

IN THIS BOOK I DIVIDE BITTERNESS INTO TWO CATEGORIES.

Avoidable Bitterness:

We have learned in the Word that a right position in Christ would have avoided most of those offenses or anger we often harbor. We need to learn to show that God is correct, and not our feelings! We must learn how to deal with offenses even when we “feel” we are 100% right!

Unavoidable Bitterness: – A lesson taught in the Second half of this book.

There are those offenses we could not have avoided. Incest, rape, murder, in other words, acts of sin greater than our attitude. We will be dealing with offenses which were beyond our control to stop or prevent and learn how to overcome the pain of that offense.

“Grace of Justice” Third lesson, this is the title of my first book.

Learning the great love of God and His need to establish Grace that we might be all he wants us to be. We will learn how God made it possible for me to become qualified to stand in the Justice of God so that we can go to Heaven. We need to comprehend the ‘**WHY**’ Jesus had to come to the cross. We need to understand who we are in sin and how devastating that sin is in our life. It was not a simple ordeal for the Father or Jesus to accomplish salvation for mankind.

Avoidable bitterness – note graph of Mind, Emotion and Will on the CROSS

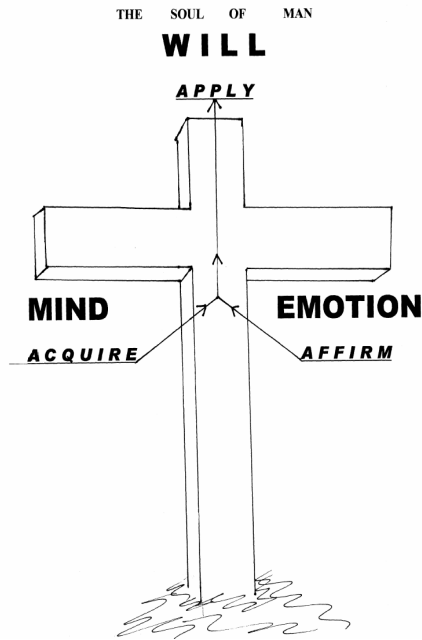


Figure 1 The picture of the soul in the Cross.

Our entanglements with life often come about because of mixed emotions or battles within ourselves. I have learned that more often than not, that we become offended by what someone said or done, while in the middle of one of my inner battles. We all fight inner battles within ourselves. When I was fighting that inner battle within myself about rejection, or guilt or what ever the emotion, and someone comes along and makes a silly remark about something in my life, I became offended. Had the person made that same comment or did that same action an hour earlier, when I was not having that battle within myself, I would likely have joked back and not give it another thought. But when they made it while I was in battle with myself, I became offended at what they said or did. I was often personally struggling with Carnal feelings of . . . Rejection, Inferior

feelings, Inadequate or Unqualified feelings, Feeling Unloved, or Alone while around people. Man's mind has been darkened by sin. We find in Romans 8:7 **“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”** At best our carnal mind is at war with God.

The Will of our Heavenly Father becomes a challenge to our personal Will! We desire to be in total control. As long as our will is in what we believe to be total control, we are at enmity with God the Father. The Holy Spirit has to bring me to a position of knowledge of what Christ has and wants to do through me. Paul in Col. 1:21 writes *“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled (22) in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and irreproachable in His sight—“* God understands both who we were and who we can be in Christ. The Father wants to reconcile me through the works of Christ on the Cross, to create a new me. A new me, that will be presented as holy, and blameless and irreproachable in the sight of our Father. God had in mind a plan that we must be brought to the place where we **think** as God Thinks! Listen to Paul in Eph 4:22-24 *“that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, (23) and be renewed in the spirit of your mind (24) and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.”* When you come to understand just who you really are, you can get excited about this verse. Think about it. I, in Christ, am created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness! The renewing of the spirit of my mind comes not by anything I do or can do! Not by my performance but through Prayer, for Paul writes in Phil. 4:6-7 *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God. (7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”* Not just prayer but especially praying a prayer of thanksgiving. The Father likes to know you're grateful for all He has done for you. We have a tendency to forget

just what Jesus has completed for us on the cross. As we develop a habit of grateful praying, the Father will send to us His peace, a peace beyond anything we could imagine. Not by performing but through meditation on the Word. Listen as the Psalmist gives us instructions on how to renew our minds. Let's read Psalms. 119:1 ***"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law (word) of the Lord."*** We are to be a people who walk in the way of the Lord. We need to become People who walk applying the Word in our lives. In doing this we will find our lives altering or being renewed to conform the ways of the Lord. Transformation is a life long Process. Listen to John in John 15;5-7 where he quotes Jesus saying that we are to "abide" in Him and His words "abide" in us we can accomplish anything we desire. The word 'abide' means to 'settle down in' or 'to make permanent'. When we settle down or make his teaching to 'settle down' in our life, Jesus and all his promises will be ours! Paul writes in Phil. 1:6 ***"being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;***" The transformation is both begun and completed by the power of God and will continue until Jesus comes for us.

The "Whole" soul of man

In the past, we have been taught to not allow our "feelings" to govern our "Religion". Well, excuse me, but you cannot separate your emotions from your faith. We need to understand that that thinking produces conflict with in our being! My emotions control my behavior as well as my thinking! I can determine to do or not to do a certain thing, but if my emotions are not in agreement with my thinking, then I will find myself yielding to the control of my emotions. Let's look at ourselves for a bit!

Man's Soul is made up of: