

The Four Tensions (T⁴) of Spiritual Flight: Attraction, Addiction, Aversion and Authority

A VFC Victory Visual: #51
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Why did I ever come forth from the womb
To look on trouble and sorrow,
So that my days have been spent in shame?
Jeremiah 20:18

by Dr. H.D. McCarty
President/Founder

Birth: I did not ask for it!

Trouble: I cannot escape it!

Sorrow: I cannot stop it!

Shame: I cannot cover it!

Time: I cannot ignore it!

Death: I cannot eliminate it!

Gospel: I can overcome it all!

The Cross Disciple can become skilled enough in pursuing and practicing the Christ Life that he or she begins to comprehend the thrilling compulsion and overcoming determination of “Christ Attraction.” This true loving of and turning to the Lord results in the increased receiving of “Christ Authority” (John 1:12-13). His kind of authority ... rooted in wisdom and power ... is the only answer to accepting, facing and overcoming life’s demanding and inescapable issues. All of us should ask ourselves the following question: What is the deeper meaning of my triumphs, joys, achievements, trouble, sorrow, shame, time and ambitions? We must answer each part of that question with the Mind of Christ if we are to find and fathom the Godhead realities of our existence. To perceive “His Mind” it is critical that we recognize and respond Biblically to the energies of Attraction and Authority as well as the forces of Addiction and Aversion. “Cross cognizance” in these four areas will open many doors to spiritual discovery, deliverance and delight. We must learn to deal daily and positively with the certainties these four energies bring to our lives. All Four Tensions (T⁴) are necessary to grasp and control if we are to become “overcomers” and live our lives in the atmosphere of the Lord’s Presence.

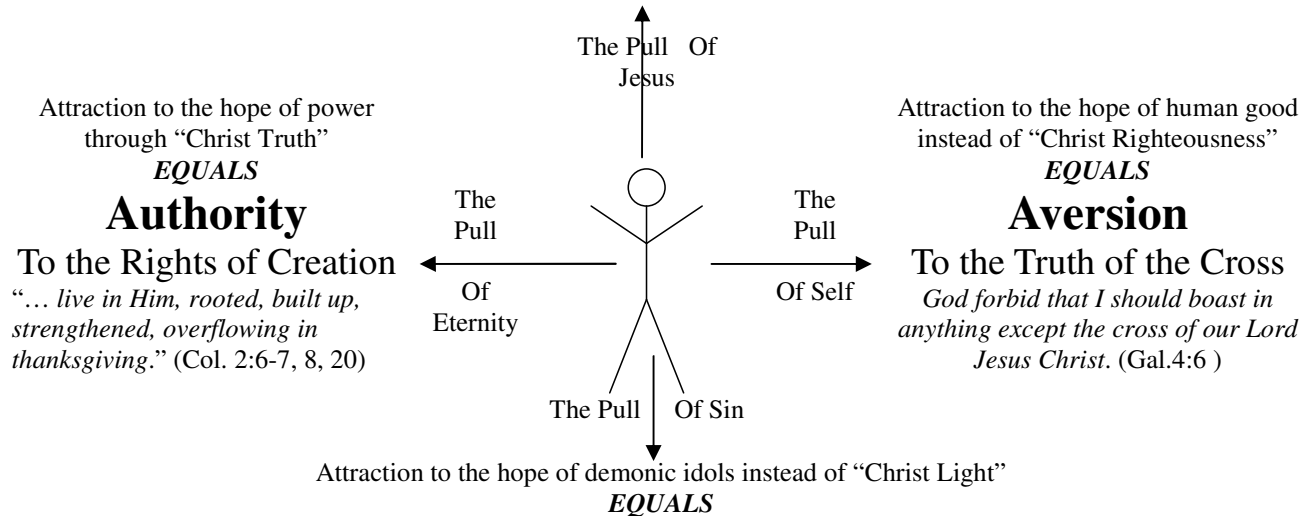
Attraction to the hope of spiritual deliverance through “Christ Love”

