

REALITY LEARNING CENTER

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Volume 003

INTERPRETATION

Section 03

Seven Steps of Spiritual Growth

It is assumed that the reader has previously read the Tutorial, which includes the Word Picture of Reality, The Seven Days of Creation, and the Garden of Eden Story. Basic concepts are necessary to best recognize the foundation for interpretations discussed in this writing, and understanding Genesis 1-3 is the Spiritual Key to interpreting the Bible.

Introduction

Because of the interacting relationship of the Seven Steps for Spiritual Growth, it is difficult to describe them as distinct steps. This interpretation of the Biblical concepts revealed in Genesis 1-3 will expand on the Seven Days of Creation interpretation to better explain the function of each of our main aspects to spiritual growth. It also points out the supporting scripture concepts--such as why Jesus was in the heart of the earth *3 days and 3 nights*. If we understand the relationship of our main aspects, we can better recognize the goal we are to reach to fulfill GOD's destiny for us.

The Seven Steps

GOD's Seven Main Aspects are Spirit, Principal, Intellect, Soul, Life, Truth, and Love. When GOD speaks of Man as being in HIS Image in Genesis 1, HE is referring to the fact that Man has these same main aspects and the abilities they give him. Each of the Aspects were revealed previously as the creative process was revealed--see "[The Seven Days of Creation](#)". These aspects function in Unity to produce a living being. When all Seven Aspects are, complete according to the uniqueness GOD created each of us to have, then we are perfect; so the number for individual perfection is 7. Please refer to the [Word Picture of Reality](#) for a complete picture of the functioning relationship of these aspects within each of us. Note that the Seven Aspects are separated by the three levels of our being--cause, expression, and manifestation.

[Spirit is the first step in spiritual growth](#), which follows the creative process as given us in Genesis 1; but we must realize that none of the aspects of our being function independently of the others. Our being has two distinct sides to it--the masculine and the feminine. The masculine

side is the action or executive side (state of mind) that deals primarily with all things external to our being. The feminine side is our receptive state of mind and our life reservoir. The feminine side is our life. Together they function as follows:

1. At the Cause level, Spirit expresses Principle (of what we are) and Love (the reservoir of all we Love) expresses Truth (of the way we are).
2. Our Principles and the Truth of who we are forms our Soul at the Expression level of our being. Our Soul is always in the present (now).
3. Our Principles and the Truth of who we are is manifested as Intellect (our Adam) and Life (our Eve) respectively. Together our Adam and Eve are who we are currently. Our Adam and Eve actually live in the past relative to our Soul which is always in the present. Therefore, we know who and what we are if we just stop and consider what we see.

To grow spiritually we must seek the purposes of GOD for us, and in many ways we may not know what those purposes are. Just as a sea turtle is motivated to crawl across the sand to get to the ocean and in the process learns to swim in water, so we go through life seeking resolutions to problems we see. As we find solutions to those problems we grow in our ability to solve more difficult problems--usually of a higher order.

We should recognize GOD's overall purpose, though, which is unity. Therefore, we cannot be seeking self-serving solutions to life situations and be led by GOD's Spirit at the same time. Whatever we do, we should do it for the good of all in the highest relationship of unity we can see from where we are.

At the first church social function I attended after becoming a Christian, I heard individuals discussing the trading of music tapes they had purchased for the purpose of allowing the other to copy them. Even if there weren't any copyright laws, a Christian should know better than this because they would not want it done to them if they created the tapes.

As we strive to seek solutions to life situations that are good for all of which we are aware, we will find many

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times that we respond incorrectly to a particular situation almost automatically. It should be GOD's Spirit in us that reveals our incorrect response and an area of our life that needs to change. We can then consider the correct life response and do so in the future. Eventually, we should become more and more sensitive to even the finer points of living Christ-like, and Christ's Spirit will be leading us in more and more of our daily activities.

