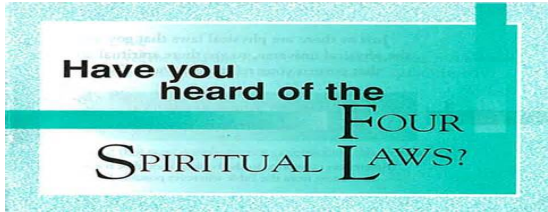


Have you  
heard of the  
FOUR  
SPIRITUAL LAWS?

If so, it was through this popular tract.  
You most certainly DID NOT read them in  
the Bible.

In this brief discussion, we will explain why  
this false and misleading 'gospel'  
publication is deadly spiritual poison.



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FOUR  
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First off, to coin such a phrase -which gives it the same ring as 'The Ten Commandments', which IS in the Bible- is arrogance on a scale never seen before. The naive reader is led to believe he missed something that only super-scholars like Bill Bright see. No, friends, you didn't see the Four Spiritual Laws in scripture because they aren't there. Neither, for that matter, is much of the content.

It seems to have escaped the notice of Campus Crusade for Christ's Dr. Bill Bright, the author of this tract, that NO ONE in the Bible ever delivers such a message. Never. Not anywhere. He stitches together two scriptures in an attempt to make his case but the end result is deception. That's right; the Four Spiritual Laws is naked deceit. Let's look at these so-called 'laws'.

## Law 1

**God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.**

### **God's Love**

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIV).

### **God's Plan**

[Christ speaking] "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly"  
[that it might be full and meaningful] (John 10:10).

A wonderful life? An abundant life? Whatever images those words might conjure up in the mind of someone who has not yet placed their faith in Christ, they would never include what the Bible tells us could happen as a result of turning to Him.

Christ and His apostles plainly tell us that rejection by family, suffering, persecution and death might be our lot for following Jesus. (*2 Timothy 3:12, Acts 14:22, Matthew 24:9, more*)

*"They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service." (John 16:2)*

The Bible makes it clear we (believers) will have hope and joy BUT these are due to our future

inheritance, not any expectation of bliss in this life. Paul says:

*If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. (1 Corinthians 15:19)*

Jesus told a parable which illustrates the kind of 'believer' such an easy, trouble-free 'gospel' could create.

*"But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles." (Matthew 13:20, 21)*

Perhaps he thought he would have a wonderful, abundant life. The disciples rejoiced they were counted worthy to suffer for His name's sake (Acts 5:41). Jesus told of the blessing a little differently:

*Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets. (Luke 6:22-23)*

Yes, even in the Old Testament, serving the God of Israel and confronting sin has cost many people great trials. We hear about some of them in Hebrews 11:35-40. Jesus told us to 'count the cost' of following Him in Luke 14. He clearly said it would involve hating one's own life, forsaking everything and taking up his cross. In Matthew 10 He said if we love anything or anyone more than Him, we are not worthy. Bill Bright's Four Laws never describes a cost apart from this lame statement in the next 'law'

## Law 2

**Man is sinful and separated from God.**

**Therefore, he cannot know and experience**

**God's love and plan for his life.**

**Man is Sinful**

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Man was created to have fellowship with God; but, because of his own stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way and fellowship with God was broken.

This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference,

is an evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

**Man Is Separated**

"The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God] (Romans 6:23).

Spiritual separation from God? What does that mean to someone who has never known God? Is there something wrong with just saying judgment, doom, damnation, hell? Isn't that the reality? The danger of an eternity in a lake of fire didn't rate a mention in this widely-distributed

tract.

Let's see if we understand this: The down side of not forsaking sin, according to this message, is 'not knowing and experiencing God's love and plan for our lives'? If so, that makes it hard to understand this next point.

Paul, as a prisoner, was speaking to Governor Felix and we see this interesting reaction:

*And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."* (Acts 24:25)

Felix trembled? Paul obviously didn't learn evangelism at Campus Crusade!

## Law 3

**Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin.**

**Through Him you can know and experience**

**God's love and plan for your life.**

The first sentence is, of course, entirely biblically correct. However, Bright has the unmitigated gall to go where no prophet or apostle had ever gone. In fact, the phrases 'for your life' and 'for our lives' are

prominently featured in ALL of the alleged laws. What good, we must wonder, would they be for a man who was dying? The criminal on the cross next to Jesus, for example, had no life left in which to experience God's love and plan. What he did have was what we all have: Eternity. Bill Bright ignores this overwhelming reality throughout his disastrous publication.

## Law 4

We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord;

then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

Again, the first sentence is true, the second hogwash, as we've seen. In fact, in many countries to this day, confessing Jesus Christ is the best way to ensure your life ENDS prematurely. Only a safe, comfortable American like Bright could think this way. Tell someone in Iran they'll have a wonderful life if they come to Christ. For that matter, look at what happened to Paul. Then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives? Oh, yes, and heaven, too; strangely absent here.

FACT: No public preaching in the Bible ever includes the words 'God loves you'. In the most famous open air sermon of all time, the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus does say, in essence, 'Don't worry, God will take care of you' but He never flatters the hearer. He also warns of damnation, something He did quite often.

FACT: The FIRST recorded words of John the Baptist and Jesus are 'repent'. The disciples preached men should repent. God commands all men everywhere to repent. Yes, it is a command. Note this passage.

*And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power... (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)*

And if you do not repent, you will perish; those are Jesus' exact words from Luke 13, v. 3 and 5. Perish does not mean 'not experiencing God's love and plan for your life', it means going to hell forever and ever (Revelation 20:10).

People might not like being told they are sinners with nothing to offer God but a 'broken and contrite heart' (Psalm 51) but that IS the gospel. People might suffer from 'low self-esteem' but, according to the Bible, it isn't low enough! God did love us enough to make the ultimate sacrifice to deliver us from our sins. Jesus really did die on the cross as an act of supreme mercy but let us not kid ourselves that God pursues us because we are so wonderful. We are not. Jesus plainly called us 'evil' (Matthew 7, Luke 11). The Bible is not, as some have wrong-headedly stated, a 'love letter to mankind'. There is nothing flattering about God's assessment of the human race. *"...for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth..."* (Genesis 8:21)



If we want to be 'lifted up' we must first humble ourselves (James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6, Matthew 23:12, countless Old Testament scriptures). Then 'in due time' He will exalt us.