EQUALS

Attraction

To The Liberty of Christ

“In Christ I have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that He lavished upon me with all wisdom and understanding. (Eph. 1:7-8)



Who will deliver me from this body of sin and death (Rom. 7:24-25)

Abundant Living is not found in what you get but in the power and treasure you possess to give! To reveal the Father and to give Christ to others is the greatest thing you can own and give to others! Most of our anxieties and worries are rooted in wanting more than what is essential for our good. Our sad deception is in wanting less of the cross in our lives so we won’t be inconvenienced. Our Lord possessed almost nothing on this earth but lived the most abundant life ever lived. He had the Four Tensions (T^d) under perfect control! (John 10:10)

Attachments to the positive and detachments from the negative are never ending pursuits. Critical decisions and timing skills are a constant necessity for the Cross Disciple. “Addictions to the lie” as well as “aversions to the truth” are both failed and fatal options. Our only path to life liberation is to be exposed continuously to “the Light” of the “Authentic Gospel.” It is there that we most fully see “the face” of Jesus Christ (II Cor. 4:6). “False Gospels” and “Partial Gospels” abound. They consistently pressure us all with deception and weakening. They must be increasingly recognized and rejected! (Gal. 1:6-9). The constant use of real money equips one to most quickly spot counterfeit money! If what we are thinking, doing and desiring is not increasing Christ Attraction in our hearts and Christ Authority over our actions, then we are being deceived. Bondage to non-spiritual agendas and the absence of Jesus passion in a person’s life is strong evidence that their faith is not rooted or empowered in the truth of the “Authentic Gospel”! The result is a Christian who is a “spiritual pretender”!

The Tragic Impotency

If Christianity, the Church and Christ Jesus are boring to you, a routine duty, a secondary issue, an add-on activity, only a matter of morals and, in all honesty, not vital and exciting to your life purpose, then you have surrendered to the traps and bondages of Addiction and Aversion! The only Authority a person can receive and capture in order to overcome, conquer and reign in life must flow from “the level of Attraction” one increasingly finds in the Savior! “... to all who receive (accept and embrace) Him (faithed Jesus), He gave the authority (right and power) to become joyous children of the Godhead” (John 1:12, HDM). This “right” is the most precious experience on earth. “How great is the love the Father has lavished upon us, that we should be called the children of God” (I John 3:1). When we regularly and earnestly turn to the Lord, our blindness is taken away and we begin to see all things with and under His Authority (II Cor. 3:16-18). The Holy Spirit “authorizes us” to behold the glory (significance) of Messiah Jesus. These wondrous daily experiences are the essence of abundant living! As we age this marvelous and amazing lifts us to unimagined vision and contentment. At 120 years of age Moses ... after the Exodus and after the wilderness ... confesses his growth in the realities of Godhead compassion and deliverance: “O, Sovereign Lord, You have begun to show to Your servant Your greatness and Your strong Hand ... there is no Gold like You” (Deut. 3:23-24).

We should wake up every morning anticipating the new things we will discover about the fantastic plans, provisions and purposes of Jesus! In mastering these Four Tensions (T⁴), we find ourselves being transformed into higher and higher levels of Christ-likeness (II Cor. 3:16-18). I summarize these four categories of existence ... Attraction, Authority, Addiction and Aversion ... as the T⁴ Tensions of Spiritual Flight. If a person is to develop into an overcomer, all four must continuously be dealt with in God’s way ... in God’s timing ... and for God’s purposes.

