

CHRIST
AND HIM
CRUCIFIED

PRAYING GOD'S WORD SEMINAR BY STRAIGHT 2 THE HEART INC.

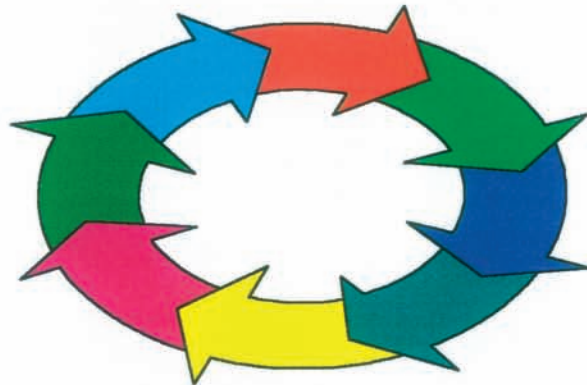
Praying God's Word For Yourself and Others: How To Pray & Experience Christ and Him Crucified

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Welcome to "Praying God's Word For Yourself and Others. We look forward to sharing different aspects of the cross of Christ in a way that is personal and meaningful to you and those you are praying for.

Please consider the following questions as we begin our journey through God's Word:

How many of us have experienced in our own lives, and/or know of other Christians who live on a *sin-and-forgiveness-cycle*, confessing our sins, receiving forgiveness for the sins we have confessed, only to repeat this pattern over and over again?



Sin and
Forgiveness
Cycle

What is the source of sin *and* the repetitions of these sins?

How many of us wonder where the freedom is that the New Testament believers experienced in their lives and their witnessing?

What elements are usually emphasized when we present the gospel?
How has the devil deceived us into missing the same part of the Gospel the disciples rejected?

Missing
Half of the
Gospel

Each session there will be a **Biblical presentation** of the principles involved in our prayer ministry, walking through these questions with a focus on connecting God's heart with our heart.

Following each presentation there will be **an invitation to experience being prayed for**. *If you are interested in volunteering for the prayer demonstration, please fill out the form on the next page. Participants will need to fill out this form before being prayed for – no exceptions allowed.*

Presenting
and
Praying

THE FRUIT OF THE ROOT

Jesus told us to “cut the tree down at the root,” (Luke 3:9). Jesus said, “out of our hearts proceed sinful thoughts...thefts,” (Matt. 15:19). What happens when the sins we are confessing are the fruit, not the sinful root? What does the root of that tree reproduce over and over again, regardless of how often we confessed the “fruit of the root,” without ever addressing the root?

Examples of Sinful Fruit
(Negative behaviors growing out of negative beliefs)

