

# *The Life*



STUDY GUIDE

# HOW TO LET CHRIST LIVE HIS LIFE IN AND THROUGH YOU

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Printed in the United States of America

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I first encountered Bill and Anabel Gillham and the truths they teach in the early 80's. It would take pages for me to express the way that God has impacted my life through their teaching. Over the years, my wife and I have walked hundreds of people through their materials. Time and again we have seen God use these truths to transform lives, heal broken marriages, and set people free from years of bondage and addiction. For quite some time, it has been my desire to produce a video series that would make these truths accessible to more people. I believe that God has allowed us here at Mars Hill to accomplish this through *The Life*. As Producer, this is not just another video project for me; it is a passion. I am so excited for you as you begin this series. I pray that God will use Bill and Anabel Gillham to impact your life in the same incredible way that He used them in my life and the lives of so many others.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Fred Carpenter  
Producer, Mars Hill Productions

Welcome to *The Life*. Of course, when we talk about *The Life* we are talking about a Person—Jesus Christ, God Himself—offering to exchange who we are apart from Him for a new identity as His sons and daughters, infused with His life, made partakers of His nature, tracing our heritage to Him, and blessed with His indwelling presence.

At Lifetime Ministries, we have been privileged to produce a number of tape series, write several books, counsel and disciple thousands of people, produce a ton of radio programs, and conduct seminars all over the country. These people and materials are all over the world sharing the message you are about to hear: Jesus Christ came for a much greater purpose than getting us to heaven when we die. He came to give life—*The Life*.

Before you turn the page, utter a quick but determined prayer, “Lord God, teach me about Yourself and show me what it means to be a beneficiary of *The Life*.”

Don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of service to you. God bless you.

Lifetime Ministries

*Welcome to The Life!*

## **Introduction:**

### **How to Use *The Life* Video Series and Study Guide**

The Life is a bold title, and justifiably so. In this life-changing video series, Bill and Anabel discuss and teach about how to let the Truth Himself—Jesus Christ—live and express His life through you. The Apostle Paul reminds us that spiritual truth is not an intellectual acquisition, but rather something that must be apprehended by the enlightening power of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:10-14). As you begin each session, make it a specific matter of prayer to ask the Lord to share with you His truth by the power of His Spirit.

### **How to Use the Study Guide**

We recommend that you not attempt to follow the outline in detail as you view a session. In test groups, we have found that it is better to encourage viewers to give their full attention to what Bill and Anabel are teaching. If questions arise during the session, jot them down in the column for notes that is provided on each page.

Each outline has been carefully designed to help you recall the information from that session. However, in order to retain what you have heard it is best to review the outline as soon as possible after viewing the session.

There are two types of questions at the end of each outline: those that are intended to be discussed in a group, and those that are for private reflection with your heavenly Father. During group discussion, many of the issues that will come up are of a sensitive nature. People may be slow to open up, but when one person becomes transparent, others find the freedom to follow. Often God will lead someone to share something that is exactly what someone else in the group needs to hear. This is how the body of Christ works. Be patient. Wait on the Holy Spirit.

Finally, don't feel that you have to move rapidly through the series. Many groups find it helpful to view a particularly "deep" session and then take their next two meetings to work through the study questions.

### **Tips Before Viewing *The Life***

Each session of *The Life* is 30 - 40 minutes in length.

The smallest distractions can diminish the effectiveness of a viewing.

- Adjust the volume, tracking, and picture before the session begins.
- Make sure that your monitor (television screen) is large enough for your group.
- If possible, eliminate extraneous distractions (telephones, glaring lights, etc.) ahead of time.
- If you are viewing a video in the daytime, try to place your monitor so that the dominant light source is *behind* the screen. You don't want an intense light shining into your screen.
- For those viewing *The Life* on DVD, you can skip the brief Introduction at the beginning of each session by clicking NEXT on your DVD controller.

# Contents

**Welcome** ..... 3

**Introduction**..... 4

**The Life Video Preview** ..... 7

**Session 1: *The Basic Problem; Programming of the Flesh***..... 9

**Session 2: *Bill and Anabel’s Flesh*** ..... 15

**Session 3: *Our True Identity in Christ***..... 19

**Session 4A: *Enveloped in Christ***..... 29

**Session 4B: *Jesus Loves Me; Mason’s Story***..... 31

**Session 5: *Why We Still Struggle; Channel 1 and Channel 2*** ..... 33

**Session 6: *Dealing with Your Emotions*** ..... 39

**Session 7A: *Overcoming Temptation: 1 Corinthians 10:13***..... 43

**Session 7B: *How to Give a Burden to the Lord***..... 45

**Session 8A: *How Can I Know Christ is Living Through Me?*** ..... 47

**Session 8B: *Common Questions***..... 51

**Session 9: *Marriage, Part 1*** ..... 55

**Session 10: *Marriage, Part 2*** ..... 57

**Session 11: *Marriage, Part 3***..... 59

**Conclusion** ..... 61

**Additional Resources** ..... 62





# ***The Life* Video Preview**

Running Time: 8:35

## **Focus of Video Preview**

The Video Preview, which precedes Session 1, can be used in a variety of ways to help you use *The Life* to its fullest potential:

### **I. As a Promotional Tool**

- A. Use the Video Preview as a tool to promote a screening of *The Life* with your group, your elders, your deacons, or your pastor.
- B. If time is an issue, consider showing just part of the Preview as it has been designed in self-contained sections of varying length.
- C. Even if your group is already planning to use *The Life*, the Preview could be just the thing that would give some members of your group the motivation to participate on a regular basis. In order to encourage participation, consider showing the Video Preview during the week (or weeks) preceding the first viewing of *The Life*.

### **II. For a Time of Ministry**

- A. The Video Preview is intended to do more than promote *The Life*. It contains a powerful, real-life testimony as well as profound insights concerning human needs and the Christian life. Perhaps something in the Preview will touch a tender place within you or someone in your group. The following questions will facilitate a ministry time built around viewing *The Life* Video Preview.
  - 1) Tom and Sheri Eudaly are not unlike thousands of others who have found freedom and fulfillment through the truths that Bill and Anabel Gillham teach in *The Life*. Sheri was a Christian wife and mother who had everything that this world says is important, yet she “didn’t want to live anymore.” Tom was a successful Christian businessman. While he was not experiencing the desperation that Sheri was, through his study of the Scriptures he knew that there had to be more to the Christian life than he was experiencing. Can you relate to either Tom or Sheri? How?
  - 2) Tom and Sheri discovered that there was more to the Christian life than they had been living. In fact, Sheri said, “It was like a light bulb came on in my head when I understood the things that Bill and Anabel teach.” As you recall, Tom talked about the confusion he experienced reading the book of Acts, wondering why his Christian life wasn’t like the Bible portrayed it. Both Tom and Sheri asked God to speak to them and make their Christian lives what He intended for them to be, and God answered. Do you identify with Tom and Sheri? Will He do for you what He did for them? As you take spiritual inventory, do you find your spiritual shelves stocked with apathy, feeling that you’ve heard it all, seen it all, and know everything you need to know about God? What will it take to clear the shelves and motivate you toward a thriving, growing life in Christ? It took desperation for Sheri, but it doesn’t have to be the same for you. Right now having watched only the Preview, you can commit before God that you want to follow His plan

for life, not your own or even a mix of yours and His. God wants to live and express His life through you. Are you ready? If not, that will it take to get you ready to depend completely upon the life Himself?

- 3) At the end of the Preview, the narrator says, “The Christian life is not difficult to live, it’s impossible. Jesus Christ is the only one who has ever lived the Christian life, and He’s the only one who can live it today. And that’s exactly what He wants to do through you.” More than any other single statement, this one embodies what *The Life* is all about. What do you think about this statement? Read and discuss Galatians 2:20.
- 4) Both Tom and Sheri knew Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, but they didn’t know Him as their life. Read John 14:6. What do you think it means to know Jesus as your life? How is this different from knowing Him as Savior and Lord?

### III. Wrapping Up

Pray together, asking the Lord to prepare your hearts and minds to receive the wonderful truths that you will encounter as you participate in *The Life*. Tell the Lord that you are open to the things He wants to teach you and the changes He wants to bring about in your life. And remember, *The Life* is a video series about trusting Christ and depending on Him. Why not start right now with this prayer, confessing your dependence on Him for your own spiritual insights as well as for the results of this series?



# Session 1: *The Basic Problem; Programming of the Flesh*

Running Time: 38:53

## Focus of Session 1

Bill Gillham recalls hearing a speaker say, “Your problem is that you don’t know what your problem is. You think your problem is your problem, but it’s not. And that’s your main problem.” Before we can really appreciate the marvelous truths Bill and Anabel are going to share with us in *The Life*, we need to understand a basic problem that is common to all people. Sessions 1 and 2 will lead us into this understanding.

In Session 1 we will gain insight into the different dimensions of our being: body, soul, and spirit. We will understand how our mind, will, and emotions interrelate. And we will see how, from an early age, our flesh is programmed according to the principle rule of this world—performance-based acceptance.

## Session 1 Outline

## Notes

- I. **Two Ways for Christians to Walk in this World:** According to the flesh, and in the Spirit
  - A. According to the flesh
    - 1) What it is not: just doing bad things.
    - 2) What it is: depending on yourself and your own abilities to get your needs met apart from Christ.
  - B. In the Spirit
    - 1) What it is not: religious activity.
    - 2) What it is: allowing Jesus to live His life through you.
  - C. **Key Concept** - *The Christian life is not difficult to live; it is impossible. Jesus Christ is the only one who has ever really lived the Christian life. He is the only one who can live it today, and that is exactly what He wants to do—through you (see Jn. 15:5 and Gal. 2:20).*
- II. **Three Basic Points**
  - A. Point 1: God is love. You were created by God to be loved unconditionally. Only God loves unconditionally, therefore you need God.
  - B. Point 2: God created laws (ways) to govern the universe. All of His ways are good.
  - C. Point 3: Each of you showed up on planet earth with the need to be loved (Point 1). Instead of getting your need met God’s way (Point 2), you developed your own ways of getting your need met. This is what the Bible calls “flesh.”
  - D. **Key Concept** - *The cardinal sin of man is independence from God (reference story of Adam in Genesis 3).*

III. **The Human Design:** Body, Soul, and Spirit; 1 Thess. 5:23 (see Diagram 1.1, page 11).

- A. **The Spirit** is that dimension of your being through which you relate to God. At the time of your physical birth, your spirit is dead to God.<sup>1</sup> This condition is inherited from Adam, the first man, and this is why you need to be “born again” (see Jn. 3:1-15).
- B. **The Soul** (from the same root from which we derive the word *psychology*) is your unique personality and is comprised of three parts:
  - 1) **The mind** (your “thinker”) analyzes data and makes recommendations to your will.
  - 2) **The emotions** (your “feeler”) respond to various stimuli and exert influence on the will.
  - 3) **The will** makes decisions. It works like a light switch; it is either on or off. You don’t actually “make up your mind” about anything; you make up your will.
- C. **The Body** (your “earth suit”) is the part of your being which houses your soul and spirit while you on earth. It is the vehicle through which you relate to people and the environment. The brain (as opposed to the mind) is an organ of the body which gathers, organizes, and stores information into constructs we call memory.
- D. **Key Concept - *You are a spiritual being with a soul in a body, not a physical being with a spirit.***

