

Part 1: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Thy works, and my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from Thee, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.

Psalm 139:14-16

I. God Knows Us

- A. Distortions Occur Within Us Because We Do Not Have a Proper Understanding of Ourselves.
- B. God Really Sees Us, Knows Us and Values Us.
- C. God Knows Who and What We Are.
 - 1. How we are constituted (how our various giftings work together).
 - 2. How we were made to function in His Kingdom, reconciling others to Him.

II. We Are Intentionally Fashioned

- A. “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”
 - 1. Fearfully—Not “nervously,” but rather with a sense of awe and amazement.
 - 1. Wonderfully—Not “superior,” but rather we are made unique—unlike anyone else.
- B. It Is Appropriate to Give Thanks to God for Ourselves.
 - 1. This is not conceited, but is rather true humility.
 - 2. Lining up our thinking with the truth of the Bible will fix the distortions in our lives.

A. The Essence of Our Being Is Not Formed in This Physical World

1. “Depths of the earth”—Idiomatic expression referring to something that happens “beneath the surface.”
2. We existed in the spiritual dimension before any of the physical material was put together.
3. The physical realm does not confine us. We existed before it, and we will exist after it.

III. Body, Soul, and Spirit

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1

Thessalonians 5:23

C. The Three Parts of Our Being Parallel with the Three Heavens Mentioned in Scripture

1. The First Heaven—Made of physical, tangible things, inhabited by physical creatures.
2. The Second Heaven—The spiritual world, inhabited by spiritual beings, both angelic and demonic.
 - a. Forces in the second heaven have the ability to affect things in the first heaven (Ephesians 6:12, Colossians 1:16).
 - b. They operate like the wind or an ocean current, creating movement without many outward physical manifestations.
3. The Third Heaven—God’s dwelling place—no access to this realm by evil beings.

The Three Heavens:



IV. The Three Dimensions/Worlds

This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.
James 3:15

- A. Physical—Flesh and Blood and Elements.
- B. Natural
 - 1. Emotions and thoughts.
 - 2. Spiritual and physical laws, principles, or forces—stuff that simply happens without outside intervention.
 - a. Physical forces like gravity.
 - b. Spiritual principles like generosity.

The Three Dimensions:



- C. Spiritual—Unseen Powers and Dominions, Spiritual Being

Part 2: Our Body, Soul, and Spirit

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

I. Distinguishing the Physical, Natural, and Spiritual.

- A. The Problems That People Face Can Have Different Causes.
- B. In Order to Be Effective Ministers, We Must Be Able to Discern These Different Causes.

II. The Division Between Soul and Spirit

- A. The Body—Ignorant and Lazy with Spiritual Things.
- B. The Soul—Less Enthusiastic about God Than Our Spirit
 - 1. *Psyche*—air, breath
 - 2. Animals do not have souls.
 - 3. Activities of the Soul

Three Parts of Being:



- a. Reactions—Natural vs. Spiritual
- b. Longings—Natural vs. Spiritual
- c. Thoughts & Opinions—Natural vs. Spiritual
- d. Emotions

(1) Personal emotions have almost nothing to do with what is happening in the spiritual dimension.

(2) We do have soulish reactions (emotions) to spiritual things, but the reaction itself is not spiritual.

4. It is very difficult for our souls to understand spiritual things (I Cor. 2:14).
 - a. Parallel illustration:
 - (1) Animals and our physical bodies do not understand soulish thoughts.
 - (2) In the same way, our souls do not understand spiritual things.
 - b. We become more aware of spiritual things only through revelation.
- C. When We Go to Heaven, We Leave Our Bodies behind, and Our Soul and Spirit Inhabit a New, Perfected Body

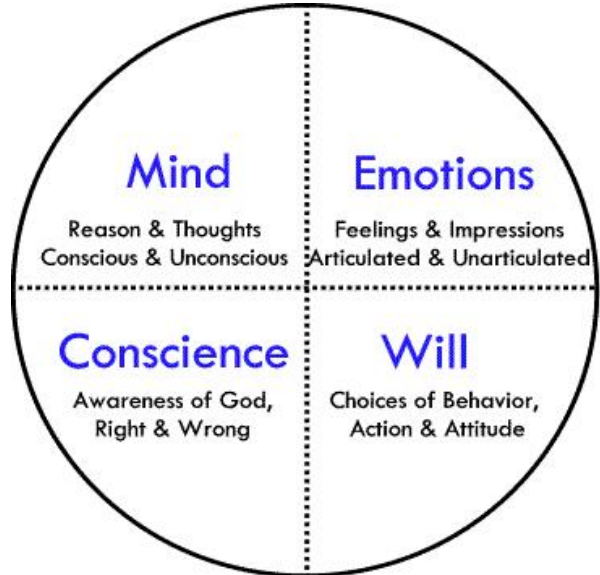
Part 3: Our Soul--Mind, Will, Emotions, Conscience

I. Our Mind

A. Our Souls (including our minds) Are Not a Very Reliable Guide.

B. Lean Not on Your Own Understanding (Prov. 3:5,6).

1. We must choose to obey small promptings from the Lord, even though they don't make much sense to our minds.
2. If we want all that God wants for us, we must be willing to accept things that are beyond our own understanding.



C. Our Soul Is the Primary Point That Evil Spiritual Forces Work Their Way into Our Lives.

1. The thoughts that end up in our minds are not always our own.
2. The enemy is always seeking to plant lies into our souls.

D. We Learn Things in God's Kingdom through Repentance.

II. Our Will

A. Addiction—When Our Will Is No Longer in Control.

1. There is always a spiritual element to addiction.
2. God has the power to dislodge the spiritual hooks that jerk us around and have robbed us of our will.

B. Attitude—a Will to Behave and Respond in a Certain Way.

1. Attitudes can be broken by a decision of the will.
2. If we allow ourselves to stay entrenched in a particular attitude it becomes more difficult to get out of it, and can eventually take over our personality.

III. Our Emotions

A. Emotions Are Ill-Defined—the Difference between Emotions and Thoughts Is Words.

B. Although Emotions Are Real, They Aren't Always Based upon Reality.

1. Our emotions will always attempt to direct our will.
2. The heart is deceitful above all else (Jeremiah 17:9).

C. It Is Very Easy to Confuse Emotions with Spirituality.

IV. Our Conscience

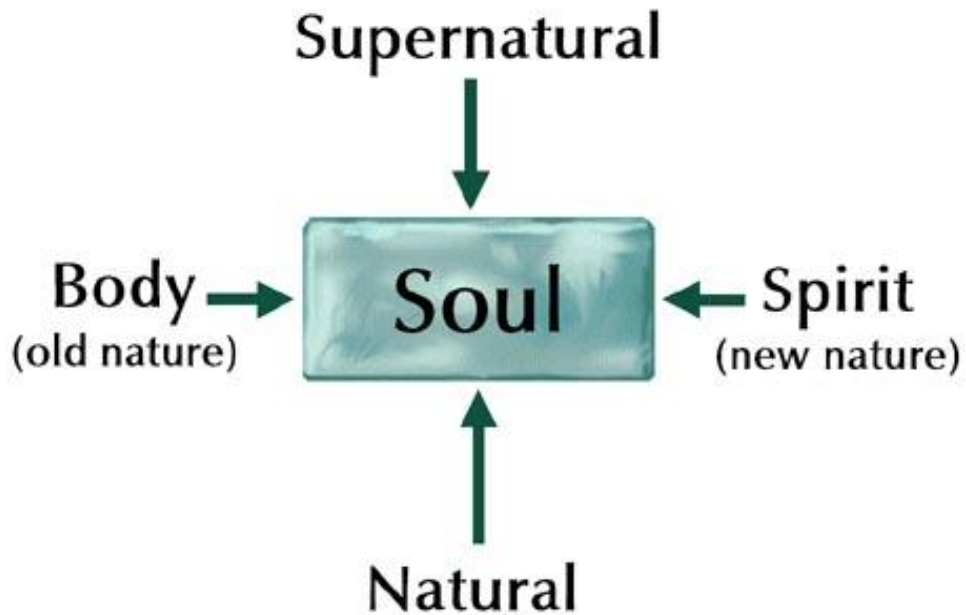
A. Our Conscience Acts as a Second Reference Point.