Many Christians congratulate themselves on not being “addicted” to the “sins of commission.” Yet too many declared Disciples (like us) are blind to our “aversion” to the deeper and demanding aspects of the cross. The curse of the church is that so many of its members grow comfortable with the “sins of omission.” In my opinion the sins of omission do far more damage to the name of Christ than the sins of commission. A Christian who gets drunk or is immoral is a shame. But a Christian who claims to love Christ and never gets serious about prayer, rarely testifies of God’s Presence and power in their life, demonstrates no passion for Scripture, never discusses the claims of Jesus with others, does not lay down his life for people, whose mouth is void of praise, whose primary obsession is not being like Jesus and who refuses the deeper demands of a sacrificial cross is a sham Disciple! He or she is a “con-artist

Believer.” My early years as a Believer were spent in a “fundamentalist” environment where I was reminded often that I would be judged for every sin I had committed ... the things “done” in the body. This attitude is still expressed among many church goers. What is ignored by too many of them is that judgment also will come for the things “undone” that were important and critical for the cause of Christ. Frankly, I am far more concerned about my “omission sins” than I am my “commission sins.” How about you? One can take pride in the fact that “I didn’t slander him,” but what defense does one have when he or she has to admit “I refused to love him!”? Illustrations abound.

Basically no true Christian will be judged for sin after death. Christ Jesus has already been judged for our sin. The price for our stupidity, evil, arrogance and pride has been paid for by His blood. Our future will hold a time of reward and evaluation for our response to Christ’s love when true Christians appear before Him (II Cor. 5:10). It is my sense that the great issue for church folk will be their Aversions to the cross of Christ rather than their Addictions to the captivity of the culture. (See my *Victory Visual* #___: *How the Godhead Sees Our Failures and Our Fruit*—yet to be written.) This is a big subject so I leave it for the present and return to T!

The sins of commission say, “I should not have done it, but I did!” The sins of omission say, “I could have done it for Christ, but I wouldn’t!” Commission sins are the most obvious and they do great harm. Omission sins are mostly hidden, but they squander God’s grace and never heal anyone with the Gospel. Their damage is even greater.

Seekers of Healing

Only Cross Disciples ... seekers of their daily cross ... learn how to be deeply rooted in the all surpassing magnificence of the Savior’s mind and heart. This “Attraction” to Him and the resulting “Authority” from Him increasingly controls their living and eventually reduces their susceptibility to the diminishments of Addiction and Aversion. The source of this overcoming Authority rests in our skill level of learning how to “put” all things “in Christ.” The more precisely our roots go into the energy of Christ’s Presence and into the soil of His Truth, the more quickly and effectively we learn the joyous and bold confirmation of His will ☉. It is then we become more “Christ” dominant in our situations and over our circumstances.

