



Biblical

Handbook

for Life's Little

Problems

A Word to the Student

“The [ministry of counseling] seeks to bring people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to help them find forgiveness and relief from the crippling effects of sin and guilt. Counseling attempts to provide encouragement and guidance for those who are facing losses, decisions, or disappointments. Counseling can stimulate personality growth and development; help people cope more effectively with the problems of living with inner conflict and crippling emotions; assist individuals, family members, and married couples in resolving interpersonal tensions or relating effectively to one another; and assist persons whose life patterns are self-defeating and causing unhappiness. Ultimately, the Christian counselor hopes to help people become disciples of Christ and disciplers of others.”

Equipping Christian Leaders for Ministry by Dr. John N. Chacha

The purpose of this handbook is to cause the student to look at the Bible as the source for remedying the ills of individuals and society. This alone will not even begin to qualify one as an active counselor. What this handbook will do is to cause the serious student to realize there is more to helping individuals change their lives than simple advice. The serious student will find that a true Christian understands the relationship of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit in counseling to help people to get along better with God, with others, and with themselves.

Bad counsel is worse than no counsel at all. Galatians 6:2 tells us to “. . . *bear one another's burdens . . .*” that we might fulfill the law of Christ. Those who are strong are obligated to show grace and mercy to those who are weak. In so doing, the work of the Holy Spirit is crucial. His leading should never be hindered. The power of forgiveness is given by Jesus in His example and in His Word. Prayer should precede and follow any session because it is in the talking with God that accurate strategies are received in handling any situation. Scripture quoting should be like modern prophecy: bringing hope and encouragement rather than condemnation. God punishes sin. Leave it at that. Counsel given without regard to Scriptural foundation will always fail.

Jesus Christ is the only one who can truly release the individual from their emotional/mental bondage. This does not invalidate the role of the counselor/minister as a listener, intercessor and/or instructor of biblical knowledge and godly living, but acknowledges that apart from Christ we are ineffective in accomplishing God's desire for bringing lasting peace and genuine victory to the individual.

Let us not forget Who the Counselor is: “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*” II Cor. 1:3, 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abortion	5	Guilt	37
Agreement-Disagreement	6	Healing.....	38
Alcohol.....	7	Holy Spirit Baptism	39
Anxiety, Worry, Tension	8	Homosexuality	40
Backsliding	9	Hope.....	41
Baptism – Water	10	Humility	42
Bibliography	68	Insomnia.....	43
Bitterness & Resentment.....	11	Intercession	44
Child Abuse	12	Judgmental/Critical	45
Church Membership.....	13	Loneliness	46
Compulsiveness	14	Love	47
Covetousness.....	15	Lust	48
Cults	16	Marital Relations.....	49
Deliverance	17	Mental Illness.....	50
Depression/Discouragement	18	Obedience/Disobedience.....	51
Discipling.....	19	Occult.....	52
Discipline – Child	20	Parent – Child	53
Divorce.....	21	Peace	54
Drugs.....	22	Praise.....	55
Enemies.....	23	Prayer	56
Envy/Jealousy	24	Pride/Original Sin	57
Faith	25	Principles to Follow	4
Fasting.....	26	Reconciliation	58
Favor	27	Repentance.....	59
Fear	28	Salvation – Adults.....	60
Finances	29	Salvation – Children	61
Forgiveness	30	Sexual Sins.....	62
Fruit of the Spirit.....	31	Submission.....	64
Gifts of the Spirit	32	Suicide.....	65
Giving and Tithing.....	33	Temptation	66
Gossip	34	Tobacco.....	63
Grief – Death.....	35	Vengeance.....	67
Guidance	36	Word to the Student	2

PRINCIPLES TO FOLLOW

- I Thessalonians 5: ¹⁶ *Rejoice always,* ¹⁷ *pray without ceasing,* ¹⁸ *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
- Listen.
 - Expect the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what to say, pray, or even do. What the counselee wants or needs is up to Jesus, not you.
- Always use what the Scripture says to address any issue.
- Listen courteously.
 - The one asking is speaking with hope that you can hear the Lord.
- Act with the authority that is given to you by Jesus.
 - Do not try to bind the purposes of the Lord our God; for God is not like a human being, to be threatened, or like a mere mortal, to be won over by pleading.
- Speak directly to the problem – not about it.
- Do not commit yourself to any course of action unless you are prepared to follow through.
- Avoid condemnation, criticism, “preaching,” or even getting loud.
- Avoid counseling someone to stop taking medication: you are not their doctor.
- Avoid giving counsel contrary to Scripture.
- Allow the counselee to make his/her own decisions – your responsibility ends there.

In using this handbook, find the Scriptures that the Holy Spirit speaks to you about the particular problem a counselee might be facing. Then, listen and hear what the Holy Spirit would speak about ways of addressing that problem, and write those directions in the notes area of this Handbook.

PROBLEM

ABORTION

This problem has two perspectives – either the individual wants an abortion or is suffering from guilt feelings from having an abortion.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The Bible states “*Thou shalt not kill,*” and that children “*are indeed a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.*” The taking of a life for any reason outside of Biblical mandates is God’s prerogative.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

The person may be feeling shame from an illegitimate pregnancy. The person may not want the child for a variety of reasons. The person may have had the abortion and is suffering mental anguish. Note that if the baby is not wanted for one reason or another, that the sin of adultery can be compounded by the sin of murder (see David and Bathsheba). God is in charge and there are no hopeless situations with Him. If the abortion has been done, then minister God’s forgiveness upon repentance.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray for God’s grace and courage to stand in this difficult situation. Discern the will of God during your prayer.

NOTES

PROBLEM

ALCOHOL

Alcoholism is not a disease – it is sin. Diseases are contagious; sin is a choice. An alcoholic is unable to break the bondage of this sin by fleshly avenues. A person is controlled by the desire, abuse, and misuse of alcohol. Drinking is compulsive and out of control. Personality traits are intensified. Problem areas are intensified.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Though one may be a drunkard, God is able to deliver completely by cleansing, sanctifying, and justifying (I Cor, 6:9-11). Though alcohol abuse is a failing of the flesh (Gal.5:19-21), the Holy Spirit can and will produce the self-control needed to overcome (Gal. 5:22-23).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

The change of habit patterns is crucial towards success (I Cor. 15:33). Putting off the old nature and putting on the new (Eph 4:22-24) is required. Emphasize how to overcome, minister regarding salvation, baptism with the Holy Spirit, and the Fruit of the Spirit. Show the HOW, not the WHY, of the need to recover from alcohol.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray for deliverance. Offer thanks and praise for God’s deliverance, mercy, ever-present help, and power to overcome. Pray for deliverance from the fear that “I won’t be able to make it” (2 Tim. 1:7). Pray that the person will accept God’s forgiveness and be able to forgive himself.

NOTES

PROBLEM

ANXIETY, WORRY, TENSION

This is the state of being concerned or troubled with distressing thoughts of real or imagined problems. Anxiety is the carnal nature expressing its belief in the *inability* of God to handle the situation. Worldly psychology tells us that this is anger turned inwards.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

This attitude exists as a result of relying on one's own strength rather than upon God and His Word. It is the result of leaning upon our own understanding in dealing with our problems. I Peter 5:7,8a – ⁷ *Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.*
⁸ *Discipline yourselves, keep alert.*” (NRSV)

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Anxiety chokes the Word of God to keep us from maturing in the Lord (Luke 8:14). Romans 10:17 implies that our faith and corresponding strength to face problems are built by effective “Word-training.” Heb 13:6 – “So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized with alarm [*I will not fear or dread or be terrified*]. What can man do to me?” [AMP]

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Thank God that we can cast all our cares upon Him. Place on Him right now all the problems. Pray for the complete peace of God to be upon our brother/sister. Praise Him for meeting this need. Agree together that this need is met, for God has promised that where two agree about anything it shall be done (Matt. 18:19).

