is lived. It manifests itself in your physical body but the Bible says, *"As a man thinks in his heart, so he is"* (Proverbs 23:7). It all starts with what you think. So you have this battle, the flesh pushing to regain control like it always did before you believed in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit saying No, I want to control your life. Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:18, *"be filled with the Spirit."* That's a mandate, that's not a request. He's telling you, you must allow the Holy Spirit to control your life. How do you do that? Well, every time you rebound you put Him back in control. Every time you rebound you get back in fellowship with God. Every time you rebound you are filled with the Holy Spirit. It's not something that happens later in your Christian life where you foam at the mouth and look heavenly and sing weird songs. That's an emotional purging that people promote. That's not the filling of the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit you're not even going to feel it. It's

not going to be some sensational thing that you'll start buzzing all over and you'll see a halo. That's not what's going to happen. It's when you subdue the flesh by rebound and confessing your sin to God that allows the Holy Spirit to take control again. We are told two negative mandates: don't quench the Holy Spirit and don't grieve the Holy Spirit and sin does that. So if we allow the Holy Spirit to control our life (problem-solving device #2: filling of the Holy Spirit) then we can operate under problem-solving device #3: the faith-rest drill. Using faith to solve problems using the promises of God. It's a wonderful thing to do. It's a wonderful thing to have. And so when you use the faith-rest drill you claim one of those 7,000 promises in the Bible and you take advantage of those 7,000 promises in the Bible and you stand on the Word of God. Moses said in Exodus 14:13, *"Stand still and watch what God is about to do."* That's when the Jews were fleeing Egypt with Pharaoh hot on their tail wanting to kill them all. The Red Sea was in front and Pharaoh and his army were behind. The opportunity to panic and to go into fear was there but Moses said no, stand still watch this; you won't see the Pharaoh's army or him anymore after this. And we know what happened with the parting of the Red Sea and how the Jews went across and the Pharaoh tried to follow them and that was a fatal mistake on his part. Now when we use faith, we claim a promise, we reverse our concentration, we go back to something we remembered maybe when you were a child. You know, like God knows every hair on your head or no bird dies that God doesn't know about. You remember these things. You remember the logistical rationales that you learned from your pastor as he teaches you in the Bible. **So when you claim a promise, what you're doing is stabilizing your thoughts so you don't worry. Then you back up and go to a Biblical rationale.** Why did this happen? Is God sovereign? Yes. Is God omnipotent, could He have stopped it? Yes. Is God omnipresent, is He with me right now? Yes. You can go through the essence of God category and you can see that He's immutable, He wouldn't lie to you, He's faithful, you trust Him and He knows what He's doing if you can let Him control your life. **Sooner or later you have to turn over control of your life to the Father. Let Him control your destiny.** You're going to have to give up the wheel here. Let Him take control. Don't say God is my copilot, say God is the pilot, I'm just along for the ride. If you continue to stay filled with the Spirit, if you continue to learn God's Word, if you continue to operate by faith then you will grow in the grace and knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You will experience what a lot of people never experience - you will grow to be a mature believer, you will experience fantastic blessings in your life beyond your wildest dreams and you will begin to understand what your personal sense of destiny is all about. See, you have a personal sense of destiny. Now we have problem-solving device #1, 2 and 3: rebound, the filling of the Holy Spirit, the faith-rest drill. Then we talked about problem-solving device #4: Biblical orientation. Orienting to the Word of God, learning the Word of God, using the Word of God, exploring the Word of God in your life. **There's also problem-solving**

device #5: grace orientation. That's orienting to grace. There is saving grace, living grace, dying grace and surpassing grace. When you understand that, then you're able to grace other people out as well. That means you don't react with hostility and anger and bitterness when you're mistreated; you respond with forgiveness. That's what the Lord Jesus Christ did. Did He not say, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing*" (Luke 23:34). That's grace orientation. God has given you the ability, if you learn the grace assets that you have, how to use this. It's an amazing way to live. It takes the monkey off of your back and lets the Lord handle the details of life. I mean after all, He graced you out. He saved you. You weren't worth saving, I wasn't either, but He saved us. He sent His Son to die for us. He gave us the chance to choose our destiny. Then, as we learn His Word, we see how He graces us out. How He gave us a good local church. How He gave us a great pastor. How He gave us the canon of Scripture. How He gave us the filling of the Holy Spirit. Those of us that live in the church age, which is you and me today, we have grace assets beyond what anyone's ever had in eternity past or beyond what they'll have in the future. **We are the church, we are the royal family of God, we are the body of Christ, we are unique.** So we learn these grace assets. We utilize these grace assets. And we have surpassing grace even in heaven. Unbelievable grace that God has waiting. But the most fantastic is dying grace. Coming to the point of death in your life and not being afraid, having absolute confidence and assurance of what lies ahead, where there is "*no more pain and no more tears and no more sorrow; the old things have passed away*" (Revelation 21:4). You will not believe what awaits you on the other side. It is amazing. I remember a mature believer friend of mine passed away under the care of hospice. The hospice nurse apologized to her daughter and said, 'I'm so sorry your mother is moaning in pain.' And the daughter said, 'No, she's not moaning, she's singing. You need to listen.' And she was, she was humming Amazing Grace. **Dying grace is unbelievable.** If you've ever seen a mature believer pass from time to eternity you'll know what I'm talking about. The grace assets available to you: surpassing grace in heaven, living grace on earth, saving grace. And then there's **your personal sense of destiny (problem-solving device #6). This is where you begin to recognize what your reason for being here is. It is sort of like a door.** You walk through a door and leave your agenda behind. Once you learn your personal sense of destiny, then you know why you're here, then you know what your life is about, then you know your course of events and what you should do, what you're destined to do. God's appointed course for your life. See the moment you believed in Christ, you took off on this fantastic journey. I mean, our Lord had a journey. Did He not? From the womb to the tomb and out of the tomb and into the presence of the Father. You have a journey and one thing that guarantees it, the thing that guarantees that is eternal security. You are eternally saved and you have an eternal destiny. Your destiny with the Father in heaven is because of what Christ did for you on the cross. **So God has a purpose for saving you.**

He had a purpose from the beginning of time because He knew you in eternity past and He planned your life in eternity past. He planned that you would be conformed to the image of His Son so that you could re-present Jesus Christ. The Bible says in Ephesians 1:4, *“According as He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him.”* He knew you before you knew yourself. He laid out your life before you were even born. And so God foreknew you. He understands and His eternal purpose, His eternal plan is not baffled when we make mistakes and when we sin. He's made a provision for that as rebound tells us. So we understand this verse, 2 Timothy 1:12, *“...for I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I've committed to Him against that day.”* So you don't have to worry that you're going to lose your salvation because you did something stupid. I mean something really stupid. I mean, read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 if you want to see something really stupid. But the Bible says the soul would be saved in the day of the Lord even though the body was about to be perishing under the sin unto death. John 10:29 says, *“No one can take them out of My Father's hand.”* Jude 1:24 says, *“Now to Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.”* So God's plan for you will go on and on and never fail even though you may fail, and the reason is because He loves you. He loved you in eternity past. Remember the verse? *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”* (John 3:16). He loved you. This is Romans 5:8-10, *“For God commended His love towards us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, now being justified by His blood, we shall be saved from eternal wrath through Christ. For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, should we be saved by His life.”* This plan of God, that's an *a fortiori* there. That means that if He did the greater thing at the cross for you, He can do much greater now - much greater. Much greater is what's coming up because He loves you. He does love you now. **His love, you have to respond to that. The Bible says, “We love Him because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19).** The Bible says, *“If any man says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar...”* (1 John 4:20). The Bible goes on to say, *“if you love Me, you will keep My mandates”* (John 14:15) and *“My mandates are not hard”* (1 John 5:3). So these things that I'm telling you, they don't imply that we will be successful in our spiritual life and reach spiritual maturity. I mean that depends on your attitude toward the Word of God, not on God's faithful provisions. God's not going to fail. You may go off down the My Way Highway. You may decide that you don't want to learn God's plan anymore and you got a better deal, you've got something better going on. That's a dead end street. You know it is. You know the emptiness in your life right now. You know the shallowness of your thinking right now. You know how you used to get prayers answered but not anymore. You can't even pray anymore because you separated yourself from fellowship with God. You are still in the

family. You're a member of the royal family of God. You're going to heaven. That's not the problem. The problem is you're living a miserable life now and you won't admit it, not even to yourself, much less to someone else. So if you can do something to lose your salvation then you must not be doing something not to lose it and that's just not true. **You're not going to lose your salvation. It was a free gift from God. "For by grace are you saved through faith;...it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast about it." (Ephesians 2:8-9).** God created a royal family and He provided Christ with church age believers like you. We're in the royal family and we have a sense of destiny. The destiny is we're going to heaven. We know that. The Bible says we're sojourners, we're passing through, we don't belong here because our citizenship is in heaven. But the dispensation of the church age, the calling out of the royal family of God is to complement Jesus Christ so that He has a family. You have to learn how to know your destiny - your destiny in time as well as your destiny in eternity. See if you're a believer, God gave you a spiritual gift. Now, let me be the first to tell you, singing is not a spiritual gift. It may be a talent but it's not a gift. Spiritual gifts don't include singing. **Spiritual gifts include things like giving, the spiritual gift of giving, the gift of helps, the gift of mercy, the gift of administration, the gift of evangelist, the gift of pastor-teacher - things like that.** When you learn your gift then you can see what God wants you to do with it, where it fits in the local church in the body of Christ. See, with your gift in the local church, we have the pastor-teacher and we have all the other gifts coming together that form an image of the body of Christ to your community. That's what the community wants to see. They want to see "*...Christ in you, the hope of glory*" (Colossians 1:27). So you have this destiny. Having a sense of destiny, I'll tell you one thing, it destroys any type of boredom or any type of self-pity or creating self-induced problems because you're impetuous and do dumb things that don't need to be done. The awareness of your destiny, let me put it this way to you, should motivate you to seek and fulfill it. Spiritual self-esteem, that's the first step, where you have cognitive self-consciousness of who you are, what the plan of God for your life is, where you are spiritually. You should know if you're a mature believer, if you're a baby believer, if you're an adolescent believer. I mean, give yourself a quiz. Tell me what the essence of God is. Do you know that? Do you know any of these doctrines I'm teaching you? They're common and have been taught for years and years. I didn't make these up. These have been in the Bible for years. Did you ever know them? Maybe no one has ever called them the ten problem-solving devices but you should understand what they are. Do you use them? See, so many believers they just play nod to God. You know, they're convenient Christians, casual Christians. They want a pastor to marry them and bury them and show up on church a few days a year and the rest of time leave me alone I'm busy. I feel sorry for you if that's the way you are because you'll never know your destiny. You will never understand the plan that God has for your life. None of this can

ever become a reality for you if you don't learn God's Word and apply God's Word in your life. **So awareness of your destiny motivates you to move through spiritual self-esteem and become spiritually autonomous where you have independence. You can stand alone. You don't have to depend on other Christians to prop you up.** You don't have to call the preacher up every time something happens and ask him what you should do. You can have cognitive independence. Then you move to spiritual maturity where you have cognitive invincibility, where now you're going through evidence testing and you can glorify Jesus Christ. It's like you going to the witness stand, God allows you to go to the witness stand and Satan is going to cross examine you, try to break you down. But he can't because you are invincible in Christ with God's Word embedded in your soul running through your stream of consciousness like a river that never quits flowing into your memory center, into your stream of consciousness, into your vocabulary storage. There you are, invincible in Christ Jesus. **So if you reach spiritual maturity, then your personal sense of destiny will outweigh any other problem, any other disaster, any other heartache that might come your way.** Like the death of a loved one, the death of a wife or husband or a child or whatever. Listen, the psalmist said it this way. Psalm 40:8, *"I delight to do Your will, O my God."* Jesus put it in John 4:34, *"My food is to do the will of the One who sent Me, and to finish His work."* In Colossians 1:9-10 Paul prayed for the church at Colosse, *"...since the day we heard of you, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him..."* That's what God wants you to do. He wants you to understand your personal sense of destiny. He wants you to walk worthy of His calling. You can't do that in the energy of the flesh. You can't do that on your own. You can't do that with letting sin get into your life and stay there. I don't know who you think you're fooling. Maybe you're fooling your spouse. Maybe you're fooling your business partner. You are not fooling God. You may be fooling your parents. You are not fooling God. Do you want to know why things are going wrong in your life? Do you want to know why everything you touch turns into a disaster? Because **God has put the hammer on you. It's called divine discipline. "Those whom God loves He disciplines, and He scourges..." (Hebrews 12:6).** It comes under the form of warning discipline to begin with. That may be something as simple as a message that a pastor brings to you and you hear the truth but rather than respond to it you ignore it, you shut your ears up, you think about something else, you forget about it as soon as you leave church, you do not even remember it. And so the hard stuff comes. God has to scourge you with a whip. That means He's going to take you out behind the woodshed. When the Father has to scourge us with the whip that means there's pain. It's an attitude adjustment. He breaks our arrogance. See, it's arrogance that won't let you admit your sin. It's arrogance that won't let you admit you failed. It's arrogance that won't let you see yourself as you really are. **Arrogant people have an unrealistic self-image.** The weird

thing about it is, they have this unrealistic self-image and going along with that is unrealistic expectations. In other words, arrogant people want to be treated in the way they're not worthy of being treated because they think they are something they're not. Is that you? Do you think God's given you a raw deal? Do you think He's not doing what He should do, He's not living up to His end of the bargain? I don't think so. I think you know what's going on. You know what's going on in your life and in your arrogance you won't admit it. Why don't you get rid of this? **Why don't you for once in your life come clean with the God the Father? For once in your life get to where you need to be.** Aren't you tired of wallowing in the dirt and in the filth of sin in your life and living two different ways? I mean it's time for you to shuck off that type of stuff. It's time for you to grow up as a man or a woman in Jesus Christ and become the person that God intended for you to be. It's time for you to find your destiny and to fulfill your destiny so that when that time comes for you to go to be face-to-face with the Father, at least you won't have to hear him say, 'Have a seat over there Joe, I'll get to you in a few thousand years.' I mean I want to hear Him say, 'Well done.' I want to see the Lord Jesus Christ stand up and shake my hand. I want to see Him salute me and say, 'Well done soldier.' That's what I'm looking for. Are you? Are you wanting to see that in your life also? Please listen to what I'm saying. **There is a destiny and there's only so much time. That is why God tells you to redeem the time in the Bible. Time is short, you don't know how much time you have.** I hope you're listening. I hope you're paying attention. I'm your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you today for listening, tuning in, and being a part of the FLOT Line.