B. Like the Other Parts of Our Soul, Our Conscience Can Be Twisted and Shaped by Forces Other Than God.

C. We Must Base Our Life on God's Word, Because Our Conscience Is Not a Reliable Guide For Life.

V. The Four Forces that Influence Us

- A. Body—The Old Nature.
- B. Spirit—Our New Nature.
- C. The Natural World—External Physical/Emotional Circumstances.
- D. The Supernatural World—Spiritual Forces That Invade Our Lives.



Part 4: God Relieves the Afflicted

I. The Message of the Gospel

- A. The Gospel Is More Than a Lot of Conversations about Good and Bad.
- B. God's Desire Is to Heal, Restore and Recover Us.
- C. If We Can Admit That We Can't See and We Don't Know, Then He Can Help Us.

II. The Condition of the Afflicted

- A. Disadvantaged—Poor, without Resources.
- B. Humbled—Depressed in Mind, Body, Soul, or Circumstances
- C. Overwhelmed—Steamrolled, Caught in a Current, Carried Away.
- D. Inadequate—Not Able to Perform, Leads to Anger.
- E. Diminished—A Life That Has Been Eaten away, Only Parcels Left.

III. Jesus Does Not Condemn Our Condition, but Rather Wants to Restore Us.

Part 5: Binding Up Broken Hearts

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners. Isaiah 61:1

I. Jesus is the Embodiment of God's Healing

- A. We Have Been Profoundly Damaged.
- B. We Live Our Lives Largely Unaware of the Healing God Wants for Us.
- C. Healing Is Not an Instantaneous Event.

II. The Symptoms of a Broken Heart

- A. Although the Significance of Having a Broken Heart Is Huge, There Are Not Always Many Outward Manifestations.
- B. Broken Down—Collapsed, Spread Thin, Incapacitated.
- C. Broken Off—Missing Pieces—Increasingly Aware of What Is Not There.
- D. Broken Up—Scattered, Fragmented, Lost, Disoriented.
- E. Broken Into—A Violation of the Most Intimate Parts of Our Heart and Life.

III. How Hearts Get Broken

- A. Reproach (Ps. 69:20).
- B. Lack of Comforters.
- C. Worshipping Idols (Ps. 15:13).

IV. A Broken Heart Can Lead to Over-Sensitivity, Self-pity, Bitterness, or Unforgiveness.

V. How God Binds the Brokenhearted

- A. Wraps
- B. Holds
- C. Governs
- D. Heals

Part 6: God Liberates the Captives

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners. Isaiah 61:1

I. Proclaiming Liberty to Captives

A. “Liberty”

1. A sudden release, or quick cleansing.
2. Launches us way past the barrier that previously held us.

B. Year of Jubilee

II. Influences on the Soul

A. Fleshly Impulses—Leading to Sin, and with Repetitive Obedience, Addiction.

B. Spiritual Forces—Leading to Sin, and with Repetitive Obedience, Bondage.

III. Demonic Forces

A. Popular Notions of Demons Are Neither Accurate Nor Useful.

1. Horrifying, paranormal forces.
2. Cartoon caricatures, Casper cuties.

B. Evil Spirits Distort Our God-Given Personality.

1. Like a mood or a feeling.
2. One dimensional personality or character trait.

IV. Conversion and Transformation

- A. From Sinner to Saint
- B. From Egypt to Promised Land
- C. From the Domain of Darkness to the Kingdom of God's Son
- D. From Captivity to Freedom

V. Captivity / Spiritual Bondage

- A. Spiritual Bondage Is Only One of the Conditions Caused by the Enemy's Attacks.

- B. Words or Images:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| ❖ Oppressed | ❖ Attacked | ❖ Plundered |
| ❖ Afflicted | ❖ Ravaged | ❖ Despoiled |
| ❖ Driven | ❖ Devoured | ❖ Robbed |

- C. Its Effects Are Very Subtle; We Cannot Detect Our Own Bondage

Part 7: Manifestations of Captivity

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners. Isaiah 61:1

I. Humans Get Damaged by Demonic Activity

- A. God Has the Power to Free Us from Their Influence, and Fix the Damage They Have Caused.
- B. Demonic Activity Is Just One of the Many Things That Make Things Go Wrong in Our Lives.
 - 1. Sin is the biggest force we face.
 - 2. Our struggle is not just against sin. Confession and personal discipline will not conquer demonic bondage.

II. Manifestations of Demonic Captivity

- A. Not Bizarre or Horrifyingly Paranormal, or Cute Cartoon Caricatures.
- B. Demons Manifest as a Mood, Personality Trait, Motive, Atmosphere, or Perception.

III. The Condition of Captivity

The LORD was pleased for His righteousness' sake, to make the law great and glorious. But this is a people plundered and despoiled; all of them are trapped in caves, or are hidden away in prisons; they have become a prey with none to deliver them, and a spoil, with none to say, "Give them back!" Isaiah 42:21-22

- A. Plundered—Everything of Value Stripped Away, Becomes a Source of Death Rather Than Life.
- B. Despoiled—Torn up, Grotesque Instead of Beautiful.
- C. Trapped

IV. God's Promise

"Can the prey be taken from the mighty man, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued?" Surely, thus says the LORD, "Even the captives of the mighty man will be taken away, and the prey of the tyrant will be rescued; for I will contend with the one who contends with you, and I will save your sons." Isaiah 49:24-25

- A. God Has the Power to Bind Up the "Strong Man."
- B. Salvation Is Not Just an Event That Happens Once but Involves:
 - 1. Freedom from the power of sin.
 - 2. Healing from the ravages of sickness.
 - 3. Deliverance from the power of spirits.

V. The Results of Captivity

- A. Sent into Exile—To a Strange Land with Strange People and Strange Gods.
 - 1. Spiritually We Get Forcefully Removed from Who We Are.
 - 2. In Bondage, We Build Monuments to False Gods.
- B. Plundered—Robbed of the Resources God Wants for Us.
- C. Subjugated—Ruled over by Enemies That Hate Us. Bondage Is Tortuous Rather Than Tempting.

Part 8: Subtle Symptoms of Captivity

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners. Isaiah 61:1

I. Salvation

- A. The Biblical Notion of Salvation Has a Much Broader Than We Generally Think of.
- B. The Israelites Had to Battle for the Promised Land.
- C. Sanctification—Out with the Bad, in with the Good.

II. Subtle Symptoms of Spiritual Captivity

- A. Manifests in Greater Compulsion and Insistence Than Sin.
 - 1. A thought or feeling that acts similarly to a physical addiction.
 - 2. Like an avalanche or flash flood.
 - 3. Bondage leaves you feeling empty—there is none of the pleasure or satisfaction that is felt after normal sinning.
 - a. Lying
 - b. Fantasy
 - c. Pornography
- B. Attaches to and Changes Aspects of Our Personality or Character.

When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' Luke 11:24

- 1. It is intolerable for a spirit to be without a body to manifest itself.

2. Demons have a driving desire to express themselves through human beings.
 3. We resemble what we worship (Psalm 115:8).
 4. The biblical perspective is far different from that of the social sciences.
 - a. The social sciences only know how to look at the physical dimension.
 - b. Mind-altering drugs are rooted in witchcraft.
 5. Images of Bondage—Too “crowded;” erosion that occurs with flooding; a personality that can be described in one or two words.
- C. Generates Thoughts and Feelings Even Without Specific People or Events as Triggers.
1. Sin is situational, but bondage becomes a constant part of a person’s personality.
 - a. Pride
 - b. Fear
 2. God does not blame people for their bondage, but rather wants to set us free.

Part 9: Things to Remember in Deliverance

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

1 Corinthians 10:11

I. We Discover the Patterns and Principles of God's Kingdom in the Stories of the Old Testament.

Instead of your shame you will have a double portion, and instead of humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore they will possess a double portion in their land, everlasting joy will be theirs.

Isaiah 61:7

A. Life Will Not Always Be the Way That It Is Now.

1. Instead of our bondage, we get a double portion of freedom.
2. Deliverance hasn't really occurred unless we are radically different from how we were.
3. Deliverance is all about God's miraculous power, not about optimism or self-help.

