

The 3rd Covenant

Re-Discovering the Word of God within the words of the Bible
Re-Discovering The Way within the Life of Jesus Christ

A Spiritual Adventure of Re-Awakening...



*“You are Gods, Children of the Most High, all of you ...”
~ Hebrew Bible (Psalm 82:6)*

*“Is it not written in your Law: ‘You are Gods’? ... The one who follows me will also Do the Works that I Do and, in fact, will Do even greater Works than these.”
~ Jesus (John 10:34 + 14:12)*

*“Everyone who does not abide in the teaching of Christ, but goes beyond it, does not have God ... Whoever does abide in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.”
~ Anonymous (2 John 1:9)*

*“If you understand these things, Blessed are you while you Do them.”
~ Jesus (John 13:17)*

Part I: A Bigger Picture – The Tree of Living

“And the man looked up and said: I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.” ~ Mark 8:24

To aid in the understanding of this pamphlet’s contents, it can be useful to see our search for Salvation (a.k.a. happiness, contentment, enlightenment, inner peace, etc.) reflected in the form of a tree – not the “Tree of Life” from the book of Genesis, but rather a “Tree of Living” depicted in the diagram on the opposite page. This symbolic tree represents one Human Being, with each part of the tree representing a different aspect of our search for Spiritual Harmony: the crown’s leaves & branches represent our beliefs (specifically the tenants of our chosen religion), the uppermost portion of the trunk symbolizes our thoughts (including our beliefs about Reality), the middle portion of the trunk reflects our emotions (including our ability to hate or Love), the base of the trunk represents our physical body (including its actions), and the roots mirror our ever-mysterious interconnection with the rest of the Universe (including our immediate environment). In essence, our Mission in this lifetime is to unify these five areas of Being into one harmonious Whole, and in this way live again as “Children of God” (see [John 10:34](#) & [John 14:12](#)) ...

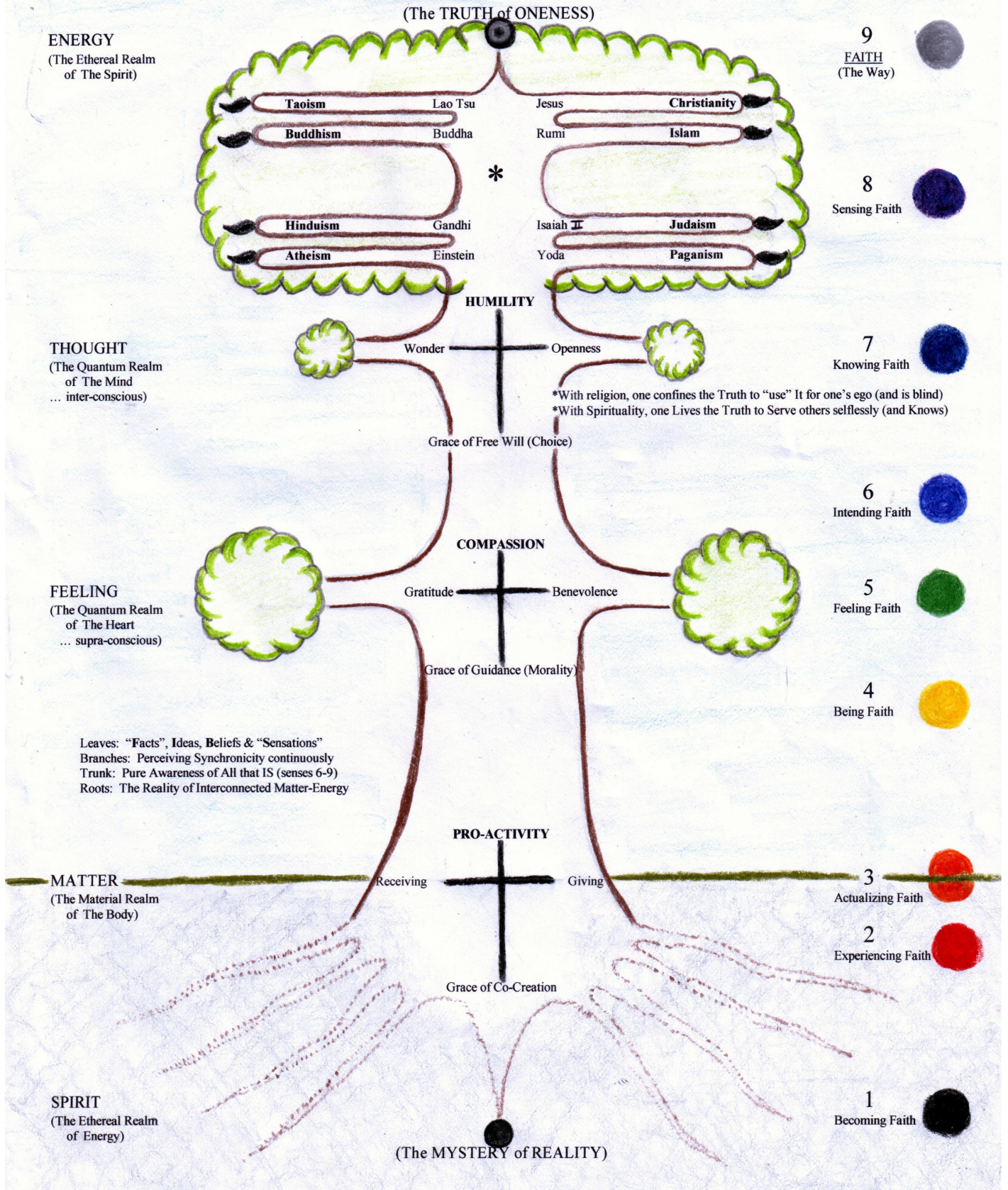
Every belief of which we are certain (e.g. “my idea is **the** correct one”) acts like a “dead leaf”; keeping us from opening to the Light around us -- blinding us to other more caring ways of perceiving a situation (see [Matthew 5:22b](#), [Matthew 6:5](#), [Matthew 12:37](#), & [Matthew 15:8-9](#)). These “dead leaves” tend to clump together, forming religious doctrines (represented by the tree’s eight upper branches) of inflexible and often condemnatory beliefs (“For the time is coming when they will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears they will accumulate teachers for themselves to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the Truth and wander instead away into myths ...” ~ [2 Timothy 4:3-4](#) – see also [Matthew 16:11b](#), [Matthew 18:6](#), [Matthew 23:2-7](#) & [1 John 2:6](#)). The more a person is certain that his/her belief system is “**the** right one”, the farther out on a limb they live, and the less open they can be to receiving the Light that is constantly shining upon us all – a Light that was Known by the founders of each of those religions; founders who all reside together in harmony near the “Truth of the Way” (the star at the center of the tree’s trunk – “Everyone who does not abide in the teaching of Christ, but goes beyond it, does not have God ... Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.” ~ [2 John 1:9](#)) ...

Thus, to be Whole (and thereby “Saved”), one must first choose to be humble (see the uppermost cross in the trunk of the tree – “Remember that it is not you that support the roots, but the roots that support you ... So do not become proud, but rather stand in awe.” ~ [Romans 11:18+20](#) see also [Ezekiel 17:24](#), [Mark 10:15](#) & [Matthew 18:4](#)). This does not mean adopting everyone else’s beliefs, but rather keeping an open mind with regards to one’s own convictions (“Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools that you may be truly Wise.” ~ [2 Corinthians 3:18](#)). Once this state of mind is chosen, one’s “dead leaves” are shaken off and he/she can See more clearly. At this point the upper portion of his or her tree can let Love’s Light shine in; enabling them to be truly Compassionate towards others (see the tree’s middle cross). Once this Compassion for others is truly felt, that person can then harmonize his/her actions with their conscience via kind deeds (“Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked ... but their delight is in the Law of the Lord ... They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in season and whose leaves do not wither.” ~ [Psalm 1:1-3](#)). Such actions allow them to become “grounded in True Self” by selflessly serving others (“Blessed are those who have faith in the Lord ... They shall be like trees planted by water, sending out roots into the stream. Such a tree does not fear when heat comes, and its leaves remain green. In the year of drought it is not anxious, and it never ceases to bear fruit.” ~ [Jeremiah 17:7-8](#)) ...

At this point all the portions of their “tree” are functioning in harmony with one another; feeding its roots of Being with the nourishment of Inner Peace (“Even now the ax is lying at the roots of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire ... Either make the tree good, and its fruit nourishing, or the tree bad, and its fruit sour; for the tree is known by its fruit.” ~ Jesus in [Matthew 3:10](#) & [12:33](#) – see also [Luke 6:43-45](#)). Such a person experiences complete contentment in all such moments (“Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for Joy before the Lord; for he comes to judge the Earth. He will judge the world with Righteousness, and all peoples with His [merciful] Truth.” ~ [Psalm 96: 12-13](#)). Most importantly, even if we “fail” and sin on occasion, we can always re-actualize this innate Salvation by choosing anew to act as an agent of God’s Grace. As long as we live in fleshly form, we are able to humble ourselves anew and become truly Compassionate in our Service to others ...

“For there is hope for a tree, that if it is cut down it will sprout again, and that its shoots will never cease. Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, at the mere scent of Water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant.” ~ Job 14:7-9

The Tree of LIVING ...



Choosing to Listen ... Deciding to See

Steps to Hearing your Truth & Perceiving your Way

Recognize perceptual frailty ... Each of us can only perceive Universal Truth to the extent that we choose to bravely drop our own shields of preconception. Our listening can only become Hearing to the degree that we drop those veils; just as our Hearing can only then become Learning to the extent that we courageously apply what we have Heard in our everyday lives ...

“If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for Peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.” ~ Jesus (Luke 19:42)

Suspend your previous convictions ... Choose to release your previously entrenched beliefs (especially those related to your Spiritual world-view). This does **not** require the dismissal of those beliefs, but merely requires you to re-member & re-mind yourself that you do not “know” anything for certain. Be ready to Learn something new ...

“For what Human Being Knows what is truly Human except the human spirit that is Within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God.” ~ Paul (1 Corinthians 2:11)

Live your new Knowledge ... Do so by actively applying its fresh principles into your everyday living. The footing may not be too certain while doing so, and yet The Way always unfolds gently before you if you but have the Courage to walk It faith-fully (i.e. humbly & resolutely) ...

“Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything and hold fast to what is Good ... Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the Faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that the Spirit of Christ is within you?” ~ Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 & 2 Corinthians 13:5)

Reformulate your Reality ... After any new information has been received and tested, combine that new knowledge with previously held beliefs. Feel how, if at all, the new data might alter or amend your previously held Life-views. Be willing to accept your new Truths as “Gifts from God”. It is no accident that we have all been Blessed with a neocortex and its ability to reason and choose both how we perceive our Reality and how we live our lives ...

“Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the Kingdom of Heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasures what is new and what is old.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 13:52)

Continue your Searching ... The Truth, like life itself, is a dynamic entity and our understanding thereof is continually shifting as well. Once a Truth is rediscovered, applied and adopted, you must then choose to remain Open -- completely alive as a Seeker in your life ...

“For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to Life, and there are few who find it” ... and yet “Everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 7:14 & Luke 11:10)

“For Freedom Christ has set us Free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” ~ Paul (Galatians 5:1)

Part II: Re-Discovering The Word*

Reading The Bible as a Guide to personal Freedom

Before we begin to examine the Bible's Truths more deeply, it is necessary to first cleanse ourselves of a few religious misconceptions about The Way of Jesus Christ ...

Initially, Jesus repeatedly stated that he was not to be personally worshiped, but rather that the Way of Life that he was advocating should be **Followed** ...

“Why do you call me Good? No one is Good but God alone.” ~ Jesus (Mark 10:18)

“I do not accept glory from human beings.” ~ Jesus (John 5:41)

“When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.” ~ unknown (John 6:15)

“My teaching is not mine but His who sent me.” ~ Jesus (John 7:16)

“I do not seek my own glory ... If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing.” ~ Jesus (John 8:50+54)

“Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in Him who sent me.” ~ Jesus (John 12:44)

Secondly, realize that Jesus never once said “Worship me”, instead he constantly urged others to “Follow” him by actively emulating his Way of living ...

“If you wish to enter into Life, **Keep** the Commandments.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 19:17b)

“If you **persevere** with my Word, you are truly my disciples.” ~ Jesus (John 8:31)

“Is it not written in your Law: ‘You are Gods’? ... The one who Follows me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do even greater works than these.” ~ Jesus (John 10:34 + 14:12)

“If you know these things [his Commandments of selfless Love], you are blessed *while you Do them*.” ~ Jesus (John 13:17)

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples: if you show Love for one another.” ~ Jesus (John 13:35)

“Those who have my Commandments *and keep them* are those who Love me; and those who Love me will be Loved by my Father, and I will Love them and reveal myself to them ... Those who Love me will *keep* my Word and my Father will Love them, and we will come to them and make our home within them.” ~ Jesus (John 14:21+23)

... see also the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:18-23)

Finally, it is most important to realize that Jesus was in no way attempting to formulate a new religion. He merely desired to relay a Way of Truth whereby others could free themselves from societal conventions, religious customs & cultural expectations -- to then be able to purely feel God in their Lives and have an intimate relationship with Him. Jesus made this abundantly clear in his New Testament teachings – specifically his only two Commandments:

“You shall Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your Soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first Commandment. And a second is of similar worth: You shall Love your neighbor as your Self. On these two Commandments rest all the Law and the Prophets.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 22:37-40)

Jesus’ 1st Commandment comes directly from the Jewish Sh'ma (Deuteronomy 6:5 “You shall Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your Soul and with all your **might**.”) and his 2nd Commandment is also directly quoted from the Hebrew Bible (Leviticus 19:18 “Love thy neighbor as thyself.”). As such, Jesus was never intending to found a new religion or even denounce the Judaism espoused in the Hebrew Bible (See Matthew 5:17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”). For Jesus, *religion itself was the problem*; groups of people hollowly “worshiping” God mentally without ever coming to the necessary individual relationship with the Holy Spirit via active, loving service for others. He was simply replacing a list of 10 at-that-time ineffective “Thou shall not” Commandments with two positive guidelines to accessing the Universe’s one Divine Truth: unconditional, pro-active, selfless Love ...

“The Kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed ... For, in fact, the Kingdom of God is already both within & all around you!” ~ Jesus (Luke 17:20-21)

*This presentation is a reformation of The Way, as relayed by Jesus Christ in the Bible's New Testament. Note that a reformation is not the tearing down of an older doctrine; nor is it an alignment of a new philosophy with that older one. Rather, it is a method of re-Perceiving & re-Applying an established set of Truths to make them more Power-full in the Here&Now. Similarly, a “new way” is not being offered herein; merely an older Way (**Jesus’ Way**) that has been honed into a new & more potent form ...

The Evolution of the Bible – a Time Line

(Dates are accurate approximations)

In essence, the Bible was first lived as orally passed-on Wisdoms, & then it was written down – so that others might live its Truths as well. Thereafter, it was forgotten, banned, mistranslated and deliberately distorted into its current-day forms & emphases.

