

Proverbs Ch. 7 God's Situational Handbook

Just as it was when we left off in chapter six, in chapter seven, we have two stories going on in the same passages. Solomon, the father, is giving advice to his son as he sets his course in life; conversely, our heavenly Father is presenting a large warning flag attached to a mooring ball, giving notice of the hidden reefs to either side of the channel that will make a shipwreck of our lives if we deviate from the plotted course that He has laid before us. Matthew 7:13 *"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it."* [NASB]

The oft-repeated story is that of the enticing, wayward woman, and in this chapter specifically of the adulteress preying on the physical weakness of the male gender. The spiritual story is about the person who has become like an adulteress [**zuwr, zoor; to turn aside**]; one who has broken her covenant with her Maker, and allows herself to be used as a tool of Satan to entice others to join in her mutiny.

Proverbs 7:1-4: *My son, keep my words, And treasure my commandments within you. [2] **Keep my commandments and live,** and my teaching as the apple of your eye. [3] Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. [4] Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," And call understanding your intimate friend.*

Since the physical story is obvious enough, let's focus on the spiritual. If you have been with me in other studies, please bear with any redundancy. Jesus says in Matthew 5:18; *I assure you, until heaven and earth disappear, even the smallest detail of God's law will remain until its **purpose** is achieved.* [NLT]

➤ **We are quick to justify our continual, covenantal breaches by saying, "but we are not under the Law", we live under the covenant of grace."** ⁱ And while that is true, only the penalty for our transgressions has been removed, not the godly principles contained therein. The first question that

we must ask ourselves is what is the _____ of the Law?

Paul writes in Romans 5:20: *God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful kindness became more abundant.* [NLT]

God's Law sets the standard to which we should all aspire; to live without the contravention of God's stated principles. Jesus decreed what James later labeled as the "Royal Law" when He was challenged by a religious leader of His day. The dialog went like this, according to the Word in Matthew 22:36-40: "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" [37] And He said to him, **'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'** [38] **"This is the great and foremost commandment.** [39] **"The second is like it, 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.'** [40] **'On these two commandments depends the whole Law and the Prophets.'**" [NASB]

Paul encapsulates it like this in Galatians 5:14: *For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, [LOVE]. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* [NASB]

James attached the name Royal Law to the principle in 2:8: *If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.* [NASB]

The point is that with just these two commandments, the entire Law and Principles of God are succinctly laid out.

➤ **The Christian walk boils down to these three things and becomes apparent in the fourth. First and foremost we are to love the Lord our God; second we are to _____ one another; and third, we are to be filled or baptized with His Spirit. ⁱⁱ When we will work toward fulfilling these, we will reflexively witness to the world the person of Christ, and offer His invitation for all we encounter, to join with Him.**

When we keep His *Word*, adhere to His *commandments*, and yield to the voice of His Holy Spirit as we anneal our minds with our new nature, which contains the Fruit of His Spirit, we will not be taken in by false teachers, preachers, or apostates.

Proverbs 7:5: *That they may keep you from an adulteress, from the foreigner who flatters with her words.* Solomon illustrates this by drawing his son's attention to a young lad who is not following wisdom; rather, he is daring and walking close to the edge of the precipice of sin.

➤ **When I was a young man, curiosity rather than wisdom drew me to delve into all types of strange religions. I easily could have been trapped by the spiritual _____.** To this day, I thank God for His prevenient grace that kept me from falling victim to her allurements.

Proverbs 7:6-9: *For at the window of my house I looked out through my lattice, ^[7] And I saw among the naive, I discerned among the youths, A young man lacking sense, ^[8] Passing through the street near her corner; And he takes the way to her house, ^[9] In the twilight, in the evening, in the middle of the night and in the darkness.*

➤ **In the physical story that Solomon is attempting to convey to his son, we can look to our own culture. It has now been more than a generation since we have kicked God and godly principles out of our schools, and now we find our society is in moral collapse. We have trusted schoolteachers, alongside of priests, all taking sexual advantage of _____ youngsters, boys without a moral compass.**

Proverbs 7:10-14: *And behold, a woman comes to meet him, Dressed as a harlot and cunning of heart. ^[11] She is boisterous and rebellious; Her feet do not remain at home; ^[12] She is now in the streets, now in the squares, And lurks by every corner. ^[13] So she seizes him and kisses him, and with a brazen face she says to him: ^[14] "I was due to offer peace offerings; Today I have paid my vows.*

➤ **Notice this _____ person puts on a religious front. She brazenly states, according to the KJV translation,**

[I have peace offerings with me,] implying that she was on her way to synagogue to make a peace offering when, **ly**, she just happened to encounter this young man.

