

# **The Wheel Illustration**

## *Jim Downing*

### I. Introduction.

A. Dawson Trotman learned early how to propagate other spiritual Christians.

B. When God gets ready to bless the Church and the world through certain principles, He picks out a man and first works out these principles in him. He did this with Trotman.

### II. The beginning.

A. Trotman met with a man to ask God to develop men they knew. Then they began to pray for others until they were burdened to pray for the world.

B. Dawson Trotman was encouraged to meet up with a young sailor needing spiritual discipline. They met and Trotman began witnessing to a police officer who was converted through the process.

1. The man with him asked Trotman to give him what he had, and Trotman trained him with what he had.
2. To Trotman there were three parts to the Christians life: intake, the Word of God, and output.
3. Eventually, the Wheel illustration grew out of this.
  - a. The power is imparted through the hub (Christ).
  - b. The power is imparted through the spokes (The connection to Christ - prayer, witnessing, the Word)
  - c. The wheel starts rolling (the obedient Christian in action).
4. Eventually, the man came across another for Trotman to teach, but he refused to teach him saying that his own disciple should be able to train another disciple otherwise his own training had not been effective.
5. House ministry for the Navy became a focus for him; eventually men from every State had passed through his living room.
6. Men began to be trained by Trotman (Jim Downing) was the sixth. He was influenced by the fifth man - Virgil Hook.

III. Testimony – Jim Downing

- A. He grew up in a nominal Christian background and was pursuing his own happiness. (Proverbs 14:6)
- B. Virgil Hook had what he was looking for - a happiness that was not conditioned upon circumstance. (Psalm 107:9, 37:4)
- C. Jesus is the only source of a totally fulfilled life.

IV. Re-designed the Wheel Illustration for the obedient Christian in action.

- A. One needs to feed on the Word of God to be a healthy Christian.
- B. One needs to study the Word of God to be an intelligent Christian. The distinction is the use of pencil and paper. This included a Bible, a Bible dictionary, a concordance, and a doctrinal book. The sign of a developed Christian is a large amount of time spent in the Word during the foundational years.
- C. One needs to memorize the Word of God to be a skillful Christian.
- D. Prayer privately and corporately is essential also.
- E. The Christian life was disciplined and produced results.

V. Conclusion.

- A. As soon as the Christian has a regular intake of the Word, prayer and evangelism and begins living victoriously, he will see similar fruit.
- B. Christ likeness is the result of certain inputs - it does not come spontaneously.

Application questions.

1. What appears to be the driving principle behind the formation of the Navigator ministry through its founder Dawson Trotman?

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2. What chief disciplines arose out of Trotman’s early ministry to men? How have these developed?

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3. What is being input into your life to produce Christian fruit? What will you do to enhance or initiate this experience this week?

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