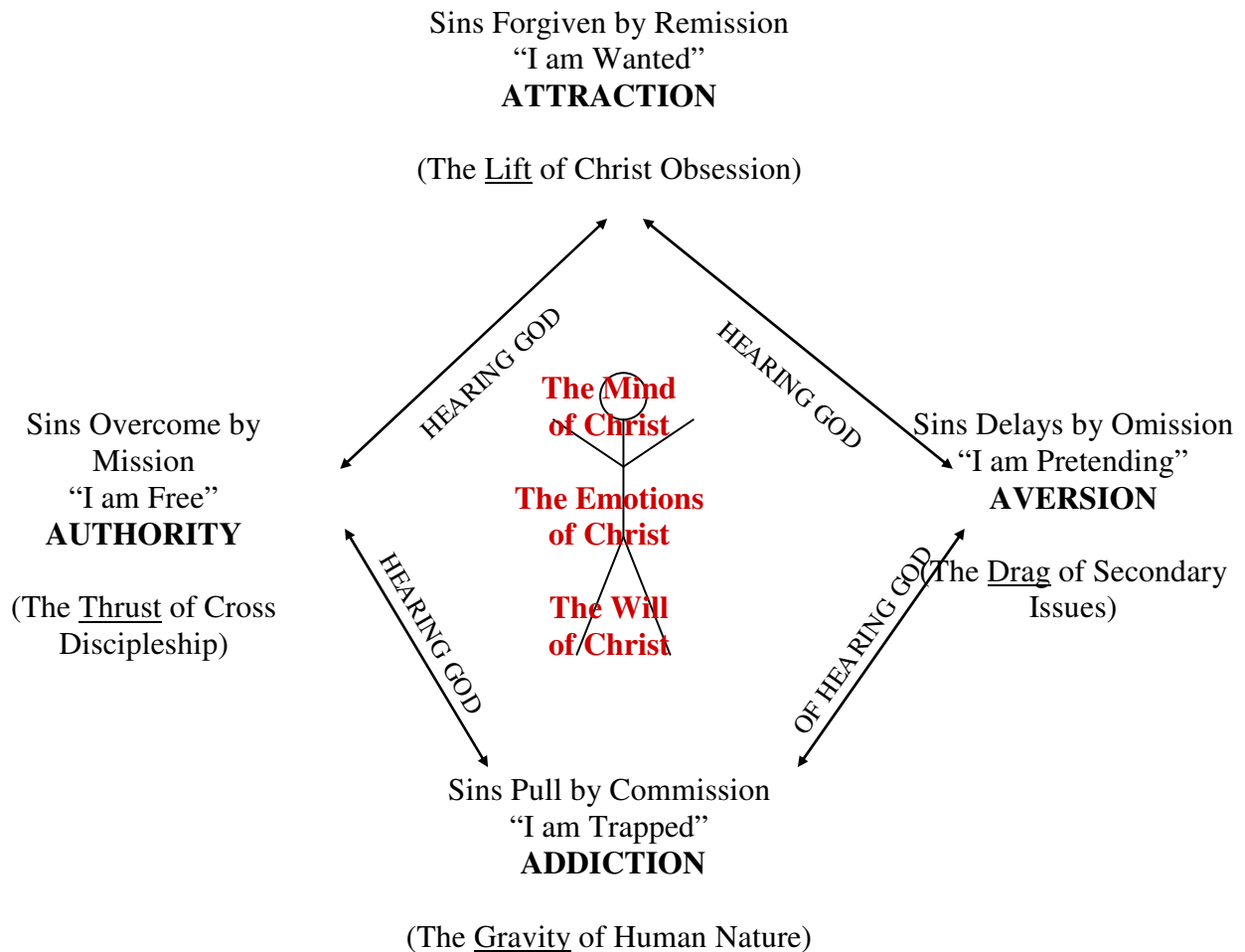
Please read II Timothy 2:1 and I Samuel 30:3-8. Paul tells Timothy to “Be strong in the grace (God’s initiatives on our behalf) in Jesus Christ.” To obey this verse demands that we know “how” to be “grace strong.” Once, while in total despair, King David strengthened himself in the Lord and we should take heed. How? He did three things. First, he asked for the high priest’s symbol of authority ... his breastplate (ephod). Second, David, holding the breastplate, asked the Lord for guidance and listened to “the Voice.” Third, David obeyed what the Voice said to do. David first sought God’s authority, then inquired of God’s authority and, finally, obeyed God’s authority! We always strengthen ourselves when we seek, hear and obey more and more of God’s Authority. Supernatural energy comes when we progress in our understanding of “the cross.”

The thrilling thing is that you can do this on your own just like David ... at any time ... alone ... right now ... if you seek His Voice, listen to it and yield to the truth He declares ☉. Authentic faith is simply accepting what God says as true! “Fear not!” (Mt. 27:8-10). “Don’t be anxious about anything!” (Phil. 4:6). “All things are working for your good if you keep on loving Me!” (Rom. 8:28) “No test is too big for you. I won’t let it be. I will show you how to escape it” (I Cor. 10:13). Let me ask: Do you believe these statements from Scripture or are you faking it? To truly believe them and relax will bring instant

strength to your mind and heart. This “strength surge” is ours through the power of Christ Attraction and Authority! I call it Rapid Radical Release (See *VFC Resource #4: Rapid Radical Release*—Yet to be written.)

