

Swap Your Depression for TRUE JOY

# **Dealing With Our Moods and Depressions Biblically**

**A Constructive Work Book**

**A Biblical Perspective on Depression and  
Manic Depression  
(called Bi-Polar Disorder)  
Dealing with Life, and Dealing with  
Others Biblically.**

**By**

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## INTRODUCTION

“You don't have to be depressed. You don't have to see a doctor and wait for him or her to write you a prescription. You don't have to suffer the miserable side effects of standard prescription antidepressants. You don't have to endure weeks or months of waiting for your antidepressant drug to start working. You can stop your depression right now. In fact, you can feel much better in a matter of just days. And you can find all the tools you need to conquer your depression quickly and safely right here in these pages<sup>1</sup>. ...

“You don't have to be depressed. Depression saps us of our vitality, our joy in being alive. It wrecks relationships, careers, and even lives. But there is a new (no, an old) solution (that pharmacists and medical doctors have missed or steered you away from.) Now you don't have to endure awful side effects. You don't have to wait for weeks for relief. You can stop depression now. You can feel better in a matter of days.<sup>1</sup>

“Depression is not some minor problem affecting only a few people. Current research estimates that fifty percent of the population – yea, every other one of us – will suffer some form of depression at some time. Despite the hype surrounding the latest generation of prescription antidepressants, depression is not a thing of the past. Even the most modern prescription antidepressants are harsh drugs. They can cause miserable, even intolerable, side effects and take weeks to start working, if they work

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from the flyleaves of ten year old meditation, diet, and diet supplement books promising miracle cures for depression. They did not work and are gone today.

for you at all. It does not have to be this way.”<sup>1</sup>

These miracle cures are all gone by the wayside but the Holy Bible says, “A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken” (Proverbs 15:13). The LORD God, your Creator, made you in his image and in his likeness. He made you with a physical body, a mental and emotional spirit and a moral soul. Any cure for depression must address the triune being of man. He has revealed a cure for what you are dealing with, and this little booklet can show you how to find it.

There is a book that offers a permanent cure for manic-depression, called bi-polar disorder. It has cured millions. It will do everything that the three 20<sup>th</sup> century adds promised and failed to do. The meditation ad, the dietary ad, and the diet-supplement ad are presently off the market, but the cure herein described has been around for over nineteen-hundred years. It can fulfill every one of those promises.

# **Dealing With Moods and Depression WEEK #1**

## **Of A Constructive Work Book**

### **A Biblical Perspective**

*“ A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.” (Proverbs 17:22)*

The medicine that treats depression does not come in a pharmaceutical bottle as a pill. It is not another miracle dietary supplement that you can order in the mail. It is a life style cure defined by a four thousand year old book written by your creator and called the Holy Bible. Depression is the most diagnosed 'mental illness' in America. The LORD God our Creator knows man to be created in his image with a body, soul, and spirit. The medical community separates man's spirituality from his mental processes, and physical body and then tries to fix his malady with mind altering drugs. This verse of wisdom, Proverbs 17:22 indicates a connection between the physical, mental and spiritual entities that He created 'in His image.' This workbook capitalizes on this interconnection to help you deal with depression, manic depression or bi-polar disorders in your life. God advises that we heal the spirit, the mind and the body. We guarantee that this approach to reform in your life will be effective. We guarantee it because He does.

This material is designed to provide a wealth of information at the beginning, and five challenges per week. Don't get so overwhelmed by the beginning

material that you don't get to the challenges. I put this material together to use in our ministry addressing problems of addictions, anger and depression, to be used in jails, prison, homes and Church. We always recommend that you pursue this material through our Baptist Church or an Independent Baptist Church of like faith and practice, but recognize that sometimes this preference is not available to students. Make it your goal to get into one of these Bible Believing, Bible Preaching Churches for your full growth in Christ. A Bible believing Church does not use a modernist Bible, it uses a King James Bible English translation. So don't settle for an ecumenical church with an ecumenical bible.

As you pursue this study pursue the new relationship with the Word of Truth. He can change you. He can make your life new. God Bless you in this pursuit.

Pastor Ed Rice

Good Samaritan Baptist Church [www.GSBaptistChurch.com](http://www.GSBaptistChurch.com)

It should be no surprise that a Baptist Preacher, believing the Bible to be true, considers the renewing of ones mind in the Lord Jesus Christ to be a first line cure for clinical depression, for manic depression and for bipolar disorder. The medical profession and the mental health profession agree that all depression needs to be treated with 'talk therapy', but in the last few years their preferred treatment is to administer mind altering drugs. As a Bible believer and preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it is obvious that the 'talk therapy' which they now move to the background, is the ultimate and preferred



treatment when the talk is with our Creator. And when God's methods for the reformation of our mind are properly employed, even extreme struggles with these forms of mood disorders can be treated without the mind altering drugs. (NOTE: If you are on depression medications do not discontinue their use without consulting your physician.)

Mood swings are a normal part of life. There is an overemphasis on diagnosing and treating these as 'illnesses' without considering the spiritual root cause of man's 'illnesses'. With this in mind we have 5 tasks below that we want you to undertake in this first week. The challenges in next weeks session are very important so don't miss the challenge.

- 1) Read through “Key Proverbs”, and “A Word About Mood Disorders.” These contain the important background information that will be more fully developed in upcoming sessions.
- 2) Fill in the 'Keeping Track of Yourself' worksheet for one week. This is a modified depression evaluation checklist that may help us each evaluate your thoughts.
- 3) Review the steps to reformation and do the writing assignment.
- 4) Begin journaling with the checklist provided.
- 5) Finally Learn to SING. SING, out-loud this Song.

This could be a very busy week for you but an excellent start on the renewing of your mind in Christ Jesus.

## ***Key Proverbs for Depression Help*** Sheet 1 of 3

Reading God's Words will effect your health. Read these Seven Proverbs DAILY. There will be three more sets, twenty-one Proverbs in all.

Pr 3:7-8 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Pr 4:20-22 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Pr 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

Pr 12:4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.

Pr 12:18 There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

Pr 13:17 A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health.

Pr 14:29 He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

Upcoming Proverbs 3:7-8, 4:20-22, 11:30, 12:4, 12:18, 13:17, 14:29.

Upcoming Proverbs 14:30, 15:4, 15:13, 15:30, 16:18, 16:19, 16:24.

## **A Word About Mood Disorders**

Depression and manic-depression, the latter called today 'bipolar-disorder', are both common and highly treatable mental illnesses. Unfortunately many people do not get the help they need for a couple reasons. First there is much misunderstanding with these illnesses and sometimes there is a fear or stigma attached to seeking treatment. Secondly Americans and our doctors like a quick and easy 'pill' solution for everything, and throwing mind altering chemicals at an emotional disorder is a very lucrative but eternally harmful and ineffective treatment of depression. Doctors treat bodies as though they were not connected to soul and spirit. Most often treating our bodies and our hormones as a chemistry set. They see it out of balance and strive to bring things back into balance with just the right combination of ingested chemicals. Human's are not that simple. Psychiatrists treat our minds as though they were not connected to our body and spirit. Note here that all of the 'medical profession' ignore the spirit of man and the interconnection and intersection of body-soul-and-spirit within man. God, our creator requires that all three be treated simultaneously, equally and jointly. We are made in His image and likeness and he has revealed to us in His infallible Word the best treatment of our disorders. This workbook is an ongoing effort to capture all of that revelation and implement the whole person treatment that is necessary for the successful treatment of depression and manic-depression.

Circumstance in life can produce feelings of being sad or blue. These may be little things that wear on us over time, like job frustrations, or they may be traumatic events that hit us all at once, like the death of a loved one. God created this emotion for our protection and well being. Sadness is an emotional guard that protects and sustains. Indeed we can use this emotion for our enhancement. The poem comes to mind:

I walked a mile with happiness,  
she chatted all the way,  
but I was none the wiser  
for all she had to say.  
I walked a mile with sadness  
and not a word said she,  
but oh the things I learned from her,  
when sadness walked with me.

When this sadness comes into our life there is an actual chemical change in our body which accommodates this subdued emotion. In fact every mood we 'feel' is accompanied by a whole set of hormones and various chemical changes that change our body chemistry to accommodate that emotion or feeling. Consider again the power in this realization. Your thoughts and feelings effect your body chemistry and your body chemistry effects your thought and feelings. TO better understand depression and God's ability to remedy it we need to talk openly about this complex relationship between body-soul-and-spirit.

Consider what we do with this remarkable ability. For our own entertainment we read a novel that walks us through melancholy, joy, thrill, fear, grief and happiness. (Poorer readers might do that with a two hour movie.) An excellent classical concert can very effectively take us through all these emotions. Consider how quickly your moods and emotions ride this emotional roller coaster, and recall we consider this an 'entertainment' process. Every emotion is accompanied by several body chemistry changes, and a good artist can carry us through several changes in an hour of 'entertainment.'

The majority of communication in your body are chemistry communications. You control muscles and senses with nerves. Your heart rate, breathing, tension and blood pressure, your sex drive, adrenaline, moods, and emotions, these are all body chemistry communications wherein your brain, your thoughts, and your environment communicate these necessary

bodily adjustments to your physical being. Consider now that drug companies have found the means to sell you a pill which tweaks this chemistry communicating system. It is not without side effects, and every person reacts differently to various dosages.

Suppose your bad diet loads you up with chemicals, preservatives, and food combinations which require your blood chemistry to require additional filtering. Your kidneys, which are your blood filters, send a chemical signal to your brain which knows to increase your blood pressure to get the additional blood flow through the clogging filters. Doctors have found that they can block this chemical communication with a pill which lowers your blood pressure. It is very costly, it has a myriad of side effects, and your doctor is treating a symptom and not a cause but the current state of our 'medical system' endorses this behavior. This simplistic illustration gets very complex when a doctor starts tweaking our moods and emotions with mind altering drugs. Ergo great caution should be employed whenever mind altering drugs are employed. Even tricking your mind via strange chemicals on your taste buds, whereby they sense sugar that is not real and you think that your artificially flavored artificially colored soda taste drinkable, ... you cannot take in mind altering chemicals without side effects. You cannot ingest chemicals without consequences. No matter what the food marketers have sold you, you cannot ingest chemicals without paying a price. Learn that fact while you remember that your thoughts moods and emotions can also alter your body chemistry and that is God's recommended method, the pill and the artificial is the marketers recommended method. Choose here and now which you intend to listen to.

Depression is the feeling of gloom, sadness and dejection that has so set into a life that normal activities of life are altered and the normal emotions of life are swallowed up by abject sadness which lasts for a couple weeks or more. The woman, being created to perform the role of mothering, being created the weaker vessel, and being created to be the appropriate help meet

(i.e. appropriate helper) to the emotional lack of the man, is more sensitive to emotions and moods, and is thus more apt to experience depression. The term 'clinical depression' came about because one often needs to seek out help for ones depression, and the 'counsel of the ungodly' has driven many to seek that help in a 'medical clinic' where mind altering drugs are prescribed to remedy this emotional disorder. In reality, depression is real, help should be sought, but it should not be 'clinical' per se.

Consider again the drugs that were introduced to lower ones high blood pressure in our previous illustration. The body has ingested all the wrong ingredients, exercised a bad diet, loaded up the blood stream with chemicals and toxins and the kidneys have sent a chemical signal to the brain which says "raise up the blood pressure so that we can filter more of these toxins out of this blood." Instead of changing the diet and doing the workout that makes us sweat (i.e. sweat is a necessary and very effective means of removing many toxins from the body) we go to the 'clinic' where a pill can lower our blood pressure and make our doctors feel better. We have treated a symptom.

When we have an emotional disorder we likewise tend to pursue a mind altering drug that blocks off and alters our bodies corrective chemical balance rather than treating the cause of the disorder. A pill<sup>2</sup> is so much quicker and easier than treating the causes of depression or of blood pressure... or of gout, et.al. It is not wise, however, to forgo the holistic cure for the simplistic pill. The toxins, even mental "toxins", that cause depression are ingested via body-soul-and-spirit and the cure of an emotional upset must be pursued through body-soul-and-spirit, like our Creator has prescribed.

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2 Most rheumatoid arthritis can be effectively treated with knox gelatine ingested daily. It has been proven time and again. Although this diet supplement has only one side effect, your fingernails grow faster, pharmacological marketers can make no money on this cure, and it cannot be put into a little pill that mislead people insist on; so this ready cure of arthritis and many many joint disorders will remain obscure and unused by Americans.

### **Mood disorders are treatable**

“The majority of people with mood disorders are able to find treatments that work. Talk therapy, medication or a combination of both help the person feel better and change situations in their life that may be contributing to their illnesses (substance abuse, bad relationships, etc.)”<sup>3</sup> Notice here that even the 'clinical' world mentions 'talk therapy' as treatment for 'clinical depression.' They then advance a medication solution and you hear no more about it unless they may chance prescribe a 'psychologist' to talk to you. Herein it is prescribed that 'talk therapy' should begin immediately, and the counselor you should be talking with is within you, ever present with you if you are a 'believer' and ever present about you if you are not. Speaking of the Christ the Holy Bible says “*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, **Counsellor**, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace*” (Isa 9:6). And to the believer this 'Counsellor' has promised “... *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*” (Heb 13:5-6) Ergo, you have a Counsellor who formed you in the womb and wants that you not ignore His counsel. Take full advantage.

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3 from [HTTP://www.dbsalliance.org/info/clinical.html](http://www.dbsalliance.org/info/clinical.html) visited 2/2/06

## ***Keeping Track of Yourself***

We need self awareness. You can stop and think about what your thinking and why you may be thinking it. (Stop and think about that. Let it sink in. It is called self-awareness. It makes you different from your dog.) You need to regularly evaluate your moods. Use this questionnaire for a week at a time.

Check those blocks which are most true.

For 7 days	1 Sun	2 Mo	3 Tu	4 W	5 Th	6 Fr	7 Sat
1. I am basically dissatisfied with my life.							
2. I have dropped many of my activities and interests.							
3. I feel <i>un</i> -happy most of the time.							
4. I prefer to stay at home rather than going out and doing new things.							
5. I feel that life is empty.							
6. I often get bored.							
7. I am <i>NOT</i> in good spirits most of the time.							
8. Are you afraid that something bad is going to happen to you							
9. Do you feel helpless.							
10. I feel that I have more problems with my memory than most others do.							
11. I think it is <i>dreary</i> to be alive.							
12. I feel pretty worthless the way I am right now.							
13. I feel like I <i>have no</i> energy?							
14. I feel that my situation is hopeless.							
15. I think that most people are better off than I am.							
Total number of check marks today							



## **Writing Assignment**

Read Psalms 3. Get a note book and write out by hand Psalm 3.

In that note book you will write an essay on that Psalm.

From Psalm 3 write out verse 1, followed by this quote: “Who is my enemy? The WORLD, the FLESH, and the DEVIL.”

These will be ENEMY#1, Enemy#2 and Enemy#3 in the exercise below.

Now an enemy from this world may be a mind altering pill or drug, a brand of booze, a brand of tobacco, the thing in the world that has you in bondage, a circumstance, or situation, label it and write it in all caps in the sentence below:

“My enemy from the WORLD, is \_\_\_\_\_ E1 “

“My enemy in the flesh is I AM MY OWN WORST ENEMY, A LIAR AND DECEIVER, and DESPERATELY WICKED.

The Devil is my enemy. He is the FATHER OF LIES. He is THE MASTER DECEIVER.”

From Psalm 3, write out verse 2-3. Then write

“Who can Save me from my enemy? JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS!

“Who can Save me from \_\_\_\_\_ E1 ?

Answer JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS!

“Who can Save me from MYSELF - I am my own worst enemy?

Answer JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS!

“Who can Save me from the FATHER OF LIES?

Answer JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS!”

From Psalm 3 write out verse 4. Then with your pencil write out your cry. “LORD save me from \_\_\_\_\_ E1 !

“LORD save me from MYSELF - I am my own worst enemy.

LORD save me from the DEVIL, the FATHER OF LIES, the MASTER DECEIVER.

In like manner write out verse 5 & 6, then write out 3 times

“Tomorrow I will not be afraid of “ [Enemy #1,2,3]

Write verse 7 then a daily prayer for salvation from Enemy#1,2,3

Write verse 8 then a daily praise for salvation from #1,2,3

Write 3 times “Dear Jesus I want to be 'thy people' save me from”  
[ENEMY#1], [ENEMY #2], [ENEMY #3]

## Learn to Sing This Song Daily

### Jesus Loves Me This I Know

C G C F F/C C

1 Je-sus loves me, this I know, for the Bi-ble tells me so.  
 2 Je-sus loves me- he who died heav-en's gate to o - pen wide.  
 3 Je-sus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long a - go,

5 G C F C

Lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak, but  
 He will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle  
 tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them

8 C/G G<sup>7</sup> C Refrain F C

he is strong.  
 child come in. Yes, Je-sus loves me! Yes, Je-sus  
 come to me."

**Dealing With Moods and Depression WEEK #2**  
**of A Constructive Work Book,**  
**A Biblical Perspective on Depression Dealing with**  
**Life, and Dealing with Others Biblically.**  
**With Challenges from Reformers Unanimous by Steven Curington**

The tasks of last week's session are important pieces to overcoming depression. Being transformed by the renewing of your mind is done by God's Word found in the Holy Bible. In our first weeks tasks we have started learning it, reading it, writing it and singing it, all while learning a little more about ourselves and our mind. The tasks in this weeks session will pursue more of the same.

This week will introduce the “Strong Holds Study Course” which is key to the reformation of the whole man. The challenges worded in this course of renewal were fully developed into the program “Reformers Unanimous” by Steven Curington. Here they will guide us to some essential Bible truths. The tasks in this week are

- #1 Study “Dealing With Your Moods.”
- #2 Study the seven new “Key Proverbs.”
- #3 Repeat the Keeping Track checklist of the last session.
- #4 Repeat the SONG assignment of the last session.
- #5 Accomplish the challenges of the Stronghold Study Course.

## **Dealing with your Moods - a Short Lesson**

To deal with our moods Biblically there are several areas we need to bring to our conscious knowledge.

1. We have the ability to know ourselves. God has made humans in His image and different than any other creature. We have the ability to have 1) self awareness, and 2) reason. You can really step outside of your self for a moment and examine what you are thinking, what you are doing and what you are feeling at any time, and then to do some deductive reasoning as to why we are thinking what we are thinking, why we are doing what we are doing, and why we are feeling what we are feeling. It is amazing to me how few people practice this self awareness and deductive reasoning. Being self aware and able to reason is a part of every human being. It is important to examine ourselves not only physically in this area but mentally and spiritually. Jesus said the first commandment was to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind. Step outside yourself for a moment and examine how you are doing at your creators first command. How are you then doing at controlling our self awareness? Our mind? Our Mood? Right after we did something stupid our mom asked us “What in the world were you thinking?” It is high time we learned to ask that question of ourselves. Practice bringing these things to mind.
2. The Causes of our mood. We have examined three things that effect our mood. Consider them consciously as Body, Soul and Spirit. 1) Our mind works based on our body's chemistry and the balance of our chemistry changes based on inputs from our mind. Our diet and exercise will effect our body chemistry. It has been said “You are what you eat.” This is not true, even Jesus refutes such a saying, however vitamin deficiencies and sugar, preservative, hormone, and chemical plethora in our diet can challenge and devastate good body chemistry. (In America we use chemical sweeteners called diet soda, chemical salteners called fake salt, man's hydrogenated corn oil instead of God's natural butter, even chemical eggs called egg-beaters to try to appease our appetites as we eat preservatives, color enhancers and chemical flavorings in abundance to add a plethora of abnormal

chemistry to our physical mix. All this has great side effects on our moods and hormones.) We shall moderately address diet in this effort for reform as well as healthy exercise and old fashioned sweat. Secondly, outside stimulus will effect the balance of our chemistry. You have heard of mood music, you have heard the song “Be careful little eyes what you see.” Getting control of our mood swings, our anger issues and addictions will include an emphasis on what outside things that you are stimulating your brain with. And lastly inside stimulus changes our brain chemistry. That is, the very thoughts that you allow to run through your mind will generate enzymes, hormones and chemicals in response to your thoughts. God says we need to renew our mind because out of our heart flow the issues of life. Wow, does the Bible address each of these physical issues of brain chemistry for our life? Yes it does, and it is meant to cause us to grow in wisdom of our minds. We are pretty complex beings made in the image of our God. 2) Circumstance effect our soul. When we experience catastrophic events in life they effect our moods all the way down to our soul. In this journey we must examine the effects of grief, tragedy and calamity on our brain chemistry. Our bodies are designed to preserve us through such events, we need to better understand that chemistry. But our creator can be the greater comfort and controller of our moods and chemistry through these calamities of life. God wants us to be steadfast in every circumstance. 3) Communion, or our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. No greater control of our mood and brain chemistry can be achieved than what comes from our spiritual plane. A right relationship with our God through His only begotten Son, is paramount for keeping our mind in Him, and out of depression. It is a spiritual warfare for our mind.

3. The Cures of our wrong Moods. You are in the midst of a treatment for radical mood swings, for controlling of anger issues or for cravings and addictions. It comes by consciously and Biblically dealing with your life. The control of our moods, anger or addictions will be accomplished by regulating things and relationships in our physical, mental and spiritual plains. This cure is not a magic potion but the plan that the Lord Jesus Christ has laid out for your life. Keep studying his plan, memorizing his steps and trust Him to reform your mind.

**Key Proverbs for Depression Help Sheet 2 of 3**  
Reading God's Words will effect your health. Read these Seven Proverbs DAILY. There will be three more sets, twenty-one Proverbs in all.

Previous readings 1-7 Proverbs 3:7-8, 4:20-22, 11:30, 12:4, 12:18, 13:17, 14:29.

Pr 14:30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

Pr 15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

Pr 15:13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

Pr 15:30 The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat.

Pr 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Pr 16:19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Pr 16:24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Upcoming Readings Proverbs 16:32, 17:22, 17:27, 18:14, 20:27, 25:28, 29:23.

## ***The Strongholds Study Course***<sup>4</sup>

### Book One: Challenger Level

Welcome to the Strongholds Study Course. You begin here a journey that will doubtless lead to a new freedom that you never thought possible. It is a freedom that is found in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says that when Jesus sets you free, you are free indeed. As you begin this workbook, allow me to personally guarantee that if you follow the steps that Christ laid out for freedom, you will be reformed completely from the strongholds that bind your life, and you will find yourself “free indeed!” Consider that a stronghold is an area or thing that is controlling you, rather you controlling it.

You are beginning the *Challenger Section* of a larger program of growth. The *Challenger Section* is designed to show you God's plan for building the foundation of your life. God said in the Bible that there is no better foundation that any man could lay other than that which was already laid by Jesus Christ. The foundation cornerstone is indeed the Lord Jesus Christ. God desires that everyone in His creation have a personal relationship with Him through His son, Jesus Christ. It is the first step to freedom on earth and it also qualifies us for Eternal Life, which, obviously, is far more important. We will begin examining this crucial step, but first, we will show you God's design for Freedom. It is rather simple to understand and easy to apply when done with our whole heart. It begins in the book of John, where Jesus said He is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” When Jesus stated that He is the Truth, He was explaining that others may claim to have supernatural truth, but only He is capable of exposing the real Truth that comes from God. With this (Jesus is Truth) in mind, please read Christ's formula for Freedom from strongholds.

John 8:31-32 *Then said Jesus to those Jews which **believed on***

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4 A Biblical Approach to breaking the chains of strongholds and addictions. By Steven Curington is used in this counseling/training with permission from Reformers Unanimous [www.reformu.com](http://www.reformu.com)

*him, If ye **continue in my word**, then are ye **my disciples** (follower) indeed; And ye shall **know the Truth** (Jesus), and the **Truth** (Jesus) shall make you free.*

I have placed the steps to freedom from strongholds in bold print. They are outlined below as follows:

- 1. Believe on Jesus**
- 2. Continue (study) in my Word (Bible).**
- 3. Follow Christ with your life (disciple)**
- 4. Your knowledge of Jesus will increase.**
- 5. Jesus (not you) will make your free.**

This challenge outlines step #1 in careful detail. To be 'born again' to be indwelt by God Himself will be the most important and eternal ingredient that will be touched on in this reform effort. If you have not yet been so changed and indwelt by God, this will be the most important step you will ever make with your life. If you have already been 'born-again' the examination of how and what that does to set us free from strongholds will be essential to your holistic healing. Stay focused on why you are here. At first this may seem elementary, but as you progress through the program, you will see why God has brought you here. You want to change, and change begins with you. Perhaps you have tried before, but this effort has every promise to be different, because it is based on God's promises to us, and getting lined up to receive those promises.

*And ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free.*

Pastor Ed Rice



## ***The Challenges***

*The format of these challenges from Reformers Unanimous [www.reformu.com](http://www.reformu.com)*

### **Challenge 1 Reading lesson: John Chapter 1-7**

To complete challenge 1, you must read John chapter 1 through 7. Below are spaces to list the topic of each chapter. Please fill these blanks in after you have completed each chapter.

Topic Chap 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 7 \_\_\_\_\_

Please list in your own words, how these chapters can be applied to your efforts to remain free from strongholds, (i.e. Habits or addictions that hold your life in bondage).

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\_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

**Challenge 2 Memorize John 3:16-18,36**

To keep God's Words before us as we strive to take control of a strong hold it is essential that we commit some verses to memory. These memory verses will address what Jesus Christ has done to save us from our sin nature and with commands and principles that God has given us to live by. It's best to write them out on a 3x5 card, carry it with us and recall the verse several times per day.

**Memorize John 3:16**

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ... 36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

Please describe in your own words what this verse means to you.

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\_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Challenger's Signature)

**Challenge 2s SPECIAL Memorize Verses**

To keep God's Words working in us memorize these verses which are aimed at the specific stronghold that you are dealing with.

**Memorize Bible Verses Concerning Your Mind**

*Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

*Col 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled*

Please describe in your own words how these verses can be applied to your efforts to remain in a right mind toward Christ toward others and toward yourself.

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What things do you often feel towards yourself, towards others and towards Christ which differ from these verses?.

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Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

### ***Challenge 3 Attendance Requirement***

In order to complete this challenge, you must attend a Sunday Morning Church Service (or Bible Study in your facility). Bring a Bible to this service and read it during the service even if they do not. The Lord Jesus Christ rose from the tomb on the Lords day, being the first day of the week, a Sunday. Christians have been gathering together on the Lord's day, singing psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs and reading the Holy Scriptures together for all these 1,975 years. You should as well.

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

### ***Challenge 4 Attendance Requirement***

In order to complete this challenge, you must attend 2 weekly counseling classes in a row. Your punctual attendance is an important discipline. Attending the next session provides one of the five communications necessary in dealing with this stronghold.

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

Congratulations on completing 4 Challenges! During the working of these challenges, you have studied, memorized and heard God's Word taught. Studying, memorizing and hearing the Word of God will increase your knowledge of God, which will make greater faith possible. The book of Romans states it, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." It is easier to have faith in someone you know and trust. We will continue in this format throughout the rest of the reformation counseling. Do not give up on your efforts to overcome your stronghold, even if you have stumbled this week. God still loves you and wants to complete the change he has begun. If you would like to know more contact us.

**Dealing With Moods and Depression WEEK #3**  
**of A Constructive Work Book,**  
**A Biblical Perspective on Depression Dealing with**  
**Life, and Dealing with Others Biblically.**  
**With Challenges from Reformers Unanimous by Steven Curington**

Understanding The Scope of the Problem

Before continuing in this series I would point out that success in your reformation is not found in any program, it is found in the Lord Jesus Christ. This truth is made clear by examining the devotional for Christian Servants called “My Utmost for His Highest” by Oswald Chambers. The June 1<sup>st</sup> entry states:

June 1 The Staggering Question

He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?'  
 —Ezekiel 37:3

Can a sinner be turned into a saint? Can a twisted life be made right? There is only one appropriate answer— "O Lord God, You know" ( Ezekiel 37:3 ). Never forge ahead with your religious common sense and say, "Oh, yes, with just a little more Bible reading, devotional time, and prayer, I see how it can be done."

It is much easier to do something than to trust in God; we see the activity and mistake panic for inspiration. That is why we see so few fellow workers with God, yet so many people working for God. We would much rather work for God than believe in Him. Do I really believe that God will do in me what I cannot do? The degree of hopelessness I have for others comes from never realizing that God has done anything for me. Is my own personal experience such a wonderful realization of God's power and might that I can never have a sense of hopelessness for anyone else I see? Has any spiritual work been accomplished in me at all? The degree of panic activity in my life is equal to the degree of my lack of personal spiritual experience.

"Behold, O My people, I will open your graves..." ( Ezekiel

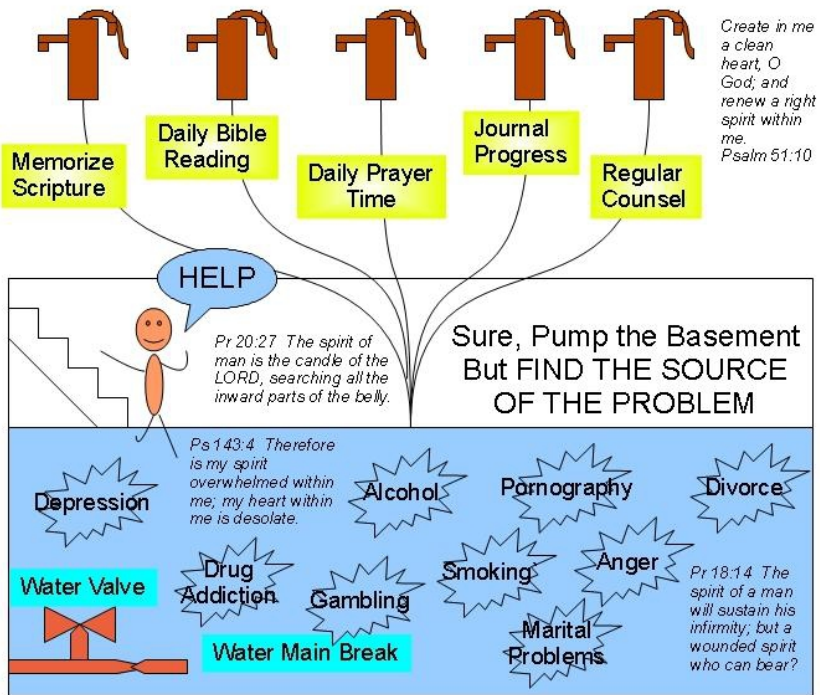
37:12 ). When God wants to show you what human nature is like separated from Himself, He shows it to you in yourself. If the Spirit of God has ever given you a vision of what you are apart from the grace of God (and He will only do this when His Spirit is at work in you), then you know that in reality there is no criminal half as bad as you yourself could be without His grace. My "grave" has been opened by God and "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells" ( Romans 7:18 ). God's Spirit continually reveals to His children what human nature is like apart from His grace. (Oswald Chambers)

As you continue in this effort understand that it is Christ working in you that causes the change, not your gritting your teeth and struggling for self reform. The journaling and the challenges which are pursued in this effort are intended to cause your trust in Him to be established and increased to thereby enable the necessary changes in your life to find holistic healing.

An excellent working model of the dilemma we face was given by an Iowa Pastor running a home for troubled children<sup>5</sup>. In a staff brainstorming session they likened the dilemma to finding a basement half full of water that was rising fast. We start pumping furiously to get the water out of the basement and sure enough, after much effort we are successful at lowering the water level to where we can have access to the basement. Too often it is decided at this point that we need to keep pumping every day or else we lose access to the basement again. In reality there is a root cause for the flooded basement. When the water level is down enough to allow access we need to go poking around down there, find the broken water pipe, and get it fixed. From that point on our efforts are on improving the basement not just maintaining a barely usable access.

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5 Pastor Marvin E. Smith III, of Harvest Baptist Church, 614 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave South, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501 presents this material in his Spiritual Warfare Seminar. More information and multiple publications are available by calling 515-955-3074. Accessed 4 June 2012.