#### IV. How the Flesh is Programmed

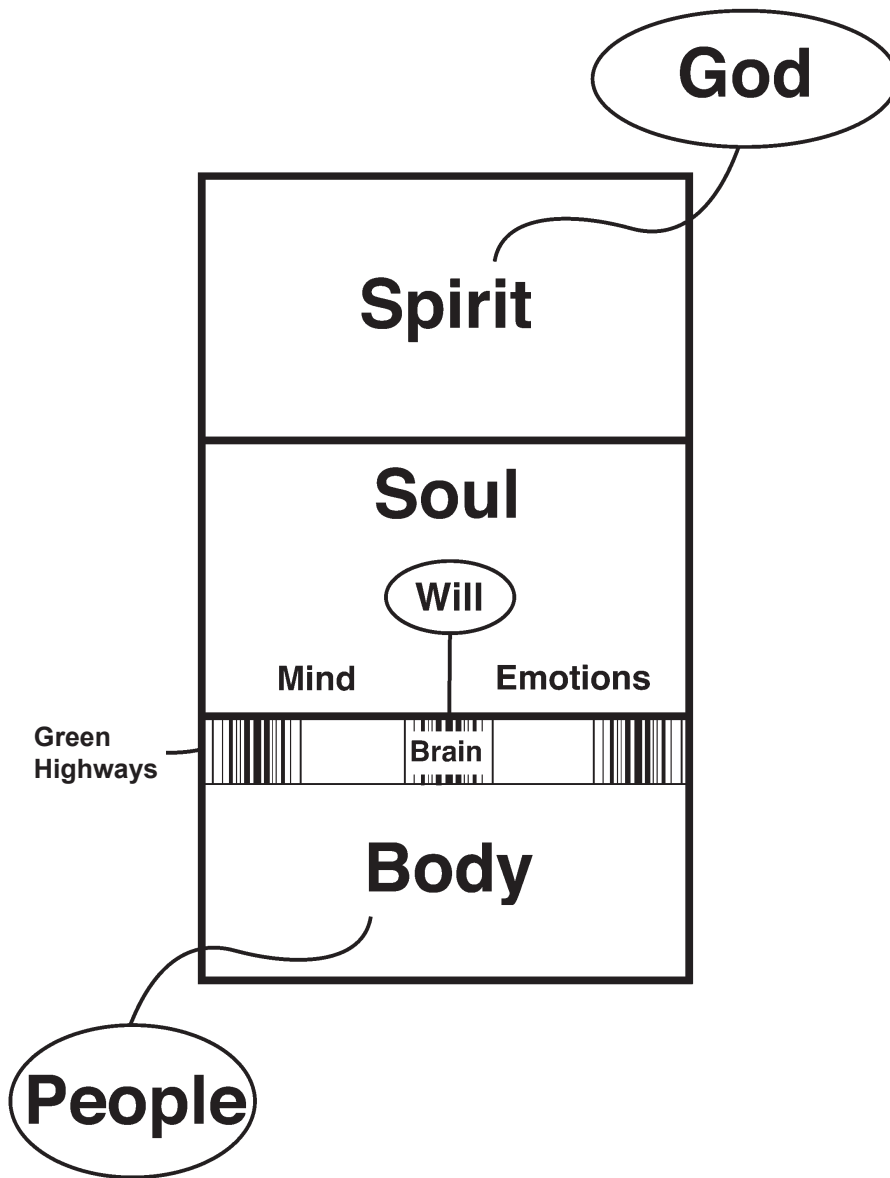
- A. Both the mind and emotions are quick to respond to stimuli, but the emotions are much slower to recover (recall Bill’s “rattlesnake” illustration).
- B. When you are chronically exposed to harmful stimuli (e.g., unhealthy relationships), your emotions can become “stuck.”
- C. As the brain repeatedly receives the same type of information and interacts with the mind, will, and emotions in the same ways, those programs become deeply ingrained. Bill refers to these programs as “green highways.”
- D. After you are born again, these “green highways” become your unique version of the flesh (see Diagram 1.1).
- E. **Key Concept - *Walking in the Spirit most often requires you to choose to walk by what God’s Word says rather than by what you feel.***
- F. **Key Concept - *Bill’s working definition of the flesh: “Your old ways which you developed through independent living.”***<sup>2</sup>

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1 Most Bible students agree that little children are exempt from the consequences of having a sinful nature and being descendants of Adam until such time as they are able to make a decision, either to rebel against God or submit themselves to Him. This is called the “age of accountability” and is probably different for every individual (For further study, reference 2 Sam. 12:15-23; Ezek. 16:21; Mt. 18:10).

2 The Greek word *sarx* occurs 148 times in the New Testament. It is translated 13 different ways, though the most frequently used translation is “flesh,” which occurs 128 times. In his *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*,

**Diagram 1.1**

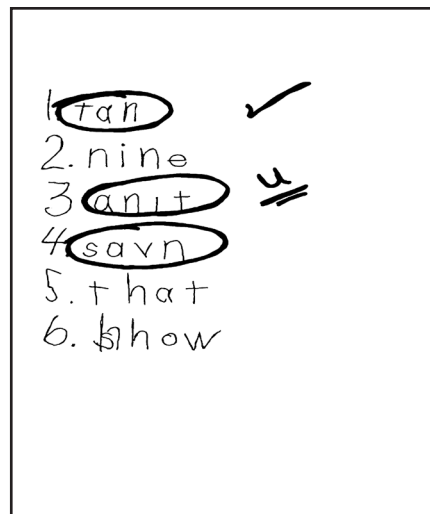
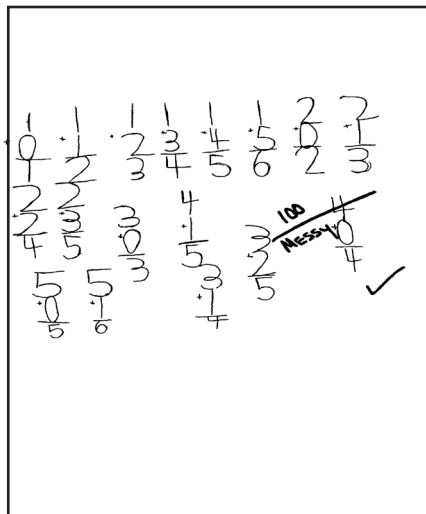


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W.E. Vine lists 13 different uses for the word *sarx*, all of which are translated “flesh.” While the term “flesh” is often a reference to the physical body, it is frequently used to refer to that part of man that continues to identify with the world system. Instead of submitting to Jesus Christ as Lord and relying upon His sufficiency, the “flesh” depends upon human resourcefulness. This is what Bill and Anabel mean when they refer to methods you developed to get your needs met your way, when they refer to green highways, old ways, habit patterns, the flesh, fleshly patterns, or old patterns. These “flesh patterns,” which the devil uses to offer temptation, are established in the brain and vary in intensity.

V. Examples of How Flesh is Programmed

- A. **Key Concept** - *Before we blame our parents for the way our self-perception (programming) developed, we must look to see how our parents were raised and how their parents were raised and their parent's parents were raised, etc. If we look back far enough, we will find the enemy of God, Satan, who originally deceived Adam into thinking independence from God was a good plan. The battle you face is not against your parents or any other human being. Your battle is against the power of the enemy and his principalities (ref. Eph. 6:12).*
- B. The child who receives no physical love does not understand that his parents are unable to express love. The child learns that he is unlovely. He will then develop ways to live with the belief and feelings that he is unlovely.
- C. Children spell love t-i-m-e. A child will conclude that he is worth less than whatever the parent spends more time doing. Over time the child may feel worthless.
- D. Critical parents may produce children who feel like failures, even when they are very successful.
- E. Perfectionism in itself is not bad, except when the motive is to perform in order to get love.
- F. The person with inhibited flesh may not even realize that his "feeler" is stuck.
- G. USDA-Choice Flesh: Most of the examples above describe what Bill calls "yukky" flesh. "USDA" flesh is flesh that looks good and gains worldly acceptance. However, it is still flesh.
- H. "The Biggie": performance-based acceptance (PBA) is the most common influence in the programming of flesh. *If you perform well, I will accept you. If you don't, I won't.* Many of the examples above involve PBA. Schools are a major source of PBA (see examples below).



## Review and Discussion

- 1) Review and discuss the “Key Concepts” from the preceding outline.
- 2) Review and discuss Bill’s three opening points (Part II of outline).
- 3) If your “earth suit” is only the temporary housing for your soul and spirit, why do you assign so much significance to it?
- 4) How does performance-based acceptance affect you in your work, family, and church?
- 5) If you are a Christian, how should your methods (ways) for getting your needs met differ from others in the world around you?

## Questions For Personal Reflection

When you were a child, what people and experiences had the most significant impact on what you believe, think, and feel? Were the messages you received generally positive or negative? Work through the following “Flesh Inventory.” Ask the Holy Spirit to use this inventory to help you identify your unique version of the flesh. Check the issues that you struggle with and put a number from 1-10 beside each check—with 1 being low and 10 high—to indicate the intensity of your struggle. Is your “feeler” stuck at the top of your emotional Richter scale? In the following sessions of *The Life*, you will discover how to appropriate what God has done through Christ to free you from these patterns!

## Flesh Inventory

<input type="checkbox"/> Anger	<input type="checkbox"/> Feelings of Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Low Self-discipline	<input type="checkbox"/> Restlessness
<input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety	<input type="checkbox"/> Feelings of Stupidity	<input type="checkbox"/> Low Self-worth	<input type="checkbox"/> Sadness
<input type="checkbox"/> Argumentative	<input type="checkbox"/> Feelings of Worthlessness	<input type="checkbox"/> Lust for Pleasure	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-centered
<input type="checkbox"/> Attraction to Astrology	<input type="checkbox"/> Gluttony	<input type="checkbox"/> Materialistic	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-confidence
<input type="checkbox"/> Bigotry	<input type="checkbox"/> Greed	<input type="checkbox"/> Must Strive to Repay Any Kindness Shown to You	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-depreciation
<input type="checkbox"/> Bitterness	<input type="checkbox"/> Guilt	<input type="checkbox"/> Negativism	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-gratification (obsessions)
<input type="checkbox"/> Boastful	<input type="checkbox"/> Hatred	<input type="checkbox"/> Nervousness	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-hatred
<input type="checkbox"/> Bossy	<input type="checkbox"/> Hostility	<input type="checkbox"/> Occult Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-indulgence
<input type="checkbox"/> Causing Dissension	<input type="checkbox"/> Homosexual Lust	<input type="checkbox"/> Opinionated	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-justification
<input type="checkbox"/> Conceited	<input type="checkbox"/> Idolatry	<input type="checkbox"/> Overly Quiet	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-pity
<input type="checkbox"/> Controlled by Emotions	<input type="checkbox"/> If It Feels Good, Do It	<input type="checkbox"/> Overly Sensitive to Criticism	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-reliant
<input type="checkbox"/> Controlled by Peer Pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> Impatience	<input type="checkbox"/> Overly Submissive	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-righteousness
<input type="checkbox"/> Covetousness	<input type="checkbox"/> Impulsiveness	<input type="checkbox"/> Passivity	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-sufficient
<input type="checkbox"/> Critical Tongue	<input type="checkbox"/> Impure Thoughts	<input type="checkbox"/> Perfectionist	<input type="checkbox"/> Selfish Ambition
<input type="checkbox"/> Deceitfulness	<input type="checkbox"/> Inadequacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Prejudice	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensuality
<input type="checkbox"/> Depression (non-organic)	<input type="checkbox"/> Indifference to Others’ Problems	<input type="checkbox"/> Pride	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Lust
<input type="checkbox"/> Dominance	<input type="checkbox"/> Inferiority Feelings	<input type="checkbox"/> Profane	<input type="checkbox"/> Slow to Forgive
<input type="checkbox"/> Drug Dependency	<input type="checkbox"/> Inhibited	<input type="checkbox"/> Projecting Blame	<input type="checkbox"/> Stubbornness
<input type="checkbox"/> Drunkenness	<input type="checkbox"/> Insecurity	<input type="checkbox"/> Prone to Gossip	<input type="checkbox"/> Temper
<input type="checkbox"/> Envy	<input type="checkbox"/> Intemperance	<input type="checkbox"/> Quick to Speak	<input type="checkbox"/> Unlovely
<input type="checkbox"/> False Modesty	<input type="checkbox"/> Jealousy	<input type="checkbox"/> Racism	<input type="checkbox"/> Vanity
<input type="checkbox"/> Fear	<input type="checkbox"/> Laziness	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebellion at Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawal
<input type="checkbox"/> Feelings of Helplessness	<input type="checkbox"/> Loner	<input type="checkbox"/> Resentment	<input type="checkbox"/> Workaholic
			<input type="checkbox"/> Worrier

## *Notes*

## Session 2: *Bill and Anabel's Flesh*

Running Time: 39:09

### Focus of Session 2

As we discovered in Session 1, each of us has developed our own version of the flesh in order to get our needs met our own way. In Session 2, we will hear how Bill and Anabel's unique versions of the flesh were programmed. Through their honesty and transparency, we will gain insight into our own version of the flesh. What Bill and Anabel have to share in this session illustrates both God's desire to meet our deepest needs and the futility of trusting in the flesh.