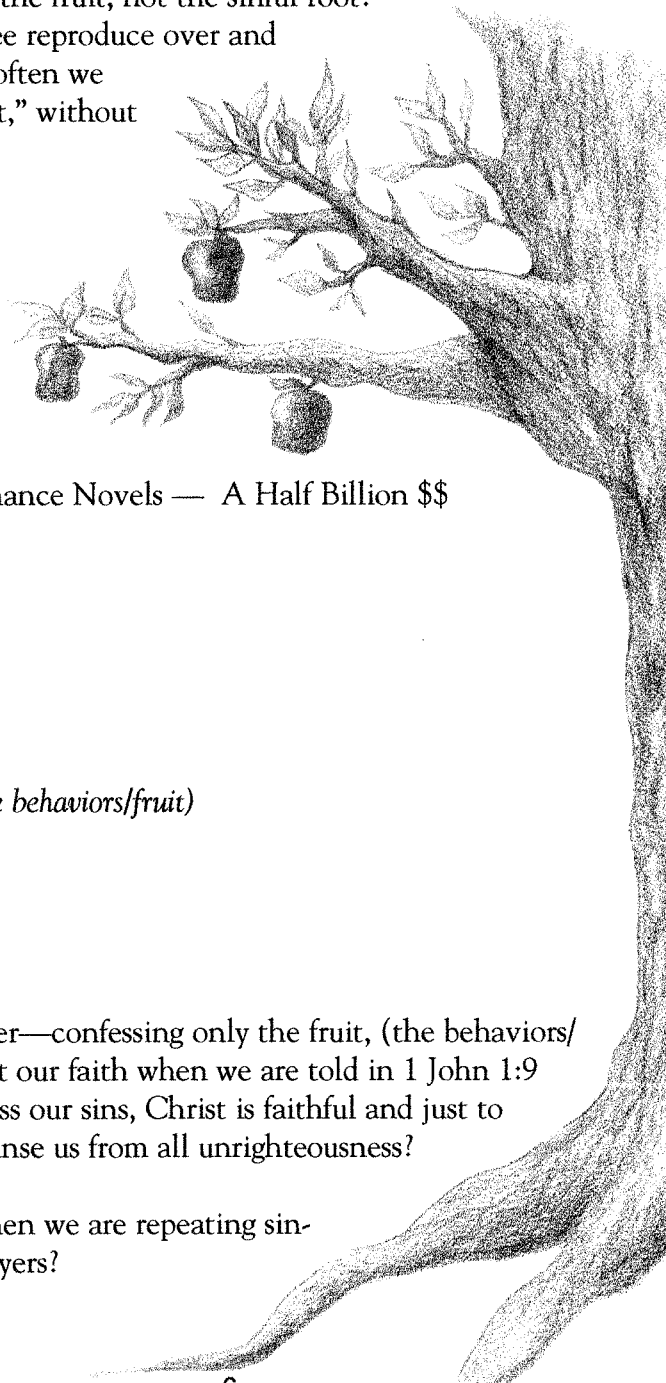
Alcohol
Pornography
Pictureless Pornography (Romance Novels — A Half Billion \$\$ Business Each Year)

Examples of the Root
(Negative beliefs behind negative behaviors/fruit)

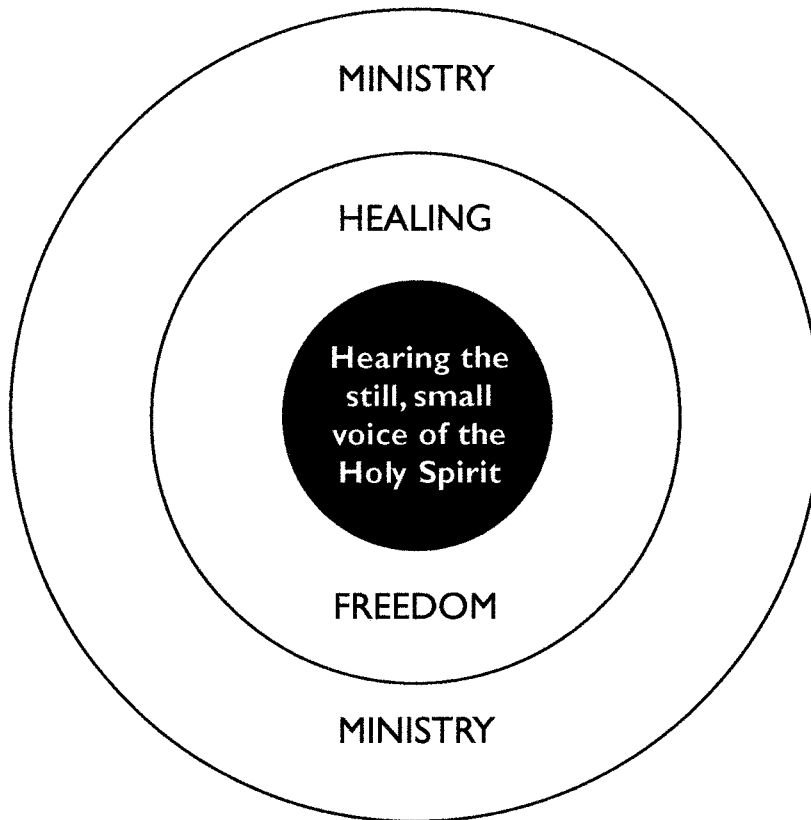
I'm No Good (Shame)
I'm Unlovable
I'm Unwanted and Lonely

How does this pattern of prayer—confessing only the fruit, (the behaviors/effects/symptoms of sin), affect our faith when we are told in 1 John 1:9 that if we are faithful to confess our sins, Christ is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness?

