

Facing the Storms

Spiritual solutions for aviation friends

Cecile Lottering

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To contact the author write to help@christav.co.za or P.O. Box 1682, Montana Park 0159, South Africa. Phone: +27 82 811 4182

Foreword

Dear Aviation Friends,

Occupation-specific and often unexpected demands place many in the aviation industry and necessarily their loved ones under immense strain.

Many become disappointed or disheartened. Many are hurting. Dreams are shattered. Hearts are broken. Some take drastic actions. Most put on their happy faces. Others hide from the Lord, instead of seeking shelter with Him.

According to Isaiah 61: 1, Jesus would come to heal the broken hearted. He did and by His Holy Spirit has never stopped reaching out to us.

*This booklet contains a condensed selection of Bible based solutions and practical wisdom to face and conquer some of the tempestuous issues covered in 'Ask Cecile' on forums such as the **Christian Aviation Network South Africa** website www.christav.co.za.*

May the Holy Spirit may be allowed to minister to you through this, to provide your missing piece of the puzzle.

Cecile Lottering – Pretoria, 2013

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Introduction

Our words... can hurt or heal

Before dealing with the topics which people involved in or affected by aviation often contend with, please allow me focus your attention on an integral problem, or solution – whichever way you choose.

In whatever role or capacity we participate, the quality of our communications can make all the difference. Our words can either harm or heal... cause or prevent disaster.

Jesus said in Matthew 12:36 'But, I tell you, on the Day of Judgment men will have to give account for every idle word they speak. For by your words you will be justified and acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned and sentenced.'

This word is more important than many people realize.
Words...

- Make us, or break us
- Heal us, or make us sick
- Spoken yesterday, makes life what it is today.

We must learn to make words work for us as words of faith. We read in James 3:8-10 *‘But the human tongue can be tamed by no man. It is (an undisciplined and irreconcilable) restless evil, full of death-bringing poison.*

With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men who were made in God’s likeness! Out of the same mouth come forth blessing and cursing. These things, my brethren, ought not to be so.’

Let’s consider how words affect our relationships with spouses and children:

- These are products of words
- Words make us sick or heal us
- Words curse us or bless us.

A biting, stinging word in the morning will rob our loved ones the whole day long, whereas a loving, tender word will fill them with joy and help them face the day’s challenges.

The home atmosphere is the product of words. Arguments and negative talk create a bad atmosphere which lingers ... Words kind of ‘hang in the air’. The lives and personalities of our spouses and children who live in whatever atmosphere created by our words will be affected either negatively or positively, depending on what and how we said it.

Children who grow up to be strong and capable to face life's challenges are invariably brought up in homes where the right kind of words is spoken. Harmony and love between spouses grow and stay strong where the right kind of words is spoken! Words affect health, so do not dwell on and confess the symptoms of sickness. Confess health.

We read in Proverbs 4: 20 – 22: *'My son, attend to my word; consent and submit to my sayings. Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the center of your heart. For they are life to those who find them; healing and health to all their flesh'*

Never talk failure or defeat, but believe in success.

Worry can destroy you. Never talk about what the Devil has done. Talk constantly of the works of God. God is for us, not against us. We need to remind ourselves that: The Greater One is living **in me** and that through Him our words have a lasting positive effect: **Confess it, believe it!** If you struggle controlling your tongue, I suggest this prayer:

'Father, I repent of every negative word I have spoken. I wish to speak words of life into my life, the lives of others and each situation to sow love and encouragement, to glorify You. Please help me to listen to Your Holy Spirit each time I wish to say something. Amen'.

Chapter 1

Living together... the Big Easy Out

Dear Cecile,

My boyfriend has landed a flying position abroad and asked me to join him, once he's settled in. I haven't seen much of the world and would love to go.

I have always been the one with the steady job, though I can't say he's ever been lazy. It's just that jobs here have been scarce and temporary.

He always seems to be studying to improve his chances of a better job. This may be his big break, although we can't be sure till he's tried it.

On the one hand I'm excited for both of us. On the other I'm afraid of what might happen to me/us should things not work out? We have shared a townhouse the past few years, so I will have to downsize if I decide to stay.

He hasn't asked me to marry although I'm not sure getting hitched will solve or accomplish anything for us. I can't make up my mind.