### Session 2 Outline

- I. **Introduction:** In order to talk about the flesh, you have got to look back to your parents. However, as you learned in Session 1, your parents are not the real culprits in the programming of your flesh. Satan is the real culprit.
- II. **The Programming of Bill's Flesh**
  - A. The Bible (the "Manufacturer's Instructions") gives you the guidelines for marriage. You cannot ignore these guidelines without disastrous consequences. Bill's parents established their marriage by reversing the roles of husband and wife. Bill experienced the consequences and began developing his version of the flesh.
  - B. Little boys have a need to discover and express their masculinity. They learn how to interact with females by interacting with their moms.
  - C. If males are emasculated in their formative years, their flesh usually develops toward one of three patterns:
    - 1) Homosexuality: giving up on being male.
    - 2) Passivity: I'll be anything you want me to be; just accept me.
    - 3) Machismo: macho behavior to try to gain masculine acceptance.
  - D. By trying to meet his own needs (playing "lord of the ring"), Bill collared himself with emotional, mental, and behavioral flesh patterns.
  - E. **Key Concept** - *Fleshly patterns are developed in response to your "stuck feeler" and will bring you into conflict with God, yourself, and others.*
- III. **Anabel's Version of the Flesh:**
  - A. Anabel grew up in a home with a heavy influence on performance-based acceptance. Her flesh began to develop in response to this dynamic.
  - B. **Key Concept** - *Anabel's definition of the flesh: Techniques I developed in my private world to get my need for love met, some of which are and some of which are not successful.*



- C. From performance-based acceptance Anabel moved on to performance based self-acceptance: *If I perform well I can bestow self-love, but always with a great deal of introspection.*
- D. The next step: Anabel’s quest to perform perfectly (i.e., *If you love me when I perform well, how much would you love me if I performed perfectly?*).
- E. Perfection-flesh results in flesh that is supersensitive to criticism.
- F. **Key Concept** - *If your self-acceptance is tied to the flesh, it is only a matter of time until you encounter a crisis. God never intended for you to get your needs met through your own resources. The flesh is incapable of supplying what God intends to supply Himself.*
- G. When your flesh ceases to achieve the desired results, you develop coping mechanisms and more fleshly patterns. Anabel developed suicidal tendencies.
- H. In a close relationship like marriage, your flesh will often conflict with the flesh of your partner. When the conflict is severe, one of two things will happen:
  - 1) You head to the divorce court citing irreconcilable differences.
  - 2) The inadequacy of the flesh will drive you to dependency on God.
- I. **Key Concept** - *God never intended for your flesh to mesh with your partner’s flesh, or for your flesh to supply your need for love.*
- J. When Anabel could go no further she cried out, “God, I can’t! You are going to have to.” God responded, “Thank you, Anabel. I will do it all for you!” And with this, Anabel began to grasp the truth of Galatians 2:20—that she had been crucified with Christ and that Christ would live His life through her.
- K. **Key Concept** - *God says, “I will do it all for you!”*

## Review and Discussion

- 1) Review and discuss the “Key Concepts” from the preceding outline.
- 2) Why is the flesh incapable of meeting your needs for love and acceptance?
- 3) Do you have to “crash and burn” in order to recognize the futility of trusting your flesh, or is there another way?
- 4) As you have seen from Bill and Anabel’s story, God used the incompatibility of their flesh to bring them to a place of trusting Him. They now have a marriage that Anabel says she would wish for any couple. But many couples have a different story. Like Bill and Anabel, the incompatibility of their flesh brings them to a marital crisis which they perceive as insurmountable, citing “irreconcilable differences.” In reality, God has them exactly where He wants them—at the end of their flesh trip. This “end” is actually the beginning of a relationship of dependency on God that will result in the kind of marriage Anabel

describes. Yet, rather than move forward, they shrink back and go their separate ways, failing to recognize the incredible opportunity that God is giving them. What is the difference between Bill and Anabel's story and the thousands of marriages that end in divorce every year?

- 5) Bill's analytical aptitude is useful in critically teaching the Word of God, but is it this same aptitude which the enemy perverted through Bill's flesh to be critically abusive of Anabel? Can you identify your aptitudes which the enemy might have perverted through the flesh?
- 6) Is there a flesh pattern in your spouse (or people close to you) that God is using to bring you to the end of your own flesh? How might your refusal to deal with your flesh impede another's progress toward dealing with their flesh?

## **Questions For Personal Reflection**

- 1) What kinds of chains do you have around your neck?
- 2) What circumstances or situations has God allowed or brought into your life to wean you from reliance on the flesh? What will it take for you to come to the place that Anabel came to when she said, "I can't do it. God, if this is going to work, You are going to have to do it"?

## **Before the Next Session**

As with any teaching, it is imperative that you decide what you will do in response to what you have heard. Choosing to treat this session as interesting material that might be of use some day is tantamount to putting it on the shelf to collect dust. Every one of us has our unique version of the flesh and must decide whether we are going to continue leaning on our own ways or opt for dependence upon Christ to do it in us and through us. Confess and turn from your dependence upon the flesh. Ask the Lord to show you how to depend upon Him and thus walk as a new creation in Christ.

## *Notes*

## Session 3: *Our True Identity in Christ*

Running Time: 39:32

### Focus of Session 3

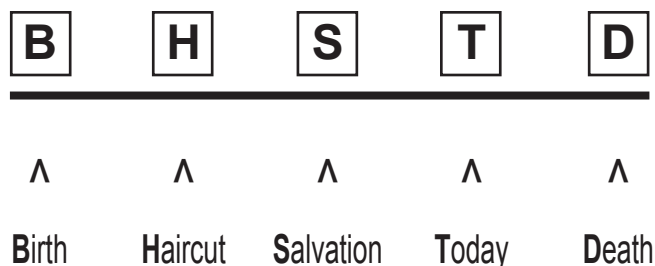
In the first two sessions of *The Life*, Bill and Anabel helped us see how the programming of our flesh leads to our demise. In this session, we will delve even deeper into the human condition. But, we will also turn a corner as we discover what God has done through Christ to solve our problem. In this pivotal session, we will see that through Christ we are not only forgiven, but we also have a new identity and a new life as His nature becomes our nature and His life becomes our life.

### Session 3 Outline

- I. **Choose a Number Between 1 and 10** that represents how much you accept yourself, 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest. Write that number down where you can refer back to it at the end of the session.
- II. **2 Corinthians 5:16,17:** Bill identifies key truths in these verses:  
“Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”
  - A. Your true identity is not in your flesh.
  - B. The old has passed away; you are a new “spirit critter.”
  - C. Get into God’s Word and see how He accomplished this.
- III. **The Time Dimension**
  - A. God created all things for His purposes—including time.
  - B. Faith requires the time dimension. When faith is no longer needed, time will cease to be.
  - C. God is not controlled by His creation; He is not time-dimensional.
  - D. You are a time-dimensional being. Bill describes your “time line” (see Diagram 3.1).

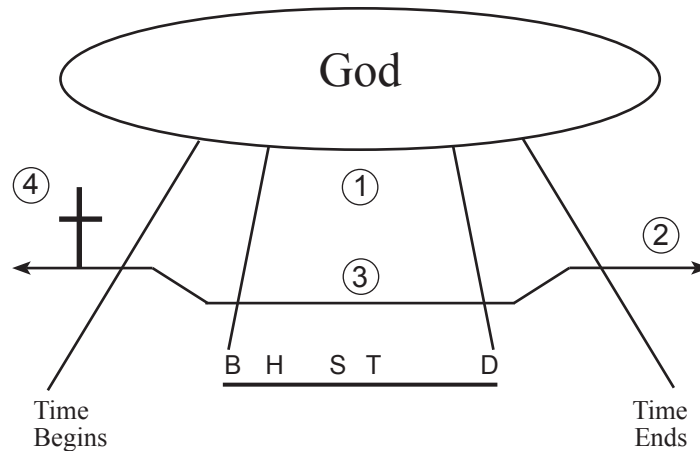
*Notes*

### Diagram 3.1



- E. God is like a man in a helicopter viewing everything (including your life) as present tense. God knows everything and sees forever into both the past and the present (see Diagram 3.2).
- F. Christ's life is eternal, extending forever into what you call the future, and forever into what you call the past (see Diagram 3.2).
- G. In some way Christ's work on the cross (God's solution to man's problem) occurred outside the time dimension. Revelation 13:8 in the KJV refers to Christ as "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (see Diagram 3.2).
- H. **Key Concept** - *God never allows a problem to come into your life for which He does not already have a solution.*

**Diagram 3.2**



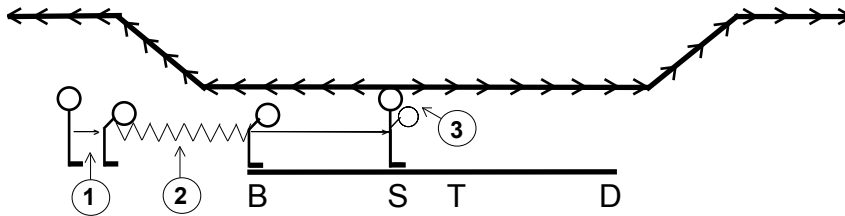
- 1) God views everything (including your time line) as present tense.
- 2) Christ's life is eternal, extending forever into what you call the future and the past.
- 3) The dip in Christ's lifeline represents His time on planet earth.
- 4) In some way, Christ's work on the cross occurred outside the time dimension (Revelation 13:8).

#### IV. The First Adam and the Last Adam

- A. Adam was the first "lord of the ring." Spiritual death was the result of Adam's disobedience (see Diagram 3.3, page 21).
- B. As a descendant of Adam, you have inherited his spiritual characteristics (see Diagram 3.3, and "Spiritual Characteristics in the First Adam," page 26). You are born with a dead spirit. This is why you need to be born again (reference the story of Nicodemus, John. 3:1-15, from Session 1).

- C. **Key Concept** - *Birth always determines identity. All you have to do to go to hell is show up on the planet as a descendent of Adam.*
- D. Salvation is a change in your nature and your identity from the inside out.
- 1) When you enter into Christ's lifeline, you receive His nature (His spiritual characteristics) and His life. You receive a new present, a new future, and a new past (see Diagram 3.3).
  - 2) Your heritage from Adam is history. God had to do away with your old identity in order to give you a new identity. The old you was crucified in Christ (Rom. 6:6, Gal. 2:20), and you became a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).
- E. **Key Concept** - *God has no plan to make something beautiful of your life (in Adam). The plan is to kill it and start over again (see Keybox, page 22).*

**Diagram 3.3**



- 1) Spiritual death is the result of Adam's disobedience.
- 2) As a descendant of Adam, you have his spiritual characteristics.
- 3) When you enter Christ's lifeline, you receive a new present, future, and past.

## V. Christ in You, and You in Christ

- A. Salvation is like a coin: heads is "Christ in you" and tails is "you in Christ." The "you in Christ" verses outnumber the "Christ in you" verses 10 to 1.
- B. **Key Concept** - *It is from the perspective of who you are "in Christ" that you understand your true identity and realize that Christ is your life.*

## VI. The Death of the Old You is a “Done Deal”

- A. How to appropriate the truth that your old self *has been* crucified with Christ (Rom. 6:6).
- 1) Question: How many of your sins did Christ take to the cross 2,000 years ago?  
Answer: All of them.
  - 2) Question: How many of your sins had you committed 2,000 years ago?  
Answer: None of them.
  - 3) In the same way you claim He took your sins to the cross, you claim that He took *you* to the cross. The old you (who you were in Adam) *died*.
- B. The death of the old you from Romans 6:
- 1) Verse 2: you have died to sin.
  - 2) Verse 3: you have been baptized into His death.
  - 3) Verse 4: you have been buried with Him.
  - 4) Verse 5: you have been united with Him in the likeness of His death.
  - 5) *These verses are all past tense!*
- C. We all believe that there were two thieves crucified with Christ, but there is a lot more “ink” in the Bible about *you* being crucified with Christ than there is about those two thieves.

### *In Adam vs. In Christ*

If you are not a Believer and have not accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, the Bible refers to you as being a descendant of Adam (Rom. 5:12), and as such you are bound for eternal separation from God. If you are a Believer, then you have been reborn through the process of salvation (Jn. 3:3 and Eph. 2:8-9). You no longer trace your spiritual heritage through Adam, but through Christ (Rom. 5:15-21). God is now your Father (Gal. 4:6), not Satan. No longer are you bound for eternal separation from God, but you have become a sharer of Christ’s Love and will live eternally in fellowship with Him (1 Jn. 2:25; 5:11). Who you once were apart from Christ died and no longer lives (Rom. 6:6). With your old man’s passing, a new person was born with a completely new identity (2 Cor. 5:17). Once you were a sinner, descended from Adam. Now, you are a saint who traces his heritage to Christ.

As a new creation in Christ, God is intensely interested in you depending on Christ as your life and reflecting this in the way you perform (Eph. 2:10). There is nothing about who you are—your identity—that concerns God. He took care of everything He could not stand about you—the sinner—in Christ at the cross. He also made provision for you to walk in the power of the Spirit and, in the process, learn how to depend upon Him to reflect who and what He has made you. God took care of your identity—done deal. On an ongoing basis, He is helping you clean up your performance to more accurately reflect who you actually are: a saint by calling!



## VII. Your True Identity in Christ

- A. Review the “True Identity in Christ” sheet on page 27 for homework. You will see that “in Christ” you are *now* accepted, loved, holy, and righteous.
- B. You are a saint. The word “saint” shares the same root as the word “holy.” The Word of God refers to you as a saint 56 times.
- C. **Key Concept** - *You can no more be a sinner saved by grace than you can be a married single person. Rather, you are now a “saint who sins” (see Keybox below).*

### **Saint vs. Sinner**

The word “sinner” is often used to describe both performance and identity, which becomes confusing. As Christians, we have received a new identity. We are no longer sinners, but saints who sin—and hate it.

After Christ finished His earthly work, the Holy Spirit was sent and the message of the New Covenant was instituted (Lk. 22:20; Heb. 9:15-17; Acts 2:1ff). In other words, the New Covenant did not take effect until Christ died. There were no “Christians” until after the cross. The Scriptures referenced above indicate that the message of the New Covenant begins at Pentecost in Acts 2. Therefore, to discover what the Lord thinks of us as His children, we must look at references occurring after Christ’s death. Are we saints, or are we sinners?

