

# Cracking the Synergy Source Code

*Finding Meaning & Purpose in Your Life*

*What We Didn't Learn in School –But Should Have!*

Volume THREE

## Dancing with the Holy Spirit

*The Spiritual Quest for Synergy*

Is there something more to this life than just living, having a family, working, accumulating, and then passing into oblivion?

In the search for the divine, how do we really get in touch with God? Where do we look?

Many spiritual questions have perplexed the greatest minds on this planet.

Were many of the Spiritual Secrets hidden just below the surface, and in fragments, like a jigsaw puzzle, ready to reveal the “big picture?”

Finding the pieces of the puzzle and piecing them together has been a twenty year treasure hunt in search of a Spiritual Holy Grail.

Perhaps my journey will help you with yours.

*By Robert Porter Lynch*

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# *The Spiritual Quest for Synergy*

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## *Preface*

While this volume may look quite organized and analytical, it did not begin that way; it's the result of hundreds of detours and paths that led into rat-holes, got bogged down in quagmires, and became lost in outer space excursions.

Much of this Volume began as a series of "Thought Pieces" which evolved over a twenty year period as I dug into somewhat daunting spiritual questions:

"What is God?" ....

"What is the Holy Spirit?" ....

"If we were created in the image of God, why are there so many evil people on the planet?" ....

"What is the Deepest Yearning of the Soul?" ....

"Why isn't Trust addressed in the Scriptures (except as a synonym for 'faith')?" ....

"Is it true that, from a spiritual perspective, 'love is all there is'?" ....

"Is Peace the ultimate state-of-mind/soul that God intended (it wasn't so for me except when I returned from war)?" ....

"Why do so few of the 'prophets' lack a sense of humor?" ....

"Why do we have to wait until we die to attain the kingdom of heaven?" ....

"What did Christ mean by 'This that I do, ye shall do too, and greater than I'?" ....

and many more questions that probably will never be answered.

I don't feel that any of what follows is the complete and definitive 'truth' for eternity, but perhaps my inquiry will stimulate another level of inquiry for others who will discover/uncover greater truths than mine.

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In addition, many deep spiritual questions continued to arise, especially as I grappled with the interplay of science and spirituality. By my nature, I am an “architect,” which means I relish in joining art and science. When spirituality and science are at odds, I’m uncomfortable. That discomfort often spurs me to find resolution.

Our discovery -- with my mentor, friend, and co-author, Paul R. Lawrence – of the neuro-scientific connections between brain chemistry and divine energy was the final breakthrough that enabled many of the pieces of the puzzle to come together.

The issues and ideas addressed here were questions, sometimes thorny, that had perplexed me for years. As the answers evolved to one question, it triggered answers to other deep questions, resulting, for me, as an unraveling of a Gordian Knot.

Robert Porter Lynch  
Naples, Florida  
June, 2012

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Our Christian Churches are seemingly lost when it comes to the divine nature of the Holy Spirit.

Christian Churches have a calendar counting Sundays following or proceeding great celebratory events. One of those events is Pentecost. This year it fell on my birthday, so I was paying particular attention. Ask any number of Christians about the meaning of Pentecost, and they will start mumbling to cover their ignorance, only because their priests and ministers down-play the event.

I go to the Father to enable the Holy Spirit, the great Counselor,  
... the Spirit of Truth to come .....to guide you into all truth, to  
encourage you .... and bring you joy. – John 16

Pentecost is the seventh Sunday (49 days rounded to 50 = Penta) celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit to guide us into the future. Pentecost should be just as important as Easter, but it comes and goes with nothing said, nothing joyful, nothing meaningful.

– June 9, 2019

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## DEDICATION

This volume is dedicated to the memory of my mother, Viola Bak Lynch, and my father, Robert Barrows Lynch.

While I suppose there is no such thing as “perfect parents,” they certainly came close.

My parents were my Guiding Light through the difficult years of growing up, and their expert coaching, discipline, and adherence to the highest standards ring in my heart and mind every day.

Of all the gifts they gave me, one stands out among all the rest:

*Leave this world a better place than you found it!*

**Faith without good deeds ... is dead and useless** – James 2:14

Actions speak better than words. Hopefully the words in these six books, and the others I have written will be translated into the actions that can make this world a better place for many more years to come.

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Please Note: This is still in a DRAFT form, for comment only.

Please send your comments to:

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Further Note: There are still typos, grammatical errors, and lapses in logic which the reader may spot. Please forgive any such errors. Permissions for use of materials have not been requested.

Not for General Distribution

June 15, 2012

Periodically Updated

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## PART ONE: QUESTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUALITY

This Chapter outlines my conclusions from twenty years of asking difficult questions about God and the Holy Spirit, among lots of other questions. When I started, the questions were not nearly as succinct or clear as they appear here. Neither were the answers, which I consider “interim answers,” just a one more step on a ladder of answers for future generations to see in a higher light.

### ***QUESTION 1: WHAT IS THE ESSENCE OF GOD?***

Many spiritually enlightened people would maintain that:

*God is Love, and Love is all there is.*<sup>1</sup>

I believe the last part of this phrase is not a whole truth. Many of the ancient texts (i.e. Hebrew/Essene, Greek/Gnostic, and Chinese) indicate the *Essence of God* is quite dualistic (yin-yang) interplay<sup>2</sup> of energy -- *both Love* (largely the focus of the New Testament) *and Creation* (Old Testament: Genesis 1:1).

God in the ancient Aramaic is “Unity in the Diversity,” thus God is akin to “Synergy.”

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<sup>1</sup> The idea that “God is all there is” comes from the New Testament, 1 John 4:8 “Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us.” Then in 4:16 “God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in him.” Nowhere does it say “Love is all there is” which would limit God’s power to love as the supreme power of Divine Essence. The passage cited above does not mean that God can’t be more than just love.

<sup>2</sup> for Love to “interplay”, it must interplaying with something else. What’s common among virtually all ancient religions is that God is *Love, Creation, and Truth*. A Course in Miracles states: “You are a miracle of God. Creation is your Source and your only real function.” (p 40)

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Most other spiritual beliefs concur about the duality of God being *both Love and Creation*. This is an important distinction and opens a wealth of possibilities for human existence.

Thus living in the “spiritual moment” is an act of *Loving and Creating* in the Moment. Hence we are closest to our Divinity when we are *Loving* and *Creating* with one another, because that is the essence of God.

And there is still a third dimension as the eminent theologian Paul Tillich suggests; there are other considerations which seem to contradict the assertion that God is love – God’s knowledge far exceeds our fragmentary and darkened knowledge, that seeing/knowing the truth is perfect and eternal.<sup>3</sup>

Christ said: *the Father will give you another Counselor to be with you forever: ‘the Spirit of Truth’ .... [which] lives within you and will be in you; .... the Counselor, the Holy Spirit .... will teach you all things.*<sup>4</sup> The texts of Proverbs are clear that the Holy Spirit is Wisdom as well.

The differential energies of *Love* (from mercy and forgiveness) and *Creation* (from knowledge and wisdom) join in synergistic union to form the *Truth*. (see Figure 1)

Of course, the great mysteries of God mean that God is far more immense that God is more than our minds can fathom. For my simple mind, embracing God as Love, Creation, and Wisdom is a good start, and enough to last a lifetime, while certainly not the whole story.

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<sup>3</sup> Tillich, Paul; *The Shaking of the Foundations*, Charles Scribner, NYC, 1948, p 109. Tillich, using Paul’s writings as his pivotal point, going on to postulate that full knowledge presupposes full love. “Love lasts; love alone endures,...[there is] nothing independent of love.”

<sup>4</sup> John 14:16 & 26

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Figure 1: Unity in the Diversity; Interplay of Love, Creation, & Truth

The passages from Paul and John were written in the Greek language,<sup>5</sup> in the lands of the Greeks, in the framework of thought of that culture. Recall from Dynamic Differential Energy (Volume Two) that in the diversity is unity; the differential energies of *Love* (from mercy and forgiveness) and *Creation* (from knowledge and wisdom) join in synergistic union to form the *Truth*. All are pieces of the whole. (see Figure 1) (The next question embraces the Holy Spirit as Love and Creation, generating Truth.)

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<sup>5</sup> Greek is far superior to Latin in its ability to express spiritual ideas.

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## **QUESTION 2:**

### ***WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?***

John: 14-16 illuminates with wonderful passages about why Christ leaves the earth -- so that the Holy Spirit<sup>6</sup> of Divine Truth will come. The Holy Spirit is represented in ancient Judeo-Christian texts by *the wind that blows*-- the "breath of God."<sup>7</sup>

The Holy Spirit represents the Divine Energies of God: the Energies (drives) of Love and Creation.<sup>8</sup> Being in the State of Grace is to have the Holy Spirit flowing to create Synergy.

Mastering the interplay of harmonies and polarities is an essential skill in the creation of synergies and manifesting the Holy Spirit. The Greeks knew this concept as *Unity in Diversity*, but through our Latin culture this ideal degenerated into something akin to *Unity of Authority*.

And just where should we begin seeking this deep wisdom? It is already within us:

*If you bring forth [the light of the Holy Spirit] which is within you, that [light] which is within you will save you.*

*If you don't bring forth that [light] which is within you, that [darkness] which is within you will destroy you.*

from the Gospel of Thomas

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<sup>6</sup> In the Oriental Taoist tradition, the Holy Spirit is referred to as "the Way," or the Enlightened/ Spiritual Way.

<sup>7</sup> The Holy Spirit was feminine in the Aramaic and Hebrew, and was represented in Greek as neutral: "psyche" or "pneu" or as feminine: "Wisdom-Sophia." (Jurgen Moltmann, *The Source of Life*; 1997; p. 35) She remained in this form at least until the 2nd century A.D. until "She" was changed from feminine into a "He" in the Latin (and German; the Catholic Church argued vociferously in the 4th & 5th century that the Holy Spirit was and always had been masculine.

<sup>8</sup> We were given *Imagination* to enable access the divine energy of *Creation*.

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*The Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven.  
You must be born again.  
The breath of the Holy Spirit blows and you hear the sound,  
but you cannot tell from where it comes or whence it goes;  
for such is the nature of the Holy Spirit when a person allows  
it to be born.* --John 3:5-8

Just how wise is she and how much confidence should we place in her? Again the New Testament is unequivocal:

*...the Holy Spirit .... shall teach you all things...  
[s]he will guide you into all truth...  
and [s]he will show you things to come.* --John 14:26

*And when they bring you into the synagogues,  
and unto magistrates, and rulers,  
Worry not how or what you shall answer,  
or what you shall say:  
For the Holy Spirit shall teach you in the moment  
what you ought to say.* -- Luke 12:11-12

Blaspheming the Holy Spirit commits what the Greeks called “suicide of the soul,” for it destroys our connection to our divine energies of love and creation. Similarly, the Aramaic word for blasphemy can also mean to “revile” or “cut oneself off from.” Thus the reason we cannot be forgiven is because severing ourselves from our soul is something only we can remedy ourselves. No divine intervention from God during or after the fact can heal this self-inflicted wound, thus:

*Any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men....  
But whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit,  
shall not be forgiven, either in this age,  
or in the age to come.* --Matthew 12: 31-32

Knowing the nature of the Holy Spirit is probably not as much of a mystery as we have made her. In most simple terms,

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*The Holy Spirit is the Energy of Divine Life Itself;  
the twin Divine Energies of God:  
the Energies of Creation and the Energies of Love.*

It's through the Holy Spirit we are enabled to access synergy, which, as I explore in the next question, is a powerful, but largely unexplored and unchallenged force in spirituality.

Perhaps *peace* is a way-station on our spiritual path – a step between war and turmoil on the one hand and synergy and inter-connection on the other.

When we lose our spiritual footing (and it's easy to lose in a hectic, tumultuous world), peace is the place we need to go to regain that solid foundation. As a friend says: 'Having peace under ideal conditions isn't indicative of spiritual growth, it is escape'

But peace has its own seductive lure – some people, in the search for peace and serenity have gone deeply into themselves (into their "bliss") and forgotten the plight of the world around them, letting poverty and pain and war prevail, with the philosophy that each person's plight is their own choice.

If this were so, then the idea of destiny, mission, and purpose would be invalid, and the lives of people like George Washington, Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, or Mother Teresa would be meaningless.

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## **QUESTION 3:**

### ***WHAT IS THE DEEPEST YEARNING OF THE SOUL?***

Many Judeo-Christian and Buddhist teachings indicate that the deepest yearning of the soul is *Peace and Unity with God*.

But if you ask people “What did you experience on the most wonderful day of your life?” people’s responses are *not passive* (like peace<sup>9</sup>), nor was it simply “unity with God.”

Typically responses are far *more active*, as in the image of dancing with others, actively engaged in having a joyous interaction with others, or a transformational experience with God, Nature, or themselves.

Would a world that was just peaceful be very satisfying? Was the spiritual life intended to be “blissful” or was it intended to be a wonderful creative interactive engagement with others? Thus my conclusion is that the Deepest Yearning of the Human Soul is *Synergy*.<sup>10</sup>

Synergy is not passive, but quite active; not solemn, but uplifting and joyous; not overly restrained, but enormously expansive, not merely united, but integrated, aligned, interactive energy.

The soul naturally yearns to create synergy: the alignment of differential energies -- harmonies and polarities -- into something transcendent, transformational, and filled with both *Love* and *Creation*: the *Dance of Life* as we touch the higher soul in each other, bringing us closer to God in a synergistic spiral of life’s energy.

We were given *Imagination* so that we could access the divine energy of *Creation*.

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<sup>9</sup> An important exception to this is when a person returns from war or has a life filled with conflict and turmoil. Then *peace* is preeminent.

<sup>10</sup> from the Greek, meaning: *Joined/Aligned Energy*

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## **QUESTION 4 DOES SYNERGY SEEK A PREFERRED “TARGET?”**

God is Synergy (Unity in the Diversity). Because *synergy* is *aligned energy*, then we might consider the question: “Does synergy seek to align on any preferred target?”

My sense is simple: because the soul *Seeks Its Highest and Best Destiny* by which we find meaning and purpose in our lives, any positive energy that aligns on the soul’s core mission will be experienced as synergistic; thus:

*The Greatest Source of Synergy is  
to fully commit yourself to the Highest Purpose  
God has put you on the earth to fulfill;  
and to lovingly manifest Destiny's Dream  
every day of your life.*

*It's on destiny's pathway that true happiness will  
be found and profound synergy manifested,  
where little things no longer loom large to get in the  
way of our real purpose.*

Too often, those who define personal success strictly in financial terms find that life is little more than the agglomeration of material illusions that mask our settling for a dream not noble enough to be worthy of failure.

## **QUESTION 5 WHAT IS THE “NATURE” OF TRUST?**

Trust is the most important and fundamental element in building relationships. Trust comes *before* love because it is the first step in the establishment of lasting love.<sup>11</sup> Relationships without Trust are doomed.

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<sup>11</sup> Trust & Love are inextricably connected because they are created by the same neuro-chemical in the brain – oxytocin.



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Trust is often hard to define because it is multi-dimensional, involving an array of human requirements, including fairness, respect (the precursor to love), integrity, honesty, truthfulness, ethics, safety, and openness of motive.

Trust then grows the more two people embrace *care, compassion, sharing, and mutual understanding*. By emphasizing these “higher,” more spiritual drives, the more trust builds.

Trust and Love and Faith are all woven and intertwined together like the strands of a rope. In reality we cannot love our neighbor without trusting relationships; we cannot trust without faith in a higher power, and we cannot manifest our faith in God without bringing down to the earthly acts of love and trust.

Think of trust on a scale, like a ladder, (see illustration below).

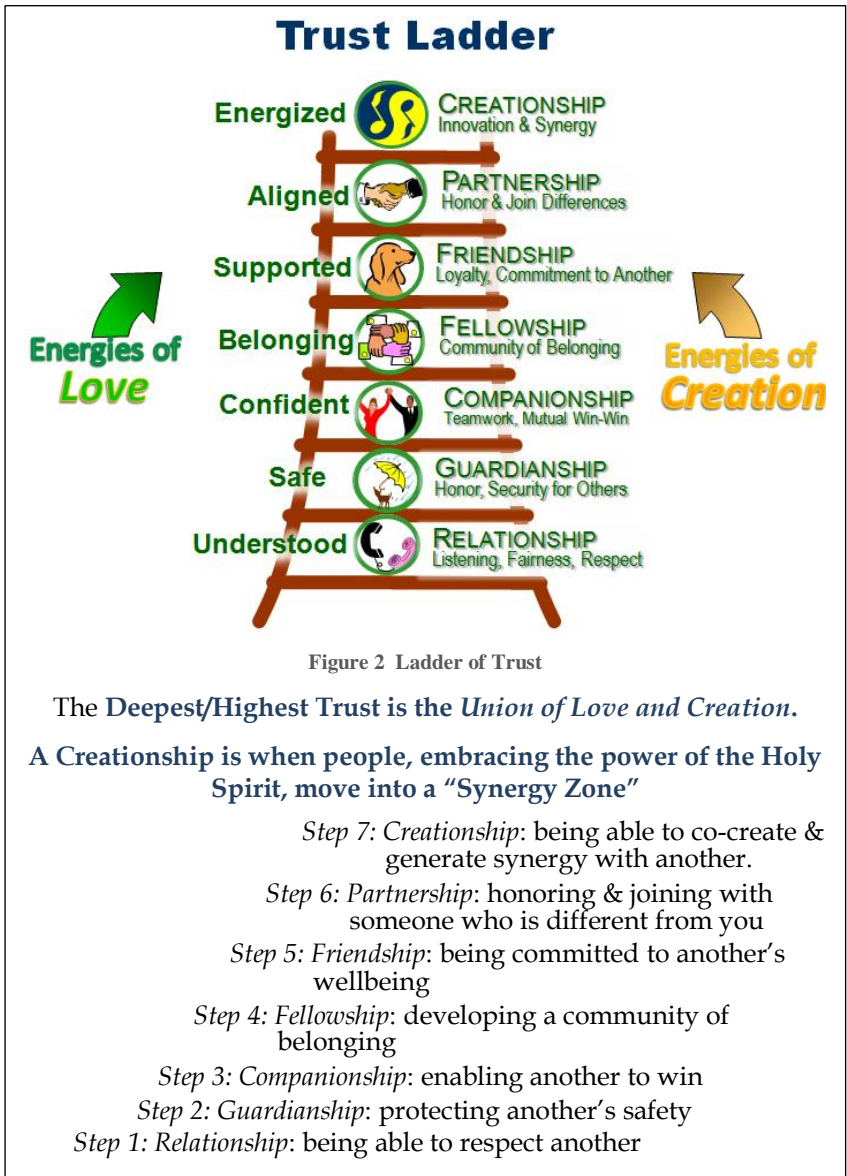
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Note: for more detailed biblical references on the Nature of the Holy Spirit, and the neuro-chemistry to access the Holy Spirit, please see the Appendices

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At the first rung of the Ladder is the formation of *Relationships* with *Creationships* at the highest:<sup>12</sup> As trust evolves to higher orders, an important element of *Co-Creation* transforms trust into something far more synergistic.

At the highest levels of trust, the power of trust is in its manifestation of the Holy Spirit: the Divine Energies of God – Love and Creation – *manifesting, not in us, but through us*. (“Creationships” on the Ladder of Trust) We become the pathway through which divine energy flows, and we both protect others in our midst, and lift them into divine energy with us, producing *synergy – aligned energy*.

Synergy seemingly needs no force to generate it. That’s why, when we are loving and creating together, we can seem to go on for inordinate amounts of time, into the wee hours of the night, and time seems to disappear. The next morning we don’t feel worn out, instead we feel energized and revitalized.

At this stage, we are “actively peaceful,” which means we are fully energized, engaged, and achieving, while empowering others to do the same, while “peaceful” in the sense that we are not frenzied, pushy, demanding, or suffering the internal conflict of our four drives being misaligned, each fighting for its position, even dominance, in our psyche.

We can be actively at peace because, with fear far in the background, we can be totally honest, and thus never harbor a thought of having to protect ourselves against the squalid dishonor of having to cover a trail of lies, deceits, and diminishment of others.

*Thus synergy is the state of alignment of  
divine energies of Body, Mind, and Spirit.*

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<sup>12</sup> (see Volume Four: *Creating a World You Can Trust* for more information )

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## QUESTION 6:

### **MUST THE EGO & SOUL ALWAYS BE IN CONFLICT?**

All of us are born with an ego; it's a basic function of the human being. Here's a description with which I basically agree:

*Ego is the unobserved mind that runs your life when you are not present as the witnessing consciousness ... The ego perceives itself as a separate fragment in a hostile universe, with no real inner connection to any other [human] being, surrounded by other egos which it either sees as a potential threat or which it will attempt to use for its own ends. Basic ego patterns are designed to combat its own deep-seated fear and sense of lack,<sup>13</sup> [producing] resistance, defense, attack, control, power, and greed.....*

*When egos come together, whether in personal relationships or in organizations or institutions, "bad" things happen sooner or later: drama of one kind or another, in the form of conflict, problems, power struggles, emotional or physical violence, and so on. This includes collective evils such as war, genocide, and exploitation – all due massed unconsciousness.<sup>14</sup>*

Then this author then proclaims that the Ego is a *pathological* force, a *pollutant* within us, something akin to the devil.

At this junction I must protest. Nothing could be further from the truth. God would not plant evil within us as a perverse joke. As a Course in Miracles advises, "you must choose to heal the separation" between your ego and your soul.<sup>15</sup>

What we call the Ego is designed to enable us to survive in an often cruel and harsh environment. It enables us to procure

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<sup>13</sup> In answering Question 7 I will connect *fear* to the Drive to *Defend*, and *lack* to the Drive to *Acquire*. – See Appendix: Neuroscience of the Holy Spirit

<sup>14</sup> Tolle, Eckhart; *The Power of Now*; New World Library, 1999, p 50

<sup>15</sup> *A Course in Miracles* (p38) actually refers to the separation between the ego and Holy Spirit. My only distinction is that the Holy Spirit is divine energy that flows to us *through our souls*, not our egos (see Appendix 1).

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resources (food, shelter), accumulate goods, defend our families and positions, and protect ourselves from harm.

The problem is not the Ego per se, but what happens when it becomes the controlling and/or dominant force in our lives. When Ego & Soul are “out alignment,” our emotions are in turmoil, we are in psychic conflict, and we are “torn.”

How do we know when our egos and souls are misaligned? Our emotions tell us; they are the barometer indicating *alignment* between Soul & Ego, specifically when the Soul has taken command of our lives, in a manner that reasonably satisfies the Ego’s need to acquire a reasonable level of resources to exist and feels sufficiently safe that it no longer needs to be on “high alert” to protect and defend.

Our *Souls* are designed to give us *guidance* from the Holy Spirit, to *bond* with others, provide a conscience, and create peace by removing conflict, and generate synergy by aligning differences in our world. One is most capable of functioning effectively when the Soul becomes the “Guidance System” to lead the way in life, and the Ego becomes the “Engine” that is an energy force to attain the destiny determined by the Soul. The Soul and Ego can be aligned by giving “Voice to the Soul;” by letting the Soul and Ego talk to each other, by letting the Soul raise the Ego up to its highest level.<sup>16</sup> (This requires bringing the ego from the subconscious to the conscious.)

Let your Ego *empower* the Wings of your Soul!

Let your Ego *serve* the Holy Spirit through the Soul!

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<sup>16</sup> Course in Miracles states: “Nothing can reach the ego from spirit. Spirit can neither strengthen the ego nor reduce the conflict within it...They are fundamentally irreconcilable.” (p48) To this I take issue, for accepting this premise means that Ego and Soul can never be reconciled, thus we would be forever condemned to a civil war within. A house divided cannot stand. Healing the fractured self is essential to all growth.

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Let Soul accept the energies of the Holy Spirit by focusing on Love, Greater Purpose, and Deeper Meaning, Creating in the Moment, aiming at one's own Highest and Best Destiny. The Holy Spirit provides the guidance for this alignment.

*How has a man profited if he shall gain the whole world,  
and lose his own soul?* -- Matthew 16:26

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## **QUESTION 7:**

### **WHAT “DRIVES” HUMANS TO BEHAVE AS WE DO?**

Reconciling the disparity between science and spirituality is critical if we are to heal the planet.

When spiritual beliefs run counter to scientific evidence, like evolution,<sup>17</sup> something's got to give. When spiritual principles align with scientific evidence, then the world begins to shift. When they contradict or don't align, knowledge, belief, and action are at cross purposes and little constructive can be accomplished as we are torn across contradicting uncertainties.

Understanding the “Nature of Human Nature” is a quest that has been speculated on for several millennia. The study of human behavior goes back to the Greeks. However, for two millennia humanity has wallowed in a quagmire about what causes humans to behave sometimes predictably and sometimes bizarrely. Neither psychology, nor anthropology, nor sociology nor neurochemistry have come up good answers.

Modern science, combined with the work of Paul R. Lawrence<sup>18</sup> at Harvard sheds some bright light on the “drivers” of human behavior. “Drives” are the ultimate, irreducible motives of human behavior, and there are four basic drives in all healthy human beings:

The word *Psychology*, taken literally, means “The authoritative word of God (Greek: *Logos*) about the soul (Greek: *Psyche*).”

We have certainly strayed far from this meaning, now having left both God and the Soul out of most of psychology.

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<sup>17</sup> see Volume Five for greater clarity on Darwin and our Divine Nature

<sup>18</sup> Paul was my mentor, co-author, and friend. Together, in the last year of his life, we “discovered” the linkage between the four drives and the neurochemistry of the brain. Other factors, such as culture, experience, and personality *influence* behavior, but are not the fundamental *drivers*. See Volume Four for more detail on this subject.

## *The Spiritual Quest for Synergy*

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1. Drive to **Acquire** – seeking food, shelter, reproduction, and even pleasure. Attached to this drive are certain very *basic emotions* such as *desire*, *greed*, and *lust*. When other species are on the receiving end of this drive, they perceive it as aggression or domination, and typically respond with the next drive:
2. Drive to **Defend** – protecting ourselves from threats and aggressors to prolong individual survival and even prevent our extinction as a species. Attached to this basic drive is the primal emotion of *fear*, and its derivatives such as *anger* and *vindictiveness*. We are taught:

*You shall not take vengeance, or bear a grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

-- Lev 19:18

These two drives originate in the older, reptilian part of the brain. These are necessary for survival in an unsupportive or threatening environment. The idea of *Ego* is directly connected to these two drives. Our *ego* is designed to *Acquire* and *Defend*.

Because humans are mammals, our brains share certain functions that are common among all mammals and have the capability of being extremely well developed in most humans; the most important one for our immediate purpose is:

3. Drive to **Bond** --the yearning to live and work in groups, such as teams or herds. This “communal instinct” starts with our nurturing of our young. Associated with this drive are some of emotions exhibited by humans and a few higher mammals –*love*, *empathy*, *happiness*, *playfulness*, *loyalty*, and *gratitude*, to name a few.

Human beings have high-order cognitive capacities that allow us to create, find meaning, and learn. Located primarily in the comparatively over-sized prefrontal cortex, this capacity gives humans the ability to weigh, balance, and align the drives to *Acquire*, *Bond*, and *Defend*. We term this capacity:

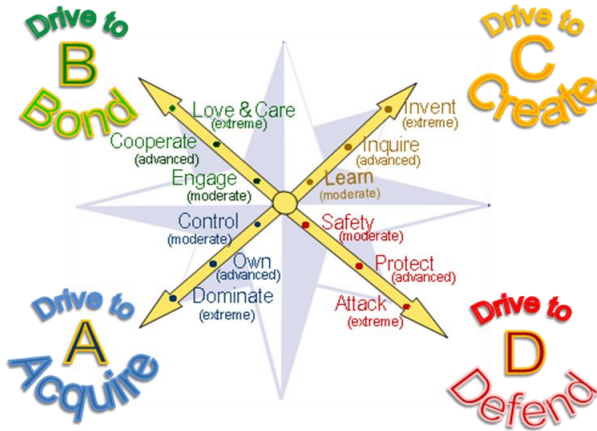


# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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4. Drive to *Create* – the unceasing impulse of humans to comprehend the world around them, to find meaning, to imagine a better future, to solve problems and puzzles, and to build new and better things.

Attached to this drive to *Create* are emotions we often call *spiritual* such as *inspiration*, *wonder*, and *awe*. This drive manifests in all children at a very early age. Our intellectual power to comprehend, find order and purpose, and relate things together is part of this very encompassing drive.



Each of these four drives must be reasonably satisfied in a normal human being.<sup>19</sup> The drives are not necessarily autonomous, and work best when interacting synergistically.

The combination of the Drives (think of “Energies”) to *Bond* (Love) and *Create* (Co-Creation) enables normal humans to evolve, become consciously aware, develop and use our conscience (which may also broadly be considered a *Soul*), and engage in the magic of synergistic action.

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<sup>19</sup> Over 90% of humans fall into the normal category. (see next question and Volume Four for more detail on these people.)

## *The Spiritual Quest for Synergy*

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However, the vast majority of humans exist in a self-imposed prison where each of these drives operates autonomously, without alignment, balance, integration or forethought.

What's most important to grasp is the power of *alignment*. For the happiest, most spiritually tuned people, the *soul* drives (*Bond & Create*) guide and direct the ego drives (*Acquire* and *Defend*), thus *aligning* the drives for higher meaning and purpose.

# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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## **QUESTION 8:**

### ***WHAT IS THE NATURE OF FEAR? GREED? EVIL?***

Fear is a naturally occurring phenomenon in all human beings which results from the drive to *Defend* being placed in a situation of poor safety and security. Other than the natural fears of falling and loud noises, all other human fears are learned.

Fear typically manifests as fight, flight, or fright. Bullies have fear, but they turn it inside out, becoming aggressive. But underlying the aggression is fear. Revenge is fear manifesting as aggression with a get-even dimension. Of course, this only triggers more fear in the recipient of the revenge, which causes more aggression, usually ending in a death struggle, or the hiring of lawyers to do our fighting to gain “justice” (a battle only the lawyers win for themselves).

The flight response allows us to escape, at the risk of being seen as a coward. Anxiety is simply fright, without fight or flight.

Our “normal” fears include:

- *Fear of being Taken Advantage of, Loss of Safety/Security*
- *Fear of Physical Harm from Attack or*
- *Fear of Loss – Control, Territory, Possessions*
- *Fear of being Hurt Emotionally*
- *Fearful Insecurity of being Damaged*
  - *Economically*
  - *Physically*
  - *Reputation Demeaned*
  - *Betrayed*
- *Fear of Looking bad – Ego fear*
- *Fear of Rejection or Exclusion*
- *Fear of Failure*

## *The Spiritual Quest for Synergy*

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Fear triggers the flow of adrenaline, which “sears” the fear event on the brain’s memory structure for rapid recall if a similar situation similar presents itself. Fear also represses the neurotransmitters that enable the drive to *Bond*.<sup>20</sup> One does not simply “overcome” fear because of the way it sears the memory of fearful events on the surface of the brain’s memory system

Spiritually one must become committed to something larger than fear by using the direction of the soul and the power of will.

Greed originates from the drive to *Acquire* put into the “overdrive” condition. Greedy people often have little conscience or operate from the mistaken belief that “greed is good.”

Greed in one person will often trigger fear in another.

The uncontrolled union of the Drives to *Acquire* and *Defend* presents a condition wherein the *Ego* overrides the *Soul*.

Evil is typically exhibited by three types of people known as the “Dark Triad” (Psycho-Sociopaths, Machiavellians, & Narcissists), which constitute about 5% of the general population, and 10% of the executive/ruling population. Psychopaths constitute about 1.5% of the human population, and their brains are physically lacking the capacity to produce the hormones necessary for the drive to *Bond* (love); thus they have no compassion, empathy, or conscience. These people are dangerous; and Psychopaths cannot be “taught” to love because physiologically they have no capacity in their brain to do so.

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<sup>20</sup> See Volume Four for more information on how fear shuts down the neurotransmitters in the brain that control love and trust. The Bible tells us: There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (1John 4:18). While this is true, according to modern neurochemistry, the opposite is also true: Perfect *Fear* drives out *Love*.

# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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Machiavellians and Narcissists do have the capacity to love, but staunchly choose to act in selfish and unconscionable ways. While it is possible for them to learn to love, they are typically so damaged by life's experiences that there are extreme impediments to their transformation.

Evil only enters and sustains itself through an Ego that engaged in Suicide of the Soul.

# *The Spiritual Quest for Synergy*

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## **QUESTION 9:**

### ***IS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE REALLY POSSIBLE?***

As spiritual beings, we are taught that we should love unconditionally. However, from a practical perspective, few people on the planet are capable of loving without trusting. Ask any marriage counselor who is trying to repair a broken marriage; they all know that the continuous expression real love cannot occur in a climate of distrust trust. This is because the brain's neurotransmitters for love are the same ones that control trust.

A breakdown in trust will severely limit one's ability to love, because *fear is the fundamental cause of distrust*. Neuro-chemically, our brains are designed to shut down the drive to *Bond* when an excess of fear is present. When fear locks out the drive to *Bond*, love withers and dies.

Thus, neuro-chemically, love can only exist as an existential concept without trust.

To open up love, first we must build a foundation of trust.<sup>21</sup> In simplistic terms, this is done by making people feel safe, caring for others, working in people's greater good, being fair and honest, and being trustworthy.

Trust occurs when we honor each of the four drives in the human spirit by:

1. Giving a person's drive to *Acquire* the resources it need to survive, enjoy reasonable pleasure, and achieve goals
2. Providing one's drive to *Defend* with adequate safety and security, without blame and attack
3. Enabling our drive to *Bond (Love)* to thrive in an environment of caring, compassion, forgiveness, and love.

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<sup>21</sup> Volume Four focuses strictly on how to do this.

# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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4. Engaging our drive to *Create* by focusing on learning, evolving ideas, growth, and solving problems mutually

If God is *Love* and *Creation*, then Trust is the foundation that enables the Power of God to arise and flourish within.

# *The Spiritual Quest for Synergy*

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## **QUESTION 10: HOW DOES ONE CREATE SYNERGY?**

Synergy is the deepest yearning of the human soul.

Synergy, like all living things, needs the environment to grow just as plants require fertile soil, sun and water to grow. While synergy is much more than trust, without trust, synergy seldom manifest. No one can climb the pinnacle of synergy without traversing the pathway of trust.

At the highest levels of trust, the drives to *Bond* (Love) and *Create* -- the Divine Energies of God -- are fully engaged; we are in the "synergy" zone when we are loving and creating. It feels playful, less weighty, and energizing.

There are four synergies:

Synergy with **Others** (Brotherhood/Sisterhood, Creationships)

Synergy with **Nature** (the Earthly Mother)

Synergy with **God** (the Heavenly Father)

Synergy with **Self** (the Alignment of Ego & Soul which give us *Meaning & Purpose*)

Those who have *synergy with themselves* have found deep meaning and purpose in life. Where there is no meaning and purpose, little things loom large in life. There is no greater gift; no higher purpose, no more magnetic reward, no blessing more magnificent, than to have be blessed with both *love* and a glorious *mission* in life to guide one's personal destiny!

Too often, those who define personal success strictly in financial terms find that life is little more than the agglomeration of material illusions that mask our settling for a dream not noble enough to be worthy of failure.

*The meaning of life  
is the creation of meaning in life.*



# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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The average person defines themselves by their limits; argue for your limits, and they will be yours!

*Those who seek their highest destinies  
define themselves by their possibilities.*

To attain this level of spiritual synergistic evolution means we must carefully follow Christ's advice:

*Judge not, and ye shall not be judged;  
condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned,  
forgive and ye shall be forgiven*<sup>22</sup>. -- Luke 6:37

This means transcending tolerance, going farther, embracing differences as the source infinite creative power --a state being constituted not just by "gentleness" nor the absence of fear and hate, but one that embodies a commitment to empowering others, courage to preserve under stress, vibrancy of vision, and the qualities of enthusiasm and inspiration.

Dancing is a beautiful metaphor to express the ideal of Synergy, it is the flow of the Divine Energies of God – the Holy Spirit – through us and others in our presence. Here's how St. Augustine described the experience nearly two thousand years ago (from *In Praise of Dancing*):

*I praise the dance, for it frees people from the heaviness of matter  
and binds the isolated to community.*

*I praise the dance, which demands everything:  
health and a clear spirit and a buoyant soul.*

*Dance is a transformation of space, of time, of people,  
who are in constant danger of becoming all brain, will, or feeling.*

*Dancing demands a whole person; firmly anchored in the center of  
his life; not obsessed by lust for people and things and the demon  
of isolation in his own ego.*

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<sup>22</sup> This does not mean we forsake making discernments, nor become tolerant of impudent behavior, nor act imprudently in the face of evil.

## *The Spiritual Quest for Synergy*

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*Dancing demands a freed person, one who vibrates  
with the balance of all his powers.*

*I praise the dance. O man, learn to dance!  
or else the angels in heaven will not know what to do with you.*

When we are dancing life itself, we are dancing with the  
Holy Spirit, we are loving and creating in that moment.

*Dancing was created by angels  
to give wings to man and woman.*

# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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## ***QUESTION 11: WHAT IS THE NATURE OF INTEGRITY?***

Integrity is more than just being honest or trustworthy. Integrity means being true to oneself, true to one's deepest values, trusting oneself to do the right thing for the right reasons. The benefits of integrity are ultimately both a divine blessing and a liberating freedom.

Integrity means we have courageously integrated our four drives (*Acquire, Bond, Create, and Defend*) by aligning our Ego to serve our Soul.

*Being courageous means being committed to a vision  
& purpose far larger and more powerful than our fears*

Integrity becomes a divine blessing by enabling us to touch the heart of God, and moreover, to touch the souls of others around us, thus creating a new set of possibilities filled with hope, joy, and inspiration.

Integrity is thus expansive, allowing us to become more than ourselves, to create with others, to empower others, to build upon a foundation of trust.

The lack of integrity inevitably forces one to look back over one's shoulder, haunted by a past filled with historic baggage which will harbor tomorrow's illness, or threaten to destroy one's false illusions that were invented to disguise the sordid realities of a disingenuous life.

Integrity marvelously liberates us to live our lives forward into the future, enabling us to experience the present moment cleanly and without fear that our past will undermine us, corrode our vision, and erode our energy.

Integrity is the Alignment of the Four Drives into one Life Force guided by the Divine Energies of Love (Bonding) and Co-Creation. It is Integrity is Vitality (Unified Life Energy) resulting from Aligning the Ego to the Soul.

## *The Spiritual Quest for Synergy*

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Integrity is a set of *internal* alignments that enables our thoughts, words, and actions to become one in the same. Accountability is the *external* demonstration of the *internal*.

**The Ultimate Question is:  
“What is the Meaning of Life?”  
Answer:  
“To *Create* Meaning in Life!”**

# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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## ***IS THERE A GOD?***

Some of you may be wondering why I did not consider the most important question to be: *Is there a God?*

Yes, I have often considered that question, but my answer to it has always returned to the same answers:

1. When I look at life, or into the depths of the universe, or the complexity of biology, I cannot fathom that the non-existence of a power much greater than I. Most scientists who have studied the micro and macro universes have come to the same conclusion. (See “Edison’s Divinity on next page)

Whether we are made in God’s image is a matter of philosophy. However, the Hebraic word used “image” in the Old Testament meant in the metaphoric sense, not to be taken literally.

2. If there were no God, life would be rendered pointless. As atheist Bertram Russell said: “Unless you assume a God, the question of life’s purpose is meaningless.”

Thus the question of whether there is a God quickly becomes “Can one find meaning in life without God?”

My conclusion is “Not very easily, just go to any prison to learn the answer to that question.” Life without God is meaningless and life’s purpose is an empty shell.

3. If there were no God, would I live my life differently? The alternative life style is hedonistic, selfish, seeking fortune and fame – all empty and meaningless purposes.

Thus, I would not change my life if I were wrong in the conclusion.

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## *Edison's Divinity*

Thomas Edison was the world's most prolific inventor. To invent, Edison had to understand intimately the nature of materials, and how atoms and molecules interacted. He was a very devout believer in God.

*"I do not believe that matter is inert, acted upon by outside forces. To me it seems that every atom is possessed by a certain amount of primitive intelligence. Look at the thousand ways in which atoms of hydrogen combine with those other elements, forming the most diverse substances.*

*Do you mean to say that they do this without intelligence?*

*Atoms in harmonious and useful relation assume beautiful or interesting shapes and colors, or give forth a pleasant perfume, as if expressing their satisfaction.*

*In sickness, death, and decomposition or filth, the disagreement of component atoms immediately makes itself felt by bad odors.*

*Gathered together in certain forms, the atoms constitute animals of lower orders.*

*Finally they combine in man, who represents the total intelligence of all the atoms.*

*But where does this intelligence come from?*

*From some power greater than ourselves.*

*I certainly believe in an intelligent Creator. The existence of such a God, to my mind, can almost be proved from chemistry."*\*

If you asked an astronomer about the existence of an intelligent Creator, the majority, by a wide margin, would say the same thing as Edison.

\* Source: Lathrop, George Parson; *Talks with Edison*, Harpers Magazine, February, 1890, p 435 He commented regarding his interview with Edison how such a keen, practical, and penetrating mind "should so confidently arrive at a belief in God through the study of those media that often obscure the perception of spiritual things." While the debate about whether God is the Intelligent Creator or personified in Jesus Christ will never end, the point is that atheists are marching to the wrong tune to the wrong drummer.

# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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## PART TWO: DISCOVERING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Because it is highly measurable, scientific innovation is very easy to track, whereas spiritual innovation is a bit trickier to analyze. However, I'm going to take a crack at it, for if we can understand it, we may be able regain that lost ground and propel ourselves forward again.

Christianity's birth starts in Judea, but the story of how it flourishes actually begins in Greece several centuries before Christ.

### ***PLATO'S GIFT TO CHRISTIANITY***

Plato (c 350 BC) wrote extensively about a loving God, in contradiction to the Hebrew God, who was often vindictive, merciless, and angry. Plato was also quite articulate about the nature of the soul.

Just as importantly, despite being conquered by the less spiritual Romans one hundred and fifty years before Christ, the ancient Greek culture still predominated along the Aegean Sea and in Alexandria, Egypt. This highly evolved Greek culture embraced a large number of core values that made it highly receptive to Christian beliefs, namely:

Virtue (*Arête* in Greek) was a highly esteemed characteristic in any Greek

Love of Honor (*Philotimo* in Greek) symbolized the trust code held dear as a mark of quality of character

Wisdom (*Sophia* in Greek) was so highly regarded that she was venerated as a goddess. (The term "Philosophy" means: Love (philo) of Wisdom.) Wisdom was the pathway to the soul.

Community and Partnership (*Koinonia* in Greek) expressed the spiritual communities of tightly bonded people within which "philosophia" could be experienced

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Deep Inquiry was the process taught by Socrates to dig deeply into root cause and the order of the universe.

Paradigm Shifting (*Metanoia* in Greek) Experiencing the world at a higher level of insight meant to set aside one's narrow or prejudicial point of view in favor of that which is more lofty, broader, or deeper. (In Greek, the word for "penance" is *Metanoia*, which means to "shift the heart of the mind to a higher or broader level."

Unity in the Diversity was a theme expressing *harmony of differentials* that had become imbedded in the Greek culture for the last five hundred years, starting with Pythagoras and Heraclitus. Thus the Holy Trinity of differences could be embraced without difficulty – oneness yet differentiated.

## ***Greek Spiritual Evolution***

Where were the Greeks headed spiritually? And how far had they gotten? For the sake of brevity, I will attempt this explanation in a short synopsis.

Plato made the first real breakthrough in modern spirituality with explorations of God as First Cause, monotheism, God as Absolute Perfection, the Creation of the Cosmos, God as Reason and Intellect, and our modern conceptions of the Eternal Soul, and Wisdom as the manifestation of the Holy Spirit.<sup>23</sup>

In the third century BC Plato, then followed by Aristotle, engaged in evolving the insights to reconcile and transcend Pythagorean harmonies and Heraclitian polarities.<sup>24</sup> In his treatise on *Metaphysics*, Aristotle first laid down the concept of "synergy,"

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<sup>23</sup> For a much more detailed and erudite explanation, please see Dell Ehrlich, *Ibid*, and Dell Ehrlich, *The Platonic Bible, the Source of all Western Spirituality*, Academic Christian Press, 2006

<sup>24</sup> See Volume Two: Dynamic Differential Energy



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the joining of energies that made the whole greater than the sum of its parts, as well of concept of “dynamic energy.”

This level of thinking was having a major impact on spiritual thinking in Greece. Further, these themes enabled Greeks to resonate with Christ’s message, whereas the Hebrew traditions were often at cross-purposes with Christian philosophy. Thus Greece was fertile ground for Paul’s evangelical message the message the Hebrews had rejected.

## ***The Spiritual Evolution into Christianity***

After his Epiphany on the road to Damascus, Saul of Taras, who was to be later to be called St. Paul, was dismayed that he had virtually no success converting Jews to the ideals espoused by Christ.

Dismayed, he journeyed to Greece, where he found the ideals of Plato coincided precisely with those of Christ. Greece, despite Roman occupation, was still a land of learning, philosophy, and the search for truth. Paul made three trips to Greece from 46-57 AD. (remember Greece at that time included all the lands around the Aegean Sea, including what is modern day Turkey.) He did not carry the Gospels with him since they were written later.

Christianity first emerged and flourished in the first and second centuries in the Grecian lands surrounding the Aegean Sea. It was in this arena that Plato had laid the foundations of the concepts of the soul and its close connection to “wisdom.” The idea of wisdom (Sophia) was integral to the Greeks and held quite sacred.

Aegean Greece was fertile soil for the teachings of Christ to gain root and grow. It was no coincidence that the New Testament was written in Greek because this language was so carefully designed to hold Christ’s unique and enlightened concepts.

The endless search for truth is an essential theme that distinguishes the ancient Greek era. Nowhere is this more evident

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than in both scientific and spiritual evolution.<sup>25</sup> What seems to go without discussion in the studies of the classical era is the nature of “spiritual evolution.” For a culture, such as the Greek’s, to qualify as a “great,” it must continually to evolve its spiritual energies and understandings to discover hidden truths and expand its intellectual frontiers. The evolutionary spiritual heritage of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and the Stoics demanded its next leap forward.

That was soon to come with the missionary zeal of Paul of Tarsus. Disappointed that his Epiphany was spurned by his fellow Jews, in desperation he made three evangelical journeys to Aegean Greece<sup>26</sup> over a twelve year period (46-57 AD). Why was Paul accepted in Greece, while rejected in Judea?

Biblical scholar Jerry Dell Ehrlich in his book *Plato's Gift to Christianity*<sup>27</sup> explains that the Platonic constructs of the soul, the universe, and the divine nature of God laid the perfect seedbed to nurture the new-born Christianity. In fact, no other place in the world was more ready to accept Christ than Greece. Why? Because Plato’s thinking was the perfect complement for Christ. (and by negation, the Hebrew culture was compelled to reject Christ as its antagonist). My friend and colleague Dell Ehrlich explains:

*A simple question that is seldom adequately answered: ‘Why, if Jesus and all his disciples were Jewish, and his entire ministry was within a few miles of his home in Palestine, were all the books of the New Testament written in Greek and within 100 years of Jesus’ death and all the leaders of the church Greek speaking Gentiles?’*

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<sup>25</sup> I will delve into scientific evolution in Volume Five.

<sup>26</sup> Note: present day Turkey was then part of ancient Greece.

<sup>27</sup> Dell Ehrlich, Jerry; *Plato’s Gift to Christianity, The Gentile Preparation for and the Making of the Christian Faith*, Academic Christian Press, 2001

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*The evidence shows that Jesus' teachings were out of Platonism and his teachings deeply appealing to the Hellenized people [meaning: of Greek influence] of the world in which he lived.*

*Platonized Christianity is evident throughout the early church, and started in the person and teachings of Jesus, not with Paul or any other later Gospel writer. Jesus was the beginning of this Platonized Christianity which became the mainstream Christian church in the following generations.*

*The early church kept the teachings of this Platonized Jesus and presented and defended them as the kernel of the new religion, so much so that all their sacred writings, the New Testament canon, and that virtually all the writings in defense of the faith for the first 200 years were in Greek, and with the exception of a few Western fathers, for the next 200 years also. To use Edgar J. Goodspeed's words:*

*"The Greek Gospels are a convincing monument to the conquest of the Greco-Roman world by Christianity, and also of the conquest of Christianity by the Greek Genius. It is no accident that these important and most telling books arose in Greek circles and on Greek soil. Where else in antiquity could such books have arisen?"<sup>28</sup>*

In his extensive treatise, Dell Ehrlich goes into detail showing how some of the Epistles of Paul are Christianized interpretations of Plato's writing, and presents a point-by-point sympathy between Plato's and Christ's teachings, and, conversely an antipathy with Hebraic thought.

## ***Holy Spirit & Greek Spiritual Innovation***

The first writings about the Holy Spirit were being accepted as scripture in the second century BC. These were incorporated into the Roman Catholic Bible at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD as the

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<sup>28</sup> Dell Ehrlich, Ibid, p 393-394

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“Middle Testament” which spanned the thousand year range between the Old and New Testaments. Known as the Apocrypha,<sup>29</sup> it included wisdom texts, such as *The Wisdom of Solomon*, in which the Holy Spirit appears as a female named Sophia (Wisdom in Greek).

As part of the need to consolidate the Holy Trinity, avoid the already complex multi-dimensional monotheistic God, and maintain masculine imaging, Sophia became the Holy Spirit permanently.<sup>30</sup>

### ***The Holy Spirit and the Essence of Wisdom***

Here are a few of the beautiful quotes from *The Wisdom of Solomon* that demonstrate Sophia/Wisdom’s<sup>31</sup> powerful imprint on the Greek spiritual psyche.

*For Wisdom will not enter into a malicious soul, nor dwell in a body subject to sins.*

*For the Holy Spirit of discipline will flee from the deceitful, and will withdraw herself from thoughts that are without understanding, and she shall not abide when iniquity cometh in.*

*For the Spirit of Wisdom is benevolent, and will not acquit the evil speaker from his lips: for God is witness of her reins, and she is a true searcher of his heart, and a hearer of his tongue.*

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<sup>29</sup> This is still included in Catholic Bibles. For those of the Protestant faith, this may come as a surprise. With the Protestant Reformation, these sacred texts were left out of the King James version of the Bible. (see Appendix Three)

<sup>30</sup> ‘Spirit’ is of feminine gender in the Semitic languages (Heb, [rúakh]: breath, wind, spirit), neuter in Greek, and masculine in Latin (spiritus).

<sup>31</sup> The idea of Wisdom (Sophia in Greek) and the Holy Spirit appear to be used somewhat interchangeably in these passages

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*They that trust in her, shall understand the truth: and they that are faithful in love shall rest in her: for grace and peace is to her elect.*

*For the fruit of good labours is glorious, and the root of her wisdom never faileth.*

*Wisdom is better than strength, and a wise man is better than a strong man.*

*Wisdom is glorious, and never fadeth away, and is easily seen by them that love her, and is found by them that seek her.*

*She preventeth them that covet her, so that she first sheweth herself unto them.*

*He that awaketh early to seek her, shall not labour: for he shall find her sitting at his door.*

*To think therefore upon her, is perfect understanding: and he that watcheth for her, shall quickly be secure.*

*For she goeth about seeking such as are worthy of her, and she sheweth herself to them cheerfully in the ways, and meeteth them with all providence.*

*For the beginning of her is the most true desire of discipline.*

*And the care of discipline is love: and love is the keeping of her laws: and the keeping of her laws is the firm foundation of incorruption:*

*And incorruption bringeth near to God.*

*Therefore the desire of wisdom bringeth to the everlasting kingdom.*

*If then your delight be in thrones, and sceptres, O ye kings of the people, love wisdom, that you may reign for ever.*

*Love the light of wisdom, all ye that bear rule over peoples.*

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*Now what wisdom is, and what was her origin, I will declare: and I will not hide from you the mysteries of God, but will seek her out from the beginning of her birth, and bring the knowledge of her to light, and will not pass over the truth:*

*Neither will I go with consuming envy: for such a man shall not be partaker of wisdom.*

*Now the multitude of the wise is the welfare of the whole world: and a wise king is the upholding of the people.*

*Receive therefore instruction by my words, and it shall be profitable to you.*

Other ancient Hebraic texts of the time were equally revealing about the spiritual power of Wisdom. The Essene sect of Judaism was one of the most holy and spiritual groups of the time. Evidence from the Dead Sea Scrolls and other documents that remain from the time support the idea that a unique relationship existed between God and Wisdom, as evidenced by this prayer:

*One may heal with Goodness;*

*One may heal with Justice;*

*One may heal with Herbs;*

*One may heal with the Wise Word.*

*Among all the remedies ....*

*the Wise Word will best drive away sickness  
from the bodies of the faithful,*

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For Wisdom is the best healing of all the remedies.

*To follow the Holy Law is the crown of Wisdom,  
Enabling peace and perfect health to flourish,  
Both of which are gifts of the Angels....  
Come to us, Heavenly Father, with thy Creative Mind,...  
Because of whom the Creative Mind within us  
Is causing the Imperishable Kingdom to progress!  
Holy Wisdom maketh all men free of fear,  
Wide of heart, and easy of conscience.  
Holy Wisdom, the understanding that unfolds forever,  
Continually without end,  
And is not acquired through the Holy Scrolls.<sup>32</sup>*

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<sup>32</sup> *Prayer to the Angel of Wisdom*, in Szekely, Edmund B.; *Essene Gospel of Peace*, Volume Three, International Biogenic Society, 1961, p 51-52

In the Judea-Christian tradition, goddesses were not appropriate. Instead Angels were an acceptable alternative. According to Szekely, there were six “earthly” angels which brought spiritual qualities to man: Angels of Sun, Water, Air, Earth, Life, and Joy, joined by six “heavenly” angels which brought the power of God the Father to man: Angels of Power, Love, Wisdom, Eternal Life, Work, and Peace.

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## ***Finding Unity in Diversity***

Originally the Holy Trinity was intended to be embraced as a *unification of diversity*, a key early Christian theme. God the Father was the masculine, and Sophia (Wisdom) was the feminine, (the Taoist concept of Yang and Yin.) Some other early texts speak of God dualistically as Heavenly Father and the Earthly Mother (from which our modern term “Mother Nature” is derived).

By the second century AD the Greek unification of the duality of the masculine-feminine concept of God clashed with the Judaic concept of God being only masculine. One side took the more liberal view held by Sophian Gnostics.<sup>33</sup> The other took the conservative or orthodox perspective, accusing Gnostics of heresy. The conservatives appealed to Emperor Constantine, whose mother had converted to Christianity in 319 AD. Constantine, wanting only one religion for the realm, appointed the conservatives to form a Council and resolve the issue. In the end, the conservatives won, banning Gnostics from practicing their “heresy.”

However, the controversy will never be fully resolved, because the integration of the masculine and the feminine into the fabric of spiritual thinking is a universal issue that no edict from a patriarchal order can ever resolve. As stated in the Gospel of Thomas: [comments in brackets are mine, meaning not in the text]

*Let him who seeks, not cease seeking until he finds.  
And when he finds, he will be troubled.  
When [after] he has been troubled,  
He will marvel and will reign over All.....  
There is nothing hidden that will [can] not be revealed.  
  
My Father's Kingdom is spread out upon the earth,  
and the people do not see it.  
The Kingdom is inside you and it is outside you.*

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<sup>33</sup> Gnostic means “know” in Greek, and is the origin of our word “know”



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*When you know yourself, then you will be known ...  
But if you do not know yourselves, then you will dwell in  
poverty[ being devoid of the Holy Spirit's wisdom]*

## **THE INFINITE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

It was from the Greek tradition that the idea and ideals of wisdom have come to us and were both translated into and incorporated within the construct of the "Holy Spirit." This is significant because the *only* unforgivable sin is to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit. ([This is stated not once, but three times in the New Testament. If you didn't hear it in one Gospel, you'd have to hear it in one of the others!]) And just where should we begin seeking this wisdom? (again from the Gospel of Thomas)

*If you bring forth [the light of the Holy Spirit] which is  
within you,  
that [light] which is within you will save you.*

*If you don't bring forth that [light] which is within you,  
that [darkness] which is within you will destroy you.*

Or from Matthew 6:21-24

*A eye that sees purely illuminates the soul;  
And the whole body shall be filled with light.*

*But if thine eye be evil,  
Then the whole body will be plunged into darkness.*

*If therefore the force that is in thee be evil,  
How great is the darkness!*

Or from John 3:19

*The light from heaven came into the world,  
but those who were evil loved the darkness more than light.*

Or from the Gospel of Thomas

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*Love your brother like your soul,  
Protect that person like the pupil of your eye.*

*If you are whole,  
You will be filled with light.  
But if you are divided,  
You will be filled with darkness.*

And what light must we be seeking within us? Christ tells us quite clearly about the light of the Holy Spirit:

*The Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven.  
You must be born again.  
The breath of the Holy Spirit blows and you hear the sound,  
but you cannot tell from where it comes or whence it goes;  
for such is the nature of the Holy Spirit  
when a person allows it to be born.* John 3:5-8

*God is Spirit: and they that worship him  
must worship in spirit and in truth.* John 4:24

For once the Holy Spirit is born anew within us, we have an obligation to ensure the Holy Spirit is never defiled:

*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,  
and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?  
If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy;  
for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*  
Corinthians 3:16-17

*Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit,  
which is in you ... therefore glorify God in your body,  
and in your spirit, which are God's.*  
Corinthians 6:19-20

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And just how important is the Holy Spirit from Christ's perspective?. Ultimately his answer was supremely powerful and Christ's avowed reason for leaving and ascending to heaven.

