

Our Spiritual Seismograph

In early January 1968, seismographs around the world registered an earth tremor scale 2 with the epicentre below the area of Belice in Sicily. The next morning local papers headlined the event and everyone was talking about their experiences in the tremor.

A short time later, a second tremor shook the same area but this time much smaller, this only got inside page mention as part of a column in the papers.

This was followed by a series of small tremors at fairly regular intervals but by now this had become a common occurrence and was mostly ignored by the people, as only slight damage was done.

The people in the Belice area were ignoring what was a timely warning of an impending disaster.

In the middle of the night of 14th/15th January, people woke up in stark terror as their homes disintegrated around them, snuffing out the lives of many hundreds in a matter of seconds, crushed by falling buildings.

Over 60,000 were made homeless in a matter of minutes.

All these people had ignored the early warning that had been given by very sensitive instruments called seismographs that had been recording these tremors around the world all centred on the area of Belice.

The Creator God has provided every human being with a spiritual seismograph that continually records any spiritual tremors that may occur in our lives.

Just as with physical earthquakes, the final disaster can come very suddenly but not without warning in our lives, [**Proverbs 6:12, 14-15**].

John 14:26 [New King James] *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and **bring to your remembrance** all things that I said to you.”*

We understand that the Holy Spirit educates us and guides us.

John 16:8 [New King James] *“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”*

This is the main work of the Holy Spirit who is sent by the Creator God to all who seek to obey Him, [**Acts 5:32**].

How does the Holy Spirit reprove us in this way?

What mechanism in our minds does the Holy Spirit use?

Is this mechanism something we can have control over?

The Holy Spirit uses the most delicate instrument in the whole universe.

John 8:9 [New King James] *“Then those who heard it, being **convicted by their conscience**, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.”*

The conscience, Greek word “*sunēidēsis*” **meaning co-perception, literally, a knowing with**, [the word “*their*” is **not** in the original] controlled by the apprehension of the presence of the Creator God.

Not convicted by our own conscience.

Hebrews 9:14 [New King James] *“how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**”*

Our natural conscience needs to be purged, cleansed or purified by the Holy Spirit.

Our natural conscience must be re-educated.

How is this re-education to take place?

Hebrews 10:22 [New King James] *“let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”*

“Hearts” is the Greek word **“kardia”** meaning our thoughts and feelings, which includes our entire mental or moral activity.

“Bodies” Greek word **“soma”** our complete instrument of life, body, mind and human spirit, [John 32:8].

“Pure water” refers directly to God’s Word the Christian Bible, [Ephesians 5:26].

Our human conscience needs to be cleansed and re-educated if it is to become the delicate and sensitive mechanism that will enable us to detect the slightest tremors of sin, in whatever form it takes.

Before conversion and the receiving of the Holy Spirit first to work with us, then if we allow Him to work in us, [John 14:17], most of us had wrecked our consciences, compromising with any standard of life, to **not** feel an **“outsider.”**

Once the Holy Spirit begins to re-educate our conscience, the Creator God expects us to react to the slightest tremors of our new spiritual seismograph.

For example, wrong attitudes of mind, that are **not** motivated by love for the Creator God and our other human beings.

Or allowing wrong thoughts, planted in our mind by Satan, [Ephesians 2:2] to remain too long in our minds.

How then can we damage our re-educated and cleansed conscience?

Ephesians 4:30 [New King James] *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*

We can cause the Holy Spirit in us distress when we ignore His warnings.

Ephesians 4:17-29 [New King James] *“This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbour,’ for we are members of one another. ‘Be angry, and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him*

labour, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

Unless we are actively putting off our former conduct, that is listed in these verses, we will grieve the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 [New King James] *“Do not quench the Spirit.”*

Again if we ignore the Holy Spirit’s working through our conscience, we quench His work.

The same Greek word was used by Jesus Christ in the parable of the foolish virgins whose lamps were going out, [**Matthew 25:8**].

Note that these women were all virgins, [**Matthew 25:1**].