- 1900 BCE Abraham's "Elohimic" revelation. A reference to "Yah" (the one God/source) has been found in texts dating back to 3100 BCE. In this era, a new creative force of angels/demons is seen – the Elohim – many of whom appear to hijack Yah's creation for their own selfish desires (see Genesis chapter 1, as compared to Genesis, chapter 2, where YHWH attempts to cleanse the Earth of Elohim-contaminated beings (via The Flood) and establish a new world order based upon service (as opposed to procreation).
- 1350 BCE Moses' Mt. Sinai revelation, where YHWH (or Adonai, the one true Source) is said to be sovereign over the Elohim (what some refer to as "energy beings" or demons/angels). Note that this revelation makes it clear that all humans can do powerful spiritual Work towards the attaining a Universal Harmony of Oneness.
- 922 BCE King Solomon dies and his kingdom splits into Israel in the north and Judah in the south
- 725 BCE "Deuteronomism" develops [found primarily in Deuteronomy, though also in Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel + 1 & 2 Kings] ... A holy scroll is "discovered" in the Temple (2 Kings 22:8) which called for religious reform; demanding that Judaism become re-centralized around the Temple in Jerusalem. This makes geo-political sense as well, as the Assyrians conquer Israel in the north just three years later and raze the Jewish temples there.
- 596 BCE The "Priests' Era" begins when Judah falls (Jerusalem is sacked by the Babylonians) ... Jewish exile begins and the Jewish leadership begins to alter the Bible further to make it more exclusive; thereby preserving Jewish culture despite the mass deportation of Jews from Judah.
- 6th century BCE The "Era of The Global Prophet" ... Confucius & Lao Tsu (in China), Zoroaster (in Persia), Buddha (in India), Isaiah II (in the Middle East, the author of Isaiah, chapters 40-55) & Pythagoras (in Greece) were all prominent.
- 539 BCE Jewish exile from Judah ends
- 538 BCE+ The "Wisdom Movement" begins [represented primarily in the Bible by Proverbs & Ecclesiastes] ... "Wisdom" in the Jewish tradition was defined by some as the ability to discern the pattern of God in the world and the subsequent ability to conform one's individual self to that pattern. To "Seek" was to thus to harmonize with that Wisdom and be blessed accordingly ... Jesus certainly adhered to this theology in his teachings as well.
- When **Proverbs** was written, the Jewish culture generally did not affirm the existence of an afterlife. Because the first clear mention of an afterlife is found in Daniel (chapter 12), the two "ways" mentioned in Proverbs (& indeed all OT texts that pre-date Daniel) – one leading to "Life", the other leading to "death" – are not related to post-mortem Heaven or Hell or linked at all with the concept of eternal judgment. Instead, they describe two different ways of living in one's current physical lifetime.
- Proverbs 11:19 ... "Whoever is steadfast in Righteousness will Live, but whoever pursues evil will die."
Proverbs 14:14 ... "The perverse get what their ways deserve, and the Good, what their deeds deserve."
- Ecclesiastes**, written roughly 450 BCE, purports a Way of Living that cherishes each and every moment of physical life; essentially encouraging its readers to live fully & be present to all that IS (see Ecclesiastes 2:24, 3:12-13 & 9:7-10). Ecclesiastes 9:10 also mentions "Sheol" not as place of punishment, but as the place of transition to which all must journey (see also Ecclesiastes 3:19-20 "All go to one place; all are from dust and all turn to dust again."). Ecclesiastes 7:2-4 precedes this by noting that death and the awareness of mortality are both Master Teachers. Ecclesiastes 12:1 includes this theme by urging its readers to "Remember your grave in the days of your youth."
- 550-400 BCE The "Protest Era": [represented primarily by the books of Job & Ruth]
- Job's** traumas were his greatest Blessings (allowing for the actualization of his awesome Faith). The power of Job centered not on his patience so much as his active "endurance" (as more appropriate Greek translations show). The traditional debate often sees God as being either malicious (allowing evil to thrive) or impotent (being powerless to stop evil). Job presents us with a third alternative: God as a "gentle genius" who allows us to experience the evil consequences of our selfish choices; thereby freeing us to choose noble responses to them. Job contrasts the mere hearing of God ("understanding" God mentally) and the actual Seeing of God (experiencing God physically, by becoming an agent of God via acts of selfless Love).
- Similarly, **Ruth** protests the religious elitism that was in vogue at the time. A central idea in the Jewish Scriptures was the sense of being special. The danger, however, in any group of people believing themselves to be "chosen" is that it becomes easy to view those who are not of their group as especially "unchosen", with discrimination & violence being the most frequent result. Under the rulership of both Ezra & Nehemiah, intra-marriage laws had been passed that made it difficult to live in Judah without being a full-blooded Jew. The author of Ruth cleverly shows that Ruth, one of the story's heroines, was not a full-blooded Jew. As such, neither she nor her progeny, *one of whom was King David*, would have been fully accepted in Jewish Society as well at that time.

580-165 BCE The “Prophetic Writings Era” reaches its conclusion, with the writings of the Hebrew Bible, or “Old Testament”, being completed by this time (though debate continued for many years as to which of those writings should be canonized). Note as well that much of God’s “Revelation to Israel” is not found in the modern-day written Bible (existing also in large part in non-canonical works such as the Talmud, the Midrashim and many works of the Kabbalah) and that many modern-day denominations have very different Bibles (e.g. Protestant Bibles differ from Catholic ones, which differ from Anglican, Coptic & Orthodox ones).

Note that the Jewish Prophets’ passion for justice was not about punishing criminals, as much as it was a drive for the realization of Social Justice –

Ezekiel (roughly 580 BCE) gave birth to the concept of an individual relationship with God.

Isaiah II (roughly 550 BCE) gave birth to the concept of Doing Good anyway (Isaiah, chapters 40-55).

Daniel (the last of the OT Prophets – roughly 165 BCE) gave birth to the Judean concept of an afterlife.

112 BCE The Silk Road opens to China

030 BCE The fall of Antony & Cleopatra, as Egypt becomes a Roman Province.

027 BCE The Roman Empire begins ...

004 BCE Birth of Jesus – At the time of his birth, the Jewish leadership’s applications of the Hebrew Scriptures had become stale; excluding more and more Jews from enjoying an active & intimate communion with God. As Roman persecutions escalated (with Rome annexing Jewish lands as soon as 006 CE), the Jewish folk were increasingly yearning for freedom (many via a more practical method of Divine re-Union).

008 CE Jesus at age 12; seen “lost” in the Jerusalem Temple, discussing theology with the rabbis there.

009 CE “The Missing Years” commence (with no mention of Jesus in The Bible from age 12 to age 30).

009 CE In China, the militaristic Han Dynasty is overthrown in favor of the reform-oriented Hsin Dynasty

025 CE The Han Dynasty is restored in China

027 CE “The Missing Years” conclude as Jesus begins his public Ministry

030 C.E. Jesus is crucified, entombed, “rises” and then departs the Middle East (“ascends”).

Note: Because Jesus’ Life and the Truths of his Way have nothing at all to do with either his membership in “the Trinity” or his physical resurrection (indeed, both of these beliefs actually dampen the majesty of his noble human life), one cannot fully *Follow* his Way while championing either position ...

030 C.E. The oral tradition of Jesus’ life & his teachings (in Aramaic) begins.

033+ C.E. The Book of Q & The Gospel of Thomas written & revised; each recording the sayings of Jesus.

034+ C.E. **Paul** persecutes early Christians (known at that time as “Followers of The Way”).

038+ C.E. Paul repents and becomes a “believer” (without ever having himself heard or seen Jesus).

46 & 50 C.E. Paul’s 1st & 2nd Missionary Journeys engaged.

050+ C.E. Paul writes his first epistle (1 Thessalonians) ... The Gospel of Mark is written concurrently.

060+ C.E. Paul’s 3rd Missionary Journey; ending with his imprisonment in or near Rome.

060+ C.E. Gospels of Matthew & Luke written (using Gospel of Mark as inspiration for format & content).

064+ C.E. Paul is executed in Rome.

065+ C.E. Pauline “Corrector Texts” are added to many of his letters – antedating many of his original letters & philosophically editing some of them. Just as significantly, the physical resurrection of Jesus is added to the Gospel of Mark’s conclusion during this time.

066 C.E. Christians refuse to support the Jewish uprising against Rome.

070 C.E. Romans raze the Jewish Temple in response to the Jewish revolt against Roman taxation.

080+ C.E. The “Shemoneh Esreh” is altered. This credo, openly uttered at the commencement of all in attendance at contemporary Jewish services, effectively became a curse against “heretics” (in an attempt to excommunicate Jewish Christians from the synagogue).

082+ C.E. Gospel of John written, with 1, 2, 3 John & Revelation written subsequently, each by different authors.

John’s Gospel was a response to the alteration of the Shemoneh Esreh; suggesting repeatedly that those who professed to follow Jesus’ Way would miss nothing of Judaism if so expelled – because to dismiss Jesus’ teachings from the synagogue was to dismiss God as well (see [John 1:1+](#), [9:22+34](#), [12:42](#), [16:2](#) & [19:38](#)).

150+ C.E. Last of New Testament letters/“books” is written (2 Peter).

189+ C.E. Muratorian Canon formulated as the first official record mirroring the current order and contents of the Bible’s 66 Books (includes the Wisdom of Solomon as the New Testament’s 28th Book).

Apocalyptic literature was still quite popular during this time, the most popular of which being the Apocalypse of Peter (which stated, among other things, that even though some would be cast into hell for their sins, eventually all would be saved via God’s unconditional Love). Though the author of John’s Revelation never formally quotes the Hebrew Bible, as many as 65% of its verses echo or allude to passages from that “Old Testament”. John’s work was subsequently chosen for canonical inclusion by the Catholic church for seemingly obvious political reasons.

230 C.E. Origen adds the books of James and Hebrews to the Biblical Canon

325 C.E. Council of Nicea -- The Trinity becomes an integral facet of Biblical theology.

360 C.E. Council of Laodicea -- The Bible is further dogmatized (“Private psalms should not be read in church.” - implying that these individually inspired poems had been read in services as “the Word of God” up to that point).

367 C.E. The Canon of Athanasius is the first to record the present-day content of the NT’s 27 “books”.

382+ C.E. The Councils of Rome, Hippo (393) & Carthage (397) continue to edit the Bible’s contents

550+ C.E. The modern-day Bible takes its “final” form ... over 500 years after Jesus’ death!

Where to Find “The Word of God” What the Bible itself says about which Scripture is “holy”

Initially, note that the Bible itself defines “Holy Scripture” quite loosely. Many books & letters that claim to be inspirational were popular at the same time as the 27 canonical books of the Bible (including *The Gospel of Thomas*, “*The Book of Q*”, *The Gospel of Phillip*, the *Tao Te Ching*, the *Upanishads*, etc). Indeed, the Bible itself quotes many non-Canonical sources -- *The Book of Jashar* is cited (Joshua 10:13), as are the *Book of the Wars of the Lord* (Numbers 21:14), “the records of Nathan the prophet” (1 Chronicles 29:29), non-canonical sources of Jesus’ Teachings (Luke 1:1-4, Acts 20:35 & 1 Timothy 3:16), non-Christian poets (Acts 17:28, 1 Corinthians 15:33 & Titus 1:12), *The Testament of Moses* (Jude 9), *The Book of Enoch* in (Jude 14) and even contemporary Jewish works of mysticism (2 Corinthians 12:2+). Paul quotes from Socrates (Acts 4:19-20), Luke borrows from Homer (Acts 20:9-10), Paul has Jesus quoting a common Greek proverb (Acts 26:14) & even Jesus himself quotes from a non-Biblical work entitled *The Wisdom of God* (Luke 11:49).

Thus, the Bible itself seems to define “Scripture” as any written Wisdom that leads to Righteous action when applied (read Matthew 4:4, Luke 24:27, Acts 10:34-35, Romans 15:4, Ephesians 4:1-14, Hebrews 4:12 & 2 Timothy 3:16-17 in their Universal contexts).

Compare the following verses from two non-Canonical works that were popular in Jesus' day; one in China & along the Silk Road (the *Tao Te Ching*), & another in the years immediately following his death (*The Gospel of Thomas*):

Tao Te Ching 62:18-23 ... “This is why the ancient Masters honored the inward Path ... Did they not say ‘Seek and you will Find?’ and ‘Err and you will be Forgiven?’ ... Within, Within... That is where the world’s treasure has always been.”
Tao Te Ching 30:1-3+ ... “Do not use force against the world – for that which is forced is likely to return. Where armies settle, Nature offers nothing but briars & thorns ... Things that gain a place by force will flourish for a time but then fade away.”

Tao Te Ching 42:15-17 ... “The age-old lesson that others teach, I also teach: As you plant, so you reap ...”

Tao Te Ching 62:6-12 ... “If a person seems wicked, do not cast him away ... Requite his injury with your kindness ... Do not cast him away. Cast away his wickedness.”

Gospel of Thomas 3 ... If your leaders say, “Look, the Kingdom is in Heaven,” the birds of heaven will precede you. If they say, “It is in the sea,” then the fish will precede you. Rather, the Kingdom is within you and It is outside you. When you Know your Selves, you will be Known, and you will understand that you are Children of the Living Father.

Gospel of Thomas 51 ... His followers said to him, “On what day will the rest for the dead occur and when does the new world come?” He said to them, “That rest you seek has already come, but you do not know it.”

Gospel of Thomas 113 ... His followers said to him, “When will the Kingdom come?” He said, “It will not come when it is expected. They will not say ‘Look, here it is’ or ‘Look, there it is.’ Rather, the Kingdom of the Father is already spread out upon the earth, and yet people do not See It.”

Gospel of Thomas 25 ... “Love your brother like your Soul; Guard him like the pupil of your eye.”

Gospel of Thomas 108 ... “Whoever drinks from my mouth will become as I Am; I shall become that person, and the hidden things will be revealed to them that drink.”

Secondly, the Bible encourages us to *primarily* Listen within to find one’s Salvation (see John 14:16-17+26, Romans 2:14-16, 2 Corinthians 3:5-6 & Hebrews 1:1-2). After all, even Satan quotes from the OT (Matthew 4:6), Paul frequently cited OT verses out of context (Romans 3:20, Romans 9:33b, Romans 15:21, 1 Corinthians 2:9, 1 Corinthians 14:21 & 2 Corinthians 6:16-18) & even Jesus is found to have “composed” his own Scripture by piecing various verses together from the Hebrew bible in order to create entirely new verses (see Mark 13:24-25, Luke 4:18-19, Luke 12:53 & Luke 19:46). Thus, according to the Bible itself, searching independently for the Truth of Life’s Way is not only allowed, but encouraged!

“And I will ask my Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot Receive ... You know Him, because he abides with you and **he will be Within you** ... This Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said.” ~ Jesus (John 14:16-17+26)

“And why do you not **judge for yourself what is Right?**” ~ Jesus (Luke 12:57)

“The anointing that you received from Him [see John 14:16+20+26 & 2 Corinthians 3:15] abides in you, and so **you do not need anyone to teach you**. And as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is True and not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in Him.” ~Unknown (1 John 2:27)

Finally, Jesus himself noted that it is not the “Law and the Prophets” that determine what is Right (i.e. what is in Harmony with God’s Will of unconditional Love), but rather our personal recognition of a particular action’s “Fruits”.

“Beware false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will Know them by their Fruits ... Every Good Tree bears Good Fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A Good Tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear Good Fruit ... **for the tree is known by its fruit.**” ~ Jesus (Matt 7:15-18 & 12:33)

“The Good person out of the Good Treasure produces good, and the evil person out of the evil treasure produces evil ...

Wisdom is vindicated by all her children.” ~ Jesus (Luke 6:45 & 7:35)

“Live as Children of the Light, for the fruit of the Light is found in all that is good and right and true.” ~ Unknown (Ephesians 5:8-9)

“Beloved, do not imitate what is evil but **imitate what is Good. Whoever does Good is from God**; whoever does evil has not yet seen God.” ~ Unknown (3 John 1:11)

“For I delight in the Law of God in my inmost Self ...” ~ Paul (Romans 7:22)

Reading the “Bigger” Bible

Hearing the Bible’s “deeper Truths” by Seeing its stories metaphorically

Interpreting the text of the Bible literally constrains the Power of most of its Truths. Indeed, the Bible itself repeatedly pokes fun at literalists ([John 3:4](#), [4:11](#), [4:33](#), [6:33](#), [6:42](#), [6:52](#), [7:33](#) and [John 8:22](#)) and encourages reading Its Truths metaphorically in order to expand Its multi-layered meanings (see [Acts 17:29](#), [Romans 1:20](#) & [1 John 3:18](#)).

Example 1: What’s in a name? So often, we hear of someone acting or praying “in Jesus’ name” or “in Christ’s name”. Ironically, many of these people do so without knowing neither what Jesus’ name actually meant nor what the term “Christ” implied in Jesus’ day and age.

“Jesus” came originally from the Hebrew “Yehoshua” (compare with Moses’ successor of the same name in [Exodus 17:8](#)) and meant either “God Saves”, “God is Assistance” [i.e. my Guide], “God is Salvation” &/or “God is a Saving cry [i.e. a Faith-full utterance]”. Later, the name became “Yeshua” (Aramaic) and meant “He will Save” (see [Matthew 1:21](#) for additional poignancy). In the Greek Septuagint, “Yeshua” became “Lesous” and then “Lesus” in the Latin Vulgate. It was not until the 17th Century that the “L” was replaced with a “J” to create the “Jesus” we know today ... Additionally, Jesus the man was originally to be named “Emmanuel” (see [Matthew 1:23](#)). Note that “Emmanuel” (the Hebrew for “God Within us”) is not a proper Hebrew name; the name thus signifying that there is much more to Jesus’ story than the New Testament’s mere, literal words. His name itself invites us to look deeper.

“Christ”, on the other hand, came from the Greek “Christos”, which meant “anointed one”. This word came from the Aramaic “mishukha” (where the English language obtained the word “Messiah”). The Hebrew Bible uses a derivative of this term to title prophets, priests &/or kings. Indeed, Jesus often proclaimed himself to be a “mere prophet” (see [Mark 6:4](#), [Matthew 13:57](#) & [Luke 4:24](#)).

“Know that I am in my Father, and you in Me, and I in You.” ~ Jesus (John 14:20)

Example 2: Demons & Swine in Gerasenes ... In [Mark 5](#), [Matthew 8](#) & [Luke 8](#) there is a common story related to Jesus traveling to Gerasenes and casting a “Legion” of demons from a crazed man into a herd of swine, whereupon the swine run into the sea and perish. The local citizenry in this tale saw that the newly freed man was thereafter “clothed in his right mind”, & yet were still “seized with great fear” and asked Jesus to leave immediately.

Read **literally**, one is left to wonder why the demons begged to be exorcised in the first place, why the townsfolk would ask Jesus to depart after ridding them of the crazed man they had previously feared, & why— in the only instance of its kind in the entire NT – Jesus then tells the benefactor of a Healing to proclaim that miracle publicly.

When read **historically**, however, several interesting facts add clarity to the story. Initially, Gerasenes was a Jewish community that adhered to the Kosher laws about not eating swine, even though many of their citizenry made their wealth from raising swine to sell to Gentiles in neighboring provinces (a common theme in Jesus’ ministry: the lust for material wealth leading to hypocrisy). Additionally, the demons are named “Legion”, which happens to be the name given to the occupying force of Roman soldiers (around 5000) garrisoned in that region at the time. This explains the fear of authority that led the folk to ask Jesus to leave their lands even after ridding them of their crazed nuisance, as they didn’t want anything (even Salvation!) to upset their then-comfortable co-existence with those Romans.

