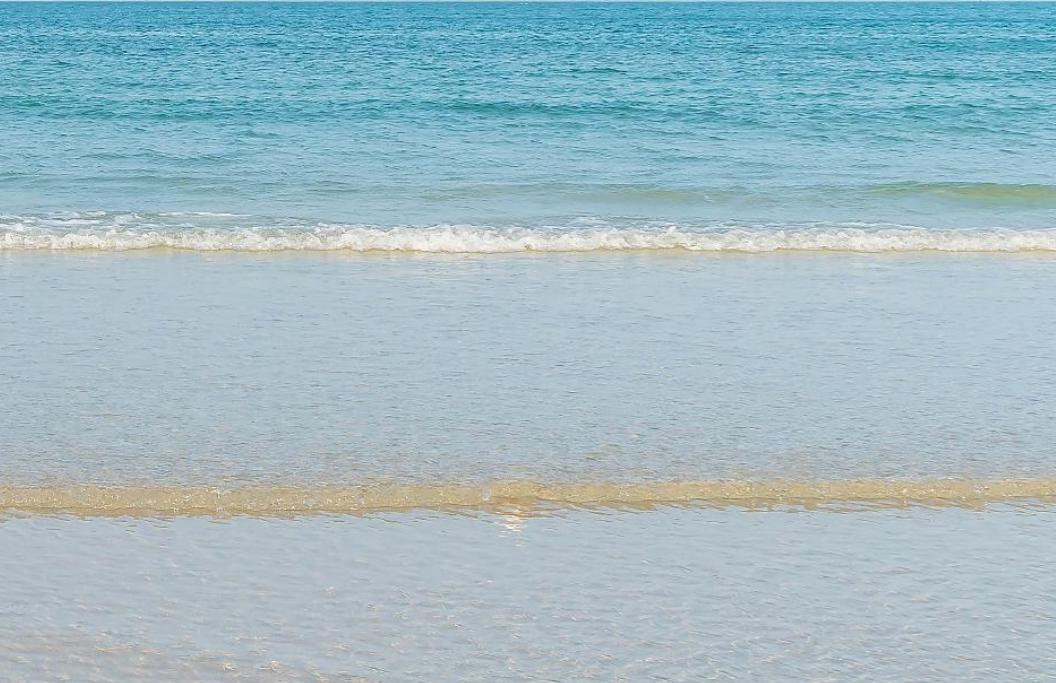


Conflicts

A

Strife-Free

Life



Style of writing!

I love bullet points!

Don't talk me to death.

Give me your bottom line first and then make your explanation brief.
That is why:

- My table of contents gives the main subjects!
- The Intro. briefly answers each question in the booklet.
- The chapters are brief studies, filling in each point.

Table of Contents

1. The **Belt of Truth**
2. How **Blind** am I? **Four** Very Revealing **Questions!**
3. **Define the Goal - Peace & Space vs. Agreement**
4. **Brilliantly Lead** thru **Active Listening & Short Term Solutions!**



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Intro – Overview

1. The Belt of Truth

This is the visual that the Bible gives for conflicts.

(Expanded study in chap. 1 – pg. 1)

2. How Blind am I? Four Very Revealing Questions!

These questions prove who is truly humble.

(Expanded study in chap. 2 – pg. 3)

3. Define the Goal - Peace & Space vs. Resolution

Complete resolution never happens on this earth.

(Expanded study in chap. 3 – pg. 5)

4. Brilliantly Lead thru Active Listening & Short Term Solutions!

True Leaders know how to GUIDE a Conversation thru these methods.

(Expanded study in chap. 4 – pg. 7)

Chap. 1

The Belt of Truth

Part of this first chapter comes from my book on the Armor of God.

Conflict is Satan's greatest weapon.

The purpose of the armor of God is to protect us from the attacks of Satan.