Introduction to the FLOT Line - Part 7

Transcript of the FLOT Line Introduction Series - Episode 7

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'd like to invite you to stay with me. It will be a time of motivation, inspiration, education, always done without any type of manipulation. That means we're not trying to con you, we're not trying to hustle you, we're not trying to get you to give us any money, we're not trying to get you to join anything. The only thing that this show is predicated on is teaching the Word of God free, giving you divine viewpoint perspective. Trying to verify and identify God's plan for your life so that if you want to do something about it you can orient and adjust to the plan. I'm not a pastor. I'm simply an evangelist who has a radio show. But I can open a window for you. I can give you some insight. I can give you some choices and then you can talk to your pastor, you can get in touch with him and ask him questions and hopefully get under the authority of a well-qualified pastor that will shepherd you and teach you and feed you God's Word. That's the way the program works. We have a show called the FLOT Line. If you've been listening to it, we're new in your area. FLOT stands for Forward Line of Troops. We're using a military metaphor here much like Paul did when he talked about putting on the armor of God and he highlighted a Roman soldier in Ephesians 6:12. This is a military analogy and FLOT (Forward Line of Troops) is a main line of resistance that the military will establish in a combat area. The objective is to keep the enemy outside of that main line of resistance. I want you to understand that with what the Word of God teaches, you can establish a main line of resistance in your soul made up of ten unique problem-solving devices. If you learn these ten unique problem-solving devices you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress. Because, I mean, let's face it, adversity is inevitable but stress is optional. Because adversity may be what circumstances and situations do to you but stress is what you do to yourself. So these ten problem-solving devices are not some great new discovery that I've made. These are age-old Biblical doctrines that have always been there. You probably heard them taught in your own church. I may say them in a different way but they're the same thing. Somebody once told me, they said, 'You didn't teach me anything I didn't know already but you put it in a way I've never heard it put before.' That's a good thing because that makes you think, that helps you to understand, comprehend, diagnose what we're saying. Now we've been through problem-solving devices one, two, three, four and five. If you missed them we have a book available free of charge (we never charge a dime for anything from our ministry) called *Christian Problem Solving*. All you have to do is write to us through the website, that's rickhughesministries.org and if you write to us through the website we'll be glad to send you the book free of charge. And we won't send you anything else, nothing that you don't request. But this book will list all ten of them for you. It's a small booklet. It's nothing fancy but it will help you grasp the concept of

learning these ten problem-solving devices. Beginning with rebound (how to solve the problem of sin), moving to the filling of the Holy Spirit (how to solve the problem of your genetically formed sin nature), moving to the faith-rest drill (how to solve the problem of unseen and unforetold circumstances in your life), moving to Biblical orientation, moving to grace orientation and then finally to a personal sense of destiny. And this is where you begin to understand God's plan for your life and you walk through the door, you leave your agenda behind and now you're on God's agenda. Well, now we want to talk about something called virtue. Virtue integrity, virtue love. The most amazing thing taught in the Bible is virtue love motivation and that's personal love for God. **Personal love for God is problem-solving device number six.** Now there are several words for love in the Bible and they all translate into English "love." Without a pastor to tell you which love it is, you might get confused. It could be *agapao*, it could be *phileo*, it could be *stoecheo*, and it could be *erao*. These are four different types of love. So we have to understand what the Bible means when it's talking about love because you don't want to get involved in *erao* love, that's the word for erotic. **We're talking about *agapao* or total soul love for God the Father.** A *phileo* love which is love for the brethren. Philadelphia we get from *phileo*. So this is the deal, in 1 Peter 1:8-9 here's what Peter wrote, "*though having not seen Him, you love Him, and though now you do not see Him, yet believing in Him, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving as the end of your faith the salvation of your souls.*" So could I ask you a good question? Do you love God? I am sure that if I asked that question in your church that everybody in there would raise their hand and they would say 'Yes, I love God.' Well there is a test you can give yourself to find out if you do love God and I will show you that in a minute because a lot of people say they love God but they really don't. They love what God provides. They love what they love. But as far as loving God, as far as having virtue love for God, well, not quite. In John 20:29, Jesus Christ said this to Thomas, "***Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are those who have not seen Me and yet they have believed.***" And remember what Peter wrote, whom having not seen you love. How do you love a God you've never seen? That's the question. You have never seen Him. You've never seen Jesus. If you have, if you've seen Jesus you might need to talk to the doctor because our Lord Jesus Christ is in heaven seated at the right hand of the Father awaiting the shouted order to come back and get us. If He came back and I'm still here and you're still here we're in trouble because He's not going to do that until the Father tells Him at the exit resurrection. So if you've seen Jesus, you might have been doing something you shouldn't have done. But having not seen Him, you can love Him. Is it possible to love Him even though you haven't seen Him? The answer is yes. You can love a God whom you have never seen, that is possible. In Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus was answering a question asked to Him by a lawyer and it was simply a leading question. This is what Jesus said to him, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart,*

with all of your soul, with all of your mind. This is the first mandate.” That mandate comes out of Deuteronomy 6:5. *“These words I command you, shall be in your heart; teaching with diligence to your children and talk of them when you sit in your house, talk of them when you walk, talk of them when you lie down and when you are up”* (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). I mean, do you think the Word of God might be important? *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...* (Matthew 22:37). That word love in the Greek New Testament is in what we call the imperative mood. In other words, the imperative mood is a mood of command. **This is a command from Jesus Christ, you shall love God. It’s not asking you, it’s telling you, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind. Your heart and your soul and your mind.** You know, you have a soul. Your soul is made up of mentality, it’s made up of volition, it’s made up of consciousness and even self-consciousness which means you have the ability to think, logic, reason, comprehend. You have the ability to choose and decide, to make a choice or decision. You have a conscience which is made up of your norms and standards that were taught to you when you were young. Hopefully your parents taught you good norms - how to brush your teeth, comb your hair, keep clean. And your pastor gives you good standards, standards from the Bible, like the Ten Commandments. You learn these things. These norms and standards are designed to guard you, to be the guardian of your soul so that if you violate these norms and standards that you learned from a young child, from that time on, then the red alert alarm goes off in your soul telling you you’re doing something wrong - that’s wrong, that’s wrong, don’t do it, don’t do it, don’t do it. You see, that’s why this verse says in Deuteronomy 6:7, *“...teach them with diligence to your children...”* That’s the objective of any parent, to set up the red alert system in the soul of their child by teaching them Biblical standards. So how do you do it? Well, you talk of them when you sit in your house. In other words, if your child is there you can say, Johnny or like my grandson Kai, I’ll ask him a question, ‘Do you know what the Bible says about this? Do you know this Bible verse?’ All the time talking about the Bible when my grandchildren come to visit my house all the time giving them Scripture. Talk with them when you walk. In other words, if you and your wife or you and your grandchildren are taking a walk or you and your children are taking a walk, talk about the Scripture. Talk about it when you lie down, talk about it when you rise up. The last thing that should be in your mind when you go to bed at night is the promise of God. ***“I will never leave you. I will never forsake you”*** (Hebrews 13:5). And when you get up in the morning. ***“Great is Thy faithfulness. The Lord is good to those who trust in Him”*** (Lamentations 3:23,25). There it is. Every day. That’s why the Word of God is important. **You can’t love a God you don’t know and if you don’t know His Word, you don’t know Him.** If I gave you test and I said, ‘How well do you actually know God?’ See, God’s immanent and transcendent. First of all, you have to understand that He’s not just in your church. Some people say, ‘We had a

great service today and God visited us today.' Listen, God can be, because He's omnipresent, He can be in your town and in my town at the same time. He's not confined to one location. He's immanent and transcendent. So I can't get any more of Him and I can't get any less of Him. I have all of Him all the time. He's God. He's is omnipotent, He's all-powerful. He's omniscient, He's all smart, He knows everything from eternity past to eternity future. He knew me before I was even created in my mother's womb. He knew me. He knew who I would be and what I would do and He programmed a plan for my life in eternity past and that plan began with me believing in Jesus Christ. This is what you have to teach your children. If you love God, you will teach them God's Word. If you don't love God, you'll throw them in the car and haul them to church and go through the ritual without any reality to it. You know, church can become a ritual without any reality to it. Just because you show up on Sunday morning and put on a nice coat and tie or a nice dress or clean the children up and take them to church, that doesn't mean you love God. It's very possible that you get into the habit of becoming a conventional Christian who wants the preacher to marry him and the preacher to bury him and the rest of the time don't bug me, I'm busy. Do you really love God? Well, here is the way you tell the test. Do you want to hear the test? This will tell you if you love God or not. In 1 John 5:3, *"For this is the love of God, that we keep His mandates; and His mandates are not hard."* So the way you know you love God is if you obey God. So let's take your volition, part of the format of your soul, God gave you a volition. Your volition can go negative and say no I'm not going to do that. Or your volition can go positive and say yes I will do that. **If you love God, you will obey God because His mandates are not a burden.** He's not going to ask you to do something that you cannot do. Jesus Christ our Lord said in Matthew 11:28-30, *"Come to Me, all you that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, ... [and then He said these words] My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* It's not like God is going to ask you to do something you're not equipped to do. It's not like God's going to ask you to do something you cannot possibly do. But the real bottom line is, do you obey Him? Your volition is the key. And so, for example, when the Bible says, *"Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth"* (2 Timothy 2:15). Do you study God's Word? Consistently? On a daily basis? I'm not talking about just going to church on Sunday and reading your Sunday school lesson. That is not growing up. I mean, if I sent my child to the first-grade for an hour and half a week, they'd never get out of the first-grade. It takes daily inculcation of God's Word under the filling of the Holy Spirit for you or me or anybody else to grow up. This is one reason that I always encourage pastors to teach more. You know, they get under such a burden to visit and care for people and people have such unreal expectations of what a pastor should be. I believe what a pastor should be is a man who studies and teaches God's Word to his congregation. As he studies and teaches God's Word, if he's got a \$1 million

building down there then hopefully he can teach more than a couple times a week. I would love to see pastors teach four or five times a week. And somebody says, 'Well I couldn't go to church that much.' Well, how much do you watch TV? Do you come in at night, plop down in front of the TV and turn it on after you eat dinner and sit there for a couple of hours? Listen, if you love God, you will love His Word and if you love His Word you will never be able to get enough of it. And I tell you what, any pastor that's willing to teach God's Word, God will provide the hearers. He will provide those that want to learn it. So the love of God is that you keep His mandates and they are not hard. The Lord Jesus Christ had an issue with the church at Ephesus in the book of Revelation. The issue was their production and their love. He talks about that in Revelation 2:2-3, "*I know your works, I know your labor, I know your patience, and you cannot stand the evil that you test the profits that you have perceived and you have patience and you have not become weary.*" But something was missing. Something was missing. Their faith had become so technical and not personal, and the missing part was the missing love. They had lost their first love. Revelation 2:4, "...*You have left your first love.*" **Love for God is the motivation of why you do what you do.** If you don't have personal love for God, you're not going to obey God. If you don't have personal love for God, you're going to find it easy to cheat on your spouse. If you don't have personal love for God, you're going to find it easy to cheat on your taxes. If you don't have personal love for God, you're going to find it easy to ignore His Word when it comes down to making critical decisions. Paul wrote these words in Ephesians 1:15-16, he wrote to the church at Ephesus and he said, "*I hear of your faith and your love for all of the saints, and I keep praying for you.*" In Philippians 1:9a, "*I pray that your love may abound more and more...*" You see, love is like a river. Love has direction. Love has flow. I live near a river and the river has current and the current flows. Love is like that. Well my river has banks, a bank on one side and a bank on the other side. If the current gets out of the banks it causes a flood and it becomes destructive. Here's what Paul said. Listen, "*I pray your love may abound more and more in knowledge and discernment*" (Philippians 1:9). And here's the banks - knowledge and discernment. So, as you learn God's Word you gather knowledge or wisdom. And once you have wisdom you have discernment. **So love for God gives you the knowledge to understand and discern what you should do in any situation.** Because if you love God then, first of all, you will obey God. And secondly, the only way you can obey God is to know what God demands of you. And you can't know what He demands of you if you don't know what's in His Word. So once you learn the Word of God and develop some knowledge of the Word of God, called wisdom, then you have this incredible discernment. Now when there's too much love, and this is emotional, once you get so emotional running around saying, 'I love Jesus. I love Jesus. I love God.' If that love is so emotional it gets out of the banks and it becomes destructive. This is not the way God intended for it to be. It's not an emotional thing where you get

high on Jesus. This is the content of your soul predicated upon the Word of God that you know, understand, believe and live by in your life every day. So Paul said in Philippians 1:9-10, *“I pray that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent and that you may be pure and undefiled without offense until the day Christ returns.”* Now, how would you recognize a believer like this? How would you recognize someone whose love abounds in discernment and in knowledge? Well, number one they they would be obedient. They would obey God. And you know, don't get caught in the trap of saying if you don't tithe you don't love God. I mean I've seen this happen before sometimes. If you love God you'll turn over your bank account to Him. *“God loves a well motivated giver”* (2 Corinthians 9:7), that's true. And the objective of any believer is to support the ministry of his church and the local missions or whatever missions he may choose to support but *“not grudgingly nor of necessity”* (2 Corinthians 9:7). So don't let someone lay a guilt trip on you and say, 'You don't love God because you don't tithe.' That's not true. If you want to be obedient, there are many things with the first being *“walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh”* (Galatians 5:16). So being obedient is to confess your sins to God on a daily, moment by moment basis. **Being obedient is to stay filled with the Holy Spirit. Being obedient to develop your faith. “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17). Being obedient is to grow up and replicate the life of Christ in you.** That's what it boils down to. Not you getting emotional and crying and foaming at the mouth. You know that may be fine but that's not what this is. If you really love God you will be respectful and very cautious at the same time. Hebrews 12:27-28 speaks of that. You will not be controlled by your emotions. If you love God, you're not going to be too mechanical and you're not going to be too legalistic. That means that you would lose your spontaneity, something that you don't do freely or naturally without external force or cause. **There must be that spontaneous response to God's Word in your soul.** That was the problem at Ephesus - too mechanical, too legalistic. You know, like I only pray at a certain time of the day or I only give in a certain way etc. etc. Worship is not done only one way. Worship is done through the teaching and learning of God's Word and the application of what you hear. That's what true worship is. It's not that you come in there and you have some music that's fine, special music, choir music, whatever. The real worship is the respectful teaching of the Word of God and it *“is alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword”* (Hebrews 4:12). Anything that can transform and change your life in an instant is unbelievable and that's the Word of God. It can change you. So what happened is this church at Ephesus had lost its reciprocal love motivation. Reciprocal love, says 1 John 4:19, *“We love God because He first loved us.”* I mean, come on, did He love you first? Yes. *“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”* (John 3:16). He loved you first. And your job is to love Him back with reciprocal love motivation. In 1 John 3:18, *“My little*

