



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries

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PEOPLE TESTING (ANTAGONISM)

The spiritual adult believer developed personal love toward God while in the stage of spiritual self-esteem. In the spiritual autonomy, through consistent intake of Bible doctrine and spiritual exercises he will develop impersonal love toward all man. The danger lies when he misdirected personal love toward man instead toward God or when he becomes antagonistic toward the brethren or others.

Like personal love, antagonism can also cause the believer to surrender his control of his life to someone else. Any time the believer reacts to people with bitterness, vindictiveness, hatred, jealousy, merciless or unforgiving, he immediately grants others control over his life. In an irrational attempt to regain control, he may vent his anger in gossip, maligning, false accusation or physical violence. By attacking the person to whom he surrendered his happiness, the believer attacks his own happiness. Each antagonistic reaction carries him deeper into self – induced misery.

When detestable personality control a believer's life, whether or not they want control or even realize they have such influence, he blames them for his misery. Blaming others for self-made misery cuts off the possibility of divine solution and under the law of volitional responsibility intensifies his suffering.

With advancing spiritual growth, the believer becomes aware of this pattern of unhappiness. He uses rebound and other divine solutions, especially the virtue impersonal love, in which the believer's own inner strength is the basis for his toleration of others. Impersonal love is crystallized as an active component of virtue-love only after the believer has attained spiritual autonomy.

The solution to all momentum testing is the believer's happiness. Happiness as a problem-solving device is the sole monopoly of God and His plan for the imperfect man. The believer cannot depend on people for happiness but he must depend completely on God. The believer must follow divine protocol to avoid undue influence from those he loves and to keep from falling into hatred toward those who irritate him.

Spiritual momentum in the protocol plan of God will bring the believer to spiritual autonomy where his genuine happiness & contentment is improved and stabilized. God is bringing him to a situation where he will realize that impersonal love in no way can serve as a solution to his problems with people.

Matthew 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you

Matthew 10:37-38
 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Mark 12:30-31
 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with your entire mind, and with all your strength. "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

There is no contradiction or confusion in the above-mentioned verses under the protocol plan of God. Personal love toward man must be put under the strength of personal love toward God expressed in impersonal love toward man. Virtue personal love is directed toward God, and He alone is the first love of the believer. Believers are mandated to love the unlovable with virtue impersonal love. This is possible only under spiritual maturity.

THOUGHT TESTING

Thought determines the believer's life, it has powerful effect on the believer's success or failure in the Christian life, that is why, it is considered a major momentum test. In all stages of the Christian life the believer will face the pressure of thought conflicts in his soul. Human viewpoint will conflict with divine viewpoint. False concepts will challenge Bible doctrine.

Arrogance will intrude upon humility. Expedients of all kinds will compete with the protocol plan of God, and fear will paralyze reason. There are essentially private conflicts, which the believer must resolve in his own soul. Anxiety, perplexity, confusions, dilemmas, and unanswered questions motivate the positive volition believer to apply the resources of Bible doctrine he has learned. Concentration on doctrine accelerates his spiritual growth.

Thought testing may exist when circumstances are overly prosperous and tranquil. A person is not always he appears to be on the surface; the real person is the thought content of his soul (Proverbs 23:7). The believer is what he thinks; therefore a thought can make or break him, depending on the nature of the thought. If his thought is contrary to Bible doctrine, he is distracted from his true destiny in life. His mental attitude toward life is the function of his thinking, the composite of all he knows and believes.

Rational thinking is the essential human activity that distinguishes man from animal thought. The mentality of the soul is the battlefield of the angelic conflict. When the believer thinks evil, he is evil. He resides in Satan's cosmic system. From evil thinking comes evil motivation; from evil motivation, evil actions (Matthew 9:4).

The thinking that is consistent with the truth of Bible doctrine has massive effects for good. For example, salvation itself is appropriated by a right thought of non-meritorious positive volition toward the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mankind's great enemy is a thought called arrogance. Arrogance can inflate or deflate man's opinion of himself. He thinks he is better or worse than he actually is. Both self-exaltation and self-condemnation distort and deny reality, which is the realm in which God's plan is effective. God's grace deals with us as we are, but a self-centered believer who does not live in objective reality will never use God's grace provisions to advance in the protocol plan (Galatians 6:3).

Arrogance is a person who thinks more of himself than he has a right to think. Arrogance is illusion and unreality. An arrogant person is depriving himself of his greatest advantage that comes with the fulfillment of God's plan for his life (Romans 12:3).

The divine mandate that the believer must obey in order to consistently pass thought testing are summed up in this verse:

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect".

The renewing of your mind (the radical renovation of your thought pattern) is accomplished by continuous intake of Bible doctrine as the believer's first priority. The good, acceptable and perfect refers to the protocol plan of God executed inside the divine sphere where the believer can make good and right decisions on the basis of Bible doctrine in his soul.

SYSTEM TESTING

A system is an organization composed of people under authority of other people, which functions according to a policy designed to fulfill a specific goal or objective. Every individual belongs to many of these organizations, formal and informal. There are almost good and bad systems, successful and not successful.