My reply

Ironically many free thinkers seem to be 'stuck' in such situations and relationships. I suspect more people's lives have been ruined and hearts broken through shattered expectations of '**the big easy out**', which I use to describe such arrangements, than most care to admit.

Ordinarily, we should be eager to investigate and try out new opportunities, provided we are in the Lord's will - which we find out by spending time in His Word and with His Holy Spirit. But, based on Biblical principles, we simply cannot take each other on 'trial' or for a 'test drive' in sexual relationships.

Many people living together seem to have problems *because* they are living together, yet it's not always obvious - least of all to them. They feel the blows, but don't seem to realize where they're coming from. Admittedly many married couples also have problems, but, there's one essential difference...

The factors fueling your fear are firmly rooted both in the tentative and transient nature of your 'ongoing' or 'prolonged' relationship (note the contrast and irony), as well as the fact that you're **in rebellion** against the principles in God's Word.

The Lord only places His blessing on what He ordains - which doesn't close the door on real repentance. He will never reject those sincerely turning away from their errant ways and **to Him**.

I draw your attention to 1 Timothy 4: 1 - 3: *'But the Holy Spirit distinctly and expressly declares that in latter times some will turn away from the faith, giving attention to deluding and seducing spirits and doctrines that demons teach, through the hypocrisy and pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared (cauterized), **who forbid people to marry...**'*

The fundamental failing is clearly that of being **deluded**; due to a lack of knowledge of the Word of God. Satan's tactics through ungodly teachings are to steer us and keep us away from God and His Word.

The Deceiver's objectives are accomplished through lies, deception and misdirection. He wants us to be 'open-minded' and 'take it so easy' that our thoughts end up in 'never-never land'.

We can become so entangled by our own 'reasoning' that we neither know nor care what God wants. We hence simply ignore the real problem, which comes down to the consequences and fruits of disobedience.

Acting in the flesh requires **neither commitment nor real sacrifice**. We simply ask ourselves ‘how can it be wrong if it **feels** so right?’ Our views are enforced by the corporate delusion of society.

We tend to believe something must be right when ‘everybody seems to be doing it...’ especially with no obviously evident negative side-effects. Why must I seek a solution if there’s no problem?’ That’s more delusion! Society is burdened and actually riddled with problems stemming from a generation of fatherless children on account of rebellion in this regard; the parents having succumbed to misconception.

Satan capitalizes on people’s **fears**... of failure and of the future. He is the ‘great accuser’. He loves emphasizing the negative and reminding people of past failures. Many therefore end up challenging others and themselves to find ‘but one successful or happy marriage’. But, marriages in which God is not honored can never be the yardstick.

In the end, many end up following other people’s line of reasoning relinquishing their own sound mind and instincts and most importantly, God’s direction. The opinion of Him, Whom has made us, is made not to count.

Should the Lord want you to be dominated by fear and uncertainty? Certainly not! The only thing we should actually fear is being outside His will.

In this case 'uncertainty' should be a warning sign that you're moving against His will. The opposite also holds true, as once you truly move within His will the world becomes your oyster. Yet, He has certain ordinances and provisions... for **our** benefit and protection and that of society, as well as our loved ones and offspring.

One particular ordinance is the sanctified institution of marriage. In the right relationship it does not bog you down. Rather, the right kind of marriage relationship should **empower** those bound and affected by it.

Hebrews 13: 3 states marriage should be *'held in honor (esteemed, worthy, precious, of great price and especially dear...)'* In context, outside of marriage *'God will judge and punish the unchaste (all guilty of sexual vice) and the adulterous'*.

There are various myths and truths about living together. Many believe we can love one another just as much when living together. But, we should fully understand what love is. Love is **initially** based on emotion. But, these feelings change.

Research has shown more cheating by both partners and more domestic violence, as well as more depression among individuals living together, opposed to married couples – according to *Noel Horner* in *The Good News*, Vol. 16 of Nov./Dec. 2012; p. 8.

Real love is based on a **sacrificial** relationship and **commitment**. Loving is an act of faith and is unconditional.

Real love is essentially '**in spite of**' imperfections and shortcomings in each other and not '**because of**' the other partner's powers of physical attraction, uses and usefulness to you... as these are the attributes and elements which inevitably change **and diminish** over the years.