The **Ugliest, Deepest**, and most **Painful** wounds ever inflicted in our lives have come through **Conflicts**. Through our spouses, parents, children, co-workers or friends, Satan has pierced our soul. We play back the strife-filled memories like endless loops of a grisly horror film. We relive the anger, accusations, high-volume, and excessive agony.

Our society is becoming more dysfunctional. Families are fractured. Homes are no longer safe. In this war zone, living with the infected, festering wounds of contention has become the expected way of life.

I see the daily devastation of dissension. Like most pastors, I've found that conflict resolution accounts for 90% of my counseling.

Gird your Loins

The Bible defines dealing with a conflict as Girding your Loins.

*Job 38:3 **Gird up** now thy **loins** like a man; for I will demand of thee and answer thou me.*

In chapter 40, Job wanted to DROP the discussion and God said No!

*Job 40:7 **Gird up** thy **loins** now like a man: I will demand of thee and declare thou unto me.*

29 times in the Bible you will find these this phrase “*Gird your Loins*”. In every case it involves taking the long flowing robe and wrapping it tightly around your waist.

In a physical conflict, you could trip or get tangled in this lengthy robe. Tying this robe around your waist is a picture of “**Removing Distractions**”. Tying your robe this way turns it into a Belt. That was Paul's picture when he begins the Armor of God in Eph. 6

*Eph. 6:14 Stand therefore, having your **Loins Gird** about with **Truth***

You are **RIGHT**..... But you **Don't** have **TRUTH**!

The reason you are so **Passionate** is because you are **RIGHT**!

The reason you are so **Upset** is because you are **RIGHT**!

- You have a **Small Belt Loop** of the **TRUTH**.
- You do **NOT** have **ALL** the truth.

20 years from now, you will look back and realize that you **Didn't** even have **15%** of the Truth.

Even more, you will realize that the **OTHER** person **also** had **10-15%** of the Truth. They also have a belt loop. **They** are **ALSO** very **RIGHT**!

This changes everything!

Instead of being so **CERTAIN** in your perspective, you have to **decide** if you **want GOD'S** perspective.

The **ONLY** way to find **God's** perspective is to **FIND VALUE** in the **Other Person's** Perspective.

*John 8:32 Then you will know the **Truth**,
and the **Truth** will set you free.*

*James 3:17 and the **Wisdom** from **Above**, first, indeed, is
pure, then peaceable, gentle, **Easily Entreated**, full of
kindness and good fruits, **Uncontentious**, and unhypocritical*

*II Tim. 2:23 And the Lord's Servant **MUST**
NOT Quarrel. Instead, he must be **Kind** to
Everyone, able to Teach, Not Resentful*

*Prov. 20:3 It is to one's **Honor** to **Avoid strife**,
but every **Fool** is **Quick** to **Quarrel**.*

Chap. 2

How BLIND am I? Four Revealing Questions!

Once you sincerely ask Jesus to help you embrace these four questions all Self-Righteous Anger is GONE!

1. **How will I WISH that I handled this situation 20 years from now?**

This is my first question I ask myself and it always changes my responses.

2. **Will I be the Other Person's DEFENSE Attorney?**

Admit it! You are assuming the worst about your opponent.

If you were **Their** Defense Attorney, you would:

- **Minimize** their **Negative** Traits and
- **Magnify** the **Positive Points** in their **Perspective**.

Is this hard? It sure is!

This question is **TESTING** how much you want God's will compared to a Selfish desire to **CRUSH** your opponent.

If you first find a **Neutral, Wise** person and **Practice** these **Positive Points about your opponent**, you will be **SHOCKED** that everyone else **ALREADY SAW all** of these points about your opponent and **You are the BLIND one.**

3. **Will I be Other Person's PROSECUTING Attorney?**

- What points about **Me** are **Irritating**?
- Where am I **Weakest** in **My** perspective?

Every person has **Irritating** points. Are you honest about your irritating points?

This other person does **NOT** have your **Personality Gifts** and **Passions**. They usually have completely different personality gifts and passions. **Their** personality gifts and passions are **JUST AS Valuable and Important to Jesus** as are yours.