*The Father...shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide in you forever; The Spirit of Truth ... ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

*The Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, who the Father will send in my name, shall teach you all things.*

*When the Comforter is come... even the Spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.*

*It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

*When the Spirit of truth, is come, [s]he will guide you into all truth:*

*for [s]he shall speak of him[her]self;  
but whatsoever [s]he shall hear, that shall [s]he speak;  
and [s]he will show you things to come.*

John 14:16-17, 28 & 15:27 & 16:7 & 16:13

Just how wise is she and how much confidence should we place in her? Again the New Testament is unequivocal:

*And when they bring you into the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and rulers, Worry not how or what you shall answer, or what you shall say:*

*For the Holy Spirit shall teach you in the moment what you ought to say. Luke 12:11-12*

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## ***The Only Unforgivable Sin***

And what should happen if we should forsake the Holy Spirit? No less than four passages admonish us about violating her sacredness:

*And everyone that says a word against the Son of Man,  
that will be forgiven;  
But he that blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be  
forgiven.* Luke 12:10,

*Whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never  
have forgiveness,  
But is guilty of everlasting sin.* Mark 3:29,

*Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be  
forgiven men,  
but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.  
And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man,  
it shall be forgiven him;  
But whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit,  
it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age,  
or in the age to come.* Matthew 12: 31-32

The Gospel of Thomas weighs in on this subject too:

*What goes into your mouth will not defile you;  
Rather, it is what comes out of your mouth  
that will defile you.*

## ***Suicide of the Soul***

Blaspheming the Holy Spirit commits what the Greeks called “suicide of the soul,” for it destroys our connection to our divine energies of love and creation.

Similarly, the Aramaic word for blasphemy can also mean to “revile” or “cut oneself off from.” Thus the reason we cannot be

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forgiven is because severing ourselves from our soul is something only we can remedy ourselves. No divine intervention from God during or after the fact can heal this self-inflicted wound.

Would it be going too far to say that there are two kinds of blasphemy: *active* and *passive*? The former may be rather obvious, but the latter takes the form of *neglect, disregard, making subservient, showing little or no respect*. To me that is exactly what our world has done. Being in the State of Grace, to me, means making the Holy Spirit present in our every day actions as Christians.

## ***The Holy Spirit as Teacher of Truth***

Christ's clarity about the role of the Holy Spirit in Christianity's future could be no more clear:

*...the Holy Spirit .... shall teach you all things...  
[s]he will guide you into all truth...  
and [s]he will show you things to come.*

What could be more compelling and commanding advice? The clarity of Christ's words should leave us only with more questions, not about what direction to take, but what is the nature of what she will teach and what truths she will guide us to.

Knowing the nature of the Holy Spirit is probably not as much of a mystery as we have made her. In most simple terms,

*The Holy Spirit is the Energy of Divine Life Itself;  
the Divine Energies of God:  
the Energies of Creation and the Energies of Love.*

## ***Your Destiny and Purpose***

And when the Holy Spirit speaks, how do you know? It's a like the breath of God, you don't know from whence it came – almost like a voice from within that speaks in what often seems like “threads of ideas,” or “themes,” not always complete thoughts. These threads are like the warp and weave of a cloth.

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People expect that the revelation of their personal unique purpose on earth will come in one cataclysmic expose – the “Aha! Moment” – all one’s future trajectory will be clear, specific, and perfectly defined. While this may happen once in a great while, for most of us, it comes as an inner, soulful yearning seeking fulfillment

Think back on your life and this voice will probably have spoken to you many different times in similar or complementary threads. She may come during a dream or a walk on the beach or in a moment of quiet. She will reveal herself in repeating patterns – in a passage you like in a book or a favorite movie. Many find solace in reading the “wisdom texts” – *Psalms*, *Proverbs* (from the Old Testament), *Wisdom of Solomon* (from the Apocrypha) or Gibran’s *Prophet* -- to hear the breath of God.

Thus the Holy Spirit is also the key advisor to learning your purpose on this earth – your “highest and best Destiny.” If you want to know the direction for your life’s purpose, she knows.

### ***Is Synergy the Holy Grail?***

And what is Synergy?<sup>34</sup> ....

*The Unity of the Diversity,  
the joined flow of the Energies of Love and Creation.*

This is why synergy is the real “Holy Grail” and why it has been so hard to find – for the Holy Grail is not a “thing;” it is *essence*: or

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<sup>34</sup> Most people have a heartfelt desire to create a synergistic relationship between others, their God, nature and, ultimately their inner selves. It therefore should be no wonder that, when Christ preached the overarching commandment “Love God with thy whole mind, and whole spirit, and love thy neighbor as thy self, he was exhorting people to engage in synergy. Early Greek Christians, already practicing their core cultural values would not be as perplexed as we are today by the passage in John 14:12-16 “I leave you so that the Great Comforter, the Holy Spirit (Sophia) may come to you ... And these work that I do so shall you do, and greater works shall you do than I.”

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Divine (Essential) Energy. It is so simple, so pure, and so easy to grasp, that is why perhaps over these many centuries it has seemed so elusive – it's been inside us; all this time hidden waiting to be revealed requesting that we join these energies.

Had we sought the advice of the Holy Spirit, she would have given us simple and elegant advice on where to look and what it would look like.

How do we know these are the “Divine Energies?” The Bible tells us so: just turn to Genesis 1:1 and Leviticus 19:18 (or alternatively John 13:34), and we learn that God is the Synergy of the Divine Energy of Creation and Love. In the synergistic unity of these two differential forces we access the Holy Spirit.<sup>35</sup>

It has been said that when we are despondent, we are not connecting with our mission, purpose, and God-granted destiny.

*“Despondency is the suicide of the soul  
because when man is possessed by it  
he is absolutely unable to see the light and to desire it.”*

One's only salvation is to recognize one's soul. When one poisons one's own soul, even the forgiveness of God Himself cannot restore it.

The Greeks had a word for it: “Suicide of the Soul.” It is one other means of blasphemy of the soul.

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<sup>35</sup> Often we hear the expression “God is Love, and Love is all there is!” This is simply an understatement that obscures the real truth. God is not *just* Love, God is *also* Creation. This is not just a minor issue, for if we forsake our co-creative nature, we lose the essence of the Holy Spirit, which unites these energies as synergy. When we experience God as Love, we seek peace, which is just half the experience. When we experience the Divine Energies of Creation and Love, we seek synergy, which is both regenerative and transcendent.

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## ***Richness of Forgiveness***

The early Greek Christians had a colorful palette to paint a picture of forgiveness. For them, the idea was to *release* the pain and hurt of anger by *shifting the “heart of the mind” to a higher or deeper, or broader view* of the events and people that need forgiveness.

They used the process of Metanoia (explored in depth in Volume Two) for this release. Using Metanoia as the active engagement of new thinking and new understanding, forgiveness meant one shifted from the moribund emotions of anger, hatred, revenge, and vindictiveness, to a higher, more sympathetic understanding of the situations and conditions that led to the actions that require forgiveness.

This “upward” transcendence released the pain and hurt one holds within:

*Wisdom is the best healing of all remedies... following the Holy Law ... enabling peace and perfect health to flourish...coming to us, Heavenly Father, with thy Creative Mind.*<sup>36</sup>

Thus forgiveness *first heals the forgiver.*

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<sup>36</sup> Excerpted from *Prayer to the Angel of Wisdom*; Szekely, E.B.; *Essene Gospel of Peace*, Book Three; International Biogenic Society, 1962, pp 51-52



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## ***THE HOLY SPIRIT AS SOURCE OF REGENERATION***

Metanoia is a regenerative process, enabling the Holy Spirit – Wisdom/Sophia – to heal the Spirit.

By exercising forgiveness, whether it be self-forgiveness, or with others, the effect is cathartic, cleansing the mind and the soul to enable a blossoming as one figuratively leaves a dark winter to enter a flowering of spring. By shedding the old husk, the human spirit is released from the bondage of anguish, pain, pettiness, and bitterness and reborn anew at a higher level.

This process of renewal was unique evolved by the Greek. Unfortunately the active process was debased when converted to the Latin language. Metanoia became “repentance,” which infers a guilt not implied in the Greek.

And the Latin word “revival” (to re-live) was not nearly as fulfilling as its Greek counter-part: “Anapterososis,” which means to take flight, to rise above as on the wings of a bird, such as a phoenix rising from the ashes. This Greek word, despite its nearly impenetrable pronunciation, embodies the whole idea of transcendence and transformation lacking in the Latin version.

So forgiveness meant to release the old, shift the heart and the mind to a higher, newer perspective, as on the wings of a snow white dove.

### ***Christ’s Message of Release & Regeneration***

Christianity -- not as a religion with Medieval dogmas and doctrines, but philosophy and a set of principles advocated by the spiritual Christ -- is the core of our quest of the deepest understanding of Christ’s message.

Much of the mystery of Christ is tied closely to the nature of the Holy Spirit, as exemplified in this passage about Nicodemus, the only Pharisee who wanted to understand the teachings of Christ:

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*Teacher, we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are proof enough that God is with you.*

*Jesus replied, "I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God."*

*What do you mean? exclaimed Nicodemus. How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?*

*Jesus replied, "The truth is, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of ....the Spirit.... the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven." (John 3:1-6)*

In this way, Christ was advocating a highly transformative experience of *Regeneration -- a strategic, spiritual, and synergistic transformation of relationships with God, oneself, and with others.* Much of the deepest meaning of Christ attempts to answer fundamental questions, such as "Who am I?" "What is my highest meaning and purpose?" "How shall I access the Kingdom of Heaven while on earth?" The pathway to the answers to many of these questions is clear: The Holy Spirit is a phenomenally powerful and central force in Christ's view. Consider these two passages:

*Whosoever speaketh a word against the Son, it shall be forgiven him, but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.*

Matthew 12:32

*All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, ...But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Spirit hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.*

Mark 3:29

In other words, a damnation of the Holy Spirit is the only thing for which Christ says we cannot be forgiven. Why would this be so? Because the Holy Spirit dwells in each of our souls, and by damning the Holy Spirit, we damn our own souls – which is the pathway to God, to loving others, to forgiveness, and, most importantly, to the

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spiritual life-force that dwells within us. Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is Suicide of the Soul.

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### **The Power of the Holy Spirit**

When Christ refers to the Holy Spirit, he means a belief in, commitment to, and practice of the “higher order” laws – Love, Forgiveness, Fairness, and Mercy – which constitute the foundation of the Holy Spirit.

Christ saw the power of the Holy Spirit as the highest order of the law of the Father. Regeneration reveals God as Healer and Giver of Life through the Renewal of the Holy Spirit. Regeneration is not the reshaping of a life style as in information or reorientation.

Regeneration is not experienced as ritual, as in water baptism. Regeneration is the work of God through the Holy Spirit, dedicated to Transformation. Regeneration results in the creation of a fundamentally new relationship between oneself and the Holy Spirit.

*“The Father...shall give you another Comforter (or Counselor), that he may abide in you forever; .... the Spirit of truth ... ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. The Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, who the Father will send in my name, shall teach you all things. When the Comforter is come... even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me. It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send him unto you. When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come.” (John 14:16-17, 28 & 15:27 & 16:7 & 16:13)*

Tragedy, loss, and even death of a loved one can be a spiritual revelation and resurrection when the soul embraces our highest ideals, giving wings to the soul, charging upward to the imagination that allows us to co-create a new future of bold possibilities. The Aramaic expression: “*kam leh*” has multiple meanings: “He has Risen,” “He has Succeeded,” and “He has achieved his Purpose in Life.

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## KEYSTONE CONCLUSIONS

### *The Divine Energies of Love and Creation*

There is a deep secret spiritual code underpinning life itself. But here is what I've found beyond and beneath what's in much of my inquiry into the spiritual nature of life itself:

1. In John 14-16 are the wonderful passages about why Christ leaves the earth-- so that the Holy Spirit of Divine Truth will come.
2. The Holy Spirit is represented by the wind that blows-- as the breath of God; these are the Divine Energies of God: the Energies (drives) of Love (bond) and Creation (create). These energies are synonymous with "Collaborative Innovation" in the business world.
3. The Divine Energies are hard-wired into the brain's DNA. We now know a reasonable amount about how to access them and how so many people have continually short-circuited them.
4. Because Trust, in its highest form, is Love and Creation (Divine Energy), then the highest form of Trust must be the Holy Spirit! And that's why she produces such remarkable results.
5. Over the course of time, the Holy Spirit:
  - was feminine in the Aramaic and Hebrew, and was represented in Greek as neutral: "psyche" or "pneu" or as feminine: "Wisdom-Sophia." She remained in this form at least until the 2nd century AD.
  - "She" was changed to a "he" in the Latin, and the Catholic Church argued vociferously in the 4th & 5th century that the Holy Spirit was masculine. (They wouldn't have to argue anything unless everyone at the time knew that the "he" was really a "she.")

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- This was all revealed in the Middle Testament (Apocrypha) work of the "Wisdom of Solomon," (which is still in the Catholic Bible with "she" turned into the mysteriously neutered "Holy Ghost").
  - For some reason the Reformation was antithetical to these revealing wisdom passages and the entire Middle Testament was removed from the Protestant Bible, leaving a gap of 1000 years of spiritual writing between the Old and New Testaments. While Martin Luther's Bible retained the Middle Testament, it was removed from the King James Version.
  - In several of my writings, I refer to "trust" as "she" to put things back into historical alignment (her "Gemini" qualities are the "love" and "creation" combination).
6. Synergy is the deepest yearning of the human soul because *God is Synergy* (see Appendix TWO). The soul naturally wants to create synergy, which is the alignment of differential energies -- harmonies and polarities -- into something transcendent, transformational, and filled with Love and Creation: the *dance of life* as we touch the higher soul in each other, bringing us closer to God. Through the Holy Spirit we are enabled to access this synergy.
- I think this is what Christ was alluding to in John 14 when He said "These things that I do, ye shall do too, and greater than I" and why He said in John 13:34 that we needed another Commandment to get us to this point.
7. Experiencing the Holy Spirit through the prism of Love and Creation is simply a place to start. For the Holy Spirit is a colorful multi-dimension kaleidoscope of interplaying possibilities. Undoubtedly the Holy Spirit is Wisdom and Synergy. The interplays of Divine Energies produce unique gifts to all of us. 1 Corinthians 12 speaks of these gifts in clear terms:

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- I write about the special abilities the Holy Spirit gives each of us..... I want you to know how to discern what is truly from God [through] the Holy Spirit. There are varieties of gifts, but it is through the same Holy Spirit that is the source of them all.

There are kinds of service, but is the same Lord we are serving. There are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

To each of us is given different kinds of gifts from the Holy Spirit for the common good.

- To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice.
- To another the same Spirit gives the gift of special knowledge.
- To another the Spirit gives deep faith,
- To another the gift of healing by the same Spirit,
- To another the power to perform miracles,
- To another the capacity to prophesy,
- The Spirit give someone else the ability to know whether it is really the Spirit of God or another spirit that is speaking.
- To another the ability to speak other languages and to others the ability to interpret the meaning of what is being said.

It is the very same Holy Spirit who empowers these gifts. The Holy Spirit alone apportions which gift which each person will have.

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Paul then advises in Chapter 13, that none of these gifts have any value without love for our fellow man. It is the very same Holy Spirit who empowers these gifts. The Holy Spirit alone apportions which gift which each person will have.

Paul then advises in Chapter 13, that none of these gifts have any value without love for our fellow man. All these different vocations are various prismatic combinations of the Holy Spirits energies of Love and Creation and more.

8. The Holy Spirit's set of unique gifts explain how the Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want; He leadeth me to green pastures and restoreth my soul.

Not only is the Holy Spirit my personal shepherd, but those others who have found the Holy Spirit's gift are our worldly shepherds -- there to restore us and guide us to still waters. We need not live in a monastery to protect us from the dangers of power, money, and sex, for those who have received the Spirit's gift can be the source of security to act as guardians. <sup>37</sup>

9. The Kingdom is not something you must experience only in the afterlife. It is in your fields, under your nose, if you care to look for it (See Appendix TWO)

The wonderful thing: the spiritual energies really work.

However, these energies come under massive attack and can easily be destroyed in the presence of Psychopaths, Narcissists, and

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<sup>37</sup> Insight provided by Rev. Richard Bliese



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Machiavellians<sup>38</sup> -- all of whom we can thwart if we use our Divine Energies together.

What a wonderful thing to have this deep wisdom revealed to us! Halleluiah!

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<sup>38</sup> Known as the "Dark Triad."

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## ***THE MESSAGES OF CHRIST***

Religion seems to have gotten in the way of so much of the great teachings in the New Testament. Prelates who have wanted to teach seekers of wisdom and truth often get tied up in the literal meaning of scripture, and then get tangled in its web of knotted contradictions and strictures that were injected by prior “authorities” who spun and twisted the deepest mean into an unholy cloth.

What’s important to understand is the real messages of Christ. Most students of the Bible are quite clear on two very important themes: first, mercy and forgiveness,, and second, resurrection and Redemption, neither of which were supported in the Old Testament.

To a lesser extent (but no less important) is the understanding that Christ was bringing a third message of healing, which begins first from the soul, then to the mind, then to the body.

Largely overlooked by religion, were three other themes:

- an opening of the doors of the Temple to every seeker of divine truth, regardless of their birth, a right that Judaism had closed off to outsiders who were not the “chosen people.” Christ believed in equal opportunity.
- a reconciliation of the contradictions that make the Old Testament so confounding, It is this reconciliation that made Christ a spiritual revolutionary; He clearly was not a fundamentalist.
- a clear message that His departure was enable the divine energies of God, the Holy Spirit of Truth, the Great Comforter and Counselor, to flow through us, and thus open the path for our own spiritual evolution.

If and when traditional Christian religion embraces these last themes, it too will experience a resurrection.

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## APPENDIX ONE: THE SOUL AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Biblical authors often use the terms "soul" and "spirit" interchangeably throughout various books of sacred scripture. This interchange of terms makes it difficult for us to comprehend the differences between "Soul" and "Spirit." <sup>39</sup>*

Soul and Spirit have been closely connected and often confused. Here's the way I've handed the distinctions:

- 1) SOUL is where our conscience lies; it's the connecting thread to God's Energies; and the unifying mechanism to the diversity within all normal humans.
- 2) SPIRIT is the Holy Spirit within us that flows the Divine Energies of God through us and into our Universe. The Divine Energies of God are Love and Creation; thus when we are Loving and Co-Creating we are in Divine Energy Flow.
- 3) FORGIVENESS and MERCY are so important because these release the blockages of Fear, Anger, and Revenge that prevent the Divine Energy Flow of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and Mercy enable us to create a new future, to regenerate, and not be burdened by the dead weight of historic baggage.

Spirit is the essence of divine energy, intangible and invisible. Soul is something that we feel in our heart; the soul's emotional expression transferred into our physical bodies. Here's how expert authority on the ancient Aramaic culture Rocco Errico tells it:

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<sup>39</sup> Errico, Rocco; *Let There Be Light, Seven Keys to Understanding the Bible*, Noohra Press, 1994 p 211

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*I believe Spirit transmutes itself into Soul, and Soul transmutes itself into physical form. Spirit, soul, and body remain differentiated, but are one [connected], which is consistent with the ancient biblical idea that viewed a human being as a total unity, that is, as a spirit-soul-body manifestation.* <sup>40</sup>

*Soul is not a nebulous ethereal part of each of us; it is the very center from which we live.* <sup>41</sup>

The Aramaic word for Soul is *Naphsha*, meaning “being,” life,” and “self.” It is the life force of a human being. The Greek word for Soul is *Psyche* (the basis of our word psychology); the Latin word for Soul is *Anima* (feminine) or *Animus* (masculine) meaning Spirit. To be “animated” is to have your soul and spirit activated.

The expression “Love your neighbor as thyself” when used in the Aramaic (Pashitta) translates into “love,” or “compassion” or “kindness” or “tenderheartedness” or “mercy.” <sup>42</sup>

*Compassionate love nourishes and encourages the finest in human beings and creates a healthy emotional environment for ....the compassionate care and love that one has for his or her own actual soul (self) as the basis for the practice of love (compassion) for one's neighbor... establishing a state of self-grace.* <sup>43</sup>

Spirit in Hebrew and Aramaic means to *breathe* or to *blow* or *spirit* as in: “God breathed life into us;” “our breath was the soft sound of God’s life force entering our Soul in our breast.” Thus the expression: “the wind that blows,” refers to the “breathe of God.” God as spirit is everywhere, universally present, transcendent, and all inclusive.

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<sup>40</sup> Errico, Rocco; Ibid, p 206

<sup>41</sup> Errico, Rocco, Ibid, p 210

<sup>42</sup> Pashitta is the form of Aramaic still used by Christians in the Middle East today

<sup>43</sup> Errico, Rocco; Ibid, p 218

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Our word “inspiration” comes from the idea of *infusing us with spirit*.

A person with “evil spirit” signifies a bad demeanor or a jealousy – evil spirits coming not from the devil, but from our own creation.

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## **APPENDIX TWO: FINDING THE BIBLE'S SYNERGY CODE**

### ***THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL GOD***

I have searched high and low throughout the Bible to find the *Synergy Code*. I knew it must be there, but where?

The next pages will take you on the journey in a more orderly manner than my “hunt and peck” trek. (Warning: If you are a Fundamentalist, this story may be disconcerting.)

In Genesis 1:27, many versions of the Bible state:

*“And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness....”*<sup>44</sup>

.... “us” and “our” both imply that God was “plural” not “singular,” thus multi-faceted or multi-dimensional. (This is like a diamond with multiple *facets*, but still *one* God.)

To understand the dilemma better, think of water. When frozen it is solid, when at normal temperature it flows, and superheated becomes steam, but is still water. It combines perfectly with some things, but never with oil. God, in the ancient Middle Eastern conception, was multi-dimensional and thus seen in through a kaleidoscopic perspective, multi-faceted.<sup>45</sup>

### ***Unity in the Diversity – The Hidden Synergy Code***

The idea of God, in the Middle Eastern culture, took on a multiplicity of meanings, including “Life Giver,” “Parent”

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<sup>44</sup> Errico, Rocco; Ibid, p 162

<sup>45</sup> With the high-power analytical Greek mind came a change; their intellectual questioning required them to categorize, analyze, and systematize, dividing things into mind, body, emotions, psyche, inner-outer, and so forth. This approach is what we adhere to in our Western culture today.

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(simultaneously mother-father), “Ultimate Creator,” “Judge,” “Ultimate Force,” and “Sacred Unity” among others.

In Christ’s Aramaic language, whenever the word “God” appears, it refers to “Alaha,” which means variously “Sacred Unity,” “Oneness,” “the All,” “the Ultimate Power,” and the “One with no opposite.”<sup>46</sup>

*By contrast, the English word “God” is based on a Germanic root, meaning “good.” No doubt we can see goodness as one aspect of the divine, but it is not the same as unity....[nor] does it include “everything.”*

*Arab-speaking Christians in the Middle East still use a form of this word for Unity – Allah – to refer to the divine.*

*The ancient Hebrew for – Elohim – has a plural ending, which can be interpreted many ways – ‘the One that is also Many’ or ‘Unity in the Diversity.’”<sup>47</sup>*

Recall in Volume Two – Dynamic Differential Energy – we explored “Unity in the Diversity” as the foundation of the Synergy Code discovered by the Greeks. Earlier I mused, wondering why the Synergy Code was not in the Bible, despite having looked for it for twenty years. It should now be quite evident from the insight above – *God is Dynamic Differential Energy:*

***God, as “Unity in the Diversity”, is the Source of Synergy.***

***The Soul Yearns for Synergy because God is Synergy.***

This is not the simplistic God as in *Goodness is Godliness*, but in the multidimensional Alaha/Elohim which is *Sacred Unity*. In other words, the Synergy Code was staring us right in the face, disguised

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<sup>46</sup> Douglas-Klotz, Ibid, p 27

<sup>47</sup> Douglas-Klotz, Ibid, p 28 If God=Good, then “God is Love and Love is all there is” is a correct. If God=Unity in Diversity, then God=Synergy

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as a superficial translation of the meaning of one three letter word – “God”!

This Integrity of “Sacred Unity in the Diversity” was expressed by Christ in very clear language in the Gospel of Thomas: <sup>48</sup>

*I am not a ‘divider,’ am I? (72)*

*If one is whole, one will be filled with light, but if one is divided, one will be filled with darkness. (61)*

*There is light within a person of light, and it shines on the whole world. If it does not shine it is dark. (24)*

*If you bring forth [the light] that is within you, what [light] you have will save you. If you do not have that within you, what [darkness] you have within you [will] kill you. (70)*

*When you make two into one, you will become children of humanity; (106)*

His followers asked “Shall we enter the kingdom as babies?”

*When you make the two into one, and when you make the inner like the outer and the outer like the inner, and the upper like the lower, and when you make the female to a single one ... then you will enter the Kingdom. (22)*

*If you make peace with each other in a single house, when you say “Mountain, move from here,” it will move. (48 & 106)*

His followers asked him, “When will the Kingdom come?”

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<sup>48</sup> Note: The Gospel of Thomas was found as part of the Nag Hammadi Bible. Scholars are convinced it pre-dates the Gospels of the New Testament, by twenty to thirty years and was one of the primary source documents for the Gospels. The Gospel of Thomas consists of only 114 passages. Upon reading the passages, it appears as the sayings are scattered and disjointed because they were recorded by a person who was clearly not an adept story teller. I have rearranged the sequence along a thematic pattern that, I believe, tells a much clearer story.



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*It will not come by watching for it. It will not be said 'Look, here it is' or 'Look there it is.' Rather the Father's Kingdom is spread out upon the earth, and people do not see it. (113)*

*The Kingdom is like a person who had a treasure hidden in his field, but did not know it. When he died he left it to his son, who took over the field and sold it. The buyer went plowing, [and discovered] the treasure....[becoming enormously wealthy.] (106) <sup>49</sup>*

*One who seeks will find; for [one who knocks] it will be opened. (94)*

## ***The Male-Female God***

Synergy -- the wholeness being greater than the individual parts -- and the Sacred Unity in the Diversity was expressed in many ways, which, for the most part, are lost on the English listener today. While English does not put "gender" on most of its words, many other languages do. For example, in French, one's mouth is feminine, but one's hands are masculine. <sup>50</sup>

For example, entering the "Kingdom" (*basileia* in Greek) expresses the feminine version, making it a "King-Queendom."

Like the Greeks, the Hebrews also saw *Wisdom* in feminine form as *Khokhmah*. From the Hebrew *Book of Proverbs* we have very direct evidence of the feminine that was not expurgated over the many revisions to the Bible: (excerpts from Proverbs 5 & 6)

*Blessed is the man who finds Wisdom -- the man who gains understanding -- for she is more profitable than silver, and yields better returns than gold.*

*She is more precious than rubies, nothing you desire can compare with her.*

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<sup>49</sup> Note: Christ is saying the Kingdom is not something that awaits you after death, it's found under your nose, in your field, to be uncovered.

<sup>50</sup> Mark Twain wrote a hilarious short story about his experience trying to learn German and the problems with genderized body parts.

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*Long life is in her right hand, and in her left hand are riches and honor.*

*Her ways are pleasant ways and all her paths are peace.*

*She is a Tree of Life to those who embrace her; those who hold her will be blessed. ....*

*Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.*

*Wisdom is supreme, therefore get wisdom though it cost all you have, get understanding.*

*Esteem her, and she will exalt you; She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor.*

The idea of God being a Male-Female parent is expressed in a passage from the *Gospel of the Hebrews*<sup>51</sup>, (from the first century AD). After the temptation of Jesus this Gospel states:

*"Even so did my Mother, the Holy Spirit, take me by one of my hairs and carry me to the great mountain Tabor."*

In the *Sophia of Jesus Christ*, a non-canonically approved book in the Nag Hammadi Bible, the expression of a Male-Female is quite prominent in the creation story. Here's just a sample;

*Sophia, the Mother of the Universe.... desired by herself to bring the [world] into existence [alone without her male consort the Father]. But by the will of the Father of the Universe, [that] his unimaginable goodness might be revealed [together they caused the world to be created]....this came about by the will of Mother Sophia.*

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<sup>51</sup> Scholars attribute this possibly to Matthew. Now only fragments remain. Not to be confused with Paul's Letter to Hebrews

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As any judge in a courtroom knows, truth is like a many-sided crystal; often we see only one side. Only by shedding light on all the facets does the truth become more easily revealed.

## ***Where is the “Trust Code” in the Bible?***

In case you haven’t spotted it by now, you just read where the “trust code” is buried in the Bible – right in front of our eyes in the Hebrew *Book of Proverbs*. The whole **Book of Proverbs** is really a book of *wisdom*, a book of *integrity*, a book of *accountability*, and more.

Unfortunately (at least in my personal experience) no one tells us to read and fully embrace the wisdom of *Proverbs*, then read the rest of the Bible. We get indoctrinated first with all the rules and regulations, not the wisdom.

We learn the Ten Commandments, but none of the subtleties provided in the *Book of Proverbs* that would make such a real difference in our lives. The *Book of Proverbs* is not about religion, it’s about Life Itself. No child should get past the eighth grade without having a course on it.

## **APPENDIX THREE: WHICH BIBLE IS THE “CORRECT” ONE?**

This is a vexing question; one that has gotten scholars and theologians tangled up for years. My answer will not be satisfactory, primarily because every Bible has its inherent biases reflecting the belief systems of those who constructed it. (This is not bad, providing the compilers have a high degree of integrity.)

The problem is compounded greatly today because of the internet. In the research for this Volume, the internet has been both a blessing and a curse; a blessing in that much more information is available for research and cross referencing; a curse in that every amateur and self-styled evangelist can put up a web site, change

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words in a historical document, and then post it on the internet as fact.

The discoveries of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Nag Hammadi Bible sixty five years ago as created a feeding frenzy for these self-proclaimed “authorities” to twist realities of archeology to suit their own beliefs.<sup>52</sup>

## ***THE MANY DIFFERENT VERSIONS***

Most people don’t realize there is one major difference and a number of minor differences between the Catholic and Protestant Bibles.<sup>53</sup> First, the major difference:

After the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, many questioned every decision made by the Church of Rome. Naturally the Bible came up for scrutiny. They reopened an old argument from the late fourth century between St.

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<sup>52</sup> Here is a good example of outright twisting of the truth. *The Gospel of Thomas* was found in the Nag Hammadi Bible in Egypt. Many scholars date this Gospel to about 50 AD, which predates the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John. [Note: there is only *one* version of the *Gospel of Thomas* from the Nag Hammadi Bible; a team of international scholars have very carefully translated it.] One website posted their “Gospel of Thomas,” which they took from the website of the Church of the Pearl, which purportedly had a complete version of the “Gospel of Thomas.” Here’s the posting from the Church of the Pearl:

*Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; the Way, because you must walk in my footsteps to reach the seat of the Eternal; the Truth, because I am the Eternal God, the Totality of All That Is; the Life, because the Tree of Life, grounded in the Earthly Mother and ascending to the Heavenly Father, is nourished in my blood."*

Though it sounds authentic; it’s not; it’s a complete fraud. No passage in the *Gospel of Thomas* has even the remotest chance of being translated this way! They just invented it to meet their doctrinaire needs.

<sup>53</sup> I have no ax to grind in this debate, I am just reporting the facts.

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Augustine and St. Jerome as to which version of the Old Testament should be used.

St. Augustine stood for using the Septuagint – the Greek Old Testament -- which was created in Alexandria about 200 BC. According to old texts from the third century BC King Ptolemy II gathered 72 Elders together to write a version of the Hebrew Old Testament for the Library of Alexandria.

*He placed them in 72 chambers, each of them in a separate one, without revealing to them why they were summoned. He entered each one's room and said: "Write for me the Torah of Moshe your teacher." God put it in the heart of each one to translate identically as all the others did.*

Because it was written and debated by 70 scholars and rabbis, it was called the *Septuagint*. The Greek Old Testament contained both the Old Testament (most of which was written about or before 1000 BC) and newer passages.

## ***Missing Middle Testament***

These newer passages were considered the “Middle” Testament (otherwise known as the *Deuterocanonical* texts or the *Apocrypha*) some of which was originally written in Greek. The Middle Testament did not include traditional Jewish texts, but included seven newer works (that presumably were of divine origin but more recent, fresher, more up to date with contemporary thinking of the times. (One can only imagine there must have been quite a debate between the fundamentalist of the time advocating for the ancient works only, and the more evolutionary spiritual thinkers who wanted to keep the Hebrew spirit alive, seeing the Bible as a “living document,” believing divine inspiration was a continuing process.)<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> The “Middle” Testament includes seven “newer” books: *Tobit*, *Judith*, *1 and 2 Maccabees*, *Wisdom of Solomon*, *Ecclesiasticus* (or *Sirach*),

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## ***Hebrew Revisions to the Old Testament***

Here's what happened to the Middle Testament. After 70 AD, Christianity and Roman domination were making major incursions into Judaism as a religion and as a culture. A Jewish initiative was launched to revise the Old Testament to make it more accurate. Some scholars also believe they wanted to take out or rewrite passages Christians were using to prophesize the coming of Christ. The Jewish Counsel of Jamnia resulted in a long-term initiative resulting in what is now known as the Masoretic (revised Hebraic) Text, an effort that continued for another two or three hundred years, before being finalized. Criteria were set on what could be included, and what must be excluded: first, the originals must have been written in Hebrew (if it originated in Greek it was corrupted) and second, it had to be over 500 years old (which effectively eliminated several books, including those of the Middle Testament. The Masoretic texts are fewer than the Septuagint, sometimes similar, and sometimes differ significantly.

People haven't changed much when it comes to being creative about religious documents. Like today, some people just "invented" stories and passed them off as scriptures – falsehoods passed off as the truth. In other cases, the merging of cultures brought about interpretative writings that twisted the realities of what Christ and other prophets actually said.<sup>55</sup>

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and *Baruch*. The Septuagint also included an additional six chapters (107 verses) in *Esther* and three chapters (174 verses) in *Daniel* that are missing in the Protestant Bible.

<sup>55</sup> This is known as syncretism, which means the merging of ideas, culture, or thinking. Much of the Nag Hammadi Bible is syncretic in that it merges documents from Egyptian, Greek, and Hebrew cultures, sometimes with almost humorous results.

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## *Updating the Christian Bible*

Between the Counsel of Nicaea in 325 AD and the Synod of Rome in 382 AD, there was a major effort under way to purge the false and extraneous biblical writings and stabilize on one solid set of documents.<sup>56</sup> After the Synod of Rome, St. Jerome was sent to the Holy Land to begin collecting documents for the Papal Library containing all the information he could find on the original works of the Christian and Jewish faiths.<sup>57</sup> In the process he amassed quite a library himself.

He was also charged with writing an accurate version of the Bible<sup>58</sup> in Latin (as the Greek version was what was most often used, and Rome wanted Latin to be the lingua franca of the empire, for obvious reasons. Plus, the common person did not know Greek, which was spoken principally by the educated elite.) Jerome's choice of language was not "high Latin" but "low Latin," known as the "Vulgate."<sup>59</sup>

Jerome then had to make a number of important decisions: Which version of the Old Testament to use? The five hundred year old Septuagint? Or the nearly finished Masoretic Text, which excluded the Middle Testament? And what versions of the Gospels and Epistles should be used? For the Old Testament, because he was

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<sup>56</sup> Compare this today to having one standard for computer operating systems, or one standard for commercial aviation safety, etc. Without one standard, people are confused. In the spiritual battle, the more conservative view (fundamentalist --the old is correct) usually clashes with the more liberal view (spiritual evolutionist – newer interpretations bring old ideas into a new life), just as today.

<sup>57</sup> This is why Jerome is now the patron saint of librarians

<sup>58</sup> Conforming to the Church's policy, most of the references to the divine feminine were expurgated, particularly linking Wisdom and the Holy Spirit to Sophia.

<sup>59</sup> The English word "Vulgar" meaning "base or uncultured" has the same root meaning.

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working with Jewish scholars already, he opted for the newer Masoretic Text.

St. Augustine, who was equally scholarly, but more spiritual in his thinking, and quite influential in Papal circles, raised a ruckus about the decision, advocating that the Septuagint was a cleaner and fuller text, and the Middle Testament contained many very spiritually compelling texts. Jerome countered that the Septuagint was a translation of the Hebrew, which would then be retranslated into Latin, thus introducing more possibility of an inaccurate interpretation.

Augustine also advocated in favor of the Epistle to the Hebrews, the Second Epistle of Peter and the controversial Book of Revelation, all of which were accepted into the New Testament canon at the Councils of Hippo (393 AD) and Carthage (397 AD).

In the end, Augustine won most of the arguments. The Septuagint would be the foundation of the Old Testament, and the Middle Testament would be included in the Catholic Bible.

This held for over a thousand years. However, the controversy of what is the “right” translation will never end. Here is a good example of the differences between the Greek, Hebrew, and Vulgate versions (from Genesis 4:7):

Septuagint (Greek): If you offer correctly but do not divide correctly, have you not sinned? Be still; his recourse is to you, and you will rule over him.

Masoretic (Hebrew): Is it not so that if you improve, it will be forgiven you? If you do not improve, however, at the entrance, sin is lying, and to you is its longing, but you can rule over it."

Vulgate (Latin): If thou do well, shalt thou not receive? But if ill, shall not sin forthwith be present at the door? But the lust thereof shall be under thee, and thou shalt have dominion over it.



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## ***Reformation Challenges the Bible***

The Protestant Reformation followed on the heels of Gutenberg's invention of the printing press. At that time, most Christians were not allowed to read scriptures, nor were they even allowed to possess a translation of the Gospels into a vernacular language such as French or German, or English – a crime that could be punishable as severely as death.<sup>60</sup>

New Protestant Bibles were being printed in English, French, and German. How should the printers set the type? Martin Luther and others reopened the Augustine-Jerome debate; and, probably more in distrust and antipathy for the Catholic Church than any other factor, weighed in on Jerome's side.

Thus the Middle Testament<sup>61</sup> had to go. It was branded heretical, and called the "Apocrypha," which means "hidden, "esoteric," "spurious,, "of questionable authenticity." In addition, agitated Protestants insisted that if an Old Testament book was not mentioned in the New Testament, it should be excluded from their Bible.<sup>62</sup> This, however, would also exclude a large number of the

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<sup>60</sup> Douglas-Klotz, Neil; *The Hidden Gospel, Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus*; Quest, 1999, p 17 quoting George Lamsa

<sup>61</sup> The Catholic Church as always shunned the word Apocrypha, and used the term "Deuterocanonical" meaning the second canon. However, since few can say or spell the word, using the idea of the Middle Testament makes more sense, spanning the thousand year gap between the Old and New Testaments.

<sup>62</sup> Like so many Biblical controversies, this required narrowing one's interpretation of the source documents. For example: one would have to take the verses that highlight the role of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17, 28 & 15:27 & 16:7 & 16:13) and deny that they are referring to commentary in the Wisdom of Solomon in the Middle Testament.

So too with the verse in Luke 11:31 "The Queen of the South (*South* in Greek was later changed to *Sheba* in English) will rise up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, because she came from a distant land to hear the Wisdom of Solomon."

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books from the Old Testament as well, a fact that was conveniently overlooked. They took the Jerome side of the argument, and based the Protestant Bible on the Hebrew Masoretic texts, not the Greek Septuagint.

With the discoveries of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which refer to a number of books excluded from the Masoretic texts, it now appears that St. Augustine's winning argument for a greater inclusiveness was the right decision. Whether the Protestant Bible ever embraces the Middle Testament is for the future to decide.

Of course, the use of the feminine to refer to the Holy Spirit will probably stir quite a high level of debate.

Beyond this, there are different versions of the Bible within the wide variety of Catholic and Protestant text, including even different versions of the Ten Commandments.

To add to the confusion, there are many different translations that can take a single verse and interpret it very differently.

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If this means literally to hear King Solomon speak, then the book: "Wisdom of Solomon" is not referred to in the New Testament. However, if the passage means she travelled from the upper Nile River to consult with Solomon, whose deep understanding is contained in the Book: "Wisdom of Solomon" then this book should be included in the Bible.

One might also argue that Proverbs (such as 4, 5, 7, 8, or 9) are amplified in much greater detail in the Wisdom of Solomon, giving much deeper richness and clarity to some of their very powerful advice.

As with most intellectual debate, it is often better to err on the side of inclusion, lest one exclude a deep truth or insight.

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## APPENDIX FOUR: WRESTLING WITH LEVITICUS

### *IS THE OLD TESTAMENT THE WORD OF GOD?*

Making sense of spirituality is not an easy task. For years I had been trapped in a spiritual dilemma: What does one do with the often horrible contradictions in the Old Testament? How could the Old and New Testaments be reconciled?

Many Evangelical preachers often declare their conversion blossomed when they accepted the Bible as the unalterable “Word of God.” I wish I could have made such an unequivocal statement too, but simply could not. I found too many obstacles in the Old Testament that confounded me.

### *Diabolical Contradictions*

While many parts of the Old Testament that seem to reflect the word and wisdom of God (such as Psalms and Proverbs), there are many others that seem to have nothing to do with God (how long a Rabbi’s beard must be, what food we can eat, and so forth).

But worse: much of the Old Testament is filled with diabolical contradictions that simply cannot reflect wisdom, truth and divinity. One psychologist referred to the God of the Old Testament as “bi-polar;” at one time a very vindictive force -- destroying cities, throwing plagues at entire nations, turning wives into pillars of salt -- all justified by the fact that they sinned.<sup>63</sup> And at another time the loving and forgiving God that Christ embraced.

These contradictions were a very vexing problem for me (and I suspect for many other people struggling with coming to an understanding of God and trying to build a relationship with a divine

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<sup>63</sup> One Jewish psychologist humorously diagnosed God as a Bi-Polar Manic-Depressive

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spirit.) Putting this struggle to rest was essential to clearing the decks to come to embrace the nature of the Holy Spirit.

There are so many contradictions and anomalies in the Old Testament such as these:

- Abraham gave his own wife Sarah to the Pharaoh to be the Pharaoh's wife, but lied to the Pharaoh saying Sarah was his sister.<sup>64</sup> How could God then put a plague on the Pharaoh's land and bless Abraham?<sup>65</sup> Abraham's wife could not conceive a child. So Abraham slept with his maid, Hagar to have children. The Lord condoned adultery and blessed Abraham.<sup>66</sup>
- Lot, Abraham's brother, forsook his own virgin daughters, giving them to the mob so that he might be spared.<sup>67</sup> When the Lord turned Lot's wife into a pillar of stone,<sup>68</sup> matters got worse. Lot's daughters got him drunk two nights in a row to have sex with their father so that they might carry out the Levitical blood line<sup>69</sup>. God blessed them all for having an incestuous relationship.
- David, the conqueror of Goliath, was made King by God. He had two wives.<sup>70</sup> As King, after conquering the Moabites, he mercilessly slaughtered two out three prisoners,<sup>71</sup> then struck down eighteen thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.<sup>72</sup> Later he annihilated forty thousand Aramean foot soldiers,<sup>73</sup> then had an affair with Uriah's

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<sup>64</sup> Genesis 12:10-20

<sup>65</sup> Genesis 12:17

<sup>66</sup> Genesis 16

<sup>67</sup> Genesis 19:3-8

<sup>68</sup> Genesis 19:26

<sup>69</sup> Genesis 19:30-38

<sup>70</sup> 1Samuel 30:5

<sup>71</sup> 2Samuel 8:2

<sup>72</sup> 2Samuel 8:13

<sup>73</sup> 2Samuel 10:17

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wife, who then bore David's child.<sup>74</sup> Then he conquered all the Ammonite towns and apparently enslaved its entire people.<sup>75</sup> Never does he seem regretful that he's killed so many men. When King David's son Prince Amnon raped his virgin sister Princess Tamar, David was furious, but did nothing.<sup>76</sup>

Difficulties like this go on and on in Old Testament Scriptures. But the worst problem I have with the Old Testament is with Leviticus.

## ***LEVITICUS<sup>77</sup> – MY PARIAH!***

While one passage in Leviticus is very clearly of Christian persuasion – “Never seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love your neighbor as yourself.” (Leviticus 19:18), the next chapter (Leviticus 20) defies (and defiles) all of Christ's teachings:

*The Lord said to Moses, give the Israelites these instructions:*<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> 2Samuel 12:15

<sup>75</sup> 2 Samuel 12:29

<sup>76</sup> 2 Samuel 13:1-21

<sup>77</sup> Exodus 21-22 is equally difficult to swallow (eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, hand for a hand, etc)

<sup>78</sup> See the following passages: (these are just a few examples)

Exodus 21:7 on the procedures for selling one's daughter into slavery

Exodus 21:14-22:31 detailing the punishments and retributions for sin and smiting

Exodus 35:2 on putting one to death for working on the Sabbath

Leviticus 1:9 on the proper methods for burnt animal sacrifice to God

Leviticus 4:1-7:37 (for example, excommunicate anyone who eats a hamburger with 1% or more fat)

Leviticus 11:6-8 on touching pigskin (this is what footballs are made of)

Leviticus 11:10 on how eating lobster or clams is detestable and forbidden

Leviticus 15:9 you'll be unclean & must bathe if you sit in a car's driver seat after being driven by a man

Leviticus 15:19-24 if you hug a your mother or wife during her menstrual cycle

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*Stone or put to death those engaging in the acts of:*

- *Cursing parents*
- *Adultery*
- *Homosexuality*
- *Sodomy*

In today's society, if anyone put sinners to death for these acts, they would immediately be incarcerated, convicted, and possibly given the death penalty and electrocuted. Only a remorseless psychopath could conceivably behave this way. Could God have been so wrong? Was the Law of Moses not inspired by God? Could God be this evil and uncompassionate?

How then do we reconcile these punishments as the word of God? Who is the best judge of the veracity of these words?

To answer these questions, I went to bible classes in several churches, asking fellow Christians. The answers were paltry, glossed over, or unintelligent: "You must believe," I was told. "The answer is in the Book of Revelation," was still another response. "Don't worry about it, Jesus is your master," replied another authority. "It was different back then." These kind people seemed impervious to scrutinizing the Biblical text for its deepest meaning.

I was saddened when some people thought my questioning of the Old Testament was cynical, or even more disturbing, heretical. Some of my questions must have seemed quite argumentative. One

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Leviticus 19:19 on wearing blended fabric (such as a cotton/polyester blend)

Leviticus 19:27 on forbidding haircuts

Leviticus 20:1-17 on stoning people to death for a multitude of sins

Leviticus 21:20 about approaching the alter of God with less than perfect eyesight

Leviticus 24:10-16 on stoning to death for foul language, and extracting an eye for an eye, tooth for tooth

Leviticus 25:44 on the propriety of buying and selling slaves from neighboring countries

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“Christian” refused my inquiries, blasting me with the criticism: “I won’t cast my pearls before swine,” inferring that I was as despicable as a lowly, heartless, filthy pig gorging himself on slop just because I inquired into the truth within Scriptures.

My search for the answers took years. I frequently would delve into scholarly works that analyzed the evolution of the Old and New Testaments. These scholarly answers satisfied my intellectual curiosity, but did not satisfy my passion for being a true believer in Christ. I wanted to have my soul satisfied, and for my soul to be in harmony with my mind.

To find the real answer, I had to go to higher authority, beyond my priests and ministers, beyond the Biblical scholars, beyond the interpreters and theologians, beyond the writers of the Gospels (who, I was surprised to learn, never met Christ), and beyond a simple leap of faith.

The only authority I would accept to provide answers to my questions would have to be found in the words of Christ himself. Who else would be best interpreter of the Old Testament?

Fortunately -- for the easing of my mind and soul -- Christ provides the answer to my quest clearly and directly. It is contained in Christ’s many encounters with the Rabbis and Pharisees and the traps they laid for the Son of God. Understanding these traps is essential to “cracking the code” that answers the fundamental question: “Is the Old Testament the Word of God?”

## ***THE RABBIS AND THE PHARISEES***

Throughout the entire New Testament Gospels, Christ and the “teachers of religious law” are engaged in a running battle with each other. The battle consists of skirmishes, direct frontal attacks, sideswipes, and intrigue.

With the exception of Nicodemus (John 3:1-21), the teachers of religious law are consistently described as the nemesis of Christ,

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inexorably trying to trap and dishonor him, and ultimately causing his death.

Just who were these “teachers of religious law?” A teacher of religious law or teaching master was a Rabbi (John 1:38) and a Pharisee was a religious leader (John 3:1). These two groups strictly adhered to the scriptural doctrines of the Old Testament. In modern day terms, these groups would be described as the Bible Fundamentalists of the time; they read the words of the Scriptures literally and strictly. Both the Rabbis and the Pharisees had a running battle with each other because they disagreed as well.

Christ grappled with the Rabbis and Pharisees throughout his entire ministry, admonishing them, sometimes quite bitterly, in his numerous encounters. For example, he castigated them saying:

*“You search the Scriptures because you believe they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me so that I can give you this eternal life. Your approval or disapproval means nothing to me, because I know you don’t have God’s love within you.”* (John 5:39-42)<sup>79</sup>

Strict obedience to the Rules of Leviticus was a badge of great honor. As a result, the Rabbis and Pharisees had become proud, distant, and aristocratic. Humility had become alien to them. Jesus was deeply disturbed that the Rabbis and Pharisees had, in their pride of shallow virtue, overlooked the larger commandment -- love and, in particular, love in the form of forgiveness.

*“Those who present their own ideas are looking for praise for themselves .... None of you obeys the Law of Moses! In fact, you are trying to kill me.”* (John 7:18-19)

The Law of Moses is the centerpiece of Judaic tradition, and it is embodied prominently in Leviticus. High priests of Judaism wrote

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<sup>79</sup> Note: I have used the New Living Bible Translation or King James Version in most cases.



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their strictures into this book of scripture to preserve their power, to differentiate themselves as high priests, and to invoke the wrath of God on their people if their obedience to Judaic strictures was found lacking.

## ***LEVITICUS & THE TRAP OF THE PHARISEES***

How did Christ view the Law of Moses? What did Christ say about the Book of Leviticus? Often Christ was seemingly intent to either deny or amend the Law of Moses:

***"You have heard that the Law of Moses says: 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemies. But I say, Love your Enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!"***

--Matthew 5:43-44

The story of stoning the adulteress is very typical of Christ's addressing the same difficulties in Leviticus so many of us face today.

*The teachers of religious law and Pharisees brought a woman they had caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.*

*"Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the very act of adultery. The Law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?"*

*They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up and said, **"All right, stone her. But let those who have never sinned cast the first stones!"** Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. (John 8.3-7)*

Christ immediately recognized this set of questions as a trap! But what was the trap?

### **Understanding the Trap**

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Why was it important for the Rabbis and Pharisees to “trap” Jesus? What was the central theme of the trap? And why is the trap so important to our understanding of the word of God? Will our understanding “crack the code” and give us the answer to the question “is the Old Testament the Word of God?”

The trap was conceived by the Rabbis and Pharisees to discredit Christ, to brand him a heretic, and, ultimately, to have him put to death. The New Testament is replete with many run-ins with the Rabbis and Pharisees, who were intent on trying to ensnare Christ.

In the adulteress story, it is clear that the contradictions of Leviticus constituted of a two sided trap.

One side of the dilemma’s trap is the acceptance of the Law of Moses in Leviticus. Christ had to avoid being lured into *either* a contradiction of his own message *or* a denial of the Law of Moses. If Christ denied the passages in Leviticus (and ipso facto denied Moses & Abraham), he would instantaneously be branded a blasphemer and heretic, thus resulting in being totally discredited

The second side of the dilemma’s trap was that if Christ accepted Leviticus 20:10 – adultery is punishable by death – he would have denied Leviticus 19:18 “love your neighbor as yourself” along with his own deep messages he had preached to the multitudes:

- *Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned, forgive and ye shall be forgiven.*

Luke 6:37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan gives a clear reading about Christ’s view on the Law of Moses: (Luke 10:25-37-- NKJ Version)

<sup>25</sup> And behold, a certain lawyer [presumably one of the Pharisees or Sadducees] stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”<sup>26</sup> Christ said

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to him, “What is written in the law<sup>80</sup>? What is your reading of it?”

<sup>27</sup> So the lawyer answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’<sup>[a]</sup> and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>28</sup> And Christ said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But the lawyer, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup> Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. <sup>34</sup> So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> On the next day, when he departed,<sup>[c]</sup> he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ <sup>36</sup> So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”

<sup>37</sup> And the expert in the law said, “He who showed mercy on him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

- *A New Commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all*

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<sup>80</sup> Certainly this question refers to what Christ thought was meant by the Law of Moses in Leviticus.

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*men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.* (11<sup>th</sup> Commandment) – John 13:34.

Thus Christ affirmed Leviticus 19:18 as the centerpiece and most distinguishing factor that identifies Christian disciples.

## ***CHRIST AVOIDS THE NUMEROUS TRAPS OF LEVITICUS***

How did Christ deal with the traps? What was His way through it the twists and turns of the continual deviousness of those trying to entangle Him? How could He reframe these trap into a spiritual rebirth?

The traps laid by the Rabbis and Pharisees appear numerous times in the Gospels:<sup>81</sup>

1. **Sermon on the Mount:** – Christ accepts the Law of Moses, but warns the Teachers and Pharisees (the fundamentalists of the day) that there is a greater law, the 11<sup>th</sup> commandment -- to love thy neighbor as you love the Lord – that must prevail.

*“But I warn you – unless you obey God better than the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees do, you can’t enter the Kingdom of Heaven at all!”*

(Matthew 5:20)

Later in this chapter of the Sermon on the Mount, Christ disavows Leviticus by warning more sternly:

*You have heard that the Law of Moses says: ‘an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say, don’t resist an evil person! If you are slapped on the right cheek, turn the other too.* (Matthew 5:38-39)

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<sup>81</sup> Note: I have used the NLT, and integrated the stories from the fragments written in each of the four gospels into one concise yet detailed story to capture the essence and context of the story

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*You have heard that the Law of Moses says 'Love thy neighbor' (Lev 19:18)<sup>82</sup> 'and hate thy enemies!'<sup>83</sup> But I say, love thy enemies! Pray for those who prosecute you! In that way you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:43-45)*

2. **Dining with Tax Collectors:** – Christ proclaimed that one of the greatest forms of love is to show Mercy, because love in the form of Mercy supersedes all the religious scripture/stricture of Leviticus, as illustrated by the story of Christ dining with the despised Roman Tax Collectors:

*The Pharisees were indignant. "Why does your teacher [Christ] eat with such scum?" they asked his disciples.*

*When He heard this, Jesus replied "Healthy people don't need a doctor – sick people do." Then He added "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to be merciful; I don't want your sacrifices [strictures]" (Hos 6:6). – (Matthew 9:10-13)*

3. **Harvesting and Healing on the Sabbath:** – Doing good supersedes religious scripture/stricture.

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<sup>82</sup> Leviticus 19:17-18 is a very important passage, which states: "You shall not bear hatred in your heart for your brother. Although you may have to reprove your fellow man, do not incur sin because of him. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your fellow countrymen. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord and command it.

<sup>83</sup> The idea of "hating one's enemies" is, for the most part, not a Biblical command, but a Rabbinical teaching. The vast majority of the Old Testament's statements about hate reflects Amos 5:15: *Hate evil, love good.* Other passages make it clear that one should: "Hate evil, you who love the LORD" (Psalm 97:10), *The godly hate lies; the wicked cause shame and disgrace.* (Proverbs 13:5), *The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.* (Proverbs 8:13) In other words, the only time hate is acceptable is to hate those who hate God. 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. (Leviticus 19:17)

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*Jesus and his disciples were walking through some grain-fields, were hungry, and began breaking off heads of wheat and eating the grain. Some Pharisees saw them do this and protested: "Your disciples shouldn't be doing that! It's against the law to work by harvesting grain on the Sabbath."*

*....*

*Jesus said "The Sabbath was made to benefit people, and not people to benefit the Sabbath. Haven't you read the Law of Moses? .... You would not have condemned those who aren't guilty if you knew the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to be merciful; I don't want your sacrifices [strictures]'(Hos 6:6)'" (Matthew 12:1-7)*

*He went over to the synagogue where he noticed a man with a deformed hand. Since it was the Sabbath, his enemies watched him closely. The Pharisees asked Jesus "Is it legal to work by healing on the Sabbath day?" (They were, of course, hoping he would say yes, so they could bring charges against him to condemn him) Jesus knew their thoughts.*

*He answered, "If you had one sheep and it fell into a well on the Sabbath, wouldn't you work to pull it out? Of course you would. And how much more valuable is a person than a sheep!"*

*He said to the man: "Come and stand where everyone can see." So the man came forward. Then Jesus said to his critics, "I have a question for you. Is it legal to do good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing harm? Is this a day to save life or destroy it?"*

*But they wouldn't answer him. He looked around at them angrily one by one, because he was deeply disturbed by their hard hearts and said: "Yes, it is right to do good on the Sabbath." Then he said to the man, "Reach out your hand."*

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*The man reached out his hand, and it became normal, just like the other one.*

*At this his enemies were wild with rage. Then the Pharisees went away to call a meeting with the supporters of Herod to discuss plans for killing Jesus. (Matthew 12:1-10, Mark 3:1-6, Luke 6:6-11)*

Healing on the Sabbath is a major theme in the confrontation between Jesus and the Pharisees. (Similar stories are described in John 5:1-30, John 7:19-24, John 9:16, Luke 13:10, Luke 14:1-6)

The controversy about overly strict interpretation of the Law of Moses continues throughout the New Testament.....