What happens to our faith when we are repeating sinful patterns despite all our prayers?



GOAL/FOCUS FOR STRAIGHT 2 THE HEART PRAYER MINISTRY



1 Kings 19:12
John 16:13-15

leads to



Luke 4:18

leads to

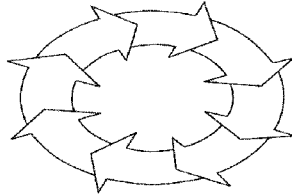


John 15:1-8

STRUGGLING WITH SURRENDER OF MY WILL IN SOME AREA OF MY LIFE

“Search my heart and try my thoughts..”

Suffering
Death
Resurrection
of Christ



Identify
with Christ

Step 1: Dear Lord Jesus, Thank You for personally going through the experience of wrestling with the struggle of whether or not You were going to surrender Your will to Your Father’s will, not once, not twice, but three times in Gethsemane - so You could experience all of my struggle to surrender my will, my false idol, my false comfort, my false form of power. Thank You for suffering and dying AS me, AS _____, (persons name), embracing all my struggles (Rom. 6:4-6; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 21).

I confess and ask for Your gift of repentance (Rom 2:4). Thank You for changing the way I believe in my heart, mind and soul (Rom 12:2; Eph. 1:8). Replace all my fears of losing my false idols, comforts and forms of power — all vain attempts to avoid my pain, taking them to death on Calvary, rising again AS me, AS (persons name) _____ (Rom. 6), rebuking Satan (Zech. 3:1-5), the father of lies (John 8:48), on my behalf, healing my brokenness, setting me free from captivity and walking me out of my prison of the darkness, blindness, fears and false comforts into the light of Your love, grace and truth.

I **renounce** (2Cor. 4:2) and **reject** these sins, wounds and lies from the “father of lies” (John 8:44). Thank You for cutting all ties and bonds they have had upon my heart, mind and soul. Thank You for recreating new ties and bonds in my heart, connecting them directly to You and Your resurrection power (Phil. 3: 10) as the source of my (see side bar): In Your Name Jesus, Amen.

Step Two: “Dear Jesus, is there anything else keeping You from giving Your gift of surrender to _____ (persons name).

Step Three: Repeat steps 1 & 2 until there is peace.

PRAY:
DEAR JESUS, WHERE DO
YOU IDENTIFY WITH
HIS/HER EXPERIENCE?

BONDING THE
PERSON TO OUR
RESURRECTED LORD
AND SAVIOR.

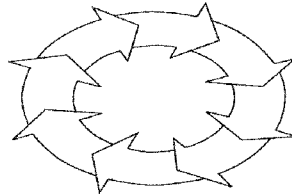
FRUITS OF
THE SPIRIT:
JOY
LOVE
PEACE
PATIENCE
KINDNESS
GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
GENTLENESS
LONGSUFFERING

CHARACTERISTICS
OF CHRIST:
ACCEPTANCE
WHOLENESS
STRENGTH
PURITY
SECURITY
COMFORT
BURDEN BEARER
HOLINESS
RIGHTEOUSNESS
AFFIRMATION
MASCULINITY
FEMININITY
ROOTED IN LOVE
FAITHFUL WITNESS
ONE WHO SEES/HEARS
VINDICATION
BLESSING IN PLACE OF
CURSES (GAL. 3:13,14)
VALIDATION
JUSTICE
FORGIVENESS/FORGIVER
OTHER

ABANDONMENT—BEING LEFT ALONE

“Search my heart and try my thoughts..”

