

Four Stabilizing Truths for Handling Trouble

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Australia has converted to metric units. However some old-timers have not bothered to learn the new system. They continue to think in the old imperial system even though that is now the wrong way to buy sell and measure.

In much the same way, God wants us to take what habitually looks to us like trials, problems, and troubles, and, following the biblical truths we have memorized and learned, make the necessary adjustments in our thinking so that we see these events from God's perspective. (See James 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 1:6-7, 5:8-11; Rom. 5:3-5; Heb. 12:11; 2 Cor. 4:16-18.)

The trouble with many Christians is that they are trying to use their "own understanding" (Prov. 3:5) (the "old" way of looking at life) to solve problems, not putting to use the spiritual "conversion tables" (the spiritually-minded way of looking at life) provided in the Word of God. Going back to our original illustration, if the United States converted to the metric system, Americans who took the time and effort to learn the metric conversion tables would get along fine. Those too lazy or too stubborn to do so would be constantly irritated and ineffective. The same is true for believers who do not take the time to learn God's way of thinking about trouble so that they can make on-the-spot adjustments in their thinking.

Below are four truths¹ which act as "conversion tables" to help the believer take his present troublesome circumstances and "convert" them into opportunities for spiritual growth and increased fellowship with God. A key passage for each truth has been written out for you for easier memorization and review.

1. God's LOVE for me is unchanging. (1 John 4:10, 16; Jer. 31:3; Rom. 8:31-32, 35-39; John 15:12-13)

Jeremiah 31:3

2. God's PURPOSE for me is Christlikeness. (Rom. 8:28-29; Col. 1:28; Eph. 4:11-13; 2 Cor. 3:18)

Romans 8:28, 29

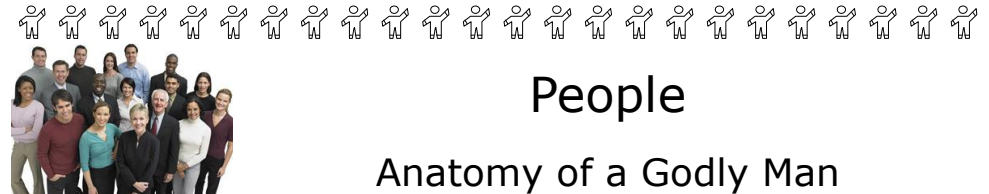
3. God's WORD to me is the final, right answer. (2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 4:12; 1 John 5:3; 2 Pet. 1:3-4; Deut. 6:6-9; Deut. 30:11-20; John 16:13-15)

2 Peter 1:3-4

4. God's GRACE for me is sufficient. (2 Cor. 12:9; 2 Tim. 2:1; Heb. 4:15-16; Titus 2:11-12)

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

¹ These four truths were stated this way by and used with permission of Ken Collier, The WILDS Christian Association.



People

Anatomy of a Godly Man



(Romans 15:14) "... able also to admonish one another."

(Ephesians 1:10) "that in .. the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him."

(John 3:6) ""That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

(Romans 8:9) "... Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

(Ephesians 2:4-5) "But God, who is rich in mercy.. {5} even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ ...,"

(1 Corinthians 2:11) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."

(1 Peter 1:22) "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren..,"

(Matthew 11:29) ""Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

(3 John 1:2) "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers."

(1 Corinthians 6:19) "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you..."

(1 Thessalonians 5:23) "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

There are three anatomical details of a godly man for us to consider in this message:

1. The _____, Romans 12:1-2

◆ Leb

(Genesis 6:5) "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his **heart** was only evil continually."

(Genesis 20:5) ""... And she, ... said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my **heart** and innocence of my hands I have done this.""

(Genesis 42:28) "... My money has been restored, ..!" Then their **hearts** failed them and they were afraid, saying to one another, "What is this that God has done to us?""

(Exodus 4:21) "And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his **heart**, so that



he will not let the people go."

◆ cardia

(Hebrews 4:12) "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of **soul and spirit**, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the **thoughts and intents** of the heart."

(Romans 1:21) "because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened."

(Jeremiah 17:9) ""The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

(Ezekiel 11:19) ""Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,"

(Jeremiah 31:33) "".. I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their **hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

(Luke 6:45) ""A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good.... For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

(Proverbs 4:23) "Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life."

2. The _____, Romans 8:28-29

◆ Me'ah

(Genesis 43:30) "Now his **heart** yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep."

◆ Splachnos

(Philippians 1:8) "For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the **affection** of Jesus Christ."

(Isaiah 26:3) "You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You."

(Jeremiah 31:3) "... "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."

(2 Peter 1:3-4) "as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, ... {4} ... exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature,"

(2 Corinthians 9:8) "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

(1 John 3:17) "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" [KJV]

(1 John 3:17) "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"



3. The _____, Romans 12:1-2

◆ Yetser/machashabah

(Genesis 6:5) "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every **imagination** of the **thoughts** of his heart was only evil continually."

◆ Sekviy

(Job 38:36) ""Who has put wisdom in the innermost being, Or has given understanding to the **mind**?" [NASB]

◆ Nous

(Luke 24:45) "Then He opened their **minds** to understand the Scriptures," [NASB]

◆ dianoia

(Matthew 22:37) "Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the **LORD** your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your **mind**.'"

(Hebrews 10:24-25) "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, {25} not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