Blasphemy of the Spirit is the only unforgivable sin because we never take the first step of growing spiritually by seeking the purposes of GOD. In this state we cannot be forgiven because we have not yet become a Child of GOD. As we seek unity in all relationships where we can, it will be GOD that guides us in our spiritual growth; but first we must truly seek through GOD's Spirit in us.

The Second Step of Spiritual Growth is Principle.

Principle is the expression of Spirit and is the complimentary Aspect of Truth, which together produces our Soul--who we are at the moment. **It is important to consider the functioning order of all of GOD's Seven Main Aspects as illustrated in the Word Picture of Reality.** Spirit is cause in its Reality and Principle is expression, which means it functions in the present at all times. Therefore, our Soul is always in the present relative to the time line of its reality.

Principle is a masculine aspect of our being and defines **what** we are to be. Principle is a high order expression that cannot be broken--i.e. law can be broken. One Principle can be reflected by thousands of laws as we will see when we discuss Intellect (our Adam). Principle cannot be broken because we can never be what we aren't, and GOD has determined what we are to be.

Spiritual Growth can only occur from the level of good that is in us--i.e. born again. Everyone created by GOD, no matter how evil they appear to be, has good in them. If this wasn't true, then neither could they be redeemed; and GOD would have created evil, which is impossible because of all HE is. At some point in time we sinned against GOD and utilized the good HE had given us to serve our own self-serving purposes and created a false and evil life-style in us that utilizes the good in us to serve its needs. Such life-styles function as a parasite on the true life because they prevent the good in us from serving the true life as long as they are being practiced. **ALL** of us practice such life-styles to some degree, or we would not be in this world. We all practice several parasitic life-styles. Some life-styles just aren't as noticeable as others. All such life-styles of all living beings together create and sustain **Satan**. Therefore, Satan is **totally** evil and **not** a creation of GOD.

Our Spirit seeks what is needed for us to grow spiritually because the female side of our being (Love, Truth, and Life) has a need that is causing us discomfort (**lack of peace/joy/love**). Therefore, our female side **desires** a solution that will remove the discomfort and produce the needed peace.

If our seeking Spirit is GOD's Spirit, then GOD will provide a revelation (**spiritual light--i.e. Gen 1:3**) completing the first step. This revelation will reveal the solution to our female side's need to our Spirit by utilizing the level of good in us to grow a higher level of good replacing the evil in us that is producing the discomfort. The solution, therefore, depends on the level of good in us and what and who we are **to be** in the body of Christ. Therefore, the Principle expressed by our Spirit based on GOD's revelation will define what we are **to be** and the next step we can follow to replace what we are now that is producing the discomfort.

Because of our level of thinking, the concept of Principle is difficult for us to understand. Our dictionaries almost equate it with law, but law is an aspect of the physical reality while Principle is an aspect of the higher spiritual reality. Law defines the forming of physical relationships while Principle defines **what** a spiritual relationship **will be**. When Principle is expressed for spiritual growth our Soul becomes a blend of what we will be and who we are now. In other words, Principle is defining the **potential** of what we will be.

When our Spirit is correct, we have essentially turned our spiritual growth over to GOD because we can never know what and who we are to be in the body of Christ. We can only work toward producing unity (good) in all the relationships we can be a part. Initially, we will only be aware of the most obvious life-styles weakening unity; but as we grow spiritually, we will become aware of life-styles that limit unity in smaller and smaller ways. As we grow spiritually through learning how to replace false life-styles in ourselves and helping others to do the same, we will draw closer and closer to what we are to be as defined by the Principle expressed by our Spirit.

So GOD is always the one causing the growth.

The Third Step of Spiritual Growth is Intellect. Intellect is the manifestation of Principle. Intellect is a temporary aspect created to deal directly with a created reality. In the Garden of Eden Story, Adam is Intellect. Therefore, he came from dust and to dust he will return. This is because his only purpose is to express the laws necessary to properly create relationships in the physical reality, which is a temporary reality. When our being is separated from our body, our Adam is not needed anymore; and our

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Spirit, who expressed the Principle manifesting Adam, returns to GOD.

Since Intellect is at the manifestation level of our spiritual being (our conscious mind), our Soul--who we are at the moment--is aware of all that Intellect **has done**. Relative to our Soul--always in the present--Intellect is in the past. Therefore, our Soul is aware of the thoughts we have had. Although those thoughts appear to be changing, our Soul is only aware of them after they have been manifested in our mind.

Note on the [Word Picture of Reality](#) that Intellect and Life (our Adam and Eve) act as the Cause in the physical reality. Therefore, they become an entity (Man) that must have freewill to properly serve GOD's Purpose--growing in Love. Therefore, they have the potential of separating themselves from GOD by **not** being who they are. Essentially, they may rebel against GOD--sin; and this is what happened in the Garden of Eden when Eve was enticed by her self-serving nature to desire a self-serving life situation and Adam allowed it to be experienced while knowing it was wrong.

The third step of spiritual growth is Adam learning the laws necessary to experience a new life situation as revealed by GOD through HIS Spirit in Man. Adam (or Intellect), therefore, learns how to form a proper physical relationship correctly that begins or continues to grow the next branch on the [Tree of Life](#) for Eve.

We experience this process daily and it is the same as manipulating lead marks on a piece of paper to learn math concepts. Intellect has learned certain laws of numbers that define proper relationships that build on math science. He then manipulates those relationships to find higher order correct relationships. The lead marks on the piece of paper in the physical reality are merely symbols representing spiritual relationships in the spiritual reality where our true life is.

In the same way we know GOD only at the level at which we are able to form correct relationships in the physical reality that properly creates HIS Life in us in the spiritual reality. We cannot truly know GOD in anyway that we can't express HIM--except intellectually. We can conceive of GOD being Infinite intellectually, but we can't be infinite and know HIM in that way. Because of Intellect's capability of envisioning possibilities that are not currently realized through experience, our Adam becomes the tool through which GOD guides us along the path to our highest destiny.

When we have a spiritual need, our Eve desires a solution; and our Adam conceives of many possibilities. If our Spirit is correct, GOD reveals the correct possibility determined

by what and who we are to be in the body of Christ (our Soul). Adam then begins forming the relationships in the physical reality to experience the solution provided. If Eve's desires were for fruit from the Tree of Life, then her desire would be satisfied accordingly.

Since Adam and Eve are at the Cause level for the physical reality, they have freewill and can make the wrong choices if Eve desires self-serving life situations. Adam should prevent the experiencing of such desires, but we all know how difficult that is at times--even when we may suspect the correctness of the actions we are contemplating to make.

Eve cannot experience anything, though, that is not allowed by our Adam. Therefore, we need to use more intellectual evaluation of actions we are contemplating because they determine the very life we become.

[The Fourth Step of Spiritual Growth is Soul](#). Soul is the what and way we are now. It is our self-awareness in the present sense. It is our Soul that is aware of itself as we look through our eyes at the world around us. Look at the [Word Picture of Reality](#) and note that Soul is the combined expression of our Spirit and the Love in our heart as the Principle of what we are is united with the Truth of who we are. The Spirit side produces our awareness (self-awareness) while the Love side produces our faith (GOD awareness). Soul is where the male and female aspects of our being unite to form one individual (I am).

Our Soul determines the way we view all of Reality, and there are only two views. We either see Reality relative to ourself (self-serving) or we see it relative to the highest relationship of which we can envision of which we see ourselves a part (GOD serving). The former view is divisive while the latter view strengthens unity. To grow spiritually, our view must to relative to the highest relationship of unity we can envision--Christ, the Omega.

In Genesis 1, the 4th day reveals the Aspect of Soul to us and its relationship with the other six aspects. To strengthen this message, Jesus was arrested and crucified on the fifth day (**contrary to standard teaching that makes Jesus a liar--i.e. Matt 12:40**). Jewish days began at 6:00pm. In our time Jesus was buried just before dark on Thursday Roman time (at Twilight, 6th day, and Jewish Friday). We then have Thursday (for a short time), Thursday night, Friday (2nd day), Friday night, Saturday (3rd day), and Saturday night--**for 3 days and 3 nights**. He arose on Sunday morning at dawn. This symbolism was given to illustrate that Christ dies in us when we begin viewing reality from a self-serving perspective. Our Life (Eve) then **desires** self-serving purposes, our spirit

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becomes self-serving on the 1st day (3 days later), and we begin growing the self-serving life in us (Satan).

