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**"THE WAY OF DISCIPLESHIP"**

**LESSON 7: THE UPWARD CALL OF  
GOD AND ITS BY-WAYS**

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### POINTS TO REMEMBER

## INTRODUCTION

The original purpose of God was that all human beings would be glorious beings. The upward call of God is God's call to all men to be glorious beings. Sadly, man sinned and turned away from this call. God in his great love has provided, through the death of his Son on the cross, a way for sinners to return to him. So sooner or later, each person will get to road junction Humber One (see illustration in the middle of the brochure) that we can call the road junction of life or death. At this junction, there is a choice between the narrow road that leads to life and the wide road that leads to death. Each person is led kindly and gently to this junction by the Holy Spirit, and there each one has to face the invitation of God to life by entering by the narrow gate or the person may chose the wide and easy road that leads to death.

The Holy Spirit will not choose for anybody. Each person must choose for himself. Those who choose the narrow road leave their sin and their sins at the foot of the cross and get on to the way of life. Such are children of God. They know God and God knows them. They have been born again and the Holy Spirit lives in them. How wonderful! They now start walking with Christ along the way of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. The disciple is called to embrace the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Paul, the apostle, said,

"But one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13- 14).

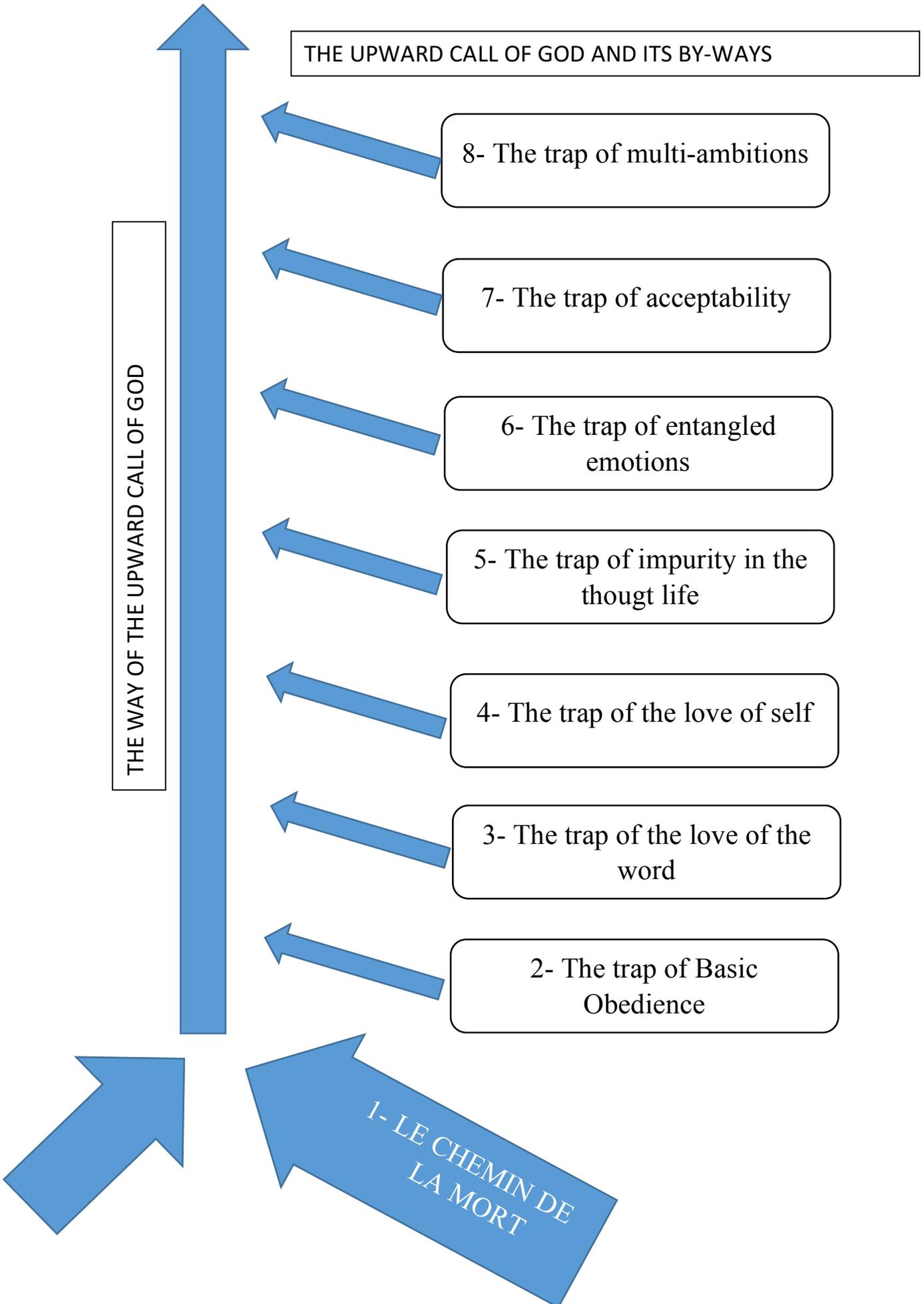
The disciple is called to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus; he must accomplish all along the way three things outlined by Paul in Philippians 3:13- 14. These are:

