

**The Attackers: Development of the Copacetic Life: Knowledge & Application of the Ten Problem-Solving Devices: Momentum Testing: People, 2 Thess 3:14; Thought, Rom 12:3; Phil 2:5; Isa 55:8; System: Authority, Policies, & Objectives**

3. The development of the copacetic life begins with the relaxed mental attitude associated with the faith-rest technique – problem-solving device number 3.
4. Spiritual advance takes the believer to the sophisticated spiritual life, first of all, spiritual self-esteem and cognitive self-confidence.
5. These assets function through application of problem-solving devices 7 and 8 – personal love for God and unconditional love for all mankind respectively.
6. The next level of mental stability occurs when the believer advances to spiritual autonomy and cognitive independence.
7. The problem-solving device at this level is number 9: sharing the happiness of God or the Copacetic Christian.
8. The quintessence of the spiritual advance is spiritual maturity and the innate power of cognitive invincibility.
9. The believer-priest's life is in concert with God by means of problem-solving device number 10, occupation with Christ.
10. In verse 12, Paul addresses the challenges that every person faces in his earthly life. The unbeliever has little beyond human viewpoint to sustain him through the trials of life.
11. These same challenges confront believers and are permitted in the divine decree as check points for one's evaluation of his spiritual status quo.
12. The ones in view in this context are momentum tests of which there are five that involve (1) people, (2) thought, (3) system, (4) disaster, and (5) prosperity.
13. People-testing involves relationships with those who are in opposition to truth:

**2 Thessalonians 3:14** -If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. (NASB)

14. Thought testing relates to the challenges that are typical within an organization including its people, policy, and purpose. None of these are perfect so ultimately differences will surface and must be managed with doctrine:
  - (1) Do your duty regardless of unjust treatment or unjust criticism.
  - (2) Do not complain or become involved in an internal conspiracy.
  - (3) Unconditional love is designed to deal with any form of personality conflict.
  - (4) Recall the principle that it is only God who is fair; people will ultimately do something that is unfair.

- (5) The sophisticated believer never complains but allows the issue to be prosecuted by the Supreme Court of Heaven.
  - (6) To borrow from Winston Churchill: "Never, never, never, never, never quit!" To do so means that the tests must be confronted again until you get it right.
  - (7) To borrow from Robert E. Lee, "Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more, you should never wish to do less."
- 15. The management of thought testing gets a thorough going over by Paul in Colossians 3:12-25.
  - 16. Who you really are is what you think. The thinking finds its source in metabolized doctrine in the *kardía* or the human viewpoint and human good derived from the devil's world.
  - 17. Thought enables a person to personally evaluate his mind-set. For example:

**Romans 12:3** - For I say through the grace which has been given to me to everyone who is among you, stop thinking of self in terms of arrogance beyond what you ought to think, but think in terms of sanity for the purpose of being rational without illusion as God has assigned to each one a standard of thinking from doctrine. (CTL)

- 18. That standard of thinking from doctrine is exemplified by our Lord and referenced by Paul in:

**Philippians 2:5** - Keep on having this mental attitude which was in Christ Jesus.

- 19. Or by Isaiah in:

**Isaiah 55:8** - "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. (NASB)

- 20. Erroneous thinking can only be corrected by Bible doctrine metabolized, retained, and applied by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.
- 21. System testing refers to the challenges inherent in an **organization**. Within the corporate structure people have authority over other people. This **authority** functions under **policies** that are designed to accomplish stated **objectives**.
- 22. Organizations include business, military, professional, ecclesiastical, athletic, cultural, or establishment entities.
- 23. Within these groups, the authorities may be unfair, uninformed, incapable, or prejudicial in their management of the workforce.
- 24. Policy may prove to be ineffective and unreasonable in its application or unethical according to one's norms and standards.
- 25. The objective of the policy may unreasonable due to the limited capacity of the corporation, impossible to implement based on the limited capability of the personnel, or in conflict with the belief system of those tasked with fulfilling mission.

26. The problem-solving modus operandi for the believer is to orient and adjust to the authority and policy and to do the job to the best of his ability even in the face of unfair treatment and unjust criticism.
27. In the process, the believer does not complain or fail to carry out his part of the operation.
28. He refrains from the temptation to indulge in criticism of the organization's management by means of unconditional love.
29. The principle behind this is his confidence that God will sort things out and truth will ultimately prevail.