In the same way, when our view changes to GOD serving, our Life begins **desiring** GOD's Purposes, and on the 1st day (3 days later) Christ is resurrected in us and our Spirit (Christ's Spirit) seeks the purposes of GOD. We then progress through the 7 steps to grow spiritually. The entire Bible is focused on this one main concept because all spiritual growth is Christ growing in Man.

This change of view is the most difficult step to accomplish because we can strive to follow GOD for self-serving purposes; and that is probably what happens to most of us at first. This false change is discussed in Romans 7:14-25 and Jesus comments on it in Matthew 7:22. Romans 8 discusses the result once the true change has occurred. We do need to be very mindful of which change has occurred in us for there is nothing more deceitful than the self-serving nature that dwells in us. He is who we can see ourselves as being as we struggle in Romans 7:14-25 believing the true change has occurred in us, **and he does not die easily**.

It is important to recognize that we should strive to **not** struggle as described in Romans 7:14-25. We must put all fear out of our heart and mind and replace it with Love for what is good in any situation or person; we can only build or improve on what is already good. We must **not** respond to disturbing situations or setbacks that occur daily with strong feelings because that would be feeding the false life in us. We must strive to maintain a steady and growing Love for the life GOD has given us and the important purpose we have in the body of Christ.

The importance of the **3 days and 3 nights** concept is now revealed because of the three steps of spiritual growth that must occur to result in the **true** resurrection of the life of Christ in us.

This 4th step also illustrates the importance of the message in Genesis 1-3. Without that message, it is difficult to recognize the main purpose of the Bible message in helping us to truly change our life view. Without being ear tickling, the Genesis 1-3 message sets the stage for us to better understand GOD's Plan and becomes the "**Spiritual Key**" for Bible interpretation.

The Fifth Step of Spiritual Growth is Life. Life is the manifestation of our "feeling" or feminine side of our being, which consists of the Love in our spiritual heart as cause, Truth as the expression of that Love, and then Life as the manifestation of Truth. In the Garden of Eden, Eve was Life (look up the meaning of the Hebrew word). Life determines the **way** we do what we see ourselves doing

in the outer physical reality. Life is the complement of Intellect, or our Adam, who determines **what** we see ourselves doing in the outer physical reality.

It is our feminine side that determines the focus of our soul--whether GOD-serving or self-serving. Only Eve could sin first in the Garden of Eden because only Eve has desires and can be tempted. When we are tempted, it is our Intellect that informs us that **what** we are considering is wrong--assuming we have previously learned that such an action is wrong. The relationship between our Adam and Eve is certainly worth considerable study because they are building who we are, and who we are determines to what extent our short physical life contributes to Christ the Omega. Only to that extent will our life become eternal.

I currently see the relationship of Adam and Eve as follows:

Eve has a desire relative to a situation in the physical reality. Adam considers what can be done to the situation to fulfill the desire Eve has. Adam then attempts to manipulate the situation to create in the physical reality what is most likely to satisfy Eve's desire based on past experience with similar situations and the learned results. Once the situation has been changed to best fit the pattern expected to satisfy Eve's desire, the new situation has been experienced and Eve determines if the new situation does produce the anticipated satisfaction (feedback). If it doesn't, then further fine tuning of the situation is attempted until Eve's desire is fully satisfied.

