

THE WOMAN AND THE COUNSELOR

Woman's Quest for a Spirit-led Life

By Nancy Cross

Part I  
WOMAN  
Woman's Dilemma and  
the Holy Spirit

Save me, O God!  
For the waters have come up to my neck.  
I sink in deep mire,  
Where there is no foothold;  
I have come into deep waters and the flood sweeps over me.  
I am weary with my crying and my throat  
is parched.  
my eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.  
Psalm 69, 1—3

I must have been unconscious when I got married. I don't remember having a realistic thought. A romanticist, I lived in a setting more in tune to the fairytale imagery and moods of Rogers and Hammerstein than to the real world. Through these adolescent fantasies ran a longing for a person with whom I would share my deepest self. I didn't think, I felt; and projected these feelings into a rosy distance where adventures would begin and end happily, and where I would discover myself in loving another person. When I met my husband the dream went undisturbed right into marriage. The slow process of awakening began unnoticed. Even after the birth of our first baby, I dreamt on, believing that my life with this man would unfold according to the benediction, "they lived happily ever after." What has happened? Today I am wide-awake and living out a nightmare that threatens my sanity. Casting evil spells on my children, and locked in mortal combat with the prince who has turned into a dragon, I have turned out to be the witch in the story, not the princess. In painfully looking for answers, I've observed my friends, but they seem to be suffering darkly, no different from myself. Is it Tolkien's land of Mordor — bleak, barren, and filled with despair? Current psychologies and their theories of woman's new role have occasionally, to be the answer, but I soon find myself in the same quandary. Lately I've been doing some religious searching hoping to find a deeper answer in faith. I found some words of Jesus which really brought me here: "He has sent me to proclaim release for prisoners, to give sight to the blind and let the broken victims go free." If anyone is a broken victim, I qualify, and these words seemed like a promise that He is the answer in some dimension I haven't yet been able to find.

### COUNSELOR

He is the answer and He will help you. It is a promise! Others have been in the place where you now stand and have found the way out. There is no help for the half-hearted, but for the desperate there is. You meet the first requirement, "a broken and contrite heart he will not despise." It may seem cruel to say, suffering as you are, that the way out is difficult, but there is no shortcut, no easy way. You have said that something has gone wrong. It is a wrong that you have allowed to be woven into the fabric of your life and to set it straight will take painful unraveling. However, God will be the weaver of the new life, and so, someday you'll have something infinitely more valuable than a fairytale romance. God's reality cannot be matched in our imagination. Or as the Bible says, (He) "is able to do superabundantly, far over and above all that we ask or think — infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams" The scripture you quoted seemed to speak to you in a special way. What other experiences have you had of His Spirit?

WOMAN

Of His Spirit? You mean religion. I'm a Christian and a faithful churchgoer. My husband goes to church with me - we are a church-going family, and yet our lives together are tortured. Religion is important to me. I pray every night and often in the morning though very little ever seems to result from my prayers. Perhaps I'm not praying for the right things. I enjoy reading religious books and articles, which are often helpful, but the effects aren't lasting. When I try to read the Bible, I find it hard to understand.

COUNSELOR

You haven't answered what your experience has been of the Spirit, though indirectly you have. You are equating religion with the Spirit, and though they overlap, they are not the same.

WOMAN

I see, you are asking about my inner experiences. There have been times when God was near and real - when He was what I wanted most in life. There was a beautiful experience of Him when I was young. Now it seems part of the romantic past, though all the harsh realities of these years haven't ground away the clarity of that encounter. The difference between that girlhood experience and all the religious teaching is obvious — the one, despite the years, is still fresh and vivid; the other fades away easily.

COUNSELOR

That's the distinction I hoped you understood. Though religion and the Church have a rightful and important place in your life, the experiences of the Spirit are what you must seek to straighten out your life. Something as real as that youthful encounter, something experiential, is found on an entirely different level from that of intellect where you have been looking for answers. It is when your spirit is awakened by the penetration of and immersion into the Holy Spirit that you are empowered by His grace to find the way He has planned.

How do you view your Christian life?

WOMAN

I am a follower of Jesus. I believe that He is the answer to mankind's ills. If we could latch onto His love and His view of life, we would be different and better people. Nevertheless, He is vague and I find it hard to think of Him concretely. I pray in His name and think how wonderful it is that He loves me, but wish that He were more real and that I could become disciplined to think of Him more often.

COUNSELOR

Did you have to become disciplined to think of your children often? When someone is real and living with you, must you try to become conscious of them?

WOMAN

No. But Jesus isn't that real. How lucky the disciples were. They had Him with them to see, and hear, and touch. It must have been easy for them to walk the Christian way.

COUNSELOR

Do you really think so? Recall their reactions to Jesus.

## WOMAN

They did argue with Him. But He was hard to understand. And they did fight amongst themselves. Come to think of it, they didn't understand Him at all. Once, when they asked Him to explain a parable, they didn't understand the explanation either. At the end they were unreliable. Peter was more than a little unsure — his three denials. You're right, they were very much like I am, unsure and not too comprehending, even though He was with them. How do you explain that?

## COUNSELOR

Jesus Himself explained it. He said that it would be to the disciples' advantage if He went away and sent the Holy Spirit in His place. Jesus was an exterior influence in the disciples conscious experience only, the Holy Spirit would come inside and would have the power to convince them of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Their own inner selves would be brought to life through this experience and because of it they would know Jesus better, be more His, and be more powerful in their witness. He was explicit about it: they would have to wait until after His death, Resurrection, and ascension until the Holy Spirit came upon them. Otherwise, they would have continued to be like you describe them. God has planned that we know Jesus inwardly - His Holy Spirit, the very Spirit of Jesus, can come into us and live. That is a kind of knowing that is undeniable, so real that no discipline of thought is necessary.

## WOMAN

I need the Holy Spirit. But I thought I had this blessing at Baptism and Confirmation.

## COUNSELOR

We do receive the Holy Spirit at these great events in our Christian experience, however few of us have known what God intended us to have, and so this receiving has meant only the setting of a package on a shelf in our religious cupboard. We thought the rather drab package was "it". Today, for some hidden reason, the Holy Spirit is irresistably at work urging Christians all around the world to take down that dusty package and unwrap it, or if it's been misplaced, to ask for it again. The reality of the gifts inside transform lives with supernatural strength and knowledge, and bring the love, joy and peace that Jesus promised, but which have been so unknown among us. For some, a commitment to Jesus, giving ourselves to Him wholly, comes first, while for others it is enough to ask Jesus for the fullness of the Spirit, to renew or unwrap a gift already ours. Without this encounter with the Holy Spirit, our lives are powerless. However, with this awakening which some may call a psychological conversion, others a new birth, and others the *Baptism of the Holy Spirit*, God will bring new truths to you through the scriptures and through His obedient servants. There is no other help for man. The things of God cannot be understood by the human minds they can only be understood by the Holy Spirit Himself. We must have Him within us to teach and to interpret.

## WOMAN

As you talk it grows clearer to me. How do I have this happen? Yet, I wonder, will God unwrap His Holy Spirit in me? Am I worthy to have such a desire? In so many ways I am a mess I have hate, fear, resentment, bitterness, even toward the one that God has put nearest to me, my husband. How can the Holy Spirit come into me when I am so full of contradictory feelings? Shouldn't I work at cleaning myself up before I ask? If I went home and worked harder to be better, if I read the Bible and prayed, then I'd be more ready to ask.

## COUNSELOR

It true as you say, that we are full of unhealed hurts and unresolved angers. Deep in our unconscious we need great healings in order to be loving servants of God, not crippled but strong. That is what God wants to do - to make us whole. Wholeness is what "salvation" means. Living the life of Christ is a pouring out, a giving; and we cannot give when we are dry, when we have nothing to give. But this cleansing and filling is the Holy Spirit's specialty. We don't first sponge out all the spots and stains from dirty garments before taking them to the dry cleaner, neither do we superficially clean ourselves up before asking for the Holy Spirit. Ask Him, just as you are. After opening ourselves up to Him, He gradually and carefully, with utmost consideration for us, begins the work of healing our memories, our deep mind, our withered spirits, our bodies. How much He longs to do this; He loves you!

## WOMAN

I need Him and want Him!

## COUNSELOR

Tell Him that you love Him. Jesus will do as He promised and baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Before you come here again, I want you to take this list of scriptures\* and set aside some time each day to pray over them. The only road to the peace you seek lies within you, and between you and the Father. It will not be worth your time to come here unless you will undertake this essential discipline. Also included at the end of the list are books which may further your search, but the Bible must come first and be used everyday.