When read **metaphorically**, even more meaning is gleaned from the story. The possessed man (representing the Roman Empire) slept “in the tombs” and was “always howling & bruising himself with stones”. The man also begged not to be tormented by Jesus (i.e. not to be Spiritually overthrown) and was impossible to physically constrain (Rome’s overpowering physical presence). The demons asked to be placed into gluttonous swine instead of “the Abyss”, whereupon the demon-filled swine stamped into the ocean (they went into “the Abyss” anyway , representing the Spiritual overthrow of Rome). Thereafter, the healed man leaves to spread the news “throughout the Decapolis” (a neighboring Roman community).

Example 3: “666”

In [Revelation 13:18](#), the author notes that “This calls for Wisdom: let anyone with Understanding calculate the number of the Beast, for it is the number of a person. Its number is 666.” Read literally, this verse has had many a conservative Christian looking for an actual branding of “666” upon the head of an imminent “Anti-Christ”. While this phenomenon might indeed come to pass, reading this verse in this way denies the deeper meaning within its words. At the time of its writing, a system of interpretation was common among the more mystically inclined in the Middle East – a system called “Gematria”. This system attached numerological values to Greek letters and used those values to access the archetypal meanings of certain words or phrases. It just so happens that, in gematrian terms, “666” is the numerological value of the name “Caesar Nero” – who happened to be the first Roman Emperor to persecute Christians! Both Rome (in 70 CE) and Babylon (in 586 BCE) destroyed Jerusalem’s Temple – hence the author’s later naming of the “great whore” as “Babylon” (see [Revelation 17:5](#) “And on her forehead was written a name; a mystery: Babylon the great” -- See also [17:18](#) “The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the Earth.”). Thus, the author seems to be making a rather poignant political statement in opposition to Roman rule, and not forecasting the imminent (or not so imminent) arrival of Satan on earth ...

“I have said all these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but will tell you plainly of the Father” ~ Jesus (John 16:25)

Christ as Revolutionary: A Reformer of The Way

Realize that the Hebrew Bible's verses that are quoted to justify a condemnatory, "literal" reading of the Bible were specifically refuted in the New Testament by both Jesus' words and his actions ...

Some examples thereof –

- * The Hebrew Bible God is portrayed as a God of war (Exodus 23:27) ...
... and yet Jesus preached "*Blessed are the Peacemakers.*" ~ Jesus (Matthew 5:9)

- * The Hebrew Bible supports God's pogrom (Exodus 11:4-6) against Egyptian first-born infants & the Death penalty is extolled (Exodus 21:15-17 + 22:20 + 24:16) ...
... and yet Jesus notes that God, the Father, condemns no one --
"*If there is repentance, you must Forgive.* And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says 'I repent', you must Forgive." ~ Jesus (Luke 17:3-4)
"*The Father judges no one* but has given all judgment to the Son, so that all may Honor the Son just as they Honor the Father." ~ Jesus (John 5:22)

- * The Hebrew Bible supports God rejoicing over the deaths of the Egyptians (Exodus 15), portrays God's revenge vs. Edomites (Psalm 137:7-9) & shows God as a "Man of War" (Exodus 15:3) ...
... and yet Jesus Forgives and Loves his enemies --
"*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be Children of your Father in Heaven; for He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the Good, and sends rain on the Righteous and on the unrighteous.* For if you Love only those who Love you, what reward do you have?" ~ Jesus (Matthew 5:44-47)

- * The Hebrew Bible supports the adulteries of Abraham (Genesis 20:1-18) & Isaac (Genesis 26:6-11) ...
... and yet Jesus espoused a dedicated, Loving monogamy for all partnerships --
"*Therefore what God has joined Together, let no man separate.*" ~ Jesus (Matthew 19:6)

- * The Hebrew Bible supports Moses' lies to the Pharaoh in the name of God (Exodus 5:1 & Exodus 9:27) ...
... and yet Jesus advocated absolute Honesty --
"*Let your word be 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.*" ~ Jesus (Matthew 5:37)

- * The Hebrew Bible supports Jews robbing (Exodus 12:35-36) & pillaging after military victories (Numbers 31:9-15) ...
... and yet Jesus encouraged others to Love without thought of recompense --
"*But Love your enemies, Do Good and lend, expecting nothing in return.* Your reward will be great, and you will be Children of the Most High; for he is Kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." ~ Jesus (Luke 6:35-36)

- * The Hebrew Bible supports the doctrine of "eye for an eye" (Exodus 21:23-25) ...
... and yet Jesus extols us to forgive others their trespasses --
"*Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be Forgiven; Give and it will be Given to you ... for the measure you Give will be the measure you get back.*" ~ Jesus (Luke 6:36-38)
"*If you Forgive the sins of any, they are Forgiven them; if you retain them, they are retained.*" ~ Jesus (John 20:23)

- * The Hebrew Bible mandates the death penalty for murderers (Exodus 21:12) ...
... and yet Jesus noted that only "*he without sin should cast the first stone.*" ~ Jesus (John 8:7)

- * The Hebrew Bible Sabbath is reserved for rest (Exodus 23:12) ...
... and yet Jesus notes that "*it is lawful to Do Good on the Sabbath.*" ~ Jesus (Matthew 12:12)

- * The Hebrew Bible supports discrimination against women (Numbers 30:1-8) ...
... and yet Jesus saw no distinction between men and women in the judgments of their actions --
"*It is better for you to enter Life maimed than with two hands to go into Hell, where the fire never goes out ... It is better for you to enter the Kingdom of Heaven with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into Hell, where ... the fire is not quenched. Everyone will be Cleansed with fire ...*" ~ Jesus (Mark 9:43-50)
"*You judge by human standards. I judge no one.*" ~ Jesus (John 8:15)

- * The Hebrew Bible supports discrimination against “foreigners” (Number 31:1-2 & 31:7) ...
 ... and yet Jesus desires that we Love our neighbor as our Self and defines “neighbor” using the parable of the Good Samaritan; making every Human Being a neighbor of every other --
 “But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus ‘And who is my neighbor?’. Jesus replied ... ‘Which of the three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He answered, ‘The [Samaritan] who showed the man Mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘*Go and Do likewise.*’” ~ Jesus (Luke 10:29-37)

- * The Hebrew Bible notes that lepers are “unclean” and must live in isolation (Leviticus 13:44-45) ...
 ... and yet Jesus went among the lepers repeatedly and inspired their Healing --
 “And there was a leper who came to him and knelt before Jesus, saying: Lord, if you Choose, You can make me clean. *Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him*, saying: I do Choose. Be made Clean!. Immediately his leprosy was Cleansed.” ~ (Matthew 8:2-3)

- *The Hebrew Bible makes it clear that “if any of them falls into any earthen vessel, all that is in it shall be unclean, and you shall break the vessel.” (Leviticus 11:33) ...
 ... and yet, Jesus instructs others to place water (Holy Spirit) into stone vessels (unable to be externally contaminated); whereupon that water then became wine (the unconditional Love of Jesus’ New Covenant) ~ Jesus (John 2:6-7)

- * The Hebrew Bible equates the “sin” of nakedness in front of family members (Leviticus 18:1-20) with the “sins” of homosexuality (18:22) and bestiality (18:23) ...
 ... and yet Jesus voluntarily disrobed in front of his disciples --
 “Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his robe, and then tied a towel around himself.”~ (John 13:3-4)

- *The Hebrew Bible Passover was a time of wrath, vengeance and punishment (See Exodus 12:1-28) ...
 ... and yet Jesus’ Passover celebration is one of Love, Acceptance and Forgiveness [Compare Exodus 11 & 12 to Jesus’ actions performed & his words spoken during his Passover celebration -- the Last Supper ~ Matthew 26:26-28]

When in apparent conflict, NT Scriptures “outweigh” those from the Hebrew Bible

“The Law indeed was given through Moses; Grace and Truth came through Jesus Christ.”
 ~ Unknown (John 1:17)

“Christ is the End of the Law.”
 ~ Paul of Tarsus (Romans 10:4)

“For if there was Glory in the ministry of condemnation, much more does the ministry of liberation abound in Glory! ... Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only ‘in Christ’ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.”
 ~ Paul of Tarsus (2 Corinthians 3:9+14-15)

“There is, on the one hand, the abrogation of an earlier Commandment because it was weak and ineffectual (for the Law made nothing perfect); there is, on the other hand, the introduction of a better Hope, through which we approach God ... accordingly *Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better Covenant* ... Jesus has now obtained a more excellent ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant ... For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need to look for a second one ... *In speaking of a ‘new Covenant’, he has made the first one obsolete.* And what is obsolete and growing old will soon disappear.”
 ~ Unknown (Hebrews 7:18-19+22 & 8:6-7+13)

Reading the Bi-Polar Paul

Conservative Pharisee: Father of present-day Christianity
(and part-time Mystic: Follower of The Way)

When reading the Bible's New Testament, it is important to realize that one of its most pivotal authors, Paul of Tarsus, was a fear-filled and neurotic radical whose personality bordered on the bi-polar. On the one hand, he professed in his letters to be a Follower of Jesus Christ. On the other, his words and actions in those letters often display a dogma that contradicts that very Way. Unless the reader is aware of this conflict, he or she will often assume that all of the espousals of Paul are "Christian". Indeed, most of the Christian churches today have made this error and are actually "Paulinist" in nature -- following the condemnatory and exclusivist words of Paul instead of the Loving and inclusivist Way of Jesus Christ.

The most grave of these errors centers around the worship of Jesus as "the only Son of God". Paul contends that one must simply mentally believe in Jesus to be Saved from our "innate state of sinfulness"; that to not do so is to "fall from Grace" and suffer the "wrath of God". Paul's worship is focused more on waiting for Jesus to Save us, as opposed to attaining Salvation by Following the Way Jesus lived.

"... the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through Faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe ... For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his Grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus ... But God proves his Love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been Justified by his Blood, will we Be Saved through him from the wrath of God ... Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him."

~ Paul (Romans 3:21-24 + 5:8-9 + 8:9 ... see also Acts 9:20-22)

Ironically, this worshipping of Jesus as the only Son of God is idolatrous and exists in direct contradiction with not only Jesus' Way, but Paul's own theology as well!

"Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their Hearts to impurity ... because they exchanged the Truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator." ~ Paul (Romans 1:25)

Most Importantly, Jesus himself made it quite clear that he himself was not to be worshiped; saying repeatedly not "Worship Me", but rather "Follow (i.e. emulate) Me" ...

"Why do you call me Good? No one is Good but God Alone." ~ Jesus (Mark 10:18)

"I do not accept glory from human beings." ~ Jesus (John 5:41)

"My Teaching is not mine but His who sent me." ~ Jesus (John 7:16)

"Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in Him who Sent Me." ~ Jesus (John 12:44)

Some other examples of Paul's words that contradict Jesus' Way –

*Paul glorifies his own ministry (Romans 11:13-14) and openly condemns those preaching contrary to his doctrine (Galatians 1:9 & 5:12) ...

... while Jesus notes both that "By this everyone will Know that you are my disciples: if you have Love for one another." (John 13:35), and that "Whoever is not against us is for us." (Mark 9:40) ...

*Paul seemed determined to attain his personal validation from the support and/or approval of others ...

... while Jesus often retreated from such acclaim in Humility --

"When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself." ~ Jesus (John 6:15)

"Yet I do not seek my own glory ... If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing." ~ Jesus (John 8:50+54)

*Paul espoused that slaves should be subject to their masters (Colossians 3:18) ...

... while Jesus noted that "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all." ~ (Mark 10:43-44) ...

*Paul advocated subservience to established governments (Romans 13:1+) ...

... while Jesus, along with his entire ministry being one long, representative rebellion against unjust political and religious rule, noted the empowering – "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe you have Received it, and it will be yours." ~ (Mark 11:24)

*Paul notes that when he became an adult, he “put an end to childish ways.” ~ (1 Corinthians 13:11) ...
... while Jesus clearly advocated that “unless you become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” ~ (Matthew 18:3)

*Paul was often self-deprecating (“I know that nothing Good dwells within me.” ~ Romans 7:18) ...
... while Jesus reminded us that God “will Give You another Advocate to be with You forever. This is the Spirit of Truth ... and It will be Within You.” ~ (John 14:16-17)

*Paul saw God as a separate entity from his sinful self (Romans 7:24) ...
... while Jesus noted that “I Am in my Father, and you in Me and I in You.” ~ (John 14:20)

*Paul noted that Grace allowed one to almost passively attain Salvation “in Christ” (Romans 5:21) ...
... while Jesus made it clear that “If you Know these things, *you are Blessed if you Do them.*” ~ (John 13:17)
[see Matthew 7:21-23, John 3:21, 5:29, 8:12, 12:26, 13:15 & 14:12 for more references to The Way’s Active Salvation]

*Paul noted that he was an active member of the ultra-conservative, Judaic sect known as the Pharisees (Acts 26:5 & Philippians 3:4-5) ...
... while Jesus stated clearly, “Let the Pharisees alone; they are blind guides. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit ... Beware the yeast of the Pharisees ...” ~ (Matthew 15:14 & Luke 12:1)

Paul’s Dogma

Key Question: Am I Saved?
God is external and intervening
Heaven is post-mortem
Salvation comes from subservient obedience
Mankind are innately sinners
God Saves the worthy
Belief & Faith are mental attributes
Scripture is to be literally constrained
The Way is exclusive
Jesus is to be worshiped
Worship is mental and for one's self

Jesus’ Way

Key Question: Are you following The Way?
God is internal and guiding
Heaven is Here&Now
Salvation comes from Loving one’s Neighbor
Mankind are innately Children of God
The worthy Save themselves
Belief and Faith are active choices
Scripture is to be metaphorically enLivened
The Way is Universal
Jesus’ Way is to be emulated
Worship is active and for others

Of course, there are also examples of Paul’s doctrine that beautifully reflect Jesus’ Way – (see Romans 12:14-21, Philippians 1:15-16, Romans 2:1, 8:33-35, 12:14-21, 13:8-11 & 14:13-14, 1 Corinthians 3:16 & 13:2, 2 Corinthians 13:5 & Galatians 5:6)

When in apparent conflict, The Teachings of Jesus “outweigh” the words of Paul

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that *foundation* is Jesus Christ.”
~ Paul (1 Corinthians 3:11)

“Be imitators of me, *as I am of Christ.*” ~ Paul (1 Corinthians 11:1)

“Now I know only in part; then I will Know fully ...” ~ Paul (1 Corinthians 13:12)

“For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as slaves for Jesus’ sake ... May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” ~ Paul (2 Corinthians 4:5 & Galatians 6:14)

“Everyone who does not abide in the teaching of Christ, but goes beyond it [like Paul!], does not have God; whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.” ~ Unknown (2 John 1:9)

NOTE: Chronology and Authorship of the Pauline letters: The probable order of the writing of the 7 *authentic* Pauline letters is as follows: 1 Thessalonians, Philippians, Philemon, Galatians, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Romans. It is help-full to read these epistles in this order, as the psychological, theological and moral development of Paul the man becomes more apparent.

As far as the authorship of the other letters are concerned, Colossians was also possibly written by Paul (if so, then after Romans, as his final work) and parts of 2 Thessalonians are probably written by him as well. Note as well that 2 Corinthians (though filled with conservative, “corrector” passages inserted by later, more radical authors) is a compilation of at least four of Paul’s individual letters to various contemporary churches. The authorship of Hebrews, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus is also uncertain; though they are almost certainly not written by Paul.

Reading the Bible anew: Jesus' "wiser" Vocabulary

Applying "Divine Vocabulary" leads to a deeper Understanding of The Word

Belief = the Active Following of Jesus' Teachings (as opposed to the passive, mental "belief" in Jesus)

Matt 18:6 ... (Matt 28:19-20 + John 5:39-40) ... Mark 1:15 ... John 1:7 ... John 3:18 ... John 10:38 ... John 13:34 ... John 14:1 ... Acts 28:24 ... Romans 3:22 ... Galatians 3:9 ... Hebrews 11:6 ... James 1:22+25 ... 1 John 2:3-6

Condemnation = consequences "suffered" as a result of repeated, selfish Choices of behavior

Matt 12:37 ... Mark 12:40 ... Luke 11:31 ... John 3:17-18 ... John 8:11 ... John 8:15 ... John 12:47 ... John 16:11 ... Romans 5:18 ... Romans 8:34 ... 1 Corinthians 11:32 ... Gal 3:10-13 ... 1 Tim 3:6 ... Hebrews 6:8 ... James 5:12 ... 1 John 3:21

Eternity = immersion in the timelessness of the Present Moment; the only "place" where the Holy Spirit Resides

Matt 6:24 ... Matt 25:46 ... Mark 10:17 ... John 1:1 ... John 3:16 ... John 5:18 ... John 10:28 ... Acts 5:29 ... Romans 5:21 ... Romans 6:23 ... Romans 8:31 ... 2 Corinthians 4:17 ... 2 Corinthians 6:16 ... Philippians 2:6 ... Hebrews 1:3 ... Hebrews 4:12 ... Hebrews 5:9 ... Hebrews 10:31 ... Hebrews 12:29 ... James 4:8 ... 1 John 1:5 ... 1 John 3:2 ... 1 John 4:16 ... 1 John 5:13

Faith = actively reveling in Love during the "tough times" (as opposed to the mere passive, mental belief in Jesus)

Matt 17:17-20 ... Mark 2:5 ... Luke 7:50 & 18:8 ... John 20:29 ... Acts 3:16 ... Romans 1:17 & 3:28

Fire = the metaphor for the Cleansing that all Humans receive during & immediately after making selfish Choices

Matt 3:11 ... Mark 9:43 ... 1 Corinthians 3:13 ... Hebrews 12:29 ... James 3:6 ... 2 Peter 3:10 ... Revelation 20:14

Grace = the Human Gifts of Free Will, Moral Guidance and Co-Creative Empowerment that enable us to Choose to Become "Children of God" in any given Moment ... "Grace" is actualized the Moment a person Harmonizes his or her True Self (the conscience) with the actions of his or her body's ego-self (the consciousness)...