This process should reveal why our love of GOD must be so strong. If Eve desires something that Adam knows is a sin, she can insist on performing the act anyway--believing it is wrong. Since our Adam functions more like a computer, he only knows what is the likely result based on past experience. He is **not the motivating force** behind any action--Eve is. If Eve loves GOD, she will refrain from insisting on any action Adam knows is a sin. If she desires the action more than she loves GOD, then she will insist on its performance (increasing her desire); and the sin will most likely occur. If she believes GOD will forgive if she later "**says**" she repents but continues to insist, then that is just a strong indicator of how small her love for GOD is. The deceptiveness of the self-serving nature cannot be taken lightly. Desiring anything we believe to be sinful is just an indication of the presence of the self-serving nature. Sin is a life in us--not just the act of experiencing the situation that life desires. We do not sin when we refrain from experiencing such desires, but we do know that life is still there. When the sinful life is dead, we will not have such desires; and neither will we be tempted.

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Once we repent our goal is to bring about the death of the sinful life in us. GOD gives us plenty of opportunities of doing this through the testing of life situations. First we refrain from experiencing any life situation we know is a sin. Secondly, we refrain from desiring any life situation we know is sinful. The latter is more difficult to accomplish because we can experience situations in our mind without actually doing them through our body. This helps keep the sinful life alive. Therefore, we must actually replace the sinful desires with the correct desires. This means we must seek the correct desires with intensity and then experience them through our body to obtain the love in our heart resulting from the concept of the 7th day. Only then will the sinful desires die because in their death the correct desires are resurrected--i.e. the life of Christ.

The idea that **not** acting on sinful desires is **not** sufficient is one that is not broadly taught. It is the first step, but it should never be considered the final step. The sinful life will only die as Christ's life is resurrected.

The Sixth Step of Spiritual Growth is Truth. Truth is the expression of the "feeling" or feminine side of our being, which consists of the Love in our spiritual heart as cause, Truth as the expression of that Love, and then Life as the manifestation of Truth. Truth is difficult to define because it determines the "way" we are what we are and is the compliment of Principle. Together they define "what" and the "way" we are—our Soul.

The Truth about anything is the **way** it **changes** relative to external conditions or situations that can affect it. Principle is the **unchanging** aspect of anything that exists. Consider water or H₂O. To be water, it must consist of two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. This is defined by its Principle aspect. Relative to temperature it changes its state according to the temperature touching it. This is defined by its Truth aspect. All things that exist have the aspects of Principle and Truth defining the what and way they are, even living beings.

In John 18:38, Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" There is no indication that Jesus answered him. As you can see above, any complete answer would be difficult to explain.

In Genesis 1, Man (the union of both the male and female aspects) represented the attainment of Truth on the sixth day. If you have ever sought the solution to a problem diligently and eventually found the correct order of all steps in the solution utilizing the problem's Principle, the result is Truth. Truth occurs when the "*realization*" of all the steps in the correct order to produce the desired result fills our mind. We then test the solution before we enter the 7th day—rest, joy, Love, and etc.

All of Truth would define the "**way**" GOD is "**what**" HE is. Therefore, each of us can only know a finite part of Truth, and that knowing will define the "**way**" we are "**what**" we are and our part in the body of Christ.

Since the Truth in us is also the Truth of GOD, it is that Truth which determines the level of our faith. Faith is our spiritual sight. If little Truth is in us, then our faith will be low. As we mature in Christ, our faith will grow as the Truth in us grows. Faith is, therefore, seeing what is spiritual or unseen. It is seeing that part of GOD HE created us to see without physically seeing HIM.

Does this mean we must learn every minuscule bit of Christ's life we are to be? No! We do not have to learn to solve every possible math problem to become an expert in math. We only have to learn the Principle and Truth about math at the level to which we strive to attain. To learn addition, we work a few problems which teaches us the Truth about that level of math; and then we can solve thousands of different combinations of addition problems. So it is with subtraction, multiplication, division, and any higher level of math. Once we know the truth about any level of math, we are not restricted in our ability to solve those kind of problems. *Essentially, knowing the truth about math has set us free relative to those kind of problems because we know how to overcome them.* As we can see, there are several levels of math where knowing the truth about the lower levels is necessary before we can grow in the truth about the higher levels. This is the 7 x 7 concept or the Genesis 1:14 concept of marking days, seasons, or years.

