29. The word capacity refers to something that is developed over time and is defined as:

> **Capability. A faculty capable of development: potentiality. The facility or potential for an indicated use or deployment. [New believer]**
>
> **Capable. Having attributes (as physical or mental power) required for performance or accomplishment. Having or showing general efficiency and ability. [Advancing believer]**
>
> **Capacity. An individual's mental or physical ability: aptitude, skill. The faculty or potential for treating, experiencing, or appreciating. The facility or power to produce, perform, or deploy.[1] [Mature believer]**

30. These definitions describe the process that is required for a believer to grow in grace and acquire "capacity righteousness":

    1. "Capability" occurs at the moment of salvation which establishes the potential for advancement through the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit. This is the foundational stage for spiritual growth by a new believer.

    2. "Capable" describes the believer who is efficient in his study of the Word with increasing ability to apply what he has learned to life and circumstances. This is the growth stage of an advancing believer.

    3. "Capacity" describes the believer whose aptitude and skill enables him to produce, perform, and deploy doctrine from an advanced inventory of ideas. This is the wisdom stage of the mature believer.

31. The advance to the level of a mature believer is first inculcation, secondly, continued spiritual growth for facilitation of doctrine, and ultimate application of righteous standards from his stream of consciousness.

32. This process results in spiritual maturity and is defined by the term, "capacity righteousness" which is the culmination of the **Edification Complex of the Soul**.

[1] *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed. (2014), s.vv. "capability, "capable," "capacity."

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33. This complex is developed over the course of seven floors which tracks the believer's advance from capability, to being capable, and finally having full capacity to execute the plan of God from that inventory:

Foundation: Salvation occurs when an unbeliever places his personal faith alone in the working object of Jesus Christ alone. [John 3:16]

First Floor:

Spiritual growth under the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. This is illustrated by the visual, Operation Z or the Grace Apparatus for Perception. Accomplished through positive volition to the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. [John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:13]

Second Floor:

Orientation to the Bible's presentation of human history so that regardless of which book or passage one studies he knows what time it is. There are six historic periods revealed in Scripture that are referred to as "dispensations." They include the dispensations of **(1)** Gentiles, **(2)** Israel, **(3)** the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, **(4)** the Church, **(5)** the Tribulation, and **(6)** the Millennium.

Third Floor:

1. Scripture presents **10 Problem-Solving Devices** that may be depended upon to resolve problems that occur in one's life:

    1. Recovery of lost fellowship is accomplished by confession of one's sins to God alone; also referred to as "**rebound**," i.e., moving from the darkness into the light. [1 John 1:9]

    2. The resultant **filling ministry of the Holy Spirit** during which He is able to teach you all things. This requires consistent study of the Word [Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:18*b*]

    3. The **faith-rest drill** emphasizes the promises of God which are prevalent throughout Scripture and available for application by the believer. This is a step-by-step mental exercise for the sophomore believer to resolve difficulties, problems, and circumstances in three stages:

    (a) **Stage 1**: It mixes the promises of God with one's faith which results in confidence in His Word and His grace.

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(b) **Stage 2**: The application of doctrinal rationales to the situation. One's emphasis is placed on doctrines such as: **(1)** attributes of God contains ten categories that define who and what God is, **(2)** the protocol plan of God which requires doing a right thing in a right way, and **(3)** the policy of God which refers to the doctrine that God does everything for us under His policy of grace.

(c) **Stage 3**: Reach a doctrinal conclusion, for example:

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

4. **Grace Orientation** is the development of one's understanding of God's grace policy. We are saved by grace, we grow in grace, and we live by means of grace.

1 Peter 5:5*b* … God is opposed to the arrogant, but gives grace to the humble.

v. 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.

5. **Doctrinal orientation** enables the believer to consult and apply his inventory of the categories of systematic theology: **(1)** Bibliology **[the Bible]**, **(2)** Theology Proper **[God]**, **(3)** Angelology & Satanology **[angels: elect and fallen]**, **(4)** Anthropology **[man]**, **(5)** Hamartiology **[sin]**, **(6)** Soteriology **[salvation]**, **(7)** Ecclesiology **[the church]**, **(8)** Eschatology **[prophecy]**, **(9)** Christology **[Christ]**, and **(10)** Pneumatology **[Holy Spirit]**.

1 Corinthians 2:9 "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him."

v. 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

v. 13 … which things we also speak not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. (NASB)

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6. One's **Personal Sense of Destiny** requires an ever-increasing spiritual growth in the stream of consciousness for recall and application of the Word of God.

This destiny is related to divine omnipotence which is always compatible with a right thing done in a right way. Therefore, the word "destiny" needs to be defined:

Destine. To decree beforehand, as by divine will: to predetermine. To ordain, appoint, design.
Destiny. The predetermined course of events often conceived as a resistless power or agency.