Proverbs 7:15: *"Therefore I have come out to **meet** you, to seek your presence earnestly, and I have found you.*

- **Many years ago, when as a pastor, I got involved with one of the Billy Graham crusades; we were required to attend several meetings that would prepare us to lead the penitent responder into a proper relationship with Christ Jesus. What comes to mind, and is very apropos to this passage, is we were heavily cautioned to be on the lookout for proselytizers. It went something like this; when the call to commitment is given, not only will the crowd that wants to receive Jesus as Lord come down, but many religious adulteresses will also come out to _____ them, and immediately attempt to snatch away the most vulnerable.**

Proverbs 7:16-20: *"I have spread my couch with **coverings**, with colored linens of Egypt. [17] "I have sprinkled my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. [18] "Come, let us drink our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with caresses. [19] "For the man is not at home, He has gone on a long journey; [20] He has taken a bag of money with him, At full moon, he will come home."*

- **She assures the boy that the man of the house won't be home for a while. The religious adulteress treats God as if He is not in His Word and has no concern about its misuse. They freely twist the word to their own end, enticing the naive with devious _____ and spices, all meant to deceive and hide their second agenda.**

Proverbs 7:21-23: *With her many persuasions she entices him; with her flattering lips she seduces him. [22] Suddenly he follows her, As an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as one in fetters to the discipline of a fool, [23]*

*Until an arrow pierces through his liver; As a bird hastens to the snare, So he does not know that it will cost him his **life**.*

- **Hormonally driven without moral guidance, the boy follows the adulterous woman into her lair. If you fail to see the spiritual relationship here, consider this: how many people continue to stay with a particular fellowship or denomination, even though they have ceased teaching the Word of God, and some have even chosen to ignore the precepts of the Word by inducting Sodomites into their pulpits? Naïve people stay because of familiarity and comfort, not realizing the danger that their soul is in; that staying may cost them their very _____.**

Proverbs 7:24-27: *Now, therefore, my sons, listen to me, and pay attention to the words of my mouth. ^[25] Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways; Do not stray into her paths. ^[26] For many are the victims she has cast down, and numerous are all her slain. ^[27] Her house is the way to Sheol, Descending to the chambers of death.*

This warning of the church being led into the snare of complacency is so calamitous that we need to shout it from the rooftops. Peter gives us a dire warning in 2nd Peter 3:3 for our day: Know *this first of all, that in the last day's mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts.*

The church in America is in grave danger; too many assemblies are being led by adulterous, spiritually blind guides who have infiltrated them. These apostates are contemptuous of the very principles found in the Word of God, and this for their own covetous gain. They may speak with pious platitudes and eloquent words, or in flowing, "feel good" dissertations [**analogous of the harlot who covered her couch with fine linens and scented the air with spices**]; while at the same time deriding the very foundations of our faith, the virgin birth, the incarnation, the resurrection, along with the advent and indwelling presence of God's Holy Spirit.

But what these mockers fail to see and what escapes their notice is, that the husband is not gone, rather; it is as if he is across the street observing the blatant disregard of their covenant. These apostates, blinded by unbelief, have set themselves up as diabolical instruments for Satan's use. The mantra spouted from the pulpits of many "churches" in our day, is that God is Love, and that's true! God is not willing for any to perish and that is also true; however, making a statement that "His loving nature won't condemn anyone to Hell" is a deception from the pits of hell and smells like smoke.

God has called his church to be holy (**set apart**), to walk upright in this world's system; not like young boys who cannot control their youthful lusts, and woefully continue to follow the wayward woman into her destruction.

Ephes. 2:5 *even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),* ^[NASB]

Ephes. 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;* ^[NASB]

The notes in this section are so extensive because many teachers and preachers ignore the need to teach "the baptism with God's Holy Spirit." Whenever I run into a person who is struggling to live a life according to godly principles, it is generally because of his failure to receive the "baptism with His Spirit." I believe that God's Word teaches this baptism to be essential to our salvation, and unless you are like the thief on the cross and yours is also a deathbed confession of faith, we need to learn to think and act in a godly manner. If your acknowledged salvation is only about the forgiveness of your sins, then sadly you have only heard half of the gospel. Recall the passages of Jesus' baptism, and John's prophetic words in John 1:33: *I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, 'When you see the Holy Spirit descending and resting upon someone, he is the one you are looking for. **He is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.**'* ^[NLT] Perhaps the importance of being baptized with God's Holy Spirit is made more emphatic by its insertion in three of the Gospels. Matthew 3:11: *"As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**"* ^[NASB] And in