John 1:14-16 ... Acts 15:11 ... Romans 3:24 ... Romans 5:5 ... Romans 6:14 ... Romans 11:6 ... Galatians 5:4 ... Ephesians 2:4-5 ... Ephesians 4:7 ... Titus 2:11 ... 2 Thess 2:16 ... Hebrews 4:16 ... James 4:6-7 ... 1 Peter 5:10

Heaven = the Choice-activated, inclusivist & Present Moment Realization that Life is Wondrous & Joyous (a pre-mortem sense of absolute Contentment) ...

Matt 5:3 ... Matt 6:22 ... Matt 6:34 ... Matt 13:24 ... Mark 12:34 ... Luke 17:21 ... John 3:3+13 ... John 18:36 ... Romans 14:17 ... 1 Cor 6:9 ... 2 Cor 5:2 ... Philippians 3:20 ... Hebrews 12:28

Hell = the instantaneous, "karmic" dis-ease Felt upon committing selfish acts (especially dramatic and pain-full during the Moment of transition/"death" for those who having lived selfishly and/or self-centered – see specifically Matt 24:36-51, Matt 25:1-13, Matt 25:14-30, Luke 12:43-47 & Luke 13:24-28)

Matt 3:10+12 ... Matt 5:20 ... Matt 5:22 ... Matt 5:30 ... Matt 7:2 ... Matt 10:28 ... Matt 13:41-43 ... Matt 16:25 ... Matt 21:44 ... Matt 23:13-36 (+Luke 11:42-52 – "Woe to You") ... Matt 24:28 ... Matt 25:41-46 ... Mark 3:29 ... Mark 7:15 ... Mark 8:33 ... Mark 8:36 ... Mark 9:42-48 ... Mark 14:38 ... Mark 16:16 ... Luke 3:9 ... Luke 3:17 ... Luke 8:12 ... Luke 9:24-25 ... Luke 12:9 ... Luke 14:11 ... Luke 17:1-2 ... Luke 20:47 ... John 3:18 ... John 3:36 ... John 5:14 ... John 6:53 ... John 15:6 ... John 20:23

"in Christ" = Consciously Walking The Way by actualizing the Spirit of Christ Within (Following the Guidance of the conscience) ... Harmonizing the Flow of Energy in one's surroundings (a.k.a. "the Will of God") with the inclinations of one's conscience (a.k.a. "the Soul")

2 Corinthians 5:17 ... Ephesians 4:15 ... Phil 1:21 ... Colossians 1:27

Justice = Forgiveness -- Divine Love is Infinitely Patient and All-Accepting

Matt 7:1-2 ... Matt 11:28 ... Matt 12:7 ... Matt 12:31-32 ... Matt 12:37 ... Matt 18:22 ... Mark 3:29 ... Luke 5:24 ... Luke 6:37 ... John 5:22 ... Acts 4:19 ... Romans 3:6 ... Romans 3:24 ... Romans 4:7 ... Romans 7:12 ... Romans 10:10 ... 2 Cor 3:9 ... Gal 2:21 ... Gal 3:8 ... Eph 4:32 ... Col 1:14 ... 2 Tim 4:1 ... James 2:13 ... James 2:24 ... 1 John 1:9 ... 1 John 4:18

*NOTE: Justice flows from punishment to retribution to rehabilitation to fairness to Forgiveness (The Way) ...

Justified = freed from internal & external influences of fear and desire ... The Greek "dikaioo" (in Romans 3:24 et al) can be literally translated as "justified", though contextually in the NT it is used to imply "freed" or "Freedom-enabling" ... Accordingly, sanctification and justification aren't one-time events, but ongoing processes in the Life of the Believer ... In this context, Grace is continually Given to the Human Being; "waiting" for each person to Choose to Hear and Accept Its Guidance ... It is therefore impossible to permanently "fall from Grace"

Romans 4:3 ... Romans 5:16 ... 1 Corinthians 6:11 Hebrews 10:14 ... Hebrews 11:8 ... James 2:21-23 ... 1 Timothy 2:4

Love = Agape -- Actions (including conscious non-action) in Harmony with our Giving Nature (the Soul/conscience)

Matt 5:44-47 ... Matt 6:24 ... Matt 10:37 ... Mark 12:31 ... Luke 6:27-28 ... Luke 6:32 ... Luke 7:47 ... Luke 10:27 ... John 12:25 ... John 13:1 ... John 13:34 ... John 14:15 ... John 15:12-13 ... John 21:16 ... Romans 5:8 ... Romans 12:9 ... Romans 13:8 ... 1 Cor 8:1 ... 1 Cor 13:4 ... 1 Cor 13:13 ... Gal 2:20 ... Gal 5:6 ... Gal 5:22 ... Eph 3:19 ... Eph 5:1 ... Eph 5:25+28 ... Col 3:14 ... 1 Thess 5:8 ... 1 Tim 6:10 ... Titus 2:2 ... Hebrews 10:24 ... Hebrews 12:6 ... Hebrews 13:5 ... James 2:8 ... 1 Peter 1:8 ... 1 Peter 4:7-8 ... 2 Peter 1:7 ... 1 John 2:15 ... 1 John 3:1 ... 1 John 3:16 ... 1 John 4:7-8 ... 1 John 5:3 ... 2 John 1:6 ... Jude 1:21

Messiah = the man or woman who completely gives up all personal, self-centered ambitions and sacrifices his or her physical existence for the betterment of Humankind ... A Leader of others to and along The Way
Matt 16:16 ... Mark 13:22 ... Luke 2:11 ... Romans 9:5

Neighbor = any fellow Human Being; especially those normally considered “strangers” or “enemies”
Matt 19:19 ... Luke 10: 29-37... Hebrews 13:2 ... James 2:8

Obedience = the willing and completely voluntary effectuation of another’s wishes
Matt 28:20 ... Acts 5:29 ... Romans 5:19 ... Ephesians 6:1 ... Hebrews 5:8 ... Philippians 2:8 ... 1 John 5:3

Prayer = the sincere and Humble professing of one’s Readiness to Accept Spiritual Guidance
Matt 5:44 ... Matt 6:5 ... Matt 21:13 ... Mark 11:24 ... Luke 11:1 ... Romans 8:26 ... Romans 12:12 ... 1 Thess 5:17 ... James 5:16

Redemption = see “Salvation” below

Repentance = releasing materialistic, self-centered concerns and re-turning to The Way of selfless Service
Matt 3:2 ... Matt 3:8 ... Mark 1:4 ... Luke 3:8 ... Luke 13:3 ... Acts 2:38 ... Acts 3:19 ... Acts 26:20 ... Romans 2:4 ... Romans 3:23 ... 2 Corinthians 7:10 ... 2 Peter 3:9

Resurrection = Becoming “born again” into one’s True Self via selfless Service – a State of Being existing only in the Present Moment and requiring continual renewal via consistent, Loving Choices
Matt 22:30 ... John 3:3-9 ... John 11:25 ... Philippians 3:10 ... Revelation 20:5

Righteousness = actively Living in Harmony with one’s inner Moral Guidance (a.k.a. the conscience, the Holy Spirit)
Matt 5:6 ... Mark 2:17 ... Romans 1:17 ... Romans 5:18 ... Romans 10:4 ... Galatians 3:6 ... Ephesians 6:14 ... Hebrews 10:38 ... 1 Peter 2:24

Salvation = deep-seated sense of Contentment via Loving Service to others; existing only in the Moment and requiring continual renewal -- Giving up personal efforts at “finding God” and allowing one’s True Self to be Found Within

Matt 1:21 ... Matt 10:22 ... Matt 16:25 ... Mark 15:31 ... Luke 3:6 ... Luke 13:23 ... Luke 19:10 ... Acts 2:21 ... Acts 4:12 ... Romans 10:13 ... 2 Cor 6:2 ... Ephesians 2:8 ... Philippians 2:12 ... Hebrews 2:3 ... Hebrews 7:25 ... 2 Peter 3:15

Sin = actions (including non-conscious “droning”) in discord with our conscient Moral Guidance (e.g. selfishness)
Matt 5:29 ... Luke 11:4 ... John 1:29 ... Romans 6:23 ... Romans 8:3 ... 2 Cor 5:21 ... Hebrews 4:15 ... 1 John 1:7

“Son of Man” = the human being “in the flesh” ... Jesus’ rarely if ever linked this title with an attainment of future glory and frequently used it in connection with the theme of suffering and death ... Thus, he taught us about Being “in Christ”; namely that self-sacrifice of our ego-self’s longings precedes the Glory of our True Self’s re-Birth ... More Importantly, Jesus most frequently uses the phrase to reference all of Humanity (**not** himself in the 3rd person) ... It is used in contrast with “the Son of God”; the State of Being where one has transcended the fears and desires of his or her “Son of Man” to then be able to Live in Harmony with the inclinations of her or his Holy Spirit

Mark 2:5+10, 2:28, 8:31, 8:38, 9:9, 9:12, 9:31, 10:33, 10:45, 13:26, 13:32-34, 14:21, 14:62 (13+ references)

Matthew 8:20, 9:6, 10:23, 11:19, 11:27, 12:8, 12:32, 12:40, 13:37, 13:41, 16:13, 16:27-28, 17:9, 17:12, 17:22, 18:11, 19:28, 20:18, 20:28, 24:27, 24:30, 24:37-39, 24:44, 25:13, 26:2, 26:24, 26:45, 26:64, 28:19 (30+ references)

Luke 6:5, 6:22, 7:34, 9:22-26, 9:44, 9:56-58, 10:22, 11:30, 12:8-10, 12:40, 12:53, 17:22-30, 18:8, 18:31, 19:10, 20:44, 21:27, 21:36, 22:22, 22:48, 22:69, 24:7 (25+ references)

John 1:51, 3:13-18, 3:35-36, 5:19-27, 6:27, 6:40, 6:53, 6:62, 8:28, 8:35-36, 12:23, 12:34, 13:31, 14:13, 17:1 (18+ references)

The rest of the Bible -- Acts 7:56, Heb 2:6, Rev 1:13, Rev 14:14 (4 references)

Truth = any Wisdom that is universally applicable; furthering Life and Love when actualized
John 1:17 ... John 8:32 ... John 14:6 ... John 14:17 ... Ephesians 4:15

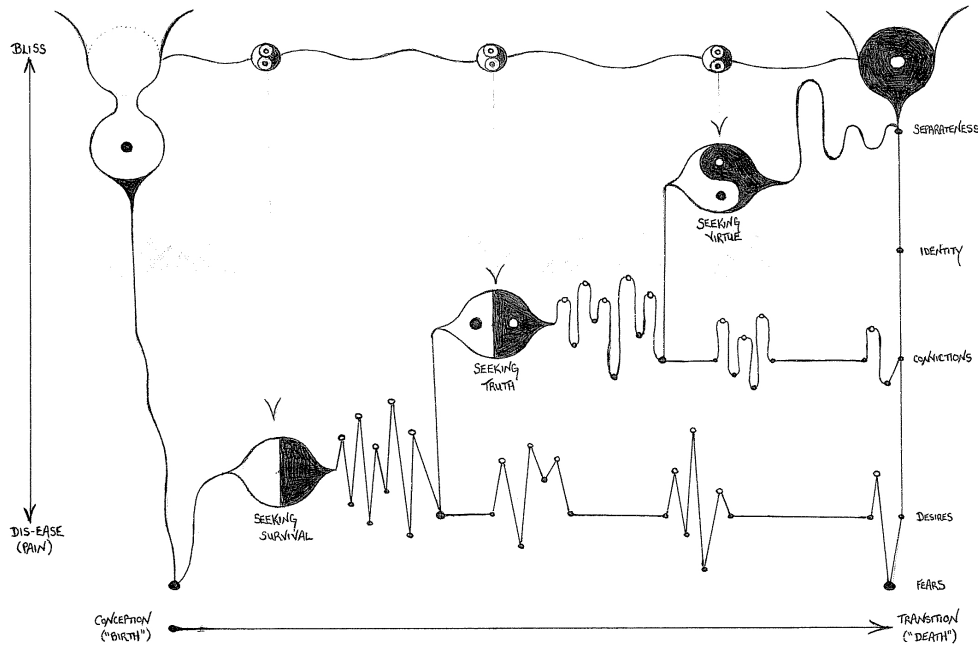
“The Word” = where the Wisdom of The Truth meets the actualization of that Wisdom on The Way (e.g. Jesus’ Life)

Mark 4:14 ... John 1:1+ ... John 1:14 ... James 1:22 ... Revelation 19:13

“If you persevere with my Word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the Truth, and the Truth will make you free.” ~ Jesus (John 8:31-32)

The Dynamics of Conscious Life: Becoming a Child of God

“For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but have instead received a Spirit of Adoption.” ~ Romans 8:15



The graph above charts the development that is possible during a human lifetime (with the larger version of the same diagram on the opposite page including a multitude of [Scripture references](#) related to this dynamic). It flows from left to right, with one’s birth occurring at the far left and one’s physical death represented by the vertical line at the far right. In between, each of us experience differing intensities of Oneness based upon the choices we make. The “higher” we are on the chart, the more Joy & Peace we are experiencing in that moment ...

At conception, in the very early stages of pregnancy, most of us were still intimately experiencing a Oneness with God. Over time, as our bodies and brains become more developed, we experienced increasing intensities of pain and separation. These feelings of dis-ease (non-Oneness) intensified until our physical births – most often leaving the Peace of the womb and being ejected into cold, bright, loud, sterile, un-Loving hospital rooms. This moment is represented by the low-point in the graph at its bottom left-hand corner ...

From that point on, at least through our physical adolescence, we become “**Survival Seekers**” – striving to avoid pain or feel pleasure. We feel separated from God’s Grace, we form identities of “self” separate from God, and we are generally encouraged to “obey the norms” of our particular culture (as opposed to the Calling of God’s Will – “[The sufferings of this time are not worth comparing with the glory to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the Children of God.](#)” ~ Romans 8:18-19). This journey is represented by the lowest level of the graph (the “jagged” path that resembles an EKG readout) ...

Of course, all the while, our “deeper Awareness” (see page 19) is subtly informing us that life is “so much more”. This Awareness is represented by the uppermost line at the very top of the chart – symbolizing our “Advocate within” (a.k.a. the True Self, conscience or Soul of [John 14:26 & 15:26](#) et al). Sometime after adolescence, a small percentage of us choose to partially heed that call. We realize that life is more than a mere struggle for survival; that there must be “bigger Truths” to discover. These individuals become “**Truth Seekers**” – striving for deeper meaning in their lives in order to “be Saved” or “become enlightened”. They know that their lives are essentially in God’s hands; that the Universe has determined what is “right” or “wrong”; that there is Truth to be learned from others; that life is more than a mere battle between pain and pleasure. This choice is represented by the middle level of the graph ... Of course, this search is still primarily self-centered and ultimately futile – we eventually come to the realization that our lives still feel meaningless (“[Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus as the pioneer and perfecter of our Faith, who - for the sake of the Joy that was set before him - endured the Cross.](#)” ~ Hebrews 12:2). Our “Advocate” is still telling us insistently that there is so much more to this life we are merely “living” – and it does so for the rest of our lives, until we either die or awaken to a final Leap of Faith ...

And this Leap is what “Being Human” is really all about – the jump from the self-centered seeking of “truth” to the selfless enLivening of Virtue. Such people choose to invest their energies in actively applying God’s Love’s into their lives –doing so primarily for the benefit of others. These “**Virtue Seekers**” engage their seeking by Doing. They “walk their talk” – thereby attaining a State of Being in harmony with the inclinations of both their conscience and the Universal Whole (“[The one who Follows Me will also Do the Works that I Do and, in fact, will Do even greater Works than these.](#)” ~ Jesus in [John 14:12](#)). This allows them, in those moments of selflessness, to feel the most intense level of Contentment possible for a Human Being to know ...