4. **Inner Purity:** – It is the Purity of your heart and mind, what you say and do, that is the path to the Kingdom of heaven, not adherence to Kosher laws. Christ was very critical of traditions that were not borne of the soul:

*Some Pharisees and teachers of religious law now arrived in Jerusalem to confront Jesus. As Jesus was speaking, one of the Pharisees invited him home for a meal. So he went in and took his place at the table. His host was amazed to see that Jesus and some of his disciples failed to follow the ancient Jewish ritual practiced by the Pharisees of hand washing before eating. “Why do your disciples disobey your age-old traditions?” they demanded. “They ignore our tradition of ceremonial hand washing before they eat.”*

*Then the Lord said to him, “You Pharisees are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are still filthy – full of greed and wickedness. Fools! Didn’t God make the inside as well as the outside?”*

*Then he said, “You reject God’s Laws in order to substitute and hold on to your own traditions. And why do you, by*

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*your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God? For instance, Moses gave you this law from God: 'Honor your father and mother,' (Exod 20:12, 21:17) and 'Anyone who speaks evil of father or mother must be put to death (Lev 20:9). But you say 'Sorry, I can't help you.' You don't need to honor your parents by caring for their needs if you give the money to God instead. For I vowed to give to God what I could have given to you.' You let them disregard their needy parents. And so, by your own tradition, you break the direct commandment of God to protect your own tradition.*

*"How terrible it will be for you Pharisees! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest part of your income, but you completely forgot about justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things.*

*How terrible it will be for you Pharisees! For how you love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the respectful greetings from everyone as you walk through the markets! Yes, how terrible it will be for you. For you are like hidden graves in a field. People walk all over them without knowing the corruption they are stepping on."*

*You hypocrites! Isaiah was prophesying about you when he said:*

*'These people honor me with their lips,*

*but their hearts are far away.*

*Their worship is a farce,*

*For they replace God's commands*

*with their own man made teachings'(Isa 29:13)*

*"Teacher," said an expert in religious law, "you have insulted us too, in what you just said." Then the disciples came to him and*



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*asked, “Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?”*

*Jesus replied, “Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be rooted up, so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind, and if one blind man guides another, they will both fall into a ditch.” .... Evil words come from an evil heart and defile the person who saves them. For from the heart comes evil thoughts, murder, adultery, and other sexual immoralities, theft, deceit, envy, lying, pride, slander and foolishness. All these vile things come from within. These are what defile you and make you unacceptable to God. Eating with unwashed hands could never defile you and make you unacceptable to God!”*

*“Yes,” said Jesus, “how terrible it will be for you experts in religious law! For you crush people beneath impossible religious demands, and you never lift a finger to help ease the burden. How terrible it will be for you! ....*

*How terrible it will be for you experts in religious law! For you hide the key to knowledge from the people. You don’t enter the Kingdom yourselves, and you prevent others from entering.”*

*As Jesus finished speaking, the Pharisees and teachers of religious law were furious. From that time on they grilled him with many hostile questions, trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him.*

*Meanwhile, the crowds grew until thousands were milling about and crushing each other. Then Jesus called to the crowds and said “All of you listen to what I say and try to understand. You are not defiled by what you eat, what comes out of your mouth defiles you. You are defiled by what you say and do. Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees – beware of their hypocrisy<sup>84</sup> ....*

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<sup>84</sup> “then at last they understood that he wasn’t speaking about yeast or bread, but about the false teaching of the Pharisees” (Matthew 16:12)

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*Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!..... those who speak against the Son of Man may be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven.<sup>85</sup>*

*And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don't worry about what to say in your defense, for the Holy Spirit will teach you what needs to be said while you are standing there.”(Matthew 15:1-20, Mark 7:1-23, Luke 11:37-53, 12:1-11)*

5. **Yeast of the Pharisees:** The pride of rigid adherence to Levitical strictures blinded the Pharisees, because their hearts were hard.

*Jesus warned them “beware the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees and of Herod. ....Ye of so little faith.! ..... Won't you ever learn or understand? Are your hearts too hard to take it in? You have eyes – can't you see? You have ears – can't you hear? Don't you remember anything at all?*

*Then at last they understood that he wasn't speaking about yeast or bread, but about the false teaching of the Pharisees (Matthew 16:6-12, Mark 8: 15-18)*

6. **Taxes for Caesar:** While not a direct reference to Leviticus and the Law of Moses, the fundamentalist Pharisees were always trying to trap Christ.

*Watching for their opportunity, the Pharisees met together to think of a way to trap Jesus into saying something for which they could accuse him that could be*

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<sup>85</sup> also said in Matthew 12:31

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*reported to the Roman Governor so he would arrest Jesus.*

*They decided to send some of their disciples, along with secret agent supporters of Herod pretending to be honest men, to ask Jesus this question: "Teacher, we know how honest you are. You sincerely teach about the way of God regardless of the consequences. You are impartial and don't play favorites and are not influenced by what others think. Now tell us what you think about this. Is it right to pay taxes to the Roman government or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?"*

*But Jesus saw through their trickery and evil motives. "You hypocrites!" he said. "Whom are you trying to fool with your trick questions?" ..... Pay to Caesar what is Caesar's, and everything that belongs to God give to God." They failed to trap him. Instead, they were amazed by his answers, were silenced, and they went away. (Matthew 22:15-22, Mark 12:13-17, Luke 20:20-26)*

7. **The Most Important Commandment:** - This is the essence of all of Christ's admonitions, lessons, and frame of reference for understanding Leviticus.

*The same day [after trying to trap Jesus on the tax question] some Sadducees stepped forward – a group of Jews who say there is not resurrection after death. They posed questions .....*

*Jesus replied, "Your problem is you don't know the Scriptures, and you don't know the power of God...You have made a serious error..."*

*But when the Pharisees heard Jesus silence the Sadducees with his reply, one of the expert teachers of religious law listening to the discussion, realizing Jesus had answered well, stood up to test Jesus. He thought up a fresh*

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*question of his own to trap him: “Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?”*

*Jesus replied, “What does the Law of Moses command? How do you read it?”*

*The man answered, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.”*

*“Right!” Jesus told him. “Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord! The most important commandment is this: ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind, and all your strength.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.*

*The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandments are greater than these. All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments. Do this and you will receive eternal life.”*

*The teacher of religious law replied, “Well said Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbors as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required by the law.*

*The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”*

*[Jesus then told the story of the Good Samaritan – see Luke 10:37]*

*“Now which of these three would you say was neighbor to the man who was attacked by the bandits?” Jesus asked.*

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*The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy."*

*Realizing this man's understanding, Jesus said to him, "Yes. You are not far from the Kingdom of God. Now go and do the same." After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions. (Matthew 22:23-40, Mark 13:28-34)*

8. **Jesus Warns about Religious Fundamentalism:** The strictures of the Old Testament and those who practiced them rankled Christ. Jesus was quite outspoken about it, using his harshest words recorded in the Bible in Mark: 23, which is a poignant reiteration of the story of Inner Purity [Matthew 15]. Here Jesus rails against the strict interpretations of the Scriptures, calling the Rabbis and Pharisees "Filthy," "Hypocrites," "Blind," "Lawless," "Snakes and Sons of Vipers." He virtually consigns their souls to hell. These are the most condemning and vituperative words he could muster – something quite uncharacteristic of all of Christ's other pronouncements.

*Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the Scriptures. So practice and obey whatever they say to you, but don't follow their example. For they don't practice what they teach. They crush you with impossible religious demands and never lift a finger to help ease the burden.*

*Everything they do is for show.... They enjoy the attention they get.... Don't let anyone call you 'Rabbi,' for you have only one teacher, and all of you are on the same level as brothers and sisters. And don't address anyone here on earth as 'Father,' for only God in heaven is your spiritual Father. And don't let anyone call you 'Master,' for there is only one master, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be a servant. Those who exalt*

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*themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

*“How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you won’t let others enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and you won’t go there yourselves.*

*“Yes, how terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn him into twice the son of hell as you yourselves are.*

*“Blind Guides! How terrible it will be for you! ... Blind fools!*

*“How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest part of your income, but you ignore the important things of the law – justice, mercy, and faith. ....*

*“Blind guides! You strain your water so you won’t accidentally swallow a gnat; then you swallow a camel.*

*“How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! You are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are filthy – full of greed and self-indulgence! Blind Pharisees! First wash the inside of the cup, and then the outside will become clean, too.*

*“How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! ..... You try to look like upright people outwardly, but inside your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

*“How terrible it will be for you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! ..... Snakes! Sons of*

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*Vipers! How will you escape the Judgment of Hell?"....*  
(Mark 23:1-36)

## 9. **Self Indulgent Pride, The Story of the Tax Collector:**

More strong condemnations of the Pharisees were yet to come from Jesus. He was far more critical of the Pharisees than the Roman oppressors or their hated corrupt tax collectors.

*Jesus told the story to some who had great self confidence and scorned everyone else. "Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a dishonest [Roman] tax collector. The proud Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that tax collector over there! I never cheat, I don't sin, I don't commit adultery. I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.'*

*"But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For the proud will be humbled, but the humbled will be honored." (Luke 18:9-14)*

## 10. **Numerous other Critiques of the Rabbis and Pharisees:**

The New Testament is filled with other scornful references aimed at those who narrowly interpreted the Old Testament. Christ clearly did not think Leviticus and the Law of Moses should be used as a weapon. He was unalterable in his edict that the intent of the Old Testament had been perverted by high priests of Judaism.

The Sermon on the Mount declares this in detail (Matthew 5). Christ disagreed with the perverted Judaic view of divorce (Matthew 5:31, Matthew 19:3-10, Mark 10:2-

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10) He criticized them for demanding a Miraculous Sign (Matthew 16). He confounded the Pharisees upon his Triumphal Entry into the Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-40). The Pharisees accused Christ of being empowered by the prince of demons for his healing (Matthew 10:34). Christ damned the Pharisees for allowing the Temple to become a den of thieves. (Matthew 21:12, Mark 11:15) The Pharisees challenged Christ's authority (Matthew 21:23). Christ retorted with his criticism of them in the story of the Evil Farmers (Matthew 21:33, Luke 20:9-19). The Pharisees castigated him for being a false prophet because he touched sinners (Luke 7:36-50). The Pharisees accused Christ of making false claims in the temple (John 7:13), tried to arrest him (John 7:32-36), tried to stone him to death (John 10:31-32), and were jealous of his miracles (John 12:19). In response to the Pharisees' accusations that Christ's healing miracles could not have occurred because he was a sinner (John 9:16), Christ reacted by accusing them of being blind (John 9:40-41). The Rabbis and Pharisees were so infuriated by Christ's challenge to their authority and traditions that they finally plotted to kill him (Matthew 26, John 11:45-57)

Throughout the New Testament Gospels, there are over fifty references to Christ's encounters with the Pharisees. It is significant to note, that with only one or two exceptions, each encounter represents a conflict of wits, philosophy, and ideals. Much of the conflict centers, in one way or another, on the validity of the Law of Moses as written and practiced in the Book of Leviticus.

While Christ was a Jew and believed the Jewish people were God's chosen people, he was constantly at odds with the Judaic teachings, practice, and strict fundamentalism that blinded Jewish leaders to the real message and meaning of the Law of Moses. It is also highly likely that, without making a direct reference, Jesus was



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saying that the Law of Moses was altered when Levitical Laws were created by Jewish priests<sup>86</sup> only 500 years before in order to segregate the Tribes of Levi from their Babylonian captors, and to subjugate Jewish people to the control of the temple leadership. Christ, in effect, was trying to liberate the Jewish people, having them follow the true word of God, as embodied in the two greatest commandments: to love thy Lord and to love thy neighbor.

The following is an email from a scholar regarding the issues of Leviticus and Exodus. It adds a wonderfully humorous way of dealing with this somewhat vexing issue. It was just too funny to leave out.

## ***A HUMOROUS VIEW OF LEVITICUS VIA EMAIL:***

*In her radio show, Dr Laura Schlesinger said that, as an observant Orthodox Jew, homosexuality is an abomination according to Leviticus 18:22, and cannot be condoned under any circumstance. The following response is an open letter to Dr. Laura, penned by a Jewish US resident and learned scholar, which was posted on the Internet. It's very funny, as well as informative:*

Date: August 3, 2010

Subject: Fwd: Why can't I own a Canadian?!!!!

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<sup>86</sup> Most scholars date the Law of Moses at 1250 B.C. as an oral tradition which was finally written in the earliest editions of the Torah about 300 years later (circa 960 B.C.), after the death of King David. It wasn't until about 550 B.C that the Book of Leviticus was written after the Babylonian conquerors had enslaved the Jewish Levitical tribes. The purpose of Leviticus was to merge the Law of Moses, as given on Mount Sinai, with rabbinical rites, rules, traditions, and strictures. At the same time, the books of Exodus and most of the Book of Numbers were also written. These new additions were intended to affirm the sanctity of rites and traditions, and to preserve a Jewish culture in a foreign land while subjugated to Babylonian enslavement.

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Dear Dr. Laura:

Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's Law. I have learned a great deal from your show, and try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind them that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination ... End of debate.

I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some other elements of God's Laws and how to follow them.

1. Leviticus 25:44 states that I may possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighbouring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians. Can you clarify? Why can't I own Canadians?
2. I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?
3. I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of Menstrual uncleanness - Lev.15: 19-24. The problem is how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offence.
4. When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the Lord - Lev.1:9. The problem is my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them?
5. I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself, or should I ask the police to do it?

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6. A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination, Lev. 11:10, it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this? Are there 'degrees' of abomination?
7. Lev. 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wriggle-room here?
8. Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Lev. 19:27. How should they die?
9. I know from Lev. 11:6-8 that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves?
10. My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev.19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them? Lev.24:10-16. Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair, like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 20:14)

I know you have studied these things extensively and thus enjoy considerable expertise in such matters, so I'm confident you can help.

Thank you again for reminding us that God's Word is eternal and unchanging.

Your adoring fan.

James M. Kauffman, Ed.D. Professor Emeritus  
Dept. Of Curriculum, Instruction, & Special Education,  
University of Virginia

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## **CONCLUSION**

The message Christ brings is that the New Covenant supersedes the Old Covenant. Leviticus and the Law of Moses must be subordinated to the Highest Law of the Holy Spirit – Love God and Love Thy Neighbor. The “Holy Spirit” must never be blasphemed, for that is the only unforgivable sin.

Christ said he came not to bring a new law but to fulfill the old law. What did this mean? It meant that the Old Law (of Moses) was dangerously filled with so many contradictions that to live within that law would produce aberrant, dysfunctional behavior that would drive a normal person to live a hell on earth. Christ’s fulfillment of the law was simple: remove anything from the law that did not meet the criteria of Leviticus 19:18 -- *Never seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love your neighbor as yourself.*” Anything that was contrary to the principle of “love God and love they neighbor” and “be merciful and forgiving” was antithetical to Christ’s interpretation of the fulfillment of the law.

Why then did Christ not confront the Pharisees and Sadducees with the logical impurity of the Old Testament? Because Christ was a prophet, philosopher, and a diplomat. In these roles he never intended to create a massive debate, like Socrates, but to elevate, inform, and empower people to their highest and deepest understanding. Thus he countered the intellectual challenges with philosophic questions (e.g. “He who hath never sinned cast the first stone” etc.) However, because Christ shook the very roots of the Judaic belief system – in effect his philosophy obsoleted half the scriptures, effectively turning Judaism on its head. It is no wonder the power-elite first tried to discredit Him, and then, having failed at this option, took their last shot – extermination (or so they believed; in martyrdom Christ was deified and immortalized).

Christ’s Pharisaical encounters teach us to carefully assess the words of the Old Testament. Certainly the words of God are imbedded throughout the Old Covenant, but if any of the strictures

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of the Old Covenant do not accord with the New Covenant, then the New prevails. The New Covenant brings Love in the form of Mercy, Healing, Kindness, Fairness, Forgiveness, and Community. Their polar opposites: Anger, Hatred, Vindictiveness, and Pride are the strictures of the Old Covenant that must be rejected. This is Christ's message of Truth and Salvation.

According to Christ, when the Law of Moses, (particularly Leviticus) appears vindictive, reject it as Rabbinical Law, not God's Law. Ultimately, Leviticus 19:18 must prevail: – *“Never seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love your neighbor as yourself;” and “Do unto others what you would like them to do unto you. This is a summary of all that is taught in the law [of Moses] and by the prophets.”* (Matthew 7:12)

If I were challenged to answer the question: “Do you believe the Bible is the word of God?” how would I respond?

First, I'd recognize this question as a trap -- the same Pharisaic trap used against Christ.

Then I'd respond in a Socratic/Rabbinical way (with a question, because trap questions are best addressed indirectly in a manner that triggers introspection, analysis, and deeper understanding):

“How do you think Christ would answer this question?”

Hebrews 8:7-11 is very clear about “obsolescence” of the Law of Moses:

*For if there had been nothing wrong with the first covenant (Law of Moses: Leviticus 20), no place would have been sought for another.... The Lord declared....I will make a new covenant...not like the covenant I made with their (Hebrews/Moses) forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares*

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*the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them in their hearts.*

Hebrews 8:13 then states: *When God speaks of a “new” covenant (John 13:34), it means He has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear.*

If still pressed on the issue of the validity of the Old Testament, I’d say:

I believe what my Lord and my Spiritual Guide Jesus Christ spoke and taught:

- God is a loving, merciful God.
- No one should be carried away with the strictures of Leviticus, nor the strange anomalies of legends and vexing contradictions of tradition.
- Christ admonished those who put more stake in rules and rituals than in the principles of love, mercy, and forgiveness.
- Christ’s 11<sup>th</sup> Commandment (John 13:34) prevails – Love God and your neighbor with your whole mind, with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with your whole strength.
- Christ liberated us from the stricture of Scripture; this empowers us to love fully, wholly, and abundantly. In this liberation is the power, the glory, and the essence of God in Christ.

I will no longer debate, argue, or challenge those who take a fundamentalist point of view. That only causes polarization and hardening of positions, even anger and resentment.

Christ did not bring us the message of polarization and self-righteous vindictiveness. One can confront and challenge without

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being offensive, derisive, or ungracious. To communicate between souls Christ used questions and parables to illustrate powerfully his deep insights. A titanic clash of self-aggrandizing egos struggling for their self-righteous high-ground creates lots of thunder and lightning, but never the consistent golden light that illuminates the path of God.

And Leviticus 19:18 says "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbour as yourself." When Christ was asked "What is the law?" He Affirmed this passage from Leviticus 19:18 (see Luke 10:25-37 and Matthew 7:12), and made Love Thy Neighbour the centre-piece and single most distinguishing factor that identifies Christian disciples (the 11th Commandment -- see John 13:34).

The entire squabble with the Pharisees and Sadducees was about removing the contradictions in the Old Testament, bringing the message of God into full alignment, and to take a non-fundamentalist, non-literal path to enlightenment, a path that leads directly to accessing the Holy Spirit in one's life.

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A Personal Note:

Did this exercise unscrambling the contradictions and anomalies in the Old Testament diminish my faith in God?

Absolutely Not! Quite to the contrary!

As Christ predicted, *the truth set me free*. Understanding the real truth about the Old Testament then enabled me to have a clearer, more unified mind and heart regarding God, and especially the Holy Spirit.

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Recent surveys of the younger generation today show disturbingly that atheism is on the rise. Youth of today are more likely to doubt the existence of God. If my own journey is any gauge of the depth of questioning and the existence of doubt, I can only say that the Old Testaments inherent contradictions and acceptance psychotic behavior did more to fuel my doubts than any other factor.

Christ was not a fundamentalist in his interpretation of the scriptures. His message was meant to evolve what had become a stagnant and rigid religion by bringing a new message (covenant) that would enable us to access higher spiritual energies. Christ was a spiritual evolutionist and innovator. To be like Christ is to innovate and evolve in our spiritual journey.

Clarification of what was the real truth in the Bible cleared the decks for me to discover much more, as the next chapter will reveal.



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## APPENDIX FIVE: CONVERSATION ABOUT THE COURSE IN MIRACLES<sup>87</sup>

The following email interchange may add some deeper understanding to the discourse.

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**From:** Dianne Yankin  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012  
**To:** Matthew Brownstein,  
**Subject:** Soul-Ego Alignment

..I don't think you will mind my asking a question? A friend here who is a published author and writing a book now on wisdom has an issue with Course in Miracles saying...no where can he find where the Course advocates the soul aligning with the ego...is that true?...that the Course teaches the Soul can never align with the Ego? ..or, is that being misinterpreted?

Thanks if you can answer that.

Warm Regards, Dianne

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<sup>87</sup> *A Course in Miracles* began with “channeled” information in the 1970s. Its source purports to be from Christ filling in the missing pieces from the New Testament, and clarifying many ambiguities. The material is certainly very spiritual and has the “feel” of authenticity. The basic problem faced by any third party (you or me) is one of divine truth, and accuracy of the information. There are literally hundreds of “channeled” sources of supposedly divine information that have emerged in the last two centuries. Many are clearly frauds; many are contradictory of other channeled energy; many contain interpretations that clearly reflect the fads of the times and the personal biases of the author. Of course, one might also argue that the divine writings of the “prophets” and “saints” came from “channeled energy.” The difference is that prophets and saints had usually dedicated their entire life’s purpose to a more ascetic life that reflected a divine devotion to God. Thus their credibility was greatly enhanced.

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**From:** Matthew Brownstein  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012  
**To:** Dianne Yankin  
**Subject:** Soul-Ego Alignment

Hello Dianne,

I imagine your friend's intentions and the intention of the Course are both the same. The Course is only concerned with salvation – it is concerned with the plan for salvation as God set forth. It is not concerned with theological debate or any other form of questioning that would only delay the return to love. Being that only God's plan for salvation can work, then surely any path that aligns us with that is beneficial. Being extreme and negating any spiritual path is usually an egoic attempt to be right or to be superior. Either way the debate only delays the atonement, which is the only aim of the Course. The Course does not claim to be the only path to God and it does not claim to be for everyone, however, it is a path to God for those who are willing to apply its methods. All paths lead to God in the end because there is nowhere else to go. What else but this could matter?

As an author myself, I can say that I have come to trust the wisdom of the Course far more than my own. When I disagree with the Course it is usually because I am misunderstanding what it is working to teach. I believe it is better to understand what the Course is teaching rather than to dismiss it because of a lack of understanding. In the end it is only a course on love.

The Course does not use the word "soul" except when quoting scripture – rather it uses the word Spirit and specifically mentions its lack of use of the term soul because of the misunderstandings

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that arise with that word. It is therefore important to understand that your concern is mostly about the words “soul” and “align” and the order in which you put those words – such misunderstandings should not be the reason to negate a powerful spiritual path.

The soul does not align with ego (in the order that you write about) if anything, the ego aligns with soul. The ego is a false self that is not a creation of God. The Course does not encourage soul to align with that which is false. The practical process of the Course’s lessons works to show us that the ego is confused. It then works to align the false perceptions of the ego into true perceptions that are nearer to the Reality of God. However, the ego cannot completely align with Spirit, because the ego is not real. You cannot align the real with the unreal or the unreal with the real. Once the ego’s perceptions are more closely aligned with Truth, then God takes the final step to impart true Knowledge. At that point the ego does not align with Spirit, at that point Spirit is seen to be the only Reality. There are not two realities to be aligned...there is only Spirit. However, when we function from ego, aligning our mind with Spirit is necessary – but only in an illusion.

“What is real cannot be threatened. What is unreal does not exist. Herein lies the Peace of God.”

The soul is in the realm of illusion. Spirit is that which is Real. You do not align the unreal with the Real, you simply come to see that the unreal does not exist. Ego is like a mirage. It does not exist. It only appears to exist. To try to align something that does not exist with Reality is impossible. The alignment only happens in an illusion that in the end is seen for what it is – nothing. The Course asks where does the ego go when the Light appears? Where does the darkness go when Light appears? The

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darkness does not align with the Light, the darkness is simply gone. If you think of ego as darkness, then perhaps you can understand why the Course teaches that the two do not come into alignment. There's only one Reality.

The movement for ego (and you could call this alignment) is from false perception through forgiveness to true perception and from true perception arises True Knowledge. You could call this process alignment, yet just like forgiveness in the end we see there is nothing to forgive – and in the end there is nothing to align.

Only love is real and love has no opposite...

Matthew

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**From:** Robert Porter Lynch  
**Sent:** March 17, 2012  
**To:** Dianne Yankin  
**Subject:** Soul-Ego Alignment

This is an Excellent Answer -- Well thought out by an enlightened practitioner. THANK YOU. You can trust Matthew to give you beautiful guidance.

As you know, my approach is that Soul/Spirit must ALWAYS be the GUIDING/LEADING FORCE, with Ego giving lending Will Power in a servant's role to Soul Power (This is the essence of Servant Leadership)

My distinctions about Soul and Spirit are largely semantic and do not differ fundamentally from Matthew's. The Greeks intertwined the two words *psyche*(soul) and *pneu* (spirit) – the

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former meaning the source of conscience (among other things) and the latter meaning the life force of God – literally the *breath of life of God*.

However, I do think it is a mistake to deny the Reality of the Ego, however unpleasant that reality may be. We can trace the Ego to the drives to *Acquire* and *Defend*, which are sourced in the ancient reptilian section of the brain.

The only difference I sense is that I do believe the Ego and Soul are *both* Reality<sup>88</sup>; the Ego is *Worldly* Reality; the Soul is *Divine* Reality -- thus the *Worldly* must be Subservient to the *Divine* Superior, but not neglected (else our bodies would die).

The Ego is Real; but the Ego is *not* Divine.

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<sup>88</sup> Reality is multi-faceted, depending upon perspective. There are *higher* realities and *lower* realities, different points of view realities, contextual realities, moral perspective realities, circumstantial realities, and so forth. This does not deny the validity of *Divine* Reality being of the highest order, but if a man is dying of thirst in a desert, *Divine* Reality may prolong his life, but only the *Worldly* Reality of a drink of water will ultimately save him. Similarly, if a priest is attacked by a psychopath, the best defensive strategy may not be a prayer, but to disarm him. To say that the Reality of the Spirit (*Divine* Reality) is the only “true” reality is dangerous on this planet (but not in heaven). Such denial of the Ego Reality would cause us to deny the reality of the Dark Triad; and anyone who does puts their physical and economic realities in dire jeopardy on this planet. Such is not prudent. Because Divine Reality is the Superior Reality does not mean that we sacrifice the physical for the spiritual. We must bring these two into harmony and alignment to create the synergy of the energy forces. Ego energy at odds with Soul energy creates aberrant behavior: witness presumably celibate Catholic priests and young altar boys. In India they created Tantric sex to bring the higher spiritual energies into harmony and alignment with the physical sexual energies.

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Thus the Ego does not exist in *Divine Reality*, but it does exist in *Worldly Reality*.

However, the Ego is not Pathological as Eckhart Tolle<sup>89</sup> advocates out, unless the Ego engages in Suicide of the Soul. Then the Ego, untempered by the Soul (conscience), becomes Malevolent and thus Evil and Pathological.<sup>90</sup>

Most people seem terribly confused about the Ego-Soul Relationship, and the two are constantly tugging in opposing directions, thus resulting in inner turmoil.

That is why the Alignment of Ego with the Divine Direction/Destiny of the Soul is so important.

Divine Destiny is, to me, the most important Alignment mechanism that gets the Ego in alignment with the Soul. When one does not know their reason for being on this earth, then the Ego takes over to fill the void.

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<sup>89</sup> Tolle, Eckhart; *A New Earth, Awakening to Your Life's Purpose*. "the ego is in its essential nature pathological" (Chapter 3); "The ego creates separation, and separation creates suffering. The ego is therefore clearly pathological." This approach to Ego is highly problematic, because, as we will see in Volume Four, the Ego is built into our brain structure and essential for our survival on the planet. To make the Ego pathological induces the same guilt trip induced by saying that man is born with "original sin," and thus can never attain transcendence. Beware whenever someone advocates an irresolvable guilt trip and pretends that they are the answer to absolving your guilt.

<sup>90</sup> If Ego is an alien being in the Human Being, and it can never be reconciled with the Soul, then every human is relegated to the dungeon of disgrace and the turmoil of unending internal war; healing of the spiritual and the material will be impossible, evil will perpetually tear the heart out of good, grace will defecated upon, mercy will be blasted by vengeance, and honor will succumb to betrayal. If Ego cannot be reconciled with Soul, then the construct of Original Sin will bind us in chains that must sink our whole race in a sea of blood.

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Often this means the Ego, which is worldly, latches on to what is known best and desired most -- material gratification, the sensual pleasures of life, control of one's environment, the protection from fear, and the game of blaming others for our own inadequacies.

Obviously these Ego-driven attachments are shallow and insecure, but if we don't exercise the power of the Soul, it's like any muscle that doesn't get exercised: it suffers from atrophy -- and the Ego "muscle" tries to correct the imbalance -- but the Ego taking over in the vacuum only creates more imbalance. This is why the Course in Miracles has so much value -- it "exercises and empowers the Soul."

Our churches focus too much on doctrine, and not enough on growing the Power of the Soul or fixing the relationship between the Soul and Ego; Soul Empowerment should be the first and foremost objective of religion, enabling the power of the Holy Spirit to exercise its guidance on our daily actions.

Our educational institutions are also responsible for continuing this lack, leaving a terrible void in our society. They no longer teach *Character* (which, in its essence, teaches one makes decisions for the "greater good" rather than elevating one's "self interest" above all). But more: Robert Ulich, Dean of the Harvard School of Education, (himself a refugee from Hitler's Germany and dear friend of Christian Philosopher Paul Tillich) said:

*If our schools fail to help a person discover his purpose  
[in life], they fail at almost everything that really matters."*

We have a long way to journey in this world.