Mark 1:8 *"I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."* [NASB]

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commanded the disciples (if we are His disciples then this is also addressed to us), "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit," [NASB]

Clearly, the question can be asked; what is the significance of being baptized with God's Spirit? We are born in the image of the *postlapsarian Adam, not in the image of God as was created and integrated in the *prelapsarian Adam; for this Adam was created in the image of God, a tri-part being, body, soul, and Spirit. *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness"* Genesis 1:26 [NASB]

[*Lapsarianism of or relating to the time before and after the Fall of Adam and Eve –pre and post {Latin: lapsus} – a loss of innocence]

Compiler: if you are still struggling with evolution and the doctrine of Adam and Eve as the first humans, please write to me, the evidence is too extensive to cover here!

Genesis 5:3: *When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.* [NASB] Seth and the entire progeny of Adam (including the offspring of Cain) were born in the image of Postlapsarian Adam, born naturally, without God's indwelling Spirit, free-willed and rebellious. Therefore, the need was established for mankind who would, by free-will, choose God over Satan, to again be indwelt by God's Spirit [baptized or immersed in].

After the propitiation of Christ (The blood of His substitutionary death given in our place, and appeased the wrath of the Father, was accepted by God on our behalf) wherein we are made into clean (without sin) vessels, God will, at our request, give us the gift of His indwelling, mind renewing, guiding Spirit. Luke 11:13 *"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"* [NASB]

Prior to His "being taken up to heaven, Jesus tells His followers; *"John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."* Acts 1:5 [NLT] We read in Acts 2:38 where Peter replied, *"Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* [NLT]

Peter writes that God's gift of His Holy Spirit wasn't just a onetime thing at Pentecost: **"And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as He did upon us at the beginning."** ^[16] **"And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'** Acts 11:15-16 [NASB] Acts 13:52: **And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit** [NASB]; Not just the apostles, but all of their disciples as well. Peter as, as he confronts the apostles and the elders, in Acts 15:7-9 . . . **stood up and said to them, "Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe."** ^[8] **"And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us;** ^[9] **and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith."** [NASB]

Paul addresses a situation common in our day; Acts 19:2-6: **And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."** ^[3] **And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism."** ^[4] **And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus."** ^[5] **And when they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."** ^[6] **And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, . . ."** [NASB]

This should bring to our attention that it is possible to be water baptized with John's baptism of repentance, without receiving the Baptism with God's Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13 **"So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."** It is not automatic. Are we beginning to realize that the gift of God's indwelling Holy Spirit was as essential to the early Church as it is to us today?

Again, a logical question would be, "what then is the purpose of having God's Holy Spirit indwell us?"

- ✓ For guidance; Jesus is quoted in John 16:13-14; **When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not be presenting his own ideas; he will be telling you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.** ^[14] **He will bring me glory by revealing to you whatever he receives from me.** [NLT]

- ✓ His Spirit is essential for our transformation into a true representative of our Lord Jesus by the renewing of our carnally trained minds: Romans 12:2: *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.* [NLT]
- ✓ The Spirit is essential for us to have the power to "say no to sin": Acts 1:8 *But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* [NLT] Peter states in 1st Peter 1, addressed to those of us who align our allegiance with Christ and the kingdom of heaven, calling us strangers to this world's system; How, . . . *through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood:* . . . [NIV]

Titus 2:12 [God's Spirit] . . . *teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,* [NIV]

For the power to witness, Acts 9:31: *So, the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and, going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.* [NASB] All who come to Christ, come as witnesses in one form or another, as we walk out the gospel in the role of Christ' ambassadors. 1st Cor. 6:19-20 *Or don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, [20] for God bought you with a high price. So, you must honor God with your body.* [NLT]

Paul gives us a concise reason to request and accept God's course correcting, teaching and convicting Holy Spirit. Romans 8:1-10 *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. [3] For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, [4] in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. [5] For those who are according to the flesh set their*

minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ^[6] *For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,* ^[7] *because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so;* ^[8] *and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.* ^[9] *However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.* ^[10] *And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.* ^[NASB]

If you have questions, comments or additional insight, I would appreciate hearing from you.

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