Lack of commitment and failure to formalize such unions and relationships – through the institution of marriage which God in His wisdom and love has provided to mankind – are the most inherent shortcomings in interpersonal relationships of a sexual nature outside of marriage.

Women tend to move in with a man **with marriage on their minds**, according to Horner. I somehow tend to agree with him. Many men tend to choose this option for the availability of easy sex.

- If commitment is a vital ingredient of real love why would you take a chance on someone not prepared to fully commit to taking a chance on you?
- Why would you give your heart to someone who would not have you have his name or wear his ring; or leave you as damaged goods to your next partner, in case things do not turn out to his liking?
- Why would you take a chance on someone so superior in his own eyes he will not submit to God and His sanctified ordinances such as marriage?
- Will such a make-shift life boat take you to your destiny?
- Will you not be left behind if hardship, better opportunities or 'better' a prospective partner cause your boyfriend's 'feelings' towards you to change?

You can follow a husband to the ends of the earth, **if he is a real God fearing man unafraid** of hardships, challenges or commitment.

Chapter 2

Dead-end... abortion or suicide

Dear Cecile,

At 37 I'm pregnant after a one-night-stand. I never planned it and because I don't sleep around wasn't on the pill. My husband, who is bound to find out won't be impressed, to say the least... He used to get violent when we were just married, but that was ages ago. He is much older than me and has a medical condition causing him to have no or little interest in sex.

He was boarded about two years ago and sits around at home moping all day. His pension is scarcely enough to support us. I started flying again on contract as cabin attendant. You can put two and two together. My teenage daughters, with whom I fight a lot, will despise me!

I've confided in a friend who is suggesting an abortion. I can hardly bear the thought, but am seriously considering it as the only sensible option. I am also scared witless of what my husband might do. I have thought of suicide, though I'm probably too much of a coward.

My reply...

You would choose between taking one or two lives to escape the consequences of a foolish deed? You need to understand that Satan is behind abortions and suicides. According to John 8: 44, he is a liar and murderer. John 10: 10 a. states he kills, steals and destroys.

The **Spirit of Suicide** is in fact whispering to your unguarded soul. This demon is patiently waiting for the right moment, when you are at a 'high' just after you have been at your lowest to strike, then it would be quite easy, almost 'natural' according to those who have had failed attempts. He compels them to keep trying.

You undoubtedly need to realize **suicide and abortion have nothing to do with courage**. Far from it!

In Proverbs 15: 25 we note there is a way that seems right to a person, but the end of that way is death. According to Proverbs 25: 28 somebody who has no rule over his spirit is like a city which is broken down and without walls to guard it.

If you keep fostering such thoughts, you will be feeding a lie from the pit of hell. In a spiritual battle you need to ask Jesus to forgive and cover you all the time. He can be relied on to give His forgiveness freely to whoever **repents and asks** Him, according to Colossians 3: 13.

Whatever sacrifice *you think you might* put on the altar to atone for a wrong deed, will never be enough. It is both arrogant and misguided, as well as a misinterpretation of God's Grace and Forgiveness. Satan wants your life. He wants your unborn baby. Neither you, nor Satan nor anyone but God is entitled to give or take away a life.

Does God want your life? Yes! He has given it to you freely but wants it back, in a different way. In the very same Scripture (John 10:10 b) we read He came '...so we (you, I and your unborn baby) can have life in abundance'.

You need to understand **who** and **what** you and your unborn baby are, **according to God's Word... I** Thessalonians 5:23 makes it clear each one of us is a **spirit** which comes from God. The **spirit** lives in a physical **body** and has a **soul**.

The soul can be likened to our combined subconscious and cognitive or 'rational' minds. The spirit cannot be touched or reached by God's Spirit, unless we make a rational decision with our mind. The soul is in this sense the portal to the spirit. The spirit comes from God and returns to Him.

God has no desire to condemn us and has in fact paid a terrible price on the Cross for us to have redemption through repentance of our sins and acceptance of His free

Grace (in that order). If deciding one cannot be redeemed, one would be taking the place of God in the matter.

Opting to cut short one's life or that of the 'fetus' or actually unborn baby would be playing God – regardless of how the baby was conceived. The Bible is full of teachings that all life comes from God. One particularly touching passage is Psalm 104: 24 – 30 stating He sends forth His Spirit and gives breath to all creatures.

