

Gratitude Gauge: Increments Survey Cont'd; Spirituality in Age of Israel cp.w Church Age

The second area of orientation and adjustment is with regard to the revealed policy of God: the introduction of divine thought for consideration by the believer's volition as he processes the information through a didactical system of grace perception. In fact, it might be easier to understand these two problem-solving devices by stating them in a slightly different way. Number 4 would be called Grace Orientation to Life while number 5 would be referred to as Doctrinal Adjustment to Reality.

It is faith in the revealed Word which gets us to this point in the plan. Beginning with Doctrinal Adjustment we are able to focus upon our personal sense of destiny. This problem-solving device begins to take shape when we acquire through doctrine the hope of escrow blessings in time and eternity. Knowledge that God has imputed to us these ultimate blessings becomes one of the motivations for personal love for Him. Development of a personal love for God will in time be directed outwardly towards others as unconditional love.

With the first eight problem-solving devices, virtually all of life's problems have a source for management. Life and circumstances are managed by the faith-rest drill; system tests are managed by the faith-rest drill plus unconditional love; people tests are managed by grace orientation and unconditional love; momentum tests are managed by personal love for God and a personal sense of destiny. Such total control of one's life establishes a status quo mental attitude of soul tranquility or the ultimate problem-solving device—sharing the happiness of God.

Once you are truly happy then you can occupy all of your attention on the plan of God and its Great High Priest, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This incremental spiritual advance is measured by our Gratitude Gauge. The Jews had a gauge as well although it was limited in its performance.

In order to understand their limitations in the dispensation of Israel we need to consider the following things:

All spiritual growth in the Jewish soul was accomplished through human rationales and human logic. They did not have the mentorship of the Holy Spirit available for guidance and leadership.

Guidance and leadership were directed by Jehovah's verbal mandates, "*Walk in My instruction,*" or His appointed communicators, i.e., Moses, Aaron, Joshua, the Levitical priesthood. A Jew's compliance showed a kind of love but it was not the result of a personal relationship with God. It was simply a volitional willingness to follow in His paths. But personal love for God through a supernatural understanding of the Eternal *logos* was not possible.

The Jews could not orient and adjust to a personal sense of destiny. Their destiny was related to the nation Israel. There was no personal relationship with God. Instead, there was the obligation to submit to the Law through compliance with the Ritual Plan for the Age of Israel.

They could and did love Jehovah, but that love was limited to finite understanding of an infinite God. They did not have the spiritual wherewithal to understand the Eternal *logos* without the enabling power of the filling of the Holy Spirit.

It should be noted that a few had a form of this power due to the temporary status of enduement, a form of the enabling power of the Holy Spirit made available to a few specially selected believers in the Age of Israel. Some who had this enduement were Moses, Joshua, David, Daniel, and others. But this status was very selective and only those who "*maxed out*" their Gratitude Gauges qualified for it.

No matter the dispensation, execution of the plan assigned to you causes the reading on the Gratitude Gauge to go up. No matter what the dispensation, the believer loses all his advance while in carnality, i.e., under the control of the sinful nature. Without a system by which the believer could execute the sophisticated spiritual life, the Jews major problem-

solving device became the faith-rest drill. They had to orient to grace and adjust to doctrine as it was revealed to them. They had to believe the principles and have faith in God's veracity to back them.

In order to build on that faith, God would demonstrate His love, grace, and faithfulness through the performance of miracles. In this manner, those who were positive learned of his "*lovingkindness*" and His "*longsuffering*."