

27. In the scrum of the Angelic Conflict, the key piece of artillery is revealed by our Lord in:

John 8:31 “If you continue in My Word
[**follow My teaching (NET)**], then you are truly
disciples of Mine;

v. 32 and you will know the truth, and the
truth will make you free.” (NASB)

Momentum Testing: Disaster

1. As a believer moves through momentum tests and is on the verge of spiritual maturity, he will encounter major mental-attitude crises in the category of disaster testing either personal or historical.
2. The first category is personal during which he faces types of suffering that result in blessings that shifts his momentum into high gear.
3. On the other hand, this kind of suffering also provides warnings of cosmic involvement. David went through this category, as did Elijah, and others. Solomon wrote an apologetic about it.
4. Historical, including collective or national disaster, is a form of testing that causes the believer to suffer by association because of bad decisions by others.
5. Personal disaster testing has a number of characteristics that includes **(1)** physical pain or mental anguish, **(2)** victim of crime, **(3)** persecution, **(4)** privation of necessities, **(5)** loss of loved ones, property, finances, employment, etc. and **(6)** disease, illness, accident, injury, or handicap.
6. National disaster testing includes a number of internal and external challenges to freedom and stability of a client nation: **(1)** violence: under the cover of a non-existent “freedom to demonstrate;” crime: including rioting, arson, assault, and intimidation or attacks on police and civil servants; terrorism: including that perpetrated by resident citizens or aliens under the cover of “workplace violence;” drugs: disseminated by peddlers or used by junkies; injury: on person or property; or murder: including victims during a “demonstration”; **(2)** warfare, **(3)** weather factors on person or property, and **(4)** the five cycles of discipline on the client nation.

7. Disaster testing always stresses the emotions and good decisions are not possible when distracted by emotionalism. This is instability of soul and decisions made in that environment, regardless of the assumed righteousness of your cause, is often a desire for justice, but its hidden agenda is revenge.
8. Emotionalism results in causing a person to lose by gaining. The biblical way is to gain by losing. The Supreme Court of Heaven prosecutes the case instead of a believer's revenge motivation.
9. In the field of momentum testing, there is often the opportunity to take a chance on easy money, acquire fame, pursue financial security, and assuage the lust pattern for personal gain.
10. This thought process is motivated and accompanied by lust and submitting to it results in canceling conveyance of the escrow.
11. Several verses capture the error, danger, and loss from decisions influenced by the lust pattern:

James 4:2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

v. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so you may spend it on your pleasures. (NASB)

NOTE: James 1:14–15 also addresses this subject, but it will receive full treatment by exegesis fairly soon in our study.

1 John 2:16 All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

v. 17 The world is passing away, and also lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. (NASB)

2 Peter 1:4 By these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. (NASB)

(End JAS1-26. For continuation of study see JAS1-27 at p. 261.)

12. Historical downtrends develop over time when there is a loss of thought among a client nation's population. When believers who have advanced to the sophisticated spiritual life go to be with the Lord the downtrends invite predator nations to consider martial or terrorist options.
13. This fate is diminished as long as each generation makes the spiritual advance through spiritual self-esteem, spiritual autonomy, and spiritual maturity.
14. Regardless of the nation's historical trends, those who make the advance will receive their escrow blessings and Nike Awards at the Evaluation Tribunal of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be paid back according to what he has done while in the body, whether good or evil. (NET)

15. Successful advance through momentum tests moves the believer into the rarified atmosphere of spiritual maturity. His spiritual growth has taken him to the level of the copacetic spiritual life which means he shares the happiness of God.
16. His doctrinal inventory enables him to continue the advance to the level of cognitive invincibility that places him in the summum bonum of the spiritual advance in time: occupation with Christ.
17. Spiritual maturity may be briefly defined as the believer who efficiently applies the four major problem-solving devices:
 - (1) **Personal love for God** is problem-solving device number 7 and its function is invisible since it exists in the soul of the individual. This is the prerequisite to further advance in the plan of God.

1 Peter 1:8 ... 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 in Him with sublime, unalloyed happiness that is inexpressible and full of resplendent glory, (EXT)

- (2) **Unconditional love for all mankind** is the functional virtue in the protocol plan of God. This level enables the believer to handle unfairness tests. These require the believer to handle without reaction, retribution, anger, or revenge such cases as being criticized, judged, maligned, or issues common to interpersonal relationships.

Warning: The inability to make the transition from Personal Love for God to Unconditional Love for others is the major reason most doctrinal believers cannot advance further in the plan of God. They either withdraw into reversionism or attend a church where people meet their unrealistic expectations until someone, whom he has come to assume is perfect, lets him down.

This causes an immediate series of reactor factors. The assumption of perfection is destroyed by the exposure of alleged imperfection and about which the object is ignorant.

This unstable believer had developed unwarranted admiration for the individual which he put on a pedestal, a promotion the object had no knowledge had occurred in the subject's soul.

When the object committed his faux pas, disenchantment instantly replaced admiration in the subject's soul. Perfection is instantly altered into imperfection and the arrogant subject plots to destroy the idol he created in his own mind.

Since this person never had true objectivity, or has now lost it, he is now devoid of humility, virtue love, and flexibility.

This is iconoclastic arrogance and may be described in three ways: (1) Arrogance of disillusion with the formally admired object, (2) arrogance of disenchantment, caused by unrealistic expectations now expressed through slander, and (3) the arrogance of the feet-of-clay syndrome where disappointment inspires the desire to overtly destroy the object.

Principle: Failure to convert the problem-solving device of personal love for God to unconditional love for people is the Gordian knot that stifles most Christians' spiritual growth and precludes conveyance of escrow blessings in eternity.

The term "Gordian knot" is an allusion that illustrates the problem confronted by most Christians.

Gordian \gor'-dē-an\ knot. An intricate problem, especially one insoluble on its own terms. A knotty problem. "Cutting the Gordian knot" means taking decisive, swift action to resolve a complicated problem once and for all.

In Greek legend, Gordius was a peasant who became king of Phrygia, now central Turkey, an ancient country with interesting procedures for selecting leaders. Gordius won his throne by fulfilling a prophecy that whoever drove up to the temple of Zeus in a wagon would become king. Gordius, in gratitude, dedicated his wagon to Zeus. The wagon was secured to the temple by an intricate knot, and it was said that whoever could undo it would rule all Asia. Many tried to untie the knot without success until Alexander the Great arrived on the scene and cut the knot with a single stroke of his sword. Thus, a quick, thorough resolution to an apparently insoluble problem.¹

The eighth problem-solving device is the Gordian knot for a large number of believers. Alexander solved the problem of Gordius's knot with one fell swoop of his sword. The believer's struggle with others can also be resolved by use of rebound.

However, inability to be grace oriented toward others with whom you disagree, dislike, or disdain keeps the knot securely tied.

Spiritual growth provides the solution in problem-solving device number four: grace orientation which is next incorporated into number five: doctrinal orientation.

When grace is ignored and doctrine is not applied, further advance in the spiritual-growth spectrum is affected by this tragic flaw.

¹ Elizabeth Webber and Mike Feinsilber, *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Allusions* (Springfield, Mass., Merriam-Webster, Inc., 1999), 235.