In Job 31: 18 we read **He weaves us in our mother's womb**. This is supported by Psalm 139: 13, intimately stating *He forms 'my' inward parts and knits 'me' together in 'my' mother's womb*. In Ecclesiastes 8: 9 we note '*...there is no man (person) who has (been given) the power over the spirit to retain the breath of life, neither has (he) power over the day of death...*'

In Psalm 34: 6 the 'poor man' cried out and the Lord saved him out of all his troubles. Yes, you have trouble. But, please don't make it worse by becoming so scared that you become stupid.

Do not play God. He sees what we do in darkness as in bright daylight anyway (Hebrews 4: 13; Psalm 139: 12). The power of sin over us is in its secrecy. Break it. God will empower you on the road ahead. In time your situation can become a joy and a blessing (Psalm 51: 12).

Chapter 3

Engineer... in need of restoration

Dear Cecile,

Some time ago my aircraft maintenance organization was wrongfully closed for months due to unsubstantiated accusations. Out of five 'findings' not one could be upheld. An advocate helped me and an amount of money was awarded in settlement.

My business image was tarnished, my family suffered and many clients think there is something 'wrong' with me. Most people do not realize what I have gone through. The urge to take revenge and sue certain individuals who made up the case and actually a pack of lies is so strong I sometimes cannot think straight.

I gave my heart to the Lord when I was young, but somehow had 'forgotten' about Him. In the process of being persecuted He sent people to help me out with cash and moral encouragement. I renewed my commitment to the Lord last year. I just cannot get rid of these urges to even the scores.

My reply...

My answer is unimportant. What the Lord expects of us is all that matters. According to His Word in Romans 8: 28 ‘...*all things work together and are (fitting into a plan) for good to and for those who love God and are called according to (His) design and purpose.*’

We also read in verse 32 ‘*He who did not withhold or spare (even) His own Son but gave Him up for us all...*’ In Romans 3: 10 we read (again) according to the Amplified Bible ‘...*None is righteous, just and truthful and upright and conscientious, **no not one.***’ Does that include you?

In Acts 15: 11 we read that we are saved by the Grace of God only. In Matthew 5: 44 in Jesus’ own words we are instructed to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

In the Lord’s Prayer we are told in Matthew 6: 14 if we forgive people their trespasses, God will also forgive us. Jesus Who paid a terrible price so we can receive Grace freely, in Matthew 18: 20 – 35 also gave us the parable of the attendant who was absolved of a huge debt, only to persecute another man for a much smaller debt.

Grace and Forgiveness are central to the Bible.

In Deuteronomy 32: 35 the Lord claims the right to vengeance for Himself.

In the years of aviation business we were often wronged and had to forgive. In such times it would have been easy to become bitter. In instances we got ‘settlements’ which invariably ‘felt’ like way too little. We had to learn a ‘settlement’ was a ‘settlement’. It seldom seems enough and in accepting we had to learn to show grace. A friend with an aviation sales concern used to remind us in such situations ‘you can’t get ahead if you run after others’ i.e. to ‘get even’. The urge 'to level the scores' is like lust, insatiable.

What matters most is that God had never let you down while you were going through deep waters. Just maybe He has even used your problems to strengthen or teach you? Like Job, once we have been 'tested' we fare far better afterwards.

If you do not ‘relinquish’ your claims, God cannot according to His Word continue to offer you any reprieve.

Let go. Focus on your clients and show them grace. In the long run your situation will become a living testimony about the Goodness and Intervention of God – as it already has. As Believers we live for His Glory. Change your focus and orientation then your situation and business are bound to change for the better.

Chapter 4

Workshop owner... sleepless and witless

Dear Cecile,

I have built a successful aircraft maintenance company with the help of partners. We have had many ups and downs. We have twice tried to sell, but each time the buyers insisted we remain involved, precluding the sale.

Clients phone me at home since six in the morning, presuming we start early, till ten in the evening, presuming we work late. I have been battling with sleeplessness and sometimes take sleeping tablets. If I don't, I feel dog tired the next day. I don't drink or smoke and exercise whenever I can.

