

LIVING THE ETERNAL LIFE NOW

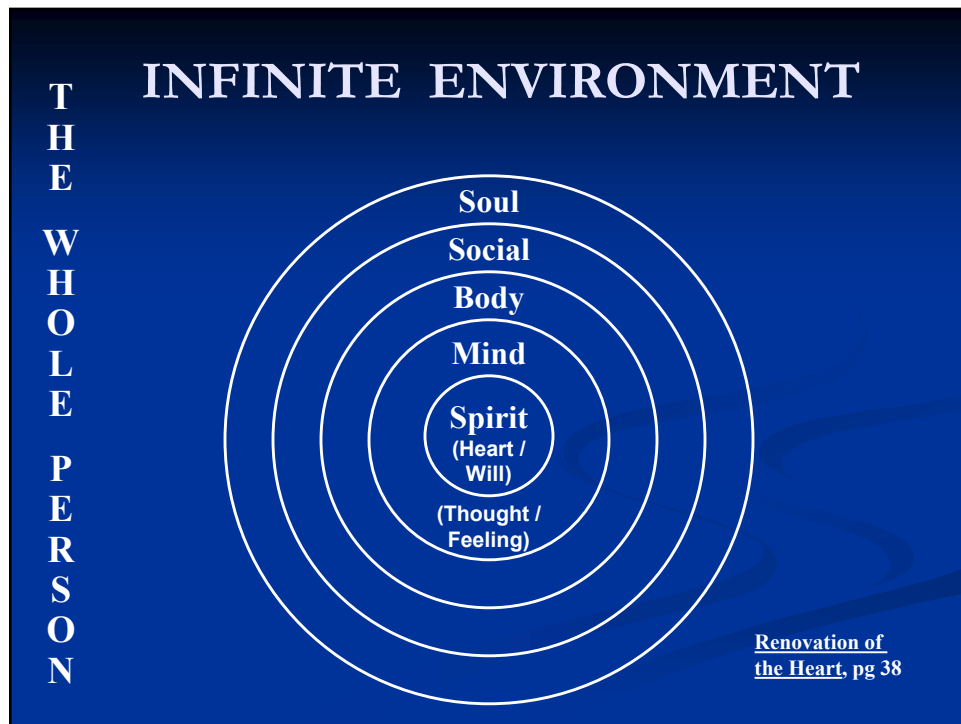
SESSION FOUR:
SOME BARRIERS TO
ETERNAL LIVING NOW:
THE UNSURRENDERED WILL

1

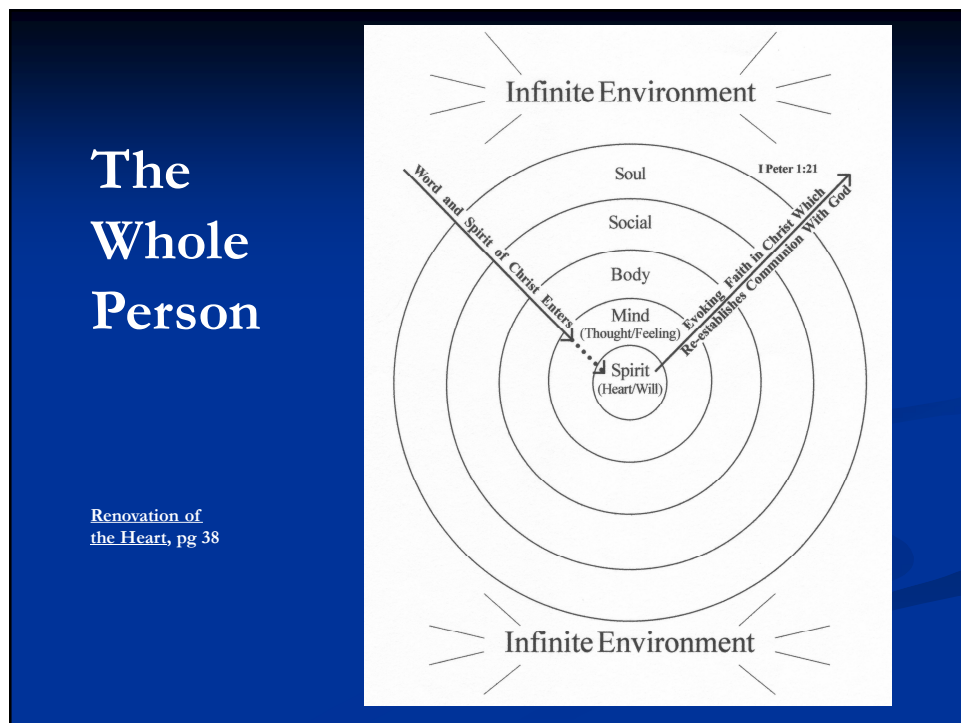
WE ARE THE PROBLEM

- Because God is always near and hears all who call upon Him, the barriers to eternal living are primarily within us.
John 4:23-24, Rom. 10:8, Acts 17:26-28
- They inhabit us and inhibit us through the various dimensions of human personality.

2



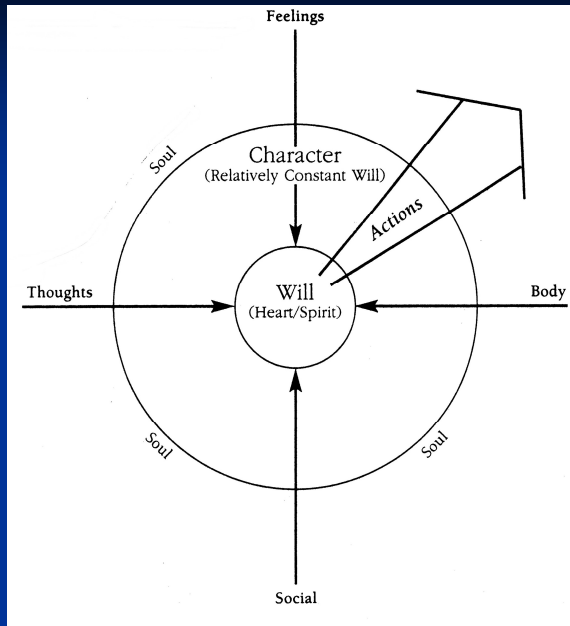
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Where Action Comes From

Renovation of the Heart, pg 40



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UNREDEEMED PAUL

- “I am doing the very thing I hate!” Rom. 7:15
- How that happens. The divided self undermines the will.
- The will not aligned with God cannot govern desire.
- The battle of the flesh and the spirit. Gal. 5:17

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THE PROBLEM OF DESIRE

- Desire/lust (επιθυμία) ungoverned by will under God tears life apart, “wars against the soul.” 1 Peter 2:11, 4:2
- Desire is impulse toward an object without regard for what is good.
- Will evaluates alternatives to choose what is good. That is its job.
- Unless is surrenders to desire.

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THE WILL ADDICTED TO ITSELF

- The will unsundered to God becomes focused upon itself: Having its own way.
- The meaning of the cross and “death to self”
- The self-focused will nearly always becomes enslaved to a sin or sins. John 8:34 & Rom. 6:6
- Thus unredeemed Paul

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THE MIND OF THE FLESH WHICH IS DEATH

- “The mind of the flesh” (Rom. 8:4-5) is motivated by the unsundered will.
- It tries to use the “flesh” (natural human abilities) to have its own kingdom and make it work.
- But desires destroy the project. Within the person and between persons. James 4:1-4

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THE FUNDAMENTAL EVILS

- Pride
- Anger
- Contempt
- Self-obsessed lusting
- Manipulation of people.

See Matt. 5:21 and following

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THE ONLY HOPE

- Surrender the will to God. To say to God I will do what you want, not what I want.
- Surrender is one essential aspect of entering the Kingdom of God through “birth from above.” John 3:5-6
- Also: becoming humble like a little child. Matt. 18:3-4
- “If it die...much fruit.” John 12:24-25

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PEACE WITH GOD

- Faith in God brings us to surrender—a state and a process. Rom. 5:1-8
- I see that His way is better than my way.
I accept that and accept Christ.
- And now the progression of experience leads us toward a life of effectual, all-permeating love. Rom. 5:5
- Paul redeemed. Gal. 2:20-21

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