- a) To have only one goal. The apostle said, "One thing I do." He did not say, "Two things I do." Those who will make it to the end must have only one supreme goal. They must have ONLY ONE ambition. They must have ONLY ONE passion. They must have ONLY ONE love. Those who have multiple ambitions will fail. Those who have one supreme ambition and one minor one will find that their minor ambition competes with and displaces the supreme ambition. The overcomers have only one ambition - the Lord Jesus. They have room for no other and they desire no other. Their commitment to Him and their worship of Him is complete. There is no shadow between them and the Lord Jesus.
- b) To forget what lies behind. Behind them lies all that the world offers - all its fame, gain success etc. The apostle Paul said, "Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and counted them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ" (Philippians 3:7-8). He counted all things as loss, as refuse and he continued to count them as such. It was done in the past but it is repeated in the present, daily.

c) to strain forward and press on toward the goal. The upward call will make very far-reaching demands on those who will make it. Spiritual weaklings who are unprepared for the rigors of spiritual warfare will not make it. The devil will oppose and put serious barriers along the way. The world will attempt to distract and lure away people from the way which will become narrower with increasing time. The flesh will demand to be satisfied by offering possible by-ways. Short unfavorable circumstances will abound. Only those who are prepared to press on and to strain to reach the mark will make it to the end. Needless to say that there are many who will enter by the narrow gate but who will nevertheless fail to press on to the up-ward call of God in Christ Jesus. Demas once started on this way but he did not make it to the end. He was sidetracked by something or someone in Thessalonica.

The way of the call of God has many junctions and at each junction, there is a possibility of being sidetracked or of falling in a trap. We shall examine each of the following:

- 1) The junction of basic obedience
- 2) The trap of the love of the world
- 3) The trap of the love of SELF
- 4) The trap of Impurity in the thought life
- 5) The trap of entangled emotions
- 6) The trap of acceptability.



## I. THE JUNCTION OF BASIC OBEDIENCE

One does not go along before one faces the Junction of Basic Obedience. At that point, the person faces the choice between obeying the Lord in some small matter like baptism and by obeying continuously on the way of the upward call of God, and disobeying to please the devil, the world or the flesh. If the person chooses to disobey, he goes off the way of the upward call and slides down into the trap of Basic Disobedience.

He may stay in this trap for as long as he wants. He may give excuses. He may continue to read the Bible and pray. He may continue to witness and to do many good things. He may develop something like spiritual muscles in this trap and expand but he is off all the same. All this knowledge and spiritual exercises in that way of disobedience will help to destroy him for:

- 1- They will make him think that he is alright spiritually.
- 2- They will blind him to his terrible condition.
- 3- They will help him to mislead many others, for the devil will use that one as an example and say, "You see so and so. He has not been foolish to obey but he has continued to be a good strong Christian."
- 4- The devil will make him think that if he makes a lot of effort in that trap, he will begin to climb again upwards in the direction of the upward call without the humiliation of repentance and

walking the highway of repentance back to the place from which he was sidetracked.

The longer he stays in that trap, the more he will develop scales that will blind his vision and make seeing God's way almost impossible for him. As he continues there, his spiritual sensitivity will reduce and he will develop a "thick skin" that makes it so difficult to feel the convicting touches of the Holy Spirit. As he continues on this way, he may reach a point where being off the rails becomes so "normal" for him that he accepts it and stays there until Jesus comes, having missed the upward call of God in Christ Jesus completely.