As parents we are preoccupied and feel guilty about missing out on our children's lives. We would like to attend church, but just can't get up most Sundays, which most of our clients do not respect.

My reply...

Figuring out the relation between ‘cause’ and ‘effect’ is the key to a solution. Many consider aviation an industry which ‘picks you up to let you down’.

We sometimes become so afraid of yet another 'down-cycle' that we overcompensate in times of prosperity. And, once most of us have tasted success, enough is never enough. Some Bible based teachers refer to the ‘spirit of enterprise’ which takes root once we start pursuing success at all costs. Our clients tend to be 'birds of feather' like us, attracted to us.

On the one hand God’s promise is ‘...*My Grace is sufficient for you...*’ according to II Corinthians 12: 9. On the other hand the Bible warns repeatedly against being a sluggard.

In today’s society we tend to lose the balance and become overly active and actually ‘reactive’ – as your predicament with clients feeling ‘entitled’ to call at all times suggests. You probably feel you have ‘lost control’.

When losing control we tend to believe Jesus cannot understand or identify with our particular situation or problem. That's where we're wrong.

If you maybe suspect he does not understand what it's like being 'dog tired' then reading the 'Messianic' Psalm 22, especially verses 14 and 15, where King David prophetically envisaged Jesus' mental, physical and spiritual suffering on the Cross, with 'heart melted like wax' and strength 'poured out like water', should convince you otherwise.

In Mark 10: 24 our same Messiah relates how difficult it would be for those who place their trust and sense of safety in riches, to enter the Kingdom of God.

In business or management terms one cannot presume telling you what to do. On a physical level the use of sleeping medication **must** be a danger sign. Many feel the need to 'induce' rest cycles, invariably resulting in the need for a 'boost' afterwards. That is why medication should be used under supervision of a medical doctor as I hope or suppose you realize. How long before you need something stronger?

You probably realize you need to downsize and determine new priorities, especially the emotional needs of your children. But, are you willing to make the sacrifice?

Author Mark Twain is credited with the saying 'children prefer your **presence** above your **presents**'. Does this ring a bell?

In Isaiah 60: 1 (a) we see God expects us to ‘Arise [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you (to) rise to a new life]!’

Trying to adapt without addressing the underlying causes will merely keep you bound in sleeplessness and ultimately lead to cycles of ‘highs’ and ‘depressions’. Your situation is drastic. It needs drastic action and intervention. If done in a spirit of love and prayerfully, your spouse and partners will understand major changes in your life and lifestyles are needed. I expect they will wholeheartedly agree and support you.

Treat yourself to a dose of insight and revelation about observing the Sabbath, by reading Isaiah 58: 13 & 14.

Sleep should be sweet to the laboring man according to Ecclesiastes 5: 12. Your situation has no ‘quick fix’.

You have to adjust the 'basics'.

- Trusting God in a prayerful process of making changes should be your source of ‘courage’ for making the necessary fundamental changes to your life.

- Rely on **Him** and expect peace and 'sweet sleep' to return sooner than you realize.

Chapter 5

Sexual orientation... Love me or leave me

Dear Cecile,

My 'same sex' sexual orientation has been a stumbling block not to me, but especially other Christians. God has made me and loves me just the way I am. I am not ashamed of who and what I am. I have been called names, ostracized and victimized not because of who I am, but what I am and have been since an early age.

*One would expect 'grownups' to behave differently. Not even churchgoers can accept the fact that I am different. Cowards! They **will** answer to Him one day. I cannot stand hypocrites in the front pews who check me up and down as if dragged in by the cat, while 'back at the ranch' they sleep around as if it's going out of fashion.*

When will the Church get its house in order and stop judging people like me and simply accept us? Few realize it's actually against the law to discriminate.

My reply...

You do not have to worry about sharing heaven with hypocrites. One cannot deny most people, including churchgoers, seem to have a problem with people of 'same sex' affinity and sexual orientation. Perhaps some are just better at hiding it?

What people think does not actually matter much. What I think is unimportant. What God thinks is vital. We find that **in His Word**. An evangelist Dr. Billy Graham always used to ask audiences before a sermon to hold up their Bibles, confessing: 'This is God's Word. He said it. I believe it. That settles it!' We either accept all of God's Word, or not.

