

Volume 5, Day 8: Control Spawns Conflict

The objective of God in both creating mankind and enabling us to procreate generation after generation is to expand (exponentially) the number of beings who can love like God such that the 3 persons in the trinity can share their immense love with billions of beings instead of just three.

The reason most Christians remain infantile, while being puffed-up about what they think is their "Christian maturity," is their resistance to change and insistence on control. Neither resistance nor control can in any way assist the process of surrender. Particularly in relationship these two things guarantee that relationship cannot be sustained. These two things are the bedrock of all quarrels, conflicts and, on a larger scale, wars!

When and only when we have developed a furious love affair with God (Jesus) will we resonate with change rather than resist change. In the state of honeymoon love with God we actually embrace change and anticipate it, as it is the very essence of relationship and the spice of life. In God and God alone can you ever be at peace in the middle of every storm, find good in every bad, find healing in every harm, find magnificence in every mundane and have a reason to pray for blessing even for your enemies.

When we forget that "God allows in His wisdom what He could easily prevent by His power," we try to take control out of God's hands and make the misery "go away." Unless and until we trust God's heart completely, we will continue to destroy the very thing we want most, "being loved and accepted, **as-is**, without changes to our personality or behavior."

The peace of God is wrapped in my release of my control over my life and the lives of others! Just let God be perfectly trusted!

My Confirming Scriptures:

Aligning Experiences:

Volume 5, Day 9: Significance of Perceptions about God

The seeming contradiction of James' words that "justification comes by works" is that we have misunderstood what James was trying to communicate. (Even Martin Luther argued against the Book of James being included in the canon of scripture over this misunderstanding on Luther's part.) James is all about relationship. James, the man, was the brother of Jesus and failed to recognize Jesus as God until after the resurrection. The Greek language more accurately interpreted is that, if "proclaimed" faith does not have the resulting actions of that faith, it is useless. It also implies that even works, that may look like they are produced by faith, can be counterfeit acts as they are empty of the love which would autonomically produce them. In other words, as the Apostle Paul states clearly in 1 Corinthians 13, magnificent words and works in the absence of love are useless.

Our misperceptions of God have stunted our Christian growth. Allowing God to correct the misperceptions is neither a threat to faith nor denomination. The truth will simply set you free from guilt, shame and fear that Jesus took with Him onto the cross for us. Allowing the "unconditional" love of God to permeate your soul is the only solution to the sin problem after Salvation. "The greatest deterrent to wrong-full behavior is an incredible affection for the one I might otherwise do wrong." — J H Alan

To experience the peace of God in all things consider James' words: "Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way." — James 1:2-4 MSG

True surrender is only achieved when control is released to another trustworthy person to handle the situation in the best possible way. Isn't God that trustworthy other.

My Confirming Scriptures and Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan

Volume 5, Day 10: Do You Have Trouble Forgiving?

There are several reasons for which you prefer not to forgive those who have used, misused or abused you. Perhaps you believe that your forgiveness condones their behavior. Possibly you believe that your forgiveness gives them permission to do it again. Maybe you think that forgiving them will put others at risk of their evil intentions. You might even want them to suffer more than they have made you or others suffer. All of these thoughts are as normal as breathing! Yet Scripture declares prolifically the benefit of forgiveness.

Consider for a moment just how much you might, in ways you do not recognize, have behaved from time to time in the same evil manner. Consider that even God Himself is willing to forgive any and all who will confess their criminality before Him for His absolution. And consider the final moments of Jesus' crucifixion. While His accusers jeered at Him from the foot of the cross, He prayed, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing." Could it be that you think that you are more deserving of forgiveness than your perpetrators? And is it possible that they (and you) did not realize what they were doing when they committed crimes against others?

Maybe it would help if you looked at the Gospel in this manner. The Gospel is the essence of God's **paying forward** the punishment for your sin (evil against others) to Jesus to accommodate both justice and mercy for all spawned by love. If the Gospel is about grace, it is about a love so unconditional toward you that you not only do not suffer the punishment you deserve, but also you are granted an inexhaustible number of second chances.

So, ask God to dispense to your starving soul the nutrients needed in order for you to desire the same grace you received to be granted to your fellow man. The Gospel does not remove the consequences of sin (relationship crimes), it simply provides a means by which the full punishment for all of our crimes have been served. And only God, in the person of Jesus, can do that!

My Confirming Scriptures and Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan

Volume 5, Day 11: Right Information, Right Timing

We often get information or revelation and can't wait to share it with others. Many times this is due to our desire to help others know more truth or to become more successful in some pursuit. And when it comes to pursuits, most of our human pursuits fail to have any value from an eternal perspective. And often we are happy to have helped another, while the truth is that we only thought that we have helped them. But our own perception in this regard is the only thing that matters. And, to be sure, in all of life reality is only, ever and always what we perceive it to be. Further, much of what we do believe to be true is largely determined by what we want to be true. We even surround ourselves with others whose perceptions of truth are most like our own.