All had kept pure from spiritual fornication with the world.

All had repented.

All were expecting to be part of Jesus Christ’s bride.

But just knowing the truth and fellowshiping with God’s people was not enough.

Matthew 25:1-13 [New King James] *“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”*

The lamps referred to in this parable held but a small amount of oil, so needed frequent replenishing, the foolish virgins had **no** reserve oil with them.

2 Corinthians 4:16 [New King James] *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.”*

What was needing to be renewed?

Ephesians 3:16 [New King James] *“that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,”*

Tells us it is the Holy Spirit that needs to be constantly renewed.

The oil in these lamps was olive oil which is extracted from the olive by pressure and heat, spiritually this is referring to the trials that the Creator God allows us to face.

James 1:2-8 [New King James] *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let*

not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

These trials prompt us to cry out to the Creator God for the wisdom to deal with these painful situations.

That wisdom can only come from the Holy Spirit.

We must always be ready for the return of Jesus Christ that this parable is pointing towards, for it will come when we least expect it.

The Holy Spirit within us must be constantly actively working in us, [Matthew 25:6-9].

Also, the Holy Spirit is **not** transferable.

It was only those who were “ready,” Greek word “*hētōimōs*” meaning to be well prepared and adjusted.

The same word is used by Paul in **2 Corinthians 10:6** when speaking about our spiritual battle against Satan and the world that he at present rules over.

How do we win the spiritual battle?

2 Corinthians 10:5 [New King James] *“casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”*

By being prompted by God’s “early warning system,” our re-educated consciences, to control every thought before it becomes a sin.

The foolish virgins could have been ready if they had acted in time, taking notice of the warnings that the Creator God is giving in His Word, the Christian Bible, ensuring that the Holy Spirit is constantly active in their lives, a reserve of oil for their lamps.

The Christian Bible also talks about another group of people who had become blind to the warnings that the Creator God had given them.

Revelation 3:20 [New King James] *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”*

Jesus Christ was “knocking” at the door of their minds, but the Laodiceans had compromised with Christian standards that had dulled their consciences and their spiritual seismograph was not working.

Their “lukewarm” attitude forced Jesus Christ to reject them [verse 16].

Just as the foolish virgins had been locked out, [Matthew 25:10-12].

Luke 12:35-37 [New King James] *“Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.”*

Here is described a group of people who were the very opposite to the Laodiceans with well-tuned spiritual seismographs.

How can we have this positive and safe attitude?

Luke 12:31-34 [New King James] *“But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

We must give seeking to be part of the Kingdom of God the priority in our lives it should have.

Never delay responding when the Creator God warns us of a wrong or “lukewarm” attitude through our re-educated consciences.

How then does this spiritual seismograph assist us to receive the gift of a place in the Kingdom of God, His created family?

One thing that will bar us from entry into the Kingdom of God is sin.

Sin is a spiritual accident which is eventually fatal.

Grace is a type of insurance policy to cover our “spiritual accidents.”

Jeremiah 15:6 [New King James] *“‘You have forsaken Me,’ says the LORD, ‘You have gone backward. Therefore I will stretch out My hand against you and destroy you; I am weary of relenting!’”*

Just like an insurance company, if we continue to have spiritual accidents, the Creator God can withdraw that spiritual covering policy.

The Hebrew word translated “weary” is “lâ’âh” meaning to tire by implication to be disgusted that we place such little value on such a valuable goal and future.

Genesis 25:29-34 [New King James] *“Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. And Esau said to Jacob, ‘Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary.’ Therefore his name was called Edom. But Jacob said, ‘Sell me your birthright as of this day.’ And Esau said, ‘Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?’ Then Jacob said, ‘Swear to me as of this day.’ So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. **Thus Esau despised his birthright.**”*

It was the attitude of Esau’s towards his birthright that caused God to say that He hated Esau, [Malachi 2-3; Romans 9:13].

The Hebrew word translated “hate” is “sânē” meaning odious or an enemy.

The Greek word translated “hate” is “misēō” meaning to detest or to love less.

Why is the Creator God like this?

Grace, depicted by the love that the Creator God has for all humanity, is not an end in itself, it is merely a means to an end.

Romans 6:1-2 [New King James] *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”*

The end product is building holy, righteous [sin-free] character, [1 John 3:7-9].

God expects us to learn to prevent spiritual accidents, sin, and we do this by using our re-educated conscience as an “early warning system,” a spiritual seismograph.

1 John 2:1-5 [New King James] *“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”*

“That you may not sin,” it is far better not to sin, than to sin and be forgiven, for the sins we commit.

Forgiveness does not bring back the character that sin destroys.

Sinning does make a difference, forgiveness merely removes the death penalty. We must make **no** concessions, we have to set our minds against sin.

Psalms 17:3 [New King James] *“You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.”*

David purposed not to sin.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 [New King James] *“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”*

Paul was determined not to have a spiritual accident.

2 Corinthians 7:9-11 [New King James] *“Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”*

Here we see an example of a “fine tuned” conscience, making these changes in their lives.

Hebrews 5:7 [New King James] *“who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,”*

Jesus Christ, as the human Son of Man, feared that He would be overcome by His own now human nature and the temptations of Satan and fail to live a sin-free life and thus as the Son of God not be the perfect substitute sacrifice for all the sins of humanity.

Do we fear to fail to live a life that the Creator God can use to bring others to know, worship and love Him now and in the future when they have the chance to become created children of God, [Revelation 1:4-6; Revelation 5:9-10; Revelation 20:11-13]?

1 Timothy 4:1-2 [New King James] *“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,”*

This is a warning especially for us Christians who are in the “end times.”

Seared is the Greek word “*kautēriazō*” meaning to cauterise, to render insensitive, unable to produce fruits of righteousness.

John 9:39-41 [New King James] *“And Jesus said, ‘For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.’ Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, ‘Are we blind also?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, “We see.” Therefore your sin remains.’”*

“Your sin remains,” Jesus said this of the Pharisees, because of the terrible damage they had done to their consciences, by forcing themselves to go against what they knew was right due to their knowledge of the scriptures.

Repeated compromise with the conscience deadens it and will eventually kill it, this means that the Creator God cannot use it to educate and guide us away from deadly sin.

1 Corinthians 6:18 [New King James] *“Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.”*

This applies to any situation where we may be tempted to sin.

The Holy Spirit working through our re-educated conscience, will help us to recognise situations that will put pressure on us to compromise with the Creator God’s laws and sin.

Romans 14:23 [Amplified Bible] *“But the man who has doubts, misgivings, an uneasy conscience, about eating, and then eats, perhaps because of you, stands condemned before God, because he is not true to his convictions and does not act from faith. For whatever does not originate and proceed from faith is sin, that is whatever is done without a conviction of its approval by God is sinful.”*

If we do something that we think **may** be wrong then it is a sin, even if it is technically **not** a sin, because it damages our conscience and makes it even less sensitive next time.

Jesus Christ as the human Son of Man gave us an example to follow, His continual closeness and awareness of His Father warned Him constantly of where He could fall into sin.

Hebrews 9:14 [New King James] *“how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*

Note it was through the Holy Spirit that Jesus Christ the human Son of Man was able to remain sin-free, His perfectly educated conscience was the vehicle through which the Holy Spirit worked.

Remember the Greek word used for “conscience” is “*sunēidēsis*” means a knowing with, co-perception, with the Creator God and Holy Spirit.

Being controlled by the apprehension of God’s presence.

This is a very powerful but delicate instrument that God intended us to use to help us enter into His created family, the Kingdom of God.

Re-educate our conscience.

Protect our re-educated conscience.

Use our re-educated conscience as we face every situation in life.

John 13:17 [New King James] *“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”*

You now know how the Holy Spirit and our re-educated conscience work in our spiritual life.

“Selah” pause and think deeply on what we have just learnt.