



# 7 LAWS FOR LIFE

**Steve King** finds out about Selwyn's teaching legacy and the new ways CWR hopes to extend this legacy to a wider audience

**T**here was a look of exhilaration on Mick Brooks' face and a few butterflies in his stomach. Mick lives a varied and interesting life but soaring several thousand feet over the South of England in a glider with a lens and microphone two inches from his face was decidedly more varied and interesting than usual!

Others had dreamed up the ideas and put the schedule together; however, it was for Mick to talk to the camera in some very unusual locations. That said, he shared his team's determination and excitement. They had at last begun to film the *7 Laws for Life* DVD Bible study series.

It was as Selwyn Hughes turned seventy that he felt God prompt him to reflect on his fifty years in ministry and to collect together and pass on to future generations the essential components that lead to a successful Christian life. Selwyn had no trouble in listing forty or fifty important lessons that he had learned. From these he distilled an irreducible minimum and found that the list numbered seven.

What were these seven? Were they principles, tenets, convictions, doctrines? Selwyn settled upon laws. He was aware that some might see a reference to laws as somewhat prescriptive and leaning towards legalism. Selwyn was, of course, alive to the clear injunction from Paul the apostle

that we are 'not under law but under grace' (Rom. 6:15).

It is probably fair to say that having decided to call these vital principles of Christian living 'laws', Selwyn went on to bring some long overdue clarity where the Church tends to be muddled in its thinking. Most modern Christians either dismiss anything that whiffs of law or find themselves bound in stultifying legalism. Alternatively, they are very confused.

Selwyn became convinced that laws do not stop at the edge of what scientists might refer to as the natural sphere but are also observed in the spiritual sphere.

A world without natural laws is unimaginable and impossible. How would we be if the sun chanced not to rise or if one day we all floated to the ceiling and the next crashed through the floor? Our Creator God established natural laws. It makes sense, therefore, that having chosen to make humankind of spiritual stuff, He would also establish spiritual laws.

Selwyn Hughes could say that, '... after working as a pastor and counsellor for over fifty years, I am convinced that the Creator built into the human personality spiritual laws that are as sure, certain and reliable as those we have discovered in the natural realm.'

**continued over >>**

For those who have been involved in caring or counselling it becomes clear, for example, that when someone chooses not to forgive an offence done to them it follows, as night follows day, that the consequences of not forgiving bring inner disruption and disease. There are no exceptions. When resentment and bitterness remain in the soul then degeneration takes place as surely as a garden is overrun with weeds when it is not tended. This spiritual law is as reliable as the law of gravity.

The DVD that Mick and the team are producing is based on Selwyn's hugely successful book, *The 7 Laws of Spiritual Success*. Selwyn considered this work to be the culmination of his ministry and his legacy to future generations.

When reviewing *The 7 Laws of Spiritual Success*, Jeff Lucas enthused, 'I found the simplicity refreshing ... gleaning nuggets of truth and wisdom from someone who has travelled widely, read prolifically, thought daringly – but above all who has sought to be faithful ... Selwyn Hughes has been greatly used to strengthen the Church around the world. His legacy is huge and *The 7 Laws of Spiritual Success* is very much a part of the gift that is the man ...'

Many have found that by understanding and living in obedience to these seven laws they have indeed enjoyed increasing spiritual success.

First things first

– *make worship your first focus*

Count your blessings

– *develop an attitude of gratitude*

Keep on keeping on

– *staying the course*

Remember to forget

– *the art of forgiveness*

Give yourself to others

– *improve the way you serve*

Stay close to God

– *a life of turning to God*

Cultivate your soul

– *understand the essential disease of the soul*

We are familiar with the law of the land. If we break the law and are caught we face arrest and the probability of being charged, convicted and sentenced. However, many break the law and their crime is never detected, or they evade the authorities. That being so, they avoid the intended judicial consequences. Natural and spiritual laws are profoundly different. We cannot break natural or spiritual laws and remain unaffected. In fact, natural or spiritual laws cannot actually be 'broken' – we simply face their consequences or enjoy their benefits.



Let us briefly consider the natural laws of aeronautics. Man did not invent or impose these laws. He discovered them and, bit by bit, learned how to adjust to them and enjoy their benefits. Sadly, very occasionally something goes wrong and a plane falls out of the sky. We all know that to turn off the engines of a jet or to light a bonfire on board or to attempt to bounce off a mountain peak is an abuse and will very likely lead to disaster. On the other hand, we all know the benefits of working with the laws of aeronautics and the joy of stepping off a plane into a warmer clime at the start of a welcome holiday.