children, let us not love in word and in tongue, but in deed and in truth.” And so, I mean, you can say you love God all you want but if you don't obey Him and you don't fulfill the mandates, you don't really love God. In 1 John 3:23, *“This is His mandate, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He gave us the mandate.”* Matthew 22:39, *“Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”* That’s a different type of love. You love God and there are people in your church you hate? You love God and there are people in your community you can't stand? The Bible says, *“If we say, ‘I love God,’ and hate our brother, we are a liar”* (1 John 4:20) and *“the truth is not in us”* (1 John 1:8). Listen, does God love everybody in your city? He does. Should you love everybody in your city? You should. ‘But I'm not God,’ you say. That’s right He's loving you with personal love because you're part of the royal family but He loved you with impersonal love before you got saved because that was based on His essence and His character, not yours. This is the same type of love you're going to have to use with others. I will explain how impersonal love is a problem-solving device. Love is a problem-solving device. Do you love God? You say, ‘Yes, I do.’ Are you obedient? You say, ‘Sometimes.’ Listen, there's no sometimes here. Either you're going to obey God, you’re going to learn His Word, you're going to grow spiritually, you’re going to replicate the life of Christ - you know, fulfill those mandates - or you’re going to do what you want to do, when you want to do it and you're going to trot off down the My Way Highway and you’re going to guarantee yourself a life of discipline and misery as you get sucked into the cosmic vortex that's always out there spinning around. It’s called the lure of the world and you’ll get sucked into that. Thinking that money will make you happy, that success will make you happy, that circumstances will make you happy, that people can make you happy. **There’s only one thing that will make you happy. Jesus Christ said it this way, “...happiness belongs to those who hear My Father's Word and keep it” (Luke 11:28).** You have heard the Word of God today. Will you keep it? Do you love God? Really? I hope you’ll think about that. I hope you consider that. And I hope you come back next week, same time, same place, because I enjoy teaching you this and I think you are learning something. Write to me if you’d like. I’d be glad to hear from you. Until next week, this is your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Introduction to the FLOT Line - Part 8

Transcript of the FLOT Line Introduction Series - Episode 8

Good morning and welcome back. Welcome back to the FLOT Line. I am Rick Hughes your host and I'd like to invite you to stay tuned. Another thirty minutes this morning. Motivation, inspiration, education and you know we do this without any type of manipulation. That's right, no appeals for money. We're not trying to sell you anything. We're not trying to hustle you. We're simply trying to give you accurate information. Information that hopefully will help you verify as well as identify God's plan for your life. If you can do that then you can orient and adjust to the plan. That's up to you. My job is to get it accurate, to be correct. And so we have the FLOT Line. The FLOT Line is a well maintained defensive perimeter in your soul. It's a main line of resistance, a forward line of troops. FLOT is a military analogy. What we're saying is this, that as a believer in Jesus Christ, you can establish a main line of resistance in your soul by learning God's unique problem-solving devices. And when you learn these and you use these, I mean you've got to use what you know, then you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress. That's why we tell you adversity is inevitable stress is optional. Because adversity is what circumstances do to you and stress is what you do to yourself. So being on the same page with God. He has a wonderful plan for your life. It's an amazing plan. There's a way to live with no worries. There's a way to live with no fear. There's a way to live with no bitterness. There's a way to live, it's an unbelievable lifestyle. I feel sorry for the disadvantaged people that don't know this because God has given us the most wonderful life. It's called the Christian life. It was pioneered by the Lord Jesus Christ when He was here in the flesh before He went to be with the Father and He demonstrated that it's possible to walk alone in the devil's world and to have exactly these things I just said to you - no fear, no worry, no anger, no hostility, no doubt, no guilt. It's the Lord Jesus Christ and He passed on to us the tremendous things like the faith-rest drill, one of our problem-solving devices, problem-solving device #3. Using the faith-rest drill in Matthew chapter 4, Christ confronted Satan by quoting Scripture and was able to defeat the enemy as he tempted and tested Him. Same thing for you. You claim Scripture in the faith-rest drill. You confess your sin, 1 John 1:9, in the rebound technique, problem-solving device #1 where the Bible says, "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us...*" So each one of these problem-solving devices handles a problem. Rebound handles the problem of sin. The filling of the Holy Spirit (problem-solving device #2) handles the problem of your genetically formed sin nature. The faith-rest drill handles the problem of unforeseen circumstances and difficulties. And doctrinal orientation, grace orientation, learning to think divine viewpoint not human viewpoint and learning to exploit and enjoy the benefits of grace, having a personal sense of destiny, knowing what God's plan for your life is, why you're here, what you're all about. These are all problem-solving devices. And we get to the

greatest problem-solving device of all, just about, and that's called love. Love is a tremendous problem-solving device but there's two things about love you've got to remember. **Love is a virtue. The most virtuous thing you can have is personal love for God.** Listen to 1 Peter 1:8-9, "*Whom having not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your soul.*" You haven't seen Jesus Christ. You've only read about Him. You've heard about Him. You've studied the Bible. You know He's real. You know He's either the biggest liar in the world, the biggest lunatic in the world or He's the Son of God. I can tell you He is the Son of God. I can tell you that from experience. Like you, I haven't seen Him either. I've read the Bible. I put my faith and trust in what's in the Bible and by that experience I know that Christ is real and He lives in me. He lives in you too if you've accepted Him as your Savior. I know He does. And so in John 20:29 Jesus said to Thomas, "*Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are those who have not seen Me, and yet they believe.*" Is that you? You haven't seen Him. I haven't seen Him. We won't see Him until He comes back again. That's what we are awaiting, the exit resurrection, when He comes back in Ephesians 4 to take us to be with Him. In Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus said to the lawyer who asked Him a leading question, what's the greatest mandate and He said, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind. That's the first commandment.*" Personal love for God is the greatest virtue that we have. The Bible says in 1 John 5:3, "*This is the love of God, This is the love of God, [do you want to hear what it is? Listen up] This is the love of God that we keep His mandates; and His mandates are not a burden*" - not a burden. Now there was a problem in Revelation 2:2-3 when the Lord Jesus Christ had a problem with the church and He said this, He said this to the pastor, "*I know your works, I know your labor, I know your patience, I know you can't stand evil, I know you test the prophets and you have perceived and you have patience and you're not weary.*" But there was something missing. **What was missing was they had left their first love. "You have left your first love" (Revelation 2:4).** Personal love is the motivation to do what we do. You know God loves you, don't you? You understand that. Reciprocal love motivation is this. "*We love Him,*" 1 John 4:19 says, "*because He first loved us.*" He loved us when you were unlovable. You know we're all just jerks, you know that. The Bible says, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life*" (John 3:16). God loved me when I was a jerk and I'm still a jerk, but now He's brought me into His royal family. Now He's given me eternal life. Now He loves me based on the righteousness of Christ. Not my own righteousness because I really don't have any. The Bible says, "*He who knew no sin was made sin for us, so we may be made the righteousness of God through Him*" (2 Corinthians 5:21). So that's why God loves me because He sees Christ's righteousness in me and this is the same for you. This church in

Revelation 2 had lost their reciprocal love motivation. They left their first love. And so the doctrine of love is one of the greatest doctrines in the Bible. One of the greatest distortions in the Bible on the part of Satan in the angelic conflict is in the area of love. People don't understand this. The love of God has been distorted by Satan in every aspect of life until we become emotional and we think it's a sin to even kill a terrorist. We're supposed to, you know, in these days everything evil has become good and everything that used to be good, twenty years ago, is now evil. And so now we're supposed to love all the evil stuff as if it were really good and it is not. It's not. There are two kinds of people who claim to love everybody. And you know who they are - drunks and idiots. And neither of these have any discernment. Love is the basic character of God. **God's character is love, and His character has components. His character is sovereignty, righteousness, justice, eternal life, immutability, veracity, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence. I think God even has a sense of humor.** Do you believe that? Look in the mirror, He made you, sure He's got a sense of humor. You know, there are three categories of love in the human race. There's love for God, there's love for your spouse (your right man or your right woman), and then there's friendship love (appreciation for one another). You may have at least one friend that you love and appreciate. You should have personal love for God. If you love Him, you will obey Him and the base of this love is the filling of the Holy Spirit. In the spiritual life, **1 John 2:5, "Whoever keeps His Word, truly the love of God is perfected in him."** Because of this, we know we are in Him. So love is a test. The test is, will you obey? Are you motivated to obey since you love God? That's why I tell you, love for God is motivational virtue. *"If you love Me, you will obey Me"* (John 14:15). Then love for other people, like friends or your husband or your wife or your children, that's a different type of love. **Love for God is motivational virtue and love for others is a functional virtue.** You see, one motivates you, the other is you carrying it out. Every believer who becomes spiritually mature hopefully will have the love of God in their soul. It's an essential part of the spiritual character of any individual. But love is only as strong as the essence of the character of the person who claims to have it. It's not simply an overt expression, it's not simply an emotional experience, it's not physical touch. It is appreciation, dedication and orientation to the authority of God. He is God. Do you love Him? Do you obey Him? Or do you just like to use Him as the genie in the eight-ball and kind of call on Him when you get in a jam? If you do, you don't love God. You love yourself. You're more concerned about who you are than what He wants. People that have no capacity for love are always people uptight. They don't have a sense of humor because basically they take themselves too serious. Let me tell you something, God was in business before you got here and God will be in business long after you're gone so lighten up a little bit. Experience doesn't make a good lover. We know that. The two men who knew the most about love in the whole Bible never got married, either one of them - Paul and Jeremiah. Neither one of them were

married. But they both spoke a lot about love. The more experiences one has in the opposite sex the further they are from knowing what real love is all about. I mean, you know a lot of kids today want to have sex with a lot of different people. That's not love. That's immorality. That's adultery. Fornication. It has no bearing on love. Love is not a physical act. Love is a mental appreciation in your soul. It's respect. It's care. It's compassion. It's concern. It's humility for authority. Has nothing to do with physical stuff. So what makes a good lover? Philippians 1:9, *"I pray that your love would increase with more knowledge and with wisdom."* The more you know about God, the more you understand God. The more you understand God, the more you appreciate God. The more you understand God, the more you comprehend God's design and desire for you. See love is like a river. I live near a river. I like to do a lot of bass fishing. My river has a flow or a current it goes in a certain direction. Love has a flow or a current. Now if my river has a lot of rain and we get a flood then the water can get out of the banks and do a lot of damage. It can cover boat houses. It can wash away piers. It can break the moorings loose on boats. Well when love gets out of the banks, you see love has two banks. **Love is contained with knowledge on one side and with wisdom on the other side. It's never to get out of the banks out-of-control where this means emotions take over and you start operating on feelings running amok.** If you operate on feelings or emotions running amok you'll do more damage than good. And so love is not that. **Love is capacity for life. Love is you loving God and obeying God. And the Word of God in your soul will help you approve the things that are excellent. It will help you "...to be sincere without offense to the day of Christ" (Philippians 1:10).** Philippians 1:9-10 talks about this. You can read it for yourself. So the more of the Word of God you learn, the more you realize the importance of loving God, **the importance of being occupied with Jesus Christ, which is our final problem-solving device.** And also the more you learn about Him, the greater your capacity to love your spouse and to love your friends. So the Word of God maintains that your love should be on an even balance. We don't just scatter love over objects everywhere. Love was never designed to be that way. I mean you can't love things that weren't designed to be the object of your love. I know you say, 'I love my car, I love my boat, I love my whatever.' Well that's fine. God gave you those things, enjoy them. But what should be your center of love in your life is personal love for God. Do you love Him? I'm asking you, do you love Him? *"If you love Me, you will obey Me (John 14:15)* and *"...My mandates are not grievous" (1 John 5:3).* Jesus Christ, our Lord said it this way, He said, *"Come to Me, all you that labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. [He said] Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me... [He said] My yoke is easy, and My burden is light"* (Matthew 11:28-30). I mean, the Father is not going to ask you to do something you can't do. He's not going to ask you to throw away everything you've got, move to the middle of Africa and become a missionary to the natives. That's not what He's going to ask you to do. He's going to ask you to grow up.

He's going to ask you to make Him the center of your world, to be occupied with Jesus Christ to the point that you love Him even though you haven't seen Him, that you understand the essence of God, you have knowledge about God and you have wisdom, which is how to use that knowledge. So as you learn the Word of God, you realize the importance of loving God and being occupied with Christ. Do you have a pastor that teaches you this? This is one of the problems. We need men in the pulpit that will teach this. We need men in the pulpit that will teach what the love of God is. The Word of God helps you maintain your love on an even balance. That's critical for you. In Philippians 1:11, *"being filled with the fruit of righteousness which are by Christ Jesus, to the glory and the praise of God."* The principle of that verse right there is built on capacity for love, capacity for love. Paul prays that their love, in verse nine, might abound with the production of divine good. Divine good. Do you know the difference between divine good and human good? You need to remember this. Human good is anything you do for God in the energy of your flesh. That means you have unconfessed sin in your life, you are not filled with the Holy Spirit, and yet you went to church, you went to Sunday school, you gave some money, whatever. That's human good. The same thing can be divine good if you're filled with the Holy Spirit. If you've used rebound you've confessed any known sin to God, this means you're filled with the Holy Spirit. And then if you go to church or go to Sunday school or sing in the choir or put money in the offering then that's divine good. Then God can reward you for those things. There's a difference between this and the difference is your motivation. Some people have lust, lust for attention. They do some of these things. Some people go to church just to get attention. Some people promenade up and down the aisles just so people will notice them. Some people go to church for business opportunities. That's not why you should go. You know, Paul prays their love would abound with the production of divine good. The maximum impact in the church age is divine good. It's not a point system. It is automatically the things that you produce if you love God. And that's a big if. Do you love Him? I've asked you that once or twice on this show, I'm asking you again. Do you really love Him? Because if you do, you will obey Him. Why do you say you love God and you don't obey Him? Why do you tell people you love God and then you keep that part of your life hidden. And you think no one knows about it? God said He searches the hearts and the minds of all of us. He knows all of our thoughts. He knows the things we hide and He knows the things we do openly. You're not kidding anybody. He knows you. Do you love Him? Are you willing to obey Him? My suggestion to you is to get real. Don't go running to your pastor and admit some things you don't need to admit. Just do this. Go to God the Father. Lay your soul open before the Father. Tell Him the sin you've been involved in. Ask Him to cleanse you from it. Then get up off your knees and start advancing forward. Start taking the Word of God seriously. Find a time every day that you sit down under the ministry of a well-qualified pastor and you study God's Word. Get a notebook, get a Bible, start digging,