Attraction, Aversion and Addiction can be either positive or negative. This will depend on the Authority source one is seeking and trusting. Continuous yielding to Christ’s Authority turns everything positive. Yielding to the authority of other people, your culture, your flesh and the demonic will push everything toward the negative. Paul nails it for us in II Corinthians 5:14, “For Christ’s love compels and controls us ...!” The veteran Disciple knows that Christ Jesus is earth’s supreme and extreme Attraction! The great Apostle yearns for the Authority of Christ to be in full charge of his life in every experience and on an immediate basis. This is the promise of the Gospel and what makes it such good ... read fantastic ... news!

Addiction to “truth habits” is a positive while addiction to the “lie habits” self, alcohol, money, fame, pleasure, weak friends or drugs, etc. is a negative. Aversion to laziness and ignorance is a positive while aversion to Scripture, sacrifice, forgiveness, discipline and prayer is a great negative. Attraction to what is righteous is healthy, attractive and rewarding; attraction to what is evil will diminish, decimate and destroy one’s life. Heart yieldedness to the Authority of the Master’s Voice decreases the negatives of Addiction and Aversion and increases Attraction in a way that is pleasing to the Father. This means developing Addiction to Christ alone and Aversion to all that would hinder our pleasing Him (Heb. 12:1-3). This process will continuously reveal and refine our Christ Life goals as being on target. Honestly evaluating how well we are manifesting “the grace and truth of Jesus” to others, as well as to ourselves, will result in clarity in our practice of Cross Discipleship. We can, by His mercy, create a life which demonstrates Messiah Love ⁽⁵⁾. The following graphic will help put this process in focus:



