

4. Cognitive self-confidence is a level of spiritual advance where one's inventory of biblical doctrines are sufficient to face challenges by using divine power to oppose and overcome them.
5. The devil's world not only produces great categories of suffering yet has the temerity to also offer its cosmic solutions in the form of psychotherapy whose primary problem-solving device is the development of self-administered self-esteem.
6. Contrarily, spiritual utilization of personal love of God and unconditional love for mankind provides a mind-set that empowers the believer to orient to sophisticated problem-solving.
7. The love of God is the integrity of God founded on His righteousness, protected by His justice, and confirmed by His omniscience while functioning under His policy of grace.
8. This defines God's love for us. If we are to love God, we must acquire the same mind-set although on a human level. It begins with the development of personal integrity based on an ever-enlarging inventory of theological ideas.
9. Our love for God must be founded on the presence of divine viewpoint in our souls each principle reflecting righteous standards obtained from Scripture.
10. Because we do not know all things and because we have the propensity to sin, we must develop an internal police department, constantly critiquing our inventory of ideas.
11. This requires orientation to divine justice to which volition must rely in decision-making. The believer can only access the doctrine he knows in order to decide how to apply.
12. In English dictionaries, the noun "self-esteem" is defined as "a confidence and satisfaction in oneself." In other words, human viewpoint.
13. In spiritual self-esteem, the inventory of ideas is not based on human viewpoint but biblical principles. At this level of spiritual growth, the believer has advanced to the point that his inventory of doctrinal ideas has produced "spiritual self-esteem."



14. When a believer's spiritual advance understands the meaning of the integrity of God being the love of God, then he is able to rely on the unique example of Jesus Christ in His true humanity as the pattern to follow.

The believer with spiritual self-esteem thinks and applies Bible doctrine to life, motivated by his personal love for God. He understands enough doctrine to think independently, having the courage of his own perceptions and doctrinal applications rather than being erroneously influenced by others.

Furthermore, he orients to the biblical reality of who and what he is as a member of the royal family of God and at the same time never loses sight of who and what God is.²

15. Volition allows every person the autonomy to make his own decisions. He may independently respond to truth or reject it. The Law of Freedom guarantees and manufactures inequality. Some believers advance to spiritual maturity and become winners. Some remain ignorant of divine operating assets.
16. In the scrum of the Angelic Conflict, believers are targets of the Dark Side's agents. Their task is to frustrate believers so they will exit the bubble and retaliate overtly. Communication of truth is advisable, but that approach must be conducted inside the bubble.
17. Nevertheless, believers are under scrutiny from the forces of darkness. This must be understood and tactics for survival must be learned and then applied. These tactics require understanding of Providential Preventive Suffering.
18. Two tactics are assigned to believers that are designed to protect while empowering them to engage in the contest for truth.
19. Providential Preventive Suffering introduces the first category of suffering for blessing. It functions both offensively and defensively. The former is designed to accelerate the believer's spiritual momentum. The latter is intended to prevent the problem of arrogance.

² R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Christian Suffering*, 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2002), 80.



20. As his inventory of doctrines continues to enlarge and application of truth has its positive impact, he may assume that his success is from his own mental powers rather than the dynamics of the Word of God.
21. In this stage of the spiritual advance, God preempts this weakness from leading to systematic failure by allowing circumstances to occur that result in suffering for blessing.
22. These challenges are designed to remind the believer of his continuing dependence on divine operating assets. Situations are introduced that cannot be resolved by human rationales or abilities, but rather by the application of doctrines to the circumstances.
23. The believer must come to realize that whatever the circumstances he confronts, they are in the divine decree. Since this is a fact, then he must orient and adjust to them.
24. The challenge is there for a purpose: spiritual growth cannot be advanced by avoiding the issue. It must be confronted by the application of doctrine.
25. In the midst of the suffering, the believer must conclude that what enables him to endure the testing is the grace of God.
26. The suffering must be endured until doctrine wins the battle. This may be described as an engagement in the Invisible War. What God does not remove, He intends for us to bear.
27. The episode continues until its impact results in the application of doctrine to the circumstance. The tactics that result in victory include consistent residence inside the bubble.
28. It is accomplished by total dependence on the principle that doctrine must win the victory. It teaches the believer that regardless of the circumstance it is always doctrine first.

1 Corinthians 10:13

No testing has overtaken you but that which is common to humanity; God is faithful, Who will never allow you to be tested beyond your capacity to resist or overcome, but with the testing also make a way of escape so that you will be able to bear it. (EXT)

29. It is through the adversity of testing that the believer is able to advance to the level of Spiritual Autonomy.



7. The Fifth Floor is Spiritual Autonomy characterized by Cognitive Independence.

1. Spiritual autonomy is the result of using divine assets under providential preventive suffering while strengthening all the characteristics of spiritual self-esteem.
2. At this level of the spiritual advance, the believer is emboldened to efficiently handle the pressures of the devil's world.
3. When circumstances are addressed from an inventory of doctrinal ideas, the believer gains confidence, graciousness, and unshakable poise.
4. Spiritual autonomy means the believer is enabled to successfully meet the challenges and difficulties of life. This autonomy enables the believer to consistently apply the Royal Law to others.
5. Characteristics of Spiritual Autonomy include:
 1. Continuation of Contentment.
 2. Perpetuated Mental Stability.
 3. Impersonal Love for All Mankind.
 4. Cognitive Self-Confidence.
 5. Grace Orientation to Life.
 6. Doctrinal Orientation to Reality.
 7. Greater Decisions from a Position of Strength.
 8. Personal Control of One's Life.
 9. A Personal Sense of Destiny.
 10. Command of Self.
 11. Qualification for Momentum Testing.
 12. Attainment of a New Phase of the Unique Spiritual Life.³
6. Cognitive Independence occurs when the believer can make decisions from his own inventory of doctrinal ideas. Autonomy empowers the advanced believer to resolve issues with clarity of thought.
7. This level of the spiritual advance enables the believer to enjoy the copacetic spiritual life: sharing the happiness of God.
8. This level of a believer's advance is characterized by several principles that define this ninth problem-solving device:

³ Definitions of these characteristics may be studied in R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Christian Suffering*, 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2002), 99–102.

