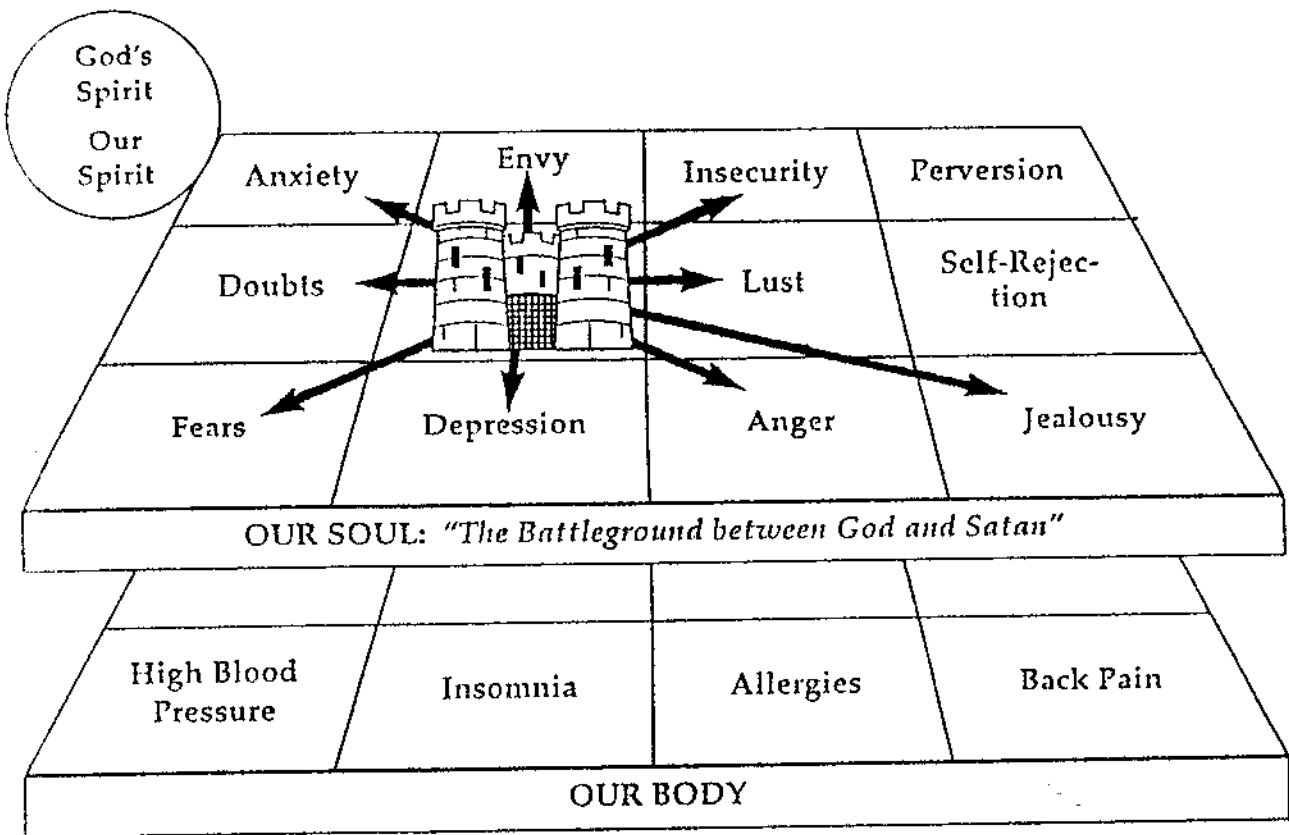


WHY MUST COUNSELING BEGIN WITH "GROUND"?



The goal of counseling is to help people see and respond to life from God's perspective. If, however, the person we try to counsel has given "ground" to Satan, Satan will build strongholds of false reasonings on that "ground." As long as Satan controls this "ground," our counseling will be ineffective, and the individual will continue to make wrong choices.

God has given to us mighty weapons to pull down these strongholds, but first the individual must identify the sins which have given "ground" to Satan, claim the blood of Christ for those sins, and then ask God to take back the "ground."

OUR SPIRIT: When we become believers, God's Spirit unites with our spirit to confirm that we are a child of God (Romans 8:16). At that moment, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit into an eternal relationship with God (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Our spirit communicates directly with God and also with our soul. "God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). Many Psalms express conversations between the spirit and the soul, as in Psalm 42: "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance and my God" (Psalm 42:11).