

Inclination Workshop

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God's Intelligent Design for Christ-Centered Spiritual Transformation • (IDCCST®) Christian Education

intelligent design for Christ-centered spiritual transformation in the soul
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Materials

- Course curriculum: Inclination Workshop Lesson 03
- Download here: <http://s8wministries.org/direct-downloads/inclination-workshop-lesson-03.pdf>
- Resource: 18 Inclinations of Man. Read inclinations #2: Download the free Handbook here: <http://www.s8wministries.org/general.php?id=52>
- Spiritual Warfare Wheel: The 5-Step Planning Process: <http://s8wministries.org/direct-downloads/spiritual-warfare-wheel.doc>
- Spiritual Workout Results Guide (SWRG) download here: <http://s8wministries.org/speciality-pdf/spiritual-workout-results-guide.pdf>
- SWRG Users' Manual
Download your free SWRG Users' Manual here: <http://s8wministries.org/speciality-pdf/SWRG-Users-Manual.pdf>
- Power Point Presentation
- Download here: <http://s8wministries.org/direct-downloads/inclination-workshop-lesson-03.ppsx>



Workshop Goals

The goal of Inclination Lesson 03 is to discuss the 2nd inclination of man: To Distrust God. Attendees will use the Spiritual Warfare Wheel (5-Step Planning Process) to assist them to

- overcome themselves,
- overcome the world, and
- overcome the devil.

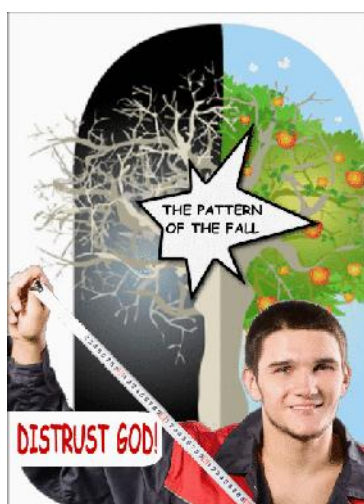
(1) The inclination of man to distrust God is given a spiritual identity (marriage to self) to reveal corresponding truths behind the inclination to distrust of God.

(2) The natural man works trust by precognition of the flesh.

(3) Because of the fall of man, trust is not man's natural inclination.

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The Inclination of Man #2 – To Distrust God



What Does it Mean to Distrust God?

From the Handbook "18 Inclinations of Man"

"The inclination of man is to place trust in the voice that secures the drive of his aspiration rather than his love for God (as Adam did in the garden).

That is the pattern of the fall. The inclination of man is to follow that pattern and this is why the natural man places trust in his logic. He tests spiritual things on the grounds of logic working with aspiration.

He allows the hands of his logic to explore to confirm to his senses that spiritual things are lining up with his perception."

Are You Married to Yourself?

United to Self, God Becomes the Stranger



The Inclination to Distrust God is Given a Spiritual Identity:

Marriage to Self

- It's a form of self love.
- United to self, God becomes the stranger.
- We are inclined to distrust strangers.

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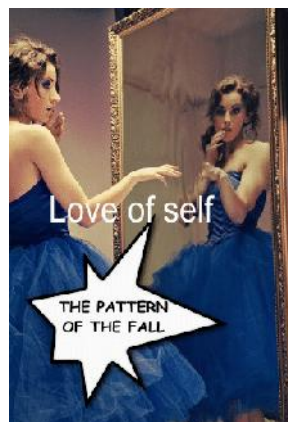
We Know. . .

that when we come into covenant with God that a severing takes place. God removes us from the kingdom of darkness and we are joined to God by the Spirit, and a covenant relationship begins with Him (1 Corinthians 6:17).

BUT. . .

the inclination of man is to go back to love of self and distrust of God.

- This makes man indifferent to God and
- Numb to grace
- The things of this world seem real and the things of God seem distant and unreal.



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We Know. . .

that man was created by God for God. You were created to love God and that is in fact your original design and God's command, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength."

But. . .

we're not talking about that. We're talking about a familiar pattern of self love the natural man goes back to that God wants us to be aware of because He will challenge it and address it for healing.



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Precognition

The natural man works trust by precognition of the flesh.



What is precognition?

- (1) The examination of witnesses and other parties before a trial in order to supply a legal ground for prosecution.
- (b) the evidence established in such an examination. (*dictionary.reference.com*)

Every conflict of life is like a trial and you have to go back into your history to collect witnesses that will testify at the trial to help supply the grounds for prosecution.

The natural man gets to a place of "trust" by examination of the witnesses of the flesh. Like putting on a pair of eye glasses where you only see your own point of view. Your emotions are a witness to the past and will confirm your suspicions and this is why you trust your own judgment and thinking patterns.

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Precognition

Precognition is a great word to use to describe the muscle memory of the flesh.



Have you ever heard the expression “history repeats itself”? A natural rhythm tends to occur when you do something repetitively.

The natural man works trust by precognition of the flesh, trusting the natural rhythms around him to gather evidence that can be used as grounds to say, “I can trust because I know what is going to happen next”. God calls this a projection of the imagination.”

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Trusting God is NOT Natural



We learn from the Bible the importance of trusting God, but, trusting God is not something that comes natural.

Let me prove it to you. . .

When asked to trust God, most people don’t know what to do. Questions arise in the mind.

1. If I take the steps to provide for myself, does that mean I don’t trust God?
2. Do I show I trust God by refusing medical attention?

Do you see? The questions show a lack of trust.

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Trusting God is NOT Natural



Even though trusting God is man's original design, because of the fall of man, trust is not man's natural inclination.

Trust has to be learned through covenant contact with the sanctified tools of Jesus Christ for new habits and new thinking patterns to develop.

Yes, we are equipped by God's holy knowledge to know how to establish our trust in God.

We are strengthened by His Holy Spirit as He guides us into this experience as we co-labor with Him.

But trust is not an automatic thing, it's what the Spirit teaches you as you exercise your will with the things of Christ

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Trust is Gained by Experience With God



The more you experience regeneration (the new life of Christ being formed within), the more you come to realize that trust is gained by experience with God through your cycles of growth.

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Love of Self is Trust of Self

Love of self is trust of self, which is a recipe for disaster. We're not talking about the healthy love of self whereas we care for ourselves.

We're talking about the inclination to develop an unhealthy relationship with ourselves in our mind. John 12:25



There are familiar self serving thought patterns of the aspiration that are familiar to all that God will challenge for healing....

1. Instant gratification.....Here we see a lack of trust in God.
2. Intolerant of others.....Here we see a lack of trust in God.
3. Life serves me.....Here we see a lack of trust in God.
4. Everyone should love me.....Here we see a lack of trust in God.
5. I want the best for myself.....Here we see a lack of trust in God.

Each of these manifestations of self love will grieve the soul.

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Self Love Will Grieve the Soul

When I am grieved. . .

Do I look for closure by placing blame or projecting with my imagination for resolve? This too would show a lack of trusting God.

Trying to bring comfort to my soul with closure (the peace of the world), but not receiving the witness (of the Spirit) will only lead to more frustration.

GOD HAS A PLAN TO HEAL THE SOUL of these inclinations by forming in the soul these virtues of Christ: patience, kindness, longsuffering, and the joy of serving God and your brethren in the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

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As in any relationship where you are the center of attention and the relationship is self serving, you'll feel BETRAYED when the aspiration is not confirmed.



2 Corinthians 1:9-10

When we rightly weigh the inclination to distrust God on the scale of Christ/truth we see the Enemy's strategy to encourage a relationship with self to continue to provoke lack of trust in God.

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About Betrayal --- Betrayal speaks of being suspicious of motives (either your own or someone else's).

A threat is perceived to your sense of security, which makes you uncertain of where you stand.

About Aspiration

Aspiration is the natural man's fight (to build new shields) or flight (to build new shields) survival response to perceived betrayals or threats.

The spiritual identity we gave this inclination of man (marriage to self) helps you to see that you have a lifetime of experience betraying yourself and feeling threatened. We're talking here about things you picked up through life experiences as well as things people said to you and things you said to others.

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NO EQUITY = FRUSTRATION



- You can understand why there is no equity in the kingdom of the flesh.
- This is the reason for your frustration.

The inclination of man is to respond to this lack of equity by going back to a previous point of betrayal or threat to measure how he should feel and how he should respond in an effort to find the equity the flesh says it needs as a witness.

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Are You Getting Ready to Divorce Yourself?

Because divorce follows betrayal, you also have a lifetime of experience trying to understand yourself as you fit yourself into a self perspective, and a lifetime of experience moving towards divorcing yourself, trying to get free of yourself and these inner entanglements of the mind and emotions.



About Divorce – Divorce is a process of seeking control, attempting to break away, to develop new interests, new passions, to redefine yourself, to take a stand, to make a statement, to be independent, to make others conform to you.

If you love yourself, you are headed for divorce.

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Discussion Point #1

What are some ways in which the concept of “divorcing self” is seen in our thinking patterns?

What I want you to do here is first address what the natural man is seeking for or responding to and then put a voice to it. For example:

1. **Seeking for identity:** The natural man says, “This does not define me.”
2. **Seeking for control:** The natural man says, “I will not let this defeat me.”
3. **Responding to suspicion:** The natural man says, “I’m shocked by your behavior.”

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Relationship = Reciprocation

When married to self WHAT are you reciprocating?

When in a relationship with yourself you’ll be reciprocating (to yourself and others) either

- your vulnerabilities or
- your aspiration.

Both are a heavy burden God does not want you to carry.

When married to self, your spouse is like a mirror to reveal the spot that is in you, which is what you see every time you look in the mirror. This again is a burden to the soul that God will challenge to help you break free.



When married to Christ He says, “You are fair My love, there is no spot in you.” (Song of Solomon 4:7). Reciprocation in the priesthood keeps the conscience pure.

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Discussion Point #2

Discuss the ways in which a marriage to self is destructive. For example. . .

A marriage to self is destructive because you'll respond to the burden of vulnerability and aspiration by trying to cast it off (divorce). When does this happen? When it is challenged. The natural man's fight or flight instinct is turned on when in conflict, when an offense is perceived.

How will you respond?

- **Will you go through the mental process of divorce or**
- **Will you put off the old man by turning on your reflection and working with the grace of God?**

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts." (Ephesians 4:22)

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Discussion Point #3

Compare divorce (of self) to dying to the old man and discuss the ways in which they differ.

For example:

- What purpose does divorce (of self) serve the natural man?
- How does that fall short of God's purpose?
- Explain how precognition of the flesh work with divorce of self?
- Divorce (of self) is a process of seeking control which is simply another way the flesh is exhibiting a need to trust what it can predict. Whereas dying to the old man is what happens when we accept the restrictions of the covenant and follow Christ through the pattern He set: revelation, resistance, and reward. As the Spirit of God works to confirm Christ, the thinking patterns that strengthened the old man becomes weak and pass away.

2 Corinthians 5:17)

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A Marriage Gone Bad

As in all marriages gone bad, spouses begin to vilify each other, loath each other, and criticize each other

If the spouse is you, guess what happens?

- You vilify yourself. Shows a lack of trust in God.
- You loath yourself. Shows a lack of trust in God.
- You criticize yourself. Shows a lack of trust in God.

You're feeling. . .

- Inferiority --- shows lack of trust in God.
- Insecurity --- shows lack of trust in God.
- Inadequacy --- shows lack of trust in God.

Know this: The relationship you have with yourself will spill over into your relationship with others. You're noticing feelings of resentment, guilt, or shame and it's normal to want to blame other people for how you feel. This too shows a lack of trust in God.

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Self Pity

We often hear tough love therapy about not feeling sorry for ourselves and how destructive that is. . .

- **Why is it so hard?**
- **Why doesn't anyone like me?**

and then we try to work against it by reversing the thoughts of self pity and telling ourselves how much God loves us and how good He is.

But underneath self pity is Satan's strategy of self love.

This is why Jesus repeated to Peter 3 times, "Do you love me more than these?" (John 21:15)

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Who Are You Married To?

MARRIAGE = BUILDING

If you are in a relationship with yourself you can't trust God because you are building with someone else (yourself). And this relationship you are in is a full time job.

- Seeking closure is a full time job.
- Seeking control is a full time job.
- Being self centered is a full time job.

One would think that if you love yourself you would respect and care for yourself. But remember, this love of self is a marriage.

You are in a love/hate relationship in a marriage gone bad and Satan puts out his "Marriage Counseling" sign on his door and waits for you to come knocking.

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The Enemy: Your "Marriage Counselor"



The Enemy, as your "marriage counselor", offers to lead you through these troubled waters.

So, we have to assess your. . .

- **vulnerability** in the inclination to distrust God and then
- identify the Enemy's **deception**, and
- prepare yourself to stand in **God's perspective**.

Beware, once you've buried the aspiration, the Enemy may be seen sitting at the grave site in his vigil to awaken the inclination.

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Discussion Point #4

Discuss what happens when the aspiration is put to rest by your labor at that altar of Christ.

For example. . .

- The Enemy's counsel is no longer needed.
- You have espoused yourself to Jesus Christ.
- You are married to another. Your union with Jesus Christ by His covenant terms and power of the Spirit frees you from the love/hate relationship you have with yourself.
- God breaks the cycle of self love by teaching you to love and trust Him.
- God makes known the consistency of His love and care, which we experience consistently when faith operates with the tools of Christ.

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Step 2 – Assess your vulnerability

pg. 16-17

If you have identified the inclination to distrust God, God is addressing the love/hate relationship the adversary would like to draw you into. Your heavenly Father is wanting to point out to you the contrast between trust and lack of trust to help you understand where you are vulnerable and to help you discern how Satan provokes a response from the flesh.

The points covered thus far outline your vulnerability in the inclination to distrust God.

We are gaining insight into Satan's strategy to captivate our attention with the same problem over and over again.

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Discussion Point #5

pg. 18-19

Discuss the vulnerability experienced in the Inclination to Distrust God. Discuss the 4 examples given in the lesson plan.

- 1. I am vulnerable to building a relationship with myself.***
- 2. I am vulnerable to the need to be the center of attention.***
- 3. I am vulnerable to live under the rule of fear.***
- 4. I am vulnerable to seeking control.***

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Discussion Point #6

Pg. 19-21

Discuss what changes when we are no longer vulnerable to build a relationship with self, no longer the center of attention, no longer under the fear of your own opinion of yourself, and no longer seeking control.

Points to consider:

- 1. Our focus changes.***
- 2. Our experience changes.***
- 3. We stop making assumptions based on our feelings.***
- 4. Our testimony changes.***
- 5. Our reflection changes.***
- 6. The witness changes.***

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Lack of Trust = Lack of Reflection

Pg. 20-21

There is a natural flow of things that will take over your thought life (your reflections) unless you make the effort to challenge that natural rhythm by seeking out godly reflections. It is God's covenant plan and purpose to teach us this.

We see this in the example of the 12 spies that were sent by Moses to go into the Promised Land and gather information. We're going to go into this account in scripture. What I want you to pay attention to first of all is the command to "bring of the fruit of the land".

Read Numbers 13:17-22 and verses 27-32

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Discussion Point #7

Discuss how the lack of reflection resulted in a lack of trust towards God for the children of Israel and then relate that to your own growth cycles.

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Step 3 – Identify the Deception

Pg. 22

It's a process to learn not to simply set the challenge aside, but to overcome it.

It's important for us to get to the place where we identify the deception.

The inclination is to prevent the process by blocking it off in your mind when things become too difficult or painful.

In every vulnerability there lies a promise of the Enemy to sidestep the due process of faith that God calls us to that we may experience life in Christ.

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Discussion Point #8

Pg. 22-23

We are going to look at the same vulnerabilities we discussed earlier to pin point the promise (deception) God is busy helping us relate to so we can see it for what it is and co-labor with the Spirit to free ourselves from it. The soul was molding confidence with those things that God is now removing.

1. I am vulnerable to building a relationship with myself, which makes it difficult to trust God.

The promise is always the same: Life outside of Christ and how to get at that life without building with God. . .

Deception: The deception is in the effort of the Enemy to keep you focused on the wrong thing.

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2. I am vulnerable to the need to be the center of attention. This lays me open to self pity, self doubt, inferiority, insecurity, and inadequacy.

The promise is that you can protect yourself with old shields and new shields.

Deception: The deception is in the building of shields. You can make dozens of shields and display the colors and images of each when the occasion requires. The instant satisfaction you get makes it seem like you got what you wanted, but the shackles simply got tighter.

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3. I am vulnerable to live under the fear of another's opinion.

The promise here is that you can use aspiration to prove yourself to fight off fear.

Deception: The deception is in the wrong measure. When we were in darkness we used fruitless passions to measure truth. The Deceiver desires to draw us back to measure our well being and potential for increase by the signals we receive from those around us. But, the true measure is Jesus Christ who is our life. Our well being and increase is measured from that reality.

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4. I am vulnerable to seeking control. This is Satan's testimony. He wanted to control God and gave mankind this training and indoctrination. This vulnerability lays me open to vilify, loath, and criticize myself when things are out of control. This shows lack of trust in God.

The promise here is that control means rest, equity, and wholeness, and it does not.

Deception: Control is an illusion. It is believed that because the problem began in the mind it can be worked out in the mind, but it didn't start in the mind, the deception was started by Satan and was worked into man's mind.

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Step 4 – Identify God's Perception

Pg. 23-24

Your first response to the challenge of every day trials is the most important response.

God's view is the only perspective you want to carry with you to battle. So, how do you do that? How do you make sure that God's perspective is your first response and the only perspective you carry with you to battle?

KEEP YOUR CORE TURNED ON!

You're comparing 2 kingdoms,
2 frames of knowledge,
2 inspirations.

Your faith is at work discerning Christ.

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Step 5 – *You Overcame*

- You overcame the deception to distrust God.
- You overcame the deception that building new shields will bring you satisfaction.
- You overcame the deception hidden in the wrong measure.

The rewards of overcoming are many:

The fruit of Christ formed in the inner man, and God's healing, peace, and joy, which continue to reinforce your faith in God. You're a builder of God's kingdom. You're an overcomer in Jesus Christ.

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Closing Remarks Pg.25-26

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Closing Prayer
Pg 26

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