NOTES

PROBLEM

BAPTISM – WATER

Water baptism is an outward display of what has happened in the life of the believer.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

While it is not necessary for salvation, it demonstrates a person's submission to Christ. Baptism is also a demonstration of that person's willingness to live God's way. Jesus himself stressed its importance (see Matthew 28:19).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Water baptism is an outward display of what has happened in the life of the believer: the death of the old nature (when one is placed under the water), and the birth of a new nature (when one is raised up) (see Col. 2:12). Determine whether the individual has been born-again.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Thank God for what He is doing in the life of the individual. Seek God for discernment as to whether He wants to further bless the individual, i.e., healing, deliverance, or otherwise minister to him, his family, etc.

NOTES

PROBLEM

BITTERNESS & RESENTMENT

Allowing an offense towards us or disappointments to germinate in our hearts will, many times, color our thoughts and actions both consciously and subconsciously. The character of this attitude is demonstrated by an unforgiving spirit and generally negative, critical attitudes.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Bitterness and resentment are sinful and self-defeating. Love dispels them. Harbored they destroy, destruct, and kill (Galatians 5:19, 20). This attitude leads to a lack of communication.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

If needed, minister salvation. Repentance is necessary. Determine that the individual wants to be rid of these emotions. The individual must ask God for forgiveness for himself and for the person(s) to whom these attitudes are focused. Bitterness is usually coupled with the sins of hatred, envy, and malice.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Thank God for what He is doing in the life of the individual. If the individual still has a fear of facing the person(s) resented, deliverance from fear may be indicated.

NOTES

PROBLEM

CHILD ABUSE

Almost any, even a small irritation, may bring a reaction that result in a compulsion to abuse a child. Also, one may strike out in uncontrollable anger upon being provoked to wrath by the child, other parent, or siblings, or just about anyone.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

It is necessary and desirable to keep ourselves under control, to strive for the mastery of all things. The crown to be obtained is incorruptible (I Cor. 9:25-27). Self-control (temperance) is obtained through the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

If needed, minister salvation. Repentance is necessary. Child abuse may be a result of demon activity, compulsive behavior, drug/alcohol abuse, or similar problems. Frustration is a major cause. A transformation is needed, brought about by a renewing of the mind. Share the principles of praise to overcome a compulsive temptation. It is worth noting God's views on breaking the law.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Bind any discerned spirits such as to cause a reprobate mind and command them to leave in Jesus' name. Pray for the Holy Spirit to anoint the individual and completely cleanse his mind.

NOTES

PROBLEM

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The question(s) asked may be: Is church membership necessary? What is a church? Which church is the one I should attend?

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The mission of Christ is the essential reason for the establishment of His Church. Christians are directed to join with others in fellowship (Heb. 10:24-25) as the children of God (II Cor. 6:18), and receive the promises of heir-ship (Rom. 8:17).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

It is not a question of church membership, but rather of which local congregation the individual should join in worship. The individual may join a house group, but not at the expense of ignoring a larger congregation. To do so would be to accuse them before God as not being His; and that is not for any man to judge.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray that the individual will find God's Will as to the local body to join and act upon that initiative as given by the Holy Spirit.

NOTES

PROBLEM

COMPULSIVENESS

Individuals complain of not being able to resist an activity such as gambling, eating, talking, working, etc. These irresistible impulses or urges lead toward the performance of irrational actions.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Yielding to the lusts of the flesh and a general lack of self-discipline are outlined in Galatians 5:19-21. Lasciviousness and reveling are very close to compulsive behavior. One end product of the works of the flesh is to be under demonic influence and possibly being given over to a reprobate mind (Rom. 1:28-32).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Have the individual define his relationship with Jesus Christ with definite focus on who is “Lord” of his life. Deal with the flesh according to Romans 6:1-13. It is not more self-will or trying harder. It is an active process whereby we apply the truth of God’s Word to our situation.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Effective prayer renouncing the compulsive desire as it is named is needed. Pray then for deliverance. Pray to receive the blessings of temperance (will power)

NOTES

PROBLEM

COVETOUSNESS

A strong or inordinate desire of obtaining and possessing some supposed good; usually in a bad sense, and applied to an inordinate desire of wealth or avarice.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

To covet what belongs to another is sin (Ex. 20:17). To covet God's gifts is a good thing (I Cor. 12:31; 14:39).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Psalm 119:36 indicates to put off covetousness by inclining our heart towards God. This is similar to James 4:7. Coveting in the negative connotation originates with Satan – a desire that is false and negative. Counsel a renewing of the mind so that they may be transformed into the image of Christ, interceding for others rather than seeking wrongly.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray for a reordering of the mind if the individual is covetous of another's possessions. Praise and thank God for transforming the desires of the individual.

NOTES

PROBLEM

CULTS

This is a religious group that follows a particular theological system. In the context of Christianity it is a group that uses the Bible but distorts the doctrines that affect salvation sufficiently to cause salvation to be unattainable. A few examples of cults are Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science, Christadelphians, Unity, Religious Science, The Way International, and the Moonies. (Due to the stereotyping, this term has been abandoned by sociologists in favor of “new religious movements.”)

BIBLICAL PREMISE

We are to receive the Word with all readiness of mind and search the Scriptures daily “. . . whether these things are so.” (Acts 17:11b)

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

When the truth, that which is authentic, is known, the “less than” authentic will be easily recognized. Search all the Scriptures in order to judge whether a teaching is cultish, deviating from God’s Word so as to pervert the clear teaching on important matters of faith and practice with respect to the major doctrines of the Bible.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

If the person cannot repent, minister deliverance from cultish spirits. Pray for the person’s spiritual enlightenment. Look for the Holy Spirit to reveal to you how to minister.

NOTES

PROBLEM

DELIVERANCE

This is the process of freeing a person or alter-identity from demonization. This is demonstrated by an inability to be free from certain bondages: e.g., mental (emotional), physical or spiritual normally associated with demonic activity. The problem could be in the form of compulsiveness, over-indulgence, perverted behavior, or other unacceptable lifestyles. A general or specific inability to even repent of sin and receive Christ in salvation or to repent of backsliding may be seen.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

“For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens” (Eph. 6:12). Our armor is truth, righteousness, witness of the Gospel, faith, salvation; our weapon is the Word of God. The battle is one involving prayer (Eph. 6:14-18). Our power and authority is from Jesus himself (Mark 16:17; Acts 1:8).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Ask someone to agree with you and stand with you while ministering. Seek the Lord on behalf of the individual, expecting discernment to be given you. Consult other sections of this handbook. The I.C.B.T. Spiritual Warfare I & II courses provide an excellent foundation in this arena. Refer the individual to a Spirit-filled ministry for further help.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Use the principles of binding and loosing; ensure a prayer partner is standing with you. Use doctrinally correct spiritual warfare procedures.

