

# Glossary

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## **A**

**ALPHA GRACE** - Blessings given to every believer at the point of regeneration; a synonym for logistical grace. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**AMANUENSIS** – A term used to describe a secretary or penmen, applied to the human authors of inspired Scripture who, in writing, acted as the penmen of the Spirit. (Latin & Greek Theological Terms, Richard A. Muller) When Paul was in prison, he often dictated his letters to another person and then signed the letter when finished; the person to whom he dictated (secretarial function) was Paul’s amanuensis.

**AMBASSADORSHIP OF THE BELIEVER** – Every believer is in full-time Christian service. Whatever we do, wherever we are, we are Christ’s representatives. We are to present the Gospel to unbelievers and apply Bible doctrine to our daily lives. The ‘perception’ of doctrine is the primary responsibility of the royal ‘priest’; the ‘application’ of doctrine is the primary responsibility of the royal ‘ambassador’. “As an ambassador, each Church Age believer represents God before man. This includes the functions of teaching, evangelism, and other spiritual activities.” (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

ANARTHROUS - Absence of the article; sometimes the absence of the article emphasizes the noun or participle, rather than de-emphasizes it.

ANGELIC CONFLICT – A great spiritual conflict began before the beginning of time, and step-by-step, unfolds to the final battle of wills at the end of time. In the beginning, there was only one will in the universe and that was the will of God. Satan rebelled and there became two wills. Many angels followed him in his rebellion, and eventually man fell as well. But when man fell, he did not always seek Satan's will, but decided instead to follow his own will. Now there are billions of wills. God redeems some men and brings them back into His fold; the rest are left to either follow Satan or their own devices. When Satan found out that God chose some men for an eternal purpose, he turned his hatred against them. There was nothing he could do to prevent them from becoming God's, but he has been quite successful in destroying their walk with Christ. The current stage of the angelic conflict is centered on Satan's attacking the walk of the people of God. Satan's enormous organization of angelic forces is constantly battling for the hearts of Christians. The battle between the Lord and Satan in the soul of man cannot be over the possession of the soul. The battle is within the soul of the redeemed one as to whether he will honor and glorify God or whether he will live to his own ends. (D. Barnhouse)

ANGELS – Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and intelligence, but without physical bodies. (W. Grudem)

ANHYPPOSTASIA – The dogma that the human nature of Christ has no personal existence of its own, apart from the union into which it was assumed in the incarnation. This means that the Son of God did not unite Himself with a human being (which would entail two personal entities), but with a human nature. (R. Letham)

ANTHROPOMORPHISM – Part of the human anatomy used to describe Divinity; language of accommodation.

ANTHOPOPATHISM – Using a human attribute or emotion to describe Divine essence; language of accommodation.

ANTHROPOCENTRIC ACADEMIC SPECULATION – Considers man to be the most significant fact of the universe, the measure of all things, the center of the world in terms of human values and experiences. If not seduced by religion, man can be deceived by psychological, philosophical, academic criticism to dismiss the Word of God as absolute truth. When philosophical assumptions give central importance to man instead of God, academic research can amass persuasive yet fraudulent evidence against divine viewpoint. Because human rationalism and empiricism cannot prove Biblical truth, the pseudo-intellectual rejects truth and “advances in knowledge out of bounds and does not remain on the field of play by means of the doctrine of Christ” (2 John 9). No one becomes a winner in life by running brilliant, intellectual touchdowns out of bounds, ignoring the mandates of the divine game plan. Life must be interpreted in terms of God's plan not man's experiences. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

ANTINOMIANISM – The Greek word “nomos” means law or mandate and “anti” means without, so antinomianism means to live without law. Many believers who grow up under the shroud of legalism rebel against all the rules and regulations imposed on them from without. Rather than walk by the Spirit, the flow of the life of the indwelling Christ, they choose to live a life of lawlessness or habitual sin. If they hear the gospel of grace, they may also misunderstand its source of power, and interpret it as a license to sin. But the liberty in Christ Jesus is to be free to walk as He walked, to live as He lived, not to become a prodigal. Believers with a sin nature that has ascetic tendencies usually embrace some form of legalism – one pole of a sinful, fragmented life. Believers with a sin nature that has licentious tendencies usually embrace some kind of wild living with no rules or standards – the other pole of a sinful, fragmented life.