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## **APPENDIX SIX: THE TREE OF LIFE**

Understanding the Tree of Life versus the Tree of Learning of Knowledge and Evil is very helpful in distinguishing between wisdom and knowledge from the ancient perspective. Here's the story from Genesis 2-3 (from the Septuagint Bible – c 200BC)

*God made to spring up out of the earth  
Every tree beautiful to the eye and good for food,  
In the midst of the garden was*

*The Tree of Life and*

*the Tree of Learning the Knowledge of Good and Evil....*

*And the Lord God took the man whom he had created,  
And placed him in the Garden of Delight, to cultivate and keep it.*

*And the Lord God gave a charge to Adam, saying,*

*Of every tree which is in the garden thou mayest freely eat,  
But of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil –  
Of it ye shall not eat, but in whatsoever day ye eat of it,  
Ye shall surely die.....*

*Now the serpent was the most crafty of all the brutes on the earth,  
which the Lord God made, And the serpent said to the woman,*

*Wherefore has God said, Eat not of every tree of the Garden?*

*And the woman said to the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the  
trees of the Garden, except the fruit of the tree [of Knowledge and  
Evil] which is in the midst of the garden,*

*God said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye  
die. And the serpent said to the woman, Ye shall not surely die.  
For God knew that in whatever day ye should eat of it your eyes*



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*would be opened, and ye would be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

The story goes on about Eve eating the fruit, enticing Adam to do the same. God cursed the serpent and because Adam and Eve had eaten first from the Tree of Learning of Knowledge and Evil, and not from the Tree of Life, He cast them out of the Garden of Eden. Most people get wrapped up in the evil and sexuality of the story, completely missing the bigger story about wisdom and knowledge.

## ***Understanding Wisdom, Knowledge, and Evil***

In our modern world, we tend to interpret this story very differently from what the ancients were telling us.

In the ancient world, the idea of the Tree of Life (which is a symbol in many cultures) represents Divine Wisdom, while the Tree of Knowledge and Evil represents the idea that Knowledge is not solely good; much of knowledge is also evil.

The ancients, when they spoke of the Tree of Life, saw it as a unity symbol with its branches reaching high to the Heavenly Father, and its roots providing sustenance from a sacred Mother Earth (Mother Nature). This tree united heaven and earth, representing the fullness of wisdom. In the *Book of Proverbs*:

*Blessed is the man who has found Wisdom....  
She is more valuable than [the treasures of gold and silver and]  
precious stones: no evil thing shall resist her:  
She is well known to all that approach her, and no precious thing  
is equal to her in value. ....  
She is a Tree of Life to all that lay hold upon her and she is a  
secure help to all that stay themselves on her, as on the Lord.*

*A good man shall eat of the fruits of righteousness: but the lives of  
transgressors shall perish before their time.*

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*Happy is the man that has found Wisdom and gets discernment....  
Its ways are of pleasantness and its roadways are peace. It is the  
tree of life to those taking hold of it, and those keeping fast hold of  
it are to be called happy."*

*The righteous is merciful, and lends. Better is he that begins to  
help heartily, than he that promises and leads another to hope: for  
a good desire is a Tree of Life.*

*He that deals not graciously with his own house shall inherit the  
wind; and the fool shall be servant to the wise man.*

*The fruitage of the righteous one is grown from a Tree of Life;  
but the souls of transgressors are cut off before their time.*

The Tree of Life is a symbol of a deep quality of mind and heart, an infinite source of supply of life's energies, which come from Wisdom that is given to us through our conscience, bringing humankind into a synergistic relationship with God, man, and nature.

On the other hand, the Tree of Learning of Knowledge and Evil is not a unity symbol; it's a duality symbol, pitting the positive and negative elements of knowledge as light versus darkness. Its branches rise high to the heavens, but its roots are planted in a unhealthy ground; and its fruit may be good *or* evil.

Without Wisdom, which would have derived by first eating from the Tree of Life, neither Adam nor Eve could discern the difference between good and bad fruit from the Tree of Learning of Knowledge and Evil. Instead they believed the serpent's deceptive story that knowledge would make them gods.

Humankind, as seekers of knowledge, without being tempered by Wisdom (which comes from the Holy Spirit and is grounded in one's conscience) will often eat evil fruit, believing that Knowledge is Power. Knowledge is not bad, just dangerous without being tempered by the insights of divine Wisdom.

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*For into a malicious soul Wisdom shall not enter;  
nor dwell in the body that is subject unto sin.*

*For the Holy Spirit of Discipline will flee deceit,  
and remove from thoughts that are without understanding,  
and will not abide when unrighteousness cometh in.*

- Wisdom of Solomon, Chapter 1 – Middle Testament

The word *Psychology*, taken literally, means “The authoritative word of God (Greek: *Logos*) about the soul (Greek: *Psyche*).”

We have certainly strayed far from this meaning, now having left both God and the Soul out of most of psychology.

## Appendix SEVEN: Neuro-Science & the Holy Spirit

In this chapter, I am going to depart from a study of ancient texts, traveling into the era of modern science and connect the 4 Drives of Human Behavior (from Paul Lawrence – see **Error! eference source not found.**) and draw a set of observations about culture, leadership, and the Holy Spirit.

### ***WHAT “DRIVES” HUMANS TO BEHAVE AS WE DO?***

Reconciling the disparity between science and spirituality is critical if we are to heal the planet.

When spiritual beliefs run counter to scientific evidence, like evolution,<sup>91</sup> something’s got to give. When spiritual principles align with scientific evidence, then the world begins to shift. When they contradict or don’t align, knowledge, belief, and action are at cross purposes and little constructive can be accomplished as we are torn across contradicting uncertainties.

Understanding the “Nature of Human Nature” is a quest that has been speculated on for several millennia. The study of human behavior goes back to the Greeks. However, for two millennia humanity has wallowed in a quagmire about what causes humans to behave sometimes predictably and sometimes bizarrely. Neither psychology, nor anthropology, nor sociology nor neurochemistry has come up good answers.

Modern science, combined with the work of Paul R. Lawrence<sup>92</sup> at Harvard sheds some bright light on the “drivers” of human behavior.

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<sup>91</sup> see Volume Five for greater clarity on Darwin and our Divine Nature

<sup>92</sup> Paul was my mentor, co-author, and friend. Together, in the last year of his life, we “discovered” the linkage between the four drives and the

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## ***Four Drives – The Nature of Human Nature***

In the last decade a number of breakthrough studies give us a better understanding of what's happening inside our skulls. Knowing more about what's happening in the brain gives a leader clear guidance on how to “turn on the switches” that light up collaborative innovation. (Don't panic; we're going to make brain science easy to understand.)

While our brains are the most complex mechanisms on the planet, there are some basic circuits that control our behavior in a normally functioning brain, and different parts of the brain are assigned responsibilities for performing these functions. Most things in the brain happen automatically, without conscious thinking, like breathing, heartbeats, and digestion, to name just a few.

“Drives” are the ultimate, irreducible motives of human behavior. There are four basic drives in all healthy human beings (conveniently A, B, C, & D):

- 1) **Drive to *Acquire*** – seeking food, shelter, reproduction, and even pleasure. Attached to this drive are certain very *basic emotions* such as *desire*, *greed*, and *lust*. When other species are on the receiving end of this drive, they perceive it as aggression or domination, and typically respond with the next drive:
- 2) **Drive to *Defend*** – protecting ourselves from threats and aggressors that will prolong individual survival and even prevent our extinction as a species.

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neurochemistry of the brain. Other factors, such as culture, experience, and personality *influence* behavior, but are not the fundamental *drivers*. Details of the “Four Drive” model of human behavior are explained in detail in “Driven to Lead,” Jossey Bass, 2010. See Volume Four for more detail on this subject.

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Attached to this basic drive is the basic emotion of *fear*, and its derivatives such as *anger* and *vindictiveness*. We are taught:

*You shall not take vengeance, or bear a grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

-- Lev 19:18

These two drives originate in the older, reptilian part of the brain. These are necessary for survival in an unsupportive or threatening environment.

These basic brain functions together are often termed “self-interest” or “self-preservation.” These two drives mostly use evolutionarily-old brain regions that humans share with fish and reptiles. When a leader triggers these two drives excessively, however, collaborative (bond-love) innovation (creation) circuitry in the brain is inhibited, as we will explain later.

## ***Important Characteristics of All Mammals***

Because humans are mammals, our brains share certain functions that are common among all mammals and have the capability of being extremely well developed in most humans; the most important one for our immediate purpose is:

- 3) **Drive to *Bond*** --the yearning to live and work in groups, such as teams or herds. <sup>93</sup> This “communal instinct” starts with our nurturing of our young. Associated with this drive are some of emotions exhibited by humans and a few higher mammals - *love, empathy, happiness, playfulness, loyalty*, and

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<sup>93</sup> Scientists have studied this quality going back all the way to the ancient Greeks and have concluded time and again that these characteristics all have served very important evolutionary functions to give mammals a competitive advantage over reptiles. A very small percentage of any species of mammal seems to be born without this quality. In humans we call these psycho- or socio-paths.

# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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*gratitude*, to name a few. The bonding impulse is especially strong in humans. It started with the pair-bonding that gave us the nuclear family and later tribal cohesion. It is extremely important because it provides the natural desire for humans to *collaborate*, coordinating their actions for their mutual benefit, and the desire to work for the “greater good.”

The *Drive to Bond* is inherently the same Energy of *Love*, stated here in more scientific language.

## ***Higher Order Capacities of Humans***

Human beings have high-order cognitive capacities that allow us to create, comprehend, find meaning, and learn. Located primarily in the comparatively over-sized prefrontal cortex, this capacity gives humans the ability to weigh, balance, and align the drives to *Acquire*, *Bond*, and *Defend*. We term this capacity:

- 4) *Drive to Create* – the unceasing impulse of humans to comprehend the world around them, to find meaning, to imagine a better future, to solve problems and puzzles, and to build new and better things.

Attached to this drive to *Create* are many of the emotions we often call *spiritual* such as *inspiration*, *wonder*, and *awe*. This drive manifests in all children at a very early age. Our intellectual power to comprehend, find order and purpose, and relate things together is part of this very encompassing drive.

It is this very human drive to *Create* that every leader seeking innovation needs to support and catalyze along with the collaborative *Drive to Bond*. In tandem, these two drives give people a deeper sense of meaning and purpose, as well as what we often refer to as conscience.<sup>94</sup> Further, the drive to *Bond* activates the

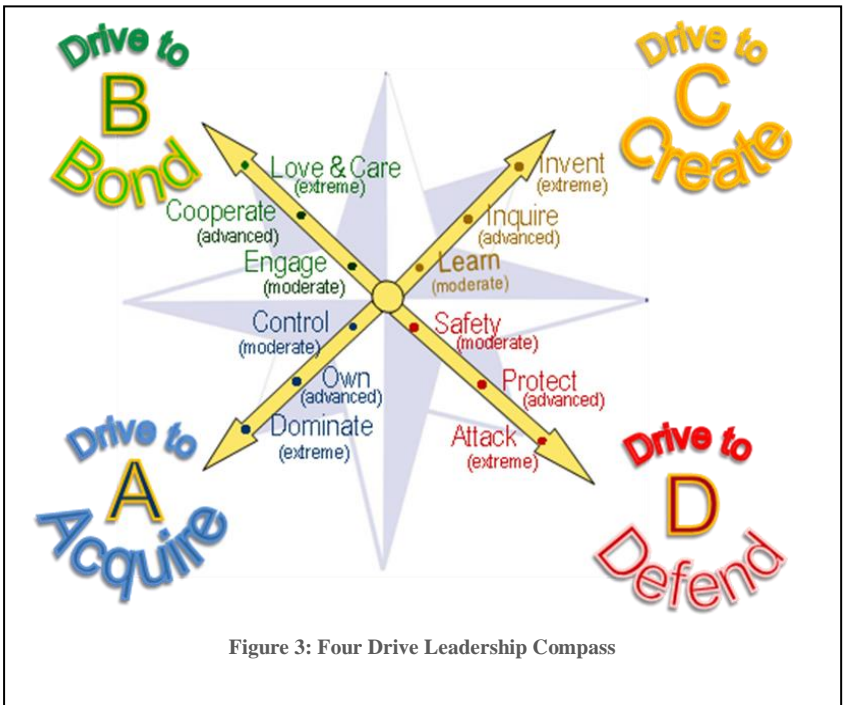
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<sup>94</sup> Psychopaths are defined as people without conscience; they lack empathy because their brains have an impaired capacity to process oxytocin.

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pleasure circuitry of the drive to Acquire. This gives leaders a "win-win" way to stimulate innovation: it benefits both the individual and the group.

We've arrayed the four drives in the form of a "leadership compass." (see Figure 3) The four drives are easy to remember: A, B, C, & D)



Darwin maintained that a conscience was the primary feature that distinguished humans from other animals.



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Each of these four drives must be reasonably satisfied in a normal human being.<sup>95</sup> The drives are not necessarily autonomous. All drives operate inter-dependently and each must be satisfied in some reasonable proportion, otherwise people will feel unfulfilled. The optimum experience occurs when all four are interacting synergistically. And if people feel unfulfilled, they will seek fulfillment of the drive that's lacking in some other way.

## ***Leadership and Aligned Energy***

A leader's every action reinforces or suppresses these drives with rewards and punishments.

In any group or organization, a leader must consciously work to meet the needs of every human to balance or align the drives to *Acquire* resources and *Defend* one's turf (self-interest) with the needs of humans to *Bond* with others to achieve something they could not accomplish alone (mutual-interest). If these drives are in conflict then the leader must resolve this or innovation will be diminished.

By reinforcing the drive to *Bond*, a leader emphasizes collaboration, and by simultaneously reinforcing the drive to *Create* the leader stimulates innovation. The good news is that it doesn't require hiring new people, just tapping the massive capacity for innovation already within its organizational boundaries, as Robinson and Stern, in their book *Corporate Creativity*, explain:

*Given the creative potential already present in most companies, the environment is the determining factor for promoting overall corporate creativity... Alignment is the first essential element.*<sup>96</sup>

But exactly how does a leader know just what proportions of these drives are needed? How does one steer the organizational ship

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<sup>95</sup> Over 90% of humans fall into the normal category. (see next question and Volume Four for more detail on these people.)

<sup>96</sup> Robinson, Alan G; & Stern, Sam; *Corporate Creativity, How Innovation and Improvement Actually Happen*, Berrett-Koehler, 1997, p 29, 89

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with the compass? How do we stay on the collaborative innovation course?

To illustrate, think of your car's front-end when you are driving: if the one of the wheels is unbalanced, you get feedback from the pounding the tire creates when it's bouncing and not running smoothly. And when the front end is out of alignment, the car is always pulling to one side or another, constantly needing correction.

Our brains give us similar feedback if we tune into its signals. When everything is tuned right, we trust, when out of balance and alignment, we distrust. Our brains produce specific chemicals called "neurotransmitters" that signal whether we have too much of one thing and not another, whether we are "unbalanced" or "out of alignment." Because the brain's chemistry responds directly to what is being sensed in one's immediate environment, it's important for a leader to know the basics about how this system operates.

*It's important for a leader to know how the brain's chemistry responds directly to what is being sensed in one's immediate environment.*

When a leader triggers a culture that reinforces the Drives to Bond and Create, the leader is inherently triggering the Divine Energies of Love and Creation – the energies of the *Holy Spirit*.

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# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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The combination of the Drives (think of “Energies”) to *Bond* (Love) and *Create* (Co-Creation) enables normal humans to evolve and mature, become consciously aware, develop and use our conscience (which may also broadly be considered a *Soul*), and engage in the magic of synergistic action.

However, the vast majority of humans exist in a self-imposed prison where each of these drives operates autonomously. What’s most important to grasp is the power of *alignment*. For the happiest, most spiritually tuned people, the *soul* drives (*Bond & Create*) guide and direct the ego drives (*Acquire* and *Defend*), thus *aligning* the drives for higher meaning and purpose.

## ***Distrust and the Destructive Role of Fear***

One of the principle reasons trust has been elusive as a discipline is because so little close examination has been done on the root cause of trust’s polar opposite: *distrust*.

Ask most people what causes distrust, and their response will typically refer to a behavioral *symptom*, such as “He threatened me;” or “She betrayed me;” or “They tried to shake me down;” or “He never does what he says he’s going to do;” or “She’s always trying to play a guilt trip on me.”

## ***Soul Drives***

*The idea of Soul is directly connected to them Drives to Bond (Love) and Create.*

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*Active peace is but the first stage of synergy; it is the alignment of the internal energies – in a manner in which the drives to Acquire, Bond, Create, and Defend – are reoriented as our soul drives (Bond & Create) take charge, becoming our Guiding Force, and the ego drives (Acquire & Defend) become the Will Power to attain and sustain great spiritual heights.*

*Thus the Divine Energies – the Holy Spirit – remain flowing into the soul, while body and the mind are fully empowered as well.*

## *The Spiritual Quest for Synergy*

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In each case, the underlying root cause was the triggering of one core emotion: fear -- the sense we must defend ourselves, especially when someone else's needs for power, control, resources, status, territory, or revenge, leaves us feeling unprotected and vulnerable.

The impacts of fear have been quite well studied. People respond to fear in one of three ways: *Fight*, *Freeze*, or *Flight*. Just as importantly, they don't innovate (except to find innovative ways to resist change).

*Fear floods the brain with chemicals that counteract both collaboration and innovation*

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Fear has a powerful effect by flooding the brain with chemicals that counteract other key neurotransmitters that enable both collaboration and innovation.

The preceding examples show the impact of trust and fear on innovation, but do not address how this actually happens. Here we intend to take trust out of the realm of the "mysterious soft arts" and plant it firmly into the realm of science and the physiology of the brain.

Fear is a naturally occurring phenomenon in all human beings which results from the drive to *Defend* being placed in a situation of poor safety and security. Other than the natural fears of falling and loud noises, all other human fears are learned.

Fear typically manifests as fight, flight, or fright. Bullies have fear, but they turn it inside out, becoming aggressive. But underlying the aggression is fear. Revenge is fear manifesting as aggression with a get-even dimension. Of course, this only triggers more fear in the recipient of the revenge, which causes more aggression, usually ending in a death struggle, or the hiring of lawyers to do our fighting to gain "justice" (a battle only the lawyers win for themselves).

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The flight response allows us to escape, at the risk of being seen as a coward. Anxiety is simply fright, without fight or flight.

Our “normal” fears include:

- *Fear of being Taken Advantage of, Loss of Safety/Security*
- *Fear of Physical Harm from Attack or*
- *Fear of Loss – Control, Territory, Possessions*
- *Fear of being Hurt Emotionally*
- *Fearful Insecurity of being Damaged*
  - *Economically*
  - *Physically*
  - *Reputation Demeaned*
  - *Betrayed*
- *Fear of Looking bad – Ego fear*
- *Fear of Rejection or Exclusion*
- *Fear of Failure*

Fear triggers the flow of adrenaline, which “sears” the fear event on the brain’s memory structure for rapid recall if a similar situation similar presents itself. Fear also represses the neurotransmitters that enable the drive to *Bond*.<sup>97</sup> One does not simply “overcome” fear because of the way it sears the memory of fearful events on the surface of the brain’s memory system

Spiritually one must become committed to something larger than fear by using the direction of the soul and the power of will.

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<sup>97</sup> See Volume Four for more information on how fear shuts down the neurotransmitters in the brain that control love and trust. The Bible tells us: There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (1John 4:18). While this is true, according to modern neurochemistry, the opposite is also true: Perfect *Fear* drives out *Love*.

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## ***The Nature of Greed***

Greed originates from the drive to *Acquire* put into the “overdrive” condition. Greedy people often have little conscience or operate from the mistaken belief that “greed is good.”

Greed in one person will often trigger fear in another.

The uncontrolled union of the Drives to *Acquire* and *Defend* presents a condition wherein the *Ego* overrides the *Soul*.

## ***The Nature of Evil***

Evil is typically exhibited by three types of people known as the “Dark Triad” (Psycho-Sociopaths, Machiavellians, & Narcissists), which constitute about 5% of the general population, and 10% of the executive/ruling population. Psychopaths constitute about 1.5% of the human population, and their brains are physically lacking the capacity to produce the hormones necessary for the drive to *Bond* (love); thus they have no compassion, empathy, or conscience. These people are dangerous; and Psychopaths cannot be “taught” to love because physiologically they have no capacity in their brain to do so.

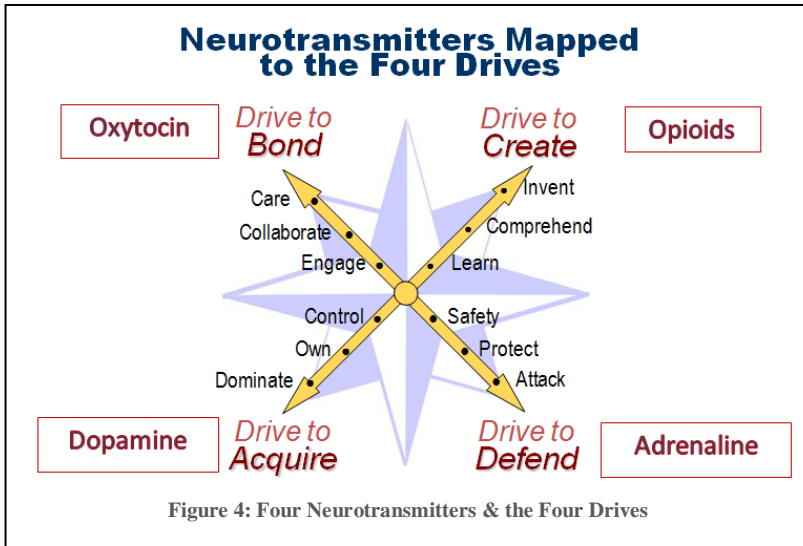
Machiavellians and Narcissists do have the capacity to love, but staunchly choose to act in selfish and unconscionable ways. While it is possible for them to learn to love, they are typically so damaged by life’s experiences that there are extreme impediments to their transformation.

Evil only enters and sustains itself through an *Ego* that engaged in Suicide of the *Soul*.

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## *How Chemistry Responds to Leadership Actions*

One way to understand the four human drives better is to associate each drive with a primary neurochemical that it uses. While all these drives use a combination of neurotransmitters, focusing on the primary neurochemistry of the four drives provides additional insights into how to harness them.<sup>98</sup>



<sup>98</sup> There are many neurotransmitters in the brain that operate in a complex array acting to “fine tune” the brain activity. We have focused on the “primary” neurotransmitters and refrained from delving into the “secondary” ones for two reasons: First, by keeping the focus on primary chemicals, we emphasize the key principles a leader needs to know. Second, if a leader tries to make decisions based upon trying to manage a large array of secondary chemicals, s/he runs the risk of sinking rapidly into analysis paralysis, or unnecessary micromanagement (the brain has the capacity to self-manage the micro fine-tuning process without intercession).

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Four brain chemicals can be mapped into the four drives (see Figure 4). The drive to *Acquire* primarily uses dopamine, the drive to *Defend* causes the release of norepinephrine (the brain-version of adrenaline), the drive to *Bond* uses oxytocin as discussed above, and the drive to *Create* is driven by the brain's opioids. Here's how they work:

### ***Dopamine & the Drive to Acquire***

Dopamine is part of the brain's "wanting system." It orients us to find resources such as food, fluids, shelter and a mate. It focuses the brain on a limited objective and motivates us to take risks to obtain this objective. Having a "goal" enables the brain to sort through the clutter of life and stay honed in on something it discerns as valuable. The "wanting system" is rapid and automatic, for example, it activates quickly when a person smells aromatic food, or when someone smiles at us. It's saying, "this is good, do more of it."

*Dopamine focuses the brain on a clear objective and motivates us to take risks to achieve it.*

People whose brains produce too little dopamine are lethargic, risk-averse and unfocused, while those with too much dopamine become obsessive, possessive, risk-loving, and overly selfish.

To keep dopamine in the "balanced" range – not too much, not too little -- a leader needs to align people on a clear goal, but one that is not exclusively measured and rewarded around individual behavior; otherwise people will tend to inhibit oxytocin associated with the drive to Bond. The goal should have a clear resolution when it is met or not met. Dopamine makes us "want" the goal by making us anticipate how it will feel when we achieve it.

Goals with greater meaning and broader values help this balance – using a "balanced scorecards" to ensure metrics are set up to reward all four drives, not just one over another.



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## ***Oxytocin & the Drive to Bond***

Oxytocin is the “collaboration” molecule. When it is present, people link together in close relationships; they trust; they care for each other; they support each other in tough times. Leaders need to understand several key cause-effect relationships.

- Oxytocin is typically released in positive human interactions and motivates us to approach and engage with others, including strangers.
- Oxytocin is the foundation for enabling trust between friends and strangers, but its release is inhibited when one’s immediate environment, either team or physical surroundings, are threatening. Fear has a profound negative effect on the release of oxytocin.

One of the great qualities of oxytocin is that apparently the brain cannot become overdosed on it, thus large amounts are fully tolerated, and there is no dulling effect, meaning that prolonged exposure to it does not require more of it to produce the same effect. In fact, oxytocin-driven bonding is more likely the more the trust-connection brain circuit is engaged.

Every leader who wants collaboration – teamwork, trust, alliances, or cooperation -- must pay attention to creating environments that are reasonably secure. It is not a coincidence that the most innovative companies are also the most likely to have reasonable levels of job security. For example, highly rated innovators like Southwest Airlines, Procter & Gamble, Toyota, or Nucor Steel are known for their deep reluctance to lay off employees. Security, trust, and collaborative innovation are highly interdependent. As mentioned above, high stress inhibits oxytocin release in the brain and the desire to collaborate with others. But, in an evolutionary adaption that makes cooperation more likely, moderate stress, including the anticipation of a rewarding goal identified by the drive to Acquire, tends to increase the release of

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oxytocin. Having a goal to achieve makes us reach out and trust others in order to reach it.

## ***Adrenaline & the Drive to Defend***

Adrenaline is the “fear” chemical. When the leader plays with fear, they play with fire; it can be a weapon or a tool, and must be used with great delicacy.

Whenever a person experiences a threatening situation, within a quarter-second adrenaline begins coursing through the body sending the “high alert” signal. Depending upon the person’s makeup and the situation, the response will be *fight, flight, or freeze*. While it is possible for people to override this response, it is a very powerful human response and has a strong tendency to override every other human desire, including sex, food, and money.

It’s noteworthy that fear also has the capacity to “sear” the event onto the brain’s long-term memory. That’s why we remember bad events so clearly, even if they happened dozens of years ago. This is nature’s way of helping us recognize danger and take rapid evasive action. When the brain’s circuitry becomes overloaded with too much fear, people can become paralyzed because it keeps reoccurring in our memory; we call it Post Traumatic Stress Disorder -- one of the terrible after-effects of war, but it doesn’t take a war to produce it. Too much stress at work will cause the same pattern of behavior.

*Adrenaline is the “fear” chemical that has a strong tendency to override every other human desire.*

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On the other hand, studies have shown that not enough adrenaline makes people lethargic, overly satisfied, and complacent. A small amount of adrenaline keeps people alert, on

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their toes. But too much adrenaline shuts down the *Bonding* neurochemical<sup>99</sup>, as well as the *Create* and *Acquire* hormones.

The “executive center” of the brain, the prefrontal cortex, can discern an *internal* threat from an *external* one. Thus, if one’s *inner* team, within the firm, is trusted, and the threat is from an *outside* competitor, then the collaborative circuitry will stay functionally intact. However, as soon as the threat is seen as *internal* – within the *family* – all hell breaks loose; people experience *betrayal* – the worst form of distrust; they get very angry and are loathe to forget. The drive to *Defend* is one of the foundations of healthy competition and therefore should not be avoided, just channeled in a productive manner.

## ***Opioids & the Drive to Create***

The brain has an innovation circuit located in the “newer” part of the brain, the neocortex, which has played an essential role of our evolutionary history as inventive beings. This is where the fourth drive starts its action.

*Flooding the brain with chemicals that “mimic” opioids, such as morphine or heroin, does not improve creativity. Morphine binds to mu receptors, giving an artificial high, without the benefit of productive outcomes. (An early version of morphine was called “laudanum” meaning “to praise.”)*

The brain’s opioids<sup>100</sup>, among these are endorphins, modulate pleasure and pain while releasing dopamine, the *Acquisition* neurotransmitter. The release

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<sup>99</sup> In laboratory experiments, distrust produces a spike in another stress-reactive chemical testosterone, which is a potent anti-oxytocin (Zak, P.J. et al., 2005. The Neuroeconomics of Distrust: Sex Differences in Behavior and Physiology, American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings, 95(2): 360-3).

<sup>100</sup> Opioids are natural occurring “opiates” which give us natural pleasure and dull pain. Endorphin is a contraction of the term “endo-morphine” meaning internally generated morphines.

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of opioids causes us to enjoy experiencing the attainment of a goal we were seeking.

In addition, when we exercise opioids are released and dull pain. Opioid action in the frontal cortex is associated with flashes of insight and creativity which generates a brief “learning high.”

Brain imaging studies of the frontal cortex show that while the presence of opioids varies greatly among individuals (depending upon their number of “mu” opioid receptors), all humans have them.

*The drives to Acquire and Bond can work synergistically to release the opioids for the drive to Create.*

Some studies explain that it is the presence of this receptor that makes a creative leap so pleasurable. We praise those with creative insights as this is the “spark” of innovation. Artists, musicians, writers, and inventors have known this for at least a thousand years. What’s more, the drives to *Acquire* and *Bond* can work synergistically to release the opioids for the drive to *Create*.

### ***WHAT IS TRUST WORTH?***

A recent study of nearly 30,000 U.S. and Canadian citizens by John Helliwell of the Economics Department of the University of British Columbia indicates that just a 10% increase in perceived trust creates the same sense of well-being in individuals as a \$40,000 pay raise.