Suffering
Death
Resurrection
of Christ



Identify
with Christ

Thank You Jesus for personally going through the experience of being left alone and abandoned by Your three closest companions in Your greatest time of need, so You can embrace all the times I've been left alone and abandoned by those closest to me. Thank You for suffering & dying AS me, AS _____, being (list specific experiences of abandonment).

I confess and ask for Your gift of repentance where You change the way I believe in my heart, mind and soul. I ask You to release me from all the ways I've numbed my pain, with _____ (list addictions/struggles) because You took these to death on Calvary, earning the right to rise again, rebuking satan on my behalf (Zech. 3:1-5), to fulfill Your mission statement from Isaiah 61:1, (Luke 4; 18). I ask You to heal my broken heart, set me free and open the door of the prison of my darkness and blindness that these sins, wounds and lies from the “father of lies” have kept me in, so I can truly proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

I **renounce** (2Cor. 4:2) and **reject** these sins, wounds and lies from the “father of lies,” (John 8:44) and I ask You to cut all ties and bonds that they have had upon my heart, mind and soul. I ask You to replace this room in my heart with Your resurrection power (Phil. 3:10) as the source of my: (choose appropriate words from sidebar)

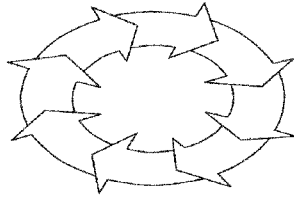
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VALIDATION
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FORGIVENESS/FORGIVER
OTHER

ADDICTIONS/BEHAVIORS/DEFENSES USED TO NUMB PAIN

“Search my heart and try my thoughts..”

Suffering
Death
Resurrection
of Christ



Identify
with Christ

Thank You Jesus for personally going through the experience of being offered the wine-vinegar mix to numb Your pain, and saying NO to numbing Your pain, so You could embrace all the abuse, shame, pain, confusion, denial, walls I've built up inside creating internal division (Ps. 86:11); all the ways I run and hide from my pain, confusion and denial and all my addictions. Thank You for suffering and dying AS me, AS _____ (person's name)

I confess and ask for Your gift of repentance where You change the way I believe in my heart, mind and soul. I ask You to release me from all the ways I've numbed my pain, with _____ (list addictions/struggles) because You took these to death on Calvary, earning the right to rise again, rebuking satan on my behalf (Zech. 3:1-5), to fulfill Your mission statement from Isaiah 61:1, (Luke 4; 18). I ask You to heal my broken heart, set me free and open the door of the prison of my darkness and blindness that these sins, wounds and lies from the "father of lies" have kept me in, so I can truly proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Note: Many of the questions have issues or concerns that overlap. Because of that, some of the answers repeat information and scriptures shared in other questions. While this is not an exhaustive reference for prayer ministry, it has a lot of information that will hopefully move you along the 'learning curve' that inevitably occurs when developing new skills and gifts for the Lord.

1. **Where do I begin praying with someone? Always, Always, Always** (you get the idea), start with the presentation of the cross (page 9), walking the person through the experiences Christ went through from Gethsemane to Calvary. Without this foundation the prayers have no context, they are simply FORMULAS you are taking the person through, words you are saying and he is repeating. His lack of understanding why you are using the prayers in this syllabus, why you are praying specific scriptures will severely inhibit the ability of the person to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Never, Ever, Ever (you get the idea) pray with anyone until you (or someone else) have walked the person through the 10 key points/experiences of Christ (see page 9). Many, if not most Christians have never understood the fullness of the gospel. Because these prayers are based on a clear understanding of the whole gospel, it is essential that you take the time to share this first, before you begin praying with the person.

Use the graphic of Christ from this syllabus, making as many copies as you need. Use that page to write down the responses from the person. Be sure to use his words, not your own. Then he can take it home with him to meditate on, as he begins the journey of praying through the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ, (see index for graphic for Jesus' experience from Gethsemane to Calvary).