APODOSIS - The conclusion of a conditional or interrogative clause.

**APOPHATIC** – Knowing God primarily through mystical contemplation, rather than through positive propositions or intellectual activity. The idea is to empty our minds of logical and intellectual categories and pray in ignorance. (R. Letham)

**APPEAL TRIAL** – When Satan rebelled against God and took a host of angels with him, God called a trial and pronounced him guilty. As most guilty men do in court today, Satan objected and demanded an appeal trial. That trial is currently in progress. Witnesses for the prosecution are believers who grow to maturity according to God's plan. Witnesses for the defense are believers who spend their entire lives in carnality and reversionism. Satan's objection is that if given the choice between living by God's plan or by his plan, man will choose his plan over God's. In spite of the fact that Satan brings billions of carnal believers to his defense, we already know from Scripture that he loses his appeal trial and is consigned to the Lake of Fire.

**ARTICULAR** - The use of an article with infinitives or participles is often used to identify the case or to place emphasis (power) upon a verbal form or noun.

**ATTRIBUTES** – God is not divided into parts, yet we see different attributes of God emphasized at different times ... Every attribute of God also qualifies every other attribute ... The doctrine of the unity of God should caution us against attempting to single out one attribute of God as more important than all the others. (W. Grudem) Attributes are sovereignty, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, love, justice, mercy, veracity, holiness, wrath, knowledge, freedom, independence, eternity, immanence, immutability, transcendence, wisdom, spirituality, invisibility, faithfulness, goodness, grace, patience, peace, order, righteousness, jealousy, will, freedom, perfection, blessedness, beauty, and glory.

**AUTHORITY ORIENTATION** – *Hupotasso* always implies a relationship of submission to an authority ... In Genesis 3:16 the Hebrew word “*mashal*” (“He shall rule over you”) is a strong term usually used of monarchical governments, not generally of authority within a family. The word certainly does not imply any “participatory” government by those who are ruled, but rather has nuances of dictatorial or absolute, uncaring use of authority, rather than considerate, thoughtful rule. It suggests harshness rather than kindness ... In all the uses of *hupotasso* in the NT, none of those relationships is ever reversed; that is, husbands are never told to be subject to wives, nor the governments to citizens, nor masters to servants, nor the disciples to demons, etc. In fact, the term is used outside the NT to describe the submission and obedience of soldiers in an army to those of superior rank. (W. Grudem)

## **B**

**BACKSLIDER** – A backslider is a believer who is living in perpetual carnality, a state of spiritual decadence brought on by refusal to confess sins to God and continual rejection or neglect of Bible doctrine. A backslider is under perpetual divine discipline, either overt or covert. Those who associate with the backslider on a regular basis may come under ‘cursing by association’.

**BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** – The formation and subsequent building of the “church which is His body” is the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The Day of Pentecost was the beginning of the baptizing ministry of the Holy Spirit. This ministry is evidently accomplished whenever a soul is saved. In no Scripture is this ministry of the Spirit directly related to power or service. Being a member in the body of Christ anticipates service; but service is always related to another ministry than the baptism of the Spirit. The baptism of the Spirit is the organic placing of the believer into Christ; it is that operation of God, which establishes the position and standing of the Christian. There is no indication that this baptizing ministry is ever undertaken a second time. (L.S. Chafer)

**BIBLE DOCTRINE** – God desires every member of the royal family to solve the problems of adversity and prosperity through his own doctrinal thinking. God wants every believer to learn and metabolize the