- The scriptures the counselor uses follow the order of ideas presented within the interview. Each should be read in entirety in the Bible in a "quiet time."

## SCRIPTURE

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

Matthew 11:28

Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.

John 6:37

And him who comes to me, I will not cast out.

Psalm 51:17

A broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Matthew 7:14

. . .for the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than we can ask or think . . .

Matthew 23:28

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, . . . you also outwardly appear righteous men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

I Corinthians 2:10

For the Spirit searches everything even the depths of God

John 4

The hour is coming and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth.

Romans 7:6

. . .so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

Romans 8:9

But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit if the Spirit of God really dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

John 15:1-17

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Matthew 15:15

But Peter said to him, "Explain the parable to us." And he said, "Are you also still without understanding?"

Matthew 14:31

"O man of little faith, why do you doubt?"

Luke 8:25

He said to them, "Where is your faith?"

Matthew 16:23

But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me Satan You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men."

John 20:25

"Unless I see in his hands, the print of the nails and place my finger in the mark of the nails and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Matthew 26:56

Then all the disciples forsook him and fled.

Luke 22:61

And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times,' and he went out and wept bitterly.

John 16:7

. . . it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you . . . he will convince the world. . .

John 14:7

. . . even the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you.

John 7:38, 39

He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water. Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Matthew 3:11

“ will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

Acts 1:58

. . . “for John baptized with water but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:

. . . you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,

Acts 2:1—4

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound like the rush of a mighty wind came from heaven, and it filled all the house where they were sitting; and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them utterance.

John 16:12-13

I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot hear them all. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth

John 3:5

. . . unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit.

Acts 8:17

. . . and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them; but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

Titus 3:1—7

. . . he saved us not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

#### BOOKS

Some of these books will be out of print. Find them through Amazon.

Woman, Words, Wisdom Solange Hertz

Let Me Be a Woman Elizabeth Elliot Living Books

What will Happen to God? William Oddie Ignatius

Mere Christianity C. S. Lewis MacMillan

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## Part II

## Finding God's Will

“Not every one who says to me, “Lord, Lord”, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21

## COUNSELOR

Probing another person's spiritual life is not anyone else's business; but the difference in persons before and after an experience of the Holy Spirit is obvious to anyone privileged to be close to the person. The reality of Jesus is personal; prayer becomes natural, like breathing: the sacraments come alive with supernatural power; all of life takes on new meaning and perspective. Because of the new life, faith and trust spring up, and other wise impossible tasks can be attempted because of the new motivation. The woman of the preceding part of our dialogue has over a length of time sought and received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised. Her inner life has dramatically changed. Does this mean that her marriage situation has been solved, or that things are better? I asked her that question and this was her reply.

## WOMAN

If anything, things at home are worse. My husband has become more withdrawn and the few things he says are cutting and sarcastic. With the infusion of this wonderful experience of love, I thought that I would easily overcome these problems at home, but it has been weeks and the situation seems to steadily deteriorate. I had given up the idea of divorce, thinking that God would show me a way out of such a drastic action, but it seems again the only possible answer. I have tried to help my husband understand what has happened to me, but he prefers to think I have gone off the deep end. I tell him that this has changed my life and he grumbles, “prove it.” I have asked for his forgiveness, but inside myself the anger wells up and I find it hard to live out the good thing that has happened to me. Sometimes I wonder if God has touched my life at all, though I can't deny it. I know I am not the same person, and that Jesus promised me abundant life, but where is it?

## COUNSELOR

Do you recall what happened to Jesus after he received the Holy Spirit?

## WOMAN

Yes, I read it soon after my own experience. Things were very hard and confusing for Him for forty days while he was in the wilderness, and the Devil tempted Him even to disbelieve that He was chosen. But by being obedient to the scriptures He passed the test.

## COUNSELOR

You have hit on the key word, “obedience.” To grow up in the spiritual life, and be freed from confusion and self-will, obedience is essential. The Devil hardly cares what our affirmations of faith are or how we exercise God's power as long as he can keep us disobedient in spirit, rebellious and independent.

## WOMAN

I'm thinking more about God's will than I ever have. I have lived my whole life up to this point doing what I willed, striving for the things I wanted. The thought that God has a “flight plan” for

me, as I have heard it called, is new and exciting. But I am afraid that I have made a mess of things and missed it, that there is no way for me to get into His will. This marriage and what it is doing to the children - I have married the wrong man. How can I undo all that? If God had a plan for me, but because of my blindness I passed it by, what can be done now that I am in this jungle?

#### COUNSELOR

The “flight plan” begins today. Right this moment. So does the obedience to God’s will. When you leave here today you will go home and walk into the same house with the same persons and the same problems, but one thing will not be the same - your relationship to God’s will. When you left, you were not living according to God’s will; when you go back, you can enter right into the center of the will of God.

#### WOMAN

That doesn’t make sense to me at all.

#### COUNSELOR

You have seen that though you are now relying on God in the way he intended, he has not dramatically changed things. Sometimes He does change things, but much more often the situation that you describe is true. He has much that He must teach you right where you are, and the first is acceptance. You must totally accept without reservation that though God did not actively will all the problems that you find yourself engulfed in (He longed to save you from them), He did allow it. All the time that you were walking in that sleeping state, He was concerned for you and He let everything happen that has happened. He had the power to turn things otherwise, and did not do it. Therefore, can you accept that everything the way it is today is according to His will? That brings the “flight plan” right into your living room. Now in order to step into it and take off on an adventure with God, you must accept that the husband you have, the problems you have, and your wretchedness are now the building blocks for something new. Then the unraveling work, and the mending together work can begin. If not, if you continue to rebel against and struggle with these things, there is nothing further that God can do about the situation, because you would be telling Him that you would rather handle it in your own way, by yourself.

#### WOMAN

I can’t handle it myself, anyone can see that. I tried for fifteen years. I want God to take it over, but I can’t believe that all this injustice, all this misunderstanding and bitterness can be part of His will for me. He is good, all good. He can’t mean for things to be this way. I did this misery to myself, but in another way I am a victim of circumstances too.

#### COUNSELOR

Circumstances? What are they? They are just what God has allowed in your life. Every one of the negative circumstances can be used for creative growth; they can be the very paving stones in a walk with the Lord which you now desire. As for injustice, misunderstanding, and bitterness, was anyone more acquainted with these things than Jesus? And what did He do about them? What did He tell us to do about them?

#### WOMAN

He didn’t fight back at all. He was passive, though that doesn’t seem like a good word for it, no, not passive, because He was “doing” all the time. Just calm, and the word that you were using,

“accepting” would be best. He did not resist anything that came after he had prayed it through and surrendered to God’s will in the garden. Resist not evil is one of the things He taught us. Overcome evil with good.

#### COUNSELOR

There is a saying, “Let come what will come, God’s will is well come.” The persecutions He suffered were horrible, and all of them were completely unjust because He was sinless. He was completely humiliated and degraded.

#### WOMAN

Yet, He was different from me in His perfection, He must have had different defenses than I have; besides, He knew why, so that must have held Him together through it all.

#### COUNSELOR

If you read those scriptures again, you’ll find that He also suffered uncertainty and limitations not unlike your own. He too pleaded that the cup be removed. He would have liked to see another way. And on the cross He felt completely bereft of God. He was in those moments like yourself in your weakness, wholly human. To be both totally human and totally divine is very difficult to grasp in our limited minds, but it is true that He was altogether like we are, in every particular. Certainly the jealousy, hatred and misunderstanding, the injustice and greed which caused this horror were evil. They are symbolized perfectly in the Cross. Paradoxically, so too, is all of God’s tremendous power and love. Here, as in the cross bars of the cross itself, the power of God and the power of evil meet. Accept the cross into your life, so the evil in your life may be overcome by the great power of the *risen* Lord Jesus. Think what His acceptance and obedience to the cross did.

#### WOMAN

It unlocked the gates of heaven. God’s power and love came flowing down unto the earth and into the earth in a way that is indescribable and not understandable, We know that the power of love opened graves on that day, that the temple curtain was torn, and other great and awesome things occurred; but more than that, everyone since that time who has believed in Jesus has been reborn through that love. I know personally what God has done for me because of Jesus perfect obedience and submission to God’s will.

#### COUNSELOR

You describe it fully. Do you want to follow Jesus in this obedience? His Spirit in you has given you the power to do so; for a woman the way has been clearly marked, through your husband you will now begin to experience God’s will; whatever your husband’s will is in the particulars of your life you can now accept to be God’s will for you

#### WOMAN

What? What are you saying? That cannot be. My husband is not a Christian and there are many evil things in his life. I can’t look to him as though he were God. That’s blasphemous and inviting evil to take over. I will be obedient to God’s will, not to man.

#### COUNSELOR

What if it is God’s will that you submit to your husband’s will? Then to do God’s will you would do your husband’s will, The Bible consistently says that this is so, and it has worked itself out in the lives of many seeking women.

WOMAN

But not to a nonChristian — a weak impulsive human being.

COUNSELOR

St. Peter says that you are to be obedient even if he does not obey the word of God. It's the way of the cross, remember? How easy it is to accept concepts, but how hard it is to get them into our lives.

WOMAN

There must be limits to this, I said that we went to church together. Well, that is my idea. He wouldn't go except for my insistence. I couldn't obey his wishes in that or our spiritual life would wither up. Besides our Church says we must go.

COUNSELOR

In your heart seat your husband as the spiritual head of your family, regardless of how he appears to you. See Jesus standing right behind him though he is unaware, then respect his leadership as the hand of the Lord extended to you. I find many women feel spiritually superior to their husbands, and by this feeling, and by putting things of the Church ahead of their husbands, they dishonour his God-given role. The man is the one who reflects the glory of God, his wife reflects his glory, and she should not undermine his role and lose her own by wedging her self in-between. If you truly put yourself under your husband, in every regard, it is very possible that he will easily stride into the Kingdom, no matter how far away he now seems. With you in the role that you are now assuming, he cannot come into the Church without submitting to you and this would be out of order. He senses this, even though he may not know it. You might say as Paul does in Corinthians 11 that it would be disrespectful to the Lord for him to come into the Church under your covering. If you can let this spiritual superiority go, and treat your husband as you would the Lord, you will see the Lord working in him. In the extreme unlikelihood that your husband would actually forbid your church attendance, Jesus can be trusted to make a way for you that will not cause you to be disobedient.

WOMAN

How can this possibly work out in my daily life?

COUNSELOR

Once your surrender to God is complete in this, begin each day by telling Him that you are expecting to see Him at work in your circumstances, then look for Him. When your husband seems headed in the wrong direction, or when real trouble comes, say to Him, "Lord, I am trusting that I will see You in this." Then watch for Him. You will see little miracles begin to happen. The dark cloud will not arrive, it may quite mysteriously move off in another direction, away from your door. If something bad does come, it will not turn out to be the poison that you thought, but a medicine, which though ugly tasting will be beneficial. No longer act and react, but wait to see God act. Rest in the Lord.

WOMAN

You mean I'll do nothing, I can't picture that.

COUNSELOR

There will be much to do, but it will not be your own action. You will wait for guidance, and look for it. Your greatest work will be an inner one - prayer, constant prayer and trusting. This is

far from doing nothing. The suffering that you will experience in giving up, the pain of denying your own will - offer this to the Lord. Don't hold it to you breeding resentment anti self-pity, use the suffering for an offering and let it go. Believe that by taking up your cross, He will see you through it and on into a resurrected life.

#### WOMAN

I could never do it but for the love and the hope that Jesus is giving me. I suppose that in the garden, when He had accepted the cup, He knew that He was entering into terrible darkness, some thing that He feared. But He also knew that some thing wonderful would come to pass because He trusted God. He knew that it would not all add up to nothing - a dead end, which history would ponder and regard as futile. Knowing in my heart, as I now do, that God wants the best for me in everything; that though the path may lead through darkness, He will overcome' it all in the end; yes, with His help, I can accept it. But, this means that I must go back wholeheartedly to this husband, and give up the dreams of finding a man who is roads for me, a kindred spirit.

#### COUNSELOR

He said, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields, a rich harvest." Here are the scriptures I am asking you to use for meditation until we see each other again.

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

##### Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

##### Samuel II, 22:31

This God - his way is perfect; the promise of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

##### Romans 8:14—17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry " " Father" it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

##### Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

##### Luke 4:1

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil.

##### John 14:21

He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me;

##### Philippians 2:5—8

Have this mind among yourselves, which you have in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being

born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

John 10:17—18

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.

Philippians 3:11

. . . and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Matthew 16:24

“If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever should save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

I Peter 2:21

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

I Peter 2:19

For one is approved if, mindful of God, he endures pain and suffering unjustly.

Luke 22 and 23

Matthew 26 and 27

Mark 14 and 15

John 18 and 19

#### The Crucifixion of Jesus

I Corinthians 11:2—12

Any man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head, but any woman who prays or prophesies with her head unveiled dishonors her head. For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man (For man was not made from woman, but woman from man.) That is why a woman ought to have a veil on her head because of the angels.

Titus 2:4

. . . so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be sensible, chaste, domestic, kind and submissive to their husbands, that the word of God may not be discredited.

John 6:28

And they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered then. “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

I Peter 3:6

. . . as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him Lord.

Ephesians 5:21

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord.

I Corinthians 7:10-17

If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he is content to live with her, she must not leave him. This is because the unbelieving husband is made one with the saints through his wife . . . If you are a wife, it may be your part to save your husband, for all you know; - (Jerusalem Bible)

BOOKS

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### Chapter III SEXUAL SURRENDER

Jesus answered, "Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one,'" So they are no longer two but one, what therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder."

Matthew 19:6

#### WOMAN

When I got away from here the other day and began to think about what we had said, it all seemed impossible. Worse than that, I felt that my sanity was at stake. My identity will be lost. The person I have worked at being is threatened. I scarcely know what will become of me if I succumb to this folly. God wants us to be independent individuals, entities in ourselves. This submission thing, this acceptance of terrible things seems like a plot to destroy me. And the me inside is crying out. This is psychologically unhealthy. I am sure that if I talked it over with my psychiatrist, he would say it is a peculiar and insidious kind of mental torture. Are you really serious in this? If so, I can't continue. I came to God asking to be made whole, not to be reduced into nothing. You have put a tiny black hole in front of me and told me to crawl in. That isn't what Christianity is all about. Christianity is concerned with bringing individual uniqueness. I just came back today to tell you what I thought. I won't be coming back again! I will find God and have Him lead me into fullness, fulfillment of myself, and there shall be peace and harmony, beauty, not darkness and pain. I have been reading that spiritual power should be mine now that I have received the Holy Spirit. I am supposed to exercise this power for God and help the world. Heaven knows all kinds of things must be done. People are sick and need healing; people are suffering all kinds of mental imprisonment and need releasing; people are in privation and need material things. I am needed as an active, whole person out in the midst of sufferers, and you would tie me up and put me in agonizing confinement. God promises me freedom and I want it! I am convinced that my life in bondage to this impossible situation will break my sanity and health. That it is not within God's will any way you look at it!

#### COUNSELOR

And the other things I have to show you are even harder.

#### WOMAN

I could scream . . . scream!

Do you know what it's like? Being married to a man who only thinks about going to bed; who couldn't care less if I were any other woman; who has used me, used me, for fifteen years to satisfy his childish emotions? Do you know what it's like to have to put up with his indulgent drinking while we scrape together enough to pay the bills? Do you know his uncontrolled temper when he can't have his own way? And then you hand me these sick, sick platitudes about finding God's will in the midst of this?

#### COUNSELOR

I'm glad you're honest and you are free to go anytime you like. Pretending that things are right and that you are wholehearted is a poor game that is sometimes played - a pseudo Christian life. To swallow your resentments and frustrations will only seal off any further growth in the Spirit.

Your courage in coming back and voicing your feelings is commended. I see that you have what it takes to go on and hear the harder things. As for this way looking like craziness to the world, we have ample warning of this all through the Bible. The things of God are foolishness and worse to all the thinkers, and I suppose that includes non-Christian psychiatrists and philosophers. If you prefer their wisdom you are free to try it.

#### WOMAN

I don't know what is happening to me. When I think of the taste I have had of real bliss — there is no other word for that encounter with the Lord. That Love . . . I can never forget it. In fact, thinking about it, I can still feel it. I know no matter what happens I want to find more of that. It was freedom, it was complete - just everything. Now I feel cut off from that, like I had an eon of time and distance between me and happiness. Not anyone I know, who is not a Christian could understand about it; it's meaningless to the world. I can see that, but I can't go through with the rest of this. I just can't. And now you're talking about harder things. How could it be harder?

#### COUNSELOR

A few moments ago, you said that your husband was an animal in regard to sex. It is my experience that sex is the most wonderful tool a woman has to help her husband into the right relationship with God. It is not by talking that a woman communicates most effectively with her husband, something few women seem to grasp, though it is so apparent. Examine the story of Adam and Eve. It clearly says that man is incomplete without woman. She was created as a helpmeet to fill his need. Now, if your husband is incomplete because of your refusal to be part of him, he is, of course, going to demand more and more to satisfy a hunger which is gnawing in him and was put there by God. This hunger cannot be satisfied with less than your giving of yourself, wholly with out reservation. Have you ever thought that it was God's will for you to fill your husband's sex needs? We hear often these days about the beauty and rightness of sex, which is true, but we do not hear that it is part of His will. Not just good if you like it, but good because He wills it. I know a prominent Christian woman who says that if her husband should amorously motion to her during a dinner party in her home, she would know that it was her duty to excuse herself and go with him. This is a funny exaggeration, but this woman has found the importance of making her husband's wishes in the area of sex to be her commands.

#### WOMAN

I'd fall through this floor if it were possible.

#### COUNSELOR

Most women react that way. Can you see that by trusting Jesus to work through your obedience that sex can be used to the glory of God, and that your husband will be brought closer to Him? What it does for a man to have a woman who will do this for him is hard to believe. The man is transformed when the woman comes back into place. She was made from his rib, so the myth goes. (I use myth to mean TRUTH beyond truth.) The problem is that she has moved out of this place to find an illusive and false identity. Deep within her nature her feminine being is violated. It is no wonder that she acts in a frenetic confused way, or the opposite, in a domineering masculine way. Nor is it a wonder that her dreams are smashed and she awakens in a wilderness. To become whole, woman must find herself back in the position God made her to fill — under the arm and close to the heart of a man. That is the man with whom she has spoken the vows. When in her place she supports him and he can stand strong and walk into full maturity. In turn, she is in a place of security and rest - that's what obedience brings with it. I have met women who are more interested in sex than their husbands. Submission to this, with trust in God, frees

the man to become whole in his sex-hood, to recover from the castration that woman's aggressiveness has caused him.

#### WOMAN

This thing is even more unendurable than the other. You tell me to be true to my feelings. I'll be going so against the grain, I'll explode.

#### COUNSELOR

Don't explode at home, not at first. You need to find a group of growing Christians to meet with regularly, friends with whom you can share everything, even your hatreds and fears, like you have here today. You must remain honest with your feelings and bring them out in the open. That is part of being honest with God. You can do this with a group of compatible, praying friends. To pray with each other and for each other in the Spirit brings deep healing and promotes growth in a way no psychotherapy can approach. At home you are to become the helpmeet as the Bible calls the woman. If you are uncontrolled about your feelings there it will meet no one's needs, not even your own. There will come a time for open self expression, but it comes later when both you and your husband are more secure in your trust of each other and Jesus' love. The fruits of the Holy Spirit need time to grow and mature - peace, patience, longsuffering.

#### WOMAN

But, but, how can this be? Sex? It is the lowest expression of love. Sex? It is so ungodly. Not that God didn't ordain it, but we've encrusted it with so much that can't be washed away.

#### COUNSELOR

Even though your husband's motivation is pure lust, your role is not as judge, but as surrendered giver. You will not be violated, because trust in God cannot meet ultimate disappointment. As for this being the lowest expression of love, I wonder where that notion has come from? Can we be very frank? Jesus uses the Old Testament verb when he says, "depart from me, I never *knew* you." The same verb as "Adam *knew* Eve and she conceived." Jesus is the bridegroom, we, the church, the bride. Why such metaphors? The bridegroom has one concern, union, ecstatic union, depending on the *surrender of the bride*, and the depth of the surrender. The Devil has been very active in destroying the mystery and beauty of sex bringing it into the arena of profanity, just because it is the holy enactment of the - whole Christian story. In marriage, intercourse is an initiation into higher spiritual realities. As the church must surrender completely to Jesus, just so the woman must surrender completely to her husband. The inroads of the Devil upon sex and marriage are a direct attack against the Lordship of Jesus. And prudery is as much his tool as lasciviousness.

#### WOMAN

Yes, it makes sense. My faith is weak and it looks like a mountain to be climbed. Yet, for the first time I see some light on this. I never had a thought that I might be to blame for our problem, that I might be the cause of what I consider his lust. Even when I have given him my body I often did it grudgingly or of necessity - far from a cheerful giver. I have thought that it was his lack of caring that made him insensitive to my headaches or tiredness. Yet, I know I have used these things to avoid him. It's a miserable thing in the light of what you have told me. I never saw it as being God's will except in the matter of children. But what about that? Children! We'll have twenty children, and that I could not do.

**COUNSELOR**

Birth control, a very controversial thing. Yet, for Catholics who want to be obedient to the church it must not be a question. Why is it so difficult for us to believe that when we are obedient and trust, God will work things out for the very best for us? Jesus knew how difficult faith was for men, he found that his disciples couldn't really trust when it came to storms and difficulties. They couldn't grasp that He could bring good out of everything — that they weren't going to perish. Now you say, "I couldn't do that." You set your limitations with God. You trust Him just so far and you limit His power by your own concepts thus resigning yourself to figuring out solutions on a human level. Push your trust one more step, that God will do what best for you in the way of children. All churches sanction the rhythm system of birth control. It is effective, takes discipline and has benefits to marriage that are amazing. But begin to come under your husband's authority. Talk over everything with him and trust him to make these decisions relaxing your judgments of good and bad. Your new attitudes toward sex are going to surprise him. He will be more open to discussing family size when you can suggest looking into the new methods available for safely and faithfully controlling fertility. Women have so managed this aspect of their husband's lives, and so few have faithfully lived by these concepts, that they cannot be called impossible. It seems that asking people to have this kind of trust in God is like asking them to walk on water. Yet, with trust in Jesus, Peter even managed that for a while.

**WOMAN**

Obedience, obedience, you'd think this was the magic that would remove every problem immediately.

**COUNSELOR**

No, it's not the obedience that's the miracle worker; it is the faith in God. The kind of faith, if even the size of a mustard seed, that will remove mountains.

**WOMAN**

I have been in the Church since a youngster, and this has not been explained to me, I came to think that it was a kind of dogma that got rooted without reason, that no one had the strength and courage to uproot it. I never saw that it was related to faith and God's will. I came here today thinking that I was quitting all this nonsense that I would become active in the world helping to get things straightened out. How did I ever think I could help others when I am not fulfilling the role God created me for. Perhaps helping others will come some time, but it seems a long time off. There is much to be done right in my own heart.

**COUNSELOR**

It may be hard to believe, but in starting to work to take the plank out of your eye, in righting your life according to God's will where things are closest to you, you will be doing the world a great service. There is something about living a hidden and godly life that brings Christ to the world. Entirely mystical? Perhaps, but entirely true. Look at Mary. Her life was hidden, but because of her obedience and willing surrender to God, Jesus was born. Could she have served God better by an active life helping people in a material way? The answer is obvious. When you have difficulties with this life, especially in those areas we have discussed today, meditate on these scriptures and on Mary. Her help is powerful in guiding women in the way she chose to find real fulfillment.

## SCRIPTURE

I Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Genesis 2:18-22

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for man to be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh.

I Corinthians 7:4-7

For the wife does not rule over her own body but the husband does, likewise the husband does not rule over his own body, but the wife does.

Ephesians 5:22—3

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands . . . For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one." This is a great mystery, and I take it to mean Christ and the church.

I Corinthians 7:39

A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives.

Matthew 19:6

"So they are therefore no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder."

Hebrews 4:11

Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, that no one fall by the same sort of disobedience.

I Peter 2:18-3:6

.. . Likewise you wives, be submissive to your husbands, so that some, though they do not obey the word, may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, when they see your reverent and chaste behavior.

Matthew 7:23

"And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.'"

Matthew 9:15

"Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them?"

Matthew 25:1

.. . maidens who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

Colossians 3:18

Titus 1:4

I Timothy 2:9—12

Further references to submissive wives.

Psalms 45

A song of woman's submission to her Lord.

The Song of Solomon

A love poem of joy in the relationship of man and woman.

I Timothy 2:13

. . .and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet woman will be saved through bearing children (alternative reading in ancient manuscripts — by bearing the Divine Child), if she continues in faith and love and holiness with modesty.

I Corinthians 11:3

But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a woman is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

I Corinthians 11:7

. . . he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man.

Matthew 21:21

. . . if you have faith and never doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be take up and cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

Matthew 7:5

". . . first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Luke 1:38

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

John 2:5

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

#### BOOKS

That Hideous Strength C. S. Lewis MacMillan

The Power of Sexual Surrender Dr. Marie Robinson, Doubleday

The Flight from Woman Karl Stern MD, Farrar, Straus, Giroux

Humanae Vitae Pope Paul VI, A prophetic document available on line and through Catholic sources

Seek information on *The Creighton Method* of Natural Family Planning, the best and most complete method of fertility control.

## Chapter IV

### In the Home

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her  
Proverbs 31:25-28

#### WOMAN

I never thought that I'd come here with such happiness as I have today. I am giggly, like a school girl. My problems haven't all cleared up. It's not that. In fact, I have a few that are heavy, but despite them, I have this delightful feeling. In the first place, the miracle that has taken place with my husband no one would believe, but you. After our last session, I decided a good place to start would be to do something special for him, something that he may have wanted me to do for a long time. I have put him so out of my mind that for a time I couldn't think of anything. He had long ago stopped asking me to do things for him. I couldn't think of any special food he wanted, I have cared so little about him. Then I remembered that his pants needed pressing again. He has always done this for himself, so I decided to start with that. That led to repairing his pockets. I began to think of other things, but not wanting to be too obvious (turning over a new leaf wasn't meant to embarrass him), I put these things on reserve; a cherry pie for dessert, getting his shirts up to his drawer promptly, making sure the newspaper was intact for him, using placemats on the table, and praying for him while he was at work, I had to bite my tongue when he didn't seem to notice. Looking for appreciation could have stopped me. I tried to welcome the slights without self pity. I was tempted to let go, but had begun to enjoy this and already saw God at work in it. Part of the joy is that it begins to make sense, this being a woman, being a housewife - and I dislike housework. As a mother, I felt that nursery school teachers with detachment and psychology could do a better job. Everything I read made me certain that my approach would backfire no matter what it was. As a lover, I was sure that my husband would prefer -well, someone sexier than I. So the whole things seemed empty and meaningless. But this way of the dress makes everything so significant. There is only one woman who can fill my husband's need, all of them, and that is me. There is a new dimension to being a woman - I feel like a rib, a support, a real helper, not just in the physical dimension, but it is this new spiritual dimension, where something great can happen at any time. I am sharing a great and wonderful secret with God, especially in the area of sex.

#### COUNSELOR

With so much right, what can the problems you referred to be?

#### WOMAN

I understand that high feelings can be dangerous. Still I appreciate it after years of the blackest lack of hope.

**COUNSELOR**

If you know that how you feel as you do doesn't count in the long run, then it isn't dangerous. We are supposed to feel joy. There will be some dark times again, there always are, but they will never be like the hopelessness you have known. At the very worst moments in the future, you will still have hope, because you will know that though the terrible moment must be endured, it will pass, and God will work it into good.

**WOMAN**

I know, "All things work together for good to those who love God." How I have clung to those words!

**COUNSELOR**

You are learning fast, and that is partly due to a lack of an attitude often found in women –self pity. This is a demon that is almost impossible to dislodge when it has deeply rooted itself into a personality. A simpering "poor-me, or a *sweet* "I will bear it all" attitude which has been labeled "door mat," is often mistaken for obedience or submission, when in reality it is only a more insidious type of rebellion. Such a low self-concept actually brings on mistreatment and abuse, and has no relationship to the woman who willingly gives to her husband. It is very difficult for Jesus' message to get through to such a woman. She is misled in thinking that she is walking the way of the cross. Be thankful for your freedom from the slavery of this kind of self will. Be on guard against its slipping into your service of God. You are learning to serve, to follow the Master who came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, who told us to seek the last place so that we might be first in the Kingdom. The happiness that you are finding may be what He meant about being first in the Kingdom. This same discovery about service can help you with your feelings about housework. Does your husband mind a dirty house? How about the children, does it affect them?

**WOMAN**

This is a topic I would like to avoid. There are so many more important things I would like to Do - read the Bible, have more time for religious books, for meditation and prayer. I also find that the friends in the prayer group call often with needs, and their support is necessary, so I'm on the phone a good deal. These things must come before scrubbing floors and chasing persistent dust. My equilibrium depends on other things, not housework.

**COUNSELOR**

AA has a very good motto which seems deceptively simple, "First things first." To learn to live according to that little motto is not as simple as it seems, but an ordered life should be a by-product of living as a Christian. Laziness and lack of responsibility about her family must be put aside by a Christian woman. Her motivation for much reading and prayer is open to question if her home is not cared for, or if she is not serving her family to the best of her ability. When one discovers the beauty of Christ, the light and order of Christ, one wants to duplicate beauty, light and order in the surroundings. It doesn't take money to have a house shine with care and thought. When the home becomes orderly, a kind of godly peace is there — that is, when the woman is motivated by the love of God. For prayer and meditation, which are very important every day, the best time for some has been the hour before the family arises. This does not interfere with the family responsibilities and the family does not interfere with the quiet time. Putting first things first, the woman might order her day first with this early meditation and prayer time, then with the normal household routine, leaving time each day for some creative enterprise she enjoys, or to rest herself with a nap so that she is not fatigued when her husband

desires her company in the evening. Be clear in what you think are spiritual things. Cleaning the house because you feel the family enjoys it clean and orderly, or because God's beauty is wanted there, is more spiritual than indulgent reading, even of the Bible. God's grace is available for prayer, no matter what you are doing. Brother Lawrence became proficient in prayer while scrubbing pots and pans in the scullery.

WOMAN

Coming here is a devastating experience. But my mother is one of those overly neat people, always harping about it, and I decided that I would never be like that.

COUNSELOR

Don't let someone else's wrong motivation for doing good things prompt you to rebel against the good thing. Forgive your mother. Then you will be free to have an orderly house for your own reasons. To do the other is childish rebellion.

WOMAN

I have other rebellious feelings. Though I have so much to be thankful for there are some real problems. One is money, the other children. I feel that either of these continuing unresolved may upset my new found happiness.

COUNSELOR

Your husband doesn't feel much responsibility for either of these areas?

WOMAN

Not at all. He ignores the children as much as possible. Sometimes when they were small, he helped a little, but I always felt it was grudgingly. Now when they need discipline, his attitude seems to be that if he ignores the problem it will go away. There are things which I am sure are important; the amount of T.V. and the kinds of programs they watch, the foods they will or won't eat, their table manners, and laziness, the hours they keep at night, where they are allowed or not allowed to go, the friends they associate with -but I carry it all alone, he never supports me in these things.

COUNSELOR

And what are the money problems?

WOMAN

Much the same. We just don't see eye to eye. I have a little inheritance which I feel should go for extra things and he has always resented that. I don't understand why it irritates him. I plan special projects that will benefit the family. He doesn't have sense about money. When things are tight for us, he spends foolishly. I have always paid the bills and taken care of the budget. Just when we are getting on better footing, he does some thing unnecessary like buying a new car. We disagree completely on giving to charity. I want to give and when I do he seems to feel that it has deprived him of something. The things I think are important don't interest him, and the things that he has great interest in aren't important to me.

COUNSELOR

"The man is the head of the woman, as Jesus is head of the church."

WOMAN

Oh, please –I know, but I feel that my husband has a lot of growing up to do before he can handle either the children or the finances.

COUNSELOR -

How will he grow up? Will you let him? What would happen if you let go of the reins? Let go completely. What would happen if you turned the children loose from all your thoughts about what is right and wrong for them, if you turned over the entire finances of the family, including your little inheritance to your husband and asked God to take care of it all?

WOMAN

What would happen? I can't imagine.

COUNSELOR

You mean that God would permit your children to become juvenile delinquents, and that you would lose everything you have?

WOMAN

I should know better, but I really feel that!

COUNSELOR

Here then, is another area in which to extend your surrender, enlarge your faith through prayer, and strengthen your trust in Jesus. You are saying that He is untrustworthy, that if you turned these things over to your husband in accordance with His will, you would meet only disaster. It is not that your husband first must grow up, you must first step out of the place where he must be to assume authority. By doing these things you are keeping him a child. Give him his responsibilities and then trust him to carry them out. When it seems that his decisions are wrong - don't interfere, just hold all the tighter to God and fasten your trust more securely. A wise suggestion, and only that, no demands . . .What you see happen will amaze you.

WOMAN

But.. .but. . . but...

COUNSELOR

I know how your intellect is struggling. Women have this unique problem in that they feel that their judgment is superior to men's. Inwardly they seem convinced of this. The story of Adam and Eve points this out. Eve disregarded her husband's counsel in regard to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Her knowledge of the prohibition came from Adam, as God command concerning this tree was given to Adam before Eve's creation. Eve had it all figured out why this was a good thing to do, despite the command. She had already deceived herself by her reasoning and it was not difficult for Satan to deceive her more. The Bible clearly states that her reasoning was deceived, that she believed that what she was doing was the right thing to do. Adam was not deceived into thinking that the act of disobedience was right, he sinned knowing that it was wrong. Woman's reasoning is subject to her feelings and she is not always a good judge of right and wrong. If this is hard to accept, try it out for a while. Watch your husband work things out in his own way, be patient and willing to see more concerning this truth.

WOMAN

I feel a little insulted. You are saying that my judgment is faulty and my reasoning deceived.

## COUNSELOR

It is not a personal matter, I explain it as what has happened when woman lost her true place and tried to take over a place not meant for her. God gave her other strong qualities needed to round out the whole — charity, feeling, intuiting, sensing, without which the godly life is impossible. Men depend on these qualities in women to complete themselves. Her intuition is a beautiful guide into the spiritual realm which can be helpful to her husband. She can ably interpret for him out of this area of insightful experience (always with prayerful sensitivity to what is appropriate for him). But because dark angelic powers are also influential in this realm, and she is open to them without him, she must be under the protection of his rational mind, and God-given authority. This is why St. Paul says “a woman ought to have a veil on her head (her husband’s authority) because of the angels.” (Parentheses mine). In recognizing this, a woman does not need to feel this is an inferior position. A married couple are one, like a coin, but the coin has two sides. Both of them are different in inscription and configuration, but one side is not inferior to the other. They are just different, yet they merge on a deep level. In the dance the leader is not superior to the follower. The roles are necessary for the dance to be beautiful and harmonious. In order to be a true woman with all the joys intended for that role, it is necessary that you find the place God intended you to fill.

## WOMAN

My old fears come back, that I am going to be reduced to nothing. That there will be no identity — just some kind of extension of my husband’s personality. It all seems to lead to disaster.

## COUNSELOR

Learn to discern Satan when he stirs up fears and doubts. He will not let you walk easily away from him after he has had such a good hold on your life all these years, He will try to keep you from living this new life, from accepting the cross, because he knows in it lies his sure defeat. Turn to God’s promises when he tells you that you are being annihilated. When you find the place that God has made for you, you will be more creative and have more life than you ever dreamed was possible. “For I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” But first give up your life that you might find it.

## SCRIPTURES

Luke 17:7

“Will any of you, who has a servant plowing or keeping sheep, say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come at once and sit down at table’? Will he not rather say to him, ‘Pre pare supper for me, and gird yourself and serve me till I eat and drink; and afterward you shall eat and drink’? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy servants we have done only what was our duty.’”

Acts 13:52

And disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

John 15:11 — 16:20

. . . so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full . . . while the world will rejoice, you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy.

. . .ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Romans 8:28

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

Luke 6:46

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”

Matthew 21:28—31

. . . A man had two Sons; and he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he repented and went. And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?”

Matthew 20:28

. . . even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Matthew 19:30

But many that are first will be last, and the last first.

Mark 1:35

And in the morning, a great while before day, he rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed.

Matthew 6:25

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on - - . But seek first his kingdom his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.

Matthew 6:19

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate . . .

1 Timothy 2:14

. . .and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

Ecclesiasticus 25

The Jerusalem Bible translation

. . .I would sooner keep house with a lion or a dragon than keep house with a spiteful wife.

. . . as climbing up a sandhill is for elderly feet, such is a garrulous wife for a quiet husband.

. . . Bad temper, insolence and shame hold sway where the wife supports the husband.

. . . slack hands and sagging knees indicate a wife who makes her husband wretched.

Happy the husband of a really good wife; the number of his days will be doubled. A perfect wife is the joy of her husband, he will live out the years of his life in peace. A good wife is the best of portions, reserved for those who fear the Lord; rich or poor, they will be glad of heart, cheerful of face whatever the season.

- . . A bad wife is a badly fitting ox yoke, trying to master her is like grasping a scorpion. The grace of a wife will charm her husband, her accomplishments will make him stronger. A silent wife is a gift of the Lord, no price can be put on a well trained character. A modest wife is a boon twice over, a chaste character

cannot be weighed on the scales. Like the sun rising over the mountains of the Lord is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.

BOOKS

Screwtape Letters C.S. Lewis, MacMillan Co.

Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Benedict XV

Mans' Search for Meaning, Vlktor Frankl, Knopf

## Chapter V Balanced Wholeness

May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit, soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

I Thessalonians 5

### WOMAN

No outbursts today, I'm not high or low. I prayed a great deal before I was able to turn over the things we talked about to my husband, actually to God. I felt as though I were casting myself into a bottomless abyss without sureness that there was anything to save me, but I find that is what faith is - stepping out into a fearsome unknown. After I told my husband that I didn't feel able to pay the bills and manage things anymore, and that I was giving him my inheritance, he was genuinely concerned about me. I think he thought that I had discovered I had a terminal illness. He's baffled and perplexed about my attitude toward the children. I told him that I had been going about things in the wrong way, and that I didn't feel adequate to managing and asked if he would take over these responsibilities. I have complained to him about the children for years, but he sensed that I wasn't trying to manipulate him into doing what I wanted this time. I told him I needed his guidance and more, that I wanted him to tell me what is best. Although it is too soon to see anything happening, I feel different inside, a sort of deadness, not a bad deadness, but

### COUNSELOR

Detachment?

### WOMAN

That's the best word. Detachment. Nothing can really bother me, I could almost say that I didn't care if the children did go wrong, or if we did go bankrupt. I no longer care how things look. I know that somehow things will work out and be right in a different kind of rightness. I begin to feel surrounded by love, a love that encompasses every thing - good and bad.

### COUNSELOR

Of course you care, you're no longer believing that evil has the last word for a Christian. In putting down your burdens you are allowing God to pick them up. The detached feeling is the result. Keeping in that place of rest, not reassuming all those cares will need much prayer and abiding in Jesus.

### WOMAN

I have had two conversations with friends, both as unhappy as I once was, and have tried to share with them some of my new found insights. The first friend is a Christian, but soon in our talk I knew that she could not believe what I was saying. She threw up hypothetical cases, like what if your husband were a murderer, a sadist, or compelled you to go against the Ten Commandments.

### COUNSELOR

### WOMAN

How did you answer her objections?

## WOMAN

I told her what was true for me - that Jesus had opened up a new way, that my life was on a new level, no longer comparable to the old. I didn't know how to deal with the complications she raised.

## COUNSELOR

Our own experience is the most convincing thing we have to offer - to tell the things we have witnessed - that is what it means to be a witness for Jesus. As for the problems, and serious ones that we may face in our marriages, our loving Lord is also the Deliverer, the Healer, the Restorer, and in the Spirit our prayers have power in these dimensions. He is the only answer to human problems no matter how varied and difficult they are.

## WOMAN

But what if one's husband did give a direct order to violate God's law, even though such a happening would be very rare.

## COUNSELOR

We can go back to Thomas More for our example. In the modern sense, he was not a revolutionary at all, but in a deeper sense he was a great revolutionary like his Master. Jesus turned the world upside down. Thomas More wished to remain a loyal subject to King Henry VIII. He did not desire to overthrow his power, or to lead a revolt against him in any way. He tried hard not to judge the actions of the king, but when it came to being forced by Henry to do something which his conscience and knowledge of God's law made impossible, he refused, saying, in effect, "Henry, I want to be your loyal subject, but in this I cannot concur by conscience to God. Therefore, do to me what you must." In so doing he followed his Master. Jesus allowed the Sanhedrin and the Romans to have authority over Him, and though He would not change his witness to please them, neither did He call down great spiritual power, or a band of angels to annihilate them, but let them do with Him what they would. A married woman under such conditions concerning her husband's authority could prayerfully do likewise.