Never, never, never assume he understands it the first time through. Take a few minutes to review the 10 key experiences of Christ the next couple of times you meet for prayer. Using the prayer cards can be very helpful for review. These cards also give the person a resource to turn to when a prayer partner is not available. Make sure he understands that these prayers are connected to the experiences Christ chose to go through, fulfilling prophecy in the process, earning the right to destroy sin, "root and branch.. rising with healing in His wings." (Is. 52/53; Malachi 4:1, 2).

2. **Can I pray these kinds of prayers on my own?** Absolutely. God has encouraged us to pray on our own (Matt. 6:6), and He has also encouraged us to pray with others, "where two or three are gathered in My

CROSS TEST

ASSUMING TOO
MUCH TEST

ABCD's of Spiritual Leadership:

- A. Be willing to know who you are in Christ.
- B. Be willing to define who you are in Christ.
- C. Be willing to call people to a decision in Christ.
- D. Be willing to walk away in Christ and/or let others walk away from Christ.

7. **What is the biggest stumbling block to the person receiving freedom in Christ?** Unwillingness to surrender sin, whether it is a person/relationship, an attitude, a habit (porno, food, alcohol etc.), that is a false comfort, a false idol. This is the place the person turns to when he is stressed, when he wants to avoid feeling pain, loss, fear etc. Some people choose to be under-responsible, finding someone to take care of them. Others choose to be over-responsible, finding someone to take care of, someone they can control because they are taking care of them. Until there is a willingness to grow up, to mature, to take responsibility for his or her choices, (Psalm 109:21 "Lord, deal with ME"), allowing others to take responsibility for their choices, the person will never, ever find freedom. Humility, (acknowledging my need for God, for help, for others) and maturity walk hand in hand. Those who humble themselves are those who will inherit the blessings of the kingdom.

Self-pity, feeling sorry for yourself because of the wounds you have received in life, tends to be a major factor when you (or someone you are praying with) are unable to gain freedom in the prayer ministry. Self-pity is often masquerading as anger and/or self-righteous anger from being wounded by others.

Many Christian counselors and authors have said that unresolved anger (also referred to as unforgiveness) is the #1 stumbling block in the church. Anger is a big problem within Christianity. But I disagree that it is the main problem. Self-pity is often the glue bonding the person to his or her anger, keeping him from forgiving the person(s) who hurt him. Why? Self-pity is often masquerading as anger and/or self-righteous anger from being wounded by others.

(This last sentence is repeated intentionally, because of the damage it does and the need to understand what is happening). Ephesians 4:26-27 is clear that holding onto anger gives the devil a foothold. Just ask the person if the 'fruit' of his anger is producing the "fruit of the Spirit," (love, joy, peace) in his life (see "Fruit Test" graphic in index, so he can compare the fruit in his life, with the fruits of the Spirit and the fruits of the flesh listed in Galatians 5).

Is the focus on what someone DID to me, or is the focus more and more on what Christ HAS DONE for me?

RESPONSIBILITY TEST

FRUIT TEST: FLESH OR SPIRIT?

DID TO ME VS. DONE FOR ME

When someone shares the painful experiences in his life, I want to honor his pain, I do not want to invalidate it. I also want Jesus to release it from him so he is no longer carrying it with him through life. So I let him know that it is sad that painful things have happened to him. It is wrong for others to have violated him. And he has a responsibility to allow Jesus to release the wounds, the anger, and all the ways he has defended and protected himself from the pain. This includes self-pity.

I have seen more people self-sabotage their victory and freedom in Christ because of feeling sorry for themselves than any other issue. A sense of entitlement develops within the man (or woman), where he assumes he has the right to be angry, to stay angry, to stay on his pity-pot, to blame others, because he was hurt, betrayed, rejected or violated. He nurses that grudge, gaining a false sense of comfort from it, ignoring or rejecting Ephesians 4:26-27. He falls into the "I will" trap of Isaiah 14:12-14, where his will is more important than the will of God. Self is the pre-eminent focus: "I will ascend into heaven; I, will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

"I Will's" of Self-Pity:

- * I will blame others.
- * I will wallow in my pain.
- * I will feel sorry for myself.
- * I will be a victim of my emotions.
- * I will not take responsibility or ownership for my self-pity.
- * I will interpret my feelings as the voice of God, creating a false god.
- * I will not let Jesus heal me, while I complain about Him not helping me.