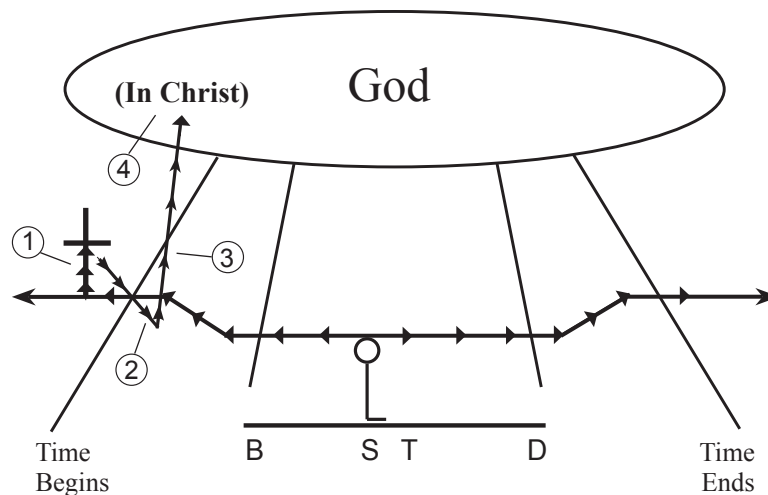
From Acts 2:1 to Revelation 22:21, there are three scriptures that *appear* to refer to Christians as sinners: 1 Tim. 1:15; Jms. 4:8, and Jms. 5:20. On the other hand, there are 56 Scriptural references to Christians as “saints.” Why not focus on the prevailing emphasis of God’s Word and agree with Him that you are indeed what He calls you—a saint? Even though your performance does not always reflect your new identity, the fact remains: When you became a Christian, you entered into Christ’s life and became a new creation with a new identity (2 Cor 5:17; Col. 3:4). Remember, your identity is determined by who your Father is, not by what you do.

## VIII. Summary

- A. When Christ went to the cross, you were in Him. When He was buried, you were in Him. When He was raised, you exploded forth from the grave a new person. And when Christ took His seat at the Father’s right hand, in Christ, you took your seat next to your Father (see Diagram 3.4. page 24).
- B. God has solved your identity problem. You are a new creature in Christ.
- C. God has solved your performance problem. His life has become your life, and He will live His life through you.

- D. How did you rate your self-acceptance on the 1-10 scale at the beginning of this session?
- 1) If you rated yourself based upon appearance, performance, and feelings, then you probably gave yourself something less than 10.
  - 2) God grades pass/fail. If you are in Christ, you pass—a perfect 10. If you are not, you fail.
  - 3) If you are in Christ, you are a 10. Who has the higher standard for acceptance—you or God?
- E. **Key Concept** - *God accepts you based upon what you have done with Christ. If you base acceptance upon anything other than Christ, you have higher standards than God.*

### Diagram 3.4



- 1) When Christ went to the cross, you were in Him.
- 2) When Christ was buried, your old self was buried in Him.
- 3) When Christ was raised, you exploded from the grave a new person in Him.
- 4) When Christ took His seat at the Father's right hand, in Christ, you took your seat next to the Father.

### Review and Discussion

- 1) Review and discuss the “Key Concepts” from the preceding outline.
- 2) Bill has shown you that your “old self” died at the cross in Christ, and that when you entered into Christ’s lifeline, His past became your past. What are the implications of this truth for someone who is struggling with a painful and problemed past?
- 3) If you believe that Jesus took all of your sins (none of which you had yet committed) to the cross 2,000 years ago, then why should it be any more difficult to believe that He took *you* to the cross 2,000 years ago?

- 4) What differences will it make if you begin to see yourself as you really are in Christ—a saint, holy, righteous, accepted, etc.?
- 5) Bill explained that through Christ, not only did God solve your identity problem, but He also solved your performance problem, by forgiving you of your sins and making provision to live His life through you. What does it really mean to know Christ as your life as well as your Lord and Savior?

## Questions For Personal Reflection

- 1) When you were asked to write down a number from 1-10 indicating how much you accept yourself, what number did you choose? Why? What have you based your acceptance upon?
- 2) What is preventing you from seeing yourself as you really are in Christ?
- 3) Are there consequences if you choose to maintain your old perspective of yourself? What are they?

## Before the Next Session

Bill's teaching in this session is summarized best in Galatians 2:20: *"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself up for me."*

You can no longer say of your self-image, "That's just the way I am," and excuse your flesh patterns or make unbiblical provisions for your self-image. You now know your true identity. The patterns in which you have walked during your stay here on planet earth are strong, habitual patterns for thought, emotion, and behavior. But God has promised that He will overcome your flesh and enable you to walk as the new creature you are in Christ.

Perhaps through counseling or introspection you are very conscious of your past and how it affects you today. It is time to claim the power of the cross and give your "old self" a funeral. Pray right now and claim your true identity—past, present, and future—in Christ. By an act of God, you have been removed from Adam's family tree and reborn into His family. You are a new creature. Start living as who you really are! Read through the "True Identity in Christ" sheet on page 27. Allow God to impress upon you the truth of these Scriptures.

## **Spiritual Characteristics You Inherited from the First Adam**

You were lost	Matt. 18:11
You were guilty	Isa. 24:6
You were doomed	Ps. 102:20
You were a sinner	Rom. 5:8
You were alienated	Col. 1:21
You were condemned	Rom. 6:23
You were without hope	Eph. 2:12
You were a slave of sin	Rom. 6:17
You were spiritually dead	Eph. 2:1
You were an enemy of God	Rom. 5:10
You were depraved in your mind	Rom. 1:28
You were spiritually deaf and blind	Ezek. 12:2 and 2 Cor. 4:4
You were by nature a child of wrath	Eph. 2:3
You were hardened in heart (unrepentant)	Eph. 4:17,18
You were patterned after your spiritual father, Satan	Jn. 8:41,44

## Your True Identity In Christ

Rom. 3:24	You are now justified and redeemed
Rom. 6:7	Free from sin's power
Rom. 8:1	Indemnified (God does not reject you, just your sinful performance)
Rom. 15:7	Accepted in Him
1 Cor. 1:30	Have wisdom, righteousness sanctification, redemption
1 Cor. 2:16	Mind of Christ is in you
1 Cor. 6:11	Washed, sanctified, justified
1 Cor. 6:17	One with the Holy Spirit
1 Cor. 15:22	Alive (formerly dead)
2 Cor. 2:14	Always lead in His triumph (whether it appears so or not)
2 Cor. 3:3	His laws are written on your heart
2 Cor. 3:14	Your hardened mind is removed (mind transplant)
2 Cor. 5:17	A new creation (not an old garment with a new patch)
2 Cor. 5:21	The righteousness of God (cannot get more righteous)
Gal. 2:4	Have liberty (not a peaceful feeling, but a knowledge)
Gal. 3:28	All are one (no inferiority)
Gal. 4:7	A son and heir of God
Eph. 1:3	Blessed with every spiritual blessing
Eph. 1:4	Chosen, holy, blameless before God
Eph. 1:7	Redeemed, forgiven
Eph. 1:10, 11	Have an inheritance in heaven
Eph. 1:13	Sealed in the Spirit
Eph. 2:6	Seated in heaven (now)
Eph. 2:10	Created for good works (which He can do through you)
Eph. 2:13	Brought near to God
Eph. 3:6	A partaker of the promise
Eph. 3:12	Have boldness and confident access to God
Eph. 5:30	A member of His body (not inferior)
Phil. 4:7	His peace guards your heart and mind (not a peaceful feeling, but a knowledge)
Phil. 4:19	Have all needs (not greeds) supplied
Col. 2:10	Complete (you can't improve a perfect identity)
Col. 3:1	Raised up with Him
Col. 3:3	Your life is hidden with Christ in God (see this by faith)

## *Notes*

## Session 4A: *Enveloped in Christ*

Running Time: 15:47

### Focus of Session 4A

The Bible is like a collection of love letters from God to us. These letters are filled with stories and instructions about life. They are interlaced with promises and frequent reminders of how much He loves us.

One of God's precious promises is found in John 14:20 (LB): "When I come back to life again, you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you." God is reminding us that nothing can come into our lives unless it first goes through the Father, and then through Jesus to get to us; and when it does get to us, it finds us filled with Christ. In this session Anabel gives us a wonderful illustration of this truth. By understanding this truth we are free to rest in the fact that we are protected, secure, and deeply loved in Christ.

### Session 4A Outline

#### I. Using Your Imagination

- A. Webster's definition of imagination: The act or power of forming mental images of what is not present.
- B. It is OK to use your imagination in certain respects with the Bible.

#### II. Setting the Stage

- A. Imagine that your husband is at war and that he is taken prisoner. His captives allow Him to write one letter to you. He would obviously put a great deal of care into that one letter.
- B. You would cherish that letter, read it frequently, and cling to the letter for hope.
- C. **Key Concept** - *The Bible is God's love letter to you, and interwoven throughout is His promise to return and His encouragement to watch for Him.*

#### III. The Promise of John 14:20: "In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."

- A. Anabel explains what it means to really "know" something.
- B. In John 14:20 you read that you will know beyond the shadow of a doubt that:
  - 1) I (Jesus) am in my Father
  - 2) You are in Me
  - 3) I am in you
- C. Using envelopes, Anabel explains how to appropriate John 14:20. You need to let go and nestle yourself into God and Jesus. "When I come back to life again, you are going to know that you are enveloped in Me."

### Notes



- D. **Key Concept-** *Nothing can come into your life unless it first comes through God and through Jesus to get to you. And, once it gets to you, it finds you filled with Jesus. Therefore, what do you have to fear?*
- E. Anabel says that the Lord wants us to watch for Him and be faithful.

## **Review and Discussion**

- 1) Review and discuss the “Key Concepts” in the preceding outline.
- 2) Anabel gave a clear illustration of John 14:20. What an incredible truth! If you really believe that you are nestled in Christ, and that Christ is in the Father, and that Christ is filling you, what practical difference will that make in your life?
- 3) What might keep you from experiencing this truth as a reality in your life?
- 4) What can you do to appropriate this truth in your life?

## **Questions For Personal Reflection**

Using the envelopes, Anabel illustrated how to appropriate John 14:20. Do you recall what she said? You have to let go. When she let go, the envelope with her name on it nestled down into the envelope representing God. Where are you? What is keeping you from “letting go” and nestling deep into God?

## **Before the Next Session**

What are your deepest fears? Talk with your Father about these fears. Allow God to be God in your life. Let go of whatever is keeping you from experiencing the peace He has for you. After you have let go, reread John 14:20 and spend time focusing on where you are—nestled in the envelopes of the Father’s love and Christ’s sufficiency.

Read and meditate on Romans 8:38-39: “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

## Session 4B: *Jesus Loves Me; Mason's Story*

Running Time: 13:29

### Focus of Session 4B

Do you know that God loves us unconditionally? There is nothing we can do to make Him love us more, and there is nothing we can do to cause Him to love us less. God loves us *just because we are His*.

Anabel believed that God loved her as long as she performed well, but she doubted God could really love her when her performance faltered. In this session, Anabel shares a very personal story about God using her second son, Mason David Gillham, to convince her that He really does love her...just because she is His. Do you know that God loves you...just because you are His?

### Session 4B Outline

### Notes

#### I. The Need to be Loved Unconditionally

- A. Anabel knew the song, "Jesus Loves Me," but she didn't really know that Jesus truly loved her—regardless of how she performed.
- B. Anabel believed that if anyone really knew her, they wouldn't love her.
- C. She believed that God loved her only if she performed well.
- D. She never doubted that God loved Mason, but she could not comprehend how God could love Mason's mother.

#### II. God Used Mason to Help Anabel Understand His Love

- A. Anabel desperately wanted to communicate her love to Mason.
- B. God put a new thought into Anabel's mind: "Anabel, you don't reject Mason because he doesn't perform for you. Mason doesn't willfully reject your love, but you willfully reject mine. I love you Anabel, just because you are mine."
- C. *Jesus loves me this I know  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong.  
We are weak but He is strong.  
  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
The Bible tells me so.*
- D. **Key Concept** - *Do you know that God loves you?*

## **Review and Discussion**

- 1) Review and discuss the “Key Concept” in the preceding outline.
- 2) Why do people reject God’s love?
- 3) How do you know God loves you?
- 4) You may know intellectually that God loves you, but what does it take to absorb this knowledge into your heart?
- 5) What difference will it make in your life to really know the unconditional love of God? How might this affect the way you respond to circumstances and to others?

## **Questions For Personal Reflection**

- 1) What are you doing to perform for God’s love?
- 2) Do you truly *know* that God loves you...just because you are His?
- 3) How will your life be different if you decide to believe that God really does love you unconditionally?
- 4) What circumstances or people has God brought into your life in order to help you understand His love for you?