And it’s not unusual for people to find, for the first time, a sense of real meaning and purpose to their work when trust is present.

Economic Value of Trust

# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

## *How Fear Shuts Out Love & Creation*

(Note: the term “collaborative innovation” is synonymous with “love & creation,” just stated in a more business-like fashion.)

From the foregoing, one can chart out the hormonal interactions to understand how much stress a group can handle and maximize collaborative innovation, as indicated in Figure 4.

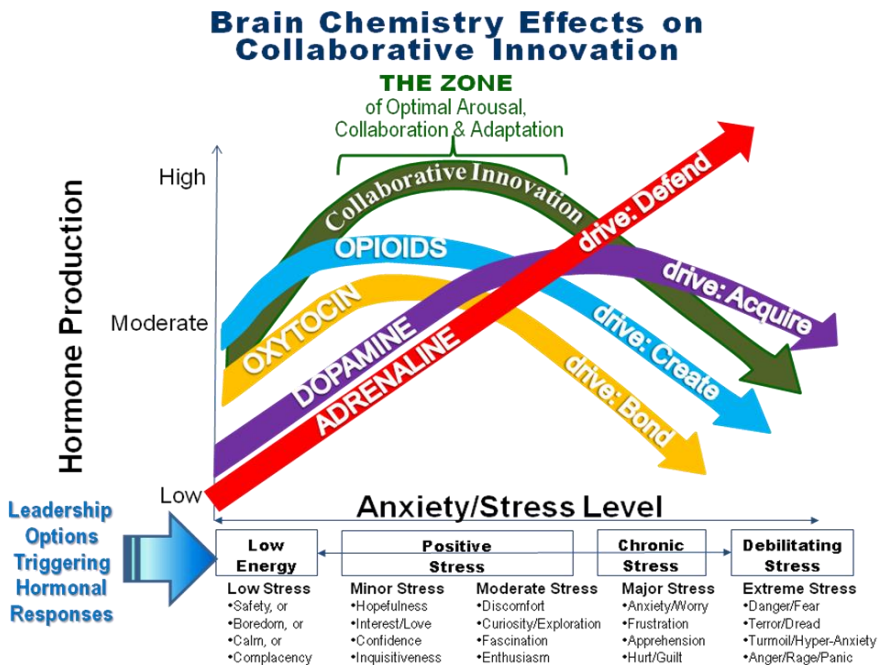


Figure 5: Chemical Effects on Collaborative Innovation

Any leader or person in an influential position, by using fear, can literally shut down the production of the chemicals in the brain that enable the Holy Spirit’s brain chemistry from functioning.

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## APPENDIX EIGHT: TRUST LADDER & TORNADO OF

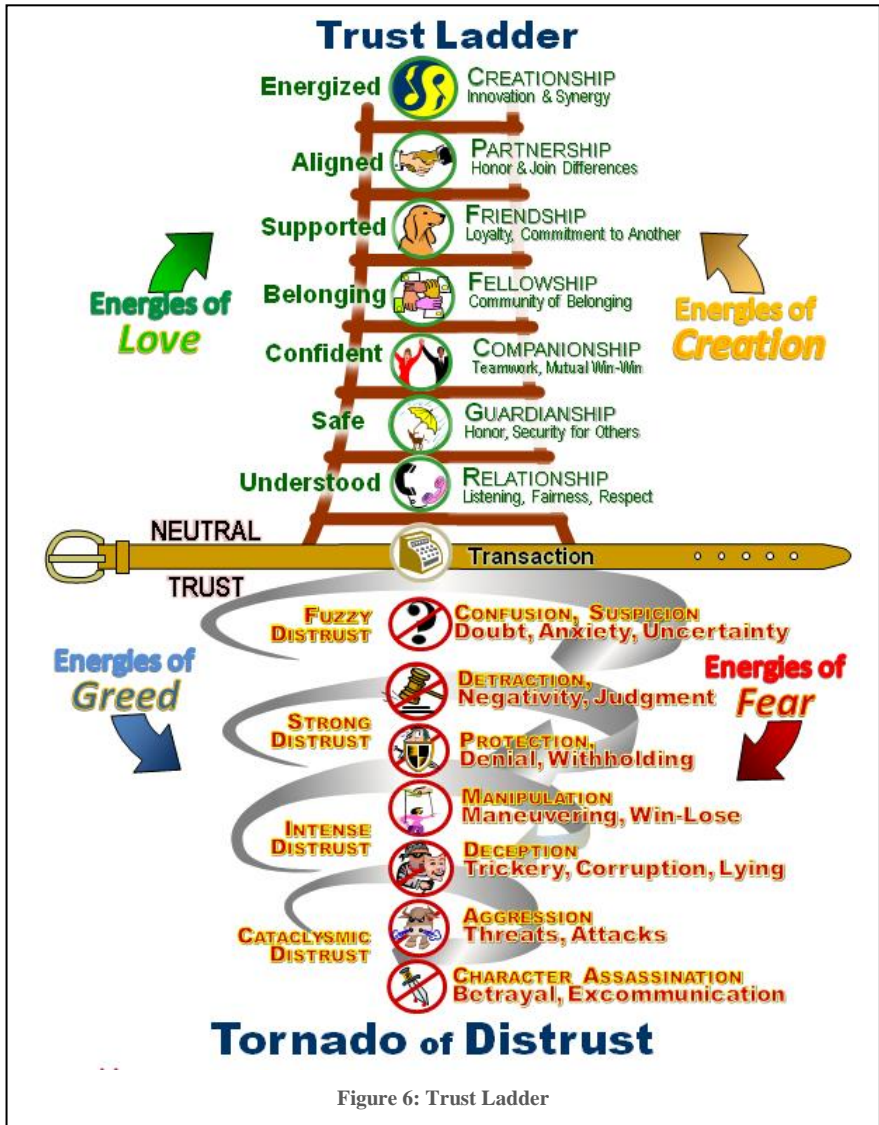


Figure 6: Trust Ladder

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## DISTRUST

The leader, by emphasizing different combinations of the four drives, can completely change the results produced.

Different combinations of the Four Drives can alter the collaborative innovation dynamics (see Figure 6). We symbolize the neutral trust level by a “belt.” People using this graphic constantly refer to specific actions as “above” or “below” the belt.

By placing increased emphasis on the *Bond* and *Create* aspects of an organization’s culture, the higher the trust. And conversely, by embodying and over-emphasis on the *Acquire* and *Defend* traits, distrust will manifest.

## ***A REMARKABLE TRANSFORMATION***

One of the finest examples of how the Four Drive Trust Ladder operates is the *Union from Hell* Case from the 1980s:

After twenty frustrating years, in 1982, General Motors threw in the towel on its plant in Fremont, California. After GM, Ford, Chrysler lost \$5.5 billion to overseas competitors in 1980-81, a new sense of reality hit senior executives. The Japanese, led by Toyota and Honda, were making better cars at lower prices. GM was convinced that the plant that loomed like a big battleship of three million square feet had become simply a battleground for labor and management to tussle and squabble daily.

GM saw the union as the problem, after all it was the union that was instigating all the turmoil, and protecting the jobs of “hippies, drug-addicts, and scoundrels.” The absenteeism was so high that often the production line couldn’t even be started. It was, by far, the worst of GM’s plants in terms of quality and productivity: double-digit defects in every car, and far higher than average hours to assemble any vehicle. Distrust ran so high that the labor contract was crammed with over 400 pages of legal doublespeak and 5000

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union grievances were backlogged. Thousands of Fremont workers received pink slips.

Toyota approached GM in 1984 with an offer to establish a Joint Venture in the United States (New United Motor Manufacturing Inc. – NUMMI) to reopen and manage the Fremont plant. Toyota offered to up-grade the manufacturing line, and take back most of Fremont former employees along with their labor union, but only a handful of the GM management. GM saw this as an opportunity to learn the Toyota Lean Management System and accepted the offer.

Toyota hired back 85% of the Fremont hourly union workforce, giving them a strong voice in plant operations. A no layoff policy was instituted. Toyota spent \$3 million to send 450 new group and team leaders to Toyota City for training in Toyota's production system.

Collaborative innovation was the focal point, as employees began participating in decisions regarding their work. Team members were trained in joint problem solving and quality practices to become experts in their respective operations. Employee roles expanded, the additional responsibility was for continuous improvement. Team members quickly implemented ideas for improvement, with successful solutions becoming standardized. All employees were empowered to stop the line at any time to fix a problem by pulling a cord running around the entire facility. Cooperation and confidence replaced coercion and conflict.

By the time the facility was fully operational, quality defects dropped to only one per vehicle. Cars were assembled in just half the time. Absenteeism dropped to 3%. Worker satisfaction and engagement soared. Operational innovation was on the rise, with over 90% of employees participating in the innovation program with nearly 10,000 ideas implemented. These were the same people,



# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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the same union, and the same equipment. But the outcome was radically different. All in under two years."<sup>101</sup>

After two years in operation, the once antagonistic NUMMI workers had built more than 200,000 cars and were winning national recognition. The U.S. Department of Labor highlighted NUMMI as a model of positive labor management relations. Newsweek magazine spotlighted it as "a model of industrial tranquility." Fortune pronounced it "the most important labor relations experiment in the US today." Industry Week ranked the plant among America's 12 best manufacturing plants.

However, even though the GM managers trained at NUMMI learned Toyota's Management System, GM was still unable to implement it successfully in the rest of their U.S. operations. Why? Because the "invisible" part of the Toyota system was about trust and collaboration, which GM management was unable to replicate because its management culture was unsupportive.<sup>102</sup>

The NUMMI example shows how great teamwork is based on all human energy from the four drives flowing in a single, unified, aligned, and integrated direction. This is the leader's most important task --- building trust, generating innovation, and achieving high performance.

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<sup>101</sup> May, Matthew; *Elegant Solution , Toyota's Formula for Mastering Innovation*; Free Press, 2007, p 61-65

<sup>102</sup> When GM declared bankruptcy in 2009, it forced the end of the Joint Venture. The plant was temporarily closed, and Toyota, in conjunction with Tesla Motors, a manufacturer of new generation electric cars, now occupy the facility.

# *The Spiritual Quest for Synergy*

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## *What happened with the Union from Hell?*

*Science gives us an explanation that is perfectly logical, reasonable, and quite true. The Economic Value of the NUMMI project was extraordinary.*

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The NUMMI case illustrates, in real life terms, the “economics of abundance.” By engaging the energies of the Holy Spirit, trust and teamwork produced enormous economic value.

However, to explain the result in strictly behavioral terms completely overlooks the simultaneous spiritual explanation of the Holy Spirit being manifested by the NUMMI leadership.

In reality, both the behavioral and spiritual explanations are correct – just different sides of the same coin.

## ***FOUNDATIONAL MINDSETS ABOUT COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION***

1. Human Nature: People are gifted with four drives, each representing ultimate survival motives. The drives to *Bond & Create* must be aligned and predominate if one wants to be a *collaborative innovator in the grace of the Holy Spirit*. The drives to *Acquire & Defend* must support the first two drives, not predominate.
2. Trust: Trust is essential to innovative collaboration. The basic elements of trust are fairness, honesty, respect, integrity, and empathy. When leaders start with command and control as the first principle of alignment, they quickly trigger the *Acquire* and *Defend* drives, suppressing trust. Leaders who fail to create trust limit their range of motivational options to fear and force.

# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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3. Teamwork: Most people want to work together; only about five percent are anti-social. Be careful about putting even highly creative lone rangers in charge of innovation teams; they knock out the collaborative side of the innovation equation.
4. Fear: Fear can be a tool or a weapon; it's a tool when the fear is focused *externally* to the organization, but an innovation killer when used *internally*. Don't use fear as a spur, don't create artificial internal crises, and don't punish people who are well intentioned. Weed out those who believe that command by fear is the best way to get results.
5. Creativity: People are born creative; it's natural to want to bring new ideas into the work world. Let creativity be demonstrated by small as well as big hits.
6. Alignment: Aligning people on a common goal and purpose requires they can trust each other while they walk the same path. Start first by aligning around the four drives of the customer, and then the four drives of the key stakeholders, employees, stockholders, and suppliers.
7. Synergy: The attainment of synergy is possible only when built on a foundation of trust that honors differentials in thinking and the creative passion of people. If synergy is absent, look for distrust as the first culprit.

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## APPENDIX NINE: THE MISSING SYNERGY CODE?

Just to add to the rich texture of this issue, in my search for spiritual truths, I came across a fascinating set of small volumes by Edmund Bordeaux Szekely, who apparently was able to gain access to the Royal Hapsburg Library in Austria, the Monastery at Monte Cassino, and Secret Vaults in the Vatican to examine ancient scrolls. These were preserved by an expedition to the Dead Sea in the late fourth century by St. Jerome, who was sent by the Pope to preserve ancient writings. Today we would think of this as the *first* Dead Sea Scroll expedition.

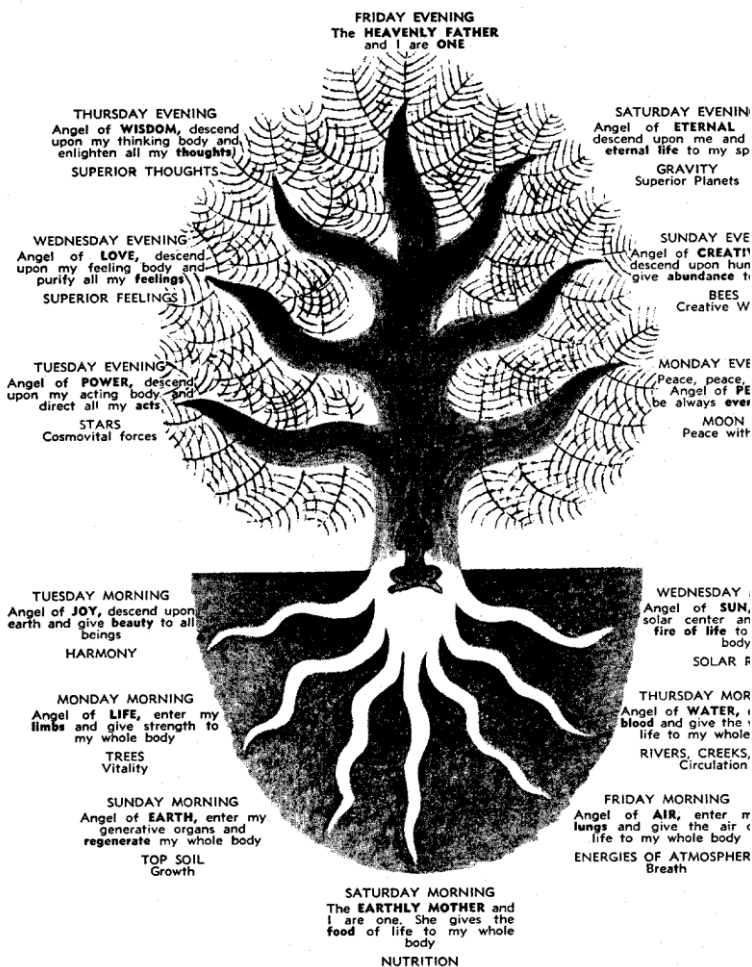
Skekely claimed he translated a large number of documents and then published them in a series of books called the *Essene Gospels of Peace*. These are beautifully written and very inspiring. Millions of copies of the books have circulated the planet.

[Disclaimer: Per Beskow, writing in *Strange Tales About Jesus*, states that when he asked the National Library of Vienna about the Old Slavonic text, the reply was sent that "there is no such text, that a number of people have made inquiries about the text, and the general opinion was that Szekeley made it up." Similarly the Vatican denied the existence of the manuscripts and "Szekeley's name has not been found in the card index of scholars admitted to the Archives."]

The prayers that follow are, according to Skekely, the prayers Christ actually prayed, which honor God the Heavenly Father in the evening and God the Earthly Mother in the morning. Our contemporary reference to "Mother Nature" apparently originally referred to the Earthly Mother. (This duality of God as "parent" or "mother-father" was a common belief among the ancients. (See Appendix Two)

What follows, if it is real, is a deep expression of the Unity of God and Man, expressed as Angelic Energy Forces. If it proves to be another fabrication, then enjoy it for literary value.

# Dancing with the Holy Spirit



**THE ESSENE TREE OF LIFE**  
with the Morning and Evening Communion

# *The Spiritual Quest for Synergy*

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## **Essene Communion with God and the Angels**

from *Essene Gospels of Peace*  
by Edmond Bordeaux Szekely Translation

*Just as the roots of the tree  
Sink into the earth and are nourished,  
And the branches of the tree  
Raise their arms to heaven,  
So is man like the trunk of the tree,  
With his roots deep  
In the breast of his Earthly Mother,  
And his soul ascending  
To the bright stars of his Heavenly Father.  
And the roots of the tree  
Are the Angels of the Heavenly Father.  
And this is the sacred Tree of Life  
Which stands in the Sea of Eternity.*

### **Christ said:**

*My children, know not that the earth  
And all that dwells therein  
Is but a reflection of the  
Kingdom of the Heavenly Father?  
And as you are suckled and comforted  
By your mother when a child,*

# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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*But go to join your father in the fields  
When you grow up,  
So do the Angels of the Earthly Mother  
Guide your steps  
Toward him who is your Father,  
And all his holy Angels,  
That you may know true home  
And become true Sons of God.  
While we are all children,  
We will see the rays of the sun,  
But not the Power which created it;  
While we are children,  
We will hear the sounds of the flowing brook,  
But not the love which created it;  
While we are children,  
We will see the stars,  
But not the hand which scatters them  
Through the sky,  
As the farmer scatters his seed.  
Only through the Communion  
With the Angels of the Heavenly Father,  
Will we learn to see the unseen,  
To hear that which cannot be heard,  
And to speak the unspoken word.  
When you open your eyes in the morning, even then before your  
body has been called by the Angel of the Sun, say to yourselves  
these words, letting them echo in your spirit; for words are like*

## *The Spiritual Quest for Synergy*

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*dead leaves when there is no life in them of the spirit. Say, then, these words:*

*I enter the eternal and infinite garden of mystery,  
My spirit in oneness with the Heavenly Father,  
My body in oneness with the Earthly Mother,*

*My heart in harmony with my Brothers, the Sons of Men,  
Dedicating my spirit, my body, and my heart to the holy, pure and  
saving Teaching, Even that Teaching which of old was know to  
Enoch.*

### **SUNDAY MORNING:**

And after these words have entered into your spirit, at the morning of the Sabbath, say these words:

*The **Earthly Mother** and I are one.*

*She gives the food of life to my whole body.  
Her breath is my breath; her blood is my blood;  
her bone, her flesh, her bowels, her eyes and ears,  
are my bone, my flesh, my bowels, my eyes and ears.*

*Never will I desert her,  
and always will she nourish and sustain my body.  
She who sends forth her Angels  
To guide the roots of man  
And send them deep into the blessed soil.  
We invoke the Earthly Mother!  
The Holy Preserver! The Maintainer!*



## Dancing with the Holy Spirit

---

*It is She who will restore the world!  
The earth is hers,  
And the fullness of thereof: the world,  
And they that dwell herein.  
We worship the good, the strong,  
The beneficent Earthly Mother  
And all her angels,  
Bounteous, valiant,  
And full of strength;  
Welfare-bestowing, kind,  
And health-giving.  
Through her brightness and glory  
Do the plants grow up from the earth,  
by the never failing springs.  
Through her brightness and glory  
Do the winds blow,  
Driving down the clouds  
Towards the never-failing springs.  
The Earthly Mother and I are One.  
I have my roots in her,  
And she takes her delight in me,  
According to the Holy Law.*

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And you will feel the power of the Earthly Mother  
flowing through your body like the river when it is swollen  
with rains and courses mightily with a great noise.

### **SUNDAY EVENING:**

And on the Sabbath evening, say these words:

*The **Heavenly Father**,*

*Who is, Who was, and Who ever shall be,  
and I are One.*

*O Great Creator!*

*Thou didst create the Heavenly Angels,  
And thou didst reveal the Heavenly Laws!*

*Thou art my refuge and my fortress,  
Thou art from everlasting.*

*Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place  
In all generations.*

*Before the mountains were brought forth,  
Or ever though hadst formed the earth,  
Even from everlasting to everlasting,  
Thou art God.*

*Who hath made the waters,  
And who maketh the plants?  
Who to the wind hath yoked the storm-clouds,  
The swift and even the fleetest?*

# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

---

*Who, O Great Creator!*

*Is the fountain of Eternal Life within our souls?*

*Who hath made the Light and the Darkness?*

*Who hath made sleep and the zest of waking hours?*

*Who spread the noontides and the midnight?*

*Thou, O Great Creator!*

*Thou has made the earth by thy power,*

*Hath established the world by thy wisdom,*

*And hath stretched out the heavens by thy love.*

*Do thou reveal unto me, O Heavenly Father,*

*Thy nature,*

*which is the power of the Angels of thy Holy Kingdom.*

*Immortality and the Heavenly Order*

*Hast thou given, O Creator,*

*And the best of all things, Thy Holy Law!*

*I will Praise thy works with songs of thanksgiving,*

*Continually, in all the generations of time.*

*With the coming of day,*

*I embrace my Earthly Mother,*

*With the coming of night,*

*I join my Heavenly Father,*

*And with the outgoing of the evening*

*and the morning I will breathe Their Law,*

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*And will not interrupt these Communion*

*Until the end of time.*

## **MONDAY MORNING:**

And on the morning after the Sabbath, say these words:

*Angel of **Earth**, make fruitful my seed, and with your power  
give life to my body; enter my generative organs and  
regenerate my whole body.*

*She who brings forth corn and grapes,*

*From the fullness of the Earth,*

*She who brings children*

*From the loins of husband and wife.*

*He who would till the earth,*

*With the left arm and the right,*

*Unto him will she bring forth*

*An abundance of fruit and grain,*

*Golden-hued plants growing up from the earth*

*During the spring, as far as the earth extends,*

*As far as the rivers stretch, As far as the sun rises,*

*To impart their gifts of food unto men.*

*This wide earth do I praise,*

*Expanded far with paths,*

*The productive, the full-bearing,*

*Thy Mother, holy plant!*

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---

*Yea, I praise the lands where thou dost grow,*

*Sweet-scented, swiftly spreading,*

*The good growth of the Lord.*

*He who sows corn, grass and fruit,*

*Soweth the Law.*

*And his harvest shall be bountiful,*

*And his crop shall be ripe upon the hills.*

*As a reward for the followers of the Law,*

*The Lord sent the Angel of Earth,*

*Holy messenger of the Earthly Mother,*

*To make the plants to grow,*

*And to make fertile the womb of woman,'*

*That the earth may never be without*

*The laughter of children.*

*Let us worship the Lord in her!*

Even as your seed creates new life, so courses through the earth the seed of the angel of Earth: in the grass, in the soil, in all living things that grow from the soil. Know, oh Sons of Light, that the same angel of Earth that makes your seed into sons also makes the tiny acorn into this mighty oak, and makes the seed-bearing wheat to grow for bread of the Son of Man. And the seed of your body need not enter the body of woman to create life; for the power of the Angel of Earth can create the life of the spirit within, as well as the life of the body without.

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## MONDAY EVENING:

*Angel of **Eternal Life**,*

*Who brings the message of eternity to man,*

*Descend upon me*

*And give eternal life to my spirit.*

*For he who walks with the Angels*

*Shall learn to soar above the clouds,*

*And his home shall be in the Eternal Sea*

*Where stands the Tree of Life.*

*Do not wait for death to reveal the great mystery;*

*If you know not your Heavenly Father*

*While your feet tread the dusty soil,*

*There shall be naught but shadows for thee*

*In the life that is to come.*

*Here and now is the mystery revealed.*

*Here and now is the curtain lifted.*

*Be not afraid, O man!*

*Lay hold of the wings of the Angel of Eternal Life,*

*And soar into the paths of the stars,*

*The moon, the sun, and the endless Light,*

*Moving around in their revolving circle forever,*

*And fly toward the Heavenly Sea of Eternal Life.*

# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

---

## TUESDAY MORNING:

And on the second morning after Sabbath, say these words:

*Angel of Life, enter my limbs and give strength to my whole body.*

*She who gives strength and vigor to man.*

*For, lo, if the wax is not pure,*

*How then can the candle give a steady flame?*

*Go, then, toward the high-growing trees,*

*And before one of them which is bountiful,*

*High-growing and mighty,*

*Say these words:*

*"Hail be unto thee, O good, living tree,*

*Made by the Creator!"*

*Then shall the River of Life*

*Flow between you and your Brother,*

*The Tree,*

*And health of the body,*

*Swiftness of foot,*

*Quick hearing of the ears,*

*Strength of the arms*

*And eyesight of the eagle be yours.*

*Such is the Communion*

*With the Angel of Life,*

*Holy messenger of the Earthly Mother.*

And with these words embrace the Tree of Life, even as I embrace this brother oak, and you will feel the power of the Angel of Life flow to your arms, and to your legs, and to all the parts of the body, as the sap flows in the tree in the spring,

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even as it runs out of the trunk, so will the Angel of Life flood your body with the power of the Earthly Mother.

### **TUESDAY EVENING:**

*Angel of **Creative Work**, Who sings in the humming of the bee, Pausing not in its making of golden honey;*

*Descend upon humanity  
And give abundance to all men.  
In the flute of the shepherd,  
Who sleeps not lest his flock go astray;  
In the song of the maiden  
As she lays her hand to the spindle.  
And if you think that these  
Are not as fair in the eyes of the Lord  
As the loftiest of prayers  
Echoed from the highest mountain  
Then you do indeed err.  
For the honest work of humble hands  
Is a daily prayer of thanksgiving,  
And the music of the plough  
Is a joyful song unto the Lord.  
He who eats the bread of idleness  
Must die of hunger,  
For a field of stones can yield only stones.  
For him is the day without meaning,  
And the night a bitter journey of evil dreams.  
The mind of the idle is full of weeds of discontent;  
But he who walks with the Angel of Work  
Has within him a field always fertile,*



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*Where corn and grapes  
And all manner of sweet-scented herbs and flowers  
grow in abundance. As ye sow, so shall ye reap.  
The man of God who has found his task  
Shall not ask for any other blessing.*

## **WEDNESDAY MORNING:**

An on the third morning after the Sabbath, say these words:

*Angel of Joy, descend upon the Earth,  
Pouring forth beauty and delight to all the children  
of the Earthly Mother and the Heavenly Father.  
She who descends upon earth  
To give beauty to all men.  
For the Lord is not worshiped with sadness,  
Nor with cries of despair.  
Leave off your moans and lamentations  
And sing unto the Lord a new song:  
Sing unto the Lord, all the earth.  
Let the heavens rejoice  
And let the earth be glad.  
Let the field be joyful,  
Let the floods clap their hands,  
Let the hills be joyful together  
Before the Lord.*

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*For you shall go out with joy  
And be led forth with peace:  
The mountains and the hills  
Shall break forth before you into singing.  
Angel of Joy,  
Holy messenger of the Earthly Mother,  
I will sing unto the Lord  
As long as I live:  
I will sing praise to my God  
While I have my being.*

And you will go forth into the fields of flowers after rain and give thanks to your Earthly Mother for the sweet odor of blossoms; for I tell you truly, a flower has no other purpose than to bring joy to the heart of the Son of Man. And you will listen with new ears to the song of the birds, and see with new eyes the colors of the sun in its rising and setting; and all these gifts of the Earthly Mother will cause joy to well forth within you, as a spring wells forth of a sudden in a barren place. And you shall know that no one comes before the Heavenly Father that the Angel of Joy lets not pass; for in joy was the earth created, and in joy did the Earthly Mother and the Heavenly Father give birth to the Son of Man.

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## WEDNESDAY EVENING:

*Peace, Peace, Peace, **Angel of Peace**,  
Whose kiss bestoweth calm,  
And whose face is as the surface  
Of untroubled waters,  
Wherein the moon is reflected,  
be always everywhere.  
I will invoke Peace,  
Whose breath is friendly,  
Whose hand smoothes the troubled brow.  
In the reign of Peace,  
There is neither hunger nor thirst,  
Neither cold wind nor hot wind,  
Neither old age nor death.  
But to him that hath not peace in his soul,  
There is no place to build within the Holy Temple;  
For how can the carpenter build  
In the midst of a whirlwind?  
The seed of violence can reap  
Only the harvest of desolation,  
And from the parched clay  
Can grow no living thing.  
Seek ye then the Angel of Peace,  
Who is as the morning star  
In the midst of a cloud,  
As the moon at the full,  
As a fair olive tree budding forth fruit,  
And as the sun shining on the temple*

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*Of the most high,  
Peace dwells in the heart of silence;  
Be still and know that I am God.*

### **THURSDAY MORNING:**

And on the fourth morning after Sabbath, say these words:

*Angel of Sun, enter my solar center and let my whole body  
bathe in the fire of life.*

*She who cometh each morning  
As a bride from her chamber,  
To shed her golden light on the world.  
O thou immortal, shining, swift-steeded Angel of the Sun  
There is now warmth without thee,  
No fire without thee, No life without thee.  
The green leaves of the trees do worship thee  
And through thee is the tiny wheat kernel  
Become a river of golden grass,  
Moving with the wind.  
Through thee is opened the flow  
In the center of my body.  
Therefore will I never hide myself  
From thee.*

*Angel of Sun, Holy Messenger of the Earthly Mother,  
Enter the holy temple within me  
And give me the Fire of Life!*

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---

And you will feel the rays of the rising sun enter the center point of your body, there in the center where the angels of day and of night mingle, and the power of the sun shall be yours to direct to any part of your body, for the angels dwell therein.