Word of God, Bible doctrine, in the solitary advance to spiritual maturity. Bible doctrine is a synonym for the Word of God. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**BLACKOUT OF THE SOUL** – Blackout is that state in which the left lobe of the mentality of the soul (nous), devoid of doctrine, is attacked directly by evil concepts and ideas. Blackout of the soul is produced by ... willful rejection of doctrine and indirectly by the believer's participation in previous stages of reversionism. Negative volition towards doctrine opens a vacuum in the left lobe called (matotes) ... emptiness in the soul. Into this void are drawn thoughts contrary to divine viewpoint – satanic propaganda, the doctrine of demons, and every aberration of human viewpoint in life. Satan's sphere, the kingdom of darkness, is thus transferred in the soul of the believer ... corrupting the entire thought pattern ... and blacking out objectivity in every area of life, from the spiritual principles of Bible doctrine to the laws of divine establishment. Subjectivity from blackout of the soul is the basis for utopian thinking, world peace and disarmament movements, universal brotherhood propaganda, and 'the greatest good for the greatest number' socialistic schemes that promote the 'welfare state' and 'redistribution of wealth'. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**BLESSING BY ASSOCIATION** – Both believers and unbelievers who live within the sphere of a mature believer receive divine blessings by being associated with him.

**BLOOD OF CHRIST** – In every instance in which we find the phrase "blood of Christ" in the New Testament, this term is a synonym for the saving work of Christ on the cross. It depicts the most important event ever to occur throughout all the ages of angelic or human history. The physical death of a sacrificial animal in Old Testament rituals represented the spiritual death of Jesus Christ. The animal's physical death was NOT a picture of Christ's physical death, but rather His spiritual death. The Lord Jesus did not bleed to death like an animal. He was fully in command of Himself on the cross, and He died physically after "it was finished." The red liquid that ran through the veins and arteries of Jesus' mortal body is not related to our salvation, and there is no biblical basis for attributing any unusual properties or magical powers to His bodily fluids. The phrase "blood of Christ" is therefore a representative analogy between something physical and something spiritual. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.) The blood of Christ in the New Testament is simply a pregnant (figurative) verbal symbol for the saving work of Christ. (G. Kittel)

**BRAVO GRACE** - Special blessings given to believers who attain supergrace status. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

## **C**

**CANONICITY** – The divine and absolute standard of the Bible, the only reliable source of information with regard to eternal salvation and the alternative – eternal condemnation. The canon of Scripture is a collection of 66 books into one Book, our Bible. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.) In A.D. 367 the 39<sup>th</sup> Paschal Letter of Athanasius contained an exact list of the 27 New Testament books we have today. This was the list of books accepted by the churches in the eastern part of the Mediterranean world. Thirty years later, in A.D. 397, the Council of Carthage, representing the churches in the western part of the Mediterranean world, agreed with the eastern church on the same list. These are the earliest final lists of our present-day canon. (W. Grudem)

**CARNALITY** – Christians who live under the dominance of the flesh rather than the filling of the Spirit are said to be in the sphere of carnality. Their walk is comprised of continual, chain sinning, on the same plane as that of a brute. (L.S. Chafer)

**CATEGORY 1 LOVE** – Occupation with Jesus Christ.

**CATEGORY 2 LOVE** – Love between husband and wife.

**CATEGORY 3 Love** – Love between friends.

**CELEBRITYSHIP** – There are many supergrace heroes in Christianity, but there is only one celebrity: Jesus Christ. Every supergrace hero recognizes the celebrityship of Jesus Christ. He is our Savior and High Priest, as well as the King who will one day rule the entire earth. Everything we have and everything we will ever be is directly related to the Lord Jesus Christ. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**CHARLIE GRACE** – Divine discipline reserved for believers who go negative to Bible doctrine and who reject God's protocol plan.

**CHIASM** - A poetic or prose structure, such as a-b-b-a, b-a-a-b, a-b-a-b, etc.

**CHURCH** – The Church is the universal categorization of all believers on earth, regardless of denomination or other affiliations. The only requirement for true Church membership is union with Jesus Christ. Strictly speaking, the Church is not a building, nor a worship service, nor any other gathering of people in a particular geographic location. The best translation of the Greek word "ekklesia" (usually translated church or assembly) is "communion of souls," since this word strips the excess baggage of a "gathering of individuals" from the etymology. Believers can be "in church" with other believers whether they are present physically or not.