He will often use his woundedness as a way to gain attention from others. When they finally get tired of his complaining, he accuses them of being 'uncaring, un-Christian," of not having unconditional love for him. This is his way of trying to use guilt, to make others feel bad about themselves for not giving him more time, not being more available to him. It is manipulation, pure and simple. The best definition I've ever heard for manipulation is, "someone else taking advantage of a weakness in you that you have not taken ownership of, that you have not taken responsibility for."

If you find yourself feeling guilty when this kind of person uses this line of argument, receive prayer as soon as you can. Otherwise you will find yourself losing important relationships in your life because of the time you are investing in manipulators who are using you. It could be with the Lord, your spouse, close friends, but there will be *a cost to your codependency*.

**BEST DEFINITION OF
MANIPULATION**

gious society, we are also counseled to be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16).

12. **What if the person wants to stop praying because pain is coming up and she is afraid to face it, (or some other reason for not continuing during the prayer time)?** Go to the garden to identify with Jesus. Ask the person if she is willing to identify with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, where He struggled to surrender His will to His Father. This gives her permission to be honest with God, to make her “willing to be made willing,” addressing any resistance (fear of pain, not quite ready to surrender, anger, rebellion, self-pity, etc.).

If she chooses to pray, keep moving forward. If she chooses not to, honor where she is, close the prayer time and ask if she is willing to meet again at another time.

I asked one lady if she was willing to pray and she said no. It was a very definite no. Because I let her know that I was honoring where she was, leaving the door open to pray again, she felt safe and said she would call me when she was ready to do some more praying. And she did.

I prayed with another lady who told me something just came up that was too big for her to address that day. Instead of leaving and making an appointment for another day, she accepted my invitation to identify with Jesus in the garden struggling to surrender His will to His Father. This allowed me to honor where she was at that time, gently inviting her to allow the Holy Spirit to bring healing to her fears first, before going to the issue that was overwhelming her. We went through His prayer in the garden a couple of times. Each time we asked the Holy Spirit to reveal anything that would keep her from praying about the issue coming up in her heart. This allowed the whole story to come out piece by piece.

Her daughter had recently gone through the painful experience of a miscarriage. Making matters worse was her belief that she was at fault. She was blaming herself because she had an abortion 40 years earlier. She knew in her head that it was not her fault, but her heart was telling a different story. She was living from the lie in her heart, not the truth of God's Word bringing His grace, truth and forgiveness to her. (I wish this was an isolated experience but thousands and thousands of Christians are receiving a lot of forgiveness, but not freedom. Thousands of others are living with guilt for sins they have already confessed).

We were able to bring the brokenness of her abortion, the guilt and shame for having an abortion to the Lord, along with blaming herself for her daughter's miscarriage. She was able to walk out of my office

GARDEN TEST

with freedom from the Lord. She knew that I did not try to manipulate her or use guilt to coax her into sharing what she did not want to share. If I was in her shoes, I wouldn't want to talk about my abortion and how it made me feel about myself and my daughter's miscarriage. I would want to avoid that place in my heart, that experience bringing up guilt and shame, especially if there is no one else I can share with.

If the person is unwilling to go to the garden, bring the prayer time to a close, and let them go, just as Jesus let the Rich Young Ruler walk away. Pray about any struggles you have in letting the person go. Are you willing to let the Holy Spirit reveal to you any areas where you need to fix the person so you feel better about yourself and/or believe you are responsible for the person getting better (codependency)?

