

Ephesians 2013

Spiritual Life Span Development Adulthood #1

1

The Believer's Grace Adjustment to the Justice of God

- Psalms 66:18 If I perceive sin in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.
- Psalms 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.
- I Cor 11:31 But if we judge ourselves rightly, we should not be judged.
- 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all other unrighteousness.

3

Invitation: The Non-Believer's Grace Adjustment to the Justice of God (If you have never trusted in Christ Alone for salvation...)

"Whosoever **believes** in me will not perish, but have everlasting life." [Jn 3:15](#)

"He that **believes** on him is not condemned, but he that **believes** not is condemned already, because he has not **believed** in the name of the only begotten Son of God." [Jn 3:18](#)

"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one that which sees the Son, and **believes** on him, will have everlasting life, and I will raise him up on the last day." [Jn 6:40](#)

"Truly I say unto you, he that **believes** on me, has everlasting life." [Jn 6:47](#)

4

- Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace you are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
- Rom. 11:6, *"But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace."*
- Gal. 2:21, *"I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."*
- Gal. 3:24, *"Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith."*

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- 1 Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."
- "Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved" Acts 16:31

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The Problem Solving Device and Spiritual Growth Stage:
These are my pastor's terms. They are explained in his 1983 Ephesians and 1992 Spiritual Dynamics series (19 parts of Bible classes, recorded live, available free). Small first parentheses are explanatory.

Spiritual Childhood		Spiritual Adolescence		Spiritual Adulthood aka "Spiritual Self Esteem" (stages 1-4)				Spiritual Maturity aka "Eternal"
Link	Spiritualizing	Faith-Best	Grace Orientation	Doctrinal Orientation	Personal Sense of Destiny	Personal (Divine) Love (Focus on the Father)	Impersonal (Independent-of-attraction) Love for mankind	Attracting (in the Happiness of God)

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Spiritual Adulthood

Relationship-to-God
 Content and "whys" dominate.
 Do's = now spirituality, works *rejected*.
 Morality = now spirituality, *rejecting morality as standard*.
 Emotions = now spirituality, emotions *rejected*.
Judgementalism: switches to those who don't study Word.
 Divorces and separation from friends, family, happen here, [Matt10:34-40](#).

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Love/Growth
 Coalesced trust, which ironically dulls curiosity.
 Bible reasoning dominates.
 If hurt, ignores it.
 Loves pondering pro's and con's, may be fixated.
ATTRACTION PHASE of Love for God.

8

Weakness Growth

Ticked off by some arguments.

Too 'settled', so misses good teaching.

Too busy enjoying the 'rest' of having answers.

Setup for Divine Discipline to follow in substage 2!

9

Trial Status

Crossover to Cognizance, very dangerous time.

Enjoys debating when disputed by 'smart' people.

Prosperity rest ensues, so one slides into complacency.

10

- **Spiritual Adulthood**

- Usage of spiritual life is regular to instinctive, increasing in duration and consistency with repetition, as human ideas of God and the spiritual life are progressively discarded, instead.
- "Doctrinal Orientation" is instinctive, and progressively sophisticated. It's a beginning prosperity test, and we flunk it as the Laodiceans did. Competence is the new false spirituality.
- **Retardation** evidenced by Bible-smarts legalism.
- ***True Bible Competence can wreck your spiritual life if you forget Who gave it to you. It is dangerous, to enjoy smarts too much.***

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- This 1st substage of Spiritual Adulthood is a very heady time, and a major victory in the Trial — so R&R ensues.
- And that's what's wrong with it. So many years spent in ignorance but now knowing, is like winning the lottery.
- **The believer here is more mature than millions of other Christians — and knows it.**
- Two polar dangers result: Word complacency and/or Word-bulimia. Like any newly-rich person, this spiritual adult goes overboard.
- Sin patterns reverse, old relationships die — yet that's not only the believer's fault. Commonalities once shared with intimates drop off.
- Divine Love for God began — but halts. Testing and Discipline will shortly follow the R&R, as all this prosperity distracts you from His Agenda.

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**Review of
The Stages of Spiritual Growth**

**The Childhood Stages of Spiritual Growth:
(1) The Filling of the Holy Spirit**

This is the power gate for the believer in the Church Age ([Acts 1:8](#) [1Cor. 2:4-5](#)). We access this power by naming our sins to God, which puts us back into fellowship (sins take us out; naming them to God puts us back in).

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(2) Childhood Basic Christian Modus Operandi

Naming one's sins to God (called rebound—[1John 1:9](#) [1Cor. 11:31](#)), the faith rest drill, objectivity vs. subjectivity (being willing to accept revealed truth as opposed to holding onto our inner truth).