NOTES

PROBLEM

DEPRESSION/DISOURAGEMENT

Depression is probably the most common emotional problem that will be encountered. It is a feeling of sadness, discouragement, and an inability to “get on top of things.” The feeling of despair in the face of obstacles, the expression of opposition and disapproval are often seen. This is not to be handled lightly; risk of suicide is real. Loss of control and an accompanying mental and emotional breakdown may follow.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The Psalmist said the cause of his depression was sin (Ps. 38:3-8). This dislike of one’s self may be projected to a distrust of God, resentment of others, and self-pity – which may lead to feeling more guilt, further depression, more inactivity, etc., until the individual feels he is in an inescapable pit (James 1:14-15).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Recognize this as very serious. Do not say, “cheer up,” “snap out of it,” or similar sentiments. Acknowledge the situation and try to find out how long this has been going on. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the roots of the depression. Minister accordingly. Arrange for a referral to a qualified pastor or counselor. Encourage rebuilding the Spiritual life in Bible reading, prayer, and fellowship with other Spirit-filled Christians.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

In prayer include: thanks for God’s love, confession of specific sins, forgiveness of others, and declare healing and renewed joy.

NOTES

PROBLEM

DISCIPLINE - CHILD

Children may be disobedient and rebellious towards parent(s), guardian(s), or other authority figures.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

When a child is brought up according to scriptural principles, he will continue to follow those principles later in life. Proverbs 22:6 says, *“Teach a youth about the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Speak to the child on his own level of understanding. Make it clear what is expected. Set the example you want him to follow, remembering that what you do will be more effective than what you say. Stick to established guidelines. As for you, ask God for the strategy in removing harmful interferences or changing situations. Children do not see with your level of experience.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Encourage him to pray with you at every opportunity. You are teaching the child how to handle his own problems as he gets older.

NOTES

PROBLEM

DIVORCE

The individual may be at a point either before or after completion of divorce proceedings. In either case a deeper commitment to God should be encouraged, but separate discussions apply. Divorce is a broken covenant. It proves a lack of integrity – one who cannot keep his word.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Satan’s lie is that problems will be solved by dissolving a marriage. No problems are solved by lowering God’s standards (John 8:44; 1 Peter 5:8; James 1:25).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

(Before) Preserve marriage. Adultery is the only scriptural basis for divorce. Refer to a Spirit-filled ministry. (After) This is not the unpardonable sin. Encourage salvation (if needed) and go on with renewed dedication to the things of God. Refer to a Spirit-filled ministry.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Listen to God to know how to pray for this individual. Lead in forgiveness and ask for a renewed or new Fruit of the Spirit to be revealed. You are the intercessor in this case, so rebuke Satan and be firm against him.

NOTES

PROBLEM

DRUGS

This is to use illegal drugs or to use legal drugs inappropriately. It is the repeated, high-dose, self-administration of drugs to produce pleasure, to alleviate stress, or to alter or avoid reality (or all three).

BIBLICAL PREMISE

“The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:22-24). And, “...for freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (i.e., bondage to anything) (Galatians 5:1).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Listen and take seriously the bondage involved. Seek to show that the real problem is not an incurable illness but sin that Jesus came to deal with and overcome (I Cor. 6:11). Minister regarding salvation, baptism with the Holy Spirit, and changing life patterns. Minister deliverance and healing if discerned necessary. Referral to a Spirit-filled pastor, counselor, or a treatment center is needed.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Listen to God to know how to pray for this individual. Lead in a prayer of renouncing old ways of life (drugs, old friends, hangouts, etc.). You are the intercessor in this case, so rebuke Satan and be firm against him.

NOTES

PROBLEM

ENEMIES

This is the inability to cope with a person(s) who represent a threat, or who manifests hostile opposition toward the individual. God's love and peace is not present.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The Word of God teaches us not to become bitter, hostile, or vengeful toward another person. If we do, we become the losers. We might not like what others do or say, but we must gain love for them as Christ commanded. Matthew 5:43ff demonstrates how we can act. The need is to identify Satan as the source of contention and God as the answer.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Point out that not only must one ask for forgiveness for one's own attitude (bitterness, resentment, hate, etc.) but also to forgive our enemy and ask that God will forgive them. Go to that individual and together confront the difference or conflict. Pray for strategies to overcome the conflict.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Acknowledge to God in prayer those feelings and attitudes that have not been Christ-like. Ask forgiveness for self and the other person(s). Thank God for His forgiveness and for re-cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit within self.

NOTES

PROBLEM

ENVY/JEALOUSY

Envy is a psychological blindness, a negation of awareness, an unconscious wish to destroy the goodness and beauty we see not just in others but in our own lives as well. It is due to a broader rejection of love, an unconscious dismissal of the goodness, truth and beauty in oneself and in others. Envy, although mainly unseen, is the primary destructive psychological force behind all ills - mental, physical and social. As such it is personified as one of the seven deadly sins. While jealousy is an intolerance of rivalry, it, unlike envy, can be turned for good.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Envy is a sin. Fully developed sin always produces destruction, tragedy, and death. A judgmental attitude occurs with hate following quickly. Spiritual murder occurs, character assassination is frequent. Proverbs 3:31 (NRSV) *“Do not envy the violent and do not choose any of their ways”*; Proverbs 24:1 (NRSV) *“Do not envy the wicked, nor desire to be with them.”*

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation and baptism with the Holy Spirit; if the individual cannot be lead to repentance, minister deliverance to them. Lead the individual to worship God in praise – thus changing his attentions from his own lack to the Lord. Point out how the individual can be glad when others are blessed or exalted. It pleases God.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray for forgiveness, a filling with the Spirit asking God to give him a vision of His glory and regard for himself.

NOTES

PROBLEM

FAITH

A lack of faith is detected or expressed. The need is for faith to be received, through the Word, by the individual. The problem of unbelief is man's inability to trust God's Word.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Romans 10:17 (NRSV) *"So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ."* Faith will move mountains if exercised. Essentially, to have faith is to believe on the Truth and then to act upon it.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

God's character should be shared with the individual in the areas of His love, faithfulness, kindness, goodness, mercy, and holiness. Teach the individual to believe and confess God's Word with confidence, expecting to receive the promise appropriate to the need. The I.C.B.T. course, Foundations of Faith II, will clarify many areas of faith.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Lead the individual in a prayer of commitment – believing, confessing, receiving, and thanking God for increased faith from the Word and for answering His prayers.

NOTES

PROBLEM

FEAR

Fear is to be afraid or feel anxious or apprehensive about a possible or probable situation or event whether real or imagined. (“Good” fear is a protective instinct to keep us from danger.) Fear is an expression of unbelief in or a lack of understanding toward God. Therefore, it is sin.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

God, through His Word, has promised to protect His people. We can be confident in Him and His promises, and we know He will be with us in every circumstance (see Psalm 23).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Fear is one of Satan’s main strategies for immobilizing God’s workers. All saints are commanded to “Fear Not.” Fear is an enemy to faith. When we fear needlessly we are going against God and that is sin. Minister deliverance as needed. Show the individual how to begin offering praise (honor and respect) to God.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Bind the spirit of fear and torment in the Name of Jesus, and loose the spirit of peace and rest. Thank the Father and join with the individual in praise and thanksgiving.

NOTES

PROBLEM

FINANCES

Inability to meet financial obligations that are honorably contracted or a general or specific financial need is being experienced.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

God has promised to meet all our needs if we are a child of His and are living and acting according to His righteousness (Matt. 6:33). His children who are faithful in the tithe and giving of offerings are promised ample finances (Malachi 3:10-11).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

If it is determined that they are believers who seem to be doing all the right things, and seem to be in God's will to the best of all discerned knowledge, but are still experiencing problems, expect God to give a word of knowledge or wisdom regarding the situation. Command Satan to release any hold he has on the individual's finances. It is possible that God may be reordering the life of the individual and that this situation may be a sign of God's working.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray seeking God's Word in this matter. Matthew 18:19, "*Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.*" If it applies, use Ephesians 4:28.

