David's Heir: Children Are Born Tabula Rasa, Integrity Is Learned, Not Inherited; Integrity Is Not Perfection, Children's Mistakes Are Teaching Moments; Demanding Perfection Results in Legalism & Psychosis; Stress Can only Be Managed by Doctrine; 7 Common Challenges to the Spiritual Life

- 12. This is often the failure of parents who impose impossible standards on their children. Children by definition are flawed individuals—they are born tabula rasa but with a sin nature and must accumulate knowledge that enables them to develop integrity.
- 13. However, integrity does not equate to perfection. Children must be allowed to make mistakes. It is through failure that wisdom is learned and good decision-making habits are developed.
- 14. The same concept is true for adults since it is impossible to acquire enough information to reach a level of perfection. To demand perfection from others is irrational and sets up reactor factors that crystalize in a person's soul.
- 15. These reactor factors reject the whole concept of grace. Instead, the person becomes judgmental, critical, and overbearing while being blind to his own failures.
- 16. The failure to develop virtue love toward others leads to Operation Psychosis. Saul became bipolar which is the modern term for life in the cosmic systems.
- 17. Manifestations of a person who is in chronic carnality are anger, bitterness, jealousy, vindictiveness, revenge motivation, revenge tactics, and hatred.
- 18. Whatever the perceived adversity, reaction to it leads to stress in the soul which short-circuits the spiritual life.
- 19. There is a difference between adversity and stress. Adversity consists of the normal pressures in life that everyone encounters in one form or another.
- 20. The failure to manage outside adversity with biblical solutions results in internal stress in the soul.
- 21. Therefore, adversity is inevitable while stress is optional. The former is outside the control of the believer's free will; the latter is allowed by the believer's free will.
- 22. There are multiple circumstances in life that make up the adversities that challenge the believer. How he manages these adversities depends on his doctrinal inventory and his willingness to utilize that inventory. Here are few common challenges to the believer's spiritual life:
 - (1) Social adversity: personality conflicts; injustice; trouble in marriage or romance, loss of friends.
 - (2) Rejection adversity: victimized by prejudice, betrayal, roll-model arrogance, unfair treatment, isolation by alleged friends or business associates.
 - (3) Criminal adversity: victimized by robbery, burglary, embezzlement, blackmail, child abuse, incest, assault, battery, perjury.
 - **Vilification adversity:** victimized by gossip, slander, maligning, judging, the public lie, loss of reputation.
 - (5) Climate adversity: storm, lightning, flood, fire, earthquake, tornado, hurricane, wind, blizzard, extreme heat or cold, drought, torrential rain.

- **(6)** Historical adversity: economic recession and depression, historical downtrends, loss of public thought, political corruption, loss of freedom, violence, sedition, rebellion, revolution, terrorism, treachery, assaults on divine institutions, propaganda from media, academia, and government – the cosmic triumvirate.
- **(7)** Health adversity: disease, illness, injury, pain, malnutrition, chronic maladies, birth defects, blindness, paralysis, amputation, death of loved ones, psychological disorders, Obama Care.
- 23. The world is a fallen planet; its human population is fallen. Both provide abundant categories of adversity for believers to confront.