## **Before the Next Session**

Because you do not have the resources (apart from Christ) to love someone unconditionally, you may find it very difficult to accept God’s unconditional love. Yet as you have seen, your performance doesn’t have anything to do with God’s love for you. Again, *there is nothing you can do to make Him love you more, and there is nothing you can do to cause Him to love you less.*

How you view your heavenly Father and His unconditional love for you will affect every area of your life. Depending on your past and your unique version of the flesh, your emotions may or may not readily respond to the love of God. In any case, your emotions will not lead you into a true knowledge of the love of God. This issue must be settled in your mind, and it must be based solely upon the truth found in God’s Word.

Read and mediate upon Romans 5:8: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Allow God to use the truth of this verse to communicate His love for you. *God loves you just because you are His.*

## Session 5: *Why We Still Struggle; Channel 1 and Channet 2*

Running Time: 39:04

### Focus of Session 5

In Session 5, Bill poses a very important question: If we are new creatures “in Christ,” then why do we still struggle, and how do we deal with the source of this struggle? Bill shows us that the source of the struggle is what the Bible refers to as the “law of sin.” He then explains how this power works within us and how we can have victory over it.

### Session 5 Outline

### Notes

#### I. The War Within

- A. In Session 3 we exposed an inner war within the Christian. Many Christians assume that this war is between the “old man” and the “new man.” But as we learned, the “old man” is dead.
- B. Jesus said that a house divided against itself cannot stand (Matt.12:25).
- C. **Key Concept** - *The war within is not a civil war between the “old you” and the “new you.” If this were so, then you would be condemned to a life of defeat on planet earth, and that is not what the Bible teaches.*
- D. The inner war must be with something other than the “old man.”

#### II. Consider Ephesians 2:4-6: “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus.”

- A. Recall from Session 3 that the Gospel is like a two-sided coin: Heads is “Christ in you.” Tails is “you in Christ.”
- B. According to Ephesians 2:4-6, if you are “in Christ” then you are now “seated with Him in the heavenly places.”
- C. **Key Concept** - *Even while you are on earth, you are seated in Christ at the right hand of the Father.*
- D. But how does this work? Pretend that heaven is one inch off the earth. You are now standing on the earth, yet you are in heaven (see Diagram 5.1, page 37).
- E. You are united with Christ spiritually and are a partaker of His divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4).
- F. Your soul is new, but there is plenty of room for growth. You are like an oak sapling growing into a mature oak tree.
- G. Your soul and spirit are sealed in the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; Eph. 4:30).

### III. Satan Has Counterfeited the Trinity

- A. God is your Father. Satan seeks to be God. Satan is the false god and the “father of lies.”
- B. Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. Satan’s false messiah is the antichrist who will appear on this earth in the last days (2 Thess. 2:3-4).
- C. Satan counterfeits the Holy Spirit with the power of sin.
- D. Consider how the Holy Spirit works: He indwells you; He interprets the circumstances of life to you; He dialogues with your mind. “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you” (Jn. 14:26).
- E. **Key Concept - *The power of sin is going to function in the same manner as the Holy Spirit, but with the opposite intent.***

### IV. A Biblical View of Sin

- A. Genesis 4:7 is the first reference to “sin” in the Bible. Here we find that sin is a *noun*, not a verb. God’s Word is *personifying* sin.
- B. Sin in the book of Romans...
  - 1) The word “sin” appears 41 times in Romans 5-8; 40 of these occurrences are *nouns*; only 1 is a verb, indicating poor performance.
  - 2) Romans 7 gives a clue to the way sin (the noun) works:
    - a) In Romans 7:20, sin is clearly identified.
    - b) In verse 7:15, only the pronoun “I” is used.
    - c) What happened to sin in verse 15? Sin is masquerading in verse 15 as the “old you” that was crucified with Christ, and he’s imitating the old man.
- C. **Key Concept - *The power of sin impersonates the old man, speaking to you—the new creation—with first-person pronouns (I, me, myself), using your accent and your tone of voice.***
- D. This is why it seems like the old man is still alive, even though the Scriptures state clearly that he is dead. He was crucified and buried with Christ (Rom. 6:4-6; Gal. 2:20).
- E. The inner war is not against the old man (a civil war); it is against the power of sin.
- F. Some versions of the Bible use the term “sin nature,” but this is *not* a Biblical term and is *not* a literal translation of the original language. If you are born again, then sin is no longer your nature, but rather an alien power that works in you.
- G. **Key Concept - *“Nature” defines the essence of a person or thing. As a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17), you still have sin in you (Rom. 7:21-23); but it is not your essence (nature). You do not have a “sin nature”; you have a new nature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).***
- H. As a new creature in Christ, the law of God is *written on your heart*. You long to obey God (2 Cor.3:3).

## V. Channel 1: How the Power of Sin Wars Against You

(see Diagram 5.1, page 37)

- A. Romans 7:23 identifies the location of sin: “But I see a different law in the *members of my body*, waging war against the law of my mind” (emphasis added).
- B. The stimulus of a “curvy lady” is added to the Diagram.
  - 1) Mind and emotions evaluate this stimulus and then exert influence on the will.
- C. **Key Concept** - *Sin is going to respond to the stimulus by feeding thoughts to your mind in first-person singular pronouns, conforming to your unique version of the flesh. Sin will impersonate your dead, old man.*
- D. Sin is the instrument of Satan, so it is something with which we must all deal. (This is *not* synonymous with demon possession.)
  - 1) Temptation comes from the devil (see Keybox below).
  - 2) Your true desires come from God.
- E. **Key Concept** - *As soon as you choose to buy sin’s thought (temptation) as your own, you have sinned.*
- F. What you should do.
  - 1) Take every thought captive (2 Cor. 10:5). Say “No!” to temptation (1 Cor. 10:13).
  - 2) Bring Christ “on line” to give you victory. You are dead to sin and alive to God, so act like what you are—dead to sin. This is not an emotion-based position; this is a mind-based position. You act dead to sin *by faith*. “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (Jms. 4:7).
  - 3) Accept your way of escape. Run from temptation. Set your mind on something else. Remember where the thoughts come from, the power of sin.
- G. In this session, Bill offers three versions of the “curvy lady” story. In each version, defeat results from “buying” the deception of sin and “tuning in” to what Bill calls Channel 1. Some people live in Channel 1, but there is another Channel (see Diagram 5.1).

### Tested or Tempted

In the New Testament, the Greek word *peirazo* is sometimes translated as the word “tempt” and at other times as the word “test.” In Hebrews 11:17 we read Abraham was tested (*peirazo*). Yet in James 1:13, we read that God does not tempt (*peirazo*) anyone. This apparent contradiction is resolved when we consider the meaning of the word “peirazo” and its use in Scripture. The word *peirazo* literally means *to make proof of*. The word “tempt” is used in relation to the activity of Satan, while the word “test” is often used to describe something that comes from God. Applying the truths that we are learning in *The Life*, we can conclude that Satan tempts us in order to prove that we are not who God says we are in Christ. God tests us in order to prove His work in us is sufficient and complete. This is not a test that you can fail like a school test.

## VI. Channel 2 : How to “Set Your Mind on Things Above” (Col. 3:2).

- A. Your life is “hidden with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3).
- B. Channel 2 is synonymous with walking in the Spirit and setting your mind on reality, determining to depend upon Christ, and declaring that you desire for Him to express His life through you (see Diagram 5.1, page 37).
- C. People believe they are being hypocritical if they act contrary to how they feel. This is Satan’s definition of a hypocrite. The true definition of hypocrisy is pretending to be what you are not.
- D. **Key Concept** - *If you begin to act like who you are, your feeler will not feel like it and sin will accuse you of being a hypocrite. The truth is, you are walking by faith, acting like who you really are and aligning your life on the truths in God’s Word.*
- E. **Key Concept** - *Your old flesh patterns (“green highways”) are like your high-school algebra; they will dissipate from lack of use.*

## Review and Discussion

- 1) Review and discuss the “Key Concepts” from the preceding outline.
- 2) Satan is a counterfeiter. What is his counterfeit of the Holy Spirit?
- 3) Why do you think sin couches his temptation in first-person pronouns, your tone of voice, and your accent? Why is it important for you to understand this?
- 4) What would happen if you began to spend less time in Channel 1 and more time in Channel 2, setting your mind on God’s Word and what He says about where you are and who you are in Christ?
- 5) Sin offers up temptation which correlates with your unique version of the flesh. How can you use this insight to walk in victory?

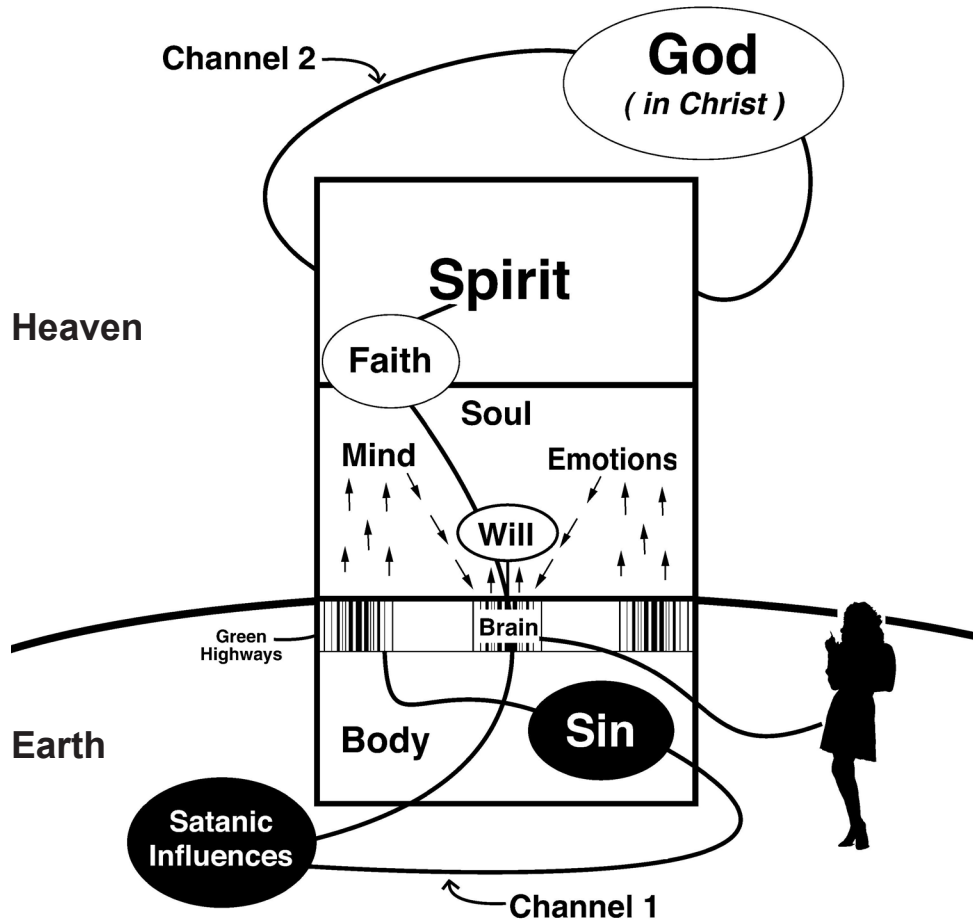
## Questions For Personal Reflection

Why don’t you sit down with Diagram 5.1 and “map out” one of your temptations. What is the stimulus? How does sin speak to you? With which of your fleshly patterns does he correlate his temptation? Where is the critical moment when you should declare yourself “dead” and say “No!” to sin? What is it your Father is saying to you through the Holy Spirit as to who you really are? In what way is He encouraging you to “set your mind on things above” and resist temptation?

*Remember, don’t pretend to go through this exercise in your own strength and wisdom. Ask your Father to give you supernatural, spiritual insight and to lay out a plan of victory as you come to understand the dynamics of temptation and why you struggle.*



**Diagram 5.1**



### **Before the Next Session**

Make it a point this week to consider the source of the thoughts that enter your mind and to “take every thought captive” (2 Cor. 10:5). You will find that many of your thoughts are generated by the power of sin. Replace them with truth from God’s Word about who you are and where you are in Christ (reference the “True Identity” sheet, page 27). “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn. 8:32). “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” (Rom. 12:2).



## *Notes*

## Session 6: *Dealing with Your Emotions*

Running Time: 35:37

### Focus of Session 6

Emotions are a powerful force in our lives. We dare not ignore them, but neither should we be ruled by them. God intends that we “walk by faith,” and faith is anchored in the mind, not the emotions. In Session 6, Bill shares Four Steps toward helping us understand how not to be dominated by our emotions, but rather to walk by faith in consistent victory.