We grow in the Truth of Christ in the same way. As we learn the truth of his ways of responding to a few life situations, we become able to overcome thousands of such situations based on the truth in us. That truth can then be used with other truths to go to a higher level of truth necessary to overcome more difficult levels of life situations *that further the purposes of GOD*—i.e. walking on water, healing the sick, raising the dead, and etc. Eventually, we can obtain the Truth of the way we are to be in the body of Christ.

It should be obvious that GOD works through our free will in accomplishing HIS Purposes in us. HE essentially creates the life situations that give us an opportunity to grow in the Truth that we were created to have in our heart. We grow according to our living response.

The Seventh Step of Spiritual Growth is Love. Love is cause for the "feeling" or feminine side of our being, which consists of the Love in our spiritual heart as cause, Truth as the expression of that Love, and then Life as the manifestation of Truth. This Love is agape Love. Agape

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Love is GOD's Love, which expresses all the qualities necessary to create the highest relationship possible.

It is the Love in our heart that creates the **desire** that motivates our Spirit to seek the resolution to the need that results in our Love growing. GOD creates the life situations that produce the needs that begin the growth process through HIS Spirit in us. **HE probably rarely does this specific to a particular individual but mostly with Man in general. Therefore, we all suffer for the mistakes of others as well as our own--and benefit accordingly from the good others do.**

Essentially, HIS Love in our heart recognizes a need in the outer manifestation; Love desires a resolution to that need; this motivates our Spirit to seek a resolution; GOD reveals the resolution through HIS Spirit in us; our Spirit expresses the Principle of who we are now; which is manifested as our Intellect; Intellect expresses the laws relating to the outer manifestation to produce the revealed relationship that will satisfy the need. As the new relationship is being formed our Life determines how the forming relationship "feels" relative to satisfying the need as the relationship is experienced. If the resulting new relationship satisfies the need totally, we enter a state of rest, peace, and joy—the Seventh Day.

The level of the desire in the beginning will determine the eventual level of joy felt. The higher the joy felt the more deeply rooted the Love is in our heart. The more deeply rooted the Love in our heart; the more that Love determines who we are. As the "tree" of our being grows, we will have portions of the Love in our heart deeply rooted while other portions will be fed by shallow roots.

Agape Love relates to the living qualities that are to reside in Christ the Omega and is the glue that creates the perfect relationship Christ the Omega will be. Each of us have an opportunity to be the "seed" that produces a

hundredfold (Matthew 13:23). We do this by growing spiritually in agape Love--becoming that part of Christ we are to be.

When the Bible states that GOD Loves a sinner, HE does not love the person the sinner sees himself/herself as being. Rather HE Loves who that individual has the capability of being, which HE can see. If we have a child who is a drug addict, we can love the child deeply; but we do not love them as a drug addict--rather who they can be. We want the most for them, and so it is with GOD to an even higher level with all sinners. The use of the expression, "GOD Loves you.", can be used in a way to mislead those still seeing life according to the self-serving nature to believe they are okay as they are because of some action(s) they have taken. The self-serving nature is very deceptive, and readily grasps on to such ideas to protect itself.

When the First Great Commandment states that we are to Love GOD with all of heart, soul, mind, and strength, it is stating we are to Love HIM with **all** of our being. To Love HIM, we must grow in knowing the Principle and Truth of who HE is; and in doing this we become a finite individualization of GOD to serve in the body of Christ, HIS Son. It is impossible to Love anything without that something becoming a part of who you are--whether it be good or evil. The First Great Commandment leaves no room to Love anything that is not already in GOD and Christ the Omega. Therefore, we must be perfect as GOD is perfect (Matt 5:48).

To enter the seventh day of rest, we must have desired and sought with all of our being to experience the presence of GOD in a life situation. Through the experience we grow in GOD's Love as we find what we sought does satisfy the desire we had in our heart. Through that satisfaction we enter our day of rest.