In addition, **Their** Prosecuting Attorney will

- **Minimize** your **Positive** Traits and
- **Magnify** your **Negative Points**.

ALL of this will be TRUTH!

4. What is the **Fruit** of my **Loins**?

Biblically, our **Loins** represent **Future Generations**!

- How will my handling of this situation affect future generations?
- When I **Look Back** in **20** Years – what **Truths** about Becoming **More Like Jesus** was Jesus trying to teach me in this conflict?

Conflicts are Satan's favorite way to destroy **Homes**, ruin **Careers**, crash **Ministries** and increase **Generational Curses**.

If, **TODAY**, I can **FIND** the things about **Jesus' character** that are being formed in me through this conflict, then I will **Change the Future** for myself and everyone around me.

*Ja. 4:1 What is **Causing** the **Quarrels** and **Fights** among you? Don't they come from the **Evil Desires** at **War Within You?***

*Mt. 5:25 "Settle **Matters Quickly** with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into **Prison**.*

Define the Goal - Peace & Space vs. Resolution

What is your Goal?

This is such a GREAT Question.

- Some people **WANT** to argue.
- Others want to **CRUSH** their opponent.

These people are destined to live very miserable lives and are best avoided.

The most **Dangerous** people are those who want to keep talking until we **Resolve EVERYTHING!** We will NEVER resolve everything on this earth. In most strife situations, we won't even begin to understand all the factors involved for decades.

In addition, many times the Strife Subjects have **NOTHING** to do with **WHY** we are arguing. Many times, we are arguing because we are **Tired, Stressed and Grumpy**.

Biblical Goals – Peace and Space

*Rom. 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,
Live at **PEACE** with **Everyone!***

Let's learn from Abram's example of Peace and Space

*Gen. 13:8 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's **Not** have any **Quarreling** between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you?*

*Let's **Part Company**. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."*

So many times, the best goal and solution to a conflict is simply **SPACE**.

Please note that Abram presented Space as a **Positive Reward**.

It was **NOT** a **punishment** but a recognition that we may have both **OUTGROWN** our **previous** relationship.

Space tied to Rewards!

Many times the **FASCINATING** solution to **Tension** situations is to **INCREASE** the **Rewards** for your opponent.

Often the **ROOT** issue is that they feel **Under-Appreciated** or **Under-Rewarded**. Prov. 27:5 gives a mind-blowing insight.

Prov. 27:5 *Better is open rebuke than hidden love*

This verse is saying that those **Close** to you – feel **Ignored**
 They will sometimes **STIR** up Tensions
JUST to **GET** your **ATTENTION**.

They feel **ignored** - “*Hidden Love*”. Stirring tension to get your attention is often a subconscious action on their part.

I have seen this technique of “*Space Tied to Rewards*” **Solve Many** tension situations in **Marriage**, **Parenting** and **Work Related** Tensions.

When your **Suggestions** for **Space** include very **REWARDING** things for the other person, you may find them **Melting**. In addition, the extra space between both of you can restore warmth to your relationship.

These rewards can be something as short as a paid shopping trip for an evening. They do not have to be dramatic and they are NOT long term solutions.

However, they are often the most revealing research and can lead to long term peace.

Conclusion

When you choose

- Humility and
- you define your Goals as Peace and Space,

you are then able to easily use the Brilliant Leadership tools in the **next chapter**.

Brilliantly Lead**thru Active Listening & Short Term Solutions!****Active Listening**

Once you are humble and have clear Biblical goals it is very effective to **GUIDE the Conversation** through Active Listening.

- Your opponent has **15-20** different **aspects** in their perspective.
- You will **ALWAYS AGREE** with at least **3-5** of their points.

It is a very **DISARMING** opening line when you communicate that you **intend** to **GIVE VALUE** to at least one point of their perspective.