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(3) Enforced and genuine humility

This is submission to legitimate authority.

Enforced humility: Begins at home. Parents use discipline to teach their children humility. Purpose: give child a chance to succeed in life after he leaves home.

Genuine humility: originates from the perception of doctrine under the three stages:

Reception - the gnosis stage.

Retention, the epignosis stage.

Recall, the application of doctrine to all experiences stage.

Absolutely essential for advance in the plan of God. provides the teachability necessary for the inculcation of doctrine.

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**Adolescent Stage
Spiritual Momentum**

Perception and application of Bible doctrine.

All believers in the Church Age have the ability to understand Bible doctrine; and God has made it available (although there are a limited number of doctrinal churches, there is a surfeit of accurate information on the internet).

Doctrinal Orientation: At this stage, the believer begins to apply doctrine to their life and to their day-to-day situations.

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The Adult Stages of Spiritual Growth:**(5) Spiritual Self Esteem and Motivational virtue**

Personal love for God.
Beginning to develop occupation with Christ and a personal sense of destiny, recognizing that we are in a plan and a conflict which is much greater than we are.

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(6) Spiritual Autonomy and Functional Virtue

Impersonal love toward all mankind (that is, you do not have to work up emotional feelings about people in general).

These two stages appear to work in tandem, rather than one proceeding from the other.

Doctrine is in your human soul cycling throughout, so that you interact properly with people (we are given a human soul in order to interact with people).

Doctrine is in your human spirit so that you interact correctly we God (We love Him because He first loved us.).

Our human spirit is given for fellowship with God; it is the repository of doctrinal information.

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(7) Momentum Testing

This is illustrated in Job 1–2 with disaster testing, where Job's life is ruined, and yet he responds to God through the doctrine of his soul.

This can involve people testing, system testing, disaster testing and/or thought testing. Quite obviously, believers respond to disaster testing differently, depending upon their stage of spiritual growth.

Job's wife is facing some of the same things that Job faces, and she responds quite differently to it.

Therefore, in month two, as a believer, you do not ask God for this kind of testing.

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Paul, of the ministry that he and his fellow travelers had:

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies (2Cor. 4:7–10).

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*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **knowing** that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfecting work, that you may be **perfect and complete**, lacking nothing ([James 1:2-4](#))*

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Trial Status

Crossover to Cognizance, *very dangerous time.*

Enjoys debating when disputed by 'smart' people.

Prosperity rest ensues, so one slides into complacency.

- Doctrine of Application of Doctrine
- A. Introduction.
- Following the adolescent stage with its Doctrinal and Grace Orientation, the Adult Stage will be the opportunity for Testing what you have learned - now you must apply it in worse and worse circumstances!
- Because trouble comes, many Believers begin to back off from doctrine at this stage.
- 1. There are three ways in which believers reject Bible doctrine.
 - > a. Refusing to hear the teaching of the Word of God on a consistent basis.
 - > b. Hearing the teaching of Bible doctrine, but refusing to metabolize it; hence, the failure to convert gnosis into epignosis.
 - > c. Metabolizing doctrine so that it exists in the stream of consciousness, but the doctrine becomes unusable or forgotten.

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2. When the believer, under one or more of these three conditions, has rejected Bible doctrine, two things happen.

a. There is the accumulation of scar tissue formed in the seven compartments of the stream of consciousness. This means that the things you have learned are forgotten or set aside, so that when stress and adversity occurs, you fall flat on your face.

b. Dissociation occurs resulting in the accumulation of garbage in the subconscious.

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3. When a believer has too much garbage in the subconscious and maximum scar tissue of the soul, that believer is extremely vulnerable to the functions of his sin nature, and he enters into a state of confusion.

4. This state of confusion overflows from cosmos diabolicus, so that the thinking of the believer involved cannot be distinguished from the thinking of human viewpoint of the unbeliever.

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5. Such believers add the emotional complex of sins plus the arrogance complex of sins to their state of confusion.
6. Confusion demands concentration. If you have not been concentrating under the filling of the Spirit in Bible class, do not expect to be able to concentrate when faced with the confusion created by Satan's cosmic systems. A thought can make or break you. What you really are is what you think.

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B. Principles.

1. When believers have too much garbage in the subconscious and maximum scar tissue of the soul, there is nothing you can do to satisfy them.
2. From the emotional complex of sins, such a believer may become irrational and confused.
3. From the arrogance complex of sins, such a believer becomes bitter and implacable, jealous and vindictive, and self-righteous. There is nothing you can do to please them.

