

Key memory message

Proverbs 2:1-6 (NKJV)

- 1 My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you
- 2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding;
- 3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding,
- 4 If you seek not as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures,
- 5 Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God.
- 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

A faithful Christian is a knowledgeable Christian

James

An encouragement to move forward to spiritual maturity

Recovering from negative response to Adversity

1. Adversity is the unavoidable outside daily pressures of life, they seek to attack and to penetrate our soul.

The soul: is that immaterial part of an individual that makes up the real you.

It has self-consciousness, this is where we are aware that we exist.

Mentality: this is our intellect with which we think

This is where we store and categorize the doctrine that we have learned - we make use of this stored categorized knowledge

Willpower

The soul is also where feelings reside; emotions are the responders to life. As Christians we are born doctrine, so that we can keep our emotions under control, and so that we can develop the capacity for true happiness in the soul. This is not possible without categorized knowledge of doctrine!

Promises: such as I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me? Nothing can separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus?

In another part of our soul resides **Willpower**, according to our willpower, we either humble ourselves to receive and obey doctrine, or suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

In yet another part of our soul resides our **Conscience**. This is where our value system resides, it's where we understand right from wrong, morality and virtue. These all reside and are categorized in our conscience.

All of these compartments of the soul are intertwined and work together.

We divide them out for academic purposes, for clarity, to understand who we are, and how we think and make decisions.

At the point of belief in Christ, man is made complete having the human spirit born within him through the work of the Holy Spirit.

This human spirit unites with the mentality of the soul, completing the necessary set of tools to receive and understand doctrine.

Willpower

Willpower is the deliberate intentional employment of that system of thought the best suits the conclusion I prefer to arrive at.

Through negative willpower, a man's conscience is isolated and deceived. False truths are invented, and truth is covered up.

James 1:8 (NKJV)

18 For the wish of God is resisted from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

2. Happiness is our choice:

James 1:1-3 (NKJV)

1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

- 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

You and I are in charge of our own happiness, and our own mental stability.

Inner happiness is dependent upon the choices we make to know and apply doctrine. Not the circumstances that we find ourselves in!

We decide how we are going to respond when those outside pressures of the soul, those adversities of life come against us.

- 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Galatians 6:7-9 (NKJV)

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

4. Adversity is what the external pressures of life do to us; stress is what we do to ourselves. Adversity is unavoidable stress is optional.

1. The basis for external adversity:

Genesis 3:17-19 (NKJV)

17 Then to Adam He said: "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it:' Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you. And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread 'Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

Job 5:7 (NKJV)

7 Yet man is born to trouble As the sparks fly upward.

Job 14:1 (NKJV)

1 Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.

2. God's revealed word is the solution to adversity:

John 8:31-32 (NKJV)

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 10:10 (NKJV)

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

James is giving us the details of how this is accomplished, exactly what it means to abide in His word

3. 1. Grace recovery: God's provision for the believer to recover from sin, to be restored to a right relationship with God, and resume the spiritual life.

Self-examination

1 Corinthians 13:6 (NKJV)
6 Examines your motives as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are brought off!

Galatians 6:3-4 (NKJV)

3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

Confession

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

New Testament examples of grace recovery through confession:

Luke 15:21-24 (NKJV)

21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to him, 'Your father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 23 And he said to him, 'Your father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 24 And he said to him, 'Your father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

Luke 18:13-14 (NKJV)

13 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men—adulterers, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 14 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 15 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 16 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Old Testament examples of grace recovery through confession:

Leviticus 16:21 (NKJV)

21 And they shall lay their hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a witness man.

Leviticus 26:40-42 (NKJV)

40 But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me, 41 and that I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies, if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and if they confess their guilt, 42 then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will forgive the land.

Psalm 32:5 (NKJV)

5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.' And You forgive the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Psalm 51:3-4 (NKJV)

3 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. 4 For I acknowledge my transgression, And my sin is against me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge. 5 Beliefted I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

Proverbs 28:13 (NKJV)

13 He who covers his sins will not prosper; But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

Daniel 9:4-10 (NKJV)

4 And I prayed to the Lord my God, and made confession, and said, 'O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, 5 we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. 6 Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. 7 O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to Israel. Those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. 8 O Lord, do not bring shame of face to us, our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. 9 To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. 10 We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His law, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. 11 Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice, therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. 12 And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster. For under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem. 13 As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. 14 Therefore the Lord has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works which He does. Though we have sinned, we have not obeyed His voice. 15 And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly. 16 O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain. Because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us. 17 Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servants, and His supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. 18 O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. 19 O Lord, hear O Lord, forgive O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name. 20 Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God,