### THURSDAY EVENING:

*Angel of Power*, who fills the sun with heat, and guides the hand of man in all his works, descend upon my acting body and direct all my acts.

*Thine O Heavenly Father!  
Was the Power,  
When thou didst order a path  
For each of us all,  
Through thy power  
Will my feet tread the  
Path of the Law;  
Through thy power  
Will my hands perform thy works.  
May the golden river of power  
Always flow from thee to me  
And may my body always turn unto thee,  
As the flower turns unto the sun,  
For there is no power save that  
From the Heavenly Father;  
All else is but a dream of dust,  
A cloud passing over the face of the sun,  
There is no man that hath power  
Over the spirit;*

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*Neither hath he power in the day of death.  
Only that power which cometh from God  
Can carry us out from the City of Death.  
Guide our works and deeds,  
O Angel of Power,  
Holy messenger of the Heavenly Father!*

### **FRIDAY MORNING:**

And on the fifth morning after the Sabbath, say these words:

*Angel of **Water**, enter my blood and give the Water of Life to my whole body.*

*She who makes the rain to fall on the arid plain,  
who fills the dry well to overflowing.  
Yea, we do worship thee,  
Water of Life.  
From the heavenly sea the waters run and flow forward  
from the never-failing springs.  
In my blood flow a thousand pure springs,  
And vapors, and clouds,  
And all the waters that spread over all the Seven Kingdoms.  
All the waters the Creator hath made are holy.  
The voice of the Lord  
is upon the waters:  
The God of Glory thundereth;  
The Lord is upon many waters.  
Angel of Water, Holy Messenger of the Earthly Mother,  
Enter the blood that flows through me,  
Wash my body in the rain  
That flows from Heaven,  
And give me the Water of Life.*

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---

And you will feel, like the rushing current of the river, the power of the Angel of Water enter your blood, and like the rivulets of a stream, send the power of the Earthly Mother through your blood to all the parts of your body. And it shall be for healing, for the power of the Angel of Water is very great, and when you speak to her, she will send her power wherever you command, for when the angels of God dwell with the Son of Man, are all things possible.

### FRIDAY EVENING:

*Angel of Love, Whose healing waters flow*

*In a never ending stream From the Sea of Eternity.*

*Descend upon my feeling body And purify all my feelings.*

*Beloved, let us love one another;*

*For love is of the Heavenly Father,*

*And every one that loveth*

*Is born of the Heavenly Order*

*And knoweth the Angels.*

*For without Love,*

*A man's heart is parched and cracked*

*As the bottom of a dry well,*

*And his words are empty*

*As a hollow gourd.*

*But loving words are a s honeycomb*

*Sweet to the soul;*

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*Loving words in a man's mouth  
Are as deep waters,  
And the wellspring of love as a flowing brook.  
Yea, it was said in the ancient of days,  
Thou shalt love thy Heavenly Father  
With all thy heart, And with all thy mind,  
And with all thy deeds,  
And thou shalt love thy brothers as thy self.  
The Heavenly Father is Love;  
And he that dwelleth in love  
Dwelleth in the Heavenly Father,  
And the Heavenly Father in him.  
He that loveth not is as a wandering bird  
Cast out of the nest;  
For him the grass faileth  
And the stream has a bitter taste.  
And if a man say,  
I love the Heavenly Father  
But hate my brother, He is a liar;  
For he that loveth not his brother  
Who he hath seen,  
How can he love the Heavenly Father  
Whom he hath not seen?*



# Dancing with the Holy Spirit

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*By this we know the Children of Light;  
Those who walk with the Angel of Love,  
For they love the Heavenly Father,  
And they love their brethren,  
And they keep the Holy Law.  
Love is stronger  
Than the currents of deep waters;  
Love is stronger than death.*

## **SATURDAY MORNING:**

And on the sixth after the Sabbath, say these words:

*Angel of Air, Who spreads the perfume of sweet-smelling fields,  
Of spring grass after rain, Of the opening buds  
of the Rose of Sharon Enter with my breath  
And give the Air of Life to my whole body.  
We worship the Holy Breath  
Which is placed higher'  
Than all other things created.  
For, lo, the eternal and sovereign  
Luminous space,  
Where rule the unnumbered stars,  
Is the air we breathe in  
And the air we breathe out.  
And in the moment betwixt the breathing in  
And the Breathing out  
Is hidden all the mysteries  
Of the Infinite Garden.  
Angel of Air,  
Holy Messenger of the Earthly Mother,  
Enter deep within me,*

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*As the swallow plummets from the sky,  
That I may know the secrets of the wind  
And the music of the stars.*

Know, oh Sons of Light, that the Angel of Air is the messenger of the Heavenly Father, and no one comes before the face of God that the Angel of Air lets not pass. For we do not think of the Angel of Air when we breathe, for we breathe without thought, as the sons of darkness live their lives without thought. But when the power of life enters into your words and into your breathing, then for every time you invoke the Angel of Air, so do you also invoke the unknown angels of the Heavenly Father; and you will go closer to the heavenly kingdoms.

### **SATURDAY EVENING:**

*Angel of **Wisdom**, Who maketh man free from fear,  
Wide of heart, and easy of conscience:  
Descend upon my thinking body  
And enlighten all my thoughts.  
Holy Wisdom, the Understanding that unfolds,  
Continuously, as a holy scroll,  
Yet does not come through learning.  
All Wisdom cometh from the Heavenly Father,  
And is with him forever.  
Who can number the sand of the sea,  
And the drops of rain, and the days of eternity?  
Who can find out the height of heaven,  
And the breadth of the earth?  
Who can tell the beginning of Wisdom?  
Wisdom hath been created before all things.*

## Dancing with the Holy Spirit

---

*He who is without Wisdom  
Is like unto him that saith to the wood,  
"Awake," and to the dumb stone,  
"Arise, and teach!"  
So are his words empty,  
And his deeds harmful,  
As a child who brandishes his father's sword  
And knoweth not its cutting edge.  
But the crown of Wisdom  
Makes peace and perfect health to flourish,  
Both of which are the gifts of God.  
O thou Heavenly Order!  
And thou, Angel of Wisdom!  
I will worship thee and the Heavenly Father,  
Because of whom the river of thought  
Within us is flowing towards the Holy Sea of Eternity.*

## **APPENDIX TEN: RELIGION'S STRUGGLE TO EVOLVE**

### ***PHILOSOPHY VERSUS RELIGION***

The difference between religion and philosophy is that the former is based on philosophy that has been translated and transformed into institutions, doctrine, and ritual, normally administered within a structure, which often implies a hierarchy of intellectual power and system of control to ensure uniformity and compliance. Whereas a philosophy (from the Greek: *Love of Wisdom*) tends to be more fluid, open to interpretation, spawning more differences, nuances, and varieties.

In other words, philosophy is more open to evolution, and religion more closed. Open evolution is not inherently good or bad. For example, Hitler and his gang took Darwin's treatises on evolution, and used the ideas for evil, death, destruction, and genocide – *devolution*. Similarly viruses and bacteria can evolve for their own good, but be destructive to humans.

Christianity has gone through its periods of evolution (e.g. early Christianity, Reformation, and current Christianity), conflict (e.g. Post Reformation), stagnation (e.g. Dark Ages), and devolution (e.g. Spanish Inquisition, Protestant-Catholic warfare in Ireland, etc.).

Fundamentalists are happier with tight, more rigid, closed structures and literal interpretations, while Philosophers tend to like more fluid interpretations that are more flexible and open.

Considering that just a half century ago, when John F. Kennedy was running for President, there were major debates about whether a Catholic should be elected to this nation's highest office (for fear he would move the Vatican to Washington), Christianity had evolved dramatically in recent years to be far more like Christ envisioned it: merciful, friendly, and forgiving.

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## ***FUNDAMENTALISM'S MAIN DIFFICULTY***

Any fundamentalist view of religion runs headlong into a number of obstacles. Chapter Two explored the question:

*Is the Old Testament the Word of God?*

I am sure that, upon reading my conclusions, some fundamentalist Christians will be so thoroughly revolted, disgusted, and angered that they will immediately deem me a heretic whose place in hell has been preordained and the faster I go there the better for the world!

Fundamentalism, by its nature, believes that any changes in the written word of God or His prophets are blasphemy. (as we learned in this Volume, in Christianity the only unforgivable sin is to forsake the Holy Spirit, so I'm not too worried.)

A number of scholarly pieces have been written about the many changes to and mistranslations of old scriptures. Further, there are clearly mistranslations in the Bible. For example, a passage in Luke attributes these words to Christ (KJV):

*"If anyone comes to me and does not hate is father and mother,  
his wife and children, his brothers and sisters,  
-- yes even his own life -- he cannot come be my disciple."*

A fundamentalist reading this passage believes this is the infallible word of God. If so, then I am truly a heretic, because I cannot believe Christ said such words. After all, how could a spiritual being who preached love now turn children upon their parents? Or must this be a mistranslation? And indeed it is.

A little research on the subject finds that the Aramaic word "sna" can mean several things, including "to hate," "to stand up straight," "to put out a candle," and "to set to one side." Clearly it is this latter meaning that was intended, but a bad translation completely jinxes the real meaning.

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Scholars who have spent their lives researching such things have found scores of such difficulties. After reading Bishop Spong's book *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, I was struck by his opening comments:

*"I write as a Christian who loves the church. I am not a hostile critic who stands outside religion desiring to make fun of it. I am not a Marxist who believes religion is the opiate of the people.*

*The average pew sitter in the average mainline church, both Catholic and Protestant, is, to say it bluntly, biblically illiterate... People are made to feel either [they must] live in continued ignorance or [must] abandon the church altogether for life apart from any religious convictions. The biblical scholarship of the past two hundred years has simply not been made available to the man or woman in the pew.*

*My purpose is first to rescue the Bible from the exclusive hands of those who demand it be literal truth and second to open that sacred story to levels of insight and beauty that, in my experience, literalism has never produced.... an appreciation of the living "Word of God" that lurks so often hidden and undiscovered beneath the literal words of the text...[by] combining scholarship with faith, to bring honesty and authenticity of citizenship in the modern world to the activity of worship while continuing to walk in the faith tradition established by Jesus of Nazareth whom I call Lord and Christ."*<sup>103</sup>

Thomas Jefferson conducted a detailed study of the Bible to better understand its message and found major inconsistencies and contradictions that, to him, were very disconcerting. He wrote to John Adams in 1814:

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<sup>103</sup> Spong, Bishop John Shelby; *Saving the Bible from Fundamentalism*; Harper; 1991, p 10-11

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*"The whole history of these [Gospels] is so defective and doubtful that it seems vain to attempt minute inquiry into it; and the tricks that have been played with their text, and with the texts of other books relating to them, that we have a right, from that cause, to entertain much doubt what parts of them are genuine.*

*In the New Testament there is internal evidence that parts of it have proceeded from an extraordinary man, and that other parts are of the fabric of very inferior minds. It is as easy to separate those parts, as to pick out diamonds from dunghills."*<sup>104</sup>

There is also a question as to whether we have the whole and complete New Testament. The discovery of the Nag Hammadi texts in Egypt in 1947 which contains the Gospel of Thomas gives us a broader perspective on early Christianity. But further, many scholars believe there is a whole other, more revealing set of texts still to be found, called the Secret Gospels of Mark, which were referred to in early letters of the Christian Church. These Gospels would contain the teaching of Christ to the special students who elected to join him on his journeys to teach.

Our current Gospels were written for and to the masses, people who were illiterate and needed parables to be able to understand Christ's message. However, the truly deep, spiritual, and very beautiful passages in the Secret Gospels of Mark, should they be brought forth, will have a transformational impact on our understanding of Christianity. And many who have been stuck in the literal words of the Bible will be thunderstruck by these deeper revelations.

The beauty of taking spirituality down the philosophic avenue is that we can evolve our thinking and our ability to touch the Divine Energies of God. Of course the Fundamentalist would say that such thinking will open the doors for the Devil to pervert our minds. They have a valid point. Any false gods, like James Jones in

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<sup>104</sup> Mitchell, Stephen; *The Gospel According to Jesus*; Harper, 1991, p 4

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the Guiana tragedy, or Charles Manson or Adolph Hitler will use the same logic for devilish causes. So beware, in the name of spiritual evolution, we must use extreme caution to be sure we travel the highest pathway, and not the road to perdition.

## ***ISLAM AT THE CROSS ROADS***

On the Fundamentalist pathway, the Muslim faith is at a cross-road in destiny. Should it evolve or remain rigid? Should it embrace Sharia Law<sup>105</sup> (the Muslim's counterpart to the Law of Moses), or forsake it just as Judaism no longer invokes the Mosiac Law (Leviticus & Exodus), considering those laws uncivilized and archaic.

The problem we Americans and Europeans are having with Islam is not about Tolerance, it's about Trust. We are highly tolerant of people of other faiths, but we do not trust what we fear, and we fear Islam for a variety of reasons. Let me elaborate:

1. Separation of Church and State: In America, starting in 1636 (in Rhode Island) and rapidly followed by Pennsylvania and Maryland, religious tolerance became a

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<sup>105</sup>From Wikipedia: **Sharia Law** is the moral code and religious law of Islam. Sharia deals with many topics addressed by secular law, including crime, politics and economics, as well as personal matters such as sexual intercourse, hygiene, diet, prayer, and fasting.

Though interpretations of Sharia vary between cultures, in its strictest definition it is considered the infallible law of God—as opposed to the human interpretation of the laws.

The reintroduction of Sharia is a longstanding goal for Islamist movements in Muslim countries. Attempts to impose Sharia have been accompanied by controversy, violence, and warfare.

Penalties for these cases are not punishments tailored to the offense, but are intended to be deterrents, setting an example for the general public and prosecuting the most flagrant violations.



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- fundamental principle for democratic governance. In many Islamic nations, they have neither a democracy nor separation of church and state. This creates a monster filled with intolerance, bigotry, and abuse of power. It is through this two-headed church/state monster we get to experience Islam. Turkey appears to be leading the way in this separation, with major economic benefits to boot.
2. Medieval Fundamentalism: Like the Old Testament, the Koran is filled with awful contradictions, archaic teachings, and unethical behavior, supposedly blessed by God. In our Old Testament, God is vindictive, Abraham was corrupt, and David was a mass murderer. The Laws of the Old Testament would land us in jail in an instant if any of us followed Leviticus 20 or Exodus 21 or 22. Because of our Separation of Church and State, we have evolved our sense of justice to be compassionate and fair. Because there is no separation of church and state in most Islamic countries, Medieval Fundamentalist constructs of justice still prevail. This is frightening. People are still stoned to death and have their hands cut off for transgressions.
  3. Christianity's Great Treasures: The central culture of America and Europe has been Christianity, which has three great treasures as a culture:
    - Love God
    - Love thy Neighbor
    - Forgive Transgressors

I know the last one is missing in Islam, and the second one is always conditional.

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4. Muslim Vindictiveness: Our western culture is built upon these three treasures and our culture has evolved. Muslims do not have such a flexible set of beliefs, and their culture has NOT evolved well. Recall that during our Dark Ages, it was in the Muslim countries that knowledge was preserved in universities. Today there are no leading universities in Muslim countries. Imagine if we had only the Old Testament (Leviticus 20, and Exodus 21,22 (Laws of Moses) and a Vindictive God to guide our lives. Even the Jews gave up on their use of the Law of Moses to guide civilization. Thank Christ for the New Testament. But Muslims are still stuck with an "eye for an eye" mentality devoid of Christ's tolerance for forgiveness and mercy.
5. Muslim Intolerance: Everyday in Muslim countries, people of other beliefs are attacked and persecuted. Muslims fail to quell their Fundamentalists who attack or terrorize others. However, to gauge how well we address the issue of Religious Tolerance, recall just a year ago when the Reverend Terry Jones incident occurred in Gainesville, Florida. (my blog of Oct 2011 follows) Just imagine the wars that would be everyday occurrences in the western world if Christians were as intolerant of different brands of Christianity as Muslims are.
6. Struggle to Evolve: One very fascinating thing happened after the Reformation of Christianity – slow at first, but gaining momentum – the formation of different sects of Christianity enabled it to reframe its understanding of Christ's message into a kaleidoscope of multi-faceted interpretations and practices, giving Christianity an opportunity to speak to a multitude of people of different backgrounds, educations, and needs, not in a monolithic manner, but with nuances that can be individualized and personalized. Evangelists need not be fundamentalists.

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Being a Protestant has virtually no meaning anymore because it can mean so many different things, depending upon the form it takes.

Islam is where Protestants and Catholics were several hundred years ago – warring and fighting each other. Sunnis and Shiites killing each other in the name of Mohammad is absurdly idiotic.

When Terry Jones -- an intolerant pastor in a miniscule church in Florida -- threatened to burn the Koran, our leaders, including the President, our military and religious leaders, and even the City Council of Gainesville (where Jones preaches) stood up in unison and rebuked him publicly. There was a clarion cry across the land, stating unequivocally that anger, revenge, and retribution are not in the American nature.

If there was ever a question about whether Americans fully practice religious tolerance, the events of surrounding the Terry Jones incident (October 2010) have shown the world that our citizens are truly committed to the PEACEFUL right to practice our religious beliefs.

Why, then, is there a fear of Islam?

For this very reason: When Islamic Terrorists behave intolerantly, while there have been some isolated refutations from a few Muslim leaders, we Americans don't hear the same heraldic condemnation from a united front of the leadership of this religion.

We intently want to know that we are safe in the presence of Muslims, and their leadership will condemn, immediately and without equivocation, any form of Muslim terrorism and intolerance.

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We want evidence that if any Muslim goes on the warpath, he or she will immediately be corralled by sage Muslims, not by Americans forced into that role throughout the corners of the globe.

Unfortunately, those highly visible condemnations from Islamic leadership are not sung in unison from every mosque across the lands.

Are we intolerant of Islam? No. Are we afraid of Islam? Yes! So long as Islamic leaders are either afraid to condemn extremism, or, by their silence, give terrorism their passive acquiescence.

Fear spawns distrust. In its most basic form, trust is about safety, security, and reliability.

We clearly *want to be* tolerant of Islam, but we *do not trust* Islam because we *distrust its leadership* to keep us safe from those who disregard the most basic of all freedoms – life itself.

If Islam is truly interested in maintaining American tolerance for its religion, then Islamic leadership must ensure that we have nothing to fear from Islam. It's that simple.

Just as responsible Americans took action to curtail Terry Jones' outrageous, unchristian outburst, so we expect Islamic leaders to do the same for killers and terrorists of their faith.

1. Muslim Corruption: Every Year an organization called Transparency International publishes its annual assessment of Corruption around the world. For a religion that is so intolerant of transgressions, the facts are that the Muslim countries are the MOST Corrupt. To our way of thinking, this corruption is the ultimate/egregious double standard of existence. For nations and religious leaders that preach high standards and do just the opposite simply validates Lord Acton's premise that “All power tends to corrupt; *absolute power corrupts absolutely.*”

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2. Muslim Happiness: I can't really comment on Muslim happiness, but I can't believe that Muslim women are happy hidden in burkas and oppressed by men. Based on the fact that many Muslim women wear designer jeans behind the burkas may be a good indicator of their yearning to be free. Enslaved people can never feel happy without some very enlightened spirituality, which Islam seems to reject.
3. Bottom Line: We try to tolerate Muslims but we do not trust them. The Islamic faith has failed to evolve as a spiritual force, but has become an intolerant force better suited for a Medieval world than a modern one.

To create a more perfect union, in the formation of the “Unified States of America,” George Washington wrote his thoughts about the importance of religion and religious tolerance shortly after he became America’s first President. They are as relevant today as when they were written over two centuries ago:

*“Religion and Morality are the essential pillars of a civic society. I view with unspeakable pleasure, that harmony and Brotherly Love which characterizes the clergy of different denominations.... exhibit to the world a new and interesting spectacle, at once the pride of our Country and the surest basis of universal Harmony.”<sup>106</sup>*

*“Happily for the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance requires on that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.”*

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<sup>106</sup> George Washington’s Letter to Philadelphia’s Protestant Clergy, 1797

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*While everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, there shall be none to make him afraid. May the father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in his own due time and way everlastingly happy.”<sup>107</sup>*

*“We have abundant reason to rejoice, that in this land of light of truth and reason have triumphed over the power of bigotry and superstition, and that every person may here worship God according to the dictates of his own heart.”<sup>108</sup>*

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<sup>107</sup> George Washington’s Letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, 1790

<sup>108</sup> George Washington’s Letter to the New Church of Baltimore, 1793

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## APPENDIX ELEVEN -- GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT <sup>109</sup>

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, from the Baltimore Catechism, were written to “enlighten” young minds about the Holy Trinity. While these seven gifts should be thought of as an integrated, interactive, intertwined “system” where the whole seven working together are far greater than the sum of the parts, there seems to be *so much missing* in the understanding of the nature of the Holy Spirit, especially in light of the foregoing revelations. The Catechismic approach is stiff, rigid, and lacking the element of *happiness* and *joy* that accompanies the Holy Spirit’s wisdom.

In retrospect, these should have been a centerpiece of Catechism Classes, where we mastered each one. Instead they were buried, just one more lesson piled upon another endless/mindless lesson for a twelve year old.

If the Church had only made these a focal point of my learning (like the Boy Scout Code), the Church would have had a far greater impact the development of my character.

Below, in *Blue*, are the *Questions and Answers* from the Baltimore Catechism, and my comments in black.

The gifts of the Holy Ghost are Seven: 1) *Wisdom*, 2) *Understanding*, 3) *Counsel*, 4) *Fortitude*, 5) *Knowledge*, 6) *Piety* and 7) *Fear of the Lord*.

### **Q. Why do we receive the gift of Wisdom?**

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<sup>109</sup> from the Baltimore Catechism, Roman Catholic Church

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**A.** We receive the gift of Wisdom to give us a relish for the things of God, and to direct our whole life and all our actions to His honor and glory.

Wisdom is far more beautiful and alluring than this answer implies. Wisdom is the core of the Holy Spirit. Wisdom embraces our wholeness (holiness), our physical and mental and spiritual health, and our ability to transfer this into action that benefits the world around us. Trustworthiness

### **Q. Why do we receive the gift of Understanding?**

**A.** We receive the gift of Understanding to enable us to know more clearly the mysteries of faith.

“Understanding mysteries” is to look “under” what we “stand” upon, to seek the truth that lies beneath, to probe, to question, to discover, to follow clues, to question the superficial realities. This implies we must be seekers to truly embrace the Lord.

### **Q. Why do we receive the gift of Counsel?**

**A.** We receive the gift of Counsel to warn us of the deceits of the devil, and of the dangers to salvation.

We must seek **Sage** Counsel from those who hold Wisdom, for these are the people with integrity of character, depth of understanding, and can be trusted to do what is in the best interests of the greater good.



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## **Q. Why do we receive the gift of Fortitude?**

**A.** We receive the gift of Fortitude to strengthen us to do the will of God in all things.

Fortitude is essential, but the word-choice is poor. Fortitude means strength like a fort; the force of will of the ego.” The better word would be “courage” which implies the firmness of the will combined with the spiritual uplift of the heart and soul.

## **Q. Why do we receive the gift of Knowledge?**

**A.** We receive the gift of Knowledge to enable us to discover the will of God in all things.

Sadly, the author of this statement never reconciled Genesis 2: **The Lord God .....planted a garden... and made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the Tree of Life [this was the tree of Spiritual Wisdom] and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil [and thus should be warily embraced]..... And the Lord God commanded of man “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it, you will surely die.”**

This, to me, does not mean we should avoid seeking knowledge, but we must know how to discriminate, using Counsel and Wisdom, to separate knowledge that will lead to evil versus that which will generate good.

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### **Q. Why do we receive the gift of Piety?**

**A.** We receive the gift of Piety to make us love God as a Father and obey Him because we love Him.

Piety really means devotion to both God and for the love and caring of others. This embraces the 11<sup>th</sup> commandment (John 13:34) which is really the overriding foundation of Christianity itself: **A new command I give unto you: Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men shall know that you are my disciples.”** By embracing with our whole hearts and minds, the dual objectives of loving God, and loving one another, we focus on the most important things in life and beyond.

### **Q. Why do we receive the gift of Fear of the Lord?**

**A.** We receive the gift of Fear of the Lord to fill us with a dread of sin.

I just don't groove on this last one. The Enlightened answer focuses on the "Love of the Lord" and "Love of thy Neighbor," not on fear. Christ said the opposite of Love is not Hate, but Fear. So Fear breeds Hate. I won't act out of fear, but I will out of love or devotion. I love the Lord, I fear my enemies.

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## ***THE PROCLAMATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT***

The idea of Pentecost – the time of the Holy Spirit – is well described in the New Testament:

2 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all <sup>[a]</sup>with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, (wind is a common symbol for the Holy Spirit) and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then there appeared to them <sup>[b]</sup>divided tongues, as of fire, and a *oneness* sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

### ***The Crowd's Response***

<sup>5</sup> And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup> Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?” <sup>8</sup> And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own <sup>[c]</sup>language in which we were born? <sup>9</sup> Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and <sup>[d]</sup>Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.” <sup>12</sup> So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” <sup>13</sup> Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

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## *Peter's Sermon*

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

<sup>15</sup> For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* <sup>[e]</sup>the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup> But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:<sup>17</sup> ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God:

I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your young men shall see visions,  
Your old men shall dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> And on My menservants and on My maidservants  
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;  
And they shall prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in heaven above  
And signs in the earth beneath:  
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness,  
And the moon into blood,  
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of  
the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass *that* whoever calls on the  
name of the LORD shall be saved.’...

<sup>38</sup>...Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the <sup>[k]</sup>remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

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## ***FESTIVALS OF PENTECOST***

(from Wikipedia) In the Eastern Orthodox Church, Pentecost is one of the Orthodox Great Feasts and is considered to be the highest ranking Great Feast of the Lord, second in rank only to Easter. The service is celebrated with an All-night Vigil on the eve of the feast day, and the Divine Liturgy on the day of the feast itself.

Orthodox churches are often decorated with greenery and flowers on this feast day, and the celebration is intentionally similar to the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, which celebrates the giving of the Mosaic Law.

The feast itself lasts three days. The first day is known as "Trinity Sunday"; the second day is known as "Spirit Monday" (or "Monday of the Holy Spirit"); and the third day, Tuesday, is called the "Third Day of the Trinity." The After-feast of Pentecost lasts for one week, during which fasting is not permitted, even on Wednesday and Friday. In the Orthodox Tradition, the liturgical color used at Pentecost is green, and the clergy and faithful carry flowers and green branches in their hands during the services.

The liturgical celebrations of Pentecost in Western churches are as rich and varied as those in the East. The main sign of Pentecost in the West is the color red. It symbolizes joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Priests or ministers, and choirs wear red vestments, and in modern times, the custom has extended to the lay people of the congregation wearing red clothing in celebration as well. Red banners are often hung from walls or ceilings to symbolize the blowing of the "mighty wind" and the free movement of the Spirit.

The celebrations may depict symbols of the Holy Spirit, such as the dove or flames, symbols of the church such as Noah's Ark and the Pomegranate, or especially within Protestant churches of Reformed and Evangelical traditions, words rather than images naming for example, the gifts and Fruits of the Spirit. Red flowers at

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the altar/preaching area, and red flowering plants such as geraniums around the church are also typical decorations for Pentecost masses/services. These symbolize the renewal of life, the coming of the warmth of summer, and the growth of the church at and from the first Pentecost.

With warmest wishes,  
Robert

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This is the THIRD Volume in a Six Volume Set of

## Cracking the Synergy Source Code

This series of books is a result of my personal quest to find the “truth, and to act from an integrated belief system that’s: “coherent and consistent, spiritually strong, and scientifically sound.”

Most people have such a conflicted belief system that they waste their lives “chasing fireflies in the night,” darting and charging in every direction, with no star to guide them to a worthy destiny. The other volumes in this set contain the deep wisdom – the “source codes” – that create order in a chaotic world and help you find that star to guide you through life.

Volume ONE	Be the Champion of Your Life <i>Transform Your Destiny!</i>
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Volume THREE	Dancing with the Holy Spirit <i>The Spiritual Quest for Synergy</i>
Volume FOUR	Building a World You Can Trust <i>Beyond Safety &amp; Security</i>
Volume FIVE	History’s Hidden Lessons <i>Learning from the Good, Bad, &amp; Ugly</i>
Volume SIX	Destiny’s Dream <i>Lifting Ourselves to a World that Works</i>

Volumes ONE through FIVE are designed to stand alone; you don’t need to read the prior volume to understand the next, with the exception of Volume SIX, which integrates the themes of the prior books and moves on to strike new thoughts for a new world. I have purposely designed a small amount of overlap between the volumes to ensure connectivity and continuity of thought.

--Robert Porter Lynch