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4. Implacable believers must be treated in grace. You cannot argue with an irrational person.
5. Beware that you do not lose your own integrity or spiritual strength in interacting with such persons. Do not let people with mental attitude and verbal sins drag you down with them.

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6. This is where three factors in your life must synchronize.
a. You must have the foundation of humility. When you are criticized, there is always something you can learn from it, but you must have humility.
b. You must have the professionalism of understanding the mechanics of God's will, plan, and purpose for your life as well as the problem solving devices.
c. You must have the spiritual strength to use the shield of faith (the faith-rest drill) in the environment of confusion and disaster. This is your integrity and it comes from inculcation of Bible doctrine.

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7. Implacable believers can only be treated by you in grace; for only God can deal with implacable believers. Therefore, the emphasis is on the importance of leaving them in the Lord's hands.

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C. Additional Principles.

1. The environment of confusion causes stress. If there is confusion in some area of life (the home, romance, friendship), then there is stress in that area.
2. Confusion demands concentration—bringing reality from doctrine into the stream of consciousness. A thought can make or break you.
 - a. Marcus Aurelius, “Our life is what our thoughts make it.”
 - b. [Prov 23:7](#), “As a person thinks in his heart, so he is.”
 - c. [Gal 6:3](#), “If anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.”

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3. Your soul is a spiritual battlefield. What you think determines whether you are winning or losing. [Eph 4:23](#), “Then become refreshed [renewed] by means of the Spirit by means of your thinking.”

4. You must learn doctrine before you can think doctrine. You cannot think what you do not know.

5. Arrogance is confusion of mind which matches the confusion of life without Bible doctrine.

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Therefore, there is a divine mandate given in [Rom 12:2-3](#), “*Stop being conformed to this world but be transformed by the renovation of your thinking, that you may prove what the will of God is, namely the divine good production, the well pleasing to God, the mature status quo. For I say through the grace which has been given to me to every one who is among you, stop thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance beyond what you ought to think, but think in terms of sanity for the purpose of being rational without illusion as God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from doctrine.*”

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a. Stop being conformed to this world means to stop being in a state of confusion. The world thinks human viewpoint.

b. Thinking of yourself in terms of arrogance is confusion.

6. [1 Cor 10:12](#), "Therefore, let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall."

7. [Phil 2:5](#), "Keep on having this mental attitude in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

8. [Phil 3:15](#), "Therefore, as many as are mature believers, let us continue objective thinking. Furthermore, if you have a different mental attitude in something God will reveal that to you."

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9. Concentration on Bible doctrine in time of stress and confusion is mandated. [Col 3:2](#), "*Keep thinking objectively about things above [divine viewpoint] and not about things on the earth [human viewpoint].*"

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Application of B.D. means Awareness

1. Awareness denotes the status of being mentally alert from heightened perception of doctrine, resulting in the motivation to learn and to use the ten problem solving devices of the protocol plan of God for the Church. In eternity past, God has provided the perfect solution to every problem in life. We have a choice between God's solutions or man's solutions. Man's solutions end up in disaster.

2. Awareness is both motivation to learn followed by persistent perception of doctrine. This includes motivation to learn the Problem Solving Devices (PSD), including the perceptive power to utilize these PSDs as circumstances dictate.

3. Awareness connotes a wide knowledge, accurate interpretive ability, and vigilant application. This interpretive ability belongs to you as a believer as you accumulate metabolized doctrine in your own heart (stream of consciousness).

4. Awareness is part of the thinking skills of the spiritual life.

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Thinking skills include:

a. Comprehension: the capacity of the human mind to function under spiritual I.Q. to enter perception, cognition, and metabolization of Bible doctrine in your stream of consciousness. Human I.Q. is not a factor in the cognition of doctrine. The filling of the Holy Spirit makes us all equal in the ability to comprehend doctrine.

b. Memory: the mental capacity to retain in the stream of consciousness and recall metabolized doctrine for a specific circumstance of life. As the number of doctrinal memories increase, the number of divine viewpoint thoughts also increase, resulting in the formation of doctrinal rationales to be applied to experience through the function of the faith-rest drill. The rate of learning must exceed the rate of forgetting.

c. Problem solving: the utilization of the ten problem solving devices in the soul. All problem solving devices are manufactured out of EPIGNOSIS doctrine in the stream of consciousness. The problem solving devices are the only accurate and legitimate system of application of metabolized doctrine to post salvation experience, including establishment values. The problem solving devices are a grace gift from God which replace human viewpoint solutions, psychology, and defense mechanisms.