The personnel in authority and under authority may be accomplished or incompetent. The objectives may be legitimate or dubious, clear, thought

through, or ill defined. Policy may encourage people to excel or may oppress them.

All these systems involve people, not two of whom are alike and not one of whom is perfect. That is why, system testing is inescapable form of suffering that poses a major challenge to the Christian's spiritual momentum, and only spiritual autonomy enables the believer to survive and benefits from system testing.

Most problems in any system boil down to arrogance expressed in wrong priorities, laziness, incapacity, silent sophisticated rebellion, ignorance and distraction by unnecessary activities. There are two courses of action, which are open to the mature believer when confronted with system testing:

- He can quit
- Cope up with the pressure

In quitting, the entire believer follows the impulses of the old sin nature. To cope up, he uses the dynamic of divine omnipotence. There are two categories of Christian quitters:

- Honorable quitters – separating from a system whose policies and objectives are clearly evil and contrary to Bible doctrines.
- Coward quitters –separating from a system because of fear and poor decisions.

Separation is required in extreme cases of honorable quitters but Church Age believers should never give up because of pressure that results to bad decisions (Proverbs 24:10). If the believer perseveres in a situation even when circumstances are critical and continues to do a good job, he will be vindicated and promoted spiritually by the Lord (like Joseph in Egypt).

The believer inside his royal palace (his divine sphere) is strong to endure any storm –if he remain inside and use his divine assets. Spiritual autonomy gives the Christian the power to put the problem in the Lord's hands and continue to function without arrogant reaction.

Spiritual autonomy is IMPERSONAL LOVE FOR ALL MANKIND and fortified SPIRITUAL SELF-ESTEEM derives from PERSONAL LOVE FOR GOD, which is the result of BIBLE DOCTRINE in the soul.

In spiritual autonomy the believer is motivated by his virtue personal love for God. In any system to which he belongs, he does job not to please men but please God (Colossians 3:17-25). He does not rely on organization to furnish his motivation because he is self-motivated. Human organization cannot do such motivation that it did not create. Only the believer can destroy his motivation by negative volition.

The mature believer is not looking for justice and fairness in the cosmic system, which is always unfair, but God is always fair. Bible doctrine in the soul strengthens the believer, enables him to submit to harsh authority and become an asset to any organization. Only the immature believer will think that totally depraved human beings will be enlightened and fair.

DISASTER TESTING

The adult believer must develop the capacity to identify and differentiate from each other the four categories of the momentum testing. He has to identify the nature of the test in order to apply the proper problem-solving device and pass the test.

Disaster test is the subtlest test. The problem is not to identify the threat but to endure the shock and to maintain poise for decision-making under extreme pressure. It comes unexpected and without any warning, especially when the believer is in the attitude of happiness and relaxation.

There are two categories of disaster testing:

- Personal disaster
- Historical disaster

A personal disaster may be physical pain caused by injury, disease, genetic weakness, or physical handicap. It may be mental anguish caused by loss of loved ones, reputation, property, wealth or health. It is the privations of hunger, exposure to weather, and the pains of severe poverty.

Historical disaster is a situation that brings grief to many people resulting to widespread damages caused by natural calamities, animal and plant pestilence, bacterial & viral epidemics that annihilate a population. It could be caused by the cycles of a free economy manipulated by some big tycoon. It could be the result of some changes in the governmental policy making that causes as immediate pains and hardship in the life of the adult believers. It could be brought by the injustice of the political leadership.

When a nation declines spiritually, the evil of all sorts of crimes, terrorism, all kinds of violence, afflicts terrible suffering upon the entire nation and each individual believer.

When a nation suffers under divine discipline, God never disregards the faithfulness of individual believers. The spiritually autonomous believer uses all the problem-solving devices, directs his hope toward doctrine, his personal love toward God, is called impersonal love toward mankind. He acquired divine happiness toward himself. With these powerful assets he can not only survive the storm but also even enjoy it with total confidence in God's plan for his life.

Abram failed to use any problem-solving devices in economic depression but the Lord still provided his every need (Genesis 12:10-12:1). Abram neglected to use the doctrine he knew and manufactured necessary pressure for himself and was unable to enjoy God's provision as he could have.

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, (1 Peter 1:7-8)

In disaster testing, the spiritually adult uses the greatest of all problem-solving devices, the happiness of God, which is described as "inexpressible and glorious joy." God shares His happiness with the believer beginning from spiritual self-esteem, then more powerfully in spiritual autonomy, and more effectively in spiritual maturity. The adult believer inculcated with the mind of Christ is genuinely happy even in the most terrible situation and capable of coping up with any pressure in life. Bible doctrine prepared the believer for the worst thing in life.