### Session 6 Outline

- I. **You are in the Woods** and have been pursued into a cabin by a huge bear. Though the bear is ferocious, the cabin is impregnable. Bill uses this illustration (see Diagram 6.1, page 41) to teach the following Steps:
  - A. Step 1 – Truth: You are safe in the cabin.
    - 1) You are safe in the cabin, but unless you know that you are safe, you can still die of heart failure.
    - 2) **Key Concept - People say that what you don't know won't hurt you. But in your spiritual walk, what you don't know will destroy you. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6).**
  - B. Step 2 – Faith: Believe that you are safe.
    - 1) You assess your situation and, as time passes, you come to see that you are indeed safe in the cabin. This is “cabin” faith.
    - 2) **Key Concept - Whether you are talking about Christian-faith or cabin-faith, the main issue is not the amount of your faith, but the object of your faith.**
    - 3) You can believe you are safe in the cabin, not act on your faith, and still die of heart failure.
  - C. Step 3 – Works (behavior; performance): Act like you are safe.
    - 1) Your emotions still do not buy the fact that you are safe.
    - 2) Regardless of what your emotions are feeling, you can choose to act like you are safe, lining your behavior up with reality.
    - 3) **Key Concept- Remember the real definition of a hypocrite? If you begin to act like who you are, “feeler” will not like it and sin will accuse you of being a hypocrite; but you will be walking by faith, believing the truth, living in reality.**
  - D. Step 4 – Feelings: You finally begin to feel safer...sort of.
    - 1) You will never gain total control over your emotions.
    - 2) Even Jesus could not control His emotions at Gethsemane, but He still had peace.

### Notes

- 3) **Key Concept** - *Some people say they have lost their peace of mind when things go wrong, but they never really had peace of mind in the first place; they had peace of feel. True peace, the “peace that passes understanding,” is knowing that the Father has everything under control and that He is conforming you to the image of Christ.*

II. **The Steps that Lead to Victory** in the bear story are the same steps that lead to victory in your Christian walk.

A. Step 1 – Truth

- 1) The Bible is loaded with teachings about your identity in Christ and Christ as your life (reference the “True Identity” sheet on page 27). Yet you could die and go to heaven not knowing about your identity in Christ or how to let Christ live through you on planet earth.
- 2) **Key Concept** - *The verses that teach you about your identity in Christ and Christ as life will do you no earthly good once you get to heaven. These are not verses for heaven. They are verses for earth.*

B. Step 2 – Faith

- 1) If you believe that the Bible is true, then you have enough faith to appropriate its truth.

C. Step 3 – Works

- 1) LIVE LIKE IT’S TRUE IN YOU! ACT LIKE IT! You must line your behavior up on God’s Word. You must walk by faith, not by feelings. And remember, you are not being hypocritical.
- 2) **Key Concept** - *All knowledge is the outgrowth of obedience. Everything else is just information. Your information must be converted to knowledge, or it will do you no good.*
- 3) When you walk by your feelings (emotions) rather than by faith, you are allowing something to control you that cannot even think.

D. Step 4 – Feelings

- 1) You finally begin to feel more like it’s true in you...sort of. You can never really get control of your emotions. If your feeler lines up with truth, praise God—it is a fringe benefit!
- 2) **Key Concept** - *Never look to your emotions as the main barometer of spiritual reality.*

## Review and Discussion

- 1) Review and discuss the “Key Concepts” from the preceding outline.
- 2) Where did you get the idea that your emotions should determine your behavior?
- 3) What part should your feelings play in life?

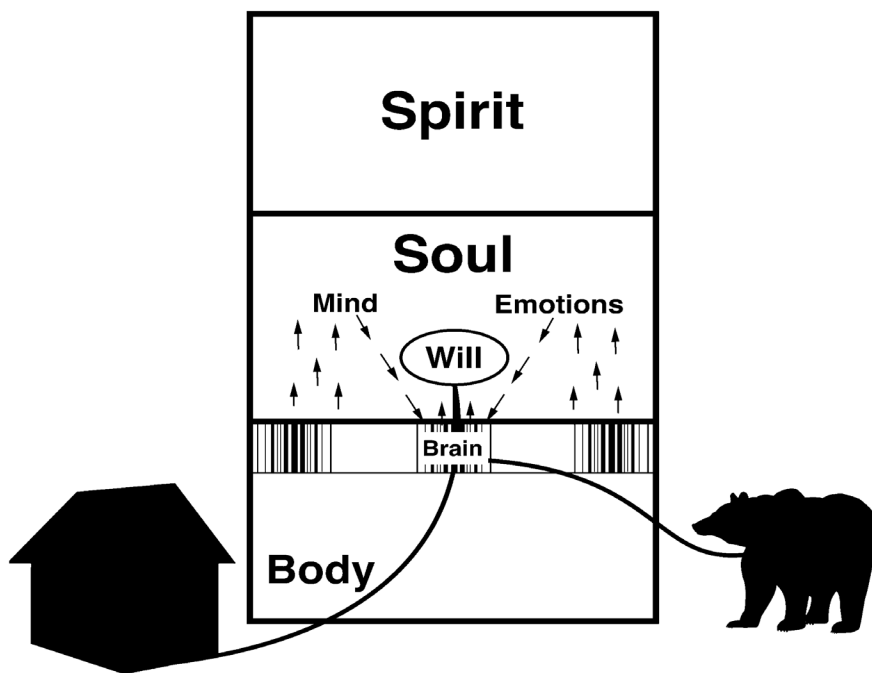
## Questions For Personal Reflection

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you how this session applies to you. Are you being controlled by your “stuck feeler”?

## Before the Next Session

Pray, “Lord begin a new work in me. I’m going to feel weird when I act differently than I feel. I am trusting You to make my identity in Christ a reality in my life. You, not my emotions, are the essence of my identity. I do not want the truths I am learning to be just information. Right now, as best as I understand it, I offer myself as a living sacrifice to You to do Your will in me.”

Diagram 6.1



## *Notes*

# Session 7A: Overcoming Temptation: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Running Time: 14:50

## Focus of Session 7A

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it” (1 Cor. 10:13).

With every temptation, God provides doors of escape so we can say “No” to the enemy and thus endure his attack. However, if the initial door of escape is ignored, not only do subsequent escape routes become narrower, they also become more difficult to access. Failing to take the way of escape provided does not mean the temptation was too strong and that 1 Corinthians 10:13 doesn’t work. It means that we ignored our opportunity to escape.

Just as the Bible says, God is faithful and He won’t allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to resist. However, we must use the escape plan that He intends for us to use. Calling out to the Lord at the edge of sin and asking Him to deliver us is a dangerous and costly habit. In so doing, we load ourselves with a heavier burden of temptation. Spiritual battles are won or lost at the threshold of the mind, not in the mind.

## Session 7A Outline

## Notes

### I. Is 1 Corinthians 10:13 True?

- A. In this session, Anabel shares a hypothetical story of a young girl on a date in order to illustrate the dynamics of temptation.

### II. How Temptation Works

- A. Within every temptation there are doors of escape.
- B. Thoughts come from the Holy Spirit, your sound mind, and the power of sin. All of these thoughts are manifested in first-person pronouns (i.e., I, me, my, mine).
- C. Subsequent doors of escape are narrower than the first door was. Recall the story of the vacuum cleaner salesman standing in the hallway.
- D. All spiritual battles are won or lost at the threshold of the mind, not in the mind.
- E. The strongest defense against temptation is at the first way of escape, the threshold.
- F. Say “No” to the devil’s temptation—and mean it.

## **Review and Discussion**

- 1) All acts of sin are made up of component parts, or as Anabel puts it, “consecutive doors of escape.” What do you think about this concept?
- 2) In 1 Corinthians 10:13 we read that God is faithful. How is God faithful according to this verse?
- 3) Discuss James 4:7: “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” Has this been true in your life? Why? Why not?

## **Questions For Personal Reflection**

- 1) What are the component parts of your besetting sin?
- 2) As you look at it now, what are the doors of escape the Lord has provided for you, doors you have been ignoring?
- 3) What can you do to access the first door of escape that is afforded to you?

## **Before the Next Session**

Knowing Satan’s plan of attack makes all the difference. Between now and the next session, think through his plan, and make special note of your escape routes. Prepare for him at the threshold of your mind, remembering that in Christ, victory is already yours.

## Session 7B: *How to Give a Burden to the Lord*

Running Time: 22:53

### Focus of Session 7B

We understand our true identity in Christ, and we understand how to live depending on Christ in us to express Himself through us. But how do we handle those circumstances that weigh so heavily on our hearts? It is clear in Scripture that the Lord wants us—indeed commands us—to give our burdens to Him. But how do we truly give a burden to the Lord—and leave it there?

In practical ways that reveal the heart of the Lord, Anabel shares in this session the simple truths she has implemented to give God a burden and know that He really has taken it.

### Outline of Session 7B

#### I. **Psalms 68:19** says, “Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden...”

- A. You know who you are in Christ and that Christ lives in you.
- B. How do you handle the burdens that come into your life?
  - 1) 1 Peter 5:7: Cast all your anxiety upon Him.
  - 2) Psalm 55:22: Get rid of the burden. Throw it onto the Lord.
- C. **Key Concept** - *God commands you to give your burdens to Him. No need to package them nicely; just give them to Him.*

#### II. **Giving Your Burdens to the Lord**

- A. How to:
  - 1) Get a piece of paper, an envelope, a pen, a marker, a watch, a brick, and a helium balloon with a string on it.
  - 2) Go somewhere where you can be by yourself, undisturbed.
  - 3) With your marker, write your burden on the balloon.
  - 4) Hold the brick and the string to the balloon in your hand—with your arm outstretched.
  - 5) Tell the Lord everything about your burden while holding the string and the brick in your outstretched hand.
  - 6) Hold this “burden” until you can’t stand it any longer, then simultaneously drop the brick and let go of the balloon.
  - 7) Immediately write on the paper the time and date that you gave God your burden, and write at the bottom of the page, “And He took it!”
  - 8) Put the paper in the envelope and seal it.
  - 9) Put a few notes around the house, with the date and time on them, to remind yourself that you gave your burden to the Lord—and He took it.
  - 10) Continually thank God for taking your burden.

### Notes



B. **Key Concept** - *This practical exercise will give you a solid reminder that you really did give your burden to the Lord.*

C. But, *you must let go:*

Just as my child brings his broken toys with tears for me to mend  
I took my broken dreams to God because He was my friend.  
But then, instead of leaving Him in peace to work alone,  
I hung around and tried to help with ways that were my own.  
At last I snatched them back and cried,  
“How could you be so slow?”  
“What could I do my child?” He said,  
“You never did let go.”

D. **Key Concept** - *The enemy will ferociously tempt you to take your burden back. But it is no longer yours; you gave it to the Lord.*

## **Review and Discussion**

- 1) Review and discuss the “Key Concepts” from the preceding outline.
- 2) How important is it that you actually do the exercise Anabel suggests? Why?
- 3) How hard will it be to give your burdens to your Father and leave them there?

## **Questions For Personal Reflection**

The enemy will tempt you to think that this exercise will not work, that it is only good for Anabel, or that you can accomplish the same thing by just thinking about it. If you should decide to give your burden to the Lord, the enemy will tempt you to think that the Lord didn’t really take it, that you are just fooling yourself, trying anything in your desperation to relieve stress. If your balloon gets caught in a tree or something, don’t let the devil convince you God doesn’t want your burden. Do it again! God takes your burden regardless of what happens to your balloon.

The enemy wants to keep you mired under the burden you carry. If you accept any portion of the enemy’s lies described above, you once again opt for living independently as opposed to living a life of dependency upon Christ. The burden you are carrying is a perfect opportunity to practice trusting Christ. He wants to take your burden!

# Session 8A: *How Can I Know Christ is Living Through Me?*

Running Time: 11:56

## Focus of Session 8A

How do we know we are allowing Christ to live His life through us, as opposed to living independently from Him? Can we switch back and forth between these two methods throughout the day?

Is there a difference between God’s acceptance and God’s approval?

These are disconcerting questions that, if left unanswered, can leave us frustrated, confused, and feeling condemned by the enemy. But we can know when Christ is living through us, and we can know when we take over and walk after the flesh. And yes, there is a profound difference between God’s acceptance and His approval.

## Session 8A Outline

### I. How To Let Christ Live Through You

- A. To illustrate how to let Christ live through you, Bill tells a simple story of a woman with a “burden” to cook eggs (see Diagram 8.1).

### Diagram 8.1

#### Ways to Cook Eggs

*(An Object Lesson in Letting Christ Live Through You)*

The Burden	Method Used	Desired Results	Actual Results	Flesh’s Evaluation	God’s Evaluation
Eggs to be Cooked	Do it myself	Unbroken Yokes	Unbroken Yokes	Success	Failure
Eggs to be Cooked	Trust Christ through me	Unbroken Yokes	Unbroken Yokes	Success	Success
Eggs to be Cooked	Trust Christ through me	Unbroken Yokes	Broken Yokes	Failure	Success

## II. No Work is Too Small for God's Involvement

- A. Independence is the primary sin of man.
  - 1) At salvation, God enrolls you—expulsion is never an option—in His bridal finishing school and begins to “conform you to the image of Christ.”
  - 2) Every Christian must “hold a funeral” to living independently from God.
  - 3) Christ as life must become your way of life.
- B. Your dependence upon Christ as life is the only way your performance will be pleasing to God.
  - 1) Independent performance is fleshly effort.
  - 2) Even what seems to be a failure is in fact a success when employing Christ as life.
- C. Christ and His Word must be the object of your faith. Never make the results of your effort the object of your faith as this is walking by sight. Praising God comes easy when, having trusted Him to solve a problem through you, the problem turns out OK. Remember, you are right to praise Him as well when, having trusted Him to solve a problem through you, it does not turn out as you had hoped.
- D. God will allow Satan to lead you into situations that test your faith. God's goal is not to see if you will pass, but that you may see if you will pass. God already knows.