As Selwyn was heard to say, 'We may be free to choose but we are not free to choose the consequences of our choosing. The "universe" always has the last word.'

Heaven also has the last word. Spiritual laws exist. We have a choice. We adjust, live in obedience and enjoy the wonderful benefits or we rebel, live in disobedience and face the inevitable consequences.

The CWR team know that Selwyn's teaching on spiritual laws is profoundly important. That is why they are doing all they can to package it in a way that will make it accessible to as many Christians as possible.





'There is something built into the human constitution that says, "Obey and get results; disobey and get consequences."' - Selwyn Hughes

They know that it is rich in truth and they want as many as possible to benefit from it.

Having printed and reprinted Selwyn's book and having taken the material on seminar tours around the UK and overseas, the obvious next step was to create a DVD resource that can be widely distributed. Hence Mick's temporarily enhanced 'varied and interesting' life!

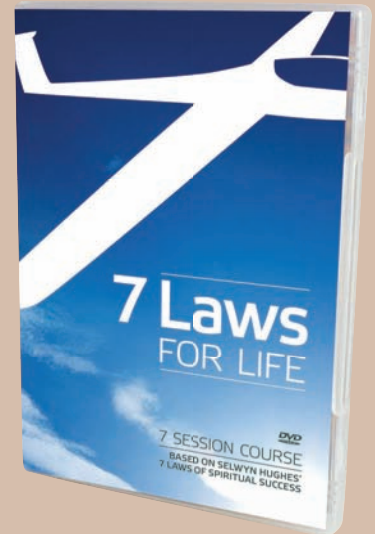
The cameras have continued to roll. Mick goes back to school and finds himself surrounded by children as he cultivates his soul. He contemplates forgiveness locked in a police cell. He wanders a maze, takes to the air and sails on a local stretch of water.

This project is a major undertaking for CWR. The time and effort involved are considerable. Nonetheless, no one on the team doubts that this endeavour is entirely in line with God's will and a wise stewardship of Selwyn's legacy. The prayer is that His Church, His people, will benefit.

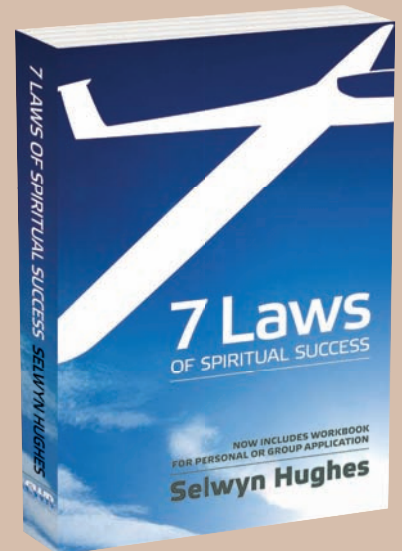
As the intrepid Mick puts it – this time from the peace and safety of his office – 'Just as these biblical principles permeated Selwyn Hughes' life and ministry, so now they permeate all current CWR activity and every future aspiration. We are privileged to be producing an exciting DVD that will enable many thousands around the world to engage

with the spiritual laws that God has built into His kingdom. Our hope and prayer is that as Christians discover these spiritual laws and accommodate them in their daily lives they will experience more of God's power and presence.'

*Pictures in this article are stills from the 7 Laws for Life DVD resource.*




The *7 Laws for Life* DVD resource contains everything needed for a small group to fully experience and apply this teaching, including group questions on screen at the end of each session. (Running time of each session: approximately 20 minutes.) £19.99



*7 Laws of Spiritual Success* combined edition

For the first time, Selwyn Hughes' *The 7 Laws of Spiritual Success* and its accompanying workbook by Jennifer Oldroyd, *Applying the 7 Laws of Spiritual Success*, are available in one volume. Available April 2008. £9.99

 Order using the form or online at [www.cwr.org.uk](http://www.cwr.org.uk)  
All prices exclude p&p.

7 Laws for Life evening seminars at  
Waverley Abbey House  
Wed 23 April 2008  
Tues 4 November 2008

For information/bookings, visit  
[www.cwr.org.uk](http://www.cwr.org.uk) or call 01252 784700