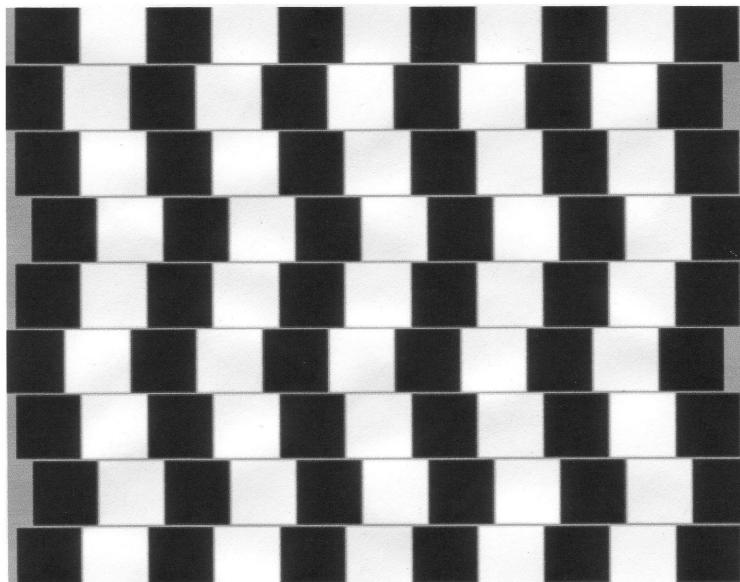
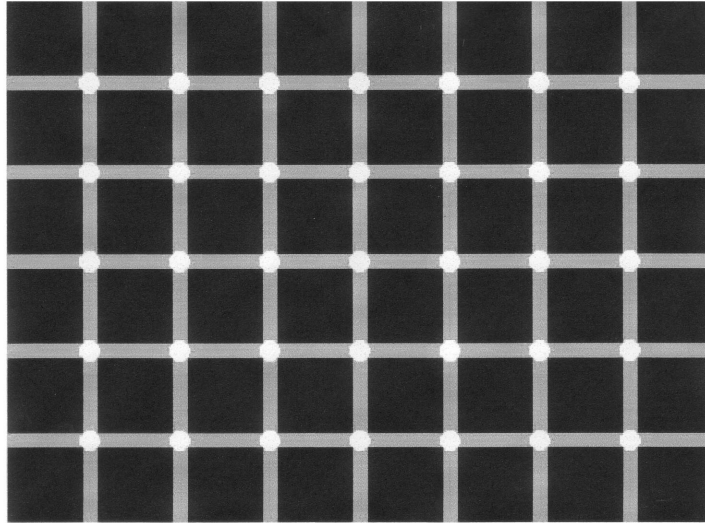
“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the Glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of Glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.” ~ 2 Corinthians 3:18

Part III: Re-Actualizing The Way The Reality of Illusion

“Pay attention to how you perceive.” ~ Jesus (Luke 8:18)

Oftentimes we “see” what is not Real ...

(e.g. the illusory black dots “seen” in the diagram of crosses below)

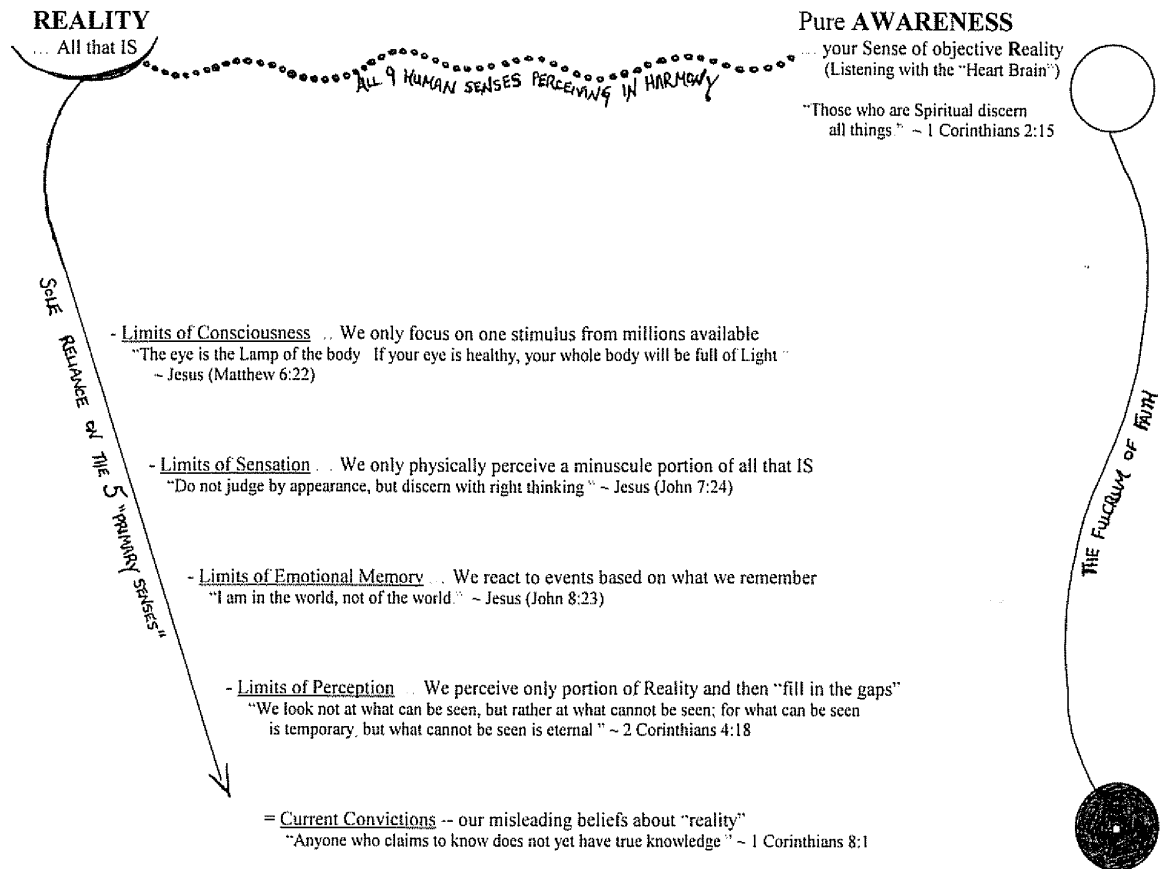


... while at other times we do not See what **is** Real!

(e.g. every horizontal line above is perfectly parallel with every other horizontal line in that image)

The Illusion of Reality

“Look at what is right before your eyes.” ~ 2 Corinthians 10:7

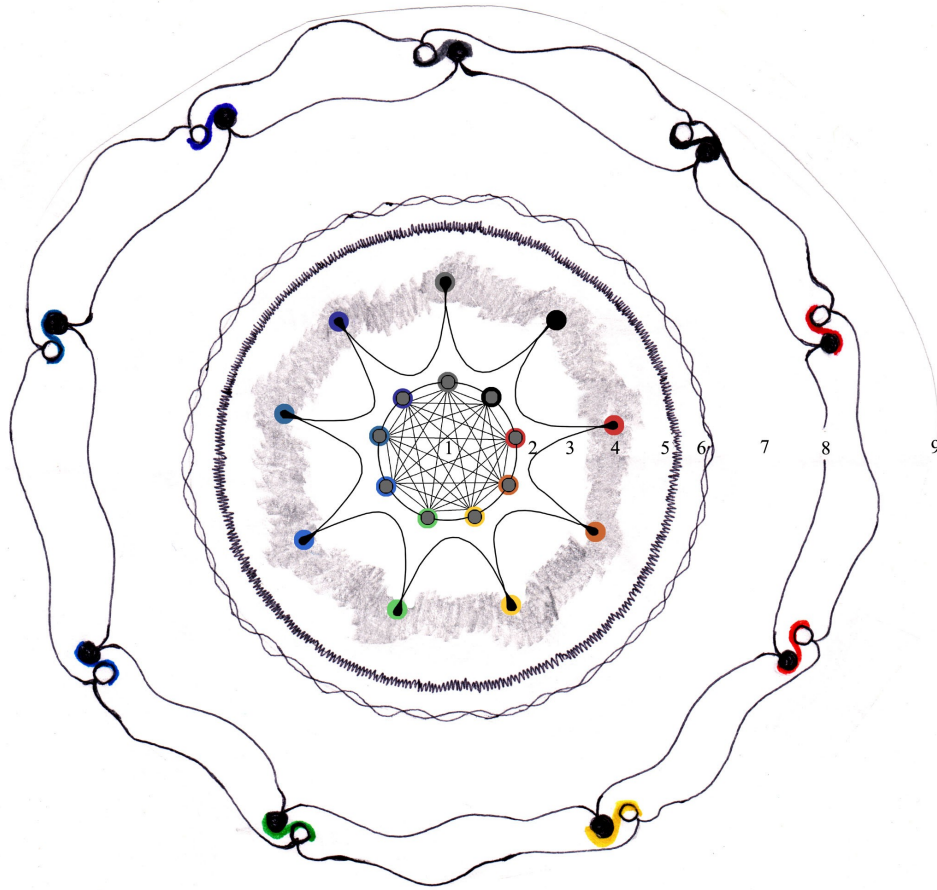


While our five “primary senses” may be useful in keeping us from harm during our everyday lives, the scope of their perceptions is extremely limited and do **not** give us an accurate vision of the objective Reality that surrounds us. Our consciousness can only focus on one of the thousands of stimuli of which we are fundamentally Aware. Our “primary senses”, while miraculous gifts, can only perceive an infinitesimal portion of the stimuli present to be perceived in any given moment. Our “reptile brain” then uses our emotional memories to interpret these perceptions through filters of “friend or foe” and often “fight or flight”. Finally, our brain is hard-wired to take this very limited input and “fill in the blanks”; using any knowledge that we have previously acquired to in effect co-create the very “reality” we believe to be so objective ...

Fortunately, all conscious beings have four additional senses at their disposal – four senses that, when used in conjunction with our five “primary” ones, allow us to accurately **Feel** our state of being in relation to the objective Reality that surrounds us ... These four senses are intuitive resonance (our innate Perception of the flow of energy in our immediate environment), limbic resonance (our innate Understanding of both our own and others’ emotional States of Being in any given moment), electro-magnetic resonance (our innate Knowledge of the level of harmony or discord we are experiencing in the immediate area we are inhabiting), and conscient resonance (our innate sense of the Right Actions available to us) ...

Only when we release our attachments to the convictions we have formulated using the more primitive “primary senses” – by simultaneously incorporating the **Knowings** of these other four “secondary senses” – can we attain a “re-Awakening”, and use these “higher sensations” to make choices in our lives that maximize our potential for experiencing Contentment ...

Harmonizing Internal Guidance with external Action
The Human Life's "Soul System"



- | | | |
|---|------------------|--|
| ○ | 1 the Soul | (Grace III: Internal Co-Creative Power ... The Holy Spirit ... God as Light, Heat & Life) |
| ✿ | 2 the True Self | (The Child of God ... Selfless Service ... The Observer Within) |
| ✿ | 3 the Conscience | (Grace II: Internal Moral Guidance ... The Advocate Within) |
| ✿ | 4 the Ego-self | (Faith ... "Knowledge" & Awareness ... Sense of Separateness) |
| ● | 5 the Mind | (Grace I: <u>The Fulcrum of Free Will</u> ... The Son of Man ... Attachment/Acceptance) |
| ✿ | 6 the Body | (Works ... The Flesh/Temple ... Sensations & Instincts) |
| ✿ | 7 Moral Beacons | (Grace II: External Moral Guidance ... The non-familiar ... Action & Consequence) |
| ✿ | 8 the World | (The Earth ... Impermanence/Change ... Environment/Reality) |
| ○ | 9 the Cosmos | (Grace III: External Co-Creative Power ... The Father ... God as Universal Order & Flow) |

Note: The ego-self resides at the "Fulcrum of Free Will" (Level 5 in the diagram above); where all the Gifts of our conscious Life (what some call "Grace") meet and are either enabled by our conscious choices or discarded by our lack thereof (i.e. we can either react to a stimulus or pro-act in response to it) ... Levels 1-4 in the diagram above are internal interactions (how we relate to ourselves) while levels 6-9 represent external Dynamics in our lives (how we interact with our environment) ... Our consciousness rests between these two realms ... It is the level of Reality where Choice can be utilized to reconcile all 9 levels at once; harmonizing our environment (what IS) with our deeper Awareness (what we Feel) via our actions (what we Do) ...

The Physio-Spiritual Nature of Life

“Layer of Being”	Biblical Terminology	Tangible Evidence
1 The Soul The Singularity	The Holy Spirit God Within (“the mustard seed”)	Dynamic Universal Order The Material Universe
“God is the One in whom we Live and move and have our Being ... We ought not to think that God is like gold, or silver, or stone; a mere image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.” ~ <i>Luke (Acts 17:28-29)</i>		
2 The True Self The Conscious Personality	Child of God The Son of God	The Observer Within (“I Am”) Sense of Love & Wonder
“But to all who Received his Way, ... he gave Power to Become Children of God, who were born not of blood or of the Will of the flesh or of the Will of Man, but of God.” ~ <i>Unknown (John 1:12-13)</i>		
“For all who are led by The Spirit of God are Children of God.” ~ <i>Paul (Romans 8:14)</i>		
3 The Conscience Intuition & Wisdom	The Advocate	Sense of Justice/“Fairness” Sense of Morality
“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of Truth ... You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be within you ... And this Advocate, the Holy Spirit ... will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.” ~ <i>Jesus (John 14:16-17, 26)</i>		
“But the Wisdom from Above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of Mercy and Good Fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.” ~ <i>James (James 3:17)</i>		
4 The Mind Knowledge (information/facts)	The Truth Faith	Analysis of the 5 primary senses Beliefs (convictions vs. “mysteries”)
“But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is Doing, so that your alms may be Done in secret ...” ~ <i>Jesus (Matthew 6:3-4)</i>		
“To set the Mind on the flesh is death, but to set the Mind on the Spirit is Life and Peace.” ~ <i>Paul (Romans 8:6)</i>		
“All of us possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but Love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who Loves God is Known by Him.” ~ <i>Paul (1 Corinthians 8:1)</i>		
“Avoid the profane chatter and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge; by professing it some have missed the mark as regards the Faith.” ~ <i>Unknown (1 Timothy 6:20-21)</i>		
5 The Ego-self Temptations (desire via fear)	The Son of Man Satan & Demons	Attachments & Addictions Sense of separateness (“Identity”)
“For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” ~ <i>Jesus (Matthew 12:8)</i>		
“But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on Divine Things but on human things.’” ~ <i>Jesus (Matthew 16:23)</i>		
“Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a place in the household; the Son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” ~ <i>Jesus (John 8:34+36)</i>		
“They profess to Know God, but they deny Him by their actions. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any Good Work.” ~ <i>Unknown (Titus 1:16)</i>		

“Layer of Being”	Biblical Terminology	Tangible Evidence
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6 The Body
Sensations & Instincts

The Flesh/The Temple
Works

Movement
Pleasure and Pain

“Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ ... But he was speaking of the temple of his body.”
~ *Jesus (John 2:19+21)*

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?”
~ *Paul (1 Corinthians 6:19)*

7 Moral Beacons
“Divine Guidance”

Grace (traditional context)
“Good” & “Evil”

Consequence & Blessing (“Karma”)
Synchronicity

“From His Fullness we have all Received, Grace upon Grace.”
~ *Unknown (John 1:16)*

“For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under Grace ... For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry ‘Father!’ it is that very Essence bearing witness with our Spirit that we are Children of God.”
~ *Paul (Romans 6:14 + 8:15-16)*

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who Loved us and through Grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your Hearts and strengthen them in every Good Work and Word.”
~ *Unknown (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)*

“Let us therefore approach the Throne of Grace with boldness, so that we may Receive Mercy and Find Grace to Help in time of need.” ~ *Unknown (Hebrews 4:16)*

8 The World
Reality

The Earth
Temptation

Interconnected Oneness
Impermanence & Change

“Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the Earth.” ~ *Jesus (Matthew 5:5)*

“Heaven and Earth will pass away, but my Way will not pass away.” ~ *Jesus (Matthew 24:35)*

“Because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.” ~ *Paul (2 Corinthians 4:18)*

“But, in accordance with His promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where Righteousness is at Home.” ~ *Unknown (2 Peter 3:13)*

9 The Cosmos
The Flow of Chi (Life Force)

The Father
God

Energy & Light
The frequency of actualized Love

“Where can I Go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your Presence? If I go up on the Heavens, you are there: if I make my bed in the depths, you are there ...” ~ *Unknown (Psalms 139:7+)*

“He is not God of the dead, but of the Living.” ~ *Jesus (Matthew 22:32)*

“The Kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed ... For, in fact, the Kingdom of God is Within you!” ~ *Jesus (Luke 17:20-21)*

“The God who made the world and everything in it ... does not Live in shrines made by human hands, nor is He Served by human hands, as though He needed anything ... For in Him we Live and move and have our Being.” ~ *Luke (Acts 17:24-25)*