The gratitude gauge is an invisible measure in the soul that indicates the progress of the believer's rapport and relationship with God. The gauge assesses incremental increases of capacity in the spiritual life. Each increment reflects one of the ten problem-solving devices deployed on the FLOT line of the soul. The gauge registers "1" when the believer employs rebound. When the believer metabolizes doctrine, he advances by spiritual growth to the highest reading of "10"—occupation with Christ. At this pinnacle of the spiritual life the mature believer achieves maximum capacity for virtue, honor, and integrity; for life, love, and happiness; and the divine viewpoint necessary to solve problems and glorify God to the maximum.

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d. Decision making: the power and ability to understand the issues of life, to classify the solution or course of action, and to make the right decision to do the will of God as revealed in the Word of God. Continuous negative decisions can go beyond the point of no return. We must understand the facts related to Bible doctrine before we can exercise our volition to make good decisions from a position of strength.

e. Creativity: the function of divine viewpoint from independent thinking and accurate originality of thought related to spiritual values. Creative thinking always includes spiritual values found in the Word of God. Creative thinking is recovery of truth and brings full awareness. Creative thinkers arouse the jealousy of pseudo-thinkers. Creativity is the means of Pastors rediscovering Biblical truths such as dispensations, spiritual skills, precedence for the spiritual life from the humanity of Christ during His first advent, the origin of human life at birth, etc. We have equality in the recovery of these doctrines and the powerful presentation of such truth in spite of all opposition.

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f. Awareness: extensive knowledge of doctrine and interpretive ability from the Launch Pad of the heart of your soul (wisdom in the stream of consciousness), resulting in accurate application to every circumstance in life. Sensitivity involves arrogance, while awareness is the application of metabolized doctrine through the Problem Solving Devices deployed in the soul.

Awareness is having knowledge in the stream of consciousness, being informed, alert, and knowledgeable about others, situations, and circumstances.

Out of true awareness comes wisdom. There is no wisdom in life without the thinking skill of awareness developed through the Problem Solving Devices.

Awareness wades through all the pressures and opposition to Bible doctrine with a concentration, a self-motivation, and accurate spiritual values to continue advancing toward the objective of spiritual maturity and the glorification of God.

Awareness avoids all of the arrogance traps, such as pseudo-compassion.

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5. Awareness is the motivator for the fulfillment of the four dimensions found in [Eph 3:18](#)

[Eph 3:18](#), “**That you may utilize the power to grasp the idea with all the saints what is the width and length and height and depth.**”

Next we see in [John 16:4b](#), “**These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.**”

Principles:

1. Jesus did not teach them these doctrines at the beginning or early on because they were not yet spiritually equipped to handle them. They did not have the capacity at that time.
2. Not only did they not yet have the Holy Spirit, but they did not have the foundational doctrines in their souls.
3. As spiritual babies we can not understand the more advanced doctrines of the spiritual life because we do not yet have the capacity for them.

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4. The more advanced doctrines can only be sustained by having the foundational doctrines in the heart of your soul, [1 Cor 3:10](#) with [Heb 6:1-2](#)...

[Heb 6:1](#), “**Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ²of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.**”

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5. Once you have the foundational doctrines in your soul you now have capacity to build upon them with more advanced doctrines.

That is, once you build the basis for your Edification Complex of the Soul, you can then lay upon it the more advanced doctrines of the spiritual life, including the doctrine of Suffering for Blessing, (persecutions), whereby you construct a full Edification Complex of your Soul.

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6. We first have capacity to learn the foundational doctrines because of our regenerated human spirit and the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit, which are two of the 40 things we received at the moment of Salvation.

7. Having learned the foundational doctrines within our soul, we then have capacity to learn advanced doctrines.

8. With advanced doctrines in your soul you have constructed the ECS, and now you have capacity to fully execute the unique spiritual life of the Church Age, which means glorification of Jesus Christ.

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Summary:

Salvation builds capacity for learning foundational doctrines.

Foundational doctrines build capacity for learning advanced doctrines.

Advanced doctrines build capacity for executing the Unique Spiritual life of the Church Age.

Executing the Unique Spiritual Life of the Church Age builds capacity for glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ.

Glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ is the goal for every believer.

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Rom 15:4, "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

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COSMIC SYSTEM

Involves both cosmic one and cosmic two, and entails the overall objectives of Satan in using mankind to attempt to prove his superiority over God. The cosmic system is the devil's multifaceted policy for achieving his goal by way of human viewpoint projected through the world system. The cosmic system refers to the Greek word kosmos. Satan is king of the world and its cosmic system.

