

5. The leader of the household, by biblical mandate, is the husband. He may delegate some of his responsibilities to his wife but outside of her biblically stipulated areas of responsibility the husband is held responsible for her decisions.
4. The “excellent wife” is described in Proverbs 31:10–31, but the passage is actually a summary of the doctrine of wisdom developed throughout the book of Proverbs.
5. The actions, leadership, accomplishments, functions, production, and personal character traits are attributes rarely found in the human race, male or female. Therefore, the passage takes many of the virtues discussed in the book and extols them through the personification of the “excellent wife.”
6. In short, the word, “wisdom,” the feminine noun, **חֵכְמָה** (*chochmah*), is the subject of Solomon’s collection of phrases that define human virtue developed from principles and doctrines revealed in Scripture.
7. A study of this passage reveals the attributes retained in the stream of consciousness which possess an advanced inventory of divine wisdom.
8. When the believer becomes an independent decision-making machine by virtue of personal wisdom, then he is no longer preoccupied with people, but rather occupied with Christ.
9. This status of spiritual growth allows the application of divine thought sustained by absolute confidence that God honors His Word wherever it is found.
10. With confidence that this is absolutely true, then giving priority to the Word results in being justified, or vindicated, by works, first before God and secondarily before others.

Jeremiah 17:5 Thus says the Lord, “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the Lord.
(NASB)

1. Trusting in others is a curse because it relies on fallen mankind for one’s source of strength. This leads to frustration since human viewpoint becomes the primary problem-solving device.
2. It is virtually impossible to change others so one’s policy must depend on the power of the Word of God to change himself.
3. Allowing others to dictate one’s spiritual status is like placing one’s faith in “The one who wanders from the way of wisdom” (Proverbs 21:16 NET).

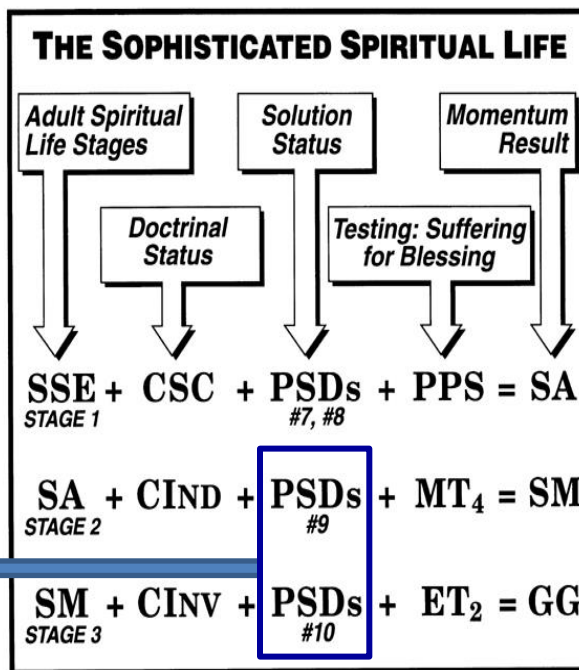
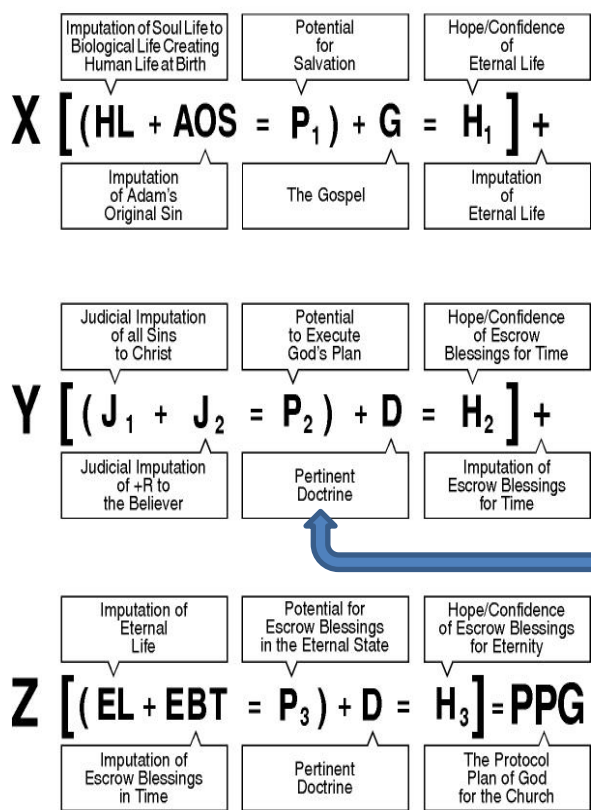
Jeremiah 17:6 “For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitant. (NASB)