## THE WAY OUT

The way out of this trap is as follows:

- a) - Recognition of the fact that one has missed the way.
- b) - Recognition of the fact that, that missing of the way is sin against God.
- c) - Repentance toward God for the sin.
- d) - Confession of the sin to God and, if need be to man also.
- e) - Walking the high way of repentance back to the place where the person went wrong.
- f) - Continuation on the way of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus,

In the recognition of the fact that one has missed the way, the Holy Spirit has to bring the person to the place where he says, "I have missed the way" and not "Maybe I have missed the way". Furthermore, when the conviction of sin is a genuine work of the Holy Spirit, the person will recognize that this having missed the way is a grievous sin against the Lord and against Him alone. He will not be thinking of getting right so that the brethren should accept him, but so that he may be accepted by the Lord. So he must be able to say, "Lord, I have sinned," and have no desire to justify himself for the sin. He must confess the sin right at its root to God and not pass over it with religious niceties by saying, "I made a mistake; I did not quite understand." He must bear the consequences, before man, that have resulted from his having gone wrong. For example, he must seek out those who; by following in his steps, have missed the way of God and confess to them, seeking earnestly and with tears to bring them back to the way.

He must walk the high way of repentance as he comes out of the pit into the path of repentance up to the point where on seeing the cross again and walking that way, he places himself where the love of God can reach out to him.

## II. THE TRAP OF THE LOVE OF THE WORLD

The world is a system well-organized with the devil as its ruling monarch. It opposes God the Father actively and violently. There is:

1. The wisdom of this world - (I Corinthians 2:6) - (I Corinthians 1:20)- (I Corinthians 3:19).
2. The rulers of this world - (I Corinthians 2:6).
3. The spirit of this world - (I Corinthians 2:12).
4. The form (fashion) of this world (I Corinthians 7:31).
5. The affairs of this world (1 Corinthians 7:33).
6. The god of this world (II Corinthians 4:4) .
7. Worldly grief (II Corinthians 7:10).
8. The course of this world (Ephesians 2:2)
9. Friendship with the world (James 4:4).
10. The kingdom of this world (Revelation 11:15).
11. The love of the world (I John 2:15).

12. The pollutions of the world (1 Peter 2:20).
13. The rudiments of the world (Colossians 2:8).
14. The darkness of this world (Ephesians 6:12).
15. Elements of the world (Galatians 4:3).
16. The dabrater of this world (I Corinthians 1:20).

Because the world is violently opposed to the Father, none can love the world and love the Father. All who truly love the Father hate the world and all who love the world hate the Father, There is no ground for neutrality. Anyone who consciously or unconsciously loves the world must know for certain that his professed love for the Lord is self-deception. Worldly methods, worldly fashions, worldly passions, worldly gains all injure the soul and destroy friendship with the Father.

The Bible talks about these things in very clear terms:

- 1) "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever" (I John 2:15-17).

- 2) "But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14),
- 3) "Sell your possessions and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the marriage feast, so that they may open to him at once when he comes and knocks" (Luke 12:33-36)

There are some believers who have physically separated themselves from the world but they are profoundly in love with the world in their hearts. They justify their love for the world, their use of worldly methods, etc. They look back with regret at the things that they have left behind in the world. Like the children of Israel in the wilderness, they look not to the Promised Land but to the pots of flesh and the grain that they left in Egypt. Such are also in a trap.

This love for the world may be manifested in desire for promotions by the world system and so they are frustrated when it does not come or they lobby and use worldly methods to be promoted. So when the world has appointed them they dance to its tune.

This love for the world can be manifested in an unholy desire to see their children succeed in the world and so they have no rest

worrying about the future of their children. They use worldly methods to build a financial future for their children's education and injure their souls beyond healing. As the Lord of glory said, "The cares of the world, the delight in riches, and the desire for other things, enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful" (Mark 4:19).

The answer to staying on the narrow way and not being trapped and side tracked into spiritual barrenness through the love of the world is to love the Lord Jesus supremely so much that there is no room for anything else. The answer is in knowing Him, gazing at Him, seeking Him and serving only Him. Those who love the Lord supremely by that act give the world a fatal blow.

If you are trapped into loving the world, you can repent today. Turn to Jesus in a total way, sell all that you have and give to the poor and come follow Jesus on the way of the upward call of God.

### III. THE TRAP OF THE LOVE OF SELF

Self-love manifests itself in many ways. It is the worst enemy of the upward call, for, on one way or the other it is at the root of all departure from the narrow way.