DESIGNED FOR VICTORY

Therefore, do not **throw away** (disregard as less important) your **confidence**, (Bible doctrine in the soul) which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have **done the will of God**, (inside the divine sphere during spiritual maturity) you may receive what was **promised** (blessing in time and eternity). For yet in a very little while, (before He come without delay) But My righteous one shall **live by faith** (live according to Bible doctrine) But we are not of those **who shrink back** (dishonorable quitters) to **destruction**, (sin unto death as result of immaturity) but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul (NASB - Hebrews 10:35-39)

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition but of them that believe to the saving of the soul (KJV Hebrews 10:35-39)

The Christians are equipped with the resources of heaven and possessors of divine assets. God left them in the world to grow under terrible conditions so that they will understand the reality of God's grace. Christians received at the moment of salvation the imputed righteousness of God, and 40 gifts that accompanied

salvation. Divine assets are made available plus the logistical grace blessings necessary for existence in the world and everything related to spiritual growth.

Believers are mandated to have a consistent, progressive and systematic intake of Bible doctrine and upon reaching spiritual adulthood to grow in the grace by spiritual exercises (of undeserved suffering for blessings). And upon reaching spiritual adulthood, to be strong in the power of his might.

The primary responsibility of every Church Age believer is to study the Word of God, whenever there is an opportunity. We “make time” for the Word of God in order to redeem time before evil days overtake our spiritual ignorance and carnality. Every Church Age believer is free to grow, gain momentum, and to advance toward spiritual maturity.

Believers are not free to be loser. Every spiritual loser will face the JSC or the Judgment Seat of Christ and receive the worst discipline that will last all throughout eternity –the lack of blessing in eternity. An adult believer becomes a spiritual loser because of his negative volition and arrogance not because of God’s sovereignty. Genuine Christians are not designed to become losers and spiritual maturity is not designed to produce spiritual losers.

Spiritual losers are either immature or carnal believers who are controlled by OSN and who because of their egotism rejected Bible doctrine, surrendering their lives for control of another person or anything they cherish more than God. They are afraid to experience severe undeserved sufferings while at the same time they manufacture their own miseries.

Under the suffering for blessing, even the most horrible suffering loses its dread in the light of the grace of God. Since it is the protocol plan of God that incorporates suffering uses adversity for the purpose of blessing the mature and advancing believer, there is nothing to fear about suffering. This suffering tests the believer’s understanding of Bible doctrine. As the believer passes each test, he confirms and deepens his love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Whenever the believers defy, ignore, reject, or rebel against God’s plan and purpose, they bring destruction upon themselves and the people around them.

WINNING THE ANGELIC CONFLICT

The human history is the extension of the angelic conflict, and man is God’s evidence against Satan. The angelic conflict is not war between God and the human race but between Satan and God. There is no power struggle between God and Satan because any power struggle is between opposing party with almost equal strength.

- Only God is omnipotent.
- Only God is sovereign.

- Only God is perfect.
- God is superior Satan is not.

Man is not the crossfire between two rival forces but God's evidence of His perfect integrity (divine righteousness and justice) against Satan's devious and imperfect nature. Man is inside the human history, which is inside divine decree for the imperfect human race as God's evidence of perfect plan of grace. By God's perfect plan of grace, God is proving Satan's imperfection. For the perfect God, there is no need to prove His perfection (see page 30).

Every spiritually mature believer who went through evidence suffering will have personal confrontation with the devil. Evidence testing is Satan's cross – examination of the believer with a series of undeserved sufferings (see page 119). Satan will do everything to make the believer trample down the grace of God.

The spiritual battlefield is the soul of every believer. The cosmic world is his armory and barracks. The only way to fight Satan is from the spiritual powerhouse secured and protected by God. During the course of every battle (each undeserved suffering) the saint must remain inside his divine sphere otherwise, he is already defeated. The world is the territory of Satan and only ignorant believer bully him to leave his territory.

The issue is the angelic conflict is the Christian victory through divinely given assets and resources. We do not use the tactics, schemes, strategies and the weapons of the world. The issue is not defeating Satan but overcoming his scheming by spiritual problem-solving devices provided by God.

The objective of the mature believer is never to expel Satan from this world or capture his territory as some are trying to do, but to win every testing or suffering that he may inflict upon the believer.

The battle is very personal, meaning to say, nobody can fight my battle. My battle is my battle. Your battle is your battle and I cannot be your allied to fight your battle. I have to use the Bible doctrine in my soul for my own battle. I cannot use the Bible doctrine in my soul to assist you fight your own battle. My testing and suffering is very personal and me alone can solved it. No religious support group or cell group can help you win your testing.

It is privilege to pray for our brethren under testing but we cannot in anyway interfere with the purpose and plan of God. Giving unsolicited advices and guidelines is not only arrogance and self-righteousness but also playing little god in the life of others. The so-called Christian counseling is not a calling; it is not a spiritual gift, but human viewpoint.

There is no way to win the undeserved suffering except through the divinely instituted method. Reversionistic and carnal believers may create another system

but it will not work. Only God's method is workable inside the divine system. We have to do it, the protocol way. It is doing the right thing at the right way at the right time. God cannot share His victory to any believer who is trying to take away God's plan and replaces it with human plan.