NOTES

PROBLEM

FORGIVENESS

This is the undeserved gift of having our sins separated from us "as far as the east is from the west". Because Jesus paid our penalty as our substitute, we are considered guiltless by God. God does not remember our sins. Included in this need by the individual are God's forgiveness, man's forgiveness, and self-forgiveness.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Mark 12:30-31 NRSV- "*... You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself*" is to have experienced forgiveness and to have forgiven others as well as self.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation and baptism with the Holy Spirit as needed. If the individual is a Christian, seek for unconfessed and unforsaken sin, especially bitterness and resentment. God says in Isaiah 43, "*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*"

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray for a renewal of the Fruit of the Spirit, ministering deliverance from any hindrances. Thank the Father and join with the individual in praise and thanksgiving for God's anointing.

NOTES

PROBLEM

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

A lack of the fruit (virtues, qualities, or characteristics) of the Spirit is evidenced by irresponsible behavior, pride, expression of enmity, lack of love, etc., and other works of the flesh.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

A child of God is eligible to receive the things of the Spirit of God. He is to be open to the Holy Spirit producing those virtues within him (Gal. 5:22, 23).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

The Fruit of the Spirit is the embodiment of the nature of Jesus. Scripture makes it clear that total surrender to Christ and His Word open the way to the life of fruitfulness and spiritual productivity. The individual should be encouraged to put in action in practical ways the admonition given in Ephesians 4: 21-24, to rid him self of all old deceitful desires. Romans 8:2, *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”*

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Lead the individual in a commitment to walk in the Spirit, who will reveal practical ways of obedience and the use of the abilities given by God to accomplish change and spiritual maturity. Hebrews 5:14, *“But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil”* will give foundation for a commitment to Jesus in this regard.

NOTES

PROBLEM

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

“Charis” is a Greek word that means grace. “Charismata” is Greek for gifts of grace. A gift is a Spirit-given ability for Christian service. The Holy Spirit is both gift and giver. “Charismatic” describes men or movements emphasizing or manifesting the gifts (charismata) of the Holy Spirit. Since every Spirit-filled believer is endowed with one or more gifts, that believer is endowed with God’s grace. *“But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good”* (1 Cor. 12:7).

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The Holy Spirit not only unites us, but also ensures our infinite diversity in the Church: at Pentecost the tongues of fire were 'cloven' or divided, descending separately upon each one of those present. The gifts of the Spirit are gifts to the Church, for use to minister to individuals in the Body of Christ. Jesus Christ is the “Giver of the Spirit.” See I Corinthians 12.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Fellowship among the spiritually-gifted people exists because of their common possession of the one gift, Jesus Christ. Christ himself is the one who really 'has' the spiritual gifts. As Head of His Body, He is the source and bearer of all spiritual gifts. They function at His direction. All believers will not have the same gift, *“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit”* (1 Cor. 12:4).

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

The individual must pray to the Giver of Gifts in faith believing that he will use the gifts in love to benefit the Body of Christ. Pray that having received the gifts that God will put him in a place of service for their use.

NOTES

PROBLEM

GIVING AND TITHING

To give is to be involved in the stewardship or management of possessions. To tithe is defined as a tenth of the produce of the earth consecrated and set apart for special purposes.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The dedication of a tenth to God was recognized as a duty before the time of Moses. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek (Gen. 14:20; Heb. 7:6); and Jacob vowed unto the Lord and said, *"Of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."* Offerings and alms are given after the tithe.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

The Jews were required to tithe by law. At one time in Christian history it was a tax given to the Church. Christians today are obligated to tithe and give offerings and alms under God's grace. All are willingly done. The tithe is given into the local body before other ministries are supported. If an individual does not have a local congregation with which he is identified, refer him to one. Otherwise, he must decide how he is to account for his stewardship of tithes and offerings as the Spirit leads.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Lead the individual to offer a prayer of commitment to tithe and give offerings.

NOTES

PROBLEM

GOSSIP

Gossip is sharing private information with those who are not part of the problem or part of the solution. A “gossiper” is a person who will never tell a lie if the truth will do more damage. The malicious spreading of information is usually practiced for the uplifting of one's own ego.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

When we speak things about others that we would be ashamed to say in their presence, we are disobeying the Lord – *“You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD”* (Lev. 19:16 NRSV). Words do cut and wound. Even to participate in the act of gossip as a listener is sin – *“A gossip reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a babbler.”* (Prov. 20:19 NRSV). Participation is sanctioning the destruction of another’s reputation.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Simply follow Matthew 18:15: *“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.”* *If the information is correct, continue – “But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”* (vv. 16-17).

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Lead the individual to offer a prayer of repentance and to seek wisdom in future situations.

NOTES

PROBLEM

GRIEF – DEATH

Grief is the process that occurs as a result of a loss. Similar to bereavement, the loss may be a death of a loved one or of an ideal (divorce, job, home, etc.). Grief is the emotional and objective reaction to a loss of any type. A response to bereavement involving a feeling of hollowness and sometimes marked by preoccupation with the dead person, expressions of hostility toward others, and guilt over death; may also involve restlessness, inability to concentrate, and other adverse psychological and physical symptoms.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The “loss” of loved ones may bring grief, but it is different for the believer. WE are commanded in I Thess. 4:13 – *“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.”*

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Those who died in Christ have the hope of the resurrection. Individuals who know those who are not in Christ still have the opportunity of salvation. The Scriptural premise for the time of mourning is 30 days. After that, the individual’s life must resume. Even when David’s child died he knew that he would see the child again and he got up to go on about his business. Refer those who are preoccupied with this matter to a Spirit-filled ministry.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray for God’s peace to settle and allow His love and grace to fill the heart at this time.

NOTES

PROBLEM

GUIDANCE

The individual is seeking God's will regarding a certain aspect of life; a decision being faced.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

God has a plan for our lives. When we seek Him first before making our plans, instead of leaning on our own understanding, He will meet all of our needs and direct our paths. (Matt. 6:33; Prov. 3:5-6; Isa. 30:1)

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit as needed. Share Scripture on the subject, or a scriptural principle. A thing is established when there are two or three witnesses. These usually are: (1) the Bible agrees, (2) the Spirit bears witness with peace, and (3) the circumstances agree.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Thank and praise God for revealing His will to the individual. Expect God to reveal direction to the individual along with verification.

NOTES

PROBLEM

GUILT

Guilt is being responsible for and accountable for an offense. Biblically, it is the state of being under a present or pending consequence due to a sin against God's Law. It is also an emotional state as well as legal condition. Its reflection from our minds is seen in all the negative feelings and beliefs we have about ourselves, mostly unconscious; rests on a sense of inherent unworthiness, seemingly beyond even the forgiving power of God, Who we erroneously believe demands punishment for our seeming sin of separation against Him.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Guilt feelings are used by the Holy Spirit to inform the sinner of broken fellowship with God (Isaiah 59:2; John 16:8). Because of our guilt before God, we need reconciliation (Rom. 5:6-9).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit as needed. Lead the individual to discover a refusal to make restitution for some wrong, harboring unforgiveness, or other act that brings guilt.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Psalm 32 is an effective guide in knowing how to pray in this situation.