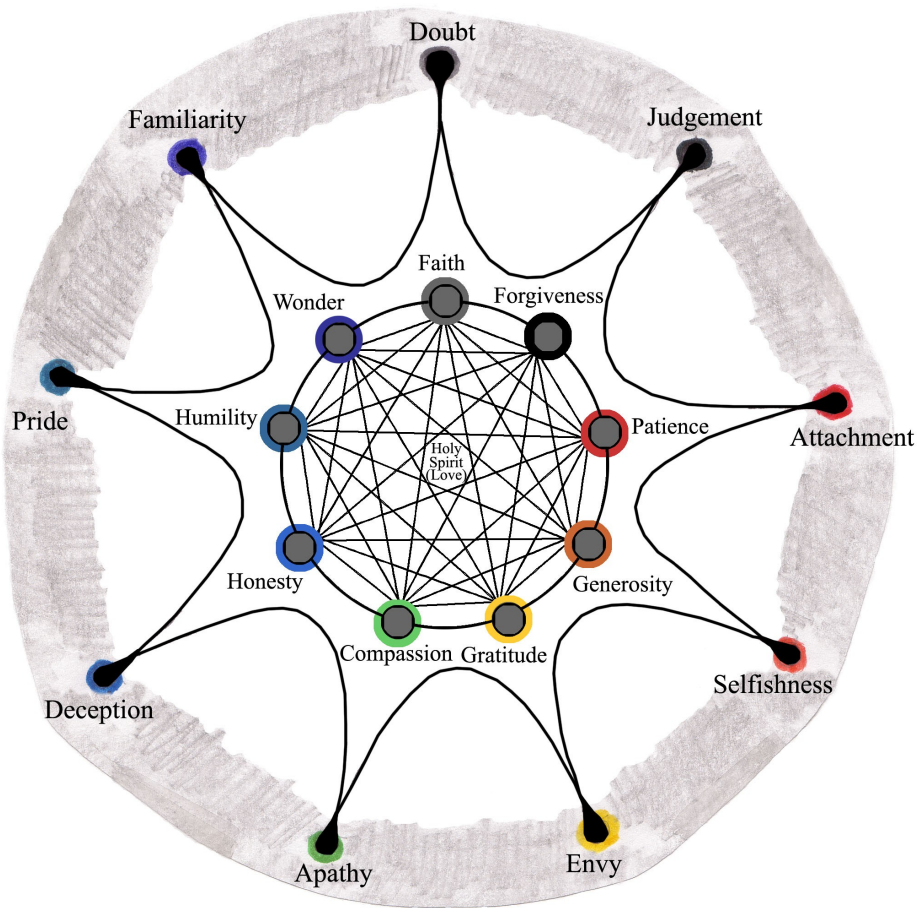
“For God is not a God of disorder but of Harmony.” ~ *Paul (1 Corinthians 14:33)*

“There is one body and one Spirit ... one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” ~ *Unknown (Ephesians 4:4-6)*

“No one has ever seen God; if we Love one another, God Lives in us, and his Love is perfected in us ... God is Love.” ~ *Unknown (1 John 4:12+16)*

“Every generous act of Giving, with every perfect Gift, is from Above, coming down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” ~ *James (James 1:17)*

Our “Golden Core” of Conscience



○	◆	Acceptance	... is em-Powered by Condemnation	●
○	◆	Patience	... is em-Powered by Attachment	●
○	◆	Generosity	... is em-Powered by Selfishness	●
○	◆	Gratitude	... is em-Powered by Envy	●
○	◆	Compassion	... is em-Powered by Apathy	●
○	◆	Honesty	... is em-Powered by Deception	●
○	◆	Humility	... is em-Powered by Arrogance	●
○	◆	Wonder	... is em-Powered by Familiarity	●
○	◆	Faith	... is em-Powered by Doubt	●

Note: Purely actualizing any one of these Virtues automatically actualizes all others in that moment. One Virtue cannot *purely* exist without the simultaneous co-existence of the other eight. And when all nine exist, unconditional Love flourishes. In addition, the “sins” listed need no longer be viewed as “evil” or even “bad”. Temptations to be selfish lose their power over us the moment we choose to be thank-full for them – by recognizing that the difficulties they pose make all our subsequent *Moral* choices power-full ... **NOTE:** We do not “go anywhere” or “grow” or become permanently “reborn” when we attain Salvation. Salvation is always Here&Now. Likewise, awakening to our innate connection with God is not “learning” anything new, but rather a remembering of the relationship of which we have always been aware (albeit on a subconscious level). The seeds of our ego-self (a.k.a. the “Enemy”) may continue to challenge us, & yet our Soul-Self is immune to this “tarnishing”. These temptations, & even our subsequent sins, are not “evil” or even “bad”, but are actually the difficulties that enable our Transcendence.

“And if a House is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.” ~ Jesus (Mark 3:25)

The Dynamic of Conscience: Our Inner Guidance

Noble Virtues
(Pro-Active Love)

Universal Truths
(each Glorifying the Gift of Life)

“Deadly” Temptations
(Reactive Fear)

Acceptance
(Forgiveness)

Love your enemies
(Divine Justice IS absolute Acceptance)

Condemnation
(Judgment)

Forgiveness is neither Condoning nor forgetting ...

“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone ...” ~ Jesus (Mark 11:25)

“If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ~ Jesus (John 20:23)

“For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; Mercy triumphs over judgment.” ~ James 2:13

.....

Patience
(Freedom & Flow)

Souls are always Free
(Choose to Love anyway)

Attachment
(Frustration)

Patience is neither passive nor inactive ...

“But as for those in the good soil, these are the ones who ... bear fruit with patient endurance.” ~ Jesus (Luke 8:15)

“Were you a slave when called? Do not be concerned ... Make use of your condition now more than ever.” ~ 1 Cor 7:21

“So, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all.” ~ Galatians 6:10

.....

Generosity
(Right Action)

Better Give than receive

Selfishness
(Greed)

Giving is neither self-serving nor physically comfortable ...

“You received without payment; Give without payment.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 10:8)

“Invite the poor, the lame and the blind. You will be Blessed because they cannot repay you” ~ Luke 14:13-14

“Render Service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not as to men and women ...” ~ Ephesians 6:7-8

.....

Gratitude
(Acceptance)

AllWays Give Thanks
(Be Grateful for your pain)

Envy
(Lust & Coveting)

Gratitude is not actively reciprocal or verbally expressed ...

“If I partake with thankfulness, why should I be denounced because of that for which I give thanks? ~ 1 Corinthians 10:30

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God.” ~ Phil 4:6

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the Will of God” ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

.....

Compassion
(Kindness)

Caring has no End
(Love is active or it is nothing)

Apathy
(Callousness)

Compassion is neither intellectual nor emotional sympathy ...

“You shall Love your neighbor [see Luke 10:29-36] as your Self [see John 15:4].” ~ Mark 12:31

“Be perfect as your Father is perfect.” ~ Matt 5:48 – “There is no greater Love than to lay down one’s life for another.” ~ John 15:13

“Let all that you do be done in Love.” ~ 1 Cor 16:14 – “Be imitators of God ... and Live in Love.” ~ Eph 5:1-2

“Above all, clothe yourselves with Love, which binds everything together in perfect Harmony.” ~ Colossians 3:14

.....

Honesty
(Interdependence)

Be Truth-full allWays
(Actions speak more clearly than words)

Deception
(Persuasion)

Honesty is not mere verbal disclosure ...

“But the hour is coming, and indeed is now here, when true worshipers will worship in Spirit and Truth.” ~ John 4:23
“Let God be proved true ... So that you may be justified in your words, and prevail in your discernment.” ~ Romans 3:4-5
“Present yourself to God as one approved by Him, ... rightly exhibiting the Word of Truth.” ~ 2 Timothy 2:15

Humility
(Innocence)

Be Humble as a Child
(Accept all that IS)

Pride
(Certainty)

Humility is neither self-degradation nor obedience ...

“Whoever becomes Humble like a child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 18:4)
“All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.” ~ Jesus (Luke 14:11)
“God chose what is low in the world to reduce to nothing the things that are, so that no one might boast.” ~ 1 Cor 1:28

Wonder
(Awe, Beauty, etc.)

Be Amazed by Grace
... Live in the Moment

Familiarity
 (“the norm”)

Wonder is not necessarily found in the grandiose ...

“When the crowds saw, they were amazed, and glorified God, who had given such Power to human beings.” ~ Matt 9:8
“They broke off because of their unbelief, but you stand through Faith. So avoid pride, and stand in Wonder.” ~ Romans 11:20
“It was declared by the Lord ... and God added his testimony by signs, wonders ... and gifts of the Holy Spirit.” ~ Hebrews 2:4

Faith
(Courage)

Faith moves Mountains
(Believe, and you will See that it already IS)

Doubt
(Hesitancy)

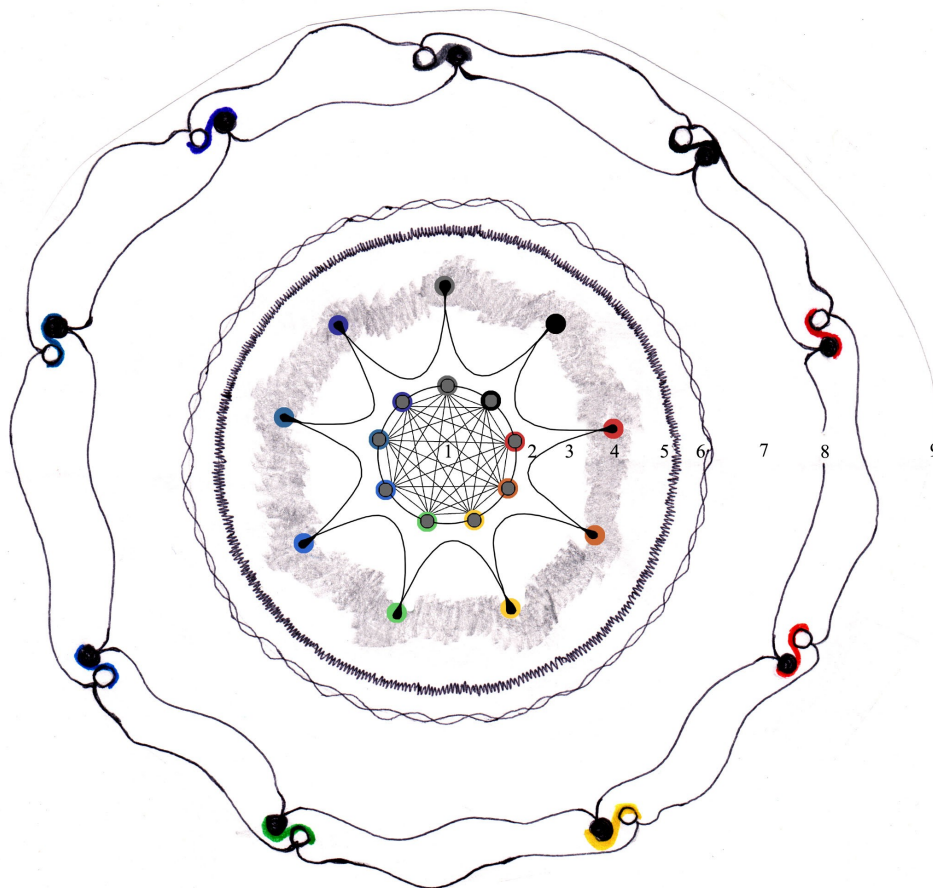
Faith is not future-related certainty of belief ...

“If you have faith but the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain “Move”, and it will move.” ~ Matt 17:20
“And will not God grant justice to those who cry out to Him? ... I tell you, He will quickly grant them justice.” ~ Luke 18:8
“Have you believed because you have seen? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” ~ John 20:29
“The righteousness of God is revealed through Faith for Faith ... The one who is righteous will live by Faith.” ~ Romans 1:17

In each moment, each of us has the opportunity to choose to actualize either one of these Virtues or one of their opposing “sins”. Actualized Virtues reflect God’s Will and lead to our immediate Salvation, while our sins empower the “enemy” within our mind-bodies that is constantly striving to tempt us towards self-centeredness. These choices always lead to consequences having proportional pains. Every thought or deed is either self-centered or selfless (i.e. giving & kind). All self-centered actions cause us dis-ease, while all selfless choices bring us Inner Peace. And every moment brings us a new opportunity to choose anew how we will be – either “in Adam” or “in Christ” ...

“For he will repay according to each one’s deeds; t those who by patiently doing Good seek Glory and Honor [to God], he will give eternal Life; while for those who are self-seeking and who obey not the Truth but rather wickedness, there will be wrath and fury. There is anguish and distress for everyone who does evil ... and yet Glory and Honor and Peace for everyone who does Good, the Jew and also the Greek, for God shows no partiality.” ~ Romans 2:6-11

Interacting with our Environment: Good vs. evil



In every moment of our lives, we are exposed to thousands of stimuli from our environment. After perceiving them with our “primary senses”, they are labeled subconsciously as either “familiar” or “strange”. The “familiar” stimuli are “filed away” into their appropriate memory categories (e.g. “safe”, “interesting”, “boring”, etc), allowing us to focus upon the one or two stimuli “of interest”. Despite this droning existence, we are also regularly exposed to people, things or situations that are extraordinary; either unfamiliarly Wonder-full or unfamiliarly repugnant. When these shocking representations of either “good” or “evil” are perceived, we have no filter in place to judge them as “normal” – and we are forced to take notice and experience their amazingness. When we see our first double rainbow, time seems to stop and we can only gasp in astonishment at the Beauty of God’s Universe. On the other end of the spectrum, when we witness extraordinary cruelty, our stomachs involuntarily twist and we are repulsed by the depravity of those acts ...

Fortunately for us all, Life is so amazingly varied that no amount of processing performed by our brains can ever fully remove our ability to experience these constantly re-occurring amazements. Every time we witness something that transcends our understanding of “good”, we are reminded of the Good within us; we are re-minded to re-align our lives with God’s Will. Similarly, every time we are witness to extreme acts of immorality, we awaken to our own sins and are re-minded to not behave similarly when next tempted to do so ...

This dynamic takes place in the region indicated by the number 7 in the diagram above – the area that represents the interaction between our environment and our mind-body. In this way, we are “guided” to renew our lives as **Human Beings** (instead of continuing to survive selfishly as mere “humans”). And we can do so by consciously denying our temptations to “sin” (Greek for “to miss the mark”) and instead choose to selflessly Serve others (i.e. follow “The Way”).

In the chart on the following page, the startlingly “good” moments that we regularly perceive are labeled as “Noble Beacons”, while those surprisingly “evil” acts we sometimes witness are named as “Ignoble Warnings” ...

The Dynamic of Synchronicity: Our External Guidance

Noble Beacons (Wonder-full “Good” Deeds)	Universal Truths (each Glorifying the Gift of Life)	Ignoble Warnings (Repugnant “Evil” Acts)
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Forgiving extreme trespasses	Love all Enemies (Justice IS Forgiveness)	Condemnatory Zealotry
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Matthew 5:44+ ... Luke 6:27-36 ... Luke 23:34
See also the parable of “The Prodigal Son” (Luke 15:11-20)

[Remember: Anger & Criticism, when transcended by Love, allow our Forgiveness to be Power-full.]
.....

Stalwart despite “danger” (e.g. Unconventionality)	Souls are always Free (Choose to Pro-Act Freedom)	Confinement (Manipulation)
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Matthew 12:8 ... Luke 6:1-5 ... Luke 14:26 ... Luke 21:17-18
See also JC in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13) & JC in Gethsemane (Matt 26:36-56)

[Remember: Hope & Frustration, when transcended by Love, allow our Patience to be Power-full.]
.....

Giving despite poverty (e.g. self-sacrificial Service)	Better Give than Receive	Selfishness of the “wealthy”
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Acts 20:35
See also “The Widow’s Mite” (Luke 21:1-4)

[Remember: Lust & Greed, when transcended by Love, allow our Service to be Power-full.]
.....

Thankfulness for Life’s Challenges	AllWays Give Thanks (Be Grateful for your pain)	Whining over minor mishaps
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Habakkuk 3:17-18 ... Luke 21:34
See also the parables of “Generous Landowner” (Matt 20:1-15) & “Grateful Samaritan” (Luke 17:11-19)

[Remember: Envy & Sadness, when transcended by Love, allow our Gratitude to be Power-full.]
.....

Kindness to strangers	Caring has no End	Hate Crimes
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Luke 14:13-14 ... 1 Corinthians 13:10 ... Hebrews 13:2
See also the parable of “The Good Samaritan” (Luke 10:29-37)

[Remember: Callousness & Apathy, when transcended by Love, allow our Compassion to be Power-full.]
.....

Flagrant Truth-telling (Silence when pressured)	Be Truth-full allWays (Actions are louder than words)	Manipulative betrayal
--	---	--------------------------

Luke 6:45-46
See also Jesus questioned by the Romans (Matt 21:23-27, Matt 26:59-64, Matt 27:11-14 & Luke 22:67-23:10)

[Remember: Deception & Abandonment, when transcended by Love, allow our Honesty to be Power-full.]
.....

Noble Beacons (Wonder-full “Good” Deeds)	Universal Truths (each Glorifying the Gift of Life)	Ignoble Warnings (Repugnant “Evil” Acts)
---	--	---

Humble despite Accomplishment	Be Humble as a Child (Accept all that IS)	Arrogance without Accomplishment
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Matthew 18:4 ... Luke 10:19-20 ... Luke 14:7-11 ... Luke 18:17

See also Jesus’ own Humility (Mark 10:18, Luke 19:19, John 5:19, J 5:30-41, J 6:15, J 7:16-18, J 8:28, J 8:50-54, J 10:25, J 12:44, J 13:20, J 13:32, J 14:12, J14:20, J 15:11)

[**Remember:** Pride & Arrogance, when transcended by Love, allow our Humility to be Power-full.]

.....

Power of Discernment (e.g. “the Humility of the Child”)	Be Amazed by Grace ... Live in the Moment	Boredom despite the Wondrous
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Matthew 24:2 ... Matthew 24:26-27 ... Matthew 24:32 ... Luke 9:62
See also the parable of “The Te Bridesmaids” (Matthew 25:1-13)

[**Remember:** Boredom & the “norm”, when transcended by Love, allow our Wonder to be Power-full.]

.....

Seeing the Highest Good (e.g. Pilgrimage & Loyalty)	Faith moves Mountains (Believe and it will Be)	Paranoia (“Security” Focus)
--	--	--------------------------------

Matthew 17:20 ... Luke 11:9-10 ... John 20:29
See also Peter walking on water (Matthew 14:28-31)

[**Remember:** Tragedy & doubt (mystery), when transcended by Love, allow our Faith to be Power-full.]

