

*Breaking Carnal
Connections*

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

Within the nervous system of the human body are ganglions—bundles of specialized nerve cells that extend throughout the fibers of the entire body. The central nervous system, consisting of the brain and the spinal cord, is designed to coordinate the activity of the entire nervous system. As we receive and respond to stimuli that produce emotions and sensory experiences, chemicals are produced and transmitted as part of the “ganglionic process.” Within these complex functions, carnal connections are established and reinforced.

Skillful observers that they are, Satan and his demons are aware of the human nervous system. Therefore, hell has developed a plan of attack involving specialized armies of demons—some that attack the unconscious mind while others attack the physical body. Combined, these forces work to rob, destroy, and kill a Christian’s capacity to be complete in his spirit, soul, and

body (John 10:10a).

The overall attack is accomplished by effectively stimulating “cognitive dissonance” in the believer’s mind. When a Christian does not appropriate knowledge of divine truth in his life, conflicts arise in his thought processes. The result is dissonance, which brings conflict and confusion into the mind, because he does not live by what he knows to be right.*

This booklet will examine how believers infected by this demonic strategy can have carnal connections broken by understanding the principle of God’s imparted righteousness. When we come to the end of our self-righteousness, we can finally take hold of God’s righteousness. As Christians, we have a new life, which includes a new mind (1 Corinthians 2:14-16) with brand-new, heavenly connections.

**For more about the ganglionic process and cognitive dissonance as it relates to demonic strategy, read Defining the Warfare against Relationships, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 2001.*

Chapter One

OVERCOMING WITH SPIRITUAL WEAPONS

“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:5-6).

Everyone has two histories operating in his mind. We have our genetic history in Adam, which includes all the sinful traits passed down from Adam in our cells. Psalm 51:5 and Psalm 58:3 reveal that we were “shapen in iniquity” and born with the natural tendency to go astray telling lies. Then we have our personal history in Adam, which includes all the sins we have committed since the day we were born (see Romans 5:12), ruling our unconscious mind, which is 90 percent of our mind.

So we have Adam’s genetic history through

the Fall, and also our personal history in Adam. Unless God does a specific work of deliverance, these histories will control us until we die.

Some of the thoughts we have entertained this week, even some of the things we have said to our close friends, came from Adam's history or our history in Adam. This means that these things were done in the carnal mind—and to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Our human characteristics, the essence of our humanity, were designed by God to reflect and reveal His essence. Creating Adam from the dust of the earth, God breathed into man the breath of life, and he became a living soul operating through his human spirit (Genesis 2:7). According to God's design, the human spirit should totally control a man's unconscious mind (Proverbs 20:27).

Yet, when the human spirit of a man, illuminated by the Holy Spirit (Psalm 18:28), does not rule his own soul, the subconscious can receive demonic projections. This causes indecision, confusion, negative reactions to the Word of God, inconsistency in church attendance, and pride that develops into arrogance.

Pride is a personal sin, and arrogance is the

mental complex that brings in self-preservation, self-defense mechanisms, and self-absorption. The person who is caught up in an arrogant complex is always reacting to protect who he is in the genetic and personal history of Adam.

The Unconscious in Control

Somnambulism is defined by Webster as an abnormal condition in which motor activities, such as walking, are performed while asleep. During sleep, the subconscious mind can become the channel for the unconscious mind to make believe it is the conscious mind. This is how a person sometimes gets up and does things in the middle of the night. The sleep-walker is operating as if he were conscious, though he isn't. The conscious mind is asleep, but the unconscious mind is not.

In the Bible, Jesus used a metaphor to describe this condition of the conscious mind being unaware of what is going on around it. In Matthew 13:24-25, in the parable of the sower, He said, "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field. But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way." In this context, the Greek word for sleep is

katheudo, “to yield to sloth and sin; to be indifferent to one’s salvation.” This definition speaks of the principle of the unconscious mind, in deception and ignorance, thinking that it is the conscious mind and therefore controlling certain behaviors. As a result, the men were consciously unaware of the destruction going on in their midst, so they did nothing to stop it.

When Satan deceives a Christian who refuses to grow in grace and knowledge, that person’s unconscious mind, in self-preservation, overrules the conscious mind. The only defense we have is to hear, receive, and respond to the Word of God with objectivity in the purity of the Holy Spirit’s revelation.