start learning. It is a treasure. Paul in the Bible says we have a treasure and the Greek word for treasure is *thesaurus*. **The Bible is a word treasure.** God gave you a word treasure and that's why the Bible says, "*The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and the spirit and the joints and the marrow and is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart*" (Hebrews 4:12). You have a treasure. Do you spend it? Do you invest it? It's God's Word. You should. It's yours. Think about it. Divine good has a maximum impact in the church age. Divine good is not a point system. So if you have the Word of God in your soul, flowing in your consciousness, then this is how love functions. Love, *agapao* or *agape* is a mental attitude love and it relates to the mentality of your soul with emphasis of the exclusion of mental attitude sins. And *philos* or philadelphia, brotherly love, entire soul love is never commanded, it's developed. Occupation with Christ is *philos*. Love is not necessary for unity, that's not what I'm saying. **Love is necessary for stability in the angelic conflict. It is a spiritual weapon.** And what pulls the trigger? It's the faith-rest drill. Love is your weapon. In 1 Peter 1:22, "*Now that you have purified your souls by obedience to the truth so that you have genuine love, love for one another developed deeply from the heart.*" There's no room for bitterness. There's no room for antagonism. There's no room for hatred, implacability, hostility in the local church. Now that you purified your soul by obedience to the truth, remember "*If you love Me, you will obey Me.*" Okay, does God allow you to have grudges and to be bitter? No. Ephesians 4:32, "*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another.*" The guy you can't forgive is the guy you've got to love. How can you love him? Well you don't use personal love. That's for God. You use impersonal love. That's for me. **Impersonal love, you're loving me or him based on your character, not ours.** Do you want to obey God? Do you want to have genuine love for one another deeply, from the heart? You've been purified (that means you have been cleansed ceremonially) and you now have genuine mutual love one for another. Isn't that amazing? There are several ways you can purify yourself. I guess you could take a shower or jump in the tub but I'm talking about by rebounding, by confessing your known sin. You handle your sin and then, that's the first way, the other way is by letting the Word of God flow freely through your conscience. You have a conscience, a stream of consciousness, and in the stream of consciousness is where the Word of God flows like a river and it affects your mentality and your vocabulary. It affects so much of you. **So as you learn God's Word, Biblical inculcation, the first thing that happens is your conscience is made pure.** All of the devious things you've done that have created scar tissue in your soul, like plaque in an artery, it begins to wash out and you begin to be pure. It's a wonderful way. If I told you I could get rid of all the plaque in your arteries today with one simple thing, you'd like that. Well this is how you get rid of all the plaque spiritually. All the things that flow in your stream of consciousness that scarred you up. You purify your soul with the Word of God.

Scar tissue on the soul can pollute your consciousness if you don't get rid of it. If you don't rebound then you can eventually find yourself in a situation where you don't even have guilt anymore. You have no understanding. You betrayed your soul. You polluted your thoughts, your life, and you've become useless in the plan of God. You don't love God. You love yourself. You love what you want to do. That's what you love. Personal love for God means you obey the truth, 1 Peter 1:22. You comply, you submit, you obey. That's not a system of salvation, it's a system of positional sanctification where you are growing spiritually, staying filled with the Holy Spirit, honoring God with your personal love for Him. It is the most critical thing in your life. *"If you love Me, you will obey Me"* and *"My mandates are not grievous."* Remember that. From a pure heart, the Bible says, we need to love one another fervently. That's your job. That's your task. That's what I'm challenging you with today. **Personal love for God is an amazing problem-solving device because it gives you the motivation to live the Christian life as you truly should.** Not some emotional fire you up and it leaves when you leave tomorrow. That's not it. It is appreciation. It is occupation with Christ. It is consideration of God's will in your life. That's personal love for God and it's un-replaceable. It is the thing that will motivate you to be the man or the woman that God intended for you to be. Now we're going to talk about impersonal love next. That's how you love weirdos. So come back. Don't forget about me. Next Sunday, same time, same place. Until then, I'm your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Introduction to the FLOT Line - Part 9

Transcript of the FLOT Line Introduction Series - Episode 9

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I am your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes I'd like to invite you to stay with me. It's going to be a time of motivation, some inspiration, some education but we always do this without any type of manipulation which means we don't have a con game going on here. We're not trying to hit you up for money. We're not trying to get you to join anything or confess up anything or give up anything. We're just asking you to listen, listen. Listen as I seek to verify and identify God's plan for your life. If I'm able to do that, you can orient and adjust to the plan. That's up to you. The FLOT Line, this radio show, may be new in your area. You may be just beginning to hear us. I hope we will be around for a long time. Let me remind you what FLOT stands for. FLOT is a military term. It stands for a forward line of troops. We're using a military metaphor here. We're saying that, as a believer in Jesus Christ, you can establish a main line of resistance in your soul, as it is, a forward line of troops, a main line of resistance. If you do that, you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress since adversity is inevitable but we know that stress is optional. I mean, adversity is what circumstances do to you and stress is what you do to yourself. So it is possible as a Christian, as a believer in Jesus Christ, to live a life free of stress. Not free of adversity, no. But definitely free of stress. **This means a life where you don't have to worry, a life where you don't have to be afraid, a life where you never have to have bitterness, a life where you don't have to live in guilt. These are stress factors in your life and there's a better way to live.** Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior, He identified this life when He came into this world, took upon Himself the form of a human and demonstrated to us that it's possible to live in the devil's world and not even sin. He did that. That qualified Him to go to the cross and to be our redeemer, the one who redeemed us out of the slave market of sin, the one who purchased us. But if we learn God's Word...what we've done is we've put this into ten unique problem-solving devices. These ten problem-solving devices make up the FLOT line on your soul. They're not anything new. This is not some new discovery that we've made. This is age-old Biblical doctrine. It's probably stuff you already know. Like a guy told me one time, 'You didn't tell me something I didn't know but you put it in a way I never heard it put before. In other words, it made sense to me.' So we're not about talking in terms of clichés that don't make sense. We want to give you this information hopefully to encourage you as a believer in Jesus Christ, **to challenge you as a believer in Jesus Christ so that you can continue to replicate the life of Christ.** And through your local church you can represent Christ. You can identify with a local church where there is a qualified pastor teaching God's Word and you can represent Christ to the community through that church and you can replicate the life of Christ in your personal identity as you take on His personality traits. Humility is one of them, He humbled himself and

made Himself of no reputation. And you take on His intentionality, why He came, what is the whole purpose for you to serve. We've been through many of the problem-solving devices already. This is our ninth introductory show, as we're running through these ten unique problem-solving devices. We haven't covered one every show. We've stretched it out. We've been dealing with love as a problem-solving device in the last couple of radio shows. If you happened to listen, you know there are two types of love. There is personal love for God. **We are mandated in the Bible to love God. The Bible says, "If you love Me, you will obey Me" (1 John 5:3) and "...His mandates are not hard" (1 John 5:3).** We are mandated to... **1 John 4 says we should love Him as He first loved us. That's reciprocal love. We love back because He first loved us.** We know He first loved us because John 3:16 says God so loved the world that it motivated Him to give His only begotten Son. Yes, **Christ was the sacrifice God the Father made to redeem us out of the slave market of sin.** Now, personal love for God is the greatest motivational virtue you could ever have as a Christian. This is what motivates you to obey Him as you love Him. The Bible says if you've never seen Him and love Him that's an amazing thing. If you love Him and you haven't seen Him. You haven't seen God, you may think you have but you haven't. You haven't seen the Lord Jesus Christ because He's seated at the right hand of the Father waiting on the shouted order to return and take us with Him back to heaven at the exit resurrection. I said last week or so, if you think you've seen Jesus you need to see a doctor because you haven't seen Him, not yet. When He comes the whole world will see Him at one time and it will not be a mistake. He will be easily recognizable, I assure you. So personal love for God is the reason that we do what we do. It's the reason that we love our wives or husbands, it's the reason that we love our church, it's the reason that we love our pastor, it's the reason we love our children because it motivates us to obey God. Personal love for God is the reason we live the way that we live. But there's another love and this love is called impersonal love. **Impersonal love is a different type of love. This is you loving an unlovable person.** I mean, didn't God do that for you? *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."* (John 3:16). Were you a lovable person when He sent Christ to die for you? I mean, He knew what you were, He knew you had an Adamic sin nature. He knew that. You still have it and you know it pops up quite often doesn't it? You may think nobody knows about it but the Bible says in 2 Chronicles 16:9, *"The eyes of the Lord search to and fro over the whole earth..."* He knows your weaknesses. He knows your sin nature pattern and lust patterns. But impersonal love is an amazing thing. It is a wonderful problem-solving device. It's one of the ten unique problem-solving devices. **Impersonal love is what we call problem-solving device #8. It's unconditional love towards all mankind.** Even the worst obnoxious jerks that are out there - you've got to love them. That's what God said. He loved you didn't He? And you were kind of obnoxious too. He says we are to love them. **The emphasis is on the virtue of the lover not the virtue of the receiver.** Not the

object. Your virtue, not their virtue. I mean, the prodigal son returned home to a loving father but to a very jealous obnoxious brother. Maybe you have an obnoxious jealous brother yourself and you have to love him. How do you love someone that you can't stand? Someone that is just repulsive to you? Someone that just every time you see them the hair on the back of your neck stands up? And yet the Bible says you have to love that person. You see, impersonal love is the ultimate expression of a virtuous Christian as well as the demonstration of humility in their life. For example, Philemon and Onesimus in the Bible. Onesimus, the runaway slave that Paul sent back, faced the death penalty. Paul said consider him who is *"no longer a slave, but a beloved brother, especially to me, but much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. Then if you count me as a partner, receive him as you would receive me"* (Philemon 1:16-17). So Paul is encouraging Philemon to forgive Onesimus, to love him. Personal love for people, personal love for people, I'm going to say it one more time, **personal love for people is never commanded in the Bible - personal love for God is.** Personal love for people is not. Impersonal love is required by God as part of the operational plan of God, yes. And thus, you can love even when the object of your love is not worthy of it. **But personal love, which is the motivational virtue of a Christian's life, is reserved for God.** We love God. **Impersonal love is reserved for our friends and for our spouse and for others.** In Ephesians 5:25 the Bible says, *"Husbands, love your wives..."* That word love there is in the imperative mood in the morphology of the Greek text. What that means is this is not a request. This is a divine mandate. Now if you're a husband and you have a wife and you don't love her you are sinning. It's just that simple. When the Bible says, *"husbands, love your wives"* that's exactly what it means. So you don't love your wife. You hate her. She's a nag. She drives you nuts. And you, you're looking for happiness in all the wrong places, aren't you? If you think God doesn't know about that then you have got a big surprise coming. You are to love your wife, even with her nagging, even with her obnoxious behavior. You are to love her. The present active imperative says you're always to love her. The present tense indicates what we call the durative present. The active voice says the subject produces the action of the verb. And the imperative is a command. You say I love her when she's sweet but I hate her when she can be...you know she can be mean. I had a guy tell me one time about his wife, he said, 'She can be really mean.' So he didn't love her when she got mean. He just loved her when she was sweet. But husbands love your wives means love them all the time. Does God love you all the time? Does God ever get mad at you? Does God ever cut you off? Does God ever say, 'I'm not talking to you anymore'? No, He loves you when you sin and become repulsive. In Titus 2:4 the Bible says that older women should *"teach the younger women to love their husbands and to love their children."* **So love is something that has to be learned. It's not natural, it's learned.** See that word, teach the younger women to love their husbands. Impersonal love. Impersonal love. Hebrews 13:1, *"Let brotherly love continue."* That's a present

active imperative verb again, a mandate from God, not a request. **Impersonal love for others doesn't work until it's motivated by personal love for God.** So, if you love God, if you have personal love for God then you will have impersonal love for others, even the WOJs. What's that? The weird, obnoxious, jerks. Those people with a personality disorder that you can't stand. If you love God you can love them because you're loving them based on who you are not based on who they are. Isn't that the way God loves you? **God loves you based on who He is, not on who you are.** You know there are times you're lovable and there are times you're not. You know what I'm talking about. So impersonal love is an adjective meaning connection or point of reference. It's more of a professional attitude. It's you having the attitude of respect for other people. Of you having the attitude of a relaxed mental attitude for other people. You can only have that when you have personal love for God. If you don't love God...1 John 5:3, you won't keep His mandates. I just gave you some of the mandates. I just gave them to you. The imperative moods are the mandates. Do you love God? 'Yes, I do.' Are you loving your wife? Are you loving your husband? Are you loving your children? Even when they're not lovable? Even when they get on your nerves? Do you react and blow up and do you yell and do you throw things and do you cop an attitude and do you get Mr. self-pity and Mrs. self-pity? That's not love. **That's emotion and emotions will destroy you.** Emotions will destroy your marriage, will destroy your relationship with your family, will destroy your relationship with your church... You can't live by emotions. They're wonderful. They're appreciators. I get emotional when I'm fishing. I went fishing last night. I love to bass fish and I was fishing last night late into the night with the moon up and no other boats on the lake. I get emotional, it's so wonderful, so beautiful, so peaceful. But that...I mean, that doesn't carry me in my spiritual life when I'm dealing with my sin and when I'm dealing with the mandates that God lays on me. It's not the love for the lake that gets me there, it's my personal love for God the Father that gets me where I need to be. **Without impersonal love you'll never have good human relationships.** Never. You'll constantly change your friends. You'll constantly change your partner in romance, your spouse in marriage because you have no basis to hold onto them or to keep that relationship together because it's a one-way street. You want to be loved but you can't love yourself because you keep handling it the wrong way. You keep trying to handle it with personal love and personal love is reserved for God. It's impersonal love that you use with people. That's the trick here. Emotions are designed by God to appreciate any relationship but never, never, never are we to build a relationship on emotion. We build a relationship on love - impersonal love. **Virtue in the Christian life is personal love for God, it's not emotion.** Virtue is void of any type of emotion. Emotions are wonderful, they're appreciators of the soul but they're not the way you live the Christian life. Emotions can't think. Emotions can't rationalize. Emotions can't solve problems. But the Word of God can. And when you love God and when you do what the