In each moment, each of us has the opportunity to choose to See the Wonder present around us. Similarly, we can also choose to use the “bad” things we witness to inspire us to Goodness (as opposed to reacting to them with sadness or anger – see [Luke 7:40-47](#)). All “Noble Beacons” invariably re-mind us to appreciate the miracle that is our conscious life, while all “Ignoble Warnings” re-mind us to act selflessly while lending us the additional opportunity to exhibit compassion for those “perpetrating evil”. Every situation is either imbued with Beauty or Opportunity ...

More Biblical references to this “Soul System” Dynamic

“For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling – if indeed, when we take it off we will not be found naked.” ~ Paul (2 Corinthians 5:1-3)

“By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the Sanctuary [[the Spirit Within](#)] has not been disclosed as long as the first tent [[reliance on the ego-self](#)] is still standing. This is a symbol of the present time, during which gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper ... But when Christ came as a High Priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent not made with hands, that is, not of this creation, he entered once and for all into the Holy Place [[Harmony of Oneness](#)] ...” ~ Hebrews 9:8-9+11-12

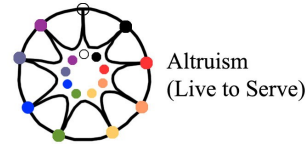
Additional references: Matt 6:14 ... Matthew 12:6 ... John 3:13-21 ... John 5:18 ... John 8:34-36 ... John 14:15+21+23 ... Romans 7:21-23 ... Romans 8:26-28 ... Romans 11:22 ... 1 Corinthians 6:19 ... 1 Corinthians 10:13 ... 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 ... 1 Corinthians 15:44 ... 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 ... 2 Corinthians 4:16 ... Galatians 5:16-17 ... Galatians 6:8-10 ... Ephesians 4:22-24 ... Colossians 3:9-11 ... 2 Thessalonians 2:4+6-8 (with 1 John 3:4) ... James 4:4+7-8 ... 2 Peter 1:4 ... 1 John 2:29 ... 1 John 4:18 (with Matthew 5:48)

The Soul's "Service-Beacon"

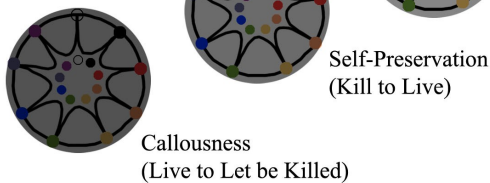
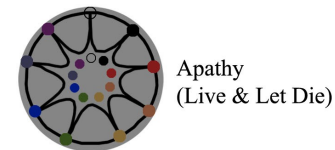
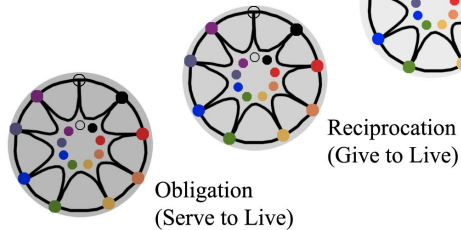
The Reality of our Empowerment

Essentially, we are all electro-magnetic entities. The human body oscillates interactively with its environment. In every moment of our lives, we each emit a very specific frequency into our immediate environment – a frequency that reflects our momentary State-of-Being in relation to our current thoughts, our current emotions, and our current actions (as well as the motivations behind those actions). Fundamental physics also reminds us that “like attracts like”, meaning that the frequencies we choose to emit tend to attract similar frequencies back into our surroundings ...

The Selflessness of each Act of Service
Determines its “Frequency” ...



The Sacrificiality of each Act of Service
Determines its Power ...



Re-member that Thoughts are Things!

Re-mind that Intention is Everything!

The diagram above illustrates this effect: the power our intentions have on our lives. Basically, the level of selflessness behind each thought or act determines its “base-frequency” (with more self-centered motivations leading to “lower” emissions and more generous, altruistic intentions generating “higher” ones). In addition, the relative difficulty of those choices determines how powerful or weak they will subsequently be. The more self-sacrificial an act, the more difficult it is – and thus the more potent. Thus, it is true – and somewhat ironic, that the actions intended to help others (especially those performed despite great personal sacrifice) actually bring us the most Peace ...

Note: While not apparent in the diagram above, there is an *enormous leap* between “Reciprocation” (the motive behind level 3 choices) and “Kindness” (the intention underlying all level 2 actions). It is this very leap that is crucial to every human’s search for Salvation in their lives ...

“First clean the inside of the cup, that the outside may also become Clean ... I am the Light of the world. Whoever Follows my Way will never walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 23:26 & John 8:12)

Knowing God's Will

Hearing the Guidance of the Advocate Within

“And why do you not judge for yourself what is Right?” ~ Jesus (Luke 12:57)

First of all, it is quite clear, both from reading the Bible over and over again, as well as from putting its Truths into practice, that **the Advocate of John 14 is real**; an actual “Moral Compass” residing within each of us. Whether we name this Essence our “conscience”, the “Advocate” or the “Spirit of Truth” is irrelevant. This “larger voice” is within every human being; constantly guiding us all towards repentance from the past, righteousness in the moment and thereby Salvation in the Here-&-Hereafter ...

“And I will ask my Father, and he will Give you **another Advocate to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of Truth** ... you Know It, because **It abides with you and It will be Within you** ... This Advocate, the Holy Spirit, ... will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said.” ~ Jesus (John 14:16-17+26 ... see also John 15:26, Romans 2:14-15, Romans 6:17, Romans 7:22, 1 Cor 2:10, 1 Cor 2:15, 1 Thess 4:9 and 1 John 2:27)

So, it is clear that we **do**, even if only on an intuitive level, **Know** which course of action we can take to satisfy God's Will. But how are we to determine what this internal Voice is telling us?. Fortunately, Jesus himself gave us the most accurate method for determining God's Will in our lives: looking at the consequences (i.e. the “fruits”) of our actions. Those actions that bring us Peace and enable Love to flourish in our lives (for ourselves and, more importantly, for those around us) are in harmony with God's Will. Those that do not, are not ...

“Every Good Tree bears Good Fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A Good Tree cannot bear ad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear Good Fruit ... **for the tree is known by its fruit.**” ~ Jesus (Matthew 7:17-18+12:33 ... see also Luke 6:45, Luke 7:35, John 10:37, Acts 5:38-39)

Our Advocate always encourages us to act in ways that are in alignment with guidance constantly provided by the Holy Spirit. Any choice that we make in our lives resonates either harmoniously or discordantly with this underlying awareness (a.k.a. “God's Will”). Of course, the afore-mentioned, more general ways of **Knowing** God's Will can be a bit difficult to apply. Fortunately, Jesus gives us the following, more specific standard through which we can **Know** if we are acting in harmony with the Will of the Father:

-- whether or not our actions produce the “Fruits of the Spirit.”

“The Kingdom of God is Given to those who produce the Fruits of the Spirit.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 21:43)

Paul Blesses us even further by specifically listing the nine aspects of this Holy Fruit ...

“The Fruit of the Spirit is **Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-discipline.**” ~ Galatians 5:22-23

Thus, for Christians who believe that the Bible directly reflects God's Word, every choice that is power-fully in alignment with God's Will must be **Peace-full, Patient, Generous, Kind, Loving, Self-Disciplined, Gentle, Joyful** and **Faith-full**. Every Right Action must embody these nine characteristics – always bringing us and those around us an intimate experience of Contentment. These nine traits of “correctness” exemplify our True Life-Paths. They embody our “Life Missions”. They reflect God's Will for our Lives ...

In order to produce the “Fruits of the Spirit” in your life, their Divine meanings must be understood. And in order to understand them, they must be experienced. And in order to experience them, they must be actively applied. And in order to apply them fully, they must be redefined ... So, without further ado, the Nine Characteristics of God’s Will:

◆ **God’s Will is allWays Peace-full** and stems from the inner Peace you feel in a personal relationship with the Father. God’s Will is not something “difficult” or “impossible” to follow. Even if our ego-minds and political leaders would have us believe otherwise, doing the Will of the Holy Spirit is our *natural* State of Being ...

Peace-full Choices, by their nature, encourage us to be at Peace; with a calm mind and in calm surroundings (“It is to Peace that God has Called us.” ~ 1 Corinthians 7:15). This inner Peace is grounded in the acceptance of what already IS (“We know that all things work together for Good for those who Love God; who are Called according to His Purpose.” ~ Romans 8:28). Thus, Peace-full choices are those that attempt to serve with what already exists, as opposed to striving to change the Status Quo into “something better” ...

Summary: Peace-full actions are personal and bring inner calm **while** performed. They are individual, soothing & accepting. During decision-making, ask your Self -- “Does this particular option cause strife or does it inspire Peace? Does it require external assistance to be effective or can it be actualized directly by mySelf?”

◆ **God’s Will is allWays Patient**, making your actions conscious as opposed to reactionary (“Be Alert; I have already told you everything ... And what I say to you I say to everyone: Keep Awake.” ~ Jesus in Mark 13:23+37). The Way encourages us to pro-actively participate in life by making choices and then *consciously* performing them. Harmonious options are active, not passive (“But those who look into the Perfect Law – the Law of Liberty – and persevere, being not mere hearers who forget but Doers who Act, they will be **Blessed in their Doing.**” ~ James 1:25). Divine Patience is applicative, not analytical ...

Synopsis: Patient actions are Pro-Active (i.e. Purpose-fully chosen). They are conscious, present & relaxed. During decision-making, ask your Self -- “Is this particular option passive or does it encourage Me to Act? Is it being made consciously or is it reactive?”

◆ **God’s Will is allWays Generous** ... The True Path is selfless and serving of others. “Sin-full” action, on the other hand, is self-centered and serves one’s self. Right Action gives while “wrong action” takes away. God’s Will desires for us to create by furthering Love, rather than destroy by enhancing fear ...

The most power-full way to do anything meaning-fully is to do it anonymously and do it “for free” (“So whenever you Give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do .. so that they may be praised by others ... But when you Give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is Doing.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 6:2-3). Simply stated, your Life-Purpose is found where your most power-full giving meets your environment’s most intense needs ...

Synopsis: Generous actions are Kind to others. They are giving, intimate & self-sacrificial. During decision-making, ask your Self -- “Is this particular option a self-centered one or a selfless One? Am I engaging this choice to obtain a benefit therefrom or rather to serve another?”

◆ **God’s Will is allWays Kind** ... Kindness cannot exist without *choosing* to be Kind. Truth does not only serve to free your life from the prison of ignorance. It also liberates you from behaviors that shackle the Free Will necessary to choose that kindness (remember: “The Truth will make You Free.” ~ Jesus in John 8:32). Any act done out of obligation cannot be simultaneously done out of Love, and thus cannot reflect God’s Will for your life. This is not to say that you should ignore all current promises and obligations. Indeed, always strive to honor the commitments you make. And yet, any action that is *based in* duty, obligation, responsibility, commitment &/or a conforming to societal expectations (i.e. “normal”) cannot simultaneously be in harmony with your Life Mission (“I preferred to do nothing without your consent, that your Good Deed might be voluntary and not something forced.” ~ Philemon 1:14) ...

The following are some “Express Lanes to Salvation” – actions that efficiently allow anyone engaging them to experience God’s Will via kindness: Be Kind to “strangers” you

encounter (Make eye contact, smile and offer them assistance -- “Show hospitality to all strangers, for some have thereby entertained angels unawares” ~ Hebrews 13:2); Be Kind to the elderly in your neighborhood (e.g. Visit retirement homes and listen to the elderly who live there -- “Let your gentleness be known to everyone.” ~ Philippians 4:5); Be Kind to the downtrodden (the poor, the homeless, the ill and those imprisoned) in your community (e.g. Visit shelters, hospitals and prisons to listen and to care -- “For I was hungry and you gave me food ... I was ill and you Cared for me, I was in prison and you visited me ... Just as you Do these things for the least of my brothers, so also you Do them for me.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 25:35-36+40); Be Kind to all children in your life (e.g. Get involved in local youth leagues, volunteer for a local Big Brother/Big Sister program, spend regular Quality-Time with your own kids, etc. -- “Whosoever welcomes one child also welcomes me.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 18:5); Be Kind to the animals around you (e.g. Go to your local animal shelter and be Loving to those animals next in line for euthanasia -- “Holy is the Lord. Everything on the earth is full of His Glory.” ~ Isaiah 6:3 & “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God’s Sight.” ~ Jesus in Luke 12:6) ...

Synopsis: Kind actions are unfettered by external influences or personal desires. They are free, thank-full & voluntary. During decision-making, ask your Self -- “Is this particular option duty-based or can it be freely made? Is it motivated by gratitude for my life or does it tempt me to yearn for “something better”?”

◆ **God’s Will is allWays Loving** ... Actions in harmony with The Way further Love by being caring – always intending to cause no harm to others while simultaneously desiring the lessening of others’ burdens (“For the whole Law is summed up in one Commandment: You shall Love your neighbor as yourself.” ~ Galatians 5:14). Fear-based actions, on the other hand, are selfish and intend to further one’s own survival; often producing pain and enhancing fear (“But even if you do suffer from Doing what is Right, you are Blessed. Do not fear what others fear, and do not be intimidated” ~ 1 Peter 3:14). We have not been Called to a life of ease and comfort, but rather to a life of forgiveness and service (“Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also ... Love your enemies ... so that you may Become Children of your Father in Heaven.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 5:39+44-45) ...

Synopsis: Loving actions are gentle, intending to relieve others burdens. They are caring, healing & compassionate. During decision-making, ask your Self -- “Does this particular option cause the least harm to others? Is it intended to quench or avoid my personal fears or is it designed to relieve another’s burdens?”

◆ **God’s Will is allWays Self-Disciplined** ... To be disciplined, the True Path shows bravery in the face of fear (“Do not fear, only Believe ...” ~ Jesus in Mark 5:36). It can easily be said that the option most feared is the option most in need of doing; both to allow for the most personal Glory to God (by the freeing of your Soul from your ego-mind’s fears) as well as to serve others more power-fully (“Rekindle the Gift of God that is within you ... For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a Spirit of Power and of Love ...” ~ 2 Timothy 1:6-7). Self-Discipline has us behaving courageously with others (“We have such a Hope, we act with great boldness.” ~ 2 Corinthians 3:12) and worshiping God with courage as well (“Present yourself to God as one approved by Him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed ...” ~ 2 Timothy 2:15 & “Let us therefore approach the Throne with boldness, so that we may receive Mercy and find Grace to Help in time of need.” ~ Hebrews 4:16) ...

Synopsis: Self-Disciplined actions show courage during life’s fear-filled moments. They are fear-challenging, unconventional & respect-full. During decision-making, ask your Self -- “When I imagine my current alternatives, which one do I fear the most? Is this option motivated by fear or is it intended to courageously Love others despite my fears?”

◆ **God’s Will is allWays Gentle** ... To be gentle with others, humility is required. The Child of God remembers that, with regards to “reality”, perception is flexible. Therefore, keep an open mind with regards to fresh opinions -- including another’s advice and/or criticism (“Morning by morning we waken – waken our ears to Listen as those who are Taught ... We gave our back to those who strike us ... We do not hide our faces from insult.” ~ Isaiah 50:5-6). This doesn’t mean that the humble believer always follows those adverse opinions (“If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater ...” ~ 1 John 5:9). Rather, he or she is simply humble enough to respect

them. In this way, gentle actions are flexible “ahead of time”. When engaging a choice, instead of “knowing” that you are “right”, simply choose to re-mind yourself that -- “Though I cannot be certain that this is the best decision, I stride boldly forth; *intending* to harmonize with the Highest Good of God’s Will -- and yet all the while ready to alter my course of action if it becomes clear that my original choice is not the most power-full one.” (“[Let it] be made clear that this amazing Power [i.e. The Word: selfless Love] comes from God and does not belong to us.” ~ 2 Corinthians 4:7) ...

Synopsis: Gentle choices are humbly made and performed with humility. They are open-minded, intuitive & bold. During decision-making, ask your Self -- “Do I feel ‘certain’ that this particular option’s is right, or am I humbly striving to be Right with God? Does it require that I inflexibly commit to its completion, or does it allow me to adjust while implementing it?”

◆ **God’s Will is allWays Joyful** ... It is crucial to realize that Divine Joy resides only in the Here&Now (“Now is the acceptable time; See, Now is the Moment of Salvation!” ~ 2 Corinthians 6:2). Thus, to be Joy-full “in Christ”, we must detach from our worldly concerns about the future and flow with what IS (“Be on guard so that your Hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of your life ...” ~ Jesus in Luke 21:34). Similarly, the joyful person must also release all regrets related to the past (“No one who puts a hand on the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God.” ~ Jesus in Luke 9:62). As a consequence, to actualize our most power-full Path, it is counterproductive to worry about an action’s potential consequences (“Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” ~ Jesus in Matthew 6:34). Hope for “success” must also be removed from any decision-making process in order for that choice to be truly effective (“You Received without payment; Give without payment ...” ~ Jesus in Matthew 10:8). Thus, all Joyful actions release striving for the attainment of personal ambitions, goals &/or dreams. Instead, use what you already have to serve where you already Are (“Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not my will but *thy will be Done.*” ~ Jesus in Matthew 26:39) ...

Synopsis: Joyful actions are completely oriented in the Here&Now. They are detached from expectation, while grounded in the moment. During decision-making, ask your Self -- “Is this particular option founded in a future-based hope or a memory-based fear, or is it grounded in this Present Moment?” ...