## WOMAN

My other friend is active in the Feminist movement. She, of course, thinks I am advocating a cowardly return to the archaic notion of woman as chattel. She was vocal in her disagreement. I understood her thinking well. It is a type of bitter thought against men that arises with frustration and was common to me a short time ago.

## COUNSELOR

These days when mankind cries for a woman not to lose her charity, nor the way to her heart, she is most intent on doing just that. It would seem that she is determined to live out her strength externally, rather than internally, even if it weakens everyone around her.

## WOMAN

I have seen this from both sides, I see with more understanding the place of my sisters, vainly striving against their deep natures and God's will to appropriate a goal which is a phantom, fulfillment on their own terms.

## COUNSELOR

But can you see a piece of truth in it? There is an aspect to this liberation movement which Christian women may heed.

WOMAN

That's puzzling.

COUNSELOR

Nothing is completely black or white. Women do need to find wholeness. Many women have a false picture of an obedient wife as flat, one dimensional, without real passions, not fully human. They use submissiveness as an excuse for maintaining a low selfconcept. This condition, devoid of the life of Jesus, has caused women to assume roles which God does not intend. In society the woman is not subject to men just because they are men, but only to the God given *authority* over her. As a Christian in the Christian community there is no male or female in Christ. Here she may exercise the gifts of the Spirit and serve the community in the way of any other person, but she must remain under her husband's authority, and of course, the authority of the community. In the Catholic Church this authority is explicit from St. Peter on through the ages. She will then be properly veiled, to use St. Paul's analogy. He knew women, as you do, who were not obedient, and who had assumed an authority that was not theirs. The woman is on the threshold of becoming whole by letting the Holy Spirit fill her and by continuing to grow in the love and know ledge of herself and her Lord, When this is happening, she becomes a very strong person in all things through Christ who strengthens her.

WOMAN

Now that I am acquainted with the perverse nature of my own will, and the deep roots of it, I am afraid to develop my own abilities or even to exercise the gifts of the Spirit for fear it may be another expression of my ego. I find it hard to know my motivations, they are so mixed.

COUNSELOR

The parable of the talents tells us that God will actually be displeased if we have not invested our whole ability for Him. He won't be convinced if we say that we were worried about exercising our ego, or not staying within His will. You have given your life to Christ, momentary fluctuations of your will, He will deal with. Of course, our motivations will always be mixed, but our real goal is Him. There fore we must go ahead and develop all our gifts for Him. Woman's great contribution to the world lies in relationship and love, but she must also develop her other side, her masculine side. She needs to find that she can capably be alone, stand strong through trials, live by impersonal values, have a healthy thought life, and a creative life outside the realm of relationship. A woman who uses her abilities and God's gifts under obedience can do so with freedom, knowing that her husband will "be glorified," says the Bible, by her accomplishments.

WOMAN

Then the feminists are reacting to a felt need in women that is God given, an impetus to wholeness, but they are going about it in the way the world knows, by protest and fighting. True wholeness can only be found on an inward path with Jesus and His way –quite a different way.

COUNSELOR

Yes, she has the right, and not only the right but the duty, to be anything or do anything within her power as long as she doesn't thwart the purpose for which he created her — to support and meet the needs of her husband, and thus to bear Jesus to the world by her humble obedience.

WOMAN

I have always had a desire to write. Now I would like to write things that might glorify God. If I took up this writing, would it threaten my husband? He's always seemed jealous, or at least

unhappy about it.

#### COUNSELOR

Wait a while. Your husband has been conditioned by what has been your unconscious rebellion to suspect everything you do as an excuse for not putting him first. When you are established in this new love, when he has relaxed his fears about you, when he is assured that you respect his authority, and of your continued surrender to him, when you have established free communication in truth between yourselves, that is the time to allow these other gifts that God has given to be developed. If they are real talent they will not disappear with time, but will be enhanced by the spiritual discipline. As with other things, serving comes first. The orderly care of the home, the meals, the clothes, the cleaning, the children's emotional and physical needs, and most importantly the husband's needs must be first met. When this is true, the development of your talents and interests are nurtured by the Holy Spirit. This is also true about work outside the home.

#### WOMAN

With that list, I will never get to any writing.

#### COUNSELOR

The Holy Spirit is an unsurpassed teacher in the matter of time and work. You will find that you have more time than ever and your creative energy will astonish you. It is remarkable, and a work of God's grace, this organizing of time and space. Your husband's support for your creative efforts will also be helpful for direction and encouragement. Heeding them you will be sure of using your talents rightly.

#### WOMAN

We have not talked about good works. I no longer feel guilty about them, knowing that I am working full time at what God has shown me to do, but there still must be other service to be given.

#### COUNSELOR

I like the Episcopal prayer book phrase from scripture, "let us continue in that Holy fellowship and do all such good works as Thou has prepared for us to walk in." We know there is nothing we can do for God. He does it all. But we want to simply walk along in those good works that he has prepared, then we take no glory away for ourselves, in fact we are hardly aware that the works are getting done or that we are being instrumental. If we are willing to be used, we don't need to strive, just to rest, and He will use us; remember, to be a true instrument, pliable to His will, we must also be willing not to be used.

#### WOMAN

I am more conscious of women now. They seem discordant, noisy, too busy; while, oddly, men could be said to be retiring, even quiet and harmonious. The woman who reflects the loveliness of full being is a rarity. When I see one, I know it is God's work.

#### COUNSELOR

How man needs such a woman Beauty and youthfulness come from a pure heart and liberated mind. It is striking to see the physical change that comes over a woman who finds God and then her place. There is an indefinable charm which a change of heart can give. This is a beauty far more than physical and is available to all.

## SCRIPTURE

John 12:24

. . . unless a grain of wheat fall into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must also follow me: and where I am there shall my servant be also; if any one serves me, the Father will honor him.

Romans 8:35

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Galatians 3:27

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

I Corinthians 11:5

(the veil is a *symbol* of a woman's submission to her husband)

. . . but any woman, who prays or prophesies with her head unveiled dishonors her head (her husband) - it is the same as if her head were shaven (like a man)

I Corinthians 14:34

. . . the women should keep silence in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be subordinate, as even the law says. If there is anything they desire to know, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

Matthew 25:14—30

. . . He also who had the one talent came forward saying, Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! So you knew . . . then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest . . . cast the worthless servant into outer darkness.

John 19:25

But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and. . .

John 10:10

I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

II Timothy 3:14—17

. . . continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed . . . you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus . . . that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Ephesians 2:8

. . . not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Galatians 2:20

. . . it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

Proverbs 31:10—31

A good wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not harm, all the days of her life, She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from afar. She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and tasks for her maidens. She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. She girds her loins with strength and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. She puts her hands to the distaff and her hands to the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of snow for her house hold, for all her household are clothed in scarlet. She makes herself coverings and her clothing is linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers girdles to the merchant. Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also and he praises her "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

#### BOOKS

The Problem of Pain, CS. Lewis, MacMillan

Beyond Ourselves, Catherine Marshall, McGraw Hill

Catholic Pentecostals, Kevin Ranaghan, Paulist

The Pentecostal Movement in the Catholic Church, Edward O'Vonnor SCS, Ave Maria Press

## Chapter VI.

### Growth and Prayer

Thou hast said, "seek ye my face."  
 My heart says to thee, "Thy face  
 Lord, do I seek." Hide not thy face  
 from me.

Psalm 27:8-9

#### COUNSELOR

We have been sharing these sessions, hoping that the Holy Spirit would use these conversations to bring new insights into the meaning and purpose of a woman's life. If helpful understandings have been gained, there is only one way of carrying these over into the daily life where they can bear fruit for the Lord and the Kingdom of God. This one way is by daily contact with Him in prayer. Only prayer keeps us open for the Holy Spirit to work in and through us in all of life's situations, large and small. A time of prayer and Bible reading is the one most important resolve to put into daily practice. The Tremendous Lover cannot help us if we turn our back on Him, if we do not remain in loving conversation with Him.

#### WOMAN

I do not know how to pray as I should, how do I learn to pray?

#### COUNSELOR

When Jesus was asked by his disciples, he taught them the Lord's prayer. It is a perfect prayer if only we could approach it fresh and regain the wholeness it has to offer. It has every attitude of prayer we need to learn. So meditate on these attitudes and seek to make them heart conditions as a beginning for prayer.

Adoration

Our Father who art in heaven Hallowed be Thy name.

Surrender

And Obedience

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done

On Earth as it is in Heaven

Absolution

upon

Confession

Forgive us our trespasses as

we forgive those who trespass against us,

Request for Guidance   Lead us not into temptation.

Deliverance

And Healing                   And deliver us from evil

Praise and Thanksgiving    For thine is the Kingdom  
and the Power and the Glory  
forever and ever.

#### WOMAN

It is wonderful to pray the Our Father for others in intercession as I have for my little daughter who has been sick.

Jane's Father in heaven may she hold your name Holy. May your will be done in her, Provide her this day, her needs. Forgive her her wrongs and help her to forgive those who hurt her.  
Do not put her to the test, but deliver her from the Evil One.  
To Thee be all the glory, and the honor for Thine is the power.  
Amen

#### COUNSELOR

It simply and beautifully says all that there is to say. There are many fine books on this subject - in fact, covering all depths of prayer and they are inspirational and helpful reading. Another kind of Biblical prayer should be mentioned. It is the prayer of the Spirit described in Romans by St. Paul. Thus mental thoughts are put aside and the Holy Spirit searches the things of God and prays through us "with moanings too deep for words." This is pure spiritual prayer free of the machinations of the mind, as St. Paul says in Corinthians, edifying to the Christian who speaks to God and not to man. To pray for the gift of such prayer is not to pray amiss. We are encouraged to seek the spiritual gifts that God has to give us.

#### WOMAN

It would be wonderful to be free to pray like that. So many times I feel that I don't know what to ask for, either for myself or for others. Other times when I am full of praise to God it is not satisfying to repeat words. A by-pass of the mind would be welcome.

#### COUNSELOR

A very spiritual old Russian Orthodox monk who spent a lifetime in the art of contemplative prayer, felt that praying in the Spirit, or praying in tongues, was a short cut to contemplation. It is my experience that this is so.

#### WOMAN

My desire is only to grow more and more in my love for Jesus. If I keep that the goal of my life, I am confident that He will give me all I need to become the person He intended me to be, and I shall welcome His gifts.

#### COUNSELOR

As you pray, expect more and more in the revelation of Him and His love. Don't be discouraged when dry times come, sometimes you will seem to be in a desert, but keep your eyes on the

horizon, and plod along, you will soon come into more lush country on the other side. Be constant in prayer, and you will feel the growth of the Holy Spirit as He increases in you.

#### WOMAN

I often turn to the story of Jesus and the woman at the well, a woman not unlike myself. I may not have committed adultery, yet, I have all those hidden adulteries of the heart, Jesus knows me wholly yet accepts me, as he knew and accepted her. He told her that He was the complete answer to all her needs, and that He would be in her a never ending supply. Oh, the love that flows through those words.

#### COUNSELOR

This is what you must remember as you keep on the path to the Heavenly City, so that you may have the rewards of peace and joy along the way. And though you have no flagrant sins of the flesh to confess, there may be a time when your spiritual life seems to hit a snag. Never hesitate if you feel you need confession to a priest—the more often, the better. There is great healing for unresolved ills in confession. Without it, a part of us may harden off; a certain hardness of heart where we keep God out. This can begin a turning away in which we are deceived into thinking is a new spiritual direction. We must remain open and honest with God, letting His penetrating knife-blades of light shine into every corner of our being, letting not one slinky, dark thought rest in us by our allowing it. The inner well must be dug deeper and deeper to hold more and more of the living water.

#### WOMAN

There seem so many possibly pitfalls —sometimes I feel almost afraid, If only there was a sure cure, a quick one, for the deviousness of my heart and will. The road looks so long and hard.

#### COUNSELOR

When impatience rules, soon follows discouragement and depression. To see the weakness and evil in ourselves is natural as we grow in the spiritual life. WE must learn that these very elements in us make us need Jesus—therefore we can give thanks for them -these negative things which force us to be close to, and dependent on Him. Praise God for them! Then we can accept the time it takes for the growth and maturation of the fruits of the Spirit.

#### WOMAN

Again the confessional is wonderful for self- acceptance because God's patience there is infinite with me. I'll try to walk in the Spirit without restlessness, persevering in prayer, reading my Bible, and other spiritual books.

#### COUNSELOR

We are touching things lightly, there are many excellent books to help. Being active in a prayer fellowship will also further good growth. To serve God by exercising the gifts of the Spirit to people in need will also keep grace pouring into your life. But as you grow, guard against an out cropping of weeds almost sure to sprout — judgment and rigid concepts. Be patient and longsuffering with the slower and more resistant Church fellowship, be obedient to Church authority in the same trusting way as you've learned with your husband. Jesus says we are called to forgive - how many times? Seventy times seven, don't forget that. We are to be public defenders, not public prosecutors

## WOMAN

It is hard when you have insights, knowledge, even wisdom, that may be exciting and important, to remember that “if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

## COUNSELOR

A lifetime would be well spent studying Paul’s revelation on love -the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians. “Love is not arrogant or rude. Does not insist on its own way.” So many Holy Spirit people are misled at just this point in their relationship to the rest of Christ’s body — his Church.

## WOMAN

To stay in a fellowship where everything is not in the Spirit, where you are misunderstood, and where silence and prayer are often the best you can offer, sometimes seems a misguided effort. But if God wants His leaven in the flour, and promises thereby to leaven the whole, and if this gives me a real opportunity to do this sacrificial kind of Jesus - loving, then that’s where I’ll stay.

## COUNSELOR

He never promised us a way free of misunderstanding, even persecution, but he also never gave us a way out of the obligation of loving, regardless. It is a narrow, even a narrowing way. Yet, paradoxically so infinitely full.

## WOMAN

Yes, I must continue to decrease, letting go of much I thought important, in order to continue on that way. Thanks be to God that I found it at all, for He, Jesus, is truly that narrow Way.

## COUNSELOR

You’re singleminded, and the promise is you shall see God. May His blessing always be upon you. Thanks be to God!

## SCRIPTURE

## RSV Galatians 5:16-26

. . . walk by the Spirit and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. . . Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

## 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

## Luke 11:1

One of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples. Matthew 6:6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your father who is in secret will reward you.

## Matthew 6:9

For your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this. . .

## Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

I Corinthians 14:2

The one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God

Ephesians 6:13

Pray at all times in the Spirit with all prayer and supplication.

Ephesians 6:10-13

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand.

John 4:7-42

The story of the woman of Samaria and Jesus at the well.

Romans 8:35—39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... No in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. . .

II Corinthians 3:17—13

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

II Corinthians 4

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comprehension.

Philippians 2:12

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now . . . work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 3:12

Not that I have already obtained this or am a ready perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Let those of us who are mature be thus minded; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, God will reveal that to you.

Galatians 6:1

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Philippians 4:8

Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

John 17:4

I have given them thy word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Colossians 3:12

If you then have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:12

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another, and, if one has a complaint against another, for giving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these things put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Psalms 32:6

I acknowledge my sin to thee, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin.

I Timothy 4:14

Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the elders laid their hands upon you.

I Corinthians 13

The love chapter of St. Paul

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 38:17-18

For I am ready to fall, and my pain is ever with me. I confess my iniquity, I am sorry for my sin.

Luke 13:21

And again he said, "To what shall I compare the Kingdom of God? It is the leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till it was all leavened.

Mark 9:49

For everyone will be salted with fire.

John 16:33

In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me."

## BOOKS

Theology of the Body Explained, Christopher West, Pauline Books

The Way of the Pilgrim, French, Seabury

Crossing the Threshold of Hope, John Paul II, Knopf

### POSTSCRIPT

The contents of this booklet came from personal experience and the experiences of a group of praying women long before I became a Catholic. It may become evident that entering into the depths and richness of obedience to the right order that God intended between man and woman would open an understanding of the universal family God has established, the Catholic Church. Discovering by divine grace the wonders of obedience to divine authority in the family spilled over eventually into an understanding that the same eternal Truth explained Christ's Church. As a result this whole family of eleven children, my husband, then a Protestant minister and myself entered this wonderful completion of all church experience and became Catholic Christians. Just as it transformed our husband, wife, child relationship in the home, right order under holy headship has proved to be a perfect family environment suiting every human need.

However, this writing does not present many deep facets later gained from our Catholic experience, especially in regard to the Mother of the great Christian family, Mary Most Holy. She exemplifies all the principles of love and obedience that this writing attempts to present. Those who wish to go deeper can go no deeper than to become her child by accepting her loving motherhood.