Heaven’s Evaluation

The spiritual principle of somnambulism, or sleepwalking, is used mightily by certain demon armies to bind up the unconscious mind and to pervert the conscious mind—no matter what is heard from the Word of God through the pastor-teacher. The believer must learn to overcome Satan’s carnal weapons. The “weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds” (2 Corinthians 10:4). The only way to acquire these spiritual

weapons is to be available to hear preaching—Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night—whenever the Word of God is presented. Church attendance is so important to God that Jesus notes who is in attendance at every church service. He writes down what is preached and how each one in the congregation listens and responds to that preaching (Revelation 1:13; Malachi 3:16).

At the Bema Seat, where Christ will evaluate the works of all believers, each of us will go before Him alone. He will get out the Bible and His book of remembrance, and evaluate us based upon every Word of God. Some will be ashamed at that moment (1 John 2:27-28), as He reveals how many times they ignored opportunities to hear the Word. He will also reveal the times we heard but failed to appropriate truth, due to the process of spiritual sleepwalking.

Jesus continually evaluates what the preaching accomplished in our memory centers. Unless we cultivate the soil of our hearts by being prepared through prayer and study in an attitude of humility and faith-rest, the Word does not take root. Satan's strategy is to knock out the words that entered into the perceptive area of the brain before the truth is transferred into the

heart to stay. What we hear must go through the Cross, being transferred into our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. This whole process is accomplished not by works, but by being broken.*

The principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness in this world, and the wickedness of spiritual infection in high places, which are a part of Satan's armies, have a program to remove the Word of God from our minds. This doesn't happen naturally. This is a supernatural work of Satan to bring in cognitive dissonance, which is the process of holding onto conflicting beliefs and of knowing the truth without applying it. As soon as the message is over—whether through unnecessary conversations that are meant to distract us or arguments in the car on the way home—they try to steal the seed of the Word from us to prevent us from applying the truth.

The Holy Spirit's function is to bring to memory what we have been taught, but He cannot bring to memory what has been lost through demonic activity. Often this activity goes unrecognized because we missed the pastor's teaching about it. What the Holy Spirit desires to do in us is to make Christ all in all (Colossians 3:11).

Christ is to have preeminence because He created us and because He holds all things together by the Word of His power (Hebrews 1:3).

**For more about the process of transferring knowledge that becomes spiritual life to the believer, read The Hearing Heart, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 1996.*

Chapter Two

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS VS. THE FLESH'S RELIGION

There is something very pertinent to understand about the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that when the Spirit comes, He would convict and reprove of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-8). He convicts of sin because of those who believe not, of righteousness because Christ went to His Father in heaven, and of judgment because the prince of this world is judged.

The key for believers to understand is that the Holy Spirit will reprove or rebuke us of self-righteousness. In other words, He will reprove a person for being self-righteous as much as He will rebuke a person for living in overt sins.

All of us are unclean. All of our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. They fade away, and our iniquities are taken by the wind (Isaiah 64:6). Filthy rags were the rags used in leper colonies. These rags were used again and again on the

running sores that covered the lepers. Of course, the rags developed a terrible odor. That is what our righteousness is like before God.

Being ignorant of God's righteousness, the Jews set about to establish their own righteousness, refusing to submit themselves to the righteousness that is of God. "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Romans 10:3-4). Submission to God's righteousness produces a desire to hear from a pastor-teacher and to go from faith to faith whenever there is an opportunity. Hearing the Word of God becomes more necessary than daily food (Job 23:12). Why? Because all of eternity depends on what God said and how I listen to the teaching of His Word.

Hearing the Word preached must have priority in our lives. When a revelation from heaven could be coming down into our hearts, we must be available to receive it. The faithfulness of the New Testament believers is described in Acts 20:31-32 and Acts 2:41-47. These believers attended two doctrinal classes a day.

At the Bema Seat, none of us can get away with saying, "I was too busy to hear the Word of God." 1 Kings 20:40 refers to a servant who was busy here and there, and a prisoner escaped

from him. He had to pay for it with his life. Being too busy in business is not going to be an acceptable answer before the Lord. A man in his best state is vanity (Psalm 39:5). Every person—from the morally upright to the immoral—will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

Comparison and Competition

“Awake to righteousness and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame” (1 Corinthians 15:34).

If I go before God, having been very religious and thinking that I have been very good, He is going to reveal to me that the good that I have done in my own strength is just like the filthy rags of the lepers. For this reason, the Holy Spirit rebukes us of our self-righteousness.