We congregate in groups, communities, and nations based on what culture we have mutually defined and developed in these groups. This is true of political ideologies, religious beliefs, philosophies, morality and many other human persuasions. Our idea of helping others is that we convince them to believe as we do and subscribe to the same values as we do. And in this pursuit, we use every device we can in order to affect these changes in others. And this is why 'helping' is often 'hindering.'

Now it may be that what you believe would be helpful for others as well. And to be sure, it is likely better to share the gems of wisdom and knowledge rather than to keep them to ourselves. However, there are many ways and means to express these gems to others. And we usually try to do so in the most conducive places and times to affect the desired change in others. That only makes sense. And you have likely seen this backfire on occasion. So, here is an important fact which may help you achieve the best helping possible.

"The finest information delivered at the wrong time might well be the most toxic and harmful to the recipient." – J H Alan Better to say nothing at all than to inflict harm to others.

My Confirming Scriptures and Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan

**Volume 5, Day 12: Transparency and Concentration
on the Love of God**

The outstanding characteristic of a Christian is honest vulnerability before God and all others. Our transparency enables others to see God's marvelous work in our lives. When the love of God that transforms us makes God's love obvious to others, it is as though that life becomes a mirror for others to see the reflection of God. Being filled with the Spirit we are transformed as He changes our thoughts of God. The look of love on our faces as we gaze upon God, acts as a mirror. You always know when a man has been admiring the glory of the Lord. You feel in your inner spirit that he is the mirror of the Lord's own loving character.

The golden rule for your life and mine is this concentration on the love of God and His purposes for every aspect of our lives. Let everything else - work, clothes, food, everything on earth - go by the board, except for that one thing. The rush of other things always tends to break this concentration on God. We have to maintain our focus on Him in order to see everything in our life as absolutely spiritual. Let other things come and go as they may. Let other people criticize as they will. But never allow anything to distract you from awareness of Him. This is the life that is hid with Christ in God.

Never be hurried. Simply maintain the relationship by abiding in Him. It is the one thing that is apt to fluctuate. But don't go there. The most difficult thing in a Christian's life is to learn how to keep "beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord." Beware of anything which would smudge or distort that mirror in you. It is nearly always a good thing that is the enemy of the best. Stick to the best and others will see God!

My Confirming Scriptures:

Aligning Experiences:

Volume 5, Day 13: No Goals, Only Pursuit of God's Vision

The vision Paul had on the road to Damascus was not a passing emotion. The vision had very clearly defined directions for him. Paul said, "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." Our Lord said, in effect, to Paul, "Your whole life is to be guided by Me and submitted to my orders. You are to have no goals, no destinations and no purposes but Mine. "I have chosen you." Now that you have chosen Me, your life is mine!

When we are born again we all have imaginations and expectations of what God wants us to be. The greatest thing is not to be disobedient to the God's actual vision for our lives. It is inappropriate to say that it cannot be attained. That would be declaring that God cannot bring us to love Him enough to be submitted entirely to Him. It is not sufficient to know that the Holy Spirit can make all that Jesus did effective in me. I must have a deeply personal and passionate relationship with Him.

Paul was not given a message or doctrines to proclaim. Neither were we. He was brought into a vivid, personal, passionate, devotion to Jesus Christ. Relationship with God is nothing if it isn't 'head over heels' affection for God. God disrupted Paul's life in order "to make him a minister and a witness." There is nothing in either of these apart from the personal relationship established with God. Paul was devoted to a Person not to a cause. He was absolutely Jesus Christ's. He saw nothing else. He lived for nothing else. "For I determined not to know anything among you, except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."

We were made to be lovers of God. He made such a relationship with Himself possible for every person. He wants nothing less than to be our most significant other "... on earth as He is in heaven."

My Confirming Scriptures:

Aligning Experiences:

Volume 5, Day 14: Make Room for God

As **workers for God** we have to learn to **make room for God**. We need to give God "elbow room." We try to figure out how to handle each situation we face. We forget to make room for God to intervene and manage the situation as He sees fit. Would we be surprised if God barged into our meeting or disrupted our teaching in a way that embarrassed us? Do we expect God to come in any particular way? Rest assured, He will appear at times without warning. The way to **make room for Him** is to expect Him to show up. Don't expect Him to come in only a certain way. However much we may know God, we cannot predict how He will enter the situation.

We tend to overlook this element of surprise. Yet God never works in any other way. All of a sudden God meets the life. "**When** it was the good pleasure of God. . ." Constantly anticipate God's appearing in ways you don't expect. Always be in a state of expectancy. Leave room for God to come in however He pleases. Spontaneity is one of the most enjoyed aspects of great relationships. This is true of relationships with people and with God. You can always expect to feel outrageously loved by God. But you can't ever predict His expressions of that love.

It is important as well to **make room for God** even in the busiest and noisiest of times. When we fail to make room for God (that is, simply to be aware of His presence), we may not see Him when does suddenly appear. Or we may know He came, but not realize what He accomplished in His visitation. Take your quiet time with God out into the din. Everything will take on a glorious and palpable feeling of love, joy and peace. **You will never be anxious while you are abandoned to His will in the moment of decision.**

My Confirming Scriptures:

Aligning Experiences: