

Among all of these things we ought to remember the truth of Psalm 116:8 and live in the good of the great deliverance of God. It is important that we seek to think and live on a spiritual plane where the lordship of Christ is real and the Divine presence is daily recognized. With these things in mind we may proceed to the general concept of the believer's emotional life.

II. THE GROUNDS OF STABILITY

Matthew 22:37-40

A. An introductory note

1. Emotional stability is the personal control and direction of the inner life forces. It is not an absolute but will vary from person to person just as muscular strength varies. All of us should know something of it and should have it in spiritual view. But some cry more easily, some laugh more easily, etc., than do others. It does not mean that one is more excellent than the other but anyone who cries all the time or laughs all the time or allows their feelings to dictate their life influence all the time is in a position of emotional instability...the emotive forces of the inner man are running the show, so to speak. To be stable is not to be cold and unfeeling nor whatever the opposite of that might be. It is to be in control of the factors that dictate our actions and decision making processes.

2. That the Lord expects some of this control from us is evident from the biblical commands: to "fear not," etc., all of which are linked to the emotive part of us. That he has supplied what is needed for us in this regard is apparent in the text of 1 Peter 2. So the very basis for these grounds is spiritual and must be perceived in that way. Furthermore it must be sufficiently obvious and objective that it is within the grasp of all believers. Some of us are quite immature and we need the most help! So we will discover that the grounds are emphatic and practical.