The self-life may manifests itself in:

1. Self-exaltation
2. Self-praise
3. Self-advertisement
4. Self-admiration

5. Self-protection
6. Self-preservation
7. Self-promotion
8. Self-justification
9. Self-defense
10. Self-withdrawal.

Self-love is at the root of all the sins of the flesh and they include:

Fornication

Adultery : The passion for sex

Licentiousness

Idolatry

: The passion for forbidden supernatural contact

Sorcery

Enmity

Strife

Jealousy : The passion for personal identity

Anger

Selfishness

Dissension

Party spirit

Envy

Drunkenness

Gluttony : the passion for food and pleasure.

Carousing

Anyone who loves "self" will sooner or later be the victim of one of these passions. Such cannot go far because the call of God and the way of God will cut across some selfish motive or desire. Such cannot go the way of the cross for the cross aims at putting an end to the self-life. All who are caught in the trap of self will escape all service for the Lord that will not bring them praise and admiration from men. They will not do things for which they cannot be seen or noticed. They live with one supreme passion - to draw attention to themselves.

The danger about the sidetrack into the love of self is that those who are caught in it may be deceived into thinking that they are very spiritual. They may sacrificially give to the Lord either to be seen by men or for the self-congratulation that comes inwardly saying, "You are really wonderful." They can suffer for others and even for the Lord but the goal is all-self. They can justify their luxury by saying that it is God's rewards and gifts for faithfulness. Many people stay in this trap for too long because self-love is most blind and they hardly see their situation as it is. The devil gets them to say that self-admiration is appreciation of the good looks that God has given them and they justify the large sums lavished on self by saying that God has ordained His children to

be heads and not tails and so they must have all the world's goods.

Another complication about the self-life is that many think that it is the problem of public

figures - leaders, speakers, ... It is in fact also problem of withdrawn people who by being withdrawn hope to draw attention to themselves or they are withdrawn as a protective mechanism to avoid the sharp edges of the cross.

The Lord Jesus spoke very clearly about the self-life. He said, "If any one comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, YES, AID EVEN HIS OWN LIFE; he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). When a person's eyes are opened to see the manifestations of the self-life in himself, either he will take sides with the Word and say, "I am trapped. I must repent and be set free and actively co-operate with the Holy Spirit and so come back to the way of the upward call," or he will justify himself or just do nothing about it. Permit me to ask you a personal question, "What have you done to co-operate with the Holy Spirit in order to put an end to all that is of the self in you?"

The self-life can manifest itself in a lot of activity for God but they are all done to be seen by men or done for personal pleasure.

The one answer to the self-life is the cross of Christ. When Jesus died on the cross, He took all of our self-life with Him to the cross and crucified it there with Himself. The Bible says, "We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin" (Romans 6:6).

The purpose of the crucifixion was that, the sinful body might be destroyed. From God's side it is all done but there is another side to it - your side. You are commanded to "Put to death therefore what is earthly in you, fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5). If you do not do that which you must do, it will remain undone.

Many believers feel comfortable in this trap possibly because the vast majority of professing Christians have been sidetracked here. God does not take it that lightly. His word says, "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24). One test by which a person can test whether or not he is in Christ is the one given here. Ask yourself, "Have I crucified the flesh with its passions and desires?" If the answer is "NO", then may be you do not belong to Christ Jesus!. Am I saying too much? No, the words are not mine.

When a person repents of all that is of the self-life in him, God will bring him back to the upward call. The next question then is how to continue on the way. This is done as follows. The Lord Jesus must replace the "self". Instead of the self-life, the Jesus-life must be allowed to be fully operative. Again here, God has done all that He ought to do for us to have the .Jesus-life. He has provided Jesus to be all we need.

The Bible says, "He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption" (I Corinthians 1:30). Because God has acted on our behalf, we can respond with full assurance that our response will lead to real progress. What then must be done? The Bible says, "If then you have been raised with Christ; seek the things that are above, where

Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Colossians 3:1-2)." ... you have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in the knowledge and image of its creator.... Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience.... And above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, Teach and admonis one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Colossians 3:10-17).

When the self-life is dealt with, the believer can make much progress and make it more rapidly in the way of the upward call of God.

#### IV. THE TRAP OF IMPURITY IN THE THOUGHT LIFE

It is possible to be "pure" in actions and words but to be bound in thoughts. Ken my thus praise such people but the King of the upward call, even the Lord Jesus, is not at all impressed for He looks at the thoughts.

- (1) Sexual impurity - The committing of all kinds of sex sins in thought.
- (2) Wickedness - The committing of murders and the like in thought wishing that an enemy were removed by death, wishing that God would render someone who insults the

Lord dumb; wishing that a persecuting husband would suffer some terrible thing as punishment; wishing that people would encounter some evil as a result of disobedience, ....

