

## WHAT CAUSES A SPIRITUAL CASUALTY?

An army psychiatrist practicing during WWII once observed, “Where a man had no interest, where he felt he was misplaced, where he thought he was not appreciated, where he believed his talents were being misused, invariably we found a potential, if not an actual, psychiatric casualty.” I suggest that the same conclusions might be made about a potential *spiritual* casualty.

In addition to the lack of study and prayer, spiritual casualties most often result when an individual turns to self, when he cuts ties with God and others, and when he drifts into obscurity. Although loving and concerned brothers and sisters in Christ can play an instrumental role in helping a potential spiritual casualty to avoid such a thing from happening, in the final analysis, he must take responsibility for himself. Let us consider then the warning signs that point to such a casualty that is about to happen.

**When a person shows no interest.** Repeatedly the Bible addresses the truth of Matthew 7:7. “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” *Interest*, my dear friend, is generated by participation, by investment of time, by understanding the value of and by acknowledging the long-range significance of God’s plan. Without this commitment and or understanding, interest will indeed die! Once Jeremiah wrote a letter to those held captive and included this straightforward admonition: “And ye shall seek me, and find me, **when ye shall search for me with all your heart**” (Jeremiah 29:13, Emphasis added). The child of God must seek the LORD (Psalms 8:17, 34; 22:26; 70:4), wait [i.e., to hope strongly, to trust, to expect] on the LORD (Psalms 27:14), and “**hunger and thirst after [the] righteousness**” of the Lord (Matthew 5:6). Jesus explained, “For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Matthew 7:8). In this regard, the Psalmists cannot be misunderstood: “Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart” (Psalms 119:2). Therefore, when interest falls short, it just might be because the pursuit has stopped!

**When a person feels misplaced.** Was not the thought of being out of place the reason that Moses denied the power of God for so long when God sought him to lead the children of Israel out of the land of bondage? Moses expressed no confidence in himself, no confidence in his own worth, no confidence in his own ability and most disturbing, Moses placed no confidence in Jehovah! (See Exodus 4).

A feeling of being misplaced is nothing more than a *misplaced faith* in Jehovah! God reminded Moses, “Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?” (Exodus 4:11). Paul surely thought soon after his conversion that he too was misplaced, but he soon realized that it was “by the grace of God I am what I am” (1 Corinthians 15:10).

Without a doubt, a child of God will become a spiritual casualty if he falls under the weight of *thinking he is misplaced!* However, God has promised to never leave us nor forsake us if we do not forget that “The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:5-6).

**When a person thinks he is not appreciated.** Although it is imperative that each child of God practice and demonstrate an appreciative attitude toward others, it is equally imperative that the insensitivity on the part of some not cause the faithful Christian to slip into obscurity. *In truth, it is at those times when he must rise to his greatest heights!*

Consider Joseph. He could have reasoned to himself that he was greatly unappreciated because of what his own brethren did to him. But he did not. He remained loyal to God and believed that He had greater things in store for him—and indeed He did! When Joseph’s brothers stood before him years later, Joseph spoke to his brothers in this fashion: “Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life...to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance” (Genesis 45:5,7).

*Joseph was able to see beyond his own personal pain.* He saw all that God had intended for him and his family and could speak boldly and with great confidence, “So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father

to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt” (Genesis 45:8). Joseph was truly appreciated by God, in part because he sought not self glorification! Christians today must “lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for [their] feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed” (Hebrews 12:12-13).

**When a person believes his talents are being misused or underused.** There are at least two things a person should remember who complains about not being used. Both emerge from the teaching done by Jesus regarding the parable of the talents and pounds in Matthew 25 and Luke 19.

First, Jesus commended the men that increased their talents or pounds which they had in their possession. In fact, Jesus said to them, “Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a *few* things, I will make thee ruler over *many* things...” (Matthew 25:23, Emphasis added). Second, Jesus rebuked the man that did nothing with what he had, instructing those that stood by, “**Take from him** the pound (the pound the man feared to use) and **give** it to him that hath ten pounds” (Luke 19:24, Emphasis added).

God *expects* his servant to use what he has and not complain about, or fear failure because of what he does not have! Jesus made this point perfectly clear: “For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath” (Matthew 25:29). *What is not used is always lost!*

What causes a spiritual casualty? When a man or a woman stops looking to God for answers and for strength, and starts looking to self, he/she is on the verge of disaster! *The person who gains a victory over other men is strong, but he who gains a victory over himself is all powerful! AMEN!*

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**Stan Harvey from Handley Herald (1998)**

## ANNIVERSARIES

John and Louise Dodson, 06-22;  
Ted and Julia Thrasher, 06-22.

## ILL

**Sunday:** Chris Edwards (AM); Joy and Natalie Parish;  
Millie Robertson (PM); Allen and Clara Scott (PM);  
Francis Thrasher; Tom Tucker (PM).

**Wednesday:** Janice Carter and family.

Cleo Stone had chemo-therapy treatment at Olathe Medical Center. Debra Gragg's sister was scheduled for release from the rehabilitation center last week.

**Those battling cancer:** David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph Franklin.

## HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## OUT OF TOWN

Chris Edwards is in Chicago until Tuesday this week. George Thomas was in Missouri on Wednesday night.

## FBS MEETING

There will be a meeting on Sunday, June 29 at 5 PM for all of those who will be teaching and serving in other responsibilities in our Family Bible Studies. Samples of this year's material are available for pre-viewing now.

## FAMILY BIBLE STUDIES

The theme this year is: "*Walking In Son Light.*" The dates are July 28 – August 1. Plan to be here and invite others of your family and friends to come and partake of this uplifting spiritual feast!

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 50; Sunday PM, 37; Wednesday PM, 32.

## Those To Serve

June 22, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Cole

### MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Steve Brown  
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas  
OPENING PRAYER ..... Joel Nelson  
PRESIDE.....Jared Nelson  
ASSIST..... Jeff Nemechek  
ASSIST..... Dave Parish  
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter

### EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER ..... Trent Thrasher  
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson  
LORD'S SUPPER.....Jared Nelson

### WEDNESDAY 25th

SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher  
INVITATION ..... Ted Thrasher

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

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