

13. This reminds us of the chorus of the hymn, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” by Helen H. Lemmel:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

14. Tammy, Eric, and I often choose a special hymn for Sunday’s first sessions. I present the history and background behind the hymn and its writer and the congregation joins in the singing of it. The backstory of ,“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,” is in volume 1 of the *Then Sings My Soul* trilogy. At the top of the page of the story accompanying the song is this notation: “... let us run with endurance the race set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:1c–2a).
15. Hebrews 12:2 issues the first of two commands in verses 2 and 3 that mandate the believer to become occupied with Christ. The second occurs at the very beginning of verse 3, just noted.
16. Concentration on Jesus also focuses the believer on the Lord’s sacrifice on the cross where the verse informs us that he endured or persevered against “sinners,” whose sins were imputed to Him for judgment.
17. From this concentration, the verse moves into a negative final clause which is introduced by a purpose, aim, or goal, “so that you do not become wearied in your souls, the aorist active subjunctive of **κᾰμνω (kámno)**: or even exhausted because of living in reversionism.
18. Unchecked, a wearied soul can become despondent, the causal present passive participle of **ἐκλύω (eklúō)**. This is a retroactive progressive present denoting what was begun in the past and continues into the present time.
19. The passive voice reveals that believers in Jerusalem of A.D. 67 were despondent, a status revealing they were in reversionism and are being encouraged to get back in fellowship and refocus on their occupation with Christ.

Principles on Occupation with Christ:

1. Occupation with Christ is the tenth and ultimate problem-solving device. Acquisition of it is the highest spiritual function for the believer in time.
2. Occupation with Christ is the ultimate expression of love toward the three Persons of the Trinity:

Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is
our God, the Lord is one!

Deuteronomy 6:5 “Yon shall love the Lord your God with all your heart [Hebrew: לֵבָב (*levav*); Greek: καρδία (*kardia*)] and with all your soul [Hebrew: נֶפֶשׁ (*nephesh*); Greek: ψυχή (*psuchē*)], and with all your might. (NASB)

3. Love is not an emotion, but a system of thinking from one’s inventory of doctrine in the soul. The ability to love God is developed from one’s knowledge about Him, about Christ, and about the Holy Spirit.
4. God loves us which is the joint function of his divine attributes of righteousness, justice, and omniscience which may also be expressed as the integrity of God.
5. Our ability to develop love for God starts with our positive volition to Him and a desire to know about Him. Following our expression of personal faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, we enter into an environment that goes far beyond human comprehension.
6. The new believer must come to the realization that he is now in a completely different environment with regard to inculcation of information. Spiritual growth cannot be compared with the academic exercises one engages in the classrooms of academia.
7. This new set of subjects finds its origin in the mentality of the Trinity, a portion of which God has decreed to allow angels and humans to acquire, but for successful comprehension, they must rely on a supernatural teacher Who will instruct them from a divine inventory of ideas.
8. In the Church Age, that classroom is the local church where the instructor is referred to as a pastor-teacher in Ephesians 4:11. This is a spiritual gift and under the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit, he is able to develop and present sermons to that portion of God’s flock assemble before him.
9. The teaching of the Bible is necessary for advance in the plan of God and ultimately the ability to advance in the exercise of biblical problem-solving devices.
10. The overwhelming predominance of people in world history have been born, lived, and died without ever considering the riches of sublime thought available in the Bible and how superior that information is when compared to the resources provided by the devil’s world.
11. Nevertheless, the believer must begin the advance somewhere, and God has provided the system by which he may advance in the acquisition of divine thought.



12. It was noted above that the Bible is a system of thinking that far exceeds the efforts of human comprehension. That deficiency is overcome at the moment of salvation by means of the indwelling and teaching ministries of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26 “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.”

13. By submitting to the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit and communication by means of the pastor-teacher, the believer grows in grace:

2 Peter 3:18a but grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

14. When the believer submits unwaveringly to this system of instruction, he will acquire an inventory of absolute, unassailable, and irrefutable truth within his soul:

1 Corinthians 2:10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

v. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

v. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

v. 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thought with spiritual words.
(NASB)

15. When the believer advances to the level of spiritual comprehension, he has available for application the superior knowledge of God. With it, he is able to advance to the level of unalloyed happiness because his orientation to the reality of the Word is superior to the assumptions others acquire from the devil's world.