- (3) Blaming God - Asking, why does God not do this and that? Why does He not stop this and that?

All these sins in the thought life put the one who commits them off the narrow way of the upward call of God for it is an upward call to a holy God whose Son demands perfection for He says, "You therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5: 48).

All who want deliverance from impure thoughts can have this deliverance. Jesus came for that purpose. He can do it. The apostle Paul expressed this desire for the believers in Thessalonica. "May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." "He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it" (I Thessalonians 5:23-24).

Do you see, fellow pilgrim, that that is the purpose to which God called you and me? He called us to sanctification that is whole, total. He called us to a Sanctification that embraces the total man. He called us to this kind of sanctification. He continues to call us even this day to all of that and not just to a part of it. He is willing to do it. He is able to do it.

However, for it to be done, some things must be done on our part for He is seeking people who will co-operate with Him for their own good. If you would like to be delivered, I suggest the following:

- 1) Admit that evil thoughts have caused you to derail from the path of the upward call. If you think that you are on the path of the upward call while harboring impure thoughts, unforgiving thoughts attributing to people's actions wicked and base motives, you are self-deceived and much cannot be done for you. If you do not see this as deep sin, you will remain in it. The Bible says, "If we say we have not sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (I John 1:8).
- 2) Confess this sin and forsake it once and for all. Decide that you will have nothing to do with impure thoughts at all. Take a solemn and final decision. The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Do you see what He will do if you confess? He will forgive. That is good but He will do something more than that. He will cleanse. He will deal with things at the root. He is willing. He will do it.
- 3) Put a distance between yourself and all that brings suggestions of impurity. Walk close to the Lord and you will detect impure suggestions right from a distance before they come close enough to take possession of you. Do not compromise for

one second. Call things by their names. Call the thoughts of fornication the sin of fornication, call the thoughts of hatred, murder for they are truly so, (Matthew 5:27-28); 1 John 3:15) and separate yourself radically from them. Be sold out to Jesus. Fill your mind with the thoughts of Jesus and fill your time with the work of Jesus and there will be no idle time to be so trapped in impure thoughts. Seal all this with a life of unceasing praise, "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (I Thessalonians 5:16-18).

## V. THE TRAP OF ENTANGLED EMOTIONS

The Lord expects all who are on the upward call of God to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deuteronomy 6:5). The heart is the seat of emotions. To love the Lord with all your heart is a call that includes the love of the Lord with all the emotions. It is not a call to love the Lord with some of our emotions but with all our emotions. God will not accept partial love. He will not accept love that is shared between Him and any other person or any other thing. All love must be centered on Him and on Him alone. It is not a matter of whether or not the love is legitimate. It is a question of whether or not it is centered on Him alone. The psalmist knew something of this for he said,

For God alone my soul waits in silence...

He only is my rock and my salvation....

For God ~~alone~~ my soul waits in silence....

He only: is my rock and my salvation. . . (Psalms 62:1-6).

Unfortunately, many who know the Lord Jesus are sidetracked by entangled emotions. Let us look at these briefly:

### FATHER - SON LOVE.

Abraham loved Isaac, It was right and good. Somewhere along the line, it seems that the very being of Abraham was wrapped around his son. However God wanted Abraham's being to be wrapped around Him and around no other. So in that mighty test of the call to sacrifice Isaac, God ensured that Abraham was still what he was meant to be - a man who knew and who had only one supreme love - God.

### THE LOVE BETWEEN FRIENDS

David and Jonathan were friends. It was a very deep relationship. It was thorough. However, David was destined to be a man after God's own heart. In order that his emotions towards God might grow mature and reach the place where he could say that he waited alone on God, that God was his only desire, that he desired nothing on earth apart from the Lord, God took away Jonathan from his life. It was radical surgery but it was effective. Jonathan was taken away and God had His man - David, the man after His heart.