Bible tells you to do, let me quote it for you - *“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15) - when you do that, you’ll find the solutions to problems. When you are faithful to sit under the authority of a well qualified pastor and to listen to him teach God’s Word and then go home and apply it into your life, you learn it and apply it, as Jesus said in Luke 11:28, *“Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father’s Word and keep it.”* If you can’t keep it, you can’t apply it. So virtue is void of emotion. I mean, maybe you went to church and maybe you got emotionally satisfied and it was a wonderful service and that’s great but that’s not what sustains you when you leave that church. Those emotions will let you down. **What sustains you is the Word of God in your soul circulating through your stream of consciousness, stored up in the wisdom department of your soul where you have spiritual understanding.** Now you’re able to identify, you’re able to specifically know what’s in front of you and how to handle it. What would God have me to do? What’s God’s will for my life? What does God want me to do with this person or that person? There are so many things you have to learn and emotions can’t learn those things. Emotions just sit there with a big smile on your face - I’m so happy-happy-happy-happy - and then the smile goes and - I’m so sad-sad-sad. The Christian life is not meant to be lived on an emotional roller coaster. **The Christian life is designed to be lived on a plane that is going up constantly from spiritual self-esteem to spiritual autonomy to spiritual maturity to where you give maximum glorification to God for everything in your life.** Arrogant people always seek this unconditional love from other people. But do you know what? The only thing they can offer in return is some sort of conditional love. Arrogant people are like that. Arrogant people don’t see themselves as they really are. They see themselves as they think they are. They look in the mirror and they think they’re one thing and they, you know, they have an unrealistic self-image so they have unrealistic expectations. But if a person has some humility well then they know what a jerk they really can be sometimes. Arrogant people always seek this unconditional love from you, from other people, but the only thing they can offer you is conditional love. In other words, they will love you if you meet the conditions they demand. So the greater the arrogance, the greater the conditions are put on love. Unfortunately most men do this to the women that they love or they claim they love. But personal love for God, without impersonal love for others as a virtue, is the weakest and most unstable status quo in life. It’s unbelievably vulnerable. You can’t live that way. You cannot operate that way. It’s vulnerable to the entire realm of arrogance and emotion. **Your two biggest enemies are arrogance and emotions.** In John 15:12, *“This is My mandate, that you love one another, as I loved you.”* In 1 John 4:20, *“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and he hates his fellow believer, he is a liar...”* Now, I’m just going to ask you a straight up question. I’ve asked myself this question. Is there somebody you hate? Is there somebody you can’t stand? I mean, I’ve been that way. I have to admit that

sometimes I get this way especially if I'm driving. There are some people I'd like to pull over and knock a knot on their head. But have you, in your life, is there a person right now that just literally blows your fuse? Well, you're not loving him. And the reason you're not loving him...it doesn't mean you've got to go up and put your arms around his neck and cry and weep and say, 'Oh brother, I love you.' That's not what I'm talking about. Impersonal love as a problem-solving device gives you the ability to be around this obnoxious person you can't stand and to have a relaxed mental attitude, to maintain your poise, not to get emotional, not to get arrogant, but to be able to look at them and realize that God sent His Son to die for this person, that Jesus Christ laid His life down so that this man or this woman can have eternal life. You must respect what God did for that person just like He did it for you. You have no right, no right to criticize them. You have no right to tell them go to...you know where, you've said it, you know what I'm talking about. You have no right to say that. God sent His Son to pay the ultimate price, to redeem that person out of the slave market of sin. So what happens is your emotions kick in and instead of responding you react. You see, if you react you react with emotions. If you react to someone you react with emotions. If you respond to someone you respond with forgiveness. That's what I'm trying to say. **Forgiveness is a responder and hatred and vilification and bitterness and antagonism, these are all reactionary things.** This is what makes your life so miserable because you carry in your life this hatred. You carry in your life this antagonism for one, two maybe three people. Maybe they shafted you in a business deal. Maybe they didn't return to you something they borrowed. Maybe they stepped over the bounds with your spouse and you have never forgiven them. See that's the key thing. Impersonal love forgives. Did God forgive you? Did He love you with impersonal love? He had to love you with impersonal love, there was nothing for you to...listen, God is absolutely love and you were absolutely sin, what could He love you with? Only with His character and only with His essence. Does He love you today now that you're saved? Yes, with personal love. Yes, because now you're adopted into His family. Now you're a member of the royal family of God. Now you have the righteousness of Jesus Christ given to you, thus God loves Christ in you, 2 Corinthians 5:21. Before you got saved, He still loved you and He forgave you. He forgave you your sin when He sent His Son to go to the cross and pay for it. When He died on that cross and shed His blood for you, your sin was paid for. But you, you have a problem forgiving, don't you? If Christ died for you, did He die for the people you hate? He sure did. Did He die for the people who stole from you, that guy that worked for you and stole from you or that guy that did whatever? Yes, He did. Did He die for your brother or your sister? Are you having a problem like that where you can't get along with your brother or your sister or maybe even your parents because they offend you, they make you mad, you react, you don't know what impersonal love is. **Impersonal love is a tremendous problem-solving device.** Do you want to know why? **Because it takes the monkey off**

your back. You don't have to love them. You just have to forgive them. It's the easiest thing in the world. What did Jesus our Lord and Savior say on the cross, "*Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing*" (Luke 23:34). God forgave you. You can forgive them. That way you keep your emotions out of it. That way you keep your arrogance out of it. And that way when you look at them what you see is a person just like you. You love yourself don't you? You look in the mirror and you say, you know, I love me. Well then you can love them too based on your integrity, based on your virtue, not theirs. They may not forgive you. They may hate you forever. It doesn't make any difference. **Impersonal love gives you the ability to move among them and not be offended, to move among them and not be angry and mad, to not let them get under your skin because you're loving them based on your virtue. What is your virtue?**

Personal love for God. You love them because God loves you. That's what the verses said as we looked at it in the beginning of this study. You are mandated to love your brother - you're mandated - this is not a request. This is an order from God. So I want you to take a look around into your life and want you to look at the people that you hate. I don't want you to run up to them and say, 'I'm so sorry brother I hated you. Would you forgive me?' That's not what I'm asking you to do. What I'm asking you to do is confess your sin to God. "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all unrighteousness*" (1 John 1:9). Secondly, I'm asking you to learn God's Word so that you can use this problem-solving device so that when you are around them you don't have to be bitter, you don't have to be angry, you don't have to be jealous, you don't have to be vindictive, you don't even have to feel guilt because of what they might've done to you. Abuse is a horrible thing. Can you love a person that abused you? You can only through God's love. **Personal love for God is the greatest virtue in the world. Impersonal love for others is a wonderful functional virtue. You are loving based on who you are, not based on who they are.** It's an amazing way to live, I promise you. It's a problem-solving device the world doesn't even know about. Are you listening? Are you learning? Are you paying attention? I hope you are. Because we'll be back next Sunday, same time, same place, same channel. I hope you'll come. I hope you'll stay tuned and listen. Until then, this is your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

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Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I am your host Rick Hughes. For the next few minutes I'd like to invite you to stay with me. It's going to be a time of motivation, some inspiration, some education but we always do this without any type of manipulation which means we don't have a con game going on here. We're not trying to hit you up for money. We're not trying to get you to join anything or confess up anything or give up anything. We're just asking you to listen, listen. Listen as I seek to verify and identify God's plan for your life. If I'm able to do that, you can orient and adjust to the plan. That's up to you. The FLOT Line, this radio show, may be new in your area. You may be just beginning to hear us. I hope we will be around for a long time. Let me remind you what FLOT stands for. FLOT is a military term. It stands for a forward line of troops. We're using a military metaphor here. We're saying that, as a believer in Jesus Christ, you can establish a main line of resistance in your soul, as it is, a forward line of troops, a main line of resistance. If you do that, you can stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress since adversity is inevitable but we know that stress is optional. I mean, adversity is what circumstances do to you and stress is what you do to yourself. So it is possible as a Christian, as a believer in Jesus Christ, to live a life free of stress. Not free of adversity, no. But definitely free of stress. **This means a life where you don't have to worry, a life where you don't have to be afraid, a life where you never have to have bitterness, a life where you don't have to live in guilt. These are stress factors in your life and there's a better way to live.** Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior, He identified this life when He came into this world, took upon Himself the form of a human and demonstrated to us that it's possible to live in the devil's world and not even sin. He did that. That qualified Him to go to the cross and to be our redeemer, the one who redeemed us out of the slave market of sin, the one who purchased us. But if we learn God's Word...what we've done is we've put this into ten unique problem-solving devices. These ten problem-solving devices make up the FLOT line on your soul. They're not anything new. This is not some new discovery that we've made. This is age-old Biblical doctrine. It's probably stuff you already know. Like a guy told me one time, 'You didn't tell me something I didn't know but you put it in a way I never heard it put before. In other words, it made sense to me.' So we're not about talking in terms of clichés that don't make sense. We want to give you this information hopefully to encourage you as a believer in Jesus Christ, **to challenge you as a believer in Jesus Christ so that you can continue to replicate the life of Christ.** And through your local church you can represent Christ. You can identify with a local church where there is a qualified pastor teaching God's Word and you can represent Christ to the community through that church and you can replicate the life of Christ in your personal identity as you take on His personality traits. Humility is one of them, He humbled himself and

made Himself of no reputation. And you take on His intentionality, why He came, what is the whole purpose for you to serve. We've been through many of the problem-solving devices already. This is our ninth introductory show, as we're running through these ten unique problem-solving devices. We haven't covered one every show. We've stretched it out. We've been dealing with love as a problem-solving device in the last couple of radio shows. If you happened to listen, you know there are two types of love. There is personal love for God. **We are mandated in the Bible to love God. The Bible says, "If you love Me, you will obey Me" (1 John 5:3) and "...His mandates are not hard" (1 John 5:3).** We are mandated to... **1 John 4 says we should love Him as He first loved us. That's reciprocal love. We love back because He first loved us.** We know He first loved us because John 3:16 says God so loved the world that it motivated Him to give His only begotten Son. Yes, **Christ was the sacrifice God the Father made to redeem us out of the slave market of sin.** Now, personal love for God is the greatest motivational virtue you could ever have as a Christian. This is what motivates you to obey Him as you love Him. The Bible says if you've never seen Him and love Him that's an amazing thing. If you love Him and you haven't seen Him. You haven't seen God, you may think you have but you haven't. You haven't seen the Lord Jesus Christ because He's seated at the right hand of the Father waiting on the shouted order to return and take us with Him back to heaven at the exit resurrection. I said last week or so, if you think you've seen Jesus you need to see a doctor because you haven't seen Him, not yet. When He comes the whole world will see Him at one time and it will not be a mistake. He will be easily recognizable, I assure you. So personal love for God is the reason that we do what we do. It's the reason that we love our wives or husbands, it's the reason that we love our church, it's the reason that we love our pastor, it's the reason we love our children because it motivates us to obey God. Personal love for God is the reason we live the way that we live. But there's another love and this love is called impersonal love. **Impersonal love is a different type of love. This is you loving an unlovable person.** I mean, didn't God do that for you? *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."* (John 3:16). Were you a lovable person when He sent Christ to die for you? I mean, He knew what you were, He knew you had an Adamic sin nature. He knew that. You still have it and you know it pops up quite often doesn't it? You may think nobody knows about it but the Bible says in 2 Chronicles 16:9, *"The eyes of the Lord search to and fro over the whole earth..."* He knows your weaknesses. He knows your sin nature pattern and lust patterns. But impersonal love is an amazing thing. It is a wonderful problem-solving device. It's one of the ten unique problem-solving devices. **Impersonal love is what we call problem-solving device #8. It's unconditional love towards all mankind.** Even the worst obnoxious jerks that are out there - you've got to love them. That's what God said. He loved you didn't He? And you were kind of obnoxious too. He says we are to love them. **The emphasis is on the virtue of the lover not the virtue of the receiver.** Not the

object. Your virtue, not their virtue. I mean, the prodigal son returned home to a loving father but to a very jealous obnoxious brother. Maybe you have an obnoxious jealous brother yourself and you have to love him. How do you love someone that you can't stand? Someone that is just repulsive to you? Someone that just every time you see them the hair on the back of your neck stands up? And yet the Bible says you have to love that person. You see, impersonal love is the ultimate expression of a virtuous Christian as well as the demonstration of humility in their life. For example, Philemon and Onesimus in the Bible. Onesimus, the runaway slave that Paul sent back, faced the death penalty. Paul said consider him who is *"no longer a slave, but a beloved brother, especially to me, but much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. Then if you count me as a partner, receive him as you would receive me"* (Philemon 1:16-17). So Paul is encouraging Philemon to forgive Onesimus, to love him. Personal love for people, personal love for people, I'm going to say it one more time, **personal love for people is never commanded in the Bible - personal love for God is.** Personal love for people is not. Impersonal love is required by God as part of the operational plan of God, yes. And thus, you can love even when the object of your love is not worthy of it. **But personal love, which is the motivational virtue of a Christian's life, is reserved for God.** We love God. **Impersonal love is reserved for our friends and for our spouse and for others.** In Ephesians 5:25 the Bible says, *"Husbands, love your wives..."* That word love there is in the imperative mood in the morphology of the Greek text. What that means is this is not a request. This is a divine mandate. Now if you're a husband and you have a wife and you don't love her you are sinning. It's just that simple. When the Bible says, *"husbands, love your wives"* that's exactly what it means. So you don't love your wife. You hate her. She's a nag. She drives you nuts. And you, you're looking for happiness in all the wrong places, aren't you? If you think God doesn't know about that then you have got a big surprise coming. You are to love your wife, even with her nagging, even with her obnoxious behavior. You are to love her. The present active imperative says you're always to love her. The present tense indicates what we call the durative present. The active voice says the subject produces the action of the verb. And the imperative is a command. You say I love her when she's sweet but I hate her when she can be...you know she can be mean. I had a guy tell me one time about his wife, he said, 'She can be really mean.' So he didn't love her when she got mean. He just loved her when she was sweet. But husbands love your wives means love them all the time. Does God love you all the time? Does God ever get mad at you? Does God ever cut you off? Does God ever say, 'I'm not talking to you anymore'? No, He loves you when you sin and become repulsive. In Titus 2:4 the Bible says that older women should *"teach the younger women to love their husbands and to love their children."* **So love is something that has to be learned. It's not natural, it's learned.** See that word, teach the younger women to love their husbands. Impersonal love. Impersonal love. Hebrews 13:1, *"Let brotherly love continue."* That's a present

active imperative verb again, a mandate from God, not a request. **Impersonal love for others doesn't work until it's motivated by personal love for God.** So, if you love God, if you have personal love for God then you will have impersonal love for others, even the WOJs. What's that? The weird, obnoxious, jerks. Those people with a personality disorder that you can't stand. If you love God you can love them because you're loving them based on who you are not based on who they are. Isn't that the way God loves you? **God loves you based on who He is, not on who you are.** You know there are times you're lovable and there are times you're not. You know what I'm talking about. So impersonal love is an adjective meaning connection or point of reference. It's more of a professional attitude. It's you having the attitude of respect for other people. Of you having the attitude of a relaxed mental attitude for other people. You can only have that when you have personal love for God. If you don't love God...1 John 5:3, you won't keep His mandates. I just gave you some of the mandates. I just gave them to you. The imperative moods are the mandates. Do you love God? 'Yes, I do.' Are you loving your wife? Are you loving your husband? Are you loving your children? Even when they're not lovable? Even when they get on your nerves? Do you react and blow up and do you yell and do you throw things and do you cop an attitude and do you get Mr. self-pity and Mrs. self-pity? That's not love. **That's emotion and emotions will destroy you.** Emotions will destroy your marriage, will destroy your relationship with your family, will destroy your relationship with your church... You can't live by emotions. They're wonderful. They're appreciators. I get emotional when I'm fishing. I went fishing last night. I love to bass fish and I was fishing last night late into the night with the moon up and no other boats on the lake. I get emotional, it's so wonderful, so beautiful, so peaceful. But that...I mean, that doesn't carry me in my spiritual life when I'm dealing with my sin and when I'm dealing with the mandates that God lays on me. It's not the love for the lake that gets me there, it's my personal love for God the Father that gets me where I need to be. **Without impersonal love you'll never have good human relationships.** Never. You'll constantly change your friends. You'll constantly change your partner in romance, your spouse in marriage because you have no basis to hold onto them or to keep that relationship together because it's a one-way street. You want to be loved but you can't love yourself because you keep handling it the wrong way. You keep trying to handle it with personal love and personal love is reserved for God. It's impersonal love that you use with people. That's the trick here. Emotions are designed by God to appreciate any relationship but never, never, never are we to build a relationship on emotion. We build a relationship on love - impersonal love. **Virtue in the Christian life is personal love for God, it's not emotion.** Virtue is void of any type of emotion. Emotions are wonderful, they're appreciators of the soul but they're not the way you live the Christian life. Emotions can't think. Emotions can't rationalize. Emotions can't solve problems. But the Word of God can. And when you love God and when you do what the