NOTES

PROBLEM

HEALING

An illness, disease, infirmity, or other physical, mental, or spiritual abnormality is revealed. There are times when believers have opened the door to sickness, but God never uses it to “teach them” something. God is faithful to believers in spite of afflictions (see Job). It is not God’s will that his children be chronically ill. Mental health results from obedience to His commands to think upon things that are true, pure, and honest, as in Philippians 4:8. In the New Testament alone there are 729 verses that have something to do with healing.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

To be healed and whole is His will for us until He takes us to Himself at His appointed time (Psalm 104:29). Psalm 103:2, 3 declares, *“My soul, praise the LORD, and do not forget all His benefits. He forgives all your sin; He heals all your diseases.”*

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit as needed. Take God at His Word. Receive the healing by faith. If symptoms of a problem remain they may indicate there are barriers (sin or God’s will) that God wants removed before He completes the healing. Under no circumstances tell the individual to cease taking medication. You are not the expert in this arena.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

The prayer of thanksgiving and praise is acceptable to God. We can praise Him for His grace and love to us and for His answering of our prayers to heal.

NOTES

PROBLEM

HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

An awareness that something is lacking in the individual's experience and relationship with God. Also, a definite "thirsting" after the baptism with the Spirit.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is the overflowing of the Holy Spirit into, upon and out of a born-again believer. It is the fulfillment of the promise the Father gave to all believers. It leads to a full, purposeful, meaningful, and rewarding life in Jesus Christ. (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:16-18).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation as needed. Minister repentance. Renounce any occult activity, fortune telling, horoscopes, etc. Jesus is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. When asking for the Holy Spirit, follow Luke 11:13. Not everyone who is baptized in the Holy Spirit immediately begins speaking in an unknown language as it was experienced by the early Christians, but that is the expected initial evidence. They should also expect the anointing.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Lead the individual to thank God for this baptism in the Holy Spirit. Expect God to reveal needs of the individual for further prayer action.

NOTES

PROBLEM

HOMOSEXUALITY

A sexual affair between two persons of the same sex or lusting after a person of the same sex, often referred to as gays and lesbians. It is a behavioral sin that creates tremendous emotional and social upheaval. It is a deadly choice on the part of the individual, whether conscious or not.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The Word of God calls homosexuality an abomination (Leviticus 18:22) yet society seems to accept it as an acceptable lifestyle. Isaiah 5:20 begins, “*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.*” Each person is accountable as to what he or she will or will not look at, listen to, or participate in before God.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation as needed. Minister repentance. Call upon Him now for His forgiveness, cleansing, and restoration. God will provide for every physical, psychological, and spiritual need upon entrusting ourselves to Him. Unless the individual is repentant and under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, he or she will inevitably be angry and defensive of the current lifestyle. The alternative to homosexuality is not heterosexuality – it is dealing with the sin of lust that creates or heightens the propensity to sin. Lifestyle patterns need to be changed.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray in the power of the Spirit and the authority of Jesus, binding lust and homosexual desire. Release freedom from lust, and victory and newness of life in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray II Corinthians 10:5, Philippians 4:8-9, and Romans 12:2.

NOTES

PROBLEM

HOPE

A need for hope (desire combined with expectation) is discerned. Anguish, despair, and hopelessness may be expressed.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The Bible is the ultimate source for eternal hope. It has the purpose of meeting this need of mankind (Romans 15:4).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation as needed. Minister repentance. Citing appropriate Scriptures to prove and lay a foundation full of hope is appropriate. That this is a legitimate appeal is evident when one examines Christ's offer of "treasure in heaven" to the rich young ruler (Matt. 19:21), or His offer of "living water" to the woman at the well (John 4:1-15). Defining the establishing of a new vision of what one's lifestyle and relationships are to be like under God's authority is appropriate.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Thank God that in spite of problems we can maintain hope. A declaration of our hope as recorded in II Corinthians 4:7-9 would be appropriate. Pray for the rebuilding of faith and a renewed mind. Listen to the Lord as to further prayer.

NOTES

PROBLEM

HUMILITY

There may be strong ego evidenced, with problems enhanced because of pride. The opposite of pride is understood as being humility. It is looking upon oneself as a servant of others. The individual does not feel or act superior to others and is not a respecter of persons.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Psalms 75:6-7: *“Exaltation does not come from the east, the west, or the desert, for God is the judge: He brings down one and exalts another.”* The Lord promotes whom He will. Psalms 75:4-5: *“I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn. Do not lift up your horn against heaven or speak arrogantly.'”* To be set up (promoted) is not the time to proudly boast. Mat 20:16: *“So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.”*

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation as needed. Minister repentance. Pride is the first product of our natural sin of self-consciousness. Evidence of pride is when a person talks “down” or “up” to people, but may have trouble talking “to” a person. A renewing of the mind will help the individual needing humility. Encourage them to allow the Fruit of the Spirit to be produced within self (Gal. 5:22-23).

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Seek the Lord as how to pray. Expect the Spirit to reveal areas of the person’s life of which he needs to repent Pray for the Fruit of the Spirit to be manifested in them.

NOTES

PROBLEM

INSOMNIA

Inability to sleep accompanied by or as a result of burdens, sickness, financial worries, old age, grief, depression, etc.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Salvation includes safety and health. Because of God's salvation, (Psalms 4:8) *"I will both lie down and sleep in peace, for You alone, LORD, make me live in safety."*

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation as needed. Minister repentance. Citing appropriate Scriptures to prove and lay a hopeful foundation is appropriate. The causes of insomnia are important. Be attentive to the revelation of the Holy Spirit for this individual. Minister regarding root causes as they are revealed to you. If this situation continues, the person may not be able to see beyond the problem, unable to even minister praise to God, unable to claim God's promises for whatever reason. Intercede for the individual, bind Satan, and speak wholeness and healing. Then change the focus from the problem to Jesus and minister to the healer of the problem instead of the problem.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray in authority and power. Praise and thank God for victory over sleeplessness.

NOTES

PROBLEM

INTERCESSION

To intercede in prayer in the authority of Jesus is one of the greatest needs Christians face. If we are not interceding, we will find ourselves criticizing, condemning, gossiping, growing bitter, resentful, spiteful, and full of hate. The inevitable end of such is trauma, tragedy, and destruction.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Isa 59:16 [AMP]: *“And He saw that there was no man and wondered that there was no intercessor [no one to intervene on behalf of truth and right].”* In the face of everything, God’s Word to His people is to intercede.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation as needed and baptism in the Spirit. Two aspects of intercession are (1) to intercede with God, and (2) to stand against Satan and everything evil on the behalf of others. Ezekiel 4:4 points out that an intercessor must be willing to feel and bear the burden of those for whom intercession is being made.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Ask God to reveal those needs for which intercession should be made. Thank and praise Him for calling intercessors and equipping them with gifts for lifting burdens and delivering the saints and the needy.

NOTES

PROBLEM

JUDGMENTAL/CRITICAL

The judgmental critical attitude may stem from these sources: a strict, legalistic viewpoint of the Word, a strict overbearing conscience, or tendency to be negative in thought, speech, and actions, etc. Our natural sin of pride is also the root of this problem.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

1Co 4:1-5 *“A person should consider us in this way: as servants of Christ and managers of God's mysteries. In this regard, it is expected of managers that each one be found faithful. It is of little importance that I should be evaluated by you or by a human court. In fact, I don't even evaluate myself. For I am not conscious of anything against myself, but I am not justified by this. The One who evaluates me is the Lord. Therefore don't judge anything prematurely, before the Lord comes, who will both bring to light what is hidden in darkness and reveal the intentions of the hearts. And then praise will come to each one from God.”*

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

The individual must see their need to demonstrate an attitude of forgiveness and mercy. Consider Jesus in John 8:3-10; Matthew 23:23. We must constantly remind ourselves that just as “God is not finished with me yet,” neither is He finished with any other.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

In praying with the individual, encourage them to use their spiritual eyes, to trust God in all things and leave the results to Him. In your authority in Jesus, stand against any judgmental or critical spirit. Speak the peace and love of God in all cases.

