

“Mary, Mary, At First Contrary” Part 1 John 20:11-12

Neglect or rejection of biblical truth results in many sins related to the emotional pattern of the soul.

Worry, anxiety and guilt come from fear; they are the outward manifestation of fear which is nothing more than lack of divinely guided thinking under pressure.

Fear is the believer’s failure to apply biblical truth to the problems of life such as failure, suffering and disaster.

The more things we surrender to fear, the greater the impact of our fear or the more things we begin to fear.

Since emotion is neither a tool for processing biblical truth or the standard for our spiritual life, it can never be the reality of our spiritual life and it surely will never solve our problems in and of itself.

We must learn to distinguish between normal function of emotion as a beneficial responder to the true values of life and the sinful function of emotion as a reaction to life.

As a positive responder, emotion enhances appreciation for what is honorable in life.

But emotion as a negative reactor produces sin, dead works and an evil emotionally based revolt in the soul.

Emotion is designed by God to be understood, evaluated and enjoyed but this is impossible without the absolute standard for the Church Age Christian way of life and that’s the very mind of Christ in us.

Emotion is not, nor has it ever been the goal of the experiential plan of God.

The use of emotionalism has become a substitute or a cover for ignorance of the Word of God but instead, we should use objective biblical principles to live by.

Emotion has a definite place in our lives but only as the appreciator of the soul.

God does not possess emotion as an attribute; so, He’s not emotional in relation to His creatures and that’s why emotion is only used of God in the Bible as an anthropopathism to express a divine policy or attitude in human viewpoint language which God does not have.

An anthropopathism is designed to explain divine policy regarding the sovereign decisions of God related to His integrity with emphasis on His righteousness, justice and love to mankind in human language.

In the garden, what God designed in mankind was to produce a shadow integrity that would be similar to His holiness or integrity and emotion was added for His rational creation to appreciate that integrity.

Bad emotion began with Adam’s original sin as it came in the form of debilitating guilt and continued when Adam was afraid of the Lord God when He came looking for Adam and this attitude has continued throughout human history.

So, why do theologians have such a desire to assign emotion to God? Because of failure to understand the anthropopathic component in the revelation of God in His Word and failure to understand His love as a characteristic of His integrity.

The challenge that remains for us is that emotion can respond to thought but it can also function without thought and when emotion functions without thought, it’s abysmal activity that follows leading to certain overwhelming instability.

But normal functioning emotion includes legitimate pleasure or entertainment, objective responding excitement and genuine appreciation but these normal emotional functions must be correlated with the enabling ministry of God the Holy Spirit.

There is no spiritual activity in emotion as it's a normal or abnormal physiological or psychological activity and how we feel has nothing to do with our spiritual status. In some situations, the use of biblical truth in recall or application causes an emotional response and when we're using our thinking to process the Word, our emotion responds and that's quite normal and even spiritually healthy.

There is no divine power in emotion; the power is in thought and that thought must be the mind of Christ.

Mary had the most biblical truth in her soul at this time but she's about to temporarily fail.

Mary Magdalene knew the difference between a real man and a pretender.

You don't have to be demon-possessed, a thief or a murderer to appreciate the grace of God but to whom much is forgiven, great love responds!

In her mind, all Mary has is a memory and her tears are an expression of it.

In general, when most men enter a relationship, they destroy it by proceeding to remove the woman's privacy and her free-will.

It was certainly a greater test for Mary to face the empty tomb alone but with her outstanding love, the test is no real test at all!

In the solitude of privacy with our free-will intact, we believe what we believe and our memories stand out but in the company of friends through conversation, we often discover what we understand.

Whether a man or a woman sees an angel, it always appears to be a male figure.

God permitted Mary to see the angels but He didn't allow Peter or John to see them.