As Christian counselors, we often set out head long in an effort to get ones basement pumped out. Memorize applicable Scripture (Pump#1); Read your Bible daily (Pump#2); Have a daily prayer time(Pump#3); Journal your progress (Pump#4); and meet back with us next week (Pump#5). It is surely wise to get all these 'pumps' going and surely God promises that they will bring about improvements, but unless we get in there and poke around for the broken water main that needs to be repaired, next year at this time you will still have depression issues, anger issues, or dependency issues going on in the basement of your soul. Keep those 5 'pumps' going steady. We are seeing good progress, but don't forget lowering the water levels is not our final goal. We are looking for a holistic healing for your whole life. Pastor Marvin Smith III said of the children and adults he worked with: "Hurt people hurt people, Healed people heal people." That is a profound observation. We

are striving here for the latter in this effort. Keep your eyes on the goal. God Bless you as you pursue Him for those changes.

Pastor Ed Rice

### **Key Proverbs for Depression Help** Sheet 3 of 3

Reading God's Words will effect your health. Read these Seven Proverbs DAILY. There will be three more sets, twenty-one Proverbs in all.

Previous readings 1-7 Proverbs 3:7-8, 4:20-22, 11:30, 12:4, 12:18, 13:17, 14:29.

Previous readings 8-14 Proverbs 14:30, 15:4, 15:13, 15:30, 16:18, 16:19, 16:24.

Pr 16:32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty;  
and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

Pr 17:22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a  
broken spirit drieth the bones.

Pr 17:27 He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a  
man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

Pr 18:14 The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but  
a wounded spirit who can bear?

Pr 20:27 The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD,  
searching all the inward parts of the belly.

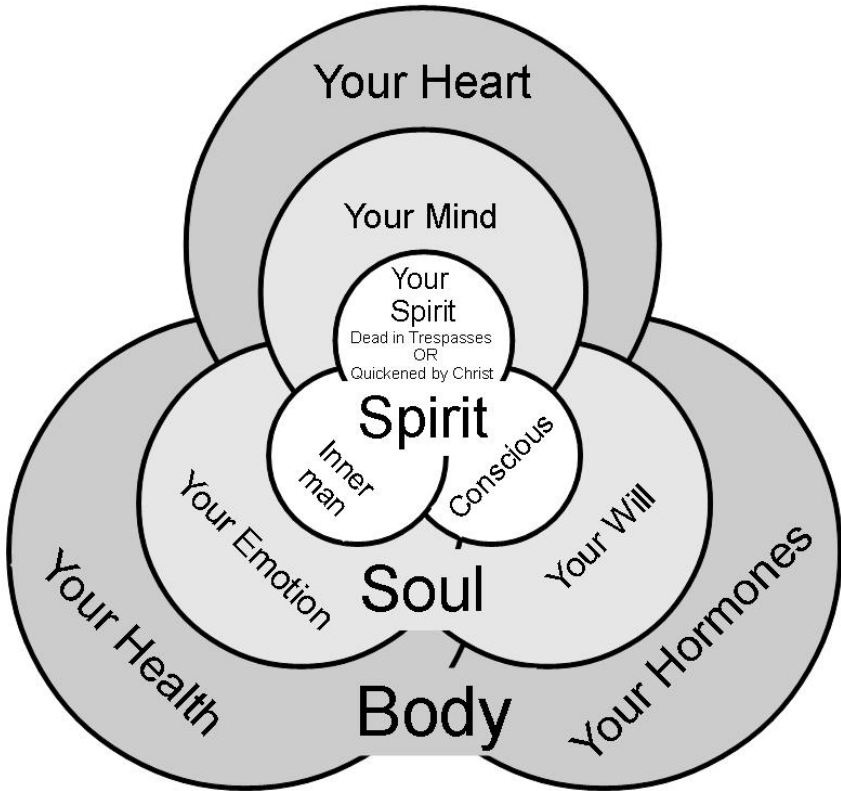
Pr 25:28 He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a  
city that is broken down, and without walls.

Pr 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour  
shall uphold the humble in spirit.



## ***Understanding Holistic Healing***

God created man in his image and likeness. Thus man consists of body-soul-and-spirit.<sup>6</sup> Our finite ability to come up with a working model for this body-soul-and-spirit union is challenging,



<sup>6</sup> In Greek Philosophy, ergo Roman Catholic theology, ergo Protestant theology, man is only made up of 'material and immaterial' They reason "Since we cannot rationally divide between the soul and spirit of man they must be the same entity." The Catholics (Roman or Protestant) contend that the Bible is misleading about this point of mans body-soul-and-spirit, but but they can correct it to what God meant to say. Baptists contend that the Bible is inspired, infallible, and never misleading and that one would be wise to stay away from their corrected versions and only use a King James Authorized Bible in this study.

but the effort to use the following working model<sup>7</sup> will greatly enhance a holistic approach to our reformation. The outer shell that we live in is of course our physical body, and is here in considered to consist of our Heart, our Health, and our Hormones. Inside this shell is what we call the soul which herein is considered to consist of our Mind, our Emotion, and our Will. Sheltered deep inside our soul is what we call the spirit, which herein is considered to consist of The Spirit of Man, The Inner Man, and The Seat of Conscious. This working model is a descriptive model which is very Biblically orientated. It is not cunningly devised for convenience, but carefully crafted to depict how the Bible describes our assembly and makeup. It will be a working basis for our holistic approach to your healing. Commit it to memory.

### ***Step one – The Quickened Spirit***

In this working model of the body-soul-and-spirit of man pay close attention to the next two observations. Observation #1 your soul, made up of your mind/thinking, your emotion/feeling, and your will/doing, is the only entity that maintains communication with both your spirit and your body. It is, as it were, the mediator between the two, and more importantly it is the controlling entity for each. The Spirit, which is the inner heart of man, is wholly engulfed or encapsulated inside of our mind-emotion-and-will. Each commodious of body-soul-and-spirit is a triune entity, the Spirit being The Spirit of Man, The Inner Man, and The Seat of Conscious. The Spirit is indeed the essence of what we are but it is not visible to others except through our mind-emotion-and-will of our soul. Likewise our body encapsulates the soul of man. You really do not see the mind-emotion-and-will of your closest friend except it comes out through the physical actions of the body. The soul is the controlling driver for the body. It may be somewhat fictitious to think of the physical body to be triune, made up of Heart, Health, and Hormone, but it serves our purpose to make this

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7 The basics of this model also come from the Spiritual Warfare Seminary by Harvest Baptist Church of Fort Dodge Iowa

division . Your body has a physical actuality, in heart and muscle, tissue and organ. If it functions well without defect we say it is 'healthy', and we shall examine health as a separate entity of our body in this analysis, particularly 'mental health'. Of keen interest in this analysis is the third entity we have categorized as our chemical communicators ever present in our body. These 'hormones' as we called them cause the body to relax or tense up, flare nostrils or be drowsy; to be excited or sad (manic-depressed); to crave or be content. All the body is controled by your soul, yes even your health and yes especially your hormones. In this effort we must examine these controls and learn to exercise the soul well. Consider again that the hormones effect the soul and the soul effects the hormones, the health effect the soul and the soul effects the health, the physical effects soul and the soul effects the physical. We are complex beings but this model will help simplify what is going on inside of our complexity.

A second and crucial observation that is necessary with this simple model is that the spirit of man is either dead in trespasses and sin or been quickened by God and made alive for evermore. This remarkably simple observation clarifies hours of theological dialog about what being 'Christian' is and what 'salvation' is in essence. You are not 'Christian' because of what you believe, or what you do, or how you act. You are not 'Christian' because of what religion you choose or what baptism you have had, or what confirmation classes you have completed, or what experience you have gone through. One is only 'Christian' when the Christ has reached down into your soul and quickened you on the inside. It is an act that only He can do, one He called being 'born again', one He called being 'converted', one that can not be undone, and one that the vast majority of people calling themselves 'Christian' are totally missing.

The quickening of our spirit is going to be a topic of repeated discussion in this effort. It is essential for eternal life and the desire of this Preacher of the Gospel is that you have it in your soul. The effort to repair your depression, or your anger, or your addiction can proceed without this quickening of your spirit, but it will not be, indeed cannot be the holistic repair that provides complete healing.

I again wish to emphasize these important observations. First it is your soul, consisting of your mind, your emotion, and your will which is in control of what is going on in your body, in its physical actions and movements, your health for that body, and those chemical communicators that operate your body. Your soul consisting of your mind, your emotion, and your will is in control of what goes on and comes out of your spirit within, where your 'inner man' and our 'seat of conscious' dwell. We will thus spend some time excersizing and examining this powerful controler of your whole being.

Secondly your spirit is the heart of what you are. It is in this spirit of man, the inner man, and seat of conscious, where God seeks to dwell and change you. When God reaches down and converts a person he quickens or makes alive that spirit of man that was once dead in trespasses and sin. When that spirit of man is made alive toward God the Bible says that His Spirit comes into our spirit and dwells with us eternally. That is an awesome enabler which allows the holistic repair which we are desirous of in this effort. Purpose that you will pursue this holistic repair in your life. Remember "Hurt people hurt people, healed people heal people."

## **Keep A weekly Journal**

### **of these 5 Communication Techniques**

*The format of this journal is from Reformers Unanimous [www.reformu.com](http://www.reformu.com)*

1. Bible Reading. Scriptures you read each day and notes of their importance towards your reform. Note the time spent in reading each day. (Day 2-7 on back or in separate notebook following this format.).
2. Teaching Received. Teaching that you sat under this week and notes of their importance towards your reform. Note the time spent as a disciple each day.
3. Personal Prayer Time. Praise and Pray for Needs, Protection, and Other each day. Pray for forgiveness for wrong things I said or others said in my presence, things I thought, things I did or others did in my presence which offend my God and creator. Journal them and note the time I spent in prayer each day. (How many days does it take you to pray for an hour?)
4. Time with Christian Friends. Questions for which you seek (or give counsel) Journal what you talk about to other Christians. Track time.
5. Convictions and Leadings of the Spirit of God. God speaks to us through His Word, but if Christ dwells in you then he also speaks to you in a “Still small voice” and in our conscious when we speak or do wrongs. Note some ways in which the Holy Spirit has convicted or led you.

***The Challenges***

*The format of these challenges from Reformers Unanimous [www.reformu.com](http://www.reformu.com)*

**Challenge 5 Reading lesson: John Chapter 8-14**

To complete challenge 5, you must read John 8-14. Below are spaces to list the topic of each chapter. Please fill these blanks in after you have completed each chapter.