Bible teacher Dr. Derek Prince used to point out true Believers in Jesus Christ are doers of His Word, refrain from sin and love others with a Holy Spirit given love. God does not want to judge us. He sent His Son Jesus so we can be redeemed. Jesus does not want to judge us, but His Word will. According to Romans 3: 10 '*...none (of us) are righteous, '...no not one'*. We are only justified by His Grace (3: 24).

In Romans 8: 6 – 8, we read of the battle between the carnal mind and the spiritual self. The Spirit of God will never lead us to sin. God will never do anything to contradict or contravene His Word. The Scriptures in I Corinthians 6: 9 – 10 we are confronted with an unambiguous question:

'Do you not know that the unrighteous and wrongdoers will not inherit or have any share in the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the impure and immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who participate in homosexuality, nor

cheats, nor greedy graspers, nor drunkards, nor foulmouthed revilers and slanderers, nor extortioners, nor robbers will inherit or have any share in the Kingdom of God'.

We see in verse 13 the body is not intended for sexual immorality. Matthew 7: 1 cautions us not to judge others, lest we be judged. Ultimately, the Word of God will be our judge.

If one goes to church and follows Jesus, the aim is to be transformed according to His will and Word (Romans 12: 1 - 2). Therefore, if you would meet Jesus as e.g. an adulterer, you would expect to be set free from adultery, not so? Why would it be different with homosexuality, if one bases the answer purely on God's Word? To the Believer, the question is not what other people think, but what God thinks about this. Do you want to please Him, the world, or yourself?

Having seen people delivered from oppression in the name of Jesus and the long lasting positive effects, I feel it would encourage you to realize you can be set free from any form of bondage and oppression, should you search your soul and find this to be the case.

God's Word and His Holy Spirit convict of sin. To go against His Word is to sin. Jesus said according to John 8: 32 - 'And you will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free'. In verse 34 b He explains that 'whoever practices sin is the slave of sin'. But, in verse 36 He states the everlasting truth: *'So if the Son liberates you, then you are really and unquestionably free'.*

There is no human condition, attitude or orientation which can keep us in bondage, if we go to Jesus to be set free.

Chapter 6

Porn... some stiff competition

Dear Cecile,

My husband flies a lot. He works irregular hours and is often still awake while I am asleep.

I became aware by chance that he's been visiting pornographic sites on his laptop. Our relationship has deteriorated because of that.

I find his behaviour confusing. He either avoids intimacy for days, or wants me to do things in bed I'm not comfortable with. I find his tastes and suggestions degrading.

How do I handle this?

My reply...

All of us can always run to our Heavenly Father with any situation. We are confronted with a ‘man’ or rather ‘male’ problem here, though I am not supposed to pick on any person or gender. Men battling with pornography may see their self-indulgent behaviour not affecting anyone else. Yet it does.

Admitting that one has a problem is always the first step to a solution, but a definite stumbling block when dealing with porn. A better understanding of any problem helps. The seventh commandment in Exodus 20: 14 ‘...*thou shall not commit adultery...*’ gave rise to a footnote in the Amplified Bible about the full context and wider meaning of your predicament.

J.P. Lange remarks ‘Not only is adultery forbidden here, but also fornication (sleeping around) and all kinds of mental and sexual impurity. All impure books, songs, pictures, etc. which tend to inflame and debauch the mind are against this law’.

Pornography has become a growing industry. Men are misguided into subscribing to sexual relations without consequences, commitment or responsibilities of fatherhood.

Some men may, perhaps unwittingly, be trying to ‘get even’ with the members of ‘the fairer sex’, the latter being emancipated socially and economically, through debasing the image of women through entertaining degrading images. Do not try to compete with those women, or ‘depictions’ of women

The problem with lust is that it’s insatiable. Numerous verses in the Bible deal with the need for ‘self control’. In 1 John 2: 16 we are aptly taught a sinful mindset enters through ‘lust of the eye’.

According to Psalm 101: 3 a. *‘I will set no base or wicked thing before my eyes...’* Verse 4: *‘A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil person or thing.’* Yet, nothing can plug hole in a soul except the Holy Spirit. Lust opens the door to oppression by evil spirits.

Confronting your husband or setting ultimatums will bring strife and division. In Ephesians 6: 12 we note we are ultimately fighting against evil principalities. This is the level on which to fight and win this battle. Ephesians 6: 18 provides another key *‘...Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit’*.