We often try to make our self-righteousness relative to the righteousness of others. We say or think things such as, “What did you think about what that guy did?” We compare. “What do you think of her? What about him?” We evaluate. That is relative righteousness, and everyone who practices it will be judged. We should never say anything negative about another person.

When we believe in Jesus Christ as Abraham did (Romans 4:3), it is counted to us as right-

eousness. We receive God's righteousness—apart from works and apart from the Law by believing in Jesus Christ. God clothes us with Christ's robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10). Therefore, that no flesh can glory in His presence, Christ is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (1 Corinthians 1:29-31).

The Holy Spirit is *for* us (Romans 8:26), the Father is for us (Romans 8:31), and Jesus Christ is for us (Romans 8:34). The entire basis for Christians going to heaven will be God's righteousness. We have no righteousness in ourselves whatsoever. All that we will receive is because we have been given His righteousness.

The Word of God says the wounded are cast down and cry out (see Proverbs 7:26, Job 30:24). When people measure and compare themselves with others, they wound those who fail. The wounded enter into a progression of four emotional reactions: guilt, shame, rejection, and fear—all because of someone's standard of self-righteousness that has nothing to do with a faith that works by love (Galatians 5:6; Philemon 1:5).

There is not a single sin as bad as self-righteousness. Many Christians in every church have measures of self-righteousness. Self-righteous-

ness elevates itself ahead of the Cross and results in uncrucified relationships, uncrucified fellowship with God, and uncrucified responses to the teaching and preaching of the Word of God.

Everything about our lives must go through the Cross. A self-righteous person might outwardly appear to listen, respect, and honor the Word. If, however, his mind-set toward Scripture has not been through the Cross, where he dies to the accumulation of knowledge and personal opinions, his rebellion will eventually lead to an uncrucified relationship in his marriage.

Healing the Wounds

Several months ago, a distraught mother from another church sent her daughter to me for counseling. The girl was pregnant and unmarried, and she came to my office sobbing and crying because she had failed to meet the standard of pure living.

First, I said to her: “You have a lot of guilt. You’re ashamed—you’re filled with shame. You feel rejected. You have fear. You don’t even dare to tell your father.”

Then, I said, “It’s over now, so we are going to stay here for as long as it takes for you to be-

lieve that God loves you.”

Next, I read Isaiah 44:22: “I [God] have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.”

I had her repeat the verse back to me, and then we read 1 John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

After this, I asked her some questions.

“Do you have any right to be guilty right now?”

“No,” she said.

“Do you have to feel ashamed?”

“No.”

“Does God reject you?”

“No.”

“Should you have to fear when perfect love casts out fear?”

“No.”

Finally, I told her, “Look at me. You are just as righteous as I am. The Holy Spirit is cleansing that unconscious mind of yours, and your human spirit will take over as you learn to receive from God’s Holy Spirit.”

We would not allow the process of spiritual sleepwalking to control her through the wounds

in her unconscious mind, making her think it was her conscious mind. God completely heals the wounded who have failed completely (Psalm 147:3). He comes and binds up the transgression—called the “breach,” in Isaiah 30:26—and He heals the stroke of the wound. The stroke refers to the paralysis brought in by the demon armies in the unconscious mind and in the body. The demonic influence exerted in this process is to control the responses of the central nervous system.

Take the example of a man who committed adultery four years ago. He was sobbing, overwhelmed with sorrow, resenting and rejecting himself completely. But a great thing happened in our counseling sessions. The guilt went, the shame went, the rejection went, the fear went, and the past went. Why? Because the moment he confessed his sin and forsook it, he took on the imparted righteousness of grace, the motivation of love, the power of a multitude of mercies (Nehemiah 9:19).

These things were imparted to him because he believed that Christ bore every one of those sins and iniquities. Can his sins ever be brought up again? Not by God. Will they ever be brought up again by people? They will only be brought

up by those who are self-righteous, by those who measure themselves by themselves, by those who compare themselves with themselves. These people, however, don't measure themselves by the doctrine of the Finished Work (2 Corinthians 10:13).

Not only does the Lord Jesus Christ heal the wounds, but He also transforms our capacity to prevent us from falling (Jude 24) and to help us stand (Romans 14:4).

Chapter Three

THE FAITHFULNESS OF THE FINISHED WORK

God told me years ago the more I heard and received the Word of God, the more I would be used. He told me the more I went to church, the more I would be promoted. He told me to put Jesus Christ and His Kingdom first and to be faithful to the truth by faith.