Topic Chap 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 13 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 14 \_\_\_\_\_

Please list in your own words, how these chapters can be applied to you efforts to remain free from strongholds.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

**Challenge 6 Memorize John 8:31,32**

To keep God's Words before us as we strive to take control of a strong hold it is essential that we commit some verses to memory. These memory verses will address what Jesus Christ has done to save us from our sin nature and with commands and principles that God has given us to live by. It's best to write them out on a 3x5 card, carry it with us and recall the verse several times per day.

**Memorize John 8:31,32**

*31 ¶ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

*32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

Please describe in your own words what this verse means to you.

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Do you believe the above verse to be true? \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

## **Challenge 7 Memorize John 14:6**

*John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Please describe in your own words what this verse means to you.

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Do you believe the above verse to be true? \_\_\_\_\_

Student Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Challenger's Check \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a special devotional by Oswald Chambers, prayerfully read through it and consider what Christ teaches about our moods this week. Press on in the challenges at hand from the Reformers Unanimous workbook but keep in mind these things about dealing with our moods on a conscious level. There are verses to memorize that deal with this effort inserted as special challenges for this week.

February 17

Taking the Initiative Against Depression

Arise and eat —1 Kings 19:5

The angel in this passage did not give Elijah a vision, or explain the Scriptures to him, or do anything remarkable. He simply told Elijah to do a very ordinary thing, that is, to get up and eat. If we were never depressed, we would not be alive— only material things don't suffer depression. If human beings were not capable of depression, we would have no capacity for happiness and exaltation.



There are things in life that are designed to depress us; for example, things that are associated with death. Whenever you examine yourself, always take into account your capacity for depression.

When the Spirit of God comes to us, He does not give us glorious visions, but He tells us to do the most ordinary things imaginable. Depression tends to turn us away from the everyday things of God's creation. But whenever God steps in, His inspiration is to do the most natural, simple things—things we would never have imagined God was in, but as we do them we find Him there. The inspiration that comes to us in this way is an initiative against depression. But we must take the first step and do it in the inspiration of God. If, however, we do something simply to overcome our depression, we will only deepen it. But when the Spirit of God leads us instinctively to do something, the moment we do it the depression is gone. As soon as we arise and obey, we enter a higher plane of life.

## **Challenge 7s SPECIAL Memorize**

### Concerning Our Mind

*Mr 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy **mind**, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*

Please describe in your own words what this verse means to you.

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Student Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Challenger's Check \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Challenge 8 Prayer**

Are there a lot of people you know who are enslaved by the temptations of this world? God encourages us to pray for one another. Below is a chart of blanks. Try to think of as many people as you can who are struggling with a stronghold. Write their first name only in the blank listed below. Ask God to help you remember as many people as possible. When you attend class this week, your counsel leader will pray for these people with you. It will be the beginning of a prayer list that will take your focus off of yourself and put it on the needs of others. (Don't worry you can still pray for God to help you, too!)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Also evaluate your prayer journal in this challenge. How are you doing at journaling the five communication techniques that God has for you? \_\_\_\_\_

How much time did you spend in each this week?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

Congratulations for finishing the second week of these exciting challenges. May God Richly Bless in the renewal of your mind. Keep Going for him. .... Pastor Rice

**Dealing With Life & Depression WEEK #4**  
**of A Constructive Work Book,**  
**A Biblical Perspective on Depression Dealing with**  
**Life, and Dealing with Others Biblically.**  
**With Challenges from Reformers Unanimous by Steven Curington**

**Ministered By Pastor Ed Rice**  
Good Samaritan Baptist Church  
54 Main St Box 99 Dresden NY 14441  
(315) 521-3466 [www.gsbaptistchurch.com](http://www.gsbaptistchurch.com)

As you continue in this reform effort understand that it is Christ working in you that causes the change, not your gritting your teeth and struggling for self reform. The journaling and the challenges which are pursued in this effort are intended to cause your trust in Him to enable the necessary changes in your life. Remember his promise in 2Cor 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

God Bless you as you pursue Him

Pastor Ed Rice

### **Some Thoughts on Mood Control**

As we continue in this series on depression and mood control consider some of the direct applications for the RU program we are following. Reformer Unanimous was designed to bring Christ into the life of an addict and let Him reform completely the individual and make them what God always intended. We are attempting to step into the resources of our mind and moods and discover the reforms that are needed to make us what God always intended.

Remember if you are on medications for depression do not stop without seeing your doctor. You may wish to consult with him and find a way to taper off medications as you allow Christ to be your 'talk therapist' in dealing with your moods. It is possible that your body has developed a chemical dependence on the mind altering drugs and taking back complete control of your brain chemistry may be a long laborious process for you, even as you are learning more and more to lean on Christ, the creator of your mind. This note of caution is important for those prescribed depression medications. Do not change medications without consulting your doctor and letting him know of your intentions to trust in Christ more and more and in medications less and less. He should assist you in this endeavor to SLOWLY wean yourself off medications.

The Bible principle we are acting on in this series is that a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ will have his mind renewed in Christ. Such a renewing of our mind by the

creator of our mind is promised to those who would trust Christ completely, first with their soul, for salvation, then with their life, for the working out of that salvation on a daily basis. Look again at Romans 12:1-2 ¶ *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed **by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

In his letter to believers at Colosse Paul outlines 7 things that he desires for them as follows:

**1) KNOW HIS WILL** 9 ¶ *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might **be filled with the knowledge of his will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*

**2) TO WALK WORTHY** 1:10 *That ye might **walk worthy of the Lord** unto all pleasing,*

**3) TO BE FRUITFUL** ***being fruitful in every good work**, The 9 fruits of the spirit which should now ripen in our lives are Gal 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance:**

**4) INCREASE KNOWLEDGE** and **increasing in the knowledge of God**;

**5) BE STRENGTHENED** 1:11 ***Strengthened with all might**, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; NOTE HERE **Patience** is for dealing with circumstances; **Longsuffering** is for dealing with*

people, and **Joyfulness** is the packaging that both should come in.

**6) BE THANKFUL** 1:12 ¶ ***Giving thanks*** unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

**7) BE DELIVERED & TRANSLATED** 1:13 *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom* of his dear Son:

*14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

As you work through the challenges this week, keep these 7 growth areas in view. Go back and highlight two of them that you need emphasized in prayer for victory over your particular stronghold.

The most important treatment for depression is 'talk therapy.' We are emphasizing this in 3 ways. First, analyze your self and talk to yourself about your current mood and where your feelings come from. Secondly, talk to God about your analysis and ask Him for His help in dealing with your attitude and mood. Thirdly, you need another person in your life to talk to. An intimate friend is one with whom you could talk to about anything and they will hold your trust. You should seek to have a couple of close friends like that. God intends that our spouse be that kind of an intimate friend. The challenger in your RU program should be such. You need all three avenues of this talking open in your life to effectively deal with depression and mood swings. Since these are needs in your life, take them to God, he has promised to meet your every need. Be assured that he can.

Before the challenges for this week are presented take the time to read a short devotional by Oswald Chambers from his book "My Utmost for His Highest."

Devotional on the Mind June 4 —Hebrews 13:5

### The Never-forsaking God

He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'

What line of thinking do my thoughts take? Do I turn to what God says or to my own fears? Am I simply repeating what God says, or am I learning to truly hear Him and then to respond after I have heard what He says? "For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?'" ( Heb 13:5-6 ).

"I will never leave you . . ."— not for any reason; not my sin, selfishness, stubbornness, nor waywardness. Have I really let God say to me that He will never leave me? If I have not truly heard this assurance of God, then let me listen again.

"I will never . . . forsake you." Sometimes it is not the difficulty of life but the drudgery of it that makes me think God will forsake me. When there is no major difficulty to overcome, no vision from God, nothing wonderful or beautiful— just the everyday activities of life — do I hear God's assurance even in these?

We have the idea that God is going to do some exceptional thing—that He is preparing and equipping us for some extraordinary work in the future. But as we grow in His grace we find that God is glorifying Himself here and now, at this very moment. If we have God's assurance behind us, the most amazing strength becomes ours, and we learn to sing, glorifying Him even in the ordinary days and ways of life. (Oswald Chambers)

The challenges before you this week cannot be met without a Master and Lord of your life. The challenges listed here are intended to bring you in closer contact with Him. Take the time to journal your week in the 5 communications technique journal, and may God richly bless as you pursue Him through these new challenges.

## ***The Five 'R's of Reformation***

1. Recognize and Receive. Things are not right in my life and I need help. Recognize that the one who created you loves you more than anyone else in this world and wants to fix your mess if you will receive Him. The Lord Jesus Christ came into this world to seek and to save sinners. He will not only save your soul he will save your life and turn you around to where you can live a joyful, prosperous life with Him as your Lord. Believe Him, and become a believer. Trust him and become his disciple. Let him change your life so you can be conformed to his image, even so much so that you could be called a Christian, one who acts like Christ. If you want a new life, he can give you one. He said *“He that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out.”* If you want to turn over a new leaf because of your problems, he will not help. But if you want a whole new life, a new direction in your life, a saviour who will reform you from the inside out, then you can call on him today.
2. Responsible Reporting. Three areas of accountability are a) an accountability to God, Rom 10 says *“That if thou shalt confess with thy moth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. .... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* You are accountable to believe and call upon your Lord Jesus Christ. b) An accountability to God's Commandments, one of which states that you, as a believer, are to be accountable to a Pastor of a local Bible Believing Church. You should take this command very seriously and seek out such a Pastor. c) Thirdly you need to be accountable to others for your progress and goals of change. This may be to a spouse or friend, especially another Christian. Ask them to ask about your progress, then report to them. If you receive Christ as your Lord and Saviour be sure to tell others. Jesus said *“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.”*



3. Read Regularly. God told Joshua and tells us that *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”* God wrote an owners manual for your life. When you recognize him as your owner and recognize that you need your life repaired you need to read his manual, the Holy Bible, regularly and *“Study to shew yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed.* Read to Read. Read to Feed. Read to Lead.
4. Recite Respectively. The Psalmist says *“Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.”* We need to memorize the Word of God. Paul wrote to the Church at Colosse and said *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in all psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”* Hebrews 4 says *“For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* Paul tells Timothy that *“All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* If you need your life to change, memorizing your creators commands and principles is guaranteed to do the job. Memorize the Scriptures.
5. Reunion Revival. Gathering together with others of like mind is important. Hebrews 10 says 23 *“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)* 24 *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”*  
Christians have been gathering together to sing hymns and read the Scriptures together on the first day of the week, the Lord's

Resurrection day, Sunday's, for 1,975 years now. We are commanded to do so. We meet for accountability, for teaching, for encouragement, for edification (or building up in the faith) and we meet to fulfill the commission we have been given by the Lord Jesus Christ. You need to meet together for these same reasons. If your life is to change, it will require your attendance at Church and your attendance at these Bible Studies about your needed change.