**CHURCH AGE** – The current dispensation of human history which began on the day of Pentecost (ca. A.D. 30), fifty days after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and terminates with the resurrection or Rapture of the Church. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**CONDITIONAL COVENANT** – A conditional covenant has requirements that must be met in order for the provisions of the covenant or contract to be fulfilled. The conditions are usually obedience and faithfulness on the part of the recipient. The Mosaic Law was a conditional covenant.

**CONFESSION** - The grace provision for the carnal believer to recover the filling of the Spirit through naming personal sins privately to God the Father; the method of restoring the believer's fellowship with God to resume the spiritual life – also called the rebound technique. (Robert B. Thieme, Jr.)

**CONSUBSTANTIALITY** – The dogma that the Son and the Holy Spirit are of the same substance as the Father. This means that all three persons are fully God and are the whole God. (R. Letham)

**COSMIC BELIEVERS** – Believers who live their life in Satan's interlocking systems of arrogance and hatred; believers who are negative towards or antagonistic to Bible doctrine.

**COSMIC I** – Satan's arrogance complex of sins; based on preoccupation with oneself.

**COSMIC II** – Satan's hatred complex of sins; based on antagonism towards God and His pastors and teachers.

**COSMIC PANACEA** – After aggravating the difficulties of life, Satan entices man with solutions apart from the truth. Human viewpoint supplants divine establishment, the Gospel, and Bible doctrine. A panacea is an oversimplified, supposed cure-all prescription guaranteed to remedy a complex problem. Panaceas captivate the ignorant, those who resent truth and arrogantly cling to false premises. A prevalent historic panacea is human equality, yet equality cancels freedom, the key to human life. Socialism, communism, and altruism all claim to accomplish good but belong to Satan's cosmic system. Although compassion and generosity are Christian virtues practiced by individual believers in the sphere of power, Christianity is not a program of social action (John 12:8). Christianity is not a crusade to eradicate evil from the devil's world, but a system of personal spiritual growth. Understanding and applying the truth provides genuine solutions to life's problems. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**CREATIONISM** – Creationism is the view that God creates soul-life for each person at birth, "out from the womb." (LWB) It seems strange to think of the mother and father as being responsible by themselves for any aspect of the child's existence. Was it not the Lord who, David says, "knit me together in my mother's

womb” (Ps. 139:13)? Isaiah says that God gives breath to the people on the earth and “spirit to those who walk in it” (Isa. 42:5). Zechariah talks of God as the one “who forms the spirit of man within him” (Zech. 12:1). It is hard to escape the conclusion from these passages that God is the One who creates our spirits or souls. (W. Grudem)

**CURSING BY ASSOCIATION** - Both believers and unbelievers who live within the sphere of a carnal or apostate believer receive divine cursing by being associated with him.

**CYCLES OF DISCIPLINE** – There are 5 cycles of discipline for a reversionistic nation where neither doctrine nor establishment principles exist to stem the tide. The first cycle of discipline includes loss of health, decline of agricultural prosperity, terror, fear, death in combat, and loss of personal freedoms. The second cycle of discipline includes economic recession and depression, increased personal and individual discipline for continued negative volition towards doctrine. The third cycle of discipline includes violence and breakdown of law and order, and cities are laid waste. The fourth cycle of discipline is military conquest and/or foreign occupation, scarcity of food (reduced to 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the normal supply), and separation of families. The fifth cycle of discipline is the destruction of a nation due to maximum rejection of biblical principles.