◆ **God’s Will is allWays Faith-full** ... Both societal & man-made judgments of morality are always in some way fear-based -- and therefore inaccurate. The spiritual person, on the other hand, measures his or her actions instead using the Divine standard of Virtue – Morality based in Faith (“Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner Nature is being renewed day by day, because we look not to that which can be seen but rather that which cannot be seen.” ~ 2 Corinthians 4:17-18). To do so consistently, we must follow the internal guidance of the Advocate by focusing on others’ well-Being instead of our own personal “gains” ...

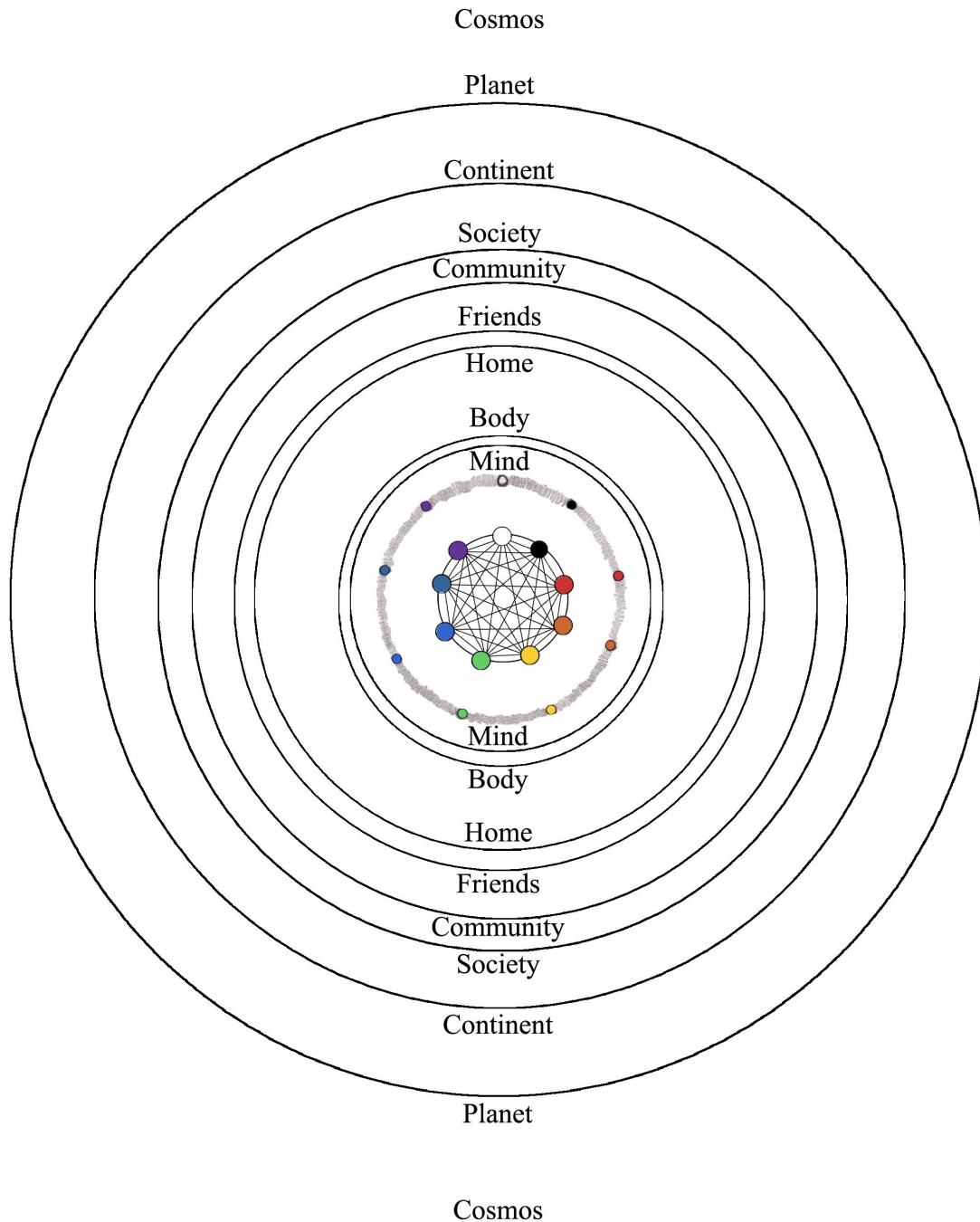
The Child of God chooses to see the Highest Good that resides in everything making up every moment. What IS, is Right and Good (“Whenever you face trials of any kind, consider them nothing but Joy ...” ~ James 1:2). Our mission is to see life as such and our Faith allows us to do so. This mentality allows us to more readily harmonize with our Reality. Thus, Faith-full actions encourage us to see the “Golden Cores of Goodness” residing within all the conscious beings we encounter – regardless of what these beings do or don’t do (“Who are you to pass judgment on the servants of another? It is before their own Lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for God is able to help them stand.” ~ Romans 14:4) ...

Synopsis: Faith-full actions encourage selflessness. They are interconnected, faith-full & virtuous (“moral”). During decision-making, ask your Self -- “Is this particular option a selfish one or a selfless (i.e. Virtuous) one? Is it ‘certain’ or is it open-minded?”

The critical shift in life always comes when the desire to harmonize with your existence becomes greater than your fear of change. And the outcome of this shift is Success-full the instant you choose to believe that “I am completely willing to Serve God’s Will.” The more purely an action harmonizes with God’s Will, the more obvious its Divine characteristics (i.e. its “Fruit”) will become, and the more power-full that choice will be once you to follow through with it ...

Ripples of Right Action

*“To each is given the manifestation of The Spirit for the common good.”
~ Paul (1 Corinthians 12:7)*



Every purely effectuated act of service is significant, with every one of them having a profound effect on the entire Cosmos. Naturally, the closer our proximity to a Loving Act, the more powerfully that Act affects us, and yet it positively influences the entire Universe nonetheless. Discard the myth that only one person can “make a difference” -- Indeed, that is the only person who ever has!

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of The Spirit for the common good.” ~ Paul (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

AllWays God's Will: Selfless, Loving Service

We also know from the teachings of Jesus that only the believer who *actively* Loves his or her neighbor attains the Kingdom of Heaven. Thus, even if we aren't certain of our Life Mission – and even if the “Fruits of the Spirit” test isn't clear, we still know that Loving others is allWays in harmony with God's Will for our lives ...

“Love one another as I have Loved you [i.e. self-sacrificially].”
~ Jesus (John 15:12+17 & John 13:34)

“Be steadfast and immovable, always excelling in the Work of the Lord, because you Know that **in the Lord your labor is never in vain.**” ~ 1 Corinthians 15:58

“For the whole Law is summed up in one Commandment: You shall **Love your neighbor as yourSelf.**” ~ Galatians 5:14

“Live as Children of the Light – for **the fruit of the Light is all that is Good and Right and True.**” ~ Ephesians 5:8-9

“Above all, maintain constant Love for one another ... Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold Grace of God, **serve one another with whatever Gift each of you has received.**” ~ 1 Peter 4:8-10

“**If we Love one another, God Lives in us, and His Love is perfected in us ... God is Love, and those who abide in Love abide in God, and God abides in them.**” ~ 1 John 4:12+16

See also: Isaiah 32:8 ... Matthew 5:44-48 ... John 5:36 ... Romans 2:10-11 ... Romans 12:14+20 ... Romans 12:21 ... Romans 13:3 ... Romans 13:8-10 ... 1 Corinthians 4:20 ... 1 Corinthians 12:4 ... 1 Corinthians 16:14 ... Galatians 5:6 ... Ephesians 2:10 ... Ephesians 4:14-15 ... Colossians 3:14 ... 2 Timothy 3:17 ... Hebrews 13:1-2 ... James 1:20-22 ... James 3:18 ... James 4:17 ... 1 Peter 1:22 ... 1 John 2:3 [with Matthew 22:37-40] ... 1 John 3:14+18 ... 1 John 5:14 ... 2 John 1:6 ... 3 John 1:11

There are opportunities every day (indeed, in every moment) to be a Child of God. Every emotion felt is an opportunity to honestly express it. Every moment of surprise is an opportunity to Love with selfless courage (as opposed to reacting with selfish fear). Every confrontation with something new is an opportunity to stand in awe without analysis, pre-conception or judgment. Every “coincidence” is a Wonder-full opportunity to see God “speaking” with you. Every time you are either attacked or supported is an opportunity to look past the man-made labels of “enemy” or “friend” and simply accept what is being given to you (be that gift the challenge to lovingly forgive the “enemy” or the opportunity to be humbly thank-full for the “friend”).

One day of pro-active, Purpose-full work is enough to bring you Peace ...
One day, every day ...

Actualizing Peace: Walking The Way Practically applying The Way in your Life

Quit “getting ready” to Serve (releasing addictions) ...

Stop searching for external “truth” (especially watching the “news”)

“And why do you not judge for yourself what is Right?” ~ Jesus (Luke 12:57)

“See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit according to human tradition ... and not according to Christ.” ~ Paul (Colossians 2:4+8)

Refrain from analyzing What IS (especially gossip)

“Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged ...” ~ Jesus (Matthew 7:1-2)

“Let no evil talk come from your mouths, but only what is encouraging.” ~ Ephesians 4:29

“Let your speech always be gracious ...” ~ Paul (Colossians 4:6)

“Pursue Peace with everyone ...” ~ Hebrews 12:14-15

Self-Forgive: Ask for no more advice or “help”(especially therapy)

“The one to whom little is forgiven, Loves little ... Your sins are forgiven ... Your Faith has Saved You. Go in Peace.” ~ Jesus (Luke 7:47-50)

“If you Forgive the sins of any, they are Forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” ~ Jesus (John 20:23)

“For what human being knows what is truly human except the Human Spirit that is Within?” ~ Paul (1 Corinthians 2:11)

“Those who are Spiritual discern all things, and they themselves are subject to no one else’s scrutiny.” ~ Paul (1 Corinthians 2:15)

Free your True Self from constraints (releasing conventions) ...

Make no plans and release all goals (especially routines)

“Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your Life? ... So do not worry about tomorrow ... Today’s challenges are enough for today” ~ Jesus (Matthew 6:27+34)

“Be dressed for action and have your Lamps lit.” ~ Jesus (Luke 12:35)

“You are slaves of the one whom you obey ...” ~ Paul (Romans 6:16)

“Now is the acceptable time; Now is the day of Salvation!” ~ Paul (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Consequently release all commitments (especially vows)

“But I say to you, do not swear [oaths] at all, either by Heaven ... or by the earth.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 5:34)

“You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of others; but God knows your Hearts; for what is prized by human beings is an abomination in the sight of God.” ~ Jesus (Luke 16:15)

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom.” ~ Paul (2 Corinthians 3:17)

“For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” ~ Paul (Galatians 5:1)

Gently challenge Societal “norms” (especially the “law”)

“Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites ... You abandon the Commandments of God and hold [instead] to human traditions.” ~ Jesus (Mark 7:6-8)

“It is lawful to Do Good on the Sabbath.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 12:12)

“We must obey God rather than any human authority.” ~ Luke (Acts 5:29)

“Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then Do what is Good, and you will receive its approval ...” ~ Paul (Romans 13:3)

“Do not become slaves of human masters. In whatever condition you were Called, there remain with God.” ~ Paul (1 Corinthians 7:23-24)

“If you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.” ~ Paul (Galatians 5:18)

Love Power-fully (releasing self-centeredness) ...

Be Thank-full (especially for your “tragedies”)

“The good person brings good things out of a good treasure, and the evil person brings evil things out of an evil treasure ... By your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 12:35+37)

“All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 23:12)

“Nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.” ~ Paul (Romans 14:14)

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made ... And the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will infuse your Hearts and minds ...” ~ Paul (Philippians 4:6-7)

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the Will of God ...” ~ Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

“For everything created by God is Good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving ...” ~ 1 Timothy 4:4

Give anonymously (especially to strangers – i.e. Be Kind)

“And when You Give ... do not let your left hand know what your right hand is Doing.” ~ Jesus (Matthew 6:3)

“You Received without payment; Give without payment.” Jesus (Matthew 10:8)

“And when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. And you will be Blessed, because they cannot repay you ...” ~ Jesus (Luke 14:13-14)

“In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, ‘It is more Blessed to Give than to receive.’” ~ Luke (Acts 20:35)

“Give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God Loves a cheerful Giver.” ~ Paul (2 Corinthians 9:7)

“Be Kind to one another ...” ~ Ephesians 4:32

“Show hospitality to strangers, for by Doing so you entertain angels unawares.” ~ Hebrews 13:2

“Do not neglect to Do Good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” ~ Hebrews 13:16

“Every generous act of Giving, with every perfect Gift, is from Above, coming down from the Father of Lights, in whom there is no variation of shadow due to change.” ~ James 1:17

Forgive “neighbors” (especially your “enemies” who need Love most!)

“Love your enemies, Do Good to those who hate you ... pray for those who abuse you.” ~ Jesus (Luke 6:27-28)

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” ~ Jesus (Luke 6:36)

“Bless those who persecute you; Bless and do not curse them.” ~ Paul (Romans 12:14)

“Do not repay anyone evil for evil ... Live peaceably with all [and] never avenge yourselves ... If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink ... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with Good.” ~ Paul (Romans 12:17-21)

“Let your gentleness be known to everyone.” ~ Paul (Philippians 4:5)

“Pursue Peace with everyone ...” ~ Hebrews 12:14

“Mercy triumphs over judgment.” ~ James 2:13

“And a harvest of Righteousness is sown in Peace for those who make Peace.” ~ James 3:18

“Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a Blessing. It is for this that you were Called ...” ~ 1 Peter 3:9

There are many individuals (both friends and “foes”; teachers and “students”) who have enabled me to become my Self and live the life I live; serving the Way I have been blessed to serve ...

When I look another in the eye and smile, that is my purest Thanks ...
When I anonymously Do Good for another, that is my purest Thanks ...
When I share my Life selflessly, that is my purest Thanks ...

And so, I thank each of You with –

Shalom*

(*Hebrew for “Well-Being, Peace and Wholeness”)

Blessings of Peace to you all on
your respective Ways through Life!



As far as questions or comments are concerned, answering “Life’s Calls” is what I do. So feel free (literally!) to contact me any time for any reason. It would be a blessing for me to be able to serve any of you in any way ...

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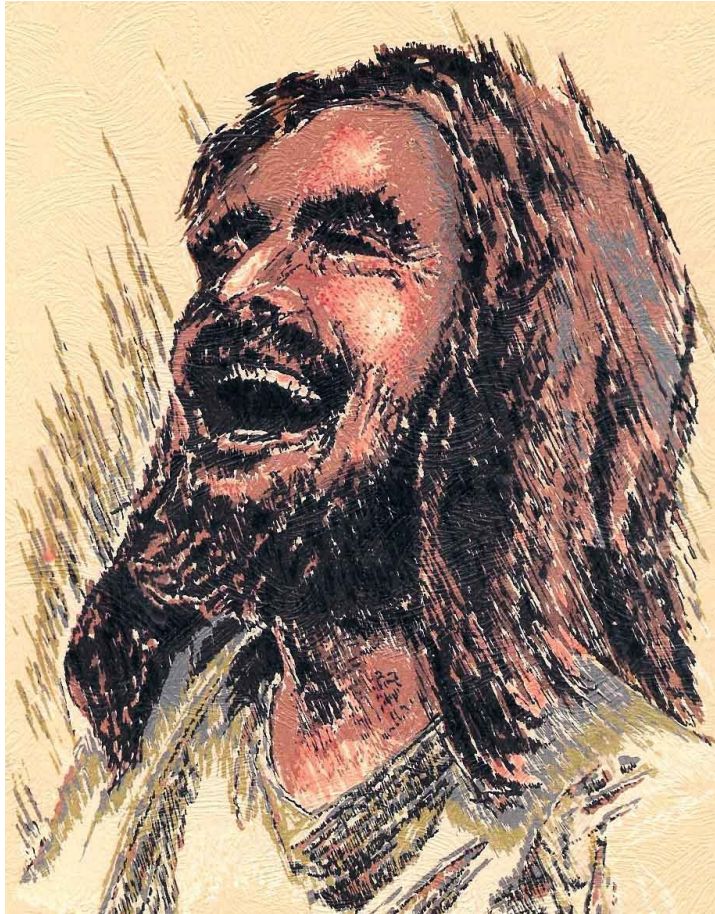
As far as the information in this “handout” is concerned, I do not consider it “mine” ...

It was Given freely to Me, and I Give it freely onward ...

So do the same -- however & for whomever You wish!!!

“Come, you that are Blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the Foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you cared for me, I was in prison and you visited me ... Truly I tell you, just as you did it for one of the least of these who are members of my Family, you did it for me as well ... Come, all that are weary ... and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your Souls.”

~ Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30 & 25:34-36)



“I have said these things to you that my Joy may be In You, and that your Joy may be complete ... I have said this all to you, so that, within my Way, you may Find Peace.”

~ Jesus (John 15:11 & 16:13)

“Whoever Loves another Lives in the Light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling ... Beloved, let us Love one another, because Love is from God; everyone who Loves is Born of God and Knows God ... God is Love, and those who abide in Love abide in God, and God abides in them.”
~ Anonymous (1 John 2:10 & 4:7+16)



“And I will take one from a thousand and two from ten thousand, and they shall Become a single One.”
~ Jesus (Gospel of Thomas 23)