

Part Three: The Way Out

Session 12

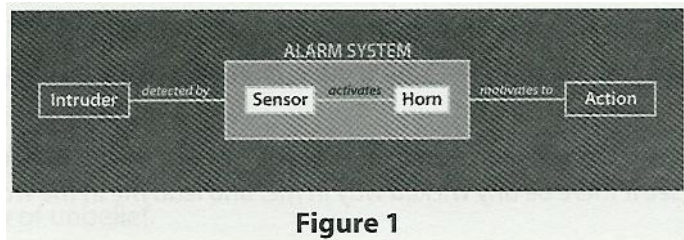
Identifying Your Loudest Noisemaker

“For Your arrows have sunk deep into me, and Your hand has pressed down on me.... For my iniquities are gone over my head; As a heavy burden they weigh too much for me.... I am bent over and greatly bowed down; I go mourning all day long.... I am benumbed and badly crushed; I groan because of the agitation of my heart.” Psalm 38:2, 4, 6, 8

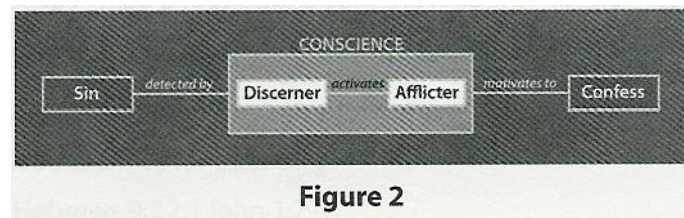
- ☞ The loudest noises in the soul are the agitations of a _____!
—Psalm 32:1-4; 38:1-10

A. The Function of the Conscience

1. How alarm systems work



2. How our conscience (our internal alarm system) works



- a. The conscience judges our _____; it is a “discerner.”
- 1) Romans 2:15—“bears witness” to sin
 - 2) Psalm 51:3—puts sin “before” us
 - 3) I John 3:21—condemns/confirms our actions
 - 4) II Corinthians 1:12—“testifies” of our behavior
 - 5) Proverbs 20:27—“The spirit of man [his conscience] is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly [his being].”
- b. The conscience makes us uncomfortable/miserable; it is an “_____.”
- 1) Fear of _____ (Adam/Ever)—Proverbs 28:1
 - 2) _____ (Pharisees)—John 8:9
 - 3) Physical discomfort/pain (David)—Psalm 32:3-4; 38:2-10, 17

B. The Adjustment of Our Conscience

1. The conscience is desensitized by repeated _____ and rationalization.

- a. Scriptural teaching:
 - 1) I Timothy 4:2—“*seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron*”
 - 2) Titus 1:15—“*to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled [contaminated].*”
 - 3) Ephesians 4:19—“*they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity [shameless lusts].*”
 - 4) Romans 1:21—“*they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*”

 - b. Just as the ability to feel pain at our fingertips is a God-given gift to preserve us from physical destruction, so is the conscience a God-given gift to preserve us from spiritual destruction. If you lose the _____, you lose the _____.

 - c. Don't ignore the “moment-after effect” when you sin. The longer you wait, the more the mental justifications and diversions mask the noise of conscience, and your soul is unprotected.
2. The conscience is fine-tuned by repeated _____ to the Word.
- a. Hebrews 5:13-14—“*For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses [conscience] trained to discern good and evil.*”
 - b. Romans 2:15—“*Their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.*”
 - c. Psalm 119:9—“*How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.*”
 - d. Psalm 139:23-24—“*Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.*”

CONCLUSION: The loudest noises in the soul are the agitations of a _____ . “The Way Out” starts with _____ and _____ so that we can have “a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men” (Acts 24:16).