NOTES

PROBLEM

LONELINESS

The individual may be subject to melancholy sighing, feel worthless, may cry easily, feel sorry for self, be at odds with everything, and need a word from God. A lack of companionship and fellowship is evidenced.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

God has promised to never leave or forsake His own. To stand alone among men may often be one's lot, but we need never stand without God. He will be our constant companion, the Holy One who is God of the whole earth (Isaiah 54:1, 5, 6). It is God, the Holy Spirit who will comfort us and walk alongside us, even in loneliness (John 16:7ff).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation and baptism in the Spirit if needed. Jesus is a friend who will stick closer than a brother. He came that we might have life full of meaning, purpose, and abundance (John 10:10). Christian fellowship providing growth and effectual service to another, for another, and on behalf of another is one of the best ways to overcome loneliness. Otherwise, the bitter-sweetness of self-pity becomes one's diet.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Bind self-pity (a first product of our natural sin of self-consciousness – pride). Release the love of God and the glory and witness of the Holy Spirit. Expect God to reveal further needs. Minister accordingly.

NOTES

PROBLEM

LOVE

The problems encountered in the areas of love are: (1) dealing with man's inability to know and experience God's love and to love Him in return, and (2) to receive love for and to love others including our enemies, the unlovely, and unlovable.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

God commends His love toward us. He commands us to love Him and others. He stands ready to produce that love within us (Gal. 5:22). Therefore, we need not feel that we must produce that love. We will know we love God, when we know we love our brethren in Christ (I John 4:19-21).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation and baptism in the Spirit if needed. Barriers to love include pride, jealousy, conceit, ill-manners, irritability, holding grudges, selfishness, evil actions or thoughts, childishness, or a giving-up attitude. If such are perceived, counsel repentance. Minister emphasizing truthfulness, faithfulness, hope, patience, spiritual maturity (I Cor. 13) and especially the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray in agreement with the individual that God will fill them with His love and Holy Spirit. Lead in a prayer of repentance and confession in the manner of Romans 10:9 and Romans 15:9.

NOTES

PROBLEM

LUST

Lust desires anything in a compelling, cunning, luring manner. It is a term intended to encompass all manner of fleshly desire. It includes concupiscence; carnal appetite; unlawful desire of carnal pleasure (Rom 1. 2 Pet 2). It is evil propensities, depraved affections, and desires as shown in James 1 and Psalm 81.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The individual nature is not destroyed as a result of salvation. It is atoned for and pardoned. The Fruit of the Spirit temperance (self-control) allows one to overcome lust or any other temptation (Isaiah 26:3) *“You will keep in perfect peace the mind that is dependent on You, for it is trusting in You.”*

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Emphasize the principle of praising God. When we minister praise to Him, we are not ministering to our lust, and God then ministers peace from lust. Psalm 119:11 says, *“I have treasured Your word in my heart so that I may not sin against You.”* Reading and memorizing Scripture daily increases the victory over anything that might tend to separate one from God.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray confession and contrition and victory.

NOTES

PROBLEM

MENTAL ILLNESS

Mental illness refers collectively to all diagnosable mental health problems that become “clinical,” that is, where a degree of professional intervention and treatment is required. Generally, the term refers to more serious problems, rather than, for example, a mild episode of depression or anxiety requiring temporary help.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The Word of God promises Christians a sound mind. Mental illness is a part of the curse of the law and is often a result of sin and disobedience to God (Deut. 28:15, 28). Sometimes demonic activity is involved (Matt. 17:14, 21), or possibly actual physiological damage.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Check for occult involvement, inordinate fear, demon oppression, willful disobedience, and physical damage. At times just plain sinfulness is the rule. Ministering salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit is appropriate. Refer to a Spirit-filled minister or counseling service as appropriate.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Claim God’s promises that the captives will be loosed and the oppressed set free. Pray and expect God to move in the individual’s life. Refer to a Spirit-filled counseling ministry.

NOTES

PROBLEM

OBEDIENCE/DISOBEDIENCE

Obedience is the practical acceptance of the authority and will of God, including both the inward glad submission and the outward expression of actions, reactions, words, and thoughts. Disobedience is the evidence of rebellion and distrust in God, preference to self will and the lack of surrender to and desire for the will of God in all things.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

God expects obedience (Deut. 11:26-28). To choose Christ is to choose obedience (John 14:15, 21). To become disobedient is to sin or rebel against God's expectation and rights (I Sam. 15:22, 23). The I.C.B.T. *Obedience* course offers an excellent study of the topic.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

To help the individual discover areas of disobedience you may ask questions about different areas of their life such as personal relationships, behavioral patterns, God's Lordship in their marriage or job or elsewhere, personal devotions, etc. As obstacles are uncovered respond according to Romans 8:28, confess disobedience as sin, and plan specific actions to avoid repeating the sin(s).

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray for the Fruit of the Spirit (faithfulness) to be produced in the individual (Gal. 5:22, 23). Give God praise and thanks for revealing the sin, forgiving it, and providing strategies for change.

NOTES

PROBLEM

OCCULT

Occult means "hidden". It covers practices that are not approved of by God e.g., astrology (Is. 47:13), casting spells (Deut. 18:11), consulting with spirits (Deut. 18:11), magic (Gen. 41:8), sorcery (Exodus 22:8), witchcraft (Deut. 18:10), and spiritism (Deut. 18:11). Occult practices such as Ouija boards, tarot cards, astrology charts, contacting the dead, séances, palm-reading, horoscopes, etc., are to be avoided. Secret societies include the Masons and Rosicrucians. The occult is used to describe any attempt to gain supernatural power or knowledge apart from the God of the Bible.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Even as we are besieged with the many forms and avenues of Satanic influence, we have the absolute authority, through our Lord Jesus Christ that we can bind the powers of darkness and dispel them. They must do our bidding as we speak to them by the authority of the name of Jesus (Luke 10:18-19; Eph. 1:17-23; 2:6; Mark 16:17; Matt. 16:19; 18:18).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

To verbally renounce occult activity is a necessity, and there is a need for deliverance. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is needed for an overcoming victorious life. Occult reading must be replaced with Scripture reading. Refer the individual to a Spirit-filled ministry that specializes in this area (if available).

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray acknowledging that God allows no other gods before Him. Pray repenting of involvement in the occult. Plead repentance. The individual must declare Jesus as Lord.

NOTES

PROBLEM

PARENT - CHILD

Conflict, rebellion, lack of discipline, confusion, anxiety, etc., mar the peace and orderly and happy relationships that should reign in the family. The individual is seeking how to effect “rightness” in relationships.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

All should come to knowledge of the truth, be saved, empowered for life, and grow up into the fullness of Christ. The act requires self-discipline that includes submission to others. In the case of children, the submission is first to the parents in the Lord. Always, one is to honor and to prefer the other above self (Ephesians 5 and 6).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit if needed. Emphasize the need to allow Holy Spirit to produce the Fruit of the Spirit in them (Gal. 5:22,23). These qualities are needed for the individual to be the prime motivator in the family. The promise of Acts 16:31, “*Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household*” must be claimed. The same claim is for the child in the home. Romans 12:2, “*Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*”

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray for the individual and his family. Expect the Spirit to give discernment about problem areas or individuals God wants to bless. Refer to a Spirit-filled ministry that specializes in this area.

