

**Inflation as a cause of depression is described as a factor in the fourth cycle of discipline (Leviticus 26:26). When depression is divine discipline, only the spiritual recovery of the believer can deliver the client nation. As go believers, so goes the nation.<sup>6</sup>**

Passing momentum testing advances the believer to the summum bonum of spiritual Maturity.

**8. The Sixth Floor is spiritual maturity characterized by cognitive invincibility.**

1. This level of the spiritual advance is necessary to pass the third category of suffering for blessing, which is Evidence Testing.
2. There are several characteristics of spiritual maturity and they may be briefly described as follows:

**Maximum Contentment:** Sharing the happiness of God is the ultimate problem-solving device. Happiness is the result of a facilitated inventory of doctrines contained in all eleven categories of systematic theology.

Convinced that he is solid in the perfect plan of God, the believer evaluates every exigency as an honor to pass while maintaining perfect happiness. Its occurrence was programmed into the divine decree and God expects him to function as a witness for the Prosecution demonstrating the power of doctrine applied as superior to the Dark Side's cosmic strategies.

**Mental Stability:** The mature believer is equipped to apply doctrine to every exigency. Divine viewpoint is so efficient that he considers it more real than the reality he faces.

He lives his life with the confidence that being in God's plan insures him of all the logistics he needs to overcome any situation that life, the world, and opposition presents.

**Virtue Love as a Problem-Solving Device:** Personal love for God and unconditional love for mankind empower him to use his personal integrity to manage all situations in life related to interpersonal relationships.

Functioning on his orientation to divine integrity, the mature believer is able to apply his personal development of the Royal Law to himself as well as to others.

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<sup>6</sup> R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Christian Suffering*, 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2002), 126.



**Cognitive Independence:** The mature believer's huge inventory of doctrinal ideas gives him the power to resolve issues with the sophisticated application of Bible doctrine.

**Maximum Grace Orientation:** The spiritual underpinning of the life of a believer is orientation to the grace of God. Over time he is able to see the grace of God function with efficiency over the course of his spiritual life. Steeped in his history of seeing grace in action, he applies grace habitually. This enables him to be copacetic in all circumstances without any notion of utilizing any application from human viewpoint rationales.

**Maximum Doctrinal Orientation:** This category of spiritual maturity stresses spiritual common sense. This allows him to have keen analysis of the situations in life. He is not deceived by cosmic propaganda. Wisdom provides him with the ability to analyze circumstances and then plot the best solution and the courage to follow through on his analysis.

**Great Decisions are Based on a Position of Maximum Strength:** Knowing the spiritual mechanics of the plan of God, he is competent to make his decisions from the inventory he has and his inventory of previous applications. He is able to always do the right thing in a right way.

**Maximum Control of One's Life:** The mature believer lives independently within the privacy of his priesthood while functioning under the royal family honor code. He makes good decisions from his position of strength: a high inventory of ideas from maximum doctrine resident in his soul. If his norms and standards need changing, they do so from his spiritual growth that requires adjustments to his inventory of ideas. In other words, doctrine changes his decision-making process, not influence from other people. He makes his decisions based on biblical guidance and takes full responsibility for them.

**Maximum Spiritual Dynamics.** The mature believer lives in the light of his personal sense of destiny. God deals in absolutes. His Word conveys those absolutes pertinent to the believer. Whatever circumstances he faces he views them as a part of God's plan for him and he is to apply doctrine to address them. Every event in his personal life is associated with his personal sense of destiny.

(End JAS3-06. See JAS3-07 for continuation of study at p. 61.)



**Escrow Blessings:** Every believer of the Church Age has already inherited escrow blessings. They are revealed in Ephesians 1:3–4 and 1 Peter 1:3–5:

**Ephesians 1:3** Worthy of praise is God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who [ as First Party or Grantor ] has blessed [ aorist active participle of the verb: εὐλογέω (*eulogéo*): creation of the escrow ] us [ believers, the Second Party or Grantees ] with every spiritual blessing [ the contents of the escrow ] in heavenly places [ the Depository ] in Christ [ the Third Party, Escrow Officer, or Depository ],

**v. 4** since He Himself has elected [ main verb: ἐκλέγω (*eklégō*) ] us in Him before the beginning of the world [ eternity past & prior to Genesis 1:1 ] that we should be holy and blameless in His presence. (EXT)

**1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again through a constantly living confidence in the resurrection of Jesus Christ out from the dead,

**v. 4** that is, Who has secured for us an inheritance which is nonperishable and undefiled and will not fade away [ escrow blessings imputed in eternity past ], reserved in heaven for you [ on deposit in the Depository ],

**v. 5** who are garrisoned on earth by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (EXT)

The distribution of these escrow blessings will occur in heaven at the evaluation tribunal of Christ mentioned in:

**2 Corinthians 5:10** We must all appear before the evaluation tribunal of Christ for the purpose that each one may receive back the things done through his body, whether good [ ἀγαθός (*agathós*): of intrinsic value ] or bad [ φαύλος (*phaúlos*): evil, wicked, corrupt, depraved ]. (EXT)

There are seven passages in Revelation 2 and 3 that reveal the distribution of escrow blessings at the evaluation tribunal of Christ.

The inventory is cited by John in prophecies made to the seven churches of Asia Minor. The order in which they appear in context are Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

John describes those who receive escrow awards by one of two Greek phrases in his comments on each of the seven churches:

1. **Ephesus:**

**Revelation 2:7** “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes [ “is a winner”: τῷ νικῶντι (*tō nikōnti*) ], I will grant to eat from the tree of life [ NA #1 ] which is in the Paradise of God.”

**NOTE:** The root verb is **νικάω (*nikáō*)**: “to be victorious, to prevail, overcome, conquer, subdue.” The noun form is **νίκη (*nikē*)**: “victory.” He who “overcomes” through spiritual growth in the Invisible War is victorious and therefore a “winner” by means of doctrine in the soul.

The insert “[NA]” followed by the symbol [#] and an integer refer to specific Nike Awards, a term used to describe the grants mentioned in chapters 2 and 3. These awards are referred to as “every spiritual blessing” in all major English translations of:

**Ephesians 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, (NASB)