

I. Know the Plan - 2 Peter 3:16-18: Spiritual Skills

James 4:4 - Do you not know that friendship with the world [priority emphasis on inconsequential things which are typical of the unbeliever] is hostility toward God [He is placed in a low priority position]. Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 1:23 - If anyone is a hearer of the Word [attends Bible class and listens to the message] and not a doer [refuses to take advantages of the assets imputed to him for application], he is like a person who looks at his natural face in the mirror [the Scripture reveals his failures]

James 1:24 - for once he has looked at himself he goes away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of a person he was [no orientation of self regarding corrective instruction of Biblical truth].

2 John 8 - Look out for yourselves [the only way to do this is to know enough doctrine to realize when you are off course] so that you may not lose your momentum [enter into reversionism], but that you may receive a full reward [divine blessings for both time and eternity].

2 John 9 - No one who keeps on advancing out of bounds and does not remain on the playing field through the doctrine of Christ [Divine Academy of Grace Instruction] has fellowship with God; the one who remains on the playing field [Grace Academy] has fellowship with both the Father and the Son.

The Filling of the Holy Spirit. Accomplished by confession alone to God alone of one's personal sins. This does three things:

- a. Cleanses the soul of all sin. (1 John 1:9)
- b. Restores to fellowship inside the divine power system. (1 John 1:5, 1 John 1:6, 1 John 1:7, 1 John 1:8)
- c. Reestablishes the Holy Spirit in control of the soul. (Galatians 5:25)

The Grace Apparatus for Perception. Explained in detail in the '89 Basics, this is the system provided by God by which the human mind can understand His infinite thought. As truth is learned, the Holy Spirit stores it into the division of the soul known in Scripture as the heart. We have subsequently researched biblical passages dealing with the heart and have established that it contains seven compartments which we have classified as the stream of consciousness.

Biblical Problem-Solving Devices. Problems are inevitable in life. The only real solutions to them lie in an understanding of biblical principles. Ten major areas of divine thought take care of virtually all the problems of human life. Once they are memorized and applied, the believer is able to take control of his life by utilizing them under pressure.

These three assets—F/HS + GAP + PSDs—are options which produce the Christian way of life.

But as long as they remain options, they are powerless to resolve the issues encountered in life.

Just as physical attributes are perfected through practice, so also these spiritual assets are perfected through consistency of use.

Thus, to learn of these three assets is not enough. You must use them and do so daily.

As the hands, legs, and body can be developed through training to develop physical skills, so these three assets can be developed into spiritual skills.

The more the believer uses these skills the more adept he becomes at problem solving.

The ability to maintain consistent tranquility of soul on a day-to-day basis ultimately results in the execution of the Christian way of life.

In fact, we can note a formula which demonstrates this principle:

$$\mathbf{F/HS + GAP + PSDs = CWL}$$

The Christian who becomes skillful in the use of these assets will fulfill the plan of God for his life.

The Filling of the Holy Spirit is the power source for learning the plan of God.

The Grace Apparatus for Perception is the power system for learning the plan.

The 10 Problem-Solving Devices form the power inventory which defends the soul against outside adversity.

This grace operation prevents the believer from drifting off course from grace.

Once salvation occurs, God imputes all the attributes of this system to every believer.

Therefore, if you wonder what you as a believer are to do after salvation, this is it.

In fact, the next verse of 2 Peter is a command for the believer to use his assets in order to grow in grace.

2 Peter 2:16 tells us that when the doctrines of Scripture are distorted it results in the destruction of those who believe these distortions.

2 Peter 2:17 exhorts the believer who has learned Biblical principles to be ever alert against those distortions of truth.

If you let down your guard, the false doctrine taught by these unprincipled persons will cause you to drift off course from this grace support system.

And so, in 2 Peter 2:18 we have the command which, if obeyed, will protect the believer from this deception.

The verse begins with an adversative conjunction: *de* - “*But*.”

Emphasizes the contrast between the believer who drifts off course and the one who utilizes his support system.

The first duty and the “order of the day” every day for the Christian soldier is revealed in the first verb of this verse. It is the present active imperative of: *auxano* - “*keep on growing*”

present - Durative; an action which began in the past and continues into the present. The past action is positive volition to truth and that status has continued to the present. This is the key to progress in learning the plan of God. You cannot learn how to execute the Christian way of life overnight. It is a day-by-day process. The command is therefore for the believer to be persistent in his attendance at Bible class and in the utilization of the first two spiritual skills: The Filling of the Holy Spirit and GAP.

active - The positive believer produces the action by his use of rebound, attendance at Bible class, and positive response to the message communicated.

imperative - Command; all imperative moods serve as a challenge to the individual believer's volition. He is either free to accept or reject the divine mandate.