CURRENT POSITIONAL TRUTH

Identification with Christ as He is seated at the right hand of God the Father in His resurrection, ascension, and session. Identification with His spiritual death means rejection of human good and evil. Identification with His physical death means separation from human good and evil. Identification with his burial means divorce from human good and evil. This provides "newness of life". We now share God the Son's perfect righteousness and eternal life, in addition to possessing the perfect righteousness and eternal life of God the Father by imputation. This makes us a unique species in all of the universe: Unique from angels, unique from millennial saints and unique from Old Testament saints.

ESCROW

A written agreement entered into by three parties; the obligor, the obligee and the depository for the transfer of certain benefits. This sealed agreement of the obligor, generally accompanied by the deed, bond, or chattel to be conveyed, is made contingent on some future happening or on the performance of some act by the obligee, and is delivered to the depository and held by him pending the occurrence of that event, or the performance of the required act by the obligee. When the event has taken place or the obligee has performed the specified act, the depository delivers to him the agreement and the deposit is held. The depository or custodian is allowed no discretion, but must follow strictly the terms of the agreement as it concerns the other two parties. There is an eternal escrow and there are three parties in that escrow. The obligor is God the Father who has placed Himself under legal obligation in eternity past to provide two categories of special and unusual blessings, both temporal and eternal, for the obligee, the believer who fulfills the predesigned plan of God. The depository or custodian is God the Son. In eternity past, both categories of blessings were deposited with our Lord Jesus Christ in escrow, pending the obligee's future advance to spiritual maturity. The obligee is every Church-age believer.

ESCROW BLESSINGS

These are infinitely superior to all other categories of divine blessings for both time and eternity. There are no set circumstances that can hinder the conveyance of your escrow blessings in time. You will receive your escrow blessings as an adult believer even though the rest of the nation is falling apart around you. Escrow blessings are a metaphor designed to explain the ultimate blessings available to every Christian in time and eternity. A metaphore is the application of a phrase or a concept to an object or concept; it does not literally denote in order to suggest a comparison.

GRACE ORIENTATION

Being oriented to the grace policy of God through the inculcation of Bible doctrine under genuine humility and the teaching ministry of God the Holy Spirit. The grace-orientated believer does not judge others, and always offers other believers privacy while minding his own business. Grace orientation offers to others the very grace that God offers to you.

IMPERSONAL LOVE

A virtue love which emphasizes the character of the subject (you) rather than the object being loved. Impersonal love emphasizes something in you rather than emphasizing something in the object of your love. A great example of impersonal love comes from God the Father in that when we were all yet sinners, He loved us through the giving of His only begotten Son, Joh 3:16.

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HUMAN GOOD

Good deeds produced under the control of the sin nature. The believer with unconfessed sin in his life is not spiritual but carnal (controlled by the sin nature). The good deeds of a carnal Christian are indistinguishable from good deeds performed by an unbeliever and have no spiritual value. (Antonym: Divine Good). This must never be confused with morality, or the legitimate production of the believer. Human good is the production of the believer in the cosmic system. Human good is not valid in God's eyes. Human good is the production of evil. Human good is the result of function inside the cosmic systems. It is often a reaction, e.g., helping someone because you dislike a person who wasn't helping that person, or showing someone how much better you are by your Christian production. People often give because they are unhappy. The believer performing human good can be motivated by cosmic one or cosmic two.

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HUMILITY

The antithesis of arrogance! Without humility there can be no reception of truth! Without perception of truth there can be no spiritual growth, hence no spiritual life.

INVISIBLE ASSETS

Those divine assets provided by God the Father in eternity past for the execution of the predesigned plan of God in the believer's life. It is our invisible assets that we need to utilize to make our calling and election sure, 2 Pet 1:9-11.

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JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

The evaluation of all Church-age believers. "Judgment" can mean two things: Condemnation & Evaluation. In this context, it refers to evaluation. The Judgment Seat of Christ is a technical, theological term used to designate the evaluation of the royal family of God at the end of the Church-age after the rapture or resurrection of the Church. It is the evaluation of what use we made of logistical grace provisions, the problem solving devices, and divine power. The evaluation is determined on the basis of the execution of the predesigned plan of God, or the failure to do so. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine gain or loss of escrow blessings (rewards) for eternity. Gain comes from the exploitation, positive volition, and advance in the predesigned plan of God. Loss comes from cosmic living and failing to execute the Christian way of life as God's game plan for the Church-age believer. It also means your escrow blessings remain on deposit forever as a memorial to lost opportunity.

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