1. A desert bush has no deep roots and uprooted blows where the wind carries it. People with unrealistic expectations have no capacity for life.
2. Even though losers are provided logistical grace support, their personal talents and energies can produce prosperity, they have no capacity for it.

Jeremiah 17:7 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord. (NASB)

1. Sharing the happiness of God is the problem-solving device that quickly results in one’s occupation with Christ.
2. The combination of personal love for God, sharing the happiness of God, and occupation with Christ complete the third radical in the diagram:

THE EQUATION OF HOPE



SSE = Spiritual Self-Esteem/Stage 1
CSC = Cognitive Self-Confidence
PSDs #7, #8 = Problem-Solving Devices #7 (personal love for God the Father) #8 (impersonal love for all mankind)
PPS = Providential Preventive Suffering
SA = Spiritual Autonomy/Stage 2
CIND = Cognitive Independence
PSD #9 = Problem-Solving Device #9 (sharing the happiness of God)

MT₄ = Momentum Testing in 4 categories (people, thought, system, disaster)
SM = Spiritual Maturity/Stage 3
CINV = Cognitive Invincibility
PSD #10 = Problem-Solving Device #10 (occupation with Christ)
ET₂ = Evidence Testing in 2 categories (relationship with God, relationship with life)
GG = Glorification of God to the maximum

For a detailed explanation of this equation see R. B. Thieme, Jr., *The Integrity of God* (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1998), 160-71. Philippians 3:12 22 May 1994, Lesson Number 414 ©1994 by R. B. Thieme, Jr. All rights reserved

1992 Spiritual Dynamics Series 22 March 1994, Lesson Number 376 Philippians 3:4-21 © 1994 by R. B. Thieme, Jr. All rights reserved

¹³ Diagrams by: R. B. Thieme, Jr., “The Equation of Hope” and “The Sophisticated Spiritual Life (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1994, 1994). All rights reserved.

E. Description:

1. Occupation with Christ is developed through continuous spiritual growth to the point of personal love for Him. It is the result of an ongoing inculcation of doctrines in the Christology category of Systematic Theology.
2. This requires an ongoing accumulation of pertinent doctrines in the *kardía*, their facilitation into paths of least resistance, and their application in the believer's spiritual life.
3. Application of doctrines associated with one's occupation with Christ results in a lifestyle of wisdom, characterized by personal love for Him.
4. Jesus Christ has been absent from this earth since June of A.D. 33. Our physical presence with him will not occur until this life is over because of physical death (2 Corinthians 5:8) or because of the Rapture of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18):

2 Corinthians 5:8 We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body [by physical death] and to be at home, [face to face] with the Lord. (NASB)

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

v. 17 Then, we who are alive and remain [doctrine of the immanency of the Rapture] will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. (NASB)

5. Consequently, to love someone who is invisible requires a system of communication which is based on thought from the study of information inspired by God the Holy Spirit to biblical writers whose revelations are recorded in the pages of the Tanakh and New Testament.
6. There is no inerrant information communicated by God to man except in those texts that make up the canon of Scripture. Advancing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the development of personal love and occupation with Him can only occur through spiritual growth.
7. These advances can only occur through spiritual growth which requires first hearing the Word taught and then becoming a doer of the Word.

(End JAS2-49. See JAS2-50 for continuation of study at p. 491.)