And the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have given heed to their cry because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings." Exodus 3:7

B. Our Suffering and Affliction Move God Deeply.

"So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite." Exodus 3:8

C. Deliverance Is Both *out from* and *in to*.

But he said, "You are lazy, *very* lazy; therefore you say, 'Let us go *and* sacrifice to the LORD.' So go now *and* work; for you shall be given no straw, yet you must deliver the quota of bricks." When they left Pharaoh's presence, they met Moses and Aaron as they were waiting for them. And they said to them, "May the LORD look upon you and judge *you*, for you have made us odious in Pharaoh's sight and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us." Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "O Lord, why hast Thou brought harm to this people? Why didst Thou ever send me? Ever since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Thy name, he has done harm to this people; and Thou hast not delivered Thy people at all." Exodus 5:17-23

D. Our Condition May Seem to Get Worse Just Prior to Deliverance.

1. Choose to be in bondage to God through worship rather than to the enemy.
2. We can get so used to our bondage that we will settle for it.
3. God hardened Pharaoh's heart so that the events of this story would mirror the realities of our spiritual lives today.

"But I know that the king of Egypt will not permit you to go, except under compulsion. So I will stretch out My hand, and strike Egypt with all My miracles which I shall do in the midst of it; and after that he will let you go."
Exodus 3:19-20

E. Only God Can Compel the Forces That Currently Enslave Us.

1. Demons will never leave of their own accord.
2. As we pray deliverance for people, we are administering God's compelling force to them.

"And I will grant this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be that when you go, you will not go empty-handed. But every woman shall ask of her neighbor and the woman who lives in her house, articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; and you will put them on your sons and daughters. Thus you will plunder the Egyptians." Exodus 3:21-22

F. God enables us to take something Precious from Our Captivity.

II. Communion

A. Just As God Had the Israelites Put the Blood of a Lamb Over Their Doors (Exodus 12:3), through Faith, We Put the Blood of Jesus over Our Lives.

B. God Brought Judgment on the Nation of Egypt, but Passed over the Israelites. In the Same Way, God Will Bring Judgment on the Entire World, but That Judgment Will Pass over Those Who Believe in Jesus.

Part 10: More Things to Remember in Deliverance

So Moses spoke thus to the sons of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses on account of their despondency and cruel bondage. Exodus 6:9

I. It Is Hard to Hear Hope When Our Bondage Is Severe.

A. Submission Can Enable Us to Hear Things We Wouldn't Otherwise Be Able to Hear

B. We Must Be Merciful to Others Who Can't Hear Truth.

And the whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. And the sons of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the LORD'S hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Exodus 16:2-3

II. Between the Out From and the Into, We Will Be Tempted Backwards.

A. We Are Eager to Blame and Find Fault with Any Condition When we Are Uncomfortable.

B. The Good Old Days Aren't Really That Good.

C. Be Careful Not to Blame Leaders.

Whether it was two days or a month or a year that the cloud lingered over the tabernacle, staying above it, the sons of Israel remained camped and did not set out; but when it was lifted, they did set out. Numbers 9:22

III. Timing or Instructions That Seem to Make Little Sense Re-Teach Us Obedience.

A. The Important Thing Is to Keep Our Eye on Him.

B. We Cannot Figure Out a Pattern or Formula for God's Working.

C. My Job Is to Respond to Him, Not to Get Him to Respond to Me.

Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Exodus 32:1

IV. When Nothing Seems to Be Happening, We Are Tempted to Opt for a "Sure Thing" God.

A. It Can Be the Mercy of God That We Don't Know What He's Doing.

B. Only False Gods Never Seem to Leave Us (They Can't).

Thus they told him, and said, "We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified *and* very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there." Numbers 13:27-28

V. *Past* Deliverance Does Not Remove All the Giants from Our *Future*.

A. We Are Engaged in a Life-Long Struggle (Ephesians 6:12).

"I will not drive them out before you in a single year, that the land may not become desolate, and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. I will drive them out before you little by little, until you become fruitful and take possession of the land." Exodus 23:30

VI. God Gives Us Our New Land Little By Little, Not All At Once (Isaiah 28:10).

A. We Must Be Faithful With the Little Things That God Has Given Us (Psalm 37).

"And I will fix your boundary from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River *Euphrates*; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you will drive them out before you." Exodus 23:31

VII. The Freedom Will Be Greater Than We Can Think or Imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

"May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation, ¹⁷ who will go out and come in before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd." ¹⁸ So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; ¹⁹ and have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation; and commission him in their sight. ²⁰ "And you shall put some of your authority on him, in order that all the congregation of the sons of Israel may obey *him*." Numbers 27:16-20

VIII. Our Deliverance, and Subsequent Inheritance, Do Not Depend on Any *One* Person.

- A. The Lord Is the Deliverer, Not Any Particular Person.
- B. Truly Godly Leadership Cares Only to See That People Have a Shepherd, Not That They Be the Leader.

At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make for yourself flint knives and circumcise again the sons of Israel the second time"... For all the people who came out were circumcised, but all the people who were born in the wilderness along the way as they came out of Egypt had not been circumcised. Joshua 5:2, 5

IX. Deliverance Does Not Replace the Need for Obedience.

Part 11: Hallmarks of Deliverance

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners. Isaiah 61:1

I. God's Intervention Can Be Very Fast—Almost Instantaneous.

A. A True Sense of Choice in My Decision-Making about What I Do, Say or Think.

1. I have well-clarified option for thought and behavior.
2. The former patterns no longer have the power to carry me away.
3. Instead of being “driven,” I will be faced with several small choices.

B. A Sudden Almost Surprising Ability to Move beyond Former “Stick Points.”

1. A release from a tight and confining preoccupation with a single focus.
2. When praying for people, you can feel this release happen.

C. A Hyper-Vigilance and Awareness of Right and Wrong.

1. An awakening from a quasi-slumber.
2. In bondage our spiritual senses get very dull.
3. In bondage, all we can see is how bad and wrong we are.
4. Deliverance does not condemn us, but rather frees us.

D. A Sense That I Have Unexpectedly and Undeservedly Been Given a “New Lease on Life.”

5. Dramatic and prolonged experiences with unbelievable grace.
 - a. Though I should justly be stripped of my birthright, I am, instead, treated like a guest of honor.
 - b. A sense of absolute unbelief at the good that has been done for me.

Part 12: More Hallmarks of Deliverance

I. The Three Parts of Salvation

- A. From Sin
- B. From Physical Circumstances
- B. From Spiritual Forces/Patterns

II. When We Study the Bible, We Must Allow the Bible to Interpret Our Experience, Not *Vice Versa*.

III. More Hallmarks of Deliverance

Thus says the LORD, "In a favorable time I have answered You, and in a day of salvation I have helped You; and I will keep You and give You for a covenant of the people, to restore the land, to make *them* inherit the desolate heritages; saying to those who are bound, 'Go forth,' to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' Along the roads they will feed, and their pasture will be on all bare heights. They will not hunger or thirst, neither will the scorching heat or sun strike them down; for He who has compassion on them will lead them, and will guide them to springs of water." Isaiah 49:8-10

- A. A Deep Conviction That I Have Been Answered by God (but Rarely Does God Answer Us in the Way We Expect).
- B. A Strengthened Ability to Resist Temptation.
 - 1. The sin of rebellion has the same root as divination (witchcraft).
 - 2. Bondage is a type of worship.
 - a. Bondage wants you to worship it physically and mentally.
 - b. Bondage wants you to meditate on its "precepts."

- C. A Restoration of My True Personhood.
 - 1. Bondage erodes my personality/character.
 - 2. Deliverance doesn't just get rid of the problem, but it actually fixes the damage.
- D. A Pronounced Season of Revelation and Repentance.
 - 1. An acute awareness of the wrong in my life, but with so much hope that it can be made right.
 - 2. We really learn things in God's Kingdom only on the heels of repentance.
- E. An Undeniable "Calling Out" from Dark Places.
- F. A Renewed Sense of being Led by the Lord.
- G. A Complete "Turn Around" in My Understanding or Circumstances.
- H. A Tangible Trophy of Deliverance.
- I. An Increased Desire to Celebrate and Praise God.
- J. A Desire and Ability to Minister Freedom to Other People.