NOTES

PROBLEM

PEACE

The individual may be overwrought with inner conflict, fear, overwhelming temptation, anxiety, nervous tension, insomnia, etc. and is seeking peace.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Peace is a product of the Holy Spirit's actions (Gal. 5:22). It comes as preeminence is given to the Prince of Peace (Isa. 26:3).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation and baptism with the Holy Spirit if needed. A lack of peace is a result of wrong actions, attitudes, and worry. When such is present, faith is absent. The inheritance that the adopted believer has includes the Fruit of the Spirit wherein is peace. It is often a matter of changing our preeminence. Instead of worrying over the lack of peace, honor and respect God, Isa. 26:3: *"You will keep in perfect peace the mind that is dependent on You, for it is trusting in You."*

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray for the Fruit of the Spirit (faithfulness) to be produced in the individual (Gal. 5:22, 23). Give God praise and thanks for revealing sin, forgiving it, and providing strategies for improvement. Ask for God's peace to settle over the individual.

NOTES

PROBLEM

PRAISE

To praise is to show honor and respect to God.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

When honor and respect is given, honor and respect will be received. When one ministers to God by praising Him (Heb. 13:15), God will minister in return (I Sam. 2:30b). Most important is that He is enthroned in our praises (Psa. 22:3).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

To praise and honor and show respect to God is ministering to God. The Old Testament priests ministered to God by offering sacrifices on behalf of the people. The sacrifice of praise to God is ministering to Him (Heb. 13:15). The very act of praise releases the power of God into a set of circumstances and enables God to change them if that is His design. Jesus did not promise to change circumstances, but He did promise great peace and pure joy to those who would learn to believe that God actually controls all things.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Give thanks to God and praise Him with the individual. Expect God to begin ministering to both of you and to reveal a victory, a word of knowledge, etc., as you praise Him.

NOTES

PROBLEM

PRAYER

Prayer is a discussion with God, petitioning Him for needs, about problems, and offering Him thanksgiving and praise.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

A Christian addresses the Father directly when he prays. A Christian can speak to Him because of the authority Jesus delegated to those who are His (John 14:13-14; Matt. 6:6). The I.C.B.T. courses on prayer are excellent resources.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Authentic prayer is when a person is “closeted” with the Father, shutting out all else and keeping one’s mind on Him (Matt. 6:6). It involves honor, respect, and recognition due God. Isa 65:24: *“Even before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.”* Praying in the Spirit is more than sufficient, especially when one cannot pull together the words to pray.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

In simplicity, offer a prayer for the individual. Then ask the individual to offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for answering prayer.

NOTES

PROBLEM

PRIDE/ORIGINAL SIN

The individual's ego is apparent. Humility is not a prominent trait. It is a lifting up of one's self above God's purposes, thinking of self above any others (Isa. 14:13). An individual may express that they are able to take care of things usually, but are having problems now.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Self-consciousness or pride is our natural state of being, from which issues every problem people have in the world. The answer to it is to be God-conscious and other-conscious, as we are conscious of ourselves (Matt. 6:33; 22:37, 39).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation or baptism in the Holy Spirit as appropriate. Repent of pride. When under submission to God and those in authority over us, we have crucified the flesh and can walk in the Spirit. Rom 8:5-8: *“For those whose lives are according to the flesh think about the things of the flesh, but those whose lives are according to the Spirit, about the things of the Spirit. For the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit itself to God's law, for it is unable to do so. Those whose lives are in the flesh are unable to please God.”*

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray for the Fruit of the Spirit identified as “meekness.” Pray for God's mercy and strength.

NOTES

PROBLEM

SALVATION - ADULTS

A Christian counselor's primary concern is always to find out whether a person has been born again. Almost all problems have sin as their root cause and the Bible points the way to solution and victory – forgiveness in Jesus Christ. And what will it profit to have all problems solved yet wind up losing the soul?

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Ezekiel 18:21-23 *"Now if the wicked person turns from all the sins he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is just and right, he will certainly live; he will not die. None of the transgressions he has committed will be held against him. He will live because of the righteousness he has practiced. Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked?" This is the declaration of the Lord GOD. "Instead, don't I take pleasure when he turns from his ways and lives?""*

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Upon determining that the person is not trusting Christ as Lord and Savior, explain the need. Share God's solution which is salvation by grace through faith. Ask for a decision. Offer to pray with the individual. Trust God for the results.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Ask the individual to call on Jesus and to confess his sins, then receive Him as Savior and Lord. Keep the prayer simple and to the point.

NOTES

PROBLEM

SALVATION - CHILDREN

A child does not know Jesus Christ as Savior, or when asked if he knows Jesus, he may not be certain.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The Bible says that whoever calls on Jesus to save him, will be saved (Rom. 10:13). Jesus came into the world to give us a new life that will never end (John3:16). He came to give us a good life, filled with all we need to walk in this life in abundance (John 10:10).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Simplicity is important. Do not confuse the child with many Scriptures. Those that are used should be repeated verbally and in writing by the child. Use illustrations on his level. Establish his need for Jesus. Point “the way” simply. The child should be led into assurance. Encourage him to see by the Word of God that he is saved. Do not tell him he is saved. The Holy Spirit will make it real as we assure them of God’s Word. Refer to a Spirit-filled ministry for baptism and discipling.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray for the child and commit self to the Lord, then lead them in a simple prayer, asking for forgiveness of sin and of acceptance of Jesus as Savior.

NOTES

PROBLEM

SEXUAL SINS

Immorality – moral behavior contrary to God’s standards. Perversion – to turn from the true and proper purpose of sex, to misuse or abuse it. Adultery – sexual intercourse with a person other than one’s spouse. Fornication – illicit sexual intercourse outside of the marriage bond.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Galatians 5:19-21: *“Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar, about which I tell you in advance--as I told you before--that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”* The tendency to allow improper sexual drives to exist within us will result in a drive to be spiritual and to use sensuality at the same time, which is double-mindedness (James 1:8), and leads to a reprobate mind (Rom. 1:28).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

The individual may break God’s laws, but disobedience will result in the wreckage of their life and of those improperly involved. It is impossible to involve oneself sexually without involving the spiritual nature of the partner. The scars are ugly, deep, and long-lasting. Habitual masturbation results from mental or physical pornography. Read on these topics prior to working with others. Always refer to Spirit-filled ministry.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Lead the individual to pray for forgiveness, cleansing, and strength to stand fast in God’s liberty. There may be a need to deliverance from unclean spirits.

NOTES

PROBLEM

TOBACCO

The individual is enslaved by the desire to smoke/chew tobacco and is unable to stop and remain free from the habit. This may apply to other addictions such as gum, candy, caffeine, etc.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

It is not what goes into a person that defiles him, but what comes out of his mouth. The bondage experienced leads to physical damage and destroys the body, God's Temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19-20; II Peter 2:19; Rom. 6:12). The witness of a Christian is also hurt as other people are offended (I Cor. 8:7-13; Rom. 15:1-3).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Do not condemn or criticize. Minister salvation and baptism with the Holy Spirit as needed. The way to overcome temptation is to first turn it over to Christ. Thank him for deliverance from desires, physically and mentally. Then change the mind from the addiction to the things of God. The greater the temptation, the greater should be the praise to Him. This applies to an understanding of the "sacrifice of praise."

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Thank and praise God for deliverance, for strength to go on, and for strategies in maintaining an overcoming attitude.

NOTES

PROBLEM

SUBMISSION

Rebellion against God or others is the real issue here. There is an inability to take advice, accept another person as he is without demanding that he change his personality, habits, etc. Christians may find the same rebellion in themselves toward God and others, Christian or not.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

The Biblical injunction is to submit ourselves to God, resisting Satan who will flee from us (James 4:7). From that point, relationships are established in proper perspective.