Bible tells you to do, let me quote it for you - *“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15) - when you do that, you’ll find the solutions to problems. When you are faithful to sit under the authority of a well qualified pastor and to listen to him teach God’s Word and then go home and apply it into your life, you learn it and apply it, as Jesus said in Luke 11:28, *“Happiness belongs to those people who hear My Father’s Word and keep it.”* If you can’t keep it, you can’t apply it. So virtue is void of emotion. I mean, maybe you went to church and maybe you got emotionally satisfied and it was a wonderful service and that’s great but that’s not what sustains you when you leave that church. Those emotions will let you down. **What sustains you is the Word of God in your soul circulating through your stream of consciousness, stored up in the wisdom department of your soul where you have spiritual understanding.** Now you’re able to identify, you’re able to specifically know what’s in front of you and how to handle it. What would God have me to do? What’s God’s will for my life? What does God want me to do with this person or that person? There are so many things you have to learn and emotions can’t learn those things. Emotions just sit there with a big smile on your face - I’m so happy-happy-happy-happy - and then the smile goes and - I’m so sad-sad-sad. The Christian life is not meant to be lived on an emotional roller coaster. **The Christian life is designed to be lived on a plane that is going up constantly from spiritual self-esteem to spiritual autonomy to spiritual maturity to where you give maximum glorification to God for everything in your life.** Arrogant people always seek this unconditional love from other people. But do you know what? The only thing they can offer in return is some sort of conditional love. Arrogant people are like that. Arrogant people don’t see themselves as they really are. They see themselves as they think they are. They look in the mirror and they think they’re one thing and they, you know, they have an unrealistic self-image so they have unrealistic expectations. But if a person has some humility well then they know what a jerk they really can be sometimes. Arrogant people always seek this unconditional love from you, from other people, but the only thing they can offer you is conditional love. In other words, they will love you if you meet the conditions they demand. So the greater the arrogance, the greater the conditions are put on love. Unfortunately most men do this to the women that they love or they claim they love. But personal love for God, without impersonal love for others as a virtue, is the weakest and most unstable status quo in life. It’s unbelievably vulnerable. You can’t live that way. You cannot operate that way. It’s vulnerable to the entire realm of arrogance and emotion. **Your two biggest enemies are arrogance and emotions.** In John 15:12, *“This is My mandate, that you love one another, as I loved you.”* In 1 John 4:20, *“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and he hates his fellow believer, he is a liar...”* Now, I’m just going to ask you a straight up question. I’ve asked myself this question. Is there somebody you hate? Is there somebody you can’t stand? I mean, I’ve been that way. I have to admit that

sometimes I get this way especially if I'm driving. There are some people I'd like to pull over and knock a knot on their head. But have you, in your life, is there a person right now that just literally blows your fuse? Well, you're not loving him. And the reason you're not loving him...it doesn't mean you've got to go up and put your arms around his neck and cry and weep and say, 'Oh brother, I love you.' That's not what I'm talking about. Impersonal love as a problem-solving device gives you the ability to be around this obnoxious person you can't stand and to have a relaxed mental attitude, to maintain your poise, not to get emotional, not to get arrogant, but to be able to look at them and realize that God sent His Son to die for this person, that Jesus Christ laid His life down so that this man or this woman can have eternal life. You must respect what God did for that person just like He did it for you. You have no right, no right to criticize them. You have no right to tell them go to...you know where, you've said it, you know what I'm talking about. You have no right to say that. God sent His Son to pay the ultimate price, to redeem that person out of the slave market of sin. So what happens is your emotions kick in and instead of responding you react. You see, if you react you react with emotions. If you react to someone you react with emotions. If you respond to someone you respond with forgiveness. That's what I'm trying to say. **Forgiveness is a responder and hatred and vilification and bitterness and antagonism, these are all reactionary things.** This is what makes your life so miserable because you carry in your life this hatred. You carry in your life this antagonism for one, two maybe three people. Maybe they shafted you in a business deal. Maybe they didn't return to you something they borrowed. Maybe they stepped over the bounds with your spouse and you have never forgiven them. See that's the key thing. Impersonal love forgives. Did God forgive you? Did He love you with impersonal love? He had to love you with impersonal love, there was nothing for you to...listen, God is absolutely love and you were absolutely sin, what could He love you with? Only with His character and only with His essence. Does He love you today now that you're saved? Yes, with personal love. Yes, because now you're adopted into His family. Now you're a member of the royal family of God. Now you have the righteousness of Jesus Christ given to you, thus God loves Christ in you, 2 Corinthians 5:21. Before you got saved, He still loved you and He forgave you. He forgave you your sin when He sent His Son to go to the cross and pay for it. When He died on that cross and shed His blood for you, your sin was paid for. But you, you have a problem forgiving, don't you? If Christ died for you, did He die for the people you hate? He sure did. Did He die for the people who stole from you, that guy that worked for you and stole from you or that guy that did whatever? Yes, He did. Did He die for your brother or your sister? Are you having a problem like that where you can't get along with your brother or your sister or maybe even your parents because they offend you, they make you mad, you react, you don't know what impersonal love is. **Impersonal love is a tremendous problem-solving device.** Do you want to know why? **Because it takes the monkey off**

your back. You don't have to love them. You just have to forgive them. It's the easiest thing in the world. What did Jesus our Lord and Savior say on the cross, "*Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing*" (Luke 23:34). God forgave you. You can forgive them. That way you keep your emotions out of it. That way you keep your arrogance out of it. And that way when you look at them what you see is a person just like you. You love yourself don't you? You look in the mirror and you say, you know, I love me. Well then you can love them too based on your integrity, based on your virtue, not theirs. They may not forgive you. They may hate you forever. It doesn't make any difference. **Impersonal love gives you the ability to move among them and not be offended, to move among them and not be angry and mad, to not let them get under your skin because you're loving them based on your virtue. What is your virtue?**

Personal love for God. You love them because God loves you. That's what the verses said as we looked at it in the beginning of this study. You are mandated to love your brother - you're mandated - this is not a request. This is an order from God. So I want you to take a look around into your life and want you to look at the people that you hate. I don't want you to run up to them and say, 'I'm so sorry brother I hated you. Would you forgive me?' That's not what I'm asking you to do. What I'm asking you to do is confess your sin to God. "*If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from all unrighteousness*" (1 John 1:9). Secondly, I'm asking you to learn God's Word so that you can use this problem-solving device so that when you are around them you don't have to be bitter, you don't have to be angry, you don't have to be jealous, you don't have to be vindictive, you don't even have to feel guilt because of what they might've done to you. Abuse is a horrible thing. Can you love a person that abused you? You can only through God's love. **Personal love for God is the greatest virtue in the world. Impersonal love for others is a wonderful functional virtue. You are loving based on who you are, not based on who they are.** It's an amazing way to live, I promise you. It's a problem-solving device the world doesn't even know about. Are you listening? Are you learning? Are you paying attention? I hope you are. Because we'll be back next Sunday, same time, same place, same channel. I hope you'll come. I hope you'll stay tuned and listen. Until then, this is your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.

Introduction to the FLOT Line - Part 10

Transcript of the FLOT Line Introduction Series - Episode 10

Good morning and welcome back to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes here at the FLOT Line every Sunday morning, same time, same place giving you thirty minutes of motivation, some inspiration, some education and of course we do it all without any manipulation. We're not trying to con anybody. We're not hustling anybody for money. We're not trying to get you to join up, fess it up, give it up. We just would like for you to listen up. Listen as I try to give you some information. Information that will help you verify and identify the plan of God for your life. And if you would like to orient and adjust to that plan then you have the freedom, you have the privacy to do that. But my job is to get it accurate and get it right, not to play with your emotions, not to try to get you fired up but to give you accurate information. Not some kind of human speculation now but accurate information from the Word of God, the canon of Scripture, the Bible. That's right, it's a show about the Bible and there are a lot of shows about the Bible on radio. I know that. I hope we're not just one of the many. The FLOT Line is the name of our show. F.L.O.T. Sometimes people wonder what that means. It is a military term. Although this is not a show about the military we use this analogy, F.L.O.T, forward line of troops. What we are teaching is that there are at least ten wonderful problem-solving devices found in the Scriptures in the living Word of God. If you will learn them and use them they will act as a main line of resistance in your soul. They will be your FLOT line, your main line of resistance, your forward line of troops. If you will use them they will stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside source of stress because adversity is inevitable, however, stress is optional. And so in these few basic series I have been introducing you to those ten unique problem-solving devices. We've introduced you to rebound, one of the most wonderful problem-solving devices we have. That lets us solve the problem of sin because when we sin, we have a problem and we can go to God as per 1 John 1:9, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* Then our second problem-solving device is the filling of the Holy Spirit. This solves the problem of our genetically formed sin nature that wants to control us, the one we got from Adam. But through the filling of the Holy Spirit, the Bible says, *"walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh"* (Galatians 5:16). **This Christian life is a unique life with unique power assets, a unique power system, and that is the living Word of God and the filling of the Holy Spirit.** Combine these two things together and you have unlimited potential in your spiritual life. The filling of the Holy Spirit is brought about by rebound. When you name any known sin to God then you alleviate the quenching of the Holy Spirit, you alleviate the grieving of the Holy Spirit and you go back to being filled with the Holy Spirit. You were indwelt by the Holy Spirit the minute you got saved and you were filled by the Holy Spirit the minute you got saved. But the minute you committed

your first sin, you quenched the Spirit and grieved the Spirit. Now the Bible teaches all this and we've taught it all to you before hopefully if you've listened. If you'd like information we have those ten unique problem-solving devices in the booklet form, free of charge. No charge ever for anything here. If you'd like to have a copy of it, all you have to do is write to me, Rick Hughes, at either PO Box 100, Cropwell, AL 35054, don't send money it's free I told you, or you can go to the Internet and you can look at rickhughesministries.org and you can order from there. The information that I'm talking to you about, those ten unique problem-solving devices, they're all in a book called *Christian Problem Solving*. Yes, we rebound. Yes, we're filled with the Holy Spirit. Yes, there is the faith-rest drill - one of the most wonderful problem-solving devices. **Over 7,000 promises in the Bible and they are all our shield of faith according to Ephesians 6.** They're ours and we can stand behind them and we can use them. Then there is Biblical orientation and that keeps us from thinking human viewpoint. **There's grace orientation and that keeps us out of the works, you know the works system of trying to work our way to heaven or work our way to be good Christians.** A lot of people get this idea that they're a good Christian if they don't dance. Have you ever heard that word before - dance? Or if you don't smoke or if you don't drink or if you don't do this and don't do this. Usually sometimes people want to put chains on you and say, 'In order to be a good Christian you have to do this, you have to do that.' Well, the Bible doesn't say that. The Bible lays out the grace oriented life. To be a good Christian you must obey God, that's for sure. And the first thing is to grow in the grace and the knowledge of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ so at least you know what's expected of you. How can you know what's expected of you if you don't grow? All the answers are there. We know we're told to **"...be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18)**. We know we're told to **"study to show yourselves approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed..." (2 Timothy 2:15)**. We're told a lot of things. **That's why you have a well-qualified pastor to help you understand** and I pray that you do, for sure. So we have grace orientation, Biblical orientation, we have a personal sense of destiny, that's another problem-solving device we've been through already. We have personal love for God and we're going to look at impersonal love for weirdos today. How am I supposed to love weirdos when the Bible tells me that I have to? In John 15:12, *"This is My mandate, that you love one another, just as I have loved you."* In 1 John 4:20, *"If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his fellow believer, he is a liar"* and *"...the truth is not in him"* (1 John 2:4). And so I am commanded in the Bible to love you and you're commanded to love me just as Christ loved us. Now, how exactly do I do that? What I'm talking about is called unconditional love towards all mankind. Remember in the Bible where it says, *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16) - that's unconditional love. God loved you not based on who you were, because you and I know what you are and you