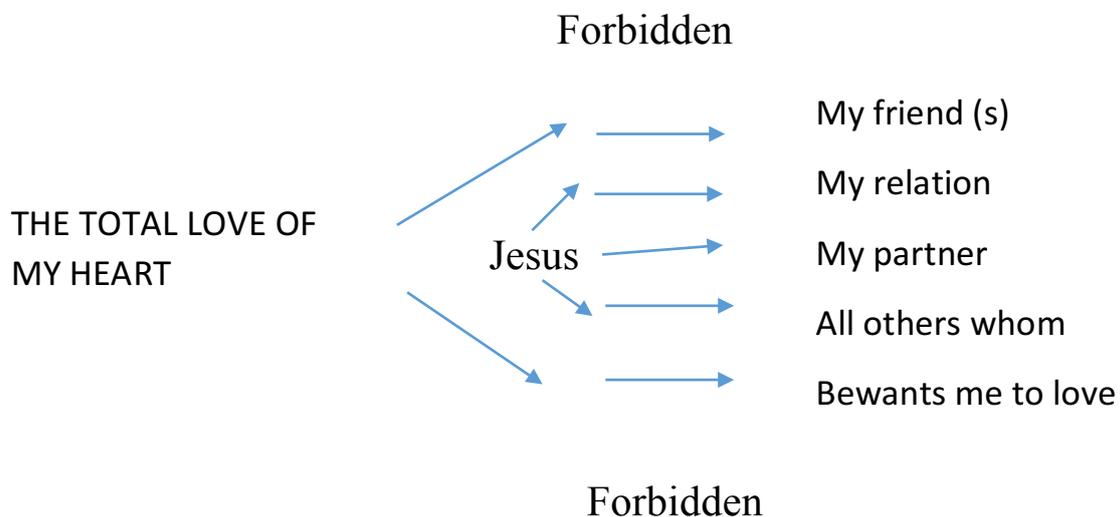
### THE LOVE BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE.

We know how deeply Jacob loved Rachel. He worked for fourteen years for her and loved her in an unchanging way even at the period in her life when she was barren. Her children were his favorites. Yet before Jacob reached the place of deepest maturity in his walk and love for God, God took away Rachel.

At this junction of entangled emotions many brilliant lives that would have contributed significantly to build the kingdom are broken. It could be an emotional attachment to marriage that God wants given up; it could be the desire to marry outside God's time, etc; but in all of these entangle emotions everything becomes foggy. All people so entangled have missed the way of the upward call. If a person should go his own way and marry the wrong person, how can he walk on the way of the upward call? Has he not by thus acting put himself away permanently?

## GOD'S ANSWER TO ENTANGLED EMOTIONS

It is very difficult to disentangle emotions. The best thing is to protect them from ever getting entangled. This means that all of our emotions are poured out unto the Lord; all, to the last bit and then He is allowed to direct them to any other object which He wants us to love. So in this special sense there is no direct contact between the one on the way of the upward call and any other person. All is through the Lord. All is controlled by the Lord.



This means that I will love only the Lord with all my heart. This also means that I can love all others to the extent that the Lord wants. Such loving will know no frustration, no disappointment, no heartache. It will be controlled by the Lord Jesus who is Supreme Love. Ask God to disentangle your emotions. Pour all your love on the Lord and you will continue on the way of the upward call.

## VI. THE TRAP OF ACCEPTABILITY

God's purpose in redemption was to procure for Himself people after the likeness of His eternal Son who would conform to Him in everything. His purpose was that such creatures would look at Jesus the standard. They would gaze at Him and make up their minds to conform to Him in everything, at every time, at all cost. What the wicked one has done has been to thwart this very purpose so that now believers are laboring to conform to:

- a) The world
- b) The religious systems of apostate Christianity
- c) Traditions of men
- d) The conduct of other believers.

The result of all this is that slowly and sometimes unconsciously, there has arisen a total departure from the Lord Jesus, from His Word and from the way of the upward call. The product is a band of men and religious systems straying like cattle, all in the name of hopeless unity and , cheap love.

The devil, the world and all that is not of the Lord cannot stand that which is different. The pressure to conform is very strong.

The whispers along the lines of compromise, come strong and persistent and for that purpose, the enemy of our souls makes suggestions and asks questions like:

- 1- Do you not see that even this person in the Bible compromised?
- 2- Do you not know that such a stand would cause division and God wants unity?
- 3- Do you not know that love does not seek it's own way?
- 4- Do you not see that your insistence is pride and God hates the proud?
- 5- If you maintain your stand, would it make you more spiritual?
- 6- What is really wrong? After-all it does not contradict anything in the Bible.
- 7- Do you not see that if you just bend a little doors may be opened for the Gospel? etc, etc.

All of this is the pressure from the enemy through his agents (sad to say these sometimes include the children of the kingdom of God) to sidetrack from the way of the upward call.