God is faithful to the end to everyone who has failed (Psalm 89:33). He is faithful to provide for us above what we are being tempted by (1 Corinthians 10:13). He is faithful to cleanse us from every sin we confess (1 John 1:9). He is faithful to uphold us. He is faithful never to leave us. He is faithful to perfect us. God's faithfulness is great, and He always covers us.

In Exodus 36:37, the linen covering of the door to the tabernacle was colored purple and blue. That refers to the character of Christ in His hypostatic union as God and Man. The cheru-

bim in the tabernacle were covered with gold, meaning they were filled with justice to protect what the Finished Work has done through the deity of Christ living in us.

Not only does love cover a multitude of sins, according to 1 Peter 4:8, but also the love of God never, ever, ever uncovers a sin (Proverbs 25:2). Someone who uncovers will suffer the penalty of paying for the sin done by the one he uncovered and refused to forgive (Matthew 18:23-35).

Many people develop false coverings by trying to hide their iniquity (Job 31:33). But it is beautiful to know that Calvary has covered everything. If something does happen that must be dealt with in the table of organization, it must be handled in privacy (see Matthew 18:15-17). The most beautiful thing about God's covering is that no one can ever make God mention a word about what He has covered (Zechariah 3:3-4). He will only reveal what the Finished Work has accomplished for us.

Living in Perspicacity

When a person is motivated by the righteousness that comes by the Word of faith (Romans 10:6), he doesn't scream in reaction at someone on the phone. He doesn't react because

God's righteousness supernaturally controls his inner man. To his faith is added virtue, and knowledge, and temperance, and patience, and godliness, and brotherly kindness, and charity. These things are in him and they abound (2 Peter 1:5-8). They are on the inside, having great value in the sight of God (1 Peter 3:4).

No more can Satan confuse this person's memory through the natural man—through his history in Adam and Adam's history in him—to preserve his present life in the comfortability and convenience of self-gratification and self-satisfaction.

A Christian who operates with God's righteousness by faith enters into perspicacity, which is acute mental discernment. Spiritually, it means he is able to think through a thought from the Word of God until Jesus Christ controls his pattern of thinking. Also, he is fastidious, thinking in precise light about a precise doctrine until it becomes his personal experience and personal history.

When the Word of God comes to the believer who is perspicacious, he has a relaxed mind-set that can focus on the details of life through grace, as he responds to the divine presence of the living God. Thereby, his soul is revived to re-

ceive God's thoughts through His Word. That is perspicacity.

Preserving Our Purpose

When we enter in the co-crucifixion of His death, burial, and resurrection, we enter into a resurrected partnership, a resurrected fellowship, a resurrected purpose, and a resurrected goal.

The prodigal son was in the far county and came to the end of himself. He was still a son, but he had lost his purpose in sonship. Christians who backslide remain children of God, but they lose their purpose in their sonship. They feel very lonely because it takes co-crucifixion, co-burial, and co-resurrection to eliminate the effects of demons in the unconscious mind and in the conscious mind. The ganglionic process and the central nervous system respond to the atmosphere and the stimulation of the demonic vibrations and projections.

When this happens, cognitive dissonance—conflicting beliefs and the process of knowing something without applying it—can take over, giving place for a person to add sin to sin (Isaiah 30:1), living in a world where he fellowships only with superficial pleasure.

The provision of God's divine pleasure, however, is Finished Work peace and joy in His presence, where we can break the carnal connections and really say, "I am just as righteous as Jesus Christ is, and I am confessed up-to-date. The only reason I am spiritual is because of God's righteousness in me."

CONCLUSION

If we are saved and have confessed our sins up-to-date, we have no record in heaven except God's righteousness—no record of sin, no record of failure, no record of iniquity (which is emotional rebellion against the truth) because I am confessed up-to-date. Though we are sinners who could fail at any moment, our precious Savior has made us righteous.

Why will believers go to heaven? Because of His righteousness.

How can we be sure that we are accepted in the beloved through the redemption of His blood? By His righteousness.

First God imputes righteousness to us, simply because we have believed unto salvation. Then, the more we exercise our faith in Him, the more He imparts to us, giving us the blessings of relative divine righteousness. This means that the character of God will bless us in many ways; because He is righteous, He must bless His

righteousness in us. That is how His divine blessing comes our way in business, in marriage, and in every realm of our lives.

Without reservation, Jesus Christ gives us everything He is, and He will never leave us. Not a single gift from God can be taken from us, because all of it was given by grace.