16. It is from this advanced super knowledge that a believer is able to become occupied with Christ. This problem-solving device signifies the ultimate position in the believer's spiritual advance in the plan of God.



17. Occupation with Christ is the summum bonum of spiritual independence. Where the challenges common to the fallen environment of the devil's world continue apace and unrestrained, the believer, whose dependence on Christ is absolute, remains above the fray.
18. Regardless of the time in human history a person occupies this earth there will be a preponderance of those who function on human viewpoint, human good, and evil. No matter where you reside, these people dominate the environment.
19. Decisions made without divine guidance can only have limited positive impact and that only when they are in accordance with establishment viewpoint as defined in the Word of God.
20. The United States of America is a client nation, whose foundational principles, enshrined in its Declaration and Constitution, are extracted from Scripture.
21. The nation that subscribes to these biblical guidelines is protected by God as long as those principles are subscribed to and applied by the resident Pivot of that national entity.
22. Presently, there are nations scattered all over this planet whose foundational principles do not line up with biblical guidance. As a result, their citizens' environment of freedom is limited accordingly.
23. During the 242 years since the Declaration, this nation has had its ups and downs, but always sustained by a resident Pivot that adheres to the directives of biblical guidance while significant others subscribe to establishment viewpoint.
24. The drift away from establishment norms betrays a cosmic creep toward hedonism, the system that historically fills the void. The system that seeks to restore order is usually some form of totalitarianism.
25. The Bible has been the resource that has supplied a steady flow of client nations whose rise and fall have precipitated an unabated journey westward, now functional in the USA.
26. In the midst of the usual tug-of-war that typifies the Angelic Conflict, there are those who have prepared their souls to rise above the fray while at the same time are having positive historical impact.
27. These types are members of the Pivot, aware of the Zeitgeist's challenges, but not dismayed by them, they keep on plugging away, taking in doctrine every day, with the stability of soul provided by their occupation with Christ.



28. Recognition of the Law of Freedom, the advanced believer recognizes the downtrends of the culture, but stands fast in support of the divine viewpoint and the principles of biblical truth.
29. Loyal to the truth, they recognize the possibility that at some point the mental contest, now having advanced to vitriol, may well elevate into civil disobedience because of which they may become casualties.
30. The power of divine thought in the souls of the Pivot is the result of the spiritual advance to occupation with Christ. The advanced believer does not take this personally, but understands it is part of the Invisible War.
31. The Dark Side's strategy and tactics systematically indoctrinates those it recruits with prolonged bombardments of propaganda. Those sufficiently indoctrinated are deployed to foment civil disobedience and violence against those with whom they disagree.
32. These are the opening ploys of satanic strategy: through civil disobedience, force establishment to make the effort to restore order. If the Dark Side has done its job, then the following legal maneuvers will be structured to rouse the rabble into fomenting rebellion.
33. How that prospect plays out will determine whether client nation USA survives or goes the way of Rome and Great Britain. However, during the contest, the Pivot remains strong and the outcome will be determined by the presence of or the lack of Pivot power.
34. From these examples, some of which are borrowed from current and recent events, we arrive at the conclusion that you cannot change the way other people think. Therefore, the option that is available is to decide to change the way you think.
35. Start out by buying into the fact that those without Christ and Christians without doctrine are on a road to destruction. The only person that can change that destiny is the believer who resolves to change himself.
36. The only source of information to successfully accomplish that objective is truth, and the only resource for unalterable truth is the Word of God which in and of itself is impotent if not inculcated into the soul of a believer.
37. In addition, only those believers who have advanced to the level of occupation with Christ have truly changed themselves and in doing so have maximum historical impact on their lives and the society in which they live.
38. Principle: Scripture does not obligate the believer to change others, but to change himself. The ultimate fulfillment of that obligation is attaining occupation with Christ.

(End JAS2-50. See JAS2-51 for continuation of study at p. 501.)