## III. Your Works and Your Words Will be Judged

- A. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, you as a Christian will not be judged; rather, your works and your words will be judged (2 Cor. 5:10).
- B. God will employ only one criterion for the judgment of your works and words: Is the work the product of the Holy Spirit through you, or is it a product of your flesh?
- C. God recognizes only His work. The flesh can never please God.
  - 1) The Christian will remain saved “as through fire” (1 Cor. 3:15) because salvation is a work of God, not of the flesh.
  - 2) His judgment is not based on a curve; it is pass/fail.
- D. Are you living in God's rest, or are you striving to please God in your own strength? This is a moment-by-moment choice.
- E. **Key Concept - *The work, not the Christian, will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ; the method, not the result, is God's criterion for judgment. Is it Christ's work through you, or is it a work of your flesh? It is not the results that count, but who you are trusting for the results (see Keybox, page 49).***



## Acceptance vs. Approval



God's acceptance is based upon the finished work of Christ and whether or not we have chosen to become a new creation in Christ through salvation. It is a pass/fail standard based upon knowing Christ as Lord and Savior. If we are in Christ, we pass; if not, we fail. *The notion of meriting God's acceptance based upon performance is absolutely false.*

Many Christians teach, and have been taught, that God bases His *approval* upon the results of our performance. This is incorrect. Once again, God's standard is pass/fail: Fleshly methods always result in **disapproval**, regardless of the results. Performance dependent upon Christ to live His life through us always results in **approval**, regardless of the results.

### Review and Discussion

- 1) Review and discuss the "Key Concept" from the preceding outline.
- 2) The Word of God teaches that as a Christian, your works (not you) will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ, the result being rewards or the loss of rewards (1 Cor. 3:15; 2 Cor. 5:10). This judgment will be based upon whether or not you allowed Christ to live through you. How do you do this? Can you think of a situation in your own life that illustrates this?
- 3) Do you recall in *The Life Preview* hearing Sheri Eudaly say that she is storing up treasures and rewards in heaven for emptying the dishwasher? What do you think she meant by that? Can you apply this to your life?

### Questions For Personal Reflection

- 1) Do you experience Christ as your life, or do you live independently of His life? It is simply a choice (not a feeling).
- 2) If you choose to cooperate with Christ and let Him express His life through you, should you fear the Judgment Seat of Christ?

### Before the Next Session

Go to your quiet place (even if it's in your car on the freeway) and pour out your heart to God, claiming Christ as life. If you don't understand all the ramifications of such a move, tell Him and ask Him to clarify this for you. Remember how little you understood about salvation as you claimed Christ as your Savior. It's God's job to fill in the blanks. Your job is to surrender to Him and cooperate with His marvelous plan for you.

You may or may not receive a *feeling* of euphoria after making such a

decision; either way is OK. If you get a zippy feeling, it comes with about a thirty-day warranty. Do not fall into the trap of striving to maintain it. Although zippy feelings are wonderful, you are to live by faith, not feelings. As you walk with Christ as life, He will become just as real through suffering and tears as He will through the joyful times...perhaps even more so.

## Session 8B: *Common Questions*

Running Time: 16:32

### Focus of Session 8B

In this session Bill and Anabel answer some of the most commonly asked questions concerning the truths they teach.

#### ◆ *How do I know when Jesus is living through me?*

You know Christ is living through you the same way you know you are saved—by faith. By faith you trusted Christ to be your Savior and Lord, and by faith you trust that Christ is living and expressing Himself in and through you.

There is, however, a critical difference. While salvation requires a “once for all” decision based upon faith (Heb. 10:10), trusting Christ as your life is a moment-by-moment choice based upon faith. You choose, believing Christ is living the Christian life through you, and then—regardless of how you feel—by faith you act like Christ is living through you. And as you have seen in earlier sessions, this will be acting like who you really are: a new creature in Christ.

There are only two methods for approaching life: after the flesh, or by the Spirit. For example: You can perform a simple task like picking up a pen with an attitude of, “Hey, I can pick this up. I don’t need Christ as life to pick up a pen.” Though simple, this is a work of the flesh and will be consumed at the Judgment Seat of Christ—FAIL. On the other hand, you can say, “Lord, I’m going to pick up this pen believing by faith that you are doing it through me.” This will stand the test of time and eternity—PASS.

#### ◆ *Can I feel Christ living through me?*

Think of it this way: If you are married, do you always feel married? Walking in the power of the Spirit isn’t a feeling. It is a fact that you choose to believe and act on. You act married because you know that you are. It is the same with Christ. You believe that He is living His life through you, and you act like it.

#### ◆ *How do I know if I take over and start living in my own strength again?*

Hebrews 5:14 says, “Solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.” God intensely desires for you to understand how to trust Him as your life. By studying His Word and depending upon Him to help you mature in your faith, you will develop a databank that will help you sophisticate your ability to discern whether you are walking after the flesh or in the Spirit. And of course, there are clear cut fruits of walking after the flesh found throughout the Scriptures (i.e., lying, adultery, pride, etc.) that can in no way be fruits of the Spirit.

Remember, the enemy will consistently point to your performance in an effort to convince you that the results are an accurate indicator of whether or not you are trusting Christ. This isn’t true. *Method—not result—is the primary means of telling whether or not you are trusting Christ as life and walking in the Spirit.*

◆ ***When I allow Christ to live through me, do I lose my identity and become like a robot or a hollow tube that Christ pours through?***

Of course not. You are unique right down to your thumb print. God made only one of you. And He designed you to find ultimate fulfillment and individual expression as you allow Christ to express Himself through you. Your unique personality—working in harmony with Christ who indwells you—produces the expression of Christ through *you* to others. It is the person who is not a Christian, or the Christian who is walking in his own strength, who has lost his identity.

Think of the power tools in your garage. Let's say you have a grinder, a sander, and a saw. When these tools are plugged into an outlet, they each have a unique purpose, even though they all have the same source. However, once unplugged, they all become the same: They are nothing more than paper weights. It's the life—the source—that gives them their identities.

◆ ***What part does performance play in my Christian walk?***

Remember the distinction between God's acceptance and His approval. When you placed your faith in Christ as your Lord and Savior, in that instant you became totally accepted by God, an "heir of God and fellow heir with Christ" (Rom. 8:17). Your performance had nothing to do with gaining God's acceptance. However, your performance is extremely important in gaining God's approval. The sole criterion for whether or not you gain God's approval is based upon the method you use to perform, not on whether or not it was better than someone else's performance. Did you allow Christ to do it through you? This is the critical factor. Only a work of God is going to pass at the Judgment Seat of Christ. God will look at every action and word and determine whether it was an independent or dependent performance. Independence fails, while dependence upon Christ passes (1 Cor. 3:11-15).

Think of the tremendous freedom this brings. God's approval isn't based upon the size of your ministry, how many people you have led to Christ, or your mighty deeds. If you unload the dishwasher in the power of the Spirit, you have stored up a passing grade in heaven and will hear one day from your Father, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

◆ ***You teach that Christians battle against a power called sin. I believe that we battle the sin nature. I don't see any difference and don't think it matters what we call it. Don't you think it's just semantics?***

The difference between the "sin nature" and the "power of sin" is life-changing and of utmost importance to the Christian. The "sin nature," as theologians call it, is synonymous with the Adamic nature, the old man. It is who you were as a lost person bound for hell. The power of sin, or "law of sin" as the Bible calls it, is Satan's counterfeit of the Holy Spirit. In the Christian, sin is confined to the body (Rom. 7:23); it acts as the devil's agent to offer tempting thoughts to you using first-person pronouns, disguised as your old, sinful nature. While the devil makes it sound as if the sin nature were still alive, the Bible makes it abundantly clear that who you once were apart from Christ was dealt a fatal blow at the cross and no longer lives (Rom. 6:6). This does not mean that you live sinlessly, but it does mean that you have both the obligation and the right to say "No" to sin when he offers tempting thoughts to you.



If the “sin nature” still existed as part of your identity, then the daily battle you experience would be a *civil war*. Instead of God and you (the new you) warring against the power of sin, the old, sinful you would be fighting against the new, holy you. The devil would not even need to be present!

Someone comprised of part sin-nature and part godly-nature cannot possibly be “seated with Him in the heavenly places” (Eph. 2:6). The assumption that upon physical death the believer is freed from the last vestiges of the sin nature and dashes through the gates of heaven a totally new, godly person is false. This belief credits physical death with being God’s agent of change! Biblically, this will not fly. But the devil loves it. While the deceived Christian is jousting with the shadow of a dead man, the devil is wearing him out and defeating him at every turn. It is Christ’s death and rebirth—and your identification with Him in your spiritual death and rebirth—that is God’s agent of change.

Now, while it feels and seems like your old, sinful nature is still alive and well, you can’t make this line up in God’s Word. *When you sin, it is not the sin nature coming to life, it is you, the new man, buying into the temptation of the power of sin and acting contrary to who you really are in Christ.*

◆ ***What is the sin nature, and what do you mean it isn’t a biblical term?***

“Sin” is rebellion and independence toward God. The “nature” of something is its essence, its basic characteristics and tendencies. If a person has a sin nature, it means that they cannot help but be independent and rebellious toward God—this is their very essence. Lost people have sin natures. Christians, on the other hand, are new creations in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) and in their deepest being desire to please and obey God. Examine your own heart; is this not true about you? Having a sin nature and being a Christian are mutually exclusive. The two cannot coexist. Jesus made this clear in His teaching. “And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand” (Mark 3:25).

The term “sin nature” is not a biblical term in that neither the Greek nor the Hebrew (the original languages of the Bible) have wording that can be translated as “sin nature.” Theologians coined this term to describe various conditions of sin. Unfortunately, they use this term as though it were in Scripture. Some scholars, translating Scripture, have taken significant liberties and brought their own interpretations to bear on the text. For example, throughout Romans 5-8, the translators of the New International Version of the Bible translate the Greek word *sarx*, which literally means “flesh,” as “sin nature.” As you can imagine, this makes for confusing Bible study.

There are a number of good translations of the Bible that will enhance your reading of God’s Word. However, when it comes to detailed study, you will find translations like the New American Standard Bible to be the most reliable translation of the Greek and Hebrew.

◆ ***Is there a chance I can achieve sinless perfection?***

The Bible clearly teaches that there is no chance you will achieve sinless perfection while on planet earth (1 Jn. 1:8). However, by appropriating your true identity in Christ and trusting Him as life, you will cut way down on the frequency of your sinning.

The important point to remember is this: You have a choice regarding whether or not you sin.



Prior to knowing Christ, you had no choice. As a result of being made a new person in Christ, you are now a good soldier in the war against the alien power (the law of sin) that dwells in your earth suit. Remember, when you encounter a temptation, you bring Christ “on line” through faith and see Him walk you through the tempting time as an overcomer. In Christ, you are a conqueror (Rom. 8:37).

◆ ***Will I be holier in heaven than I am right now?***

No. “Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him” (Eph. 1:4). If God calls you holy, what are you?

If you plant a pecan sapling in your yard, it has the opportunity to grow into a mature pecan tree that bears fruit, reproduces, etc. But it doesn’t get any “pecanier” as it grows; it just matures. You cannot get any more holy than holy.

And remember, you are not declared holy because you perform well, implying that if you perform better you will get holier. You are holy because of your new birth in Christ. Holiness is a spiritual characteristic given to you at your spiritual rebirth. As you mature in your faith, the same thing happens to you that happens to a pecan sapling; you become more mature, you grow and produce the fruits of the Spirit. But you do not get holier any more than the sapling gets “pecanier.”

## **Review and Discussion**

Use the preceding transcript to review and discuss those issues that are of concern to your group. Ask God to lead you into the truth as you consider Bill and Anabel’s answers to these common questions.

## **Questions for Personal Reflection**

As you have worked your way through this video seminar and Study Guide, the Holy Spirit has been working to convince you of the

literal reality of your new identity in Christ. While it is God’s job to reveal spiritual truth, it is your responsibility to respond to His

revelation. If this session has helped you understand yourself and your relationship with Christ better, it is important for you to tell the Lord that you agree with Him and appropriate these truths, as your own. Thank Him for revealing these things to you, and tell Him that you are trusting Him to continue leading you into a deeper understanding of life in Him.