## **D**

**DEAD WORKS** – Dead works are any thoughts, words or deeds done without the filling of the Holy Spirit. These works do not meet divine norms and standards and the believer will not receive a reward for them at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

**DEATHS** – Jesus Christ died twice on the cross – first spiritually, then physically.

**DEFINITE (EFFECTIVE, LIMITED, ACTUAL) ATONEMENT** – Christ died a substitutionary death only for the elect who are saved through the means of faith. His distinguishing love is not manifested toward all mankind without exception. He does not leave the decision up to man’s fickle, free will. His sacrifice makes calling, justification and glorification certain. The proof is manifested in the end result of redemption. Only the elect are saved. The atonement, therefore, must be definite and effective. (G. Long)

**DEITY OF CHRIST** – Scripture identifies Jesus Christ as God (e.g., Philippians 2:5-11). One who is equal with God must be God. He claimed to possess what properly belongs only to God. He spoke of the angels of God (Luke 12:8-9, 15:10) as His angels (Matt. 13:41). He regarded the kingdom of God (Matt. 12:28, 19:14, 19:24, 21:31, 21:43) and the elect of God (Mark 13:20) as His own. Further, He claimed to forgive sins (Mark 2:8-10). The Jews recognized that only God can forgive sins, and they consequently accused Jesus of blasphemy. He also claimed the power to judge the world (Matt. 25:31) and to reign over it (Matt. 24:30, Mark 14:62). At His trial before Caiaphas He came as close as He ever did to affirming His own deity. Either He desired to be put to death on a false charge, or He did understand Himself to be the Son of God. (M. Erickson)

**DISPENSATION** – The Scripture divides time, by which is meant the entire period from the creation of Adam to the “new heaven and a new earth,” into seven unequal periods, usually called dispensations, although these periods are also called “ages” and “days” as, “day of the Lord,” etc. These periods are marked off in Scripture by some change in God’s method of dealing with mankind, or a portion of mankind, in respect of the two questions of sin and of man’s responsibility. Each of the dispensations may be regarded as a new test of the natural man, and each ends in judgment – marking his utter failure. Five of these dispensations, or periods of time, have been fulfilled; we are living in the sixth, probably towards its close, and have before us the seventh, and last – the Millennium. (Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth, C.I. Scofield) The classic seven dispensations (there have been slight changes or improvements in recent history) are: (1) man in innocence, (2) man under conscience, (3) man in authority over the earth, (4) man under promise, (5) man under law, (6) man under grace, and (7) man under the personal reign of Jesus

Christ. "Dispensations are a sequence of divine administrations which unfold God's plan for mankind. It is represented by a system of doctrines by which believers living at a specific time can orient to God's will, plan, and purpose for their lives." (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**DIVINE DISCIPLINE** – When a believer refuses to confess sins to God on a regular basis, he is out of fellowship with God and is not participating in His divine plan. God is righteous and His justice dispenses discipline to the believer who remains out of fellowship. Depending on the length of time a believer lives in perpetual sin and the severity of sin, discipline is dispensed in three, increasingly severe levels: warning, intensive, and dying discipline.

**DIVINE DYNASPHERE** – This is an ingenious teaching device developed by R.B. Thieme, Jr. using the Greek word for power (dunamis) in the Locative of Sphere. "Dunamis" is the root for some of our English words, i.e. dynamic, dynamite. By combining the word power (dynamis) and the Locative (sphere) you get "dynasphere." There are two power spheres (dynaspheres) mentioned in scripture: divine and cosmic. The divine power sphere belongs to God, the cosmic dynasphere belongs to Satan. As believers, we are always living in one of these power spheres. When we have confessed our sins to God, we are living in the divine dynasphere and are influenced by the Holy Spirit; when we refuse to confess our sins, we are living in the cosmic dynasphere and are influenced by the world, the flesh, and the devil. At the judgment seat of Christ, all believers will be rewarded for the time they spent living in the divine dynasphere; the time we spent in the cosmic dynasphere will be burned as wood, hay, and stubble.