This reform effort for your life will consist of several avenues of effort constructed around these 5 'R's of Reform. Foremost is the goal that you receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your life's Lord and your soul's Saviour. Any reform without Him dwelling within you is vain and temporary. If the Bible is true, it is your creator's manual for living your life and leaving this life guarded in His care for all eternity. We believe every word is true. In this reform effort you will find 5 challenges to fulfill each week. You will find a help on defeating Satan's strongholds in your life. You will find a Journaling effort to mark and use the 5 means of communication that God has open for your improvement and victorious living. I trust that you will use each of these and find rich reward with your new Lord and Saviour.

Pastor Ed Rice

## ***Taking Back A Stronghold***

Read this Card Daily for 30 days memorize it's verses,

### **Five Elements of a Victorious Walk**

1. Genuine Repentance (Psalm 51) Do you see sin as an affront to a holy God or just remorse over the consequences. *“Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight.”*
2. Taking back ground. Ground is given by sinful acts. This gives Satan legal jurisdiction in our lives. *“Neither give place to the devil.”*
3. Tearing down strongholds (2Cor 10:3-5) These are false belief systems that provide the enemy an area to bring destructive attacks. *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”*
4. Build towers of truth (Joh 8:32) these towers are a belief system based on the truth of God's Word *“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”*
5. Taking every thought captive (Phil 4:8) This is God's standard for right thinking. If you do not take your thoughts captive, they will captivate you. *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”*

My besetting Sin \_\_\_\_\_

### My Stronghold Verse

*1CO 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Place a check on each day you read this card, and an x for each commission of this besetting sin. Review this card with your Pastor weekly. Revenge each x each day.

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat

Distributed by GSBaptistChurch.com 54 Main St. Dresden NY

# A Journal of 5 Communication Techniques

The format of this journal is from *Reformers Unanimous* [www.reformu.com](http://www.reformu.com)

## 1. Bible Reading.

Sun \_\_\_\_\_

Mon \_\_\_\_\_

Tue \_\_\_\_\_

Wed \_\_\_\_\_

Thr \_\_\_\_\_

Fri \_\_\_\_\_

Sat \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Teaching Received.

Lesson1 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson2 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson3 \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Personal Prayer Time.

Sun \_\_\_\_\_

Mon \_\_\_\_\_

Tue \_\_\_\_\_

Wed \_\_\_\_\_

Thr \_\_\_\_\_

Fri \_\_\_\_\_

Sat \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Time with Christian Friends. AND

## 5. Convictions and Leadings of the Spirit of God.

Sun \_\_\_\_\_

Mon \_\_\_\_\_

Tue \_\_\_\_\_

Wed \_\_\_\_\_

Thr \_\_\_\_\_

Fri \_\_\_\_\_

Sat \_\_\_\_\_



***The Challenges***

*The format of these challenges from Reformers Unanimous [www.reformu.com](http://www.reformu.com)*

**Challenge 9 Reading Lesson: John 15-21**

Below are spaces to list the topic of each chapter. Please fill these blanks in after you have completed each chapter.

Topic Chap 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 16 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 18- \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 21 \_\_\_\_\_

Please list in your own words, how these chapters can be applied to you efforts to remain free from strongholds.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

**Challenge 10 Memorize John 15:5,7**

*John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

*John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

Please describe in your own words what this verse means to you.

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Do you believe the above verse to be true? \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

### **Challenge 11 Attendance Requirement**

In order to complete this challenge, you must attend 2 Reformers Unanimous classes in a row. Your attendance will require that you arrive before the start of the program. Punctuality is a very important form of discipline. You will be required to stay until fellowship time begins.

Also evaluate your prayer journal in this challenge. How are you doing at journaling the five communication techniques that God has for you?

---

How much time did you spend in each this week?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)



## ***Challenge 12 Service Opportunity***

To successfully complete this challenge, you must request an opportunity for service in the Church that you have been attending. It can be any form of service that the Pastor considers a sacrifice of your time.

Type of Service chosen by Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Pastors Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

### ***Challenge 13 Attendance Requirement***

To complete this challenge, you must attend a local church **Sunday Evening** service in your community. The church you attend must comply with the standards that God has outlined in the Bible. He requests that we worship at a Bible believing, Bible teaching church that teaches salvation through Grace and not by works. Baptism is taught as a sign of obedience and not a requirement for Heaven. They must believe the Bible is the Word of God and is without error, preserved as such for the believer.

Church Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Topic of Sermon \_\_\_\_\_

Our Church is in agreement with the standards listed above.

Pastor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

Congratulations for finishing the third week of these exciting challenges. Challenge 14-17 are before you. The challenges are designed to get more challenging and continue to bring about His reformation of your life. May God Richly Bless in the renewal of your mind. Keep Going for him. .... Pastor Rice

**Dealing With Moods and Depression WEEK #5**  
**of A Constructive Work Book,**  
**A Biblical Perspective on Depression Dealing with**  
**Life, and Dealing with Others Biblically.**  
**With Challenges from Reformers Unanimous by Steven Curington**

**Ministered By Pastor Ed Rice**  
Good Samaritan Baptist Church  
54 Main St Box 99 Dresden NY 14441  
(315) 521-3466 [www.gsbaptistchurch.com](http://www.gsbaptistchurch.com)

As you continue in this effort and read, ponder and memorize these scriptures Christ will gain some inroads into your life. If you are not yet a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ you will discover enough about him to learn that you can trust him with your soul and call upon him according to the scriptures. Then trust him to save your life from addictions, habits and sins. If you are a believer, who has already called upon him to save your soul, your discipleship in these scriptures will enable you to trust him to save your life. You can be saved from addictions, habits and/or sins that hold you in bondage. A salvation wherein you can be 'free indeed.' Begin this week by reading a devotional about our sin by Oswald Chambers.

God Bless you as you pursue Him  
Pastor Ed Rice

## June 23 "Acquainted With Grief"

(From "My Utmost for His Highest", by Oswald Chambers)

He is . . . a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief —  
Isaiah 53:3

We are not "acquainted with grief" in the same way our Lord was acquainted with it. We endure it and live through it, but we do not become intimate with it. At the beginning of our lives we do not bring ourselves to the point of dealing with the reality of sin. We look at life through the eyes of reason and say that if a person will control his instincts, and educate himself, he can produce a life that will slowly evolve into the life of God. But as we continue on through life, we find the presence of something which we have not yet taken into account, namely, sin— and it upsets all of our thinking and our plans. Sin has made the foundation of our thinking unpredictable, uncontrollable, and irrational.

We have to recognize that sin is a fact of life, not just a shortcoming. Sin is blatant mutiny against God, and either sin or God must die in my life. The New Testament brings us right down to this one issue— if sin rules in me, God's life in me will be killed; if God rules in me, sin in me will be killed. There is nothing more fundamental than that. The culmination of sin was the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and what was true in the history of God on earth will also be true in your history and in mine— that is, sin will kill the life of God in us. We must mentally bring ourselves to terms with this fact of sin. It is the only explanation why Jesus Christ came to earth, and it is the explanation of the grief and sorrow of life.

# **A Journal of 5 Communication Techniques**

*The format of this journal is from Reformers Unanimous [www.reformu.com](http://www.reformu.com)*

## **1. Bible Reading.**

Sun \_\_\_\_\_

Mon \_\_\_\_\_

Tue \_\_\_\_\_

Wed \_\_\_\_\_

Thr \_\_\_\_\_

Fri \_\_\_\_\_

Sat \_\_\_\_\_

## **2. Teaching Received.**

Lesson1 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson2 \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson3 \_\_\_\_\_

## **3. Personal Prayer Time.**

Sun \_\_\_\_\_

Mon \_\_\_\_\_

Tue \_\_\_\_\_

Wed \_\_\_\_\_

Thr \_\_\_\_\_

Fri \_\_\_\_\_

Sat \_\_\_\_\_

## **4. Time with Christian Friends. AND**

## **5. Convictions and Leadings of the Spirit of God.**

Sun \_\_\_\_\_

Mon \_\_\_\_\_

Tue \_\_\_\_\_

Wed \_\_\_\_\_

Thr \_\_\_\_\_

Fri \_\_\_\_\_

Sat \_\_\_\_\_



## Thoughts on Moods and Depression

We have examined some things about moods and depression that can be overcome by the power of the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives. Again, in Colossians 1 Paul's desire and prayer for believers is sevenfold. Number 5 in that list is that we be "*Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.*" In order to gain stability in our moods and emotions we need that strength. Notice that it comes according to his glorious power and comes in areas of *patience*, wherein we deal with circumstances which could move us to depression; in areas of *longsuffering*, wherein we deal with people which could move us to depression; and in areas of *joyfulness*, wherein we are to repackage our demeanor in his joy,... quite the opposite of a depression. In your prayer journal this week, add a prayer request for this strength from the Lord Jesus Christ.

I recently preached a message called "It's amazing what praising will do." In that message I addressed that the act of praising God is commanded for believers, and it changes our body chemistry better than (the latest and newest anti-depressant medication.) We have examined that our mood swings are effected by our body, our soul and our spirit. We have touched on three things that change our body's brain chemistry, namely our diet and exercise, the outside stimulus that we are exposed to, and the inside stimulus or how we process and ponder things in our mind. Notice that praising God presents a tremendous influence on the latter two things. We have already spent several challenges trying to get this outer

and inner stimulus centered on the things which Christ commands for your life. This week continue the emphasis on those things with the challenges below, but focus on praising the Lord, being thankful and blessing the Lord out loud. Don't neglect the diet and exercise concerns; strive to get a handle on the chemicals that you ingest, getting down to 1 daily soda or less (with no diet chemicals) will help and getting at least a half hour of physical exercise per day. But this week put special emphasis on discovering that "It is Amazing what Praising will do". To help in this endeavor I will give you the words of two songs that come to mind and then we will examine each of the 15 depression evaluation questions used earlier and find reason to joy in Christ over each. Make entries into your daily journal about your ability to communicate Praise to the Lord. Be like the psalmist who said "*Ps 7:17 I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.*"

We used to sing a chorus out of 1 Pet 1:8 that went like this:

"I have joy unspeakable and full of glory,  
full of glory, full of glory.

I have joy unspeakable and full of glory,  
oh the half has never yet been told.

I recently found this song and love the words:

## **The Dearest Friend (a cappella)**

**Verse One** (Note the spacing is to allow an echo phrase)

When I was drif.....ting out in sin	
I had no peace,	no joy within
Then Jesus came	and made me glad
The dearest friend,	I ever had

### **Chorus**

He saved my soul	oh bless His name
I'll never forget	the day He came
He makes me glad,	when I am sad
The dearest friend,	I ever had

### **Verse Two**

Oh sinner come	to Jesus now
At His dear feet,	just humbly bow
He'll save your soul	and make you glad
The dearest friend	I ever had

Get a good repertoire of Christian music on hand and get some of it coming out of your mouth each day. (Not rock music. Rock beat and rhythm is designed to altar your mood in another direction, and it does what it is designed to do! It is the wrong outside stimulus for a Christian. By design rock music stimulates rebellion, Christianity is all about submission, i.e. Anti-rebellion. Thus no matter how the American market labels it, there is no such thing as 'Christian Rock' any more than there is 'Submissive - Rebellion!' ) Keep good praise filled music as an outer and inner stimulus this week and notice the difference in your moods.