## **Before the Next Session**

In the next session Bill and Anabel will begin to discuss how these truths apply to your relationships with other people and, specifically, your relationship with your spouse. Before the next session, ask the Lord to prepare you for the teaching you will hear in Session 9.

## Session 9: *Marriage, Part 1*

Running Time: 39:35

### Focus of Session 9

If your marriage is to be all that God intends it to be, then it must operate according to God's plan. As Bill said earlier in this series, "God's job description is that He runs things." He is the supreme authority figure and, as such, has established His plan for marriage. When we enter into the marriage covenant, we have the option of placing ourselves under His authority and doing things His way, or doing things our own way.

In this session, Bill and Anabel show us how the Bible reveals the needs of the husband and the wife. God created them coequal as male and female, yet they have different roles to play.

Before we begin: If you are not married, please don't conclude that these sessions don't apply to you simply because they deal with marriage. There are many aspects of what the Gillhams will be teaching that apply to relationships in general. In addition, even though you aren't married on earth, the Bible teaches that God considers you married to Him.

### Session 9 Outline

### Notes

#### I. **The Biblical Makeup of Marriage<sup>1</sup>**

- A. The Bible establishes that men and women are equal, having been assigned different roles by the Creator (Gen. 5:2).
- B. God made the woman and thus completed the whole man (Gen. 2:18 and 2:23).
- C. **Key Concept - Singleness doesn't make a person incomplete. Throughout Scripture, God uses marriage to portray His relationship with His children. Fundamentally, He is the completer of both men and women. In some cases, He chooses to do this through singleness; in other instances He uses marriage.**
- D. God gave instructions that the man and woman should be fruitful, multiply, and subdue the earth.

#### II. **The World's View of Marriage**

- A. Casual view: no lasting commitment
- B. Feelings view: based on current passion
- C. Separate-lives view: living like roommates
- D. Dictatorial view: male is dominant and superior

#### III. **The Needs of the Male and Female (see Diagram 9.1, page 56).**

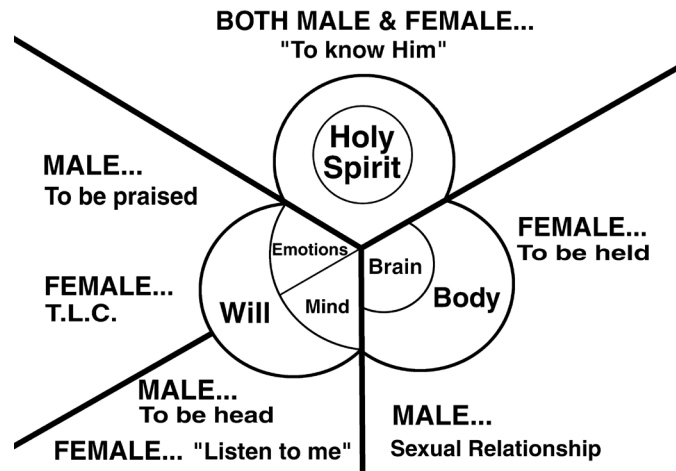
- A. Spiritually, both the male and the female need to know Jesus Christ.
- B. Emotionally, the husband needs praise from his wife. The wife needs tender, loving care.

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<sup>1</sup> For further study related to Bill and Anabel's teaching in Sessions 9, 10 and 11, refer to the following Scriptures: Jn. 13:34; 1Cor. 7:1-6; Eph. 5:21-33; Phil.3:8-10; Col. 3:18-19; 1 Pet. 3:1-7.

- C. Perceptually, the husband needs to believe that he is the head of the relationship. The wife needs her husband to listen to her.
- D. Physically, the husband and the wife need a sexual relationship, but not surprisingly, they most often view the sexual relationship differently.
- E. **Key Concept** - *Though they have different instructions to follow in the marriage covenant, the male and female are created equal by God.*

**Diagram 9.1**



## Review and Discussion

- 1) Review and discuss the “Key Concepts” from the preceding outline.
- 2) If the male and female are created equal, then why are their different roles necessary?
- 3) If a wife is more adept in the husband’s role (or vice versa), then why shouldn’t they reverse roles?
- 4) What part do *feelings* play in the marriage role? What if you don’t *feel* like fulfilling your role in marriage? Are you being a hypocrite if you act differently than you feel?

## Questions For Personal Reflection

Have you accepted the role God assigned to you in marriage? Are there areas where you are falling short in your God-given marriage role? According to the Scriptures, what does real love involve?

## Before the Next Session

Most times we look for areas where our *mate* is falling short, so that we will have the necessary information to confront our spouse. In the quietness of prayer, ask the Holy Spirit to help you focus on those areas where *you* can improve.

## Session 10: *Marriage, Part 2*

Running Time: 38:44

### Focus of Session 10

Knowing the individual roles assigned to the husband and wife in marriage can be both exciting and anxiety provoking. It is exciting in that we better understand our own needs and have the information we need to meet the needs of our spouse. It is anxiety provoking in that we are fearful our spouse will fail to meet our needs, or that we can't satisfy the needs of our spouse.

God does not expect us to persevere in our own strength to keep these assigned roles. His plan is for us to allow Christ to be our perseverance, our patience, our love, our gentleness. *He wants to do it all for us.*

### Session 10 Outline (reference Diagram 9.1, page 56)

### Notes

#### I. The Emotional Needs of the Male

A. The basic emotional need of the male is found in Ephesians 5:33b (Amp): He needs female *praise*.

- 1) Praise is a God-given need that is evident from an early age.
- 2) A boy's mother will be the one who initially meets this need.
- 3) A male's need for female praise is ultimately centered on his wife, who has been instructed by God to meet this need.
- 4) Praise is accomplished through the wife by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit and is to be exercised as an act of obedience.

B. **Key Concept** - *It is not hypocritical to praise your husband when your feelings may not be in agreement.*

#### II. The Emotional Needs of the Female

A. "I wish my husband would love me by \_\_\_\_\_." (see List, page 58).

- 1) The twenty ways to love your wife are as vital to the female as praise is to the male.
- 2) This performance by the husband can be accomplished only as he allows the indwelling Holy Spirit to do it through him.

#### III. The Perceptual Needs of the Male

A. The male needs to *believe* that he is the head of the relationship.

- 1) This is an innate need—not an ego problem.
- 2) This is not an honor to be bestowed on the male for good performance.
- 3) Competition from his wife can be very destructive to a man.

B. **Key Concept** - *Marriage is not a competition, but a joint endeavor that brings glory to God.*

### ***“ I Wish My Husband Would Love Me By...”***

- 1) Listening to me.
- 2) Taking my problems seriously.
- 3) Communicating more openly with me.
- 4) Noticing me more—not just when he wants sex.
- 5) Saying “thank you” for the little things I do.
- 6) Being interested in my life, at least acting like he’s interested.
- 7) Showing affection to me when other people are around.
- 8) Sharing his goals and values with me.
- 9) Remembering me with little gifts.
- 10) Taking me out without the kids.
- 11) Including me in the things he does.
- 12) Trying to understand me, and not losing his temper while I try to explain my feelings.
- 13) Getting involved in the things I enjoy doing.
- 14) Just holding me in his arms and talking to me.
- 15) Being more tender to me, using kind and tender words.
- 16) Helping in the discipline of the children.
- 17) Saying little things—words of caring, compliments, and appreciation.
- 18) Accepting me just as I am.
- 19) Spending more time with the family.
- 20) Making me feel like a woman.

### **Review and Discussion**

- 1) Review and discuss the “Key Concepts” from the preceding outline.
- 2) Prioritize the twenty needs listed above in order to impress on you just how important they are to you or your spouse.
- 3) Is it surprising to you as a husband that these twenty ways are so simple? That most of them deal with communication? How does listening to your wife meet her perceptual need?
- 4) Discuss what roles responsibility, integrity, gentleness, spiritual maturity, etc., play in the male’s need to exercise headship.

### **Questions For Personal Reflection**

- 1) Have you tried to meet some of these needs in your own strength and failed?
- 2) Do you view your lack of being able to do these things as a disappointing realization or as an opportunity for Christ to take over?

## Session 11: *Marriage, Part 3*

Running Time: 39:35

### Focus of Session 11

Choosing a vocation we will enjoy and be proud of is an important decision. We sometimes spend eight to ten years and a small fortune reaching our vocational goal. Marriage is perhaps the most important human relationship we will develop in life. Yet, the majority of us enter into marriage without adequate preparation.

God knows that we need instruction, and He has given it in His Word. We must recognize and confess our inability to carry out His instructions, and then determine to trust Christ to express through us the knowledge we gain about marriage from His Word.

### Session 11 Outline

### Notes

#### I. Planting a Garden

- A. The male reaches a decision generally through systematic logic.
  - 1) The male analyzes and evaluates, coming up with “six logical points” to present.
  - 2) The male sometimes views the female as “illogical.”
- B. The female arrives at a decision generally through intuitive processes.
  - 1) Explaining how she feels about the decision, a wife may be ignored or misunderstood by the male.
  - 2) But differences are good. This is how one complements the other.
- C. The appropriate response:
  - 1) After prayer and discussion with his wife, it is the male’s responsibility to make the final decision; he then needs his wife’s support.
  - 2) The wife should honor her husband (even in a wrong decision), particularly in front of the children.

#### II. The Perceptual Needs of the Female

- A. Cultural influences pressure the female:
  - 1) As a wife and mother.
  - 2) As a homemaker.
  - 3) As a sexual partner.
- B. “A woman is never in an inferior place when she is in the place God created for her.”
  - 1) Women who are called to stay at home are fulfilling God’s unique purpose for their lives.
  - 2) Women who work outside the home are not necessarily missing God’s will, provided their responsibilities at home are not compromised (reference Proverbs 31).
  - 3) Women should be careful not to threaten their husband’s role in the marriage.
- C. *Agape* love is crucial in marriage (Jn. 13:34).

- D. **Key Concept** - *Agape love means doing whatever is the most constructive, redemptive thing for your spouse, regardless of the situation or circumstances.*
- E. The six perceptual needs of the female:
  - 1) Listen to me.
  - 2) Let me know that you are thinking about me.
  - 3) Tell me that you love me.
  - 4) Be aware of me.
  - 5) Spend time with me.
  - 6) Don't be harsh with me.
- F. **Key Concept** - *Satan is putting forth every effort to blur the roles that differentiate the two genders. Following the enemy's plan instead of God's guarantees a marriage vulnerable to destruction.*

## **Review and Discussion**

- 1) Review and discuss the "Key Concepts" from the preceding outline.
- 2) Can you share some examples to illustrate the different approaches of the male and the female to decision-making?
- 3) Why is it important to follow the designated roles God designed for marriage?
- 4) Why do you think Satan wants to blur the biblical roles for marriage?
- 5) Read Ephesians 5:21-33. How do you see mutual submission taught in this passage?
- 6) Examine this passage to see how many verses emphasize the wife's role of submission compared to the husband's role of love? What significance do you see this having?

## **For Personal Reflection**

Do you understand that your fundamental role is choosing to be obedient to Christ? Have you really tried to follow His plan for your marriage? Or have you been rebellious, believing you have the right to demand that your needs be met before you will meet your spouse's needs?

Perhaps you've viewed your marriage as a tangled mess that seemed impossible to realign on godly principles. But now you see the biblical foundation for marriage and have an understanding of where the power to begin loving your spouse comes from. Confess your need and unreserved dependence on Him to live His life through you and so make your marriage all He intended it to be.

## Conclusion

God is not interested in you doing the best you can for Him. He does not expect you to live the Christian life—an impossibility. His goal is not for you to whip the flesh and through renewed determination make your life and marriage everything you hoped it would be.

As you have learned from watching *The Life*, the Father is most interested in your coming to the end of your resources and fleshly effort to gain His acceptance and favor. He wants to live His life through you to accomplish victory over the flesh. He wants to express Himself through your personality to live the Christian life, to love your spouse and kids, to be the kind of friend you desire to be and bear the fruit of the Spirit—depending on Him as your source.

But make no mistake: God will not run over you in His quest to be your all-in-all. He will not override your will. You must respond to Him. You must acknowledge that you have been trying to live life independently through your own, fleshly strength. How do you do this? Call this way of living exactly what your Father calls it: sinful independence. Listen to your new heart. You don't want to continue walking after the flesh. You deeply desire to repent of doing things your way. Follow through on this. Right now, tell the Lord that you repent and then voice your determination to trust Him as your sufficiency. Even though your feeler may be moaning in disagreement, affirm your new identity as His child and ask Him to begin showing you—from this moment forward—how to express His life through you.

Before you close the pages of this Study Guide, use the preceding paragraphs and lines as a prayer outline to voice your heart's desire to your heavenly Father. In so doing, make a decision to appropriate—that is, take as your own—the truths you have been taught in *The Life*.

In closing, thank you for viewing this series. It has been our pleasure to share these rich truths with you from God's Word. If we can be of help to you as you embark on this wonderful new adventure in your spiritual life, please don't hesitate to contact us. God bless you.

Lifetime Ministries



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