**DIVINE ESSENCE** – God's essence might manifest certain characteristics in one situation but others in a different situation. In every case, no matter which attribute is reflected, God's total, indivisible Person is completely involved. Some of the divine attributes that comprise His essence are sovereignty, righteousness, justice, love, veracity, omnipotence, omnipresence, immutability, integrity, and holiness. God never has the slightest trouble keeping His attributes straight. One never compromises another. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**DIVINE ESTABLISHMENT** – The laws of divine establishment are principles ordained by God for the survival, stability, protection, and perpetuation of the human race, believers and unbelievers alike, during human history. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**DIVINE GOOD** – Any thought or activity of a believer who is in fellowship with the Lord, i.e., being filled with the Holy Spirit.

**DIVINE PROTOCOL** – Divine protocol is the system of doctrine for a particular dispensation that is aligned with the "ways of God." It is the precisely correct mechanics of the spiritual life. According to divine protocol, the right lobe of the soul is supposed to be saturated with Bible doctrine. Our thoughts are supposed to be His thoughts, every day of the week.

**DIVINE VIEWPOINT** – A Christian has divine viewpoint when he applies the Word of God to any given situation in life, rather than attempting to solve a problem or issue by human viewpoint. God is not interested in a Christian solving life's problems using psychological, philosophical, political, social or any other form of human solution. The Christian life requires divine solutions from the Word of God. No other substitute will suffice, no matter how plausible. The Christian way of life requires precisely correct protocol based on the Word of God and nothing else. By adhering to His protocol in the Word, we see things with His divine viewpoint. "Divine viewpoint is having a God-centered, Christ-centered, theologically-oriented view on life." (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**DOCTRINE** – A doctrine is what the whole Bible teaches us today about some particular topic ... The Bible is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God's will, but is not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God's character and moral laws ... Even though we spend time in Bible study and fellowship with God every day of our lives, there will always be more to learn about God and His relationships to us and the world, and thus there will always be more that we can be thankful for and for which we can give Him praise. When we realize this, the prospect

of a lifelong habit of regular Bible study, and even the prospect of a lifetime of study of theology, should be a very exciting prospect to us. (W. Grudem)

**DYING DISCIPLINE** – There are three stages of discipline administered to the carnal believer or reversionist: warning discipline, intensified discipline, and dying discipline. If a believer does not learn from the first two categories of punishment, eventually he will be removed from this life in extreme misery and pain under dying discipline. This is sometimes called the “sin unto death,” which is not a particular sin, but a “state” of living in sin without responding to divine discipline until God punches you out. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**DYING GRACE** – The believer’s final, glorious experience of divine grace on earth. Death and dying are met with tranquility and integrity.

**DYNASPHERE** - A complex of interrelated elements, a system of power, and a set of divine mandates which was designed to sustain the growing believer while on earth. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**DYOTHELETISM** – The doctrine that there are two (harmonious) wills in the incarnate Christ. This supposes that will is a property of the natures of Christ (divine and human), rather than of the person. (R. Letham)

## **E**

**EDIFICATION COMPLEX OF THE SOUL (ECS)** – The mature believer approaches life from the divine viewpoint, which is manifested in discernment, thoughtfulness toward people, and the ability to astutely interpret current trends of history. Stabilized by his love for truth, he is distinguished by his spiritual common sense. He maintains his poise in all circumstances, sustained by the unseen reality of his love for God. In the strength of the sphere of divine power, the mature believer has constructed an edifice in his soul (1 Cor. 3:9-17; Eph. 4:12), an inner structure I call the “edification complex,” with a penthouse that represents the happiness of God. The ECS is composed of six levels, from bottom to top: filling of the Holy Spirit, Bible doctrine, Genuine Humility, Motivational Virtue, Functional Virtue, and Sharing the Happiness of God. Movement from the bottom to the top is called “progressive sanctification” in most theological seminaries. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.) In the strength of the divine dynasphere, the mature believer constructs an edifice in his soul, an inner structure built by Bible doctrine, with the happiness of God as the penthouse or pinnacle of the complex. (ibid)

**ELECTION** – It is the eternal, absolute, immutable, effective determination by God’s will of the objects of His saving operations. The elect members of the human race are rescued from a state of guilt and sin and are brought into a state of blessedness. The non-elect are simply left in their previous state of ruin, and are condemned for their sins. The Westminster Confession states the doctrine thus: “By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated to everlasting life, and others are foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or decreased.” (Loraine Boettner)

**ELLIPSIS** - The omission of part of a grammatical structure when that part can be recovered from the context; normal distinctive meanings of the terms can be appropriately added.