You can say things like:

- *If I Hear your Heart...*
- *One thing you said that I Definitely Agree with is*
- *If I Hear Jesus Talking to me Through you....*

This does much **MORE** than just **Calm** the situation. It also **GUIDES** the conversation in the **Positive** direction of your shared values.

You want to **IMMEDIATELY** follow this active listening with a **request** for a **SHORT TERM** solution.

Short Term Solutions

Many times, you cannot focus on rewards until you resolve Practical Issues that need to be faced and Responsibilities that need to be adjusted.

In these cases, it completely changes the atmosphere if you use the words: **“Experiment”** & **“Research”**. These are two of the greatest leadership words in the English language. They remove tension and build team.

These two words make it clear that we are:

- **Not** committed to this new direction **Long** term,
- that we will **Continue** to **Assess** the results and
- that we **All** have **More** to **Learn**.

This is what that Daniel used to win the heart of his overseers in Dan. 1:12

Daniel 1:12-14 "Please Test your servants for Ten Days

A Caution about Consequences – Include Everyone!

Way TOO Many Times a Parent or Boss is **Overly EAGER** to bring Consequences. There are **ALWAYS Consequences** that can **ALSO** be brought into the lives of the Parent or Boss.

Conflicts create Adversaries!

When the person in authority seeks to **Include Themselves** in the consequences, adversaries become teammates.

There are **Two Ways to Find Consequences** for the person in authority.

1) How could you have handled this situation better?

There are almost always some aspects that the authority could have handled better. Assess those aspects as aggressively as you assess the consequences for anyone else. Work hard to find consequences for the authority that help them grow and communicate a team environment.

2) Share in Consequences as Intentional Support

Sometimes you HAVE to bring consequences to redirect behavior. However, when you **CHOOSE** to also **Participate** in those consequences, you bring your team closer together.

- If an employee needs to redo a project, you can do it with them.
- If an employee has to take a cut in pay, you can take one also.
- If a Teen needs to give up media for a short season, you can give up media also during that time.
- If a Teen needs to do extra cleaning or a work project as a consequence, you can work right beside them.

In this situation, you are acting like Jesus who bore our consequences, even though he did nothing wrong. When you seek to make sure that **EVERYONE** gets consequences, it massively changes your approach to this subject.

This loving, sacrificial leadership will gain you wonderful long-term results.

Conclusion

I have had the privilege of seeing hundreds choose to live a “*Strife-Free Life.*” Many of them were raised with horrible, strife curses over their family. By seeking Jesus, they broke curses and released blessings that changed generations.

We also have 100+ booklet studies coming out.

Here is a sample list of 10 of our booklets.

1. Bible Reading:

The Secrets to Sweetness in God's Word!

This study shows how a One Year Bible enables you to cover the entire Bible in one year. In addition, it shows how hunger-based reading is so different from performance-based reading.

2. The Blood of Jesus:

The Most Powerful Words Ever Spoken

This study teaches us to daily live with a clean heart and to keep short accounts when we stumble.

3. Bosses - What They Wish You Knew

This study gives us a bigger picture of the pressures and responsibilities that are carried by every boss.

4. Christianity – the ONLY Logical Religion

This study compares Christianity to all other religions and shows why only Christianity answers the hard questions.

5. Conflicts – How to Remove All Strife from My Life!

The Bible teaches that truth is a belt, and our perspective is a belt loop.

6. The Cross – The Story of the Last 24 Hours

This study combines all four gospels to examine the last 24 hours and what happened on the cross.

7. Grace – the Power to WANT to do Right!

This study teaches us to release God's Grace constantly so that God can change our hearts and give us HIS desires.

8. Marriage – 3 Bottom Lines!

Six times the Bible says that the purpose of Marriage is for the two to become one.

9. Science & the Bible – How They Agree

Many modern scientific breakthroughs were predicted and practiced in the Bible thousands of years ago.

10. Test Yourself:

Do your Life Goals bring you LIFE?

Finish the sentence “*I Want ...*” and see what you get.

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