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

When the Divine order of submission is followed, relationships improve and are set right. Rebellion ceases and harmony follows. God's will becomes known and made sure as counsel is received. Minister salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit as needed.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray for the Fruit of the Spirit (meekness) (see also Matt. 5:5) as well as for "goodness," "kindness," etc. Repent of rebellious attitudes and spirits.

NOTES

PROBLEM

SUICIDE

A desire or decision to kill one's self is a result in most instances of a state of depression. It is brought on by such things as health problems, pain, or inability to face frustration in life. Our natural sin of self-consciousness produces pity, guilt, anxiety, frustration, etc. In other cases, irresponsible behavior produces the insane desire to destroy oneself or to "end it all." This may be a result of being ensnared in demon possession or oppression. Involvement in cultish teaching and mob influence may result in a suicide psychology or brainwashed behavior.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

"Why am I so depressed? Why this turmoil within me? Put your hope in God, for I will still praise Him, my Savior and my God." (Psalm 42:11). The heavens may seem as brass and our prayers useless. But the confession of faith in God brings about deliverance, healing, and hope springing eternal. Satan knows there is no chance after death to get right with God. He incites to murder so that people are robbed of their right to live and have an opportunity to receive God's salvation. Suicide is the murder of one's self. (See Rev. 21:8).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Listen to the individual while silently praying in the Spirit. There is no quick and easy fix for this situation. God will tell you what to say and do and how to pray. Do not ask "why" questions, but "what" questions. (What is wrong? What was done? What have you been doing? What can be done? What does God say must be done?) Do not minimize the answers. Accept answers as totally serious until you have concrete proof otherwise. Your main function is to minister hope (Rom. 15:4). Minister salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit as the Spirit leads. Refer the individual to a Spirit-filled ministry and health authorities and relatives (if possible).

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray that God will send angels to minister for the person (Heb. 1:14) and send His love.

NOTES

PROBLEM

TEMPTATION

An almost overwhelming physical and mental desire to misuse or abuse those gifts God has intended for our good and appropriate use. One is faced with a “choice” and is struggling with it.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

Temptation to a Christian can be turned into a blessing. It shows one his impurities and the areas of life through which Satan seeks to destroy. I Cor. 10:13, *“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity. God is faithful and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape, so that you are able to bear it.”* James 1:12, *“Blessed is a man who endures trials, because when he passes the test he will receive the crown of life that He has promised to those who love Him.”*

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit as needed. Temptation serves to chain one to his sin, yielded or not. That is because the focus of attention (preeminence) is given over to the temptation. Change the preeminence back to God.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Pray thanking God and praising God for the way through the temptation and victory over the temptation.

NOTES

PROBLEM

VENGEANCE

Vengeance is punishment given in retaliation for an injury or offense. It is “getting even” or “paying back.” In addition to the natural urge to be vindictive, in some cultures vengeance is a matter of family duty in which the “honor” of the individual is at stake. These cultures include Spanish, African, and Oriental.

BIBLICAL PREMISE

In the Old Testament the statute of taking “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” was not a ticket for revenge, but a legal limit to prevent people in anger from going further than necessary. The New Testament is extremely clear that for believers in Jesus, who have themselves experienced the unmerited forgiveness and love of God, vengeance is not to be sought nor desired. Good is to overcome evil, forgiveness is to bridge broken relationships, and love, even for an enemy, is to follow the pattern of our Lord and demonstrate to the world the newness of life in Christ (Matt. 5:38-48).

SCRIPTURE

COUNSEL

Minister salvation and baptism in the Holy Spirit as needed. Do not be hasty in speech to the individual, i.e., “You shouldn’t feel that way,” or “What he did wasn’t so bad after all, was it?” The individual expects you to understand before they can trust our healing counsel. Share God’s love, patience, and forgiveness. Be attentive to the Holy Spirit in this regard.

EFFECTIVE PRAYER

Prayer should include thanks for the problem through which blessings are coming, thanks for the total forgiveness and unearned love of God in Christ, and a statement of forgiveness.

NOTES

RESOURCE MATERIALS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORKS CITED

Holy Bible, Amplified Expanded Edition, KJV, Zondervan Corporation and Lockman Foundation, 1987.

Holy Bible, Dake's Annotated Reference Bible, KJV, Finis Jennings Dake, Lawrenceville, Georgia: Dake Bible Sales, Incorporated, 1985.

Holy Bible, Full Life Study Bible, NIV, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Corporation, 1992.

Holy Bible, Holman Christian Standard Bible, Nashville, Tennessee: Holman Publishers, 2003.

Holy Bible, KJV, Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989.

Holy Bible, The New Interpreter's Study Bible, New Revised Standard Version, Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 2003.

Holy Bible, Open Bible, NKJV, Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1979.

Holy Bible, Thompson Chain Reference, Frank Charles Thompson D.D., Ph.D., Indianapolis, Indiana: B.B. Kirkbride Bible Company.

Strong's Concordance, James Strong, L.L.D., S.T.D. Nelson Publishers, 1995.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, William White, 1985.

Webster's Dictionary of the American Language, College Edition, Cleveland and New York: World Publishing Company, 1960.

CBN Counseling Handbook for Telephone and Personal Ministry, Virginia Beach, Virginia: The Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc., 1981.

Chacha, John N. *Equipping Christian Leaders for Ministry*, Martinsville, VA. 1991.

Duncombe, Alice E. *Handbook for Telephone and Personal Ministry*, Dallas, Texas: Christian for the Nations, Inc., 1981.

Weymann, Dorothy M. *Thus Saith God's Word – Scripture Aids for Counseling*, Greensboro, N.C.: M D Productions, 1977.

COURSE WORK RECOGNITION

HANDBOOK RESEARCHED/DEVELOPED: Wootten, Charles, Th.D.
Wootten, Margaret, B.Min., 2005
EDITED/REVISED BY: Price, Roger, Th.D., Ph.D., D.R.E.,
D.D.

ICBT PASTORAL ADVISORS: Braswell, Dick, Th.D.
Burden, Wendell, D.Div.
Chapman, Del, Th.D.
Hall, Leo, D. Div., D. Min.

AMT-ICBT BOARD MEMBERS & STAFF:

Baldock, Michael, Th. D.	Price, Roger, Ph.D., D.R.E., Th.D., D.Div.
Brown, Eddy, D.Div.	Sansfacon, Mario, A.Min.
Burden, Wendell, Th.D.	Sansfacon, Teresa, B.Min., D.Div.
Carr, Mary, D. Min., D. Div.	Shepard, Sally D.Min., D.Div.
Craig, David, D.Div.	Thompson, Verda, Ph.D., D.R.E., D.C.C., Th.D., D.Div.
Cunningham, Kay, D.Div.	Vance, David R., A.C.S.
Goneau, Dean, M.A.	Wootten, Charles A., Th.D., D.Div.
Hall, Leo, D.Div., D.Min.	Wootten, Margaret S. D.Div.
Kisner, Brian, D.Div.	

THANK YOU

Information for International College of Bible Theology (ICBT) courses has been researched and compiled by many members in the Body of Christ. We have been blessed by gifted brothers and sisters from many areas of ministry.

We thank those who have helped to write and compile courses for our curriculum. We gratefully thank all those in the five-fold ministry, helps and lay ministry that have labored with us. A special thank you is extended to authors of various books and leadership of other Bible Colleges that have been so very giving and gracious to us. It is not possible to name everyone by name. Laborers with ICBT have compiled over one hundred (100) courses. Let us all say "to God be the glory."

CHRISTIANS ARE CO-LABORERS

"Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 3:5-11