Trust God for a ‘renewal in the spirit of the mind’ according to Ephesians 4: 23. Persist in your stand and battle against this.

Chapter 7

Playing with pills... while dad's away

Dear Cecile,

My son of 14 is very rebellious. He's in the ninth grade and turning into a handsome young man.

We used to be real close, because his dad as airline pilot often went away. I suspect he's experimenting with cocaine.

He has fits of temper and breaks things in his room, especially after parties. He sometimes doesn't come home till the next day.

My husband flies in Africa, two months on and one off. He wants me to call the cops.

I can't do that, can I?

My reply...

Your husband may be right in the sense that drastic action is needed. It may seem a bit heartless to call the cops, but nowadays police crime prevention units have social divisions.

Talk to them first, lest they inevitably do. Do not believe for a moment you can handle this situation on your own, or that your boy will break down and ‘confess’.

Outside intervention by specialists is needed without any delay whatsoever, immediately!

A long term solution will only be found through intensive and persistent treatment and family counseling.

The ‘absent father syndrome’ is often part of the underlying causes. You need to get to the root of that through professional pastoral counseling.

My heart goes out to you. Please remember according to Psalm 46: 1 ‘...*the Lord is a ‘very present’ help in times of trouble.*’

Chapter 8

Happy helicopter pilot... flying 'high'

Dear Cecile,

I used to be a full-time helicopter pilot, but nowadays do mostly freelance work.

Our trips last three, four days. It's a party-line. I take the troop to fun places and casinos, sometimes in wee hours of the morning.

Things get wild, but I try to stay out of it.

The money's too good to back out.

Once home, it takes time, maybe days to recover.

I have occasionally used cocaine to help me stay awake.

Your thoughts...

My reply...

Pilots undergo 'Human Factors' and 'Aviation Medicine' training. I am not going to lecture you.

- Surely you realize what you are doing is criminal?
- You are bound to become a murderer if you keep flying.

Since you have first sniffed cocaine you have **not been in control**, no matter what you believe or tell yourself. You have a problem. You need to own up to **YOUR** problem.

You can overcome **YOUR** problem only through institutionalized treatment and with the help of God.

- You also need to be delivered from spirits which accompany the use of forbidden substances.
- That can only be accomplished with the help of ordained pastors specializing in that field.

Though your predicament began opportunistically, but you still urgently need to approach an aviation medical specialist to assist and refer you.

Somehow I do not anticipate you will take action, as most druggies or junkies do not believe they have a problem till it's either too late, or they no longer have a choice. We pray that you do. For what it's worth: **Do not delay!**

Chapter 9

God of War... does not exist

Dear Cecile,

I don't believe in God, not after what I have seen in my military career as helicopter pilot. If there's a God, why does he allow wars?

My reply...

We read in Exodus 15: 3 *'The Lord is a Man of War'*.

Wars, to preserve life and to withstand and eradicate evil and oppression, are part of our earthly existence.

We should not confuse God and the Devil. We find the differentiation in John 10: 10. The Devil's nature is to kill, steal and destroy and to influence and delude people to do so. Jesus came so we may have life in abundance.

The kind of war God intended is actually in accordance with Ephesians 6: 12 *'against the principalities of evil'*.

Many Scriptures attest to God loving us to the extent of having sacrificed the life of His Son for us on the Cross of Calvary. We were given a choice.

Mankind often chooses against God. Ultimately such rebellion results in murders and wars.

You likely suffer from emotional wounds and scars.

I pray that you may reach out to Jesus and invite the Holy Spirit as Healer to come and live in you and minister to you. In time, He will help you more fully understand His Master Plan.

Chapter 10

Big boss... of the five-fold ministry

Dear Cecile,

I have been a chief engineer for years. The guys know me. You either do things right, or you don't.

In the old days it didn't take much to give someone 'the five-fold ministry'.

Nowadays you can get locked up. I'm a Christian, but God must help me.

It's a real battle with some guys. I mean, ultimately lives are at stake.

What do you do – talk nicely to someone not doing his job properly?

My reply...

Brother – I can call you so, because you confess to be a Believer – I can quote numerous Scriptures about peace and self-control. These are unlikely to help.