Secondly, we want to emphasize your joy and praise in your inner self. We have already touched on your ability



to think about your thoughts and moods. Conforming your thinking to Godly principles will enable ennobling thoughts, which can actually change your brain chemistry. Let's examine the 15 depression evaluation questions in this exercise.

### **1. Are you basically dissatisfied with your life?**

Dissatisfaction with life can come from poor or lacking purpose, or from frustration in achieving those purposes. As a Christian, the Lord Jesus Christ gives us not only resounding new purpose, but the power to accomplish his purposes. Praise him for that. *Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

### **2. Have you dropped many of your activities and interests?**

A regular schedule and daily activities are important to maintaining a right attitude. The first signs of an oncoming depression include breaking of our schedule. Often thought of as a symptom, but in actuality the breaking off of our regular schedule is causative of larger changes in behavior. Strive to keep a regular schedule of morning activities, exercise, devotions and prayer as outlined in these challenges. The scriptures say *Ps 145:2 Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for*

*ever and ever. Ps 119:164 **Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.** Maintain a schedule and keep on praising Him.*

### **3. Do you feel un-happy most of the time?**

For a Christian, God's intent is that your joy may be full. *Ps 5:11 **But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.*** In Romans the availability of your soul's salvation is examined and see what it says about the joy that should produce in your life: *Ro 5:11 **And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*** *Ro 14:17 **For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*** *Ro 15:13 **Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.*** Praise him for the joy he brings into your life.

### **4. Do you prefer to stay at home rather than going out and doing new things?**

Again an early indicator of oncoming depression is the staying to your self, withdrawing from others and holding things in. As a young Christian I learned this little song: **J esus and O thers and Y ou**, that is the way to spell **JOY**. Withdrawing is not only a symptom, but it is also causative to depression. Don't allow yourself to do it. Turning our thoughts inward all the time is selfishness. Even when hit by great calamities of life, like grief, we

first tend to withdraw from others, withdraw from society, even withdraw from friends. Doing so produces bad chemistry and depression. We have a friend that is closer than a brother. Never withdraw, but turn. Turn to him, and he commands us to turn to a friend as well. *1Pe 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Pr 18:24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Ga 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

### **5. Do you feel that life is empty?**

For a Christian, God wants us to be filled, not empty. It was illustrated in my childhood that inside every human born in this world is an empty space. People try every thing to fill the emptiness. They try sex, booze, drugs, materialism and more. There is only one thing that can fill the empty void in man. The shape of the empty void is exactly the shape of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only one that can fill the void in ones life. And he does. Look at these scriptures describing what we should be filled with: *Eph 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be **filled with all the fullness of God.***

*Eph 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but **be filled with the Spirit;***

*Php 1:11 Being **filled with the fruits of righteousness,** which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.*

*Col 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might*

*be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*

## **6. Do you often get bored?**

The challenges that God gives to us will never result in boredom. And the challenges before you this week will keep your mind, soul and spirit occupied enough if you take each one seriously. The other depression analysis questions will be dealt with in the next lessons. Let's get started on this weeks challenges from the RU program.

### ***The Challenges***

*The format of these challenges from Reformers Unanimous [www.reformu.com](http://www.reformu.com)*

#### **Challenge 14 Reading lesson: Romans 1-6**

To complete Challenge 14, you must read Romans 1-6. Below are spaces to list the topic of each chapter. Please fill these blanks in after you have completed each chapter.

Topic Chap 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 4- \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Chap 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Please list in your own words, how these chapters can be applied to you efforts to remain free from strongholds.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

**Challenge 15 Memorization**

(In order to complete this challenge, you may memorize these verses one at a time and have each one initialed on the side until you have memorized all four)

**Memorize Romans 3:10**

*10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

**Memorize Romans 3:23,24**

*23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

**Memorize Romans 5:8**

*8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Please describe in your own words what this verse means to you.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you believe the above verse to be true? \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

**Challenge 15s SPECIAL**

**Concerning Exceeding Joy**

These challenges include much memorization, but these verses should help you specifically with controlling your anger. Put them on a 3x5 card and take the time to:

**Memorize Jude 1:24-25**

*Jude 1: 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with **exceeding joy**,*

*25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*

Please describe in your own words what this verse means to you.

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Do you believe the above verse to be true? \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

**Challenge 16 Witnessing Opportunity**

In order to complete this challenge, you must write the circumstances of your life that led you to seek God's help. This is called a testimony. In Revelation, God said He uses 2 things to help people overcome the Devil. One is the Blood of the Lamb (Jesus) and the other is the believer's testimony. You may not be a believer quite yet, but there is a distinct pattern that led you to where you are today. Please share the pattern with us below. It could be useful to others someday. If you need more space, you may include a separate sheet of paper.

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Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Challenger's Signature)



### **Challenge 17 Memorize 4 Bible Verses**

(In order to complete this challenge, you may memorize these verses one at a time and have each one initialed on the side until you have memorized all four)

#### **Memorize Romans 5:12**

*12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

#### **Memorize Romans 6:1,2**

*1 ¶ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

*2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

#### **Memorize Romans 6:23**

*23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Please describe in your own words what this verse means to you.

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Do you believe the above verse to be true? \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student's Signature)

Challenge Complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Challenger's Signature)

**Dealing With Moods and Depression WEEK #6  
of A Constructive Work Book,  
A Biblical Perspective on Depression Dealing with  
Life, and Dealing with Others Biblically.**

With Challenges from Reformers Unanimous by Steven Curington

**Ministered By Pastor Ed Rice**

Good Samaritan Baptist Church

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***Congratulations***

Congratulations for finishing the 4th week of these exciting challenges. There are 25 challenges in this Challenger level of the Reformers Unanimous effort and you have completed 17 of them. There are two more weeks in this Challenger level in learning to let Christ deal with your addictions and letting Christ into your life. Remember what we started out to do: John 8:31-32 *Then said Jesus to those Jews which **believed on him**, If ye **continue in my word**, then are ye **my disciples** (follower) indeed; And ye shall **know the Truth** (Jesus), and the **Truth** (Jesus) shall make you free.*

I have placed the steps to freedom from strongholds in bold print. They are as follows:

- 1. Believe on Jesus**
- 2. Continue (study) in my Word (Bible).**
- 3. Follow Christ with your life (disciple)**
- 4. Your knowledge of Jesus will increase.**
- 5. Jesus (not you) will make you free.**

Keep Going for Him and He will Reform your life.  
May God Richly Bless in the renewal of your mind.

Pastor Rice

## ***Devotional God's Assurance***

He Himself has said . . . . So we may boldly say . . . —  
Hebrews 13:5-6

My assurance is to be built upon God's assurance to me. God says, "I will never leave you," so that then I "may boldly say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear' " ( Hebrews 13:5-6 ). In other words, I will not be obsessed with apprehension. This does not mean that I will not be tempted to fear, but I will remember God's words of assurance. I will be full of courage, like a child who strives to reach the standard his father has set for him. The faith of many people begins to falter when apprehensions enter their thinking, and they forget the meaning of God's assurance— they forget to take a deep spiritual breath. The only way to remove the fear from our lives is to listen to God's assurance to us.

What are you fearing? Whatever it may be, you are not a coward about it— you are determined to face it, yet you still have a feeling of fear. When it seems that there is nothing and no one to help you, say to yourself, "But 'The Lord is my helper' this very moment, even in my present circumstance." Are you learning to listen to God before you speak, or are you saying things and then trying to make God's Word fit what you have said? Take hold of the Father's assurance, and then say with strong courage, "I will not fear." It does not matter what evil or wrong may be in our way, because "He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you . . . .' "

Human frailty is another thing that gets between God's words of assurance and our own words and thoughts. When we realize how feeble we are in facing difficulties, the difficulties become like giants, we become like grasshoppers, and God seems to be nonexistent. But remember God's assurance to us— "I will never . . . forsake you." Have we learned to sing after hearing God's keynote? Are we continually filled with enough courage to say, "The Lord is my helper," or are we yielding to fear?

## Appendix

### THE MOOD DISORDER QUESTIONNAIRE

From [http://www.dbsalliance.org/questionnaire/screening\\_intro.asp](http://www.dbsalliance.org/questionnaire/screening_intro.asp)

This questionnaire was developed to help you recognize the signs of bipolar disorder. Bipolar disorder is a complicated illness and no single questionnaire or test can be used to accurately diagnose this illness. Accurate diagnosis is obtained only through a thorough evaluation with a physician. This questionnaire is a good first step in discovering if you might have this illness but it is not meant to take the place of an evaluation by a physician or a mental health professional.

A positive result from this questionnaire suggests that you could benefit from a comprehensive mental health screening. However, regardless of the results of this survey, if you have concerns, contact your physician and/or a mental health professional.

DBSA does not endorse or recommend the use of any specific treatment plan or medication. For advice about specific treatments or medications, you should consult your physician and/or a mental health professional..

Instructions: Please answer each question as best you can. Upon completing this form, you will be able to print your completed form and take it to your health care practitioner.

1. Has there ever been a period of time when you were not your usual self and...
  - ...you felt so good or so hyper that other people thought you were not your normal self or you were so hyper that you got into trouble? Yes No
  - ...you were so irritable that you shouted at people or started fights or arguments? Y N
  - ...you felt much more self-confident than usual? Yes No
  - ...you got much less sleep than usual and found you didn't really miss it? Yes No
  - ...you were much more talkative or spoke much faster than usual? Yes No
  - ...thoughts raced through your head or you couldn't slow your mind down? Y N
  - ...you were so easily distracted by things around you that you had trouble concentrating or staying on track? Yes No
  - ...you had much more energy than usual? Yes No
  - ...you were much more active or did many more things than usual? Yes No
  - ...you were much more social or outgoing than usual, for example, you telephoned friends in the middle of the night? Yes No
  - ...you were much more interested in sex than usual? Yes No
  - ...you did things that were unusual for you or that other people might have thought were excessive, foolish, or risky? Yes No
  - ...spending money got you or your family into trouble? Yes No

2. If you checked YES to more than one of the above, have several of these ever happened during the same period of time? Yes No

3. How much of a problem did any of these cause you - like being unable to work; having family, money or legal troubles; getting into arguments or fights? Please select one response only. No Problem Minor Problem Moderate Problem Serious Problem

### Depression Screening 1/20/2004-1/20/2010

The responses to the following questions may indicate the presence of depression. This is simply a screening tool. Only a qualified health professional can diagnose depression. This tool should not be used in place of a consultation with a health professional. Regardless of the results of this screen, if you have any concerns, see your doctor or mental health professional.

This screening is not a substitute for professional care. DBSA does not endorse or recommend the use of any specific treatment for mood disorders. If you or someone you know has thoughts of death or suicide, contact a health care professional, clergy member, loved one, friend, crisis line such as 1-800-SUICIDE, or call 911 immediately.

Please check the one response to each item that best describes how you have felt for the past seven days.

1. Falling Asleep: I never take longer than 30 minutes to fall asleep

I take at least 30 minutes to fall asleep, less than half the time

I take at least 30 minutes to fall asleep, more than half the time

I take at least 60 minutes to fall asleep, more than half the time

2. Sleep During the Night I do not wake up at night

I have a restless, light sleep with a few brief awakenings each night

I wake up at least once a night, but I go back to sleep easily

I awaken more than once a night and stay awake for 20 minutes or more, more than half the time

3. Waking Up Too Early

Most of the time, I awaken no more than 30 minutes before I need to get up

More than half the time, I awaken more than 30 minutes before I need to get up

I almost always awaken at least one hour or so before I need to, but I go back to sleep eventually

I awaken at least one hour before I need to, and can't go back to sleep

4. Sleeping Too Much:

I sleep no longer than 7-8 hours/night, without napping during the day

I sleep no longer than 10 hours in a 24 hour period including naps

I sleep no longer than 12 hours in a 24-hour period including naps

I sleep longer than 12 hours in a 24-hour period including naps

5. Feeling Sad:

I do not feel sad

I feel sad less than half the time

I feel sad more than half the time

I feel sad nearly all the time

6. Decreased Appetite:

There is no change in my usual appetite

I eat somewhat less often or lesser amounts of food than usual

I eat much less than usual and only with personal effort

I rarely eat within a 24-hour period, and only with extreme personal effort or when others persuade me to eat.

7. Increased Appetite:

There is no change from usual appetite

I feel a need to eat more frequently than usual

I regularly eat more often and/or greater amounts of food than usual

I feel driven to overeat both at mealtime and between meals

## 8. Decreased Weight (Within the Last Two Weeks)

I have not had a change in my weight  
 I feel as if I've had a slight weight loss  
 I have lost 2 pounds or more  
 I have lost 5 pounds or more

## 9. Increased Weight (Within the Last Two Weeks)

I have not had a change in my weight.  
 I feel as if I've had a slight weight gain  
 I have gained 2 pounds or more  
 I have gained 5 pounds or more.

## 10. Concentration/Decision Making

There is no change in my usual capacity to concentrate or make decisions  
 I occasionally feel indecisive or find that my attention wanders  
 Most of the time, I struggle to focus my attention or to make decisions  
 I cannot concentrate well enough to read or cannot make even minor decisions

## 11. View of Myself:

I see myself as equally worthwhile and deserving as other people  
 I am more self-blaming than usual  
 I largely believe that I cause problems for others  
 I think almost constantly about major and minor defects in myself

## 12. Thoughts of Death or Suicide:

I do not think of suicide or death  
 I feel that life is empty or wonder if it's worth living  
 I think of suicide or death several times a week for several minutes  
 I think of suicide or death several times a day in some detail, or have actually tried to take my life.

## 13. General Interest:

There is no change from usual in how interested I am in other people or activities  
 I notice that I am less interested in people or activities  
 I find I have interest in only one or two of my formerly pursued activities  
 I have virtually no interest in formerly pursued activities

## 14. Energy Level:

There is no change in my usual level of energy  
 I get tired more easily than usual  
 I have to make a big effort to start or finish my usual daily activities (for example, shopping, homework, cooking or going to work)  
 I really cannot carry out most of my usual daily activities because I just don't have the energy

## 15. Feeling slowed down:

I think, speak, and move at my usual rate of speed  
 I find that my thinking is slowed down or my voice sounds dull or flat  
 It takes me several seconds to respond to most questions and I'm sure my thinking is slowed  
 I am often unable to respond to questions without extreme effort

## 16. Feeling Restless:

I do not feel restless  
 I'm often fidgety, wringing my hands, or need to shift how I am sitting  
 I have impulses to move about and am quite restless  
 At times, I am unable to stay seated and need to pace around.

### Suicide

Some people with bipolar disorder become suicidal. Anyone who is thinking about committing suicide needs immediate attention, preferably from a mental health professional or a physician. Anyone who talks about suicide should be taken seriously.. Risk for suicide appears to be higher earlier in the course of the illness. Therefore, recognizing bipolar disorder early and learning how best to manage it may decrease the risk of death by suicide.

Signs and symptoms that may accompany suicidal feelings include:

- . talking about feeling suicidal or wanting to die
- . feeling hopeless, that nothing will ever change or get better
- . feeling helpless, that nothing one does makes any difference
- . feeling like a burden to family and friends
- . abusing alcohol or drugs
- . putting affairs in order (e.g., organizing finances or giving away possessions to prepare for one.s death)
- . writing a suicide note
- . putting oneself in harms way, or in situations where there is a danger of being killed

While some suicide attempts are carefully planned over time, others are impulsive acts that have not been well thought out; thus, the final point in the box above may be a valuable long-term strategy for people with bipolar disorder. Either way, it is important to understand that suicidal feelings and actions are symptoms of an illness that can be treated. With proper treatment, suicidal feelings can be overcome.

**Create a Plan for Life** Many depression-related suicides occur during the first three depressive episodes before a person learns that an episode of suicidal thinking is temporary. As people learn from experience that any given episode will eventually pass, the likelihood that they will actually act on suicidal impulses drops sharply. It is important to have a course of action ready before thoughts of suicide occur. Some people find it helpful to develop a Plan for Life. The Plan for Life lists warning signs you should watch for and actions to take if you feel that you are slipping into suicidal thoughts. Your Plan for Life may include: Contact information for your pastor, friends and family. Contact information for a local suicide hotline and support group.

**What you can do to fight suicidal thoughts:** Keep a journal to write down your thoughts. Each day, write about your hopes for the future and the people you value in your life. Read what you've written when you

need to remind yourself why your own life is important.

Go out with friends and family. When we are well, we enjoy spending time with friends and family. When we're depressed, it becomes more difficult, but it is still important. Visiting or allowing visits by family and friends who are caring and can understand may help you feel better. Avoid drugs and alcohol. Learn to recognize the earliest warning signs of a suicidal episode. There are often subtle warning signs your body will give you when an episode is developing. As you learn to manage your illness, you will learn how to be sensitive to them. This is a signal to treat yourself with the utmost care, as opposed to becoming angry or disgusted with yourself.

Talk about suicide. Your ability to explore the feelings, thoughts, and reactions associated with depression can provide valuable perspective and reassurance to your friend or loved one who may be depressed. Talking about suicide does not plant the idea in someone's head. Not everyone who thinks of suicide attempts it. For many, it's a passing thought that lessens over time. For a significant number of people, however, the hopelessness and exaggerated anxiety brought on by untreated or under-treated depression may create suicidal thoughts that they cannot easily manage on their own. For this reason, take any mention of suicide seriously.

If someone you know is very close to suicide, direct questions about how, when, and where he or she intends to commit suicide can provide valuable information that may help prevent the attempt. Do not promise confidentiality in these circumstances. It is important for you to share this information.

**Recognizing Warning Signs in Others** Sometimes even health care professionals have difficulty determining how close a person may be to attempting suicide. As a friend or family member, you can't know for certain either. If you sense there is a problem, ask the person direct questions and point out behavior patterns that concern you. Remind the person that you care about them and are concerned. Talking about suicide with someone will not plant the idea in his or her head. If necessary, suggest that they make appointment to see their doctor and offer to go with them if you sense they would have difficulty doing it on their own. If you believe that immediate self-harm is possible, take the person to a doctor or hospital emergency room immediately.



## About the Author

Pastor Ed Rice is a retired USAF Systems Engineer surrendered to be a Baptist Preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Saved in 1960 at the age of eight he grew up tutored in the Scriptures through Tuscorora Baptist Church in Addison NY, where he married his high-school sweetheart Beverly Cook Rice. Drafted into the military off of the dairy farm in 1972, Ed and Bev Rice raised 3 boys while serving as a Missile Technician in the USAF. After completing a USAF AECP bootstrap program he graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in electrical engineering and was commissioned in the USAF where he served until 1995 as a systems engineer and weapons integration specialist at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, and Rome Laboratories, Rome NY. He finished his Masters degree in Electrical Engineering through The Air Force Institute of Technology in 1990.

After being commissioned as a USAF officer in 1982 he pursued his systems engineering work in several classified research and development programs. While moving around the USA in his twenty three year military career he was a youth pastor and associate pastor in Independent Baptist Churches near his station. In 1995 he became Captain Rice, USAF retired, and surrendered to be a Baptist Pastor.

In 1998 he took the senior pastorate at Good Samaritan Baptist Church, in Dresden, New York where he pursued his theological studies at Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary. At LBU Pastor Rice received his second masters degree in 2013, and his PhD in 2017. His son Michael is US Army retired living near Fort Hood Texas, Shane is an Independent Baptist Missionary pastoring Chiesa Biblica Battista, Mazara Del Vallo, Italy, and Matthew is serving our Lord Jesus Christ near Hamilton NY. Capt Rice has spent seven years teaching math and science with the ABeka Christian High School Curriculum, and seven years teaching college mathematics, a love of his life, at both Corning Community College, and Elmira College.

Dr. Rice's staunch belief in the preserved accuracy of the

inspired Scriptures and his extensive background in systems engineering make him uniquely qualified to assemble “A Systematic Theology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”

### **Personal Testimony of Pastor Edward Rice.**

I was saved in 1960 at the age of eight. My father and mother were saved and founding members of Fellowship Baptist Church in Gang Mills New York. In 1958 my dad, Levi O. Rice, an agnostic, was invited by Cecil Palm to be a founding member of that church; both of my parents were born-again-saved two weeks later. My mother, Doris was converted from Roman Catholicism, and became a Christian. She stopped her Roman penance and practiced Bible repentance, stopped praying to Mary and called upon the Lord Jesus Christ to save her. She was thus converted from Roman Catholicism to the Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone needs converted from something. Mom and Dad were now born again, and two years later I was saved in revival services with Evangelist Dale and Opel Linbaugh. Opel cut the flannel graph burden of sin off little Christian's back in her Pilgrim's Progress presentation, and I was born-again-saved before it hit the basement floor. In 1995 I retired from the USAF as a systems engineer and became an ordained Baptist Preacher of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 18:3). Being converted is quite like a new birth, Jesus said so. If you have not been converted you should trust Christ today, and you must tell him that that is your intent. (see Romans 10:9-13).