Fate. synonym: Destiny implies something foreordained and inescapable, but the term rarely suggests, apart from the context, something to be feared.[2]

God does not choose to do everything by the immediate agency of His own omnipotence, but He has delegated His power to intermediate agents, i.e., the Church-Age believers. Although God determines some things to come to pass unconditionally, most events of human history are actually planned conditionally through the obedience or disobedience of mankind.

Each believer's destiny is aggrandized related to his submission to and execution of the Word of God to which the Father responds with blessings, the ultimate being the Nike Awards scheduled to be distributed at the Evaluation Tribunal of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Matthew 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth more than they?

v. 27 "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?

v. 28 "And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,

[2] *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, 2d ed. (1953), s.vv. "destine," "destiny," "Fate: syn. destiny."

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v. 29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.

There are two agencies which determine the course of events: the sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist by the divine decree.

7. **Personal Love for God** is an advanced problem-solving device. It is necessary to have this device deployed in order to pass providential preventative suffering.

The first word in this phrase is the adjective "providential" whose noun is "providence" defined as "God, conceived of as guiding men through his presence, loving care, or intervention."[3]

The word "prevent" is defined as, "To anticipate. To forestall; frustrate; circumvent; to deal with beforehand; to hinder or stop something from coming. Prevent implies the existence of an insurmountable obstacle; a shutting out of every possibility that a thing may happen."[4]

This means that the intervention of God prevents an event from happening. This is a positive event since its purpose is to keep him from doing something.

In 2 Corinthians 12:2, Paul reveals that fourteen years ago he had a unique experience. He does not know if the event occurred while in his human body or an interim body. Because of that ignorance he describes the event as having occurred in the Third Heaven.

We know from Acts 14:8,10, that at Lystra (Lístra), Paul observed a man who had been "lame from his mother's womb and thus had never walked (v. 8)." In verse 10, Paul shouted, "Stand upright on your feet." The man then "leaped up and began to walk."

Observers took umbrage to this and stoned Paul in:

Acts 14:19 But Jews came from Antioch and Icṓnium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.

[3] Ibid., s. v., "providence."
[4] Ibid., s.v., "prevent."

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v. 20 But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Dérbe.

In the 2 Corinthians 12 passage, we know that the Epistle was written by Paul in A.D. 57. So, he obviously did not die from the stoning.

What Paul describes is his transfer from the earth into the Third Heaven where he had a conversation with Jesus, an extraordinary experience. Part of what the Lord told him included this directive as it is described by Paul:

2 Corinthians 12:3 I know such a man—whether in the body, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

v. 4 was caught up into Paradise **[a reference to the Third Heaven**[5] **]** and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.

This experience allowed Paul to learn information from Jesus Christ that he was not permitted to speak about what he was told:

2 Corinthians 12:7 Therefore, for the purpose that I should be not arrogant by means of these revelations, there was given to me, for my benefit, a thorn in the flesh, a messenger from the source of Satan to torment **[κολαφίζω (*kolaphízō*): physical assault]** me—to keep me from being arrogant.

Paul was the recipient of information from the Lord that was so powerful his knowledge of them was never to be spoken.

The word, "thorns," is used in Scripture to illustrate a number of things but the meaning of each has to do with suffering for blessing.

[5] Paul's experience occurred well past the resurrection of Jesus Christ which on that occasion the Lord was accompanied in interim bodies by all Old Testament saints. Up to that point, they had resided in the Paradise compartment of Hades. With the Lord's resurrection they were allowed to follow Him into the Third Heaven in interim bodies, thus leaving the Paradise compartment empty. Paul's audience with the Lord, noted in 2 Corinthians12, had to have occurred in the Third Heaven where the Lord will reside until His Second Advent. See Ephesians 4:8.

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Thorns were pressed into the scalp of our Lord by the Romans to inflict pain. The Lord endured them because they exemplified the sins of the world that were to be imputed to Him and judged.

This was a painful experience but the thorns illustrated the agony our Lord would endure spiritually while being our substitutionary sacrifice.

For Paul, it was an exercise in developing grace orientation in the midst of undeserved suffering, in this case by a demonic assassin deployed by Lucifer himself.

Regardless of what the devil's world deploys into the life of a mature believer, he is to use the power of the Word of God to counterattack with the problem-solving devices. Personal love for God allows him to orient and adjust and in doing so to endure.

Romans 8:28 We know that to those who love God, He works all things together for the purpose of good to those advanced believers who are the elected ones according to the predetermined plan and purpose.

v. 29 Because we know that for whom He foreknew **[προγινώσκω (*proginṓskō*)]**, He also predestined **[προορίζω (*proopízō*)]**, the conformed ones **[believers]** to the image of His Son for the purpose that He might be the firstborn among many brethren;

v. 30 in Whom **[Jesus]** He **[God]** has foreordained predestined **[*proopízō*]**, these same ones He has called/elected these same ones He has also justified **[vindicated]** by the imputation of divine righteousness and whom He justified through the imputation of divine righteousness, these same ones He also glorified. (EXT)

The ability to endure providential preventative suffering engages an advancing believer into the scrum of the angelic conflict where the only viable option is to endure the testing through the application of the Word of God.

Stripped of any meaningful dependence on human viewpoint, the assets of the devil's world, or human energy, the believer is led to depend totally on the grace of God and the power of His Word.

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Once this level of growth is attained and dependence on the power of the Word of God is both tried and proved reliable, then these assets are confidently applied to the idiosyncrasies common to one's fellow man.

8. Unconditional Love for All Mankind.

There are many challenges associated with personal interactions with others. James has illustrated in James 3 the compound failures so many make in giving it a go.

The Bible presents quite a number of illustrations that can be applied to this challenge, but in our studies in the Epistle of James we have accumulated quite of number of failures he observed in his report.

The most obvious failure among all of his examples had to do with the inability of his parishioners to fulfill the royal law. Chapter 2 is bad enough but Chapter 3 is relentless.

A study of James reveals the failures that are common among believers who cannot orient their souls to the principle, "love your neighbor as yourself."

To love others is based on one's success in orienting and adjusting to the justice of God. The issue is to love God regardless of the circumstances one encounters in the scrum of the angelic conflict.

The ability to have a copacetic relationship with others the believer must advance to the sophisticated spiritual life which is characterized by unconditional love.

This mental-attitude problem-solving device may be summarized by the concept of the royal law which is cited in James 2:8 and its failures discussed ad nauseum in chapter 3.

9. Sharing the Happiness of God

Happiness is a mental attitude which equates adversity and prosperity, living and dying. Maximum capacity for happiness enables the mature Christian to face and resolve every challenge he encounters.

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Whatever the circumstance, the believer must evaluate every situation as an event that has been in the divine decree since eternity past but has just arrived in time and intended specifically for him.

Since it was in the decree, its appearance in human history must have been considered for him and him only to resolve with the doctrine presently resident in his soul.

This circumstance requires the person to acknowledge, confront, evaluate, and resolve. The solution is to use the doctrine he knows to orient and adjust to it and resolve with the doctrine in his soul.

Happiness is an inner resource developed from maximum Bible doctrine resident in the soul and is so advanced in its grace orientation to the plan of God that all aspects of life are evaluated with regard to eternal rather than temporal implications. Consequently, happiness is the penultimate problem-solving device.

10. Occupation with Christ

Once a person enters into the sophisticated spiritual life of advanced doctrinal orientation, then his entire focus is centered around Jesus Christ.

This focus has to do with submission to senior-ranking authority regarding one's personal life and the obligations he is commissioned to fulfill.

The reason for remaining alive post-salvation is to maximize the freedom we enjoy as potential witnesses for the Prosecution in the Invisible War.

The mature believer recognizes that he is destined to play a part in resolving the cosmic war, but beyond that to serve his Lord and Savior for all eternity.

We acquire this orientation from the systematic institutions we encounter in normal life. We initially orient and adjust to parental authority, first to our father whose duty is to supervise the organized humility of the home. Our mother offers submission to that guidance by her orientation to the leadership of her husband.

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As the child grows, other authorities enter into the equation including teachers in academia, experts in extracurricular activities such as coaches in sports and instructors in skills such as music, the arts, and rhetoric.

Each leader contributes to the gradual organization of the child's soul that ultimately produces an authority oriented individual.

To be a good leader, an individual must learn how to be a follower. Those who know more, teach those who know less. Humility and teachability facilitate the advance to becoming a great leader because of the humility to be a willing follower.

These areas of authority prepare the child to realize everyone has one ultimate authority to which he chooses to submit. Some decide to follow a personality that allows him to function under the authority of his sin nature while others orient to principles of establishment.

Once saved, the new believer is then tasked to orient to doctrine which requires him to grow in grace. Unfortunately, others choose to operate primarily on human viewpoint.

The former's decision to grow in grace and pursue truth is the one whose advance will ultimately take him to the summum bonum of occupation with Christ.

Such a person advances to join the **πρόμαχοι (*prómachoi*)**, front rankers in the Lord's phalanx in time and ultimately as a winner at the Evaluation Tribunal of Christ in eternity.

Occupation with Christ is clearly expressed in this expanded translation of:

1 Peter 1:7 The genuineness of your doctrinal inventory, being much more precious than gold, which is perishable, even though tested by fire for the purpose of approval, may be discovered to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

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v. 8 and though you have never seen Him, you continue loving Him, with reference to Whom at the present time you continue not seeing Him, yet you keep on believing with sublime unalloyed happiness that is inexpressible and full of resplendent glory. (EXT)

When a believer advances to spiritual maturity he does so as a result of being tested for the purpose of approval. The development of a biblical inventory of ideas means renovation of thought has occurred that pleases God.

(End JAS3-98. See JAS3-99 for continuation of study at p. 441.)

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