Something in us which is due to the fact that we still bear scars of the fall, is this love to be accepted, love, praised and approved. Few can go on alone even on the way of truth. The way is too rough and the opponents are many and varied.

The tragedy is the fact that each act of compromise makes it easier and more necessary to compromise the next, time in order to be accepted. How can one escape the snare of being side-tracked by the desire to be accepted? I suggest the following:

- 1- Deal thoroughly and radically with all sins in your life, especially those known only by you.
- 2- Decide that the word of God Is the final umpire in all matters of faith that you will obey it above all else.
- 3- Decide that you will pay the cost of your obedience even with your life and live by that principle.
- 4- Decide that you will compromise nothing that God has said in His word, even if by compromise you were to win worlds for Him; for such gains are abominations to Him.
- 5- Decide that your first love will be for the Lord and that this love must be manifested by your obeying His commandments even if that obedience hurts one or many people.
- 6- Decide that the only way to truly love people Is to do what God wants you to do.
- 7- Settle in your mind that true success is determined by God and not by the applause of men or visible results.

- 8- Settle it in your heart that all you want is the approval of God and do everything possible to eliminate the praise of men. If you allow yourself the luxury of accepting the praises of men, you will soon be tempted to want more and more of it.
- 9- Obey both the written word of God and the revealed word of God, revealed to your heart by the Holy Spirit.
- 10- Do not fight with those who would not see with you. Study the word. Love it. Obey it. Know your God. Walk with Him. Satisfy Him. Let Him take responsibility for your obedience.

At each point there will always be the choice between the way of the upward call of God and a by-way. The one who failed before could fail again and the one who did not fail at the previous place of testing is not thereby guaranteed success. At each point, those who look on to Jesus, who are single of heart will continue in the way of victory while the others would fail. Those who, by being sensitive to the Holy Spirit, build a strong spirit of obedience are more likely to keep on the narrow way than those who make it a habit to fail and repent.

Those who are sensitive to the Holy Spirit and recognize their sin most readily and repent, do not need to spend long periods in the trap. The shorter the period of side-tracking, the easier it is to pick up and follow the Lord and the less the damage. In fact, it should be possible for someone to recognize that he has missed the way and repent and start on the way without sliding right into the trap.

Those who are side-tracked often lose a lot of time and are often so far behind others who started the journey with them. For example, a person who is trapped into the by-way of false doctrine stops growing until he repents and comes back to the way, and by the time he comes back, those who were of the same spiritual standing with him are now mature enough to become his teachers.

## POINTS TO REMEMBER

Lesson 6 is rather a summary of the course on The Way of Discipleship, We said in the introduction to the lesson in question that the original goal of God was that all human beings would be glorious beings. Man having turned away from this goal because of sin, the God of love sent his Son, Jesus Christ, through whom he renewed his invitation to all men to the glory of heaven. The first invitation was turned down by man's disobedience to the word of God; God has once again sent his word in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh, a form easy for man to understand. In this form the Word of God is not just the Void that commands; rather It is, above all, the Word that sets the example to be followed. In this form, the Word is not only Truth, it is the way to follow. It is light that shines in the lives of those who are confused and who are looking for help.

The upward call of God is a call to all human beings to become like the Lord Jesus. It is a call to be like Christ and to act like Christ, The Lord said, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). Being the light of the world is part of the glory God calls men to. Only those who answer "Yes" to his call enter this glory. The intensity of light that each person gives off is a function of the level of glory that he has reached. The level of glory that each one reaches is a function of his position before God, better still, of his relationship with God.

How can we illustrate this? Talking about the believer being the light of the world, he is like an electric bulb, and the generator of electricity is God. All believers are connected to this same generator, but the amount of light that each bulb gives off can vary from bulb to bulb.

It will vary with respect to two criteria: The power or wattage of each bulb and how transparent it is, and the power of the bulb and how much electrical power it consumes. For example, under equal tension, a 100 watt bulb consumes twice as much electrical power as a 50 watts one. As a result, the 100 watts bulb will shine twice as brightly as a 50 watts one, if their glass is of the same degree of transparency, We do agree, don't we, that the key element in the process of producing light is the electrical current, for the bulb is merely a receptacle that receives the key element.

Let us also agree that if you are a bulb blackened by sin and all kinds of shameful acts, the light in you will give way to darkness, and how great the darkness! In the same way, by your many acts of disobedience or sloth to obey, you are a very weak bulb, unable to consume enough electrical power to give light to the world. You are entirely responsible for your present, state. So all human beings are called with the same calling, but not all respond. Among those who respond initially, not all press on right to the end of the road of the upward call of God because they have fallen into some of the different traps that we discussed earlier ID this lesson. Those who fall into different kinds of traps often make a lot of noise in the name of God; they are not serving God.