know what I am, we're just a couple of jerks. I mean if it wasn't for God's love we would have already been a greasy spot somewhere. So God loved us. He loves us now. God so loved the world. And then He tells us we have to love others with that same unconditional love. What that's telling you is this, **you cannot let people manipulate your life. If you have someone you cannot stand they are controlling you, you're not controlling yourself.** You see that on the interstate when you're driving or on the highway when you're driving and someone cuts you off or someone gets road rage against you or you get road rage. You turn control of your life over to them quickly. You can't afford to do that. So impersonal love as a problem-solving device is an unconditional love towards all mankind. How do you get it? Well it's based on personal love for God. If you love God, and you said you did, remember? 'Oh yes, I love God.' I heard you say it. 'I love God.' If you love God then you will love those people that God created. And so the emphasis is on the virtue of the subject, not the virtue of the object. The object may be a weirdo. We call them weird obnoxious jerks sometimes (WOJ) and you still have to love them. But the virtue is not on the object, the virtue is on you, the subject. You love them, not based on what they do but based on what Christ is, what He did in you, how He loved you. **Impersonal love is the ultimate expression of virtue in your life as well as a type of humility.** I don't know if you remember reading in the Bible, the small little book of Philemon about Onesimus the runaway slave who faced the death penalty and Paul actually wrote back and said listen consider him no longer a slave but a beloved brother especially to me but much more to you also, and so we have to learn to forgive people. We have to learn to love people. That doesn't mean run up and put our arms around their neck and say, 'I love your brother.' You know, I'm not in for that kind of stuff. But it does mean that when that person you cannot stand comes into your periphery that your hair on the back your neck doesn't stand up, that your neck doesn't turn red and your eyes don't cross and steam doesn't start coming out of your ears just because the weirdo showed up at the same dinner you're at. What's really bad is if it's a family member, you know, like a cousin or brother or sister or an aunt. I mean, there's so much of that that goes on people won't even go to family reunions. You know, that's a wonderful thing about being a Christian. We have the most supernatural life the world has ever seen. The poor disadvantaged people that don't know Jesus Christ as Savior don't have any of these problem-solving capabilities. **We have the filling of the Holy Spirit and "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering and gentleness..." (Galatians 5:22).** Listen, there are our assets, our operational assets. If I am filled with the Spirit, I don't have to hate anybody. I can turn anybody over to the Supreme Court of Heaven which is open 24 hours a day and let the justice of God handle my situation. I never have to seek revenge. I never have to get even. I never have to be bitter. I never have to be antagonistic. The justice of God is capable of handling that. He doesn't need my help nor your help. So personal love for God is commanded in the Bible, without a doubt. But, now let's go to

the other side of the coin, personal love for people. Personal love for people. Let's get it straight. Impersonal love is one side, personal love is the other side. Personal love is commanded for God. *"We love Him because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). But personal love is not commanded for people. It is different. Impersonal love is commanded for people. Impersonal love. **I love people based on who I am not based on who they are just like God loved me based on who He was not based on who I am.** So, for example, in Ephesians 5:25, *"Husbands, love your wives..."* That's an imperative mood in the morphology of that verb; present active imperative we call that. There never is a time the husband is not to love his wife. The active voice says the husband produces the action of the verb and it's the imperative. This is a spiritual command from God. As a husband you must love your wife. I'm going to tell you the truth, there are times that husbands and wives are not too loving. If you're a wife, you know what I'm talking about. If you're a husband, you know what I'm talking about. Sometimes you may have a small tiff. Sometimes you may get on each other's nerves. But here's what you can do. You can react to the other person by getting emotional and getting angry and popping off at the mouth and saying something you shouldn't say. Or you can respond to the other person by forgiving them. Isn't that what God does for you? Doesn't He forgive you? You say, 'But I'm not God. I enjoy being mad.' Well, go ahead and be mad and ruin the rest of your life because that's what you'll do. You're going to run your spouse off, you're going to destroy any capacity for love and you're going to make yourself miserable with your implacability all day long. **You must love your spouse.** Especially husbands must love their wives. **We're not allowed to hold a grudge. In Titus 2:4, "*Older women should teach younger women to love their husbands and to love their children.*"** So apparently, if they have to be taught this, this is something we have to learn. We have to learn how to love each other. If the older women are told to teach the younger women how to love their husbands. I want to tell you when you first get married it's a chore because you move in with a grungy guy. A guy that won't even pick up his own socks. A guy that won't do certain things that are just hygienic and safe. Here's this guy you're married to and all of a sudden he just ticks you off. You didn't know this before you married him because he lived on the other side of town. You just saw the good side of him. Now you're living with him, now you're married to him and now you're going, 'I married a creature from the dark lagoon here.' What do you do? You love him. You must love him. You have to learn how to love him in spite of his flaws, in spite of his failures and it goes both ways. And then the Bible says in Hebrews 13:1, *"Let brotherly love continue."* Another imperative mood in the Greek which means this, there might be somebody in your church you don't like, there might be somebody in your church you can't stand. You can't stand them so much so that you sit on one side of the auditorium and they sit on the other side of the auditorium. That's not brotherly love. The Bible says you must love the individuals that you hate and the only way you can do this is to use impersonal love. You

can love them based on your character, maybe not based on their character. Well what did they do to you? 'Oh well they wrote me a bad check. They borrowed something and didn't return it. They're Democrats and I'm a Republican.' Whatever. So you don't like them. That's a sin. Do you know that's a sin? Do you know the Bible says, ***"To one who knows what to do good and does not do it, to him it is a sin."*** (James 4:17). Does it dawn on you that you are sinning when you hold a grudge, when you use revenge motivation, when you malign, criticize and attack someone? Does it ever dawn on you that you are sinning? No wonder your life is a mess and you're all the time sick, and all the time going through hardship. It's discipline in your life. God trying to wake you up and get your attention. Impersonal love means we have a point of reference. It's an attitude. **Impersonal love is a professional attitude we must have as believers in Jesus Christ.** Because if you don't have impersonal love, then you will never have any good human relationships. Why do I say that? Because you will constantly change your friends and you will constantly change your partners and especially in romance and spouses in marriage because you have no basis to hold them together. You can't do it because you don't know how to love anybody. You just know how to respond. You don't know how to forgive. You know, it's a good thing you've got emotions. I mean, I like emotions and you do too. We like a good sunset. We like a good rainbow when the sun is setting in the misty afternoon. Some of us like a good fishing trip or a good hunting trip. We have memories of those things. Maybe you like a new dress. Maybe you like new carpet. Maybe you like new furniture. We get emotionally high when we get these things, when we see these things, we want these things. Emotions are wonderful. I mean, God designed them. They're designed to appreciate but they're never designed to manipulate. **If you let your emotions take control of your life they will manipulate you.** You cannot ever let emotions dictate policy to your life. Because virtue in a Christian's life, virtue in a Christian's life - listen carefully - **virtue in a Christian's life is void of emotion.** You don't operate on your emotions. The Bible says, *"As a man thinks in his heart so he is"* (Proverbs 23:7). You have a mind and you can think. If God wants to check you out, He's going to look at what you're thinking. Emotions have to do with feelings. What God is looking at is your mind. That's why the Bible says, *"Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 2:5). That's why the Bible says in Romans 12:3, *"... stop thinking in terms of arrogance beyond what you should think; but think in terms of humility as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from His Word."* **God examines your thoughts and your motives, your intentions, your desires.** You're not designed to run on emotions. That's what 90% of the world operates on because that's all they have. The unbeliever doesn't have any divine viewpoint capability. He doesn't have any of the Word of God resident in his soul. What's he supposed operate on? Human viewpoint. And most of that is emotions. So if you get treated bad, you treat people bad, you react. You're a reactionary type person and reactionary type people are horrible. I'd

just as soon go jump off a cliff as live around them or be around them. But I have to love them so that means I have to use impersonal love and I can't react to their reaction. If you react and they react then we've got a bonfire. I've got to love them and that means I forgive them. I forgive them for being weirdos. I forgive them for being obnoxious. I forgive them for maligning me, for criticizing me, for running me down, for cutting me off in the traffic. I forgive them. Because God loves them, I'm suppose to love them. That doesn't mean I have to hug their neck. But that means I have to have a relaxed mental attitude in their presence. That means that I have to understand Christ died for them just like He died for me. So virtue in the Christian life is not an emotional thing. It's a mental thing. Arrogant people always seek this unconditional love from everybody else but the only thing they can offer in return is some sort of conditional love. You know, the greater the arrogance, the greater the condition of the love. Most men do this to the women that they love, they have conditions. And so that's virtue love, unconditional love, loving even the people that are not lovable. You have to do that and it's not easy. Listen, without the Word of God in your soul, without some spiritual growth, what I'm telling you here is going to be virtually impossible because it's only going to be done under the filling of the Holy Spirit. *"The fruit of the Spirit is love..."* (Galatians 5:22). That's the concept right there. If you don't know how to be filled with the Spirit, you're not going to be able to love unconditionally those that need loving. If you don't know how to be filled with the Spirit, you're not going to be able to have any virtue love for God or impersonal love for others. Virtue love is personal love for God. Impersonal love is motivational virtue. Both of them are virtuous. Love is virtuous but one is a motivation and one is a function. Motivation, what causes me to love the weirdos? My personal love for God. What is my function? Impersonal love of others. **Personal love for God motivates me to love other people.** And it should motivate you to do the same thing. Impersonal love is a wonderful problem-solving device because you don't get mad, you don't get angry, you don't get ticked off, you don't react. You respond with forgiveness. There's a lot I could say about this and I can't do it all in a thirty minute show. Obviously I cannot. But I could go to passage after passage and teach you this. I hope you're listening. I hope you're learning. I hope you're inquisitive. I hope this show is bringing something out in you. A hunger to learn God's Word in a fresh approach. Maybe you haven't heard it presented this way before. You're not going to hear me say something you've never heard before. That's not going to happen. You're probably going to hear me say it in a way you've never heard it put before because that's my gift, that's what I do. I have to be able to put this into a nomenclature that makes sense so that you can comprehend it. I don't use a lot of theological terms and a lot of clichés like, "just turn them over to God, brother." What in the world does that mean, just turn them over to God? When I hear somebody tell me that I'm going to say, 'OK tell me how to do it. What's the mechanics to turn them over to God?' The mechanics are impersonal love, an unconditional love. So if I'm filled with the

Holy Spirit and if I have enough of the Word of God in my soul to understand why people do what they do, I don't react, I respond - that's the mechanics. And I love them based on who I am, not based on who they are. Got it? It's beautiful. It's a wonderful problem-solving device. Most people have never heard of it. Most people don't even know what unconditional love is. Most people have experienced it from time to time. I don't know if you've ever been loved like this but God loves you like this. He loves you in a way you can't even fathom. He loves you so much that He gave His Son for you. Our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, the anointed Son of God redeemed us out of the slave market of sin. He laid His life down. He purchased us so that we could be brought into the family of God because God loves us. But we were separated because of our sin, because of Adam's original sin. We were born into sin. We were born spiritually dead. And so the grace of God found a way to solve the problem. The penalty of sin is death, and you didn't die, Christ died. He died in your place. He died in my place. He died for us. That's why the Bible says, *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us so we could be made the righteousness of God through Him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). There is only one reason that happened, it's because God loved us. He loved us with impersonal love because His character is absolutely righteous and our character is absolutely unrighteous. Where did I get that? The Bible says, *"There are none that are righteous, no not even one."* (Romans 3:10). And in Isaiah 64:6, *"All of our righteousnesses are like a filthy rag"* in God's eyes. So how could God love me? It's simple. The Bible says, *"He who knew no sin was made sin"* for me so that the righteousness of Christ might be found in me. God loves the righteousness of His Son, which was given to me the moment I received Him as my Savior. He took my sins on the cross, but He gives me His righteousness, His perfect standing before God. When God looks at me, what does He see? Well He sees an idiot. Yes. But **God sees +R, He sees the righteousness of Christ in me. That's why He loves me.** Not because I don't drink, smoke, chew or go around with people that do. That's not why He loves me. He loves me because I have the righteousness of Christ. That's a personal love God has for me because I'm in His family. He loved me first and that's why I love Him. *"He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). It's called reciprocal love motivation. That type of love is virtuous and that motivates me to love a person that's unloving with unconditional love. I hope you are thinking and learning and will use this. This is my prayer for you. Until next week, I'm your host, Rick Hughes, saying thank you for joining me today on the FLOT Line.

Introduction to the FLOT Line - Part 11

Transcript of the FLOT Line Introduction Series - Episode 11

Good morning and welcome to the FLOT Line. I'm your host Rick Hughes and for the next few minutes I'd like to ask you to stay with me. As always, we have a short time of motivation, a whole lot of inspiration, a whole lot of education but absolutely/absolutely no manipulation. That's right, no games, no gimmicks, no appeals for money, no asking you to join up, fess up, give up - nothing like that. This show is simply about giving you some accurate information. The information I hope will help you verify as well as identify God's plan for your life. And if you're able to do that you can orient and adjust to the plan. That's up to you. My job is to get it accurate and so we have the FLOT Line every Sunday morning here on this radio station. Thank you for listening. We are going through the reason that we call it the FLOT Line. F.L.O.T. stands for forward line of troops. We're using a military analogy about how you can erect a defensive perimeter in your soul based on God's wonderful problem-solving devices. If you do that then you can very possibly stop the outside sources of adversity before they ever become the inside sources of stress. We know adversity is always inevitable but I also know that stress is optional because that's not part of the Christian life. We've been through eight of those problem-solving devices and now we're going to go through nine and ten. I hope you stick with me as we go through these and I hope you remember them. I have written them in a book. If you'd like to have a copy of the book, contact us by our website rickhughesministries.org and we'll send you the book free. No charge ever for anything that we do. And we will never write to you again and ask you for anything. Just let us know you'd like to have that book called *Christian Problem Solving* and we'll get it right out to you in the mail. So thank you for listening today. Thank you for being with me. Let's get into it. **Problem-solving device #9 is called Sharing the Happiness of God.** It's an essential problem-solving device in the believer's life and is a wonderful, wonderful thing to have. You know, we spend money we don't have to buy things we don't need to impress people that we don't even like. **Life for some people is a frantic search for happiness.** And unfortunately, **unhappy people always take their unhappiness with them wherever they go.** And so let's look at what the Bible says about happiness. In Luke 11:27-28, if you'll let me start there, the Lord Jesus Christ was speaking to a group of people and He was interrupted by a certain woman. This is what the Bible says, "*It came to pass as He spoke these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice and she said to Him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts which nursed You.'*" When the Bible says, "lifted up her voice," this means she shouted above the Lord Jesus Christ. It would be like someone standing up in church and shouting above what the preacher was saying. She wanted to be heard. Then the Bible goes on to say, "*But He said [that's Jesus Christ our Lord] Yea rather [that's the thundering diction of the dear King James Bible, I don't know exactly what He said but I*