Many people who battle with tempers are actually caught in negative and destructive behavioral patterns.

Your battle with anger may be due to pent up frustration about not getting your way – in this case the required performance from your subordinates.

No one is asking that you lower your standards, but be careful your anger is not self centered.

Inner peace is actually a gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10: 36).

I discern you may do well to remind yourself of the concept of ‘Grace’ as given to us freely and which should be shown to others, as can be read in Ephesians 2: 8.

And yes, next time and actually every time someone transgresses, especially as Christian, talk nicely.

Chapter 11

Cabin attendant... Lovely and lonely

Dear Cecile,

My husband and I both work away from home for long periods at a time. Our marriage is under severe strain.

We cannot carry on with the facade. He is in the security field in the Middle East. I am on overseas flights as cabin attendant. I worry about him a lot.

When we get together all we do is fight!

I love him, but feel lonely. I am still young and not unattractive. I feel I am losing out on a big part of my life.

I have gone out with a colleague a few times. I am feeling more and more attracted to him.

I'm in two minds here. Some nights I hardly sleep trying to work through this.

My reply...

All I read is 'I' and 'me'.

Love is sacrificial and all about commitment and not about ourselves, though we benefit emotionally, physically and spiritually from such enduring relationships.

How we 'feel' about someone is ultimately on an emotional basis. Romantic feelings invariably change with marital phases.

Millions of relationships survive separation. Do not forget that. Your husband may be sensing a change of heart, most likely at the root of your conflict.

Your 'nightly turmoil' brings to mind I Corinthians 6: 17 that the Holy Spirit braids married couples together. In such relationships there's no more room for 'other' parties. Get the focus away from you. Break the ensuing relationship with your colleague.

Communicate as often as possible with your husband through modern technology.

Repeated reassurances of your love and commitment should relieve anxiety on his part, which I'm sure will be reciprocated in time. Try harder and don't quit!

Chapter 12

Skipper... trying to land back his 'ex'

Dear Cecile,

This one captain keeps hitting on me. He is actually making my life a living hell.

I always tend to end up on one of his flights, especially overnight trips.

I think he may be pulling strings, as I have tried to reschedule to no avail.

We used to go out before I got married. The sex was good, but that's about it. He's a real egoist.

My husband will freak and make me quit my job if I make a scene.

This is becoming a real problem.

My reply...

With today's 'sexual harassment' laws you've got to be kidding. If you even whisper to management 'Captain Amorous' will be out of your life. Airlines nowadays actually fear liability suits and tarnished reputations more than 'disgruntled commanders', unlike the 1950s to 1980s. You don't have to put up with the situation.

In Genesis 34: 8 the destructive influence of the concept 'soul tie' can be observed. This, more than anything else, is most likely what's been holding you back from taking decisive action.

Sex outside marriage invariably results in emotional yearnings between former partners. Such unwanted 'strings' can only be cut by through the working of the Holy Spirit in you, otherwise such suppressed feelings will reappear during marital strain and also be the cause of it.

You already have an awareness of sin, which is impossible without the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Whichever choice make will be the one you are feeding your mind with and will be the one growing inside you. To slay a giant, do it while he is still boasting and least concerned about resistance according to I Samuel 17: 49.

References

- Scriptures quoted are from the Amplified Bible, Expanded Edition, The Zondervan Corporation and Lockman Foundation; Grand Rapids, Michigan; 1987.
- *Article by Noel Hornor in 'The Good News', Vol. 16 of November/December 2012; p. 8 (www.GNmagazine.org).*

The author...



*Cecile Lottering was born and raised in Pretoria. She matriculated from Hoërskool Lyttleton and worked for the Department of Information locally and in Holland before meeting husband Johan at the Pretoria Skydiving Club. They married soon afterwards and raised two sons, **Leslie** and **Barry**. The couple started an aviation business, which they ran for 23 years. In-between raising kids she helped to manage a flying school, charter flights, aircraft sales and her own insurance portfolio.*

Their offices were a safe haven to aviators with whom they shared triumphs and tragedies. The Lord has always been their first love, with aviation representing part of His acre. Cecile gave her heart to the Lord at a tender age and renewed her commitment during the revival period of the 1970s at Hatfield Christian Church.

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