

Gratitude Gauge: The Advance to Plus H Continued, Hebrews 12:2, Ephesians 5:25, Luke 23:34

Hebrews 12:2 - ... focusing your concentration on Jesus [**Problem Solving Device #10: Occupation w/ Christ**], the author and perfecter of our faith [**prototype spiritual life in the Incarnation**], who, because of His exhibited happiness [**Problem Solving Device #9**], endured the cross [*tetelestai*: “It has been finished.”], disregarding the shame [**Judicial imputation of sin**], and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God [**session**].

This verse tells us that happiness was more powerful as a problem-solving device than the imputation of our sins was as an adversity.

It was because of perfect happiness in His soul that Jesus Christ was able to endure the cross. Total happiness is an indicator that the Lord completely understood the implications of His work on the cross—He was assigned the duty of being our substitute before the judgment bar of God.

Jesus Christ understood the mission He had in the salvation plan of God. As with any operation, the mission is more important than the individuals involved.

Perfect happiness constitutes the individual’s total orientation and adjustment to the mission and steadfastness of purpose all the way to its successful conclusion. No matter what the personal cost, you remain loyal to the mission because your reputation is never more important than the mission’s success. Regardless of the insults, regardless of the emotions, the pain, the suffering, the indignities, the shame, Christ endured the cross because of inner happiness.

Principle: Never let the body dictate policy to the soul. The soul must always be in authority over the desires of the body.

And the body includes the brain including its limbic system in the paleocortex where resides the sinful nature’s SWAT team of emotions.

Jesus Christ had every opportunity to rightfully claim unfair treatment, unjust jurisprudence, and undeserved suffering. He did not. It is this demonstration of perfect happiness under maximum pressure that reveals to us the ultimate problem-solving device for the Christian marriage.

Ephesians 5:25 - Husbands love your wives just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up as a substitute for her.

Jesus Christ endured the cross so that our sin problem might be solved. He did this voluntarily and as a substitute for us “*while we were yet sinners.*” Using the same motivation, believers are to unconditionally love their wives as Christ loved the church by enduring any pressure, absorbing any insult, disregarding any indignity, real or imagined, as a sacrifice on her behalf.

It is this same attitude which must be transferred to friendships, family members, fellow believers, fellow citizens, and eventually to your enemies. For one of the proclamations our Lord issued from the cross was:

Luke 23:34 - Father, forgive them [**His enemies**]; for they do not know what they are doing.

The gratitude which is deployed under +H enters one into Occupation with Christ. By contrast, a zero reading on the Gratitude Gauge creates a vacuum into which bitterness and irrationality invades the soul.

Recovery begins with the first problem-solving device of Rebound. As inculcation of Biblical truth develops, the believer facilitates the spiritual life in his soul and brain.

However, negative happiness results in self-pity and a facilitation of human good and evil as problem-solving devices. Self-pity is a part of living under the three arrogant skills beginning with self-justification—whatever has you in self-pity is not your fault. This process of cosmic orientation and adjustment leads to a buildup of venom in the soul.

As God sent the cobra and the viper to balance the venom in the souls of the first-generation Jews, likewise He will send some appropriate venom-balancing exigency into our lives. This puts the believer on the Road of the Loser Believer. We must learn to evaluate the circumstances of our lives so as not to take this tragic cosmic detour.

If your Gratitude Gauge is on the advance, then you will become skillful in the practice of placing unfair, unjust, and undeserved circumstances into the hands of the Supreme Court of Heaven. We may be confident that Jesus Christ who is the Chief Justice, will execute justice:

Romans 12:19 - for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord.