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-- Soul Peace.6 --

Soul Truth

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The downturn in our nation's businesses presents a reality to the soul that must be continuously addressed. Decisions each day over equally important but opposing needs are a reality that can cause fear, and lead to physical problems.

For example, the reality of higher prices just for gasoline, food, and utilities, stresses already tight budgets. How do we stretch money when there isn't money to stretch? Do we use money for food, or utilities? How do we care for present needs or even future needs? Bankruptcies are increasing.

These situations are soul realities that engage the intellect. Our intellect can't make a decision between two, or sometimes even three equally necessary things.

When we can only pay one bill, but we have three before us, our emotion surfaces. We can easily feel hopeless and helpless, depressed and anxious. We blame others; we blame the government. The government blames the oil industry even though it is the government that *requires* the oil industry to buy foreign oil at high prices. This circle of blame never works.

And when our intellect and our emotions are in agreement about something negative, our will is activated in a negative way. Our wall of protection from the Lord begins to crumble. We each deal with money problems differently, so our actions will differ. But these action are usually negative and can hurt ourselves, or others.

Connecting the soul (the intellect, will, and emotion) with Biblical Truth and psychological knowledge.

Integrating the soul with body and spirit for peace in all areas of life - -business, Personal, marriage, family, and relationships.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts."

Zechariah 4:6

And as we allow these negative thoughts, emotions, and behaviors to remain, the stress builds up in our bodies. And we become sick.

At every turn, we have a part to play in all of this. As always, God gives us the free will to make the choice of how we will respond. We have options. We can continue to allow the downward spiral of negative thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. And we know only too well how entrenched these negatives can become within ourselves.

Or we can counter reality with the Truth of God's bigger picture, and this Truth is simply His Character. Remember, we replace reality with trust in God's Character of love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, and patience.

This Truth doesn't change the reality of the problems before us. It does something even more profitable. It changes us <u>in</u> the reality. Bad things do happen to good people, but if we let Him, God can change it for good.

How does this work? As we wrestle (and make no mistake about this, it is a wrestling) to control our thoughts, emotions, and will in agreement with God's promises for us, we calm ourselves. We need to do this continually to get un-stuck from hopelessness, helplessness, depression, and anxiety. This allows our bodies to come through stress without being sick, or to heal faster if we already *are* sick.

Once calm, we are better able to hear His directions of how to move through this difficult time. There is always a way for us. Truth is <u>always</u> greater than reality. His Name is Jesus. And He lives as the only way to God, and the only way through life. His Name <u>is</u> Truth.

God's Truth increasingly establishes us in our relationship with God. It enables us to draw upon His ever-present unchanging Character and His promises to care for us. And as we wrestle to control ourselves through the Lord's love, we are defined as persons. When Jacob wrestled with the angel, his character was defined. He received a new name to reflect the change from being a thief to someone who had power with God.

In the process of wrestling, we learn that the difficult time is not the enemy. Our fears of rejection, needs not met, poverty, and bankruptcy are the enemy. Fears surface in the hard times. Once we recognize them, and care for them, we are better prepared to move forward. So we use the hard times for our benefit. We learn, we get calm, and this allows us to get stronger with better wisdom from knowing and loving God.\* This is the real Secret of success in life.

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<sup>\*</sup>Consider using *Getting To Know God*, by Dr. Santana-Grace. http://home.earthlink.net/~skills4u/gettingtoknowgod/.