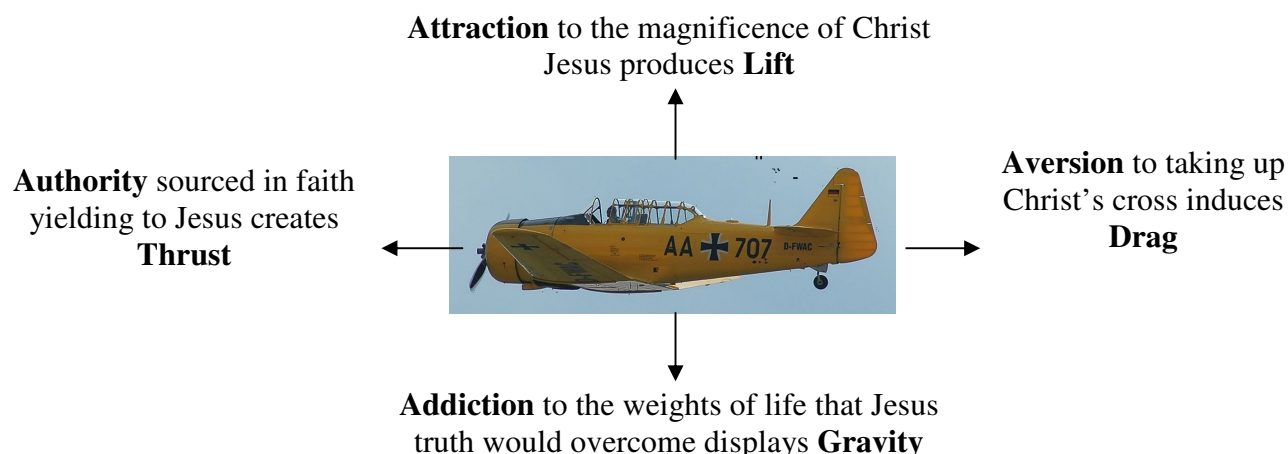
Seeing the Magnificence of Jesus

Godhead Attraction will always point to redemptive and purifying Authority. Their mix with Addiction and Aversion with Jesus discernment and balance will create in the Cross Disciple the Heart of Christ ☺! We will slowly but surely develop the daily love disciplines of always seeing, thinking, responding and waiting like He did! Doing these things will transform us into what the Savior was while He was on earth! We will never reach perfection, but we can experience the resurrection of direction! Our spiritual obsession is to show people, mostly one by one, a life that is increasingly filled and controlled by grace (love) and truth (messiahship) (John 1:10-18, 20:21). We strive for this, not to impress people, but because we have learned the thrill and satisfaction of revealing the Father! What we must communicate, any way we can, is that we have a Savior Who loves us and that He possesses all the truth about how we are to live in peace, pardon, purpose and power. In this way alone, we most positively revel the Father (John 17:6). Ponder deeply the Lord’s Own words in Gethsemane, “I have revealed You Father to those whom You have given Me!” This stunning comment by the Master should be our high passion as well ... to revel the Father! The T⁴ reality tensions of our present fallen existence can be adjusted, merged and forged into a life that overcomes. We must seek, expect and accept the

Father's gift of Authority which always includes the essential timing of His will. This Authority is the inheritance and the "NOW power" of those who yield to Christ Jesus and begin to live like the sons and daughters of His Father and their Father (John 1:12). Remember, we can only "begin" to act like Jesus when our thoughts are transformed by thinking like Jesus! (Rom. 12:2; Phil. 2:5; I Cor. 2:16).

Comparing these Four Tensions (T^4) with the four forces on an airplane in flight ... thrust, lift, gravity, drag ... gives us a compelling vision of a person's "Flight Through Life." Physical flight is impossible without recognizing and adapting to the truth of these four forces of physics. This was one of my first lectures as I began Air Force Pilot School. This is a basic that cannot be ignored or overlooked! Abundant life (read spiritual flight) is also impossible without dealing "in truth" with the four forces and tensions (T^4) of our spiritual creation.⁽⁴⁾ Let us all pursue more accurately and earnestly "the Authority" and "the Attraction" of our Lord! We must if we are to overcome "the Addictions" and ... most importantly for professed Disciples ... "the Aversions" that will cheat us out of the thrill of "going onward and upward" with our Creator-Redeemer-Perfecter! Joyful and excited is the Disciple who learns to embrace the T^4 Tensions according to the Savior's creation intentions.

The Disciple Pilot with Eagle Wings¹



¹ A CRITICAL INSIGHT: Gravity and drag were both created by the Lord as necessary forces or energies to balance and complete His physical universe. These two can be positive or negative depending on their balanced mix with other God created energies and forces. In the graphic I call "The Disciple Pilot with Eagle Wings," gravity and drag are hindrances to be overcome by lift and thrust if an airplane is to ever leave the ground. Once human flight is achieved, however, there comes a time to land the plane ... either to refuel or to complete the mission. It is in landing that the energies of gravity and drag cease to be negative and become necessary positives. Lift and thrust, without gravity and drag, would take your plane on an uncontrollable flight to disaster. Illustrations abound to this old pilot's mind, but this footnote is too long already. Biblically, think of Paul in II Corinthians 12:7-10 and his back and forth balance of strength and weakness. It is the same principle! "When I am weak (learning my created limitations of human gravity and drag), I am strong (overcoming by the discipline of understanding lift and thrust)."

These four mysterious forces (tensions) are all necessary to give us the pathway to become like the Son. The Lord shows us our hopeless restraints and weaknesses so that we can seek His strength and liberty. He then gives us strength so that we can use our restraints to be overcomers. The complexities here are beyond most of us. To keep it simple, keep building your life around Christ's words (lift) and add the power of obedient yielding (thrust). You will suddenly find yourself in spiritual flight. With the Savior as your Co-pilot, He will advise you what to do. All four tensions can be under your control to assure a safe, successful and significant "flight through life." On my first solo flight I was in a new world. Too much was going on for me to understand. But all I needed to do was to stay focused on the runway, add or reduce power and maintain the plane in a proper attitude. More on this later. Until then, stay focused on Jesus only, adjust your obedience and keep a positive attitude. You can overcome all the drag and gravity that might hinder you from the impossible ("Men will never fly!") and even use the negative forces for positive strength!