

Notes on Lesson 659 from 2004 I Corinthians Study, RB Thieme III

We are not merely creatures of environment and experience, but of our own volition as well. Our input from the outside, combined with our decisions of what to do with this input, is what our output will be. But as believers in Jesus Christ, we have free of charge, one priceless advantage, if we *choose* it: Bible Doctrine, and the control of God the Holy Spirit.

Doctrine does not erase the existence and the influences of the formative collection of experiences or bad decisions in our lives.

The sinful nature, and all the results of it controlling our life and our decisions throughout our life, remains in our life no matter what we do. Even Bible Doctrine in our soul does not erase the existence or the influences of our human development; we all will still have the same urges, tendencies, and even the same destructive propensities existing. Doctrine does not take us back to some pristine state before all the garbage accumulated in our souls. This is not true. We cannot divest ourselves of the input, the experiences, and the thinking that developed and formed us from the beginning. All that stuff will always exist within us. But the Grace of God can overpower all of that, so that it no longer controls our life.

As long as we continue in the flow of Bible Doctrine into our souls, *while filled with the Holy Spirit*, we have hope, and in fact we can be confident that we will live a life of victory and success.

Exactly what does the input of Bible Doctrine while filled with the spirit accomplish for us?

1. Doctrine gives us the divine alternative to the input and influence of human viewpoint in life.
2. Doctrine gives the different perspective, apart from the sin nature, human input, and the corruption of many years of human viewpoint. It *offsets*.
3. Doctrine sheds light on the darkness in all our souls. This scares many people, and so they *run* from it. They don't *want* the darkness to be revealed, so they.
4. Doctrine reveals who you are in the Plan of God.
5. Doctrine gives you the options and the means to overcome all human viewpoint, and to resist the trends of your sinful nature. These trends come from the accumulative combination of all the input to our soul, the sin nature itself, and from our volition. Doctrine *offsets* all of that, and can render human input *ineffective*.
6. Doctrine overhauls our thought processes, changing the way that we think.
7. But we must not kid ourselves... Bible Doctrine does not remove the experiences of your life, even the terrible ones that can haunt you.
8. The memory and effects of the past will still exist, and will still be operational. That's why you can't just shove them back into some deep dark corner and pretend that they are not there - they *can always* affect you.
9. They *will* still affect you UNLESS Bible Doctrine intervenes and permeates your thinking. It is like the renovation of an old house, that happens over time. Though its old structure, the foundation and the framework is all still there (just like the sin nature controlled background of our life is still there), that old structure no longer dominates the view of the renovated house (Romans 12:2 - Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...). Renovating means the old structure (sin nature, propensities, the darkness) is still there (Romans 7:15 - Paul's expressed frustration with what he had been before, *still being in him*, and further, in Romans 7:21)

How does renovation occur in the believer?

1. As doctrine is inculcated, the old ways fade, are weakened, and are less apparent.
2. Doctrine becomes the main input instead of the human garbage that we all have coming in from the world around us.
3. Human viewpoint becomes less potent, is diluted by Bible Doctrine.
4. Divine viewpoint begins to supercede the human viewpoint in all of us. It doesn't happen overnight but it does supercede our human viewpoint over time in continuation.
5. That means you fall back on human viewpoint, its good and its evil both, less and less.
6. As you are renovated by Bible Doctrine, you will fluctuate between the two, But:

- a. Gradually, human viewpoint will be pushed into the background.
- b. Your human propensities and trends learned and experienced over so many years will be renovated into a new way of thinking and behavior.
- c. But this *requires* the continued inculcation of Bible Doctrine. You have two choices: renovate the thinking, or continue to live off of human viewpoint.
- d. How is this renovation manifested?
 - From the application of Bible Doctrine that comes out of you; and that application *supercedes* the human influences and the sin nature trends of a lifetime. When we fall back into the bad decisions, and we will, don't make the decision that Bible doctrine "doesn't work". Remember that *you are the one who failed*, not the Word of God.
 - The more we learn and apply, the more we become able to resist the trends of our old sinful nature that remain with us all our life. The old sinful nature, its trends are never erased, but they are superceded and overruled over time - they exist, but they are pushed back into the background, so that they no longer rule the thinking and decision making process.
 - The beauty of Bible Doctrine in the soul is that Bible Doctrine starts to control in your soul along with your will, whereas without Bible Doctrine in your soul, *only your own willpower* can resist thinking what you should not think and doing what you should not do. And, either way you choose, that willpower is utterly dependent upon whatever is preeminent your own soul - human viewpoint or Bible Doctrine.

This is the secret to becoming a "workman, approved unto God, rightly dividing the Word of Truth".