13. **What if the person is telling you that he has forgiven his father (ex-wife, mother etc.) yet he still gets angry when he talks about him, thinks about him?** Give him the "fruit test," asking him what kind of fruit comes from the 'flesh,' mentioned in Galatians 5:19-21. Have him read the scriptures, then ask him what kind of fruit comes from the Holy Spirit, also mentioned in Galatians 5:22, 23. After he answers these questions, ask the Holy Spirit what kind of fruit is being produced in his life when he thinks about his ex-wife . . . why is the 'fruit of the flesh' (anger, jealousy, etc.) showing up if he has truly forgiven her? Then wait for him to share what the Holy Spirit is saying to him.

If necessary, take him to Matthew 18:35, where Jesus talks about the unforgiving servant and the need to forgive "from your heart." Your heart is where the anger and pain is stored, where your false beliefs live, and that is where the deepest healing takes place. If he is still unwilling to acknowledge his need to forgive at a deeper level, let him go, just like Jesus allowed the rich young ruler to walk away. (See page 6) for the 'fruit test' graphic).

14. **What if the person is reporting peace, yet it seems like there could be more in that room in the person's heart? What if it looks like the person has some feelings, then the feelings quietly drift away or the person shuts down?** Trust the Holy Spirit to bring it up at the right time. If there is a sin, wound or lie in that area of the person's heart then the issue, struggle or pain will resurface. It will not go anywhere. It will be triggered again & again & again & again. Many people assume the first time they experience a sense of release that they now have peace, even if there is more pain about his or her divorce, loss of loved one, loss of a job, etc. They feel so much better than they ever have before that it is easy to stop short of complete peace and freedom.

Again, because we want the Holy Spirit to be leading the process of healing and freedom, we need to trust the Holy Spirit to bring up every-

**FRUIT OF
FORGIVENESS TEST**

**FLESH OR
SPIRIT?**

Please read "Forgiveness: What It Is, What It Isn't" in addendum, along with the prayer on page 40 before working through the forgiveness process.

24. **How do I distinguish between/separate the difference between the person feeling/experiencing true guilt and false guilt?** Has the person already confessed her sin? If not, it may be true guilt and/or false guilt (see Michael's testimony on our website), depending on her believing a lie about herself, or something she has actually done. If it is something she has done and she has already confessed her sin, it is probably false guilt.

She can have true guilt or false guilt, or a combination of true and false guilt. Both the behavior and the belief behind the behavior need to be addressed for the person to experience healing and freedom from guilt. Keep asking the Holy Spirit to reveal everything keeping her guilt alive, whether it is true guilt or false guilt. Allow the Holy Spirit to separate out the true guilt from the false guilt. The goal is to pray with her until everything keeping the guilt alive is on the altar, so there is no need to get sidetracked diagnosing what is true guilt or false guilt.

25. **What if the person reacts in a somewhat negative way to the presentation of the cross, to Jesus identifying with him? What if he wants to know if Jesus identified with lustful thoughts, jealousy, selfish anger etc.? Or he states that Jesus never lusted, was never jealous or selfish?** These are sinful fruits, not the root. "He who knew no sin, became sin," (2 Cor. 5:2 1), became a "guilt offering," (Is. 53:10). Jesus did not commit sin, yet He identified with our sins, paying the price for our sins, (Romans 6:23), so there is forgiveness and freedom & from these sinful roots.

The belief that "I am all alone, abandoned, no good, unlovable etc.," behind the lustful thoughts is something that Jesus identified with ("I trod the winepress alone," Isaiah 63:3).

Jesus was not jealous (at least not in the sense the humans are jealous, where we feel insecure because someone is receiving more attention, more privileges etc). At the same time, what is the root of jealousy? Often the person feels someone else has been given special favor, recognition, privileges etc. that was not deserved and/or in the process, the person feeling jealous has been overlooked, devalued, somehow getting the "short end of the stick/deal." Did Jesus identify with someone being chosen over Him? Barrabbas was chosen over Jesus, receiving freedom when he should have received death, while Jesus was tortured and killed despite doing nothing wrong, being innocent. (Luke 23:13-24)

If he is willing, have the person confess his lustful, jealous thoughts etc.

GUILT TEST

**PRAYING
VS.
DIAGNOSING**

FRUIT & ROOT TEST