The origin of their service is SELF. Its goal is SELF. They serve men for the glory of men. Each genuine Christian service has its origin in God, and Its goal Is God, for the glory of God. The Master being served is God. The meal served is for Him. Man is the dog that eats the crumbs that fall from the Master's table. Such service can be rendered only by those who are holy, not just in name, but by having sanctified themselves; thus they have separated themselves unto God, and have become available, fit to be used by God. We shall study these things in depth in course IV entitled,

"The Way of Sanctification"

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### SECTION 1

- 1) What was God's original purpose for the human race?
- 2) What is the secret of success along the way of the upward call of God?
- 3) What does fundamental obedience consist of?
- 4) Have you ever had any problem with fundamental obedience? Which one?
- 5) Do you know any children of God who have fallen into the trap of fundamental disobedience?
- 6) What are the consequences of fundamental disobedience noticed in your life and in someone else's life?
- 7) What is the spiritual age of a person who one week after his conversion, falls into the trap of fundamental disobedience and remains there for ten years?
- 8) Mention three fundamental things that one must do to get out of the trap of fundamental disobedience
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)

### SECTION 2

- 9) What are the two types of separation explicitly treated in this lesson?
- 10) Can you mention one or two other types of separation that ought to have been included in this lesson?

- 11) What is a religious system? (One bible example and a present day example)
- 12) Are religious denominations of God or of the devil? Justify your answer.
- 13) Mention two denominations mentioned in the bible that existed in Isreal at the time of Jesus.
- 14) What adjective did the Lord use often to describe them?
- 15) What reasons do some believers give for refusing to come out of religious system?
- 16) Can a religious system be improved?
- 17) What is therefore the best strategy for success available to the believer who is in a religious system and who wants to win lost souls for the Lord?
- 18) What is the Lord's commandment to his children who are members of denomination and religious system?
- 19) How does a system come about even if it refuses to be a denomination?
- 20) Mention two fundamental things which characterize a religious system?
- 21) What must be done so that a church does not become a religious system?
- 22) Have you fallen into the trap of a denomination or a religious system?
- 23) What do you intend to do to come out?

### **SECTION 3**

- 24) In what ways can the love of the world manifest itself in someone's life?
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
- 25) In what way does the love of the world manifest itself in your life?

- a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
- 26) Are you aware that this trap is retarding your growth in your relationship with the Lord?
- 27) Are you determined to come out of this trap?  
What will you do then to come out?

#### **SECTION 4**

- 28) Mention four possible manifestations of a life centred on "SELF"
- a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
- 29) How does the life centred on "SELF" manifest itself in you?
- a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
- 30) Are you aware that you have fallen into the trap of "SELF"
- 31) Do you know that as a result of being in this trap you are not where you ought to be spiritually?
- 32) What is God's solution to the life centred on SELF?
- 33) How does this solution apply/work in your case?

#### **SECTION 5**

- 34) How are impure thoughts manifested in a person's life?
- 35) How can you get out of this trap?
- a)
  - b)
  - c)

- 36) Have you been caught in the trap of impure thoughts? If yes, for how long?
- 37) Do you know that each hour you spend in this trap causes you a corresponding delay of one hour on your way upward?
- 38) Let us suppose that eternity is at least 100,000,000,000 years. Tell me how many years you have already lost by being in this trap?

### **SECTION 6**

- 39) What do we mean by the trap of entangle emotions?
- 40) Have you ever fallen into such a trap? Has your problem been solved?
- 41) How was your problem solved?
- 42) What is God's answer to the problem of entangle emotions?
- 43) Have you got a friend, a marriage partner, a parent (father, mother), a brother, a sister, a child that you have love dearly?
- 44) Is this relationship based on the Lord or on the flesh? Give reasons for your answer.

### **SECTION 7**

- 45) What suggestions does Satan often make to make us fall into the trap of acceptability?
- a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - d)
  - e)
  - f)
  - g)

- 46) How can we escape from the temptation to fall into the trap of acceptably
- a)
  - b)
  - c)
  - e)
  - h)
  - i)
  - j)
- 47) Have you fallen into the trap of acceptability? How?
- 48) Have you decided to get out of it?
- 49) What will you do to get out?