

VARIOUS SCRIPTURES

ESSENTIAL PILLARS OF SOUL CARE (PART 2)

Four essential pillars supporting biblical soul care:

I. The heart is the primary object of soul care.

II. God's glory is the ultimate goal of soul care.

III. Sin is the chief enemy of soul care

"As God is holy, all holy, only holy, altogether holy, and always holy, so sin is sinful, all sinful, only sinful, altogether sinful, and always sinful."¹ – Ralph Venning

"Sin is the dare of God's justice, the rape of his mercy, the jeer of his patience, the slight of his power, the contempt of his love...the upbraiding of his providence, the scoff of his promise, the reproach of his wisdom."² – Ralph Venning

IV. Faith is the principal activity of soul care.

"That faith in Christ is the root of all holiness—that the first step towards a holy life is to believe on Christ—that until we believe we have not a jot of holiness—that union with Christ by faith is the secret of both beginning to be holy and continuing holy—that the life that we live in the flesh we must live by the faith of the Son of God—that faith purifies the heart—that faith is the victory which overcomes the world—that by faith the elders obtained a good report—all these are truths which no well-instructed Christian will ever think of denying."³ – J. C. Ryle

"True worship only takes place when the spirit is engaged with truth by faith... Faith is the priority of the Christian life because it allows us to enjoy the grace of God by embracing His truth and engaging in true worship. Faith is the first responsibility of the Christian life and the continuing imperative of Christian living." – Jerry Wragg and Paul Shirley⁴

"When we actively pursue faith, the truth regulates our lives. By faith we hold onto the certainty that God, who transcends our feelings, experiences, and circumstances, is the One who determines reality. *His truth is true, even when it doesn't feel right. His will is ultimate, even when our experiences seem determinative. His hand is mighty, even when our circumstances seem omnipotent. His character is holy, even when our emotions betray us. His promises are final, even when despair seems permanent.*" – Jerry Wragg and Paul Shirley⁵

¹ Ralph Venning., *The Sinfulness of Sin* (Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1965), 31-32.

² Ibid.

³ Ryle, *Holiness* (Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2014)., xiii.

⁴ Jerry Wragg and Paul Shirley, *Free to Be Holy* (Jupiter, FL: Grace Immanuel Bible Church, 2019), 64 and 66.

⁵ Ibid., 72.