think He would have said something like, that's not true, and then He went on to say] *blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.*" So what we like to do on this radio show is to break down the verse for you. To go into the etymology of the verse, to do the exegesis of the verse and to lift out the Biblical conclusions in the verse. So we start off with "a certain woman lifted up her voice." The Greek word for voice is *phone*. It sounds like phone doesn't it? *Phone*. And "lifted up" is a verb *epairo*. She lifted up, the aorist active participle meant that she talked louder than Jesus. Now why would she do this? Why would she talk louder than Jesus? Raised her voice so loud that everyone turned to stare at her. I'm going to say she had an emotional experience. I'm going to say, and this is my opinion, that she felt like what she had to say was more important than what Jesus had to say. Maybe she was looking for attention. Maybe she needed some approbation. Maybe she needed some reaffirmation. I don't know what she needed, but she interrupted the Savior's message and that's got to be a little bit of arrogance. To assume that what you have to say is more important than what the Son of God has to say. And yet that's how people think sometimes. I've been in churches, and you have too, where people think their opinion is right and the Bible is wrong. I've seen that before. I've heard people voice their opinion over what the Bible says. This woman interrupted the Savior's message. You say, 'What was He talking about?' Well He was talking about how the Pharisees blasphemed the Holy Spirit by attributing His miracles to the works of Satan. That's what He was talking about. Most of the whole passage there in Luke is dealing with demon possession of unbelievers so maybe this woman was demon induced to interrupt Jesus Christ. We don't know. We don't know if she was a believer but we do know she was definitely demon influenced to interrupt His message. What she was trying to do was to divert Christ's message away from the subject. The subject was demon possession. The Lord had a fantastic insight to see what the real issue is. You see, He had just finished admonishing Martha for her griping about having to fix the food by herself in Luke 10:38-42. And He went on to say that Mary chose the right thing and Martha was focusing on the wrong thing. But anyhow, this woman shouted out "blessed" is the word she used - blessed. Here's the key word in this passage. Blessed is the Greek word *makarios*. That is a word that could be translated happy or happiness. So what she basically said is happiness is the womb that bore You. *Koilia* the womb. *Koilia* means the hollow. She wanted to make an issue out of the womb of Mary. You know, our Lord Jesus Christ went from the womb to the tomb but neither one of them could hold Him. That's interesting. So here are some principles: (1) Happiness is not related to the womb. You may think if you get pregnant that you'd be happy. You would think if your daughter gets pregnant you'll be happy because you're having grandchildren. I have four children and I can assure you happiness is not related to the womb. (2) Bearing children will not fulfill your life. It may complicate your life. It may give you some sort of joy but it's not the source of happiness in the Christian's life. Family life, family fun, family time together is

certainly enjoyable but it is not the happiness I'm talking about under the problem-solving device of +H, sharing the happiness of God. (3) I mean mothers can have great pride in their children but it's not God's happiness. So this whole thing, I think, was a trap to lure Jesus Christ down the wrong road that He did not need to go down to get into a discussion about His mother's womb or His mother's breast because she brought that up also. She said happiness is the womb that bore you and happiness are the breasts *masthos* that suckled You. That meant to nurse Him, *thelazo* is the Greek word. And Jesus corrected this woman as He rightfully should. "Yea rather" this is a very strong correction. *Menoun*, yea rather or wrong or I don't think so. I don't think He was rude. I don't think He yelled at her but I think He looked her right in the eyes and I think He said you are wrong lady. And then He said the same word she said, blessed which was *makarios*. Happiness, He said, are those that hear My Father's Word. The word for hear is *akouo*, it means to listen and understand, not to be deaf but to perceive the sense of the message of what's being taught. You know there's one thing about what's being taught and another thing about what really is being taught. **So happiness is to perceive the sense of the message.** What the message is really saying, to understand it and keep it. Keep it is another verb *phulasso*. That means to keep an eye on it or to guard it. So let's get a principle here. **The Words of Jesus Christ are a great treasure to be guarded.** The Bible uses the word treasure - in the English translation it is thesaurus. You know what a thesaurus is. It's a word treasure. The Words of our Lord Jesus Christ can make you rich spiritually. They are much more valuable than gold or silver, I assure you. In James 1:22, the writer says, **"Do not be just a hearer of the Word, but be a doer."** The reason is because hearers deceive their own selves. Be doers of the Word. **To keep what you hear, you must metabolize it and apply it into your soul.** What do I mean by that? Alright, keep this in mind. You go to church, you listen to your pastor, you might even have some notes given to you, you may even write your notes down (I don't know) but you comprehend what he teaches if you're in fellowship with God. Now let's back up. Here's the pastor, he's in the pulpit, he's teaching God's Word and you're in the pew. Are you in fellowship? Do you have unconfessed sin in your life? Because if you have unconfessed sin in your life, the Holy Spirit is quenched and grieved and He can't capture what the pastor is communicating. In order for you to comprehend it, He must capture it and convert it into what we call *pneumatikos*. See, this is spiritual information. The Holy Spirit does this. You know, we have to have spiritual assistance to live the spiritual life. We cannot live it in the energy of the flesh and so the **Holy Spirit's ministry is exactly what Jesus said it would be in John 14:26, "...He will teach you all things and bring these things to your remembrance."** So if you're out of fellowship with God by committing sin and you haven't dealt with your sin which is problem-solving device #1 called rebound as per 1 John 1:9 then the Holy Spirit is quenched and He cannot do His job. So if you want to keep the Word of God, then you have to be filled with the Holy

Spirit. You have to make sure you're in fellowship with God. You can't be out of fellowship and live the Christian life. You can try to live it in the energy of the flesh but it's not the Christian life. You can submit to rules and regulations and be a legalistic weirdo refusing to drink Coca-Cola or eat peanuts even but that doesn't mean you're spiritual. That doesn't mean you're in fellowship with God. Sooner or later you have to metabolize what the pastor teaches. What that means is you have to cycle it from your mind where, let's go back to the concept, the pastor communicates it, the Holy Spirit captures it if you are in fellowship and you comprehend it, which means you now understand what the pastor taught. But now you have to comply with the information.

There are four C's to metabolizing the Word of God: communicate, capture, comprehend, and comply. When you comply, that means you're keeping it, you're obeying it. The Bible says, *"If you love Me you will obey Me"* (John 14:15) and *"His mandates are not grievous"* (1 John 5:3). That's what our Lord said. So, this woman was saying that happiness was related to a mother's womb. But Jesus said, happiness is related to the Word of God. He made a definite issue. No one can be happy because of who their mother is. We are happy because of sharing the happiness of God because of what the Bible says. **The living Word of God in your soul has the ability to give you great happiness in the middle of great testing.** You know, the English Bible uses a lot of words for happiness, joy, rejoice, happiness. Joy is a state of happiness in which something causes you to be happy. Happiness is a state of well-being characterized by relative contentment in your life of some sort. And there are even words in the Old Testament for happiness like *osher* which means blessed or blessedness and *esher* which means happiness. But the Greek word *chara* joy or *makarios* blessed or happiness, these are all words that are translated in the Bible happiness. But if you want to understand what the Bible is speaking about when it says that you can have true happiness, you can have the happiness of God in your life as a problem-solving device. Let me go to Proverbs 3:13 and 18 and I'm going to read this out of the NET Bible. Here's the way it sounds, *"Happy [that's the Hebrew word esher] happy is the one who finds [the word finds is the Hebrew word matsa it means to acquire or to learn or to attain] happy is the one who obtains wisdom and the one who obtains [something else] understanding."*

Happiness belongs to the one who finds wisdom, and to the one who obtains understanding. There is the source of true happiness. Understanding, the Hebrew word *tebunah* means skill or our ability to understand, comprehend, it means spiritual intelligence. If you want to be happy, you can find happiness in the wisdom of understanding God's word. This gives you the option so you don't have to walk around in a fog all the time trying to figure out what you're supposed to do. Because, you know, Satan's myth that he promotes all the time is that people and pleasant circumstances in life can make you happy. That's just not true. **No person has the ability to make you happy.** They may stimulate you for a while. You may enjoy being around them for a

while but it's not the happiness God's talking about. No, when the Bible says, "... *Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross...*" in Hebrews 12:2 that's not talking about happiness from people standing around patting Him on the back. This is an inner happiness. It's an inner contentment. It's an inner peace that nothing can take away from you. So if you have a bit of a problem this morning, if there's something nagging in your life that keeps you from being happy then it's sin, it's sin, it's destroying the capacity for you to be happy. **Because if you're dependent on any person or any set of circumstances to make you happy then you're not living the Christian life.** I spoke with a woman recently, a dear wonderful friend said, 'My son didn't speak to me for a couple of years.' That happens sometimes. Children get alienated from their parents. Are you alienated from your children? Are you unhappy? Are you miserable because they won't speak to you or because they think bad of you? Are you unhappy because of something that your spouse did or something that happened at the office? To be unhappy means you focus on that and it makes you depressed, it makes you sad when you think about it. That's not the Christian life. That's not the way the Christian life is designed to be lived. The Christian life is so wonderful, so powerful. The world can't have what we have. We can have happiness in the midst of the most extreme circumstances. **There is a pseudo-happiness, Satan sells that all the time.** He will attempt to counterfeit the happiness that God has for you. He will attempt to counterfeit the contentment and the blessing that God offers to you, but he can't provide it. You see, pseudo-happiness can be at best some sort of stimulation, some sort of fun, some sort of entertainment, something enjoyable. Let's take a trip. I want to go on a vacation. I'm going to do this. I'm going to do that. I'm going to be really happy. But that's not permanent happiness. That's a temporary stimulation and it's only momentary and it depends on the circumstances and on the environment and it must be pleasant for you to be happy. You can just see yourself. I'm going to go on a vacation to Florida and I'm going to sit on the beach and you're all excited and you're all happy and you get to Florida and it rains and storms everyday and a hurricane comes in and you can't even get out your hotel room and now you've spent a couple of thousand dollars getting to Florida and you're miserable. But you can be happy in spite of what the weather does. This type of happiness that we're talking about provided by Satan, this temporary pseudo-happiness is neutral-H. It's for just the good times, but there are bad times, there are routine times, there are even dull times. You will never be sustained, never carried by past good times. Those things won't carry you in the hard times. **This neutral-H, this pseudo-happiness won't motivate you, it won't encourage you when you're going through adversity or going through testing.** Instead of the real true happiness that Jesus Christ our Lord offers. The cosmic system (which is *cosmos diabolicus*, the devil's world) it only offers a temporary fix and is usually followed by some sort of self-misery (because you are mad at yourself because you did that) and maybe even some sort of divine discipline (because what you did was a

sin; you went out seeking happiness in the wrong places). This kind of happiness that I'm talking about, this true Biblical happiness that the Lord Jesus Christ offers (+H), it is not various stimuli in your life. It's something that we have with us all the time and it relates to the soul and to the spirit not just the body. Your body is disposable. That's right it's disposable. When you die it's going back to dust. God uses your body now that you're here to house your soul and your spirit but it is disposable. You're going to get a new body, a different body, a resurrection body. So the capacity for happiness must precede you ever being happy to start with. If you don't have any capacity to have happiness, then you can't be happy. You know, a moral person and a person that regulates his life, works out, exercises, runs, is in great shape, has no body fat - they have some sort of temporary happiness. They look in the mirror, take a selfie, put it on Facebook, put it on Instagram, self chat whatever and they say, 'Don't I look good. I'm happy.' And then those of us who may have a little fat hanging off, we don't want to do that. We say, 'Oh if I do that I'm not going to be happy.' It has nothing to do with what I'm talking about. Neutral-H, temporary happiness, is for the unbelievers who function under the laws of divine establishment. If a person is not a believer, if he's not a Christian, he can be happy if he follows the laws of establishment. There are four laws God set up for the orderly function of the human race. If a person is not a believer and he lives under these laws, he can have a temporary happiness. These divine establishment laws are: Volition (God designed you to be free to choose), Marriage (God designed it for all members of the human race, man and woman), Family (God designed it for the raising of the children in the family establishment), and Nationalism (God at the Tower Babel separated the races so everybody wouldn't be one race, one nation; so we have black people, white people, yellow people, red people; God separated all of us). If we operate under the laws of establishment you can have happiness, yes. But the believer who stays filled with the Holy Spirit and doesn't have any unconfessed sin in his life, then he can have the type of happiness I'm talking about - perfect happiness. **This happiness can be enjoyed in the living stage of life and in the dying stage of life.** If you have the perfect happiness I'm talking about when you live then you will have perfect happiness when you die whether it's a prolonged and painful death or whether it's just one of those short, sweet, went to bed and woke up in heaven deaths. The only difference is that in living we use our volition and in dying we don't - God chooses that. But to its full extent we must use our volition. God selects the time and the place and the manner of our departure, that's His sovereignty. But while we're here we can live poorly if we want to. We can live in the devil's world, we can live under the influence of the *cosmos diabolicus*, we can have some neutral-H in living and neutral-H in dying. Not really God's happiness. You wind up dying miserably because you have the mental attitude of panic and you start thinking about what's going to happen now and it would intensify all your problems of guilt and pity and bitterness and fear and doubt. But it is possible to live a wonderful life and to die

a wonderful death if you will use God's problem-solving device called +H. It's a state of your soul, not something that somebody can do for you. **+H is an insulation against fear and against arrogance in your life. Job 5:17, "Happiness belongs to the man whom God corrects, so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty."** Discipline is designed by God to keep you on the right track so you can be happy. Not to make you unhappy but to keep you from making yourself miserable. Sometimes we have to go through discipline to correct our course so we don't crash. +H, sharing the happiness of God, it's the monopoly of a mature believer. It belongs to that man or that woman who grows spiritually, who takes in God's Word consistently, who stays filled with the Holy Spirit and who replicates Jesus Christ. For believers, they can have this sort of happiness and it will be consistent. But for unbelievers it's not possible. The unbeliever cannot concentrate on anything of the Word of God long enough to truly enjoy or learn or come to know what this really is. So this perfect happiness I'm talking about, 1 John 1:4, "*We write these things so that our joy may be brought to completion.*" That's what John wrote. **Perfect happiness comes through the communication of God's Word by means of the filling of the Holy Spirit** and it is priceless and it has to be completed. You have to learn the Word of God to be happy. Sharing the happiness of God can be defined as the happiness that the humanity of Jesus Christ experienced while He was here in the devil's world. During His time on earth He had a lot of opposition but He was never unhappy. It's the divine happiness resident in the soul of the believer, that's what it is. Jesus said, "*I've taught you these things,*" in John 15:11, "*in order that My happiness might be in you and your happiness might be complete.*" **That's God's plan for you - to be happy - not related to circumstances, not related to people but related to the content of the Word of God in your soul that makes you rich that gives you insight, knowledge, wisdom, understanding to see what's going on in the devil's world.** I hope you're listening. I really hope you're learning. I hope you'll come back next week. So until then, this is Rick Hughes your host, saying thank you for listening to the FLOT Line.