

# XI. WHEN GOD'S BLESSINGS SEEM BAD

GENESIS 42 :28; PROVERBS 3:5-6

Introduction: Times when good things appear to us to be bad because we do not understand how the Lord is working in and through our lives.

## Outline

- I. A Guilty Conscience
- II. The Biblical Principal of Sowing And Reaping
- III. Circumstances
- IV. Unbelief

### I. A Guilty Conscience

Note the diagram on the next page. Within man's spirit is his Intuition, Conscience, and Communion with the spirit world.

Conscience defined=(1) the sense of what is right or wrong in one's conduct or motives impelling one toward right action. (2) The ethical and moral principles that control or inhibit the actions or thoughts of an individual. (Random House Dictionary) Also "moral judgment that opposes the violation of a previously recognized ethical principle and that leads to feelings of guilt if one violates such a principle." (Webster's New World Dictionary)

A. Why did they have a Guilty Conscience? Genesis 37:1-35;

i. They hated Joseph-Genesis 37:4-5, 8;

Hatred will cause guilt=Matthew 5:43-48;

a) Why did they hate him? Because they were jealous and envious of him-Genesis 37:11; Matthew 27:17-18; "Therefore when they were gathered and together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? For he knew that for envy they had delivered him."

b) They felt rejected-Genesis 37:4; 1 Kings 22:8; "And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him: for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so."

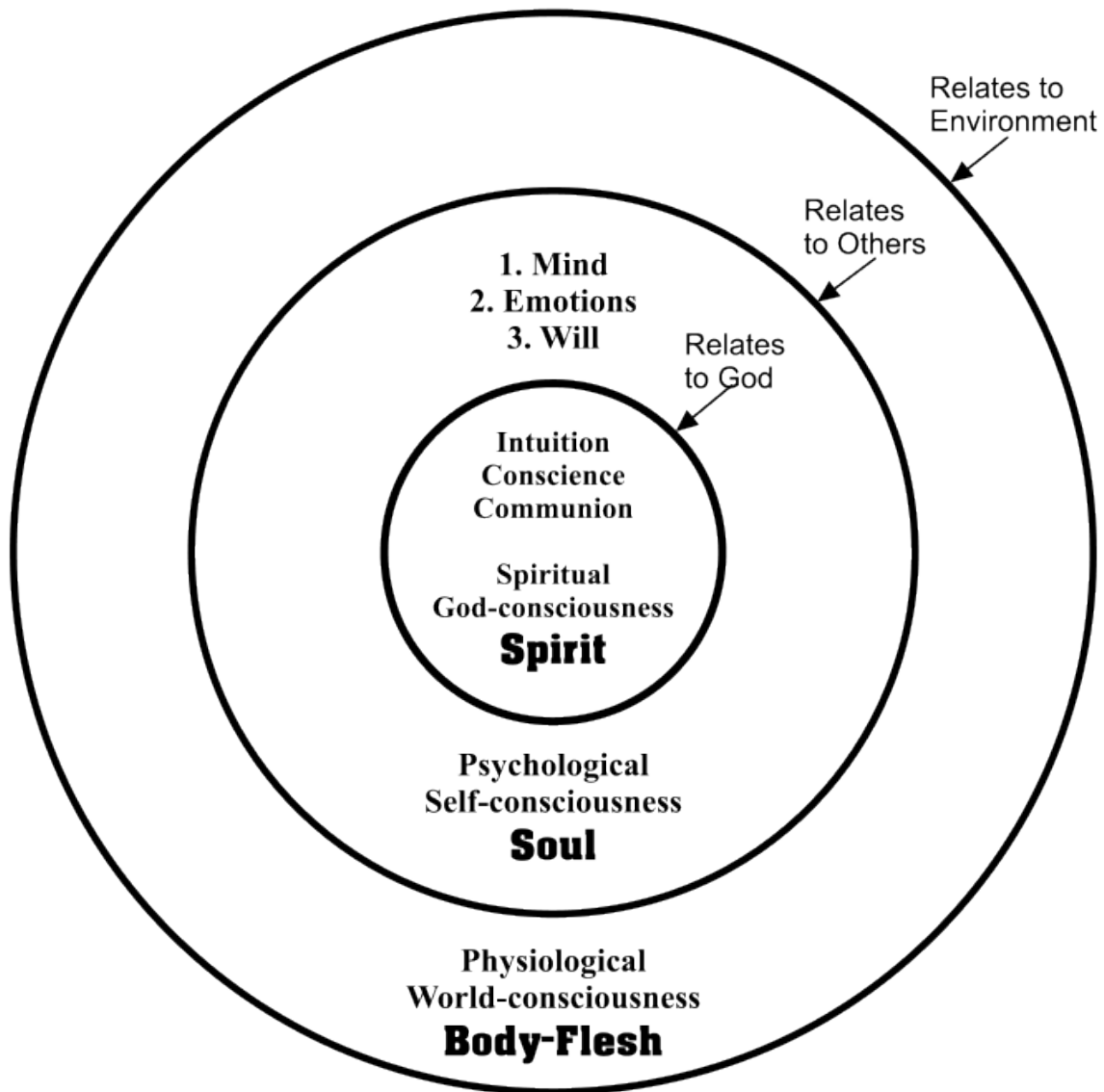
c) The prophet and Joseph spoke the truth but the listeners did not want to hear it.. ILL-Preacher-threatened after preaching! This is what Jesus meant when he said "he that hath ears to hear, let him hear." Many reject the words of the gospel!

