

Personal Sense of Destiny: Tactical Victory of the Spiritual Life; Occupation with Christ: Strategic Victory of the Spiritual Life; Indwelling of God & Christ

- 24) This means that you have free-will to make the decisions that are necessary to manage your life and when you have access to divine guidance contained in Scripture then you make good decisions from a position of strength.
 - 25) This type of decision-making begins to emerge once one develops the confidence that comes from realizing his personal sense of destiny.
 - 26) Realizing one's personal sense of destiny is the tactical victory in the believer's simultaneous advance to the high ground of spiritual maturity.
 - 27) The principle is that God knew you from eternity past, provided a means of salvation which you accepted by faith alone for the purpose of avoiding the lake of fire, and with the result that you possess eternal life.
 - 28) This knowledge provides tactical victory which is the ability to deploy available doctrine to accomplish the desired end.
13. The strategic victory for the simultaneous advance is occupation with Christ:
- 1) Occupation with Christ is the expression of personal love for Him which can only be developed by learning about Him from intensive study of Scripture: "If you love me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15)
 - 2) Love for Christ includes confidence in not only His commandments but also the problem-solving devices that accompany one's ascent to the high ground.
 - 3) This is strategic victory. Strategy involves a plan: (1) the protocol plan where a right thing must be done in a right way, (2) the art of deploying one's thinking to achieve an objective which is service to God and Christ, and (3) the ability to meet the enemy on the battlefields of the Invisible War – the flesh, the world, and the devil – under the most advantageous conditions.
 - 4) Seizing the high ground occurs when the believer's occupation with Christ enables him to be professional, efficient, and consistent in the fulfillment of these objectives.
 - 5) Several verses may be referenced to illustrate the principle of occupation with Christ:

1 Peter 1:8 - Having not seen Him [**Jesus Christ**], you keep on loving Him, Whom at the present time you see Him not, yet you constantly keep on believing in Him and rejoice with happiness inexpressible and full of glory.

1 Peter 3:15a - Sanctify [**as top priority**] the Lord Christ in your hearts [**kardia**].

Hebrews 12:2 - Be concentrating on Jesus [**occupation with Christ**], the author and perfecter of our faith, who because of the exhibited happiness, He endured the cross [**imputation and judgment of our sins**], having disregarded the shame [**being identified with our sins**], and He sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

14. Therefore, we find that the indwelling of God provides motivation for the advance. We are also indwelt by Christ which provides momentum for the advance.

15. Knowledge that Christ resides in us not only motivates the believer to grow in grace it also provides the source of his momentum to continue the advance toward the objective of spiritual maturity.

1 John 3:23 - This is God's mandate, that we believe in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, and that we unconditionally love each other just as He commanded us.

v. 24 - And the one who executes His commandments keeps residing in association with them [**status quo spirituality inside the divine dynasphere**] and He [**Christ**] resides [**indwells**] in him. By means of this [**living the operational spiritual life**] we have come to know that He [**Christ**] resides [**indwells**] in us [**knowledge acquired through spiritual growth**] by means of the Holy Spirit [**mentorship in the divine dynasphere**] whom He [**Christ**] has given to us [**at salvation**].

16. The indwelling of Christ is unfelt by the believer. It is through Bible study and analysis for passages such as 1 John 3:23-24, that the believer who consistently functions in the grace system of perception comes to learn of His indwelling.
17. As the indwelling of the Father provides motivation and the indwelling of Christ provides momentum, the believer advances to the level of the spiritual maturity where occupation with Christ becomes the ultimate problem-solving device.
18. Occupation with Christ is the place where the believer glorifies Christ by making maximum application of His Word to life and circumstances.
19. The advance to this level of the adult spiritual life begins with realization of one's personal sense of destiny and the status of spiritual self-esteem: *cognitive self-confidence* that enables him to make his own doctrinal application to life without being influenced by the opinions, philosophies, and ideologies of the devil's world.