**EMOTIONAL REVOLT OF THE SOUL** – Emotional activity is designed to operate in subordination to the absolutes of Bible doctrine that reside in the mentality of the right lobe of the soul. The mentality of the right lobe of the soul was designed by God to govern emotion. However, if the right lobe is controlled by the sin nature, the authority of doctrine is rejected and the emotions react with wide mood swings – irrationality, egocentricity, instability, and imbalance. So emotion is corrupted by revolt from the sin

nature. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.) When the emotions, which are designed as responders to the intellect, overthrow the mind and take control of the believer's thinking and actions. (ibid)

ENEMIES – The born-again believer has several categories of enemies in the spiritual life: (1) Satan and the fallen angels, (2) the reversionist, though used by Satan, is the enemy of both Satan and the advancing believer, (3) demons, and (4) unbelievers. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

ENHYPOSTASIA – The dogma that the person of the incarnate Christ is the eternal Son, who took into union a human nature conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary. Behind this lies the biblical teaching that man is made in the image of God and thus is ontologically compatible with God on a creaturely level. Thus, the Son of God provides the personhood for the assumed human nature. (R. Letham)

ESTABLISHMENT - Divine laws and principles for government, jurisprudence, military service, economics, diet, hygiene, conservation, quarantine, and other significant aspects of life for the nation Israel directly, and all other nations indirectly. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

ETERNAL SECURITY – A man who is truly saved will go to heaven when he dies no matter what he does after he has been saved. Those whom God has chosen before the foundations of the world and efficaciously called into saving faith and regenerated by His Holy Spirit can never lose their salvation, but shall be preserved in a state of salvation to the final hour and be eternally saved. God's eternal purpose cannot be defeated in the realization of all He intends, and bringing His redeemed to glory is a major aspect of His divine purpose. It is also referred to as Preservation of the Saints. (J. Dillow)

ETERNAL SONSHIP – The personal property of the Son is that He is eternally begotten of the Father (briefly called “filiation”), and shares with the Father in the spiration of the Spirit. It is a necessary act of God, an eternal act of the Father, a generation of the personal subsistence rather than of the divine essence of the Son, and a generation that must be conceived of as spiritual and divine. It is that eternal and necessary act of the first person in the Trinity, whereby He, within the divine Being, is the ground of a second personal subsistence like His own, and puts this second person in possession of the whole divine essence, without any division, alienation, or change. (Louis Berkof)

EVALUATION SEAT OF CHRIST – see Judgment Seat of Christ.

EVANGELISM – Evangelizing means declaring a specific message: to present Jesus as Christ, God's anointed Servant, fulfilling the tasks of His appointed office as Priest and King, as the divine Son Who become man at a particular point in world-history in order to save a ruined race. Evangelism means exhorting sinners to accept Christ Jesus as their Saviour, recognizing that in the most final and far-reaching sense, they are lost without him. (J.I. Packer)

EVIDENCE TESTING – Satan does everything he can to prevent believers from attaining spiritual maturity, and failing that, he does everything he can to discredit the mature believer whom God has presented as evidence for the prosecution in the appeal trial of Satan. After reaching maturity, the believer receives some of the most intense pressure he will face in his lifetime. Because no believer could pass this test without the strength of maturity, evidence testing is the monopoly of mature believers. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.) The amount of Bible doctrine in the soul, and the number of successful applications of that doctrine to the problems of life, to prepare a believer for evidence testing is staggering. Consider Job's three categories of evidence testing: loss of prosperity, loss of health, and loss of friends. Job passed all three tests.

EXEGESIS – Exegesis is the