ii. They conspired to kill him=Genesis 37:18-20;

a) Hatred will cause one to do terrible things to others!! The Crucifixion of Jesus is an example!

# MAN MADE IN GOD'S LIKENESS

Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 28:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:23



- b) Note the diagram above that the mind and emotions causes the will to act.
- c) Hatred will cause one to hurt themselves even more than the one they hate by causing Guilt and making their life more miserable.  
Consider your own experiences because of unforgiveness!
- d) Hatred will result in the person who is hated controlling the hater!  
ILL-Verna hating her father and thus it made her more miserable and angry every time she thought of him. It also affected her attitudes in trusting other

males.

- iii. They decide to sell him as a slave to Egypt-Genesis 37:27; rather than kill him because Reuben and Judah did not want to kill him=Genesis 37:21-22, 27;

## II. The Biblical Principal of Sowing and Reaping! Galatians 6:7-8;

### A. A second reason that God's Blessings may seem bad!

- i. This is being experienced as they are in anguish-Genesis 42:9-22;
- ii. Reaping may take years after Sowing! Many times parents reap through their children. Joseph was a teenager when sold as a slave. He worked for Potiphar a while until being promoted over his household and lied about by Potiphar's wife. He was in jail several years and then at least 7 years of plenty over the land of Egypt preparing for the famine and being married with two children. Then it was probably a year or so before his brothers came for food.
- iii. Another part of reaping is remembering our sins. Genesis 42: 1; states Jacob asked "Why do you look one upon another?" when he mentioned Egypt!
- iv. Future reaping=Genesis 50:15-21;
- v. The torment of fear=Genesis 42:28; 1 John 4: 18;

## III. Circumstances!

### A. A third reason God's blessings may seem bad!

- i. Joseph remembers his dreams as a teenager=Genesis 42:8-20; Genesis 37:5-10; Perhaps Joseph decides to see if his brothers have changed. Also he wants to see Benjamin and be sure they will return. If he reveals who he is now, they may not return in order to keep their sin a secret from their father!
- ii. Joseph's act of kindness in restoring their money was fulfilling a scriptural truth=Proverbs 25:21-22; Romans 12:20-21;
- iii. Not only did Joseph's brothers reap but also his Father and again all saw God blessings as bad=Genesis 42:35-38;

## IV. Unbelief!

### A. A fourth reason God's blessings may seem bad!

- i. Proverbs 3:5-6;
- ii. Because we do not see the complete picture but only the immediate limited circumstances and we lean to our own understanding thus things look bad. This is why "the just shall live by faith" Habakkuk 2:4b; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38;
- iii. ILL-Tim Dekle's roof blowing off during a 60 mile an hour wind on the island of Maui. It exposed bare wires that could have caused a fire. Also it revealed the rafters were eaten by termites and one of the workers fell through the ceiling when a rafter gave way.

## THE WEAVER

My life is but a weaving between my Lord and me,  
I cannot choose the colors He worketh steadily.

Oft times He weaveth sorrow, and I in foolish pride  
forget He sees the upper but I the under side.

Not till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly,  
shall God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needed in the Weaver's skillful hand,  
as threads of gold and silver in the pattern life has planned.

Benjamin Malachi Franklin (1882-1965)  
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