

# ***The Church of the Servant King***

## ***Review of the Spiritual Life of the Believer*** (Lesson SLR – 8F)

### **Christian Integrity: The Spiritual Power Sphere of the Mature Believer Component #7 – Momentum Testing**

#### **Introduction**

- There are several tests that must be consistently passed before any believer can attain or maintain spiritual maturity.
- Only the mature believer is capable of passing these tests on a consistent basis; until then, the believer's spiritual life is sporadic and unstable.
- For spiritual growth to take place, the believer must have pertinent Truth resident in his own soul.
- The believer who constantly seeks counseling from others because he has no pertinent Truth resident in his own soul may pass a momentum test, but the result is momentary victory, not spiritual growth.
- God holds the believer responsible for the decisions he makes; therefore, he must make those decisions based upon the Truth resident in his own soul in order to pass the momentum tests that are a part of every believer's life.
- Momentum tests for the believer are most often in the form of the same pressures faced by every person, believer or unbeliever, i.e. people tests, thought tests, organization tests, etc.
- However, other momentum tests to which the believer is subject are often specifically the result of the fact that he/she is a Christian, e.g. the growing opposition to Christians in general in this country as a result of the vocal and political nature of a few within their ranks. In other words, it is very likely that the spiritual Christian will face momentum tests originating from unbelievers who have associated the spiritual Christian with the views of the non-spiritual or less mature Christian. (Note: the non-spiritual and the immature are separate, but overlapping categories of Christians).
- Failure to pass momentum tests results in stagnation, retention of strongholds (acceptance of false norms and standards as true norms and standards, i.e. a conscience not sensitive to God's desire for the believer), and even retrogression in the spiritual life. (This is what happens to many young people who have become believers at a young age, who have not been solidly grounded in Truth, and who then face the real world for the first time away from the constraints of their parents, i.e. enforced humility).
- Passing momentum tests results in the following:
  - Accelerated spiritual growth (Jas 1:2-4 cf. 4:6-10)
  - Fulfillment of the plan of God for phase two (i.e. from salvation to death or rapture)
  - Spiritual advance through crystallization of the divine power sphere (i.e. greater integration of each of the components of the divine power sphere)
  - Glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - Ability to share the happiness of God – component #8 (Jas 1:12)

- After reaching spiritual maturity, consistent victory over all categories of momentum tests becomes an attribute of the mature believer.
- No believer can maintain maturity without the ability to consistently pass every category of momentum tests.

### **Scriptural Basis for Component #7**

**1 Corinthians 10:13** – No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (NKJV)

Note: This passage does not say that there is a temptation that the believer cannot endure. Such an interpretation is the result of drawing a conclusion on the basis of what is not in the passage. The passage states that ANY temptation we face can be handled based upon divine provision.

### **Various Sources of Momentum Tests**

- The Old Sin Nature Test
- People Testing
- Thought Testing
- Organizational Testing
- Direct Attack from Cosmic One (will be studied and developed in a future lesson)
- Direct Attack from Cosmic Two (will be studied and developed in a future lesson)
- Potential Distraction from Disaster Testing
- Potential Distraction from Prosperity Testing

### **The Momentum Tests Explained**

#### **➤ The Sin Nature Test**

- The sin nature is the source of temptation to the believer and the volition of the believer (responding to spiritual Truth in the mentality of the soul) has the opportunity to respond or reject its influence.
- The sin nature produces evil in two categories:
  - personal sin (e.g. Ro 7:17; 8:3, 5)
  - human good (e.g. Col 2:20-23; Isa 55:8-9; 64:6; Re 20:13)
- God's grace has provided a means of recovery for the believer after salvation:
  - Rebound (confession): (1 John 1:9) – Recovery victory
  - Operation KRY (know, reckon, yield): (Romans 6:6, 11,13) – Preventive victory over sin

#### **➤ People Testing**

- Believers can become distracted from the plan of God by people.
  - people who antagonize
  - people for whom you have personal love
  - people whom you admire
  - people whom you place on a pedestal (iconoclastic arrogance)

- When the arrogant person discovers the feet of clay, the arrogant person becomes so disillusioned and disenchanted that he attacks the person whom he had placed on the pedestal.

### ➤ Thought Testing

- Thought testing is pressure on a believer to violate the principles, promises, doctrines, and techniques resident in his soul's stream of consciousness.
- Every believer has times when he wants to do the fleshly or worldly thing in regard to entertainment, use of time, use of energy, use of resources, etc. The solution to thought testing is directly related to right choices associated with the believer having first established right priorities in his spiritual life.
- Basically, the believer succumbs to thought testing under two scenarios, both of which involve a violation of the God intended interaction between the soul's attributes:
  - The believer doesn't possess the pertinent Truth in his/her mentality, therefore the Truth hasn't permeated the soul's attributes (self-consciousness, mentality, conscience, volition and emotions).
  - The believer possesses the pertinent Truth, but doesn't apply that Truth; therefore, a decision has been made by the believer to allow one or more of the soul's attributes to usurp the authority of the pertinent Truth that is housed in the attributes of the soul.
    - Self-consciousness – the believer has become ego-centric or self-centered instead of Christ-centered.
    - Conscience – divine norms and standards are ignored and human norms and standards are substituted through the process of rationalization in the mentality.
    - Mentality – Truth is ignored in the memory, frame of reference, categorical storage compartment, and vocabulary of the believer so that Biblical wisdom is replaced with rationalization in favor of self (i.e. improper interaction with the self-consciousness and conscience).
    - Volition – decisions are made against Truth
    - Emotions – reaction to Truth instead of response (e.g. injustice – perceived or real – in life is viewed as unfair and the application of Truth is painful)
- What are your particular areas of thought testing? Occupation with the world and its enticements? Jealousy? Anger? Reaction to authority? Laziness? Procrastination? Sexual lusts and unfulfilled sexual hopes? Hatred? Bitterness? Loss of respect toward a loved one? Loss of respect from a loved one? Thought tests related to people or organizations? Fears? Worries? Impatience? Self-discipline? Guilt? Disappointment? No application of the faith rest technique (i.e. 1 Pe 5:7)? Do you become "put out" whenever you engage in serving others in a ministry?

### ➤ Organizational Testing

- Organizational testing is the unjust treatment that comes from function within an organization.
- All organizations have three things:
  - Authority structure
  - A purpose for existence, e.g. make a profit, ministry, etc.
  - Policies

- Organizational testing can come from function within any kind of organization where authority is used to execute the organizations' purpose through a specific policy. (Authority is executed by imperfect people – believers and unbelievers – who have their own biases and personal agendas. These biases and personal agendas are only set aside when there is objectivity in the life of the mature believer or the divine establishment oriented unbeliever. **Point:** Could it be that the reason that almost everyone in the corporate world is aware of or complaining about the bad policies, politics, and vicious nature of the competition is due to the fact that there are so few mature, spiritual believers and divine establishment oriented unbelievers?)
- Anytime a believer functions in an organization and receives unjust, unfair treatment, this is an organizational test
  - There can be unjust treatment from the person in charge. This is an organization or system test combined with a people test.
  - The person in charge may have favorites who receive an unfair advantage over you
  - There may be unreasonable policies (e.g. travel on personal time after normal work hours and after meeting billable hour goals for the week)
  - There may be policies that conflict with normal living (e.g. 45-50 billable hours per week plus administrative responsibilities that are non-billable plus client entertainment and practice development)
  - There may be policies that conflict with your personal norms and standards (e.g. certain expectations regarding entertainment of clients)
  - There may be unreasonable objectives that are impossible to execute (e.g. staying within the project budget, yet attaining personal utilization goals in the form of billable hours that exceed project budgeted hours)
  - You may be unable to fulfill the organization's objectives due to lack of organizational and upper management support (e.g. lack of trained resources, refusal to allocate national resources to your region, etc.)
- The solution to organizational testing:
  - Separate from the system (sometimes the only recourse, especially where one's spiritually based norms and standards will be violated if company policy and procedures are followed)
  - Overcome or endure the pressure by using the faith-rest drill:
    - Claim a promise (e.g. 1 Pe 5:7; He 10:30)
    - Develop a doctrinal rationale (e.g. the Essence of God, God's purpose in human history, the decree of God, etc.)
    - Draw a doctrinal conclusion (e.g. injustice in time is inevitable, yet our blessings in eternity are secured by a perfectly just, righteous and fair God from Whom nothing escapes notice; God's omniscience saw the injustice from eternity past and entered it into the divine decree which includes my response to it)
- Whichever solution is used, the following is required:
  - Yieldedness to God (e.g. the appropriate Truth and the ministry of the Holy Spirit – Component #1 of the divine power sphere)
  - Objectivity (Component #2 of the divine power sphere)
  - Humility or submission to the authority of the Truth (Component #3)
  - Numerous decisions from a position of strength (Component #4 – Momentum)
  - A personal love for God that transcends life (Component #5)

- Impersonal love for mankind (Component #6 of the divine power sphere)
  - In all cases of organizational testing, the believer who is insulated with the spiritual power sphere will be motivated by his/her personal love for God to not complain and not become involved in any “conspiracies” against the organization (Col 3:22-25; Jas 3:2-12 cf. 5:9-11)
  - If you are in management, you should treat your employees based upon the knowledge that you have your own manager in heaven (Col 4:1)
  - The person with personal love for God (Component #5) has the power to accept authority in an organization without becoming arrogant.
  - The person with personal love for God has the power to handle unjust and unfair treatment or any authority problems. He/she carries out the policies of management without becoming bitter, discouraged or conspiratorial.
  - The believer with personal love for God (Component #5) also has the objectivity (Component #2) to follow a legitimate grievance process within the organization without being guilty of mental sins.
  - The believer who consistently passes these tests will experience joy (share God’s happiness – Component #8)
- **Direct Attack from Cosmic One – (arrogant self-centeredness)**
  - Component 1 - mental arrogance, e.g. jealousy, bitterness, hatred, etc.
  - Component 2 - negative volition arrogance from preoccupation with self resulting in wrong priorities
  - Component 3 - authority arrogance
  - Component 4 - self-righteous arrogance
  - Component 5 - sexual arrogance
  - Component 6 - criminal arrogance.
  - Component 7 - psychopathic arrogance e.g., the psychopathic behavior of the manic-depressive, the schizophrenic, the sociopath and the psychopath that results from mental sins (soul induced) rather than a chemical imbalance (physically related or derived)
  - Component 8 - arrogance of unhappiness: subjective, preoccupation with self resulting in boredom.
  - Component 9 - iconoclastic arrogance: subjective preoccupation with others.
  - Component 10 - intellectual and emotional arrogance or rational and irrational arrogance.
  - Component 11 - achievement arrogance: the arrogance of Christian service.
  - Component 12 - the arrogance of Christian activism and civil disobedience.
- **Direct Attack from Cosmic Two** (manifested by hatred toward God, His Word, His Church).
  - Cosmic two embodies the philosophy and strategy of Satan as the ruler of this world
    - Component 1 - the old sin nature and an extreme emphasis upon personal freedoms in direct defiance of God’s Word
    - Component 2 - negative volition as antagonism toward Truth
    - Component 3 - cosmic degeneration: moral and immoral degeneration
    - Component 4 - an anti-establishment attitude.
    - Component 5 – demonism and demon influenced thinking

- Component 6 - cosmic panaceas: believers by crusader arrogance involved in "Christian socialism" and other efforts to create the Millennial environment under the guise of a "Christian society"
- Component 7 - Religion
- Component 8 - anthropocentric academic speculation
- Component 9 – evil, i.e. the destruction of personal freedom

➤ **Potential Distraction from Disaster Testing**

- There are two categories of disaster testing.
  - Personal disaster for either blessing or warning of divine discipline.
  - Historical or collective disaster which relates to the bad decisions of the people in a nation.
- The solution to disaster testing demands the full use of every component of the Spiritual Power Sphere
- Disaster testing demands good decisions from a position of strength and a personal sense of destiny related to the spiritual life.
- Perpetuation of a spiritual condition guarantees stability of life, even in disaster.

➤ **Potential Distraction from Prosperity Testing**

- There are two categories of prosperity testing
  - Individual prosperity in which some form of success challenges the maintenance of the spiritual life of the believer
  - Collective prosperity in which a group, city or a nation becomes very prosperous, and the believer shares in some way in that prosperity, and from that prosperity becomes distracted (i.e. jealousy of it or an inordinate desire to participate in it)
- Every believer must pass the prosperity test before he can become spiritually mature
- Prosperity is a subtle distraction; it cannot bring happiness apart from the spiritual life, where both capacity and happiness are developed
- To pass the prosperity test, the believer must do the following:
  - Possess a true scale of values consistent with the priorities of the spiritual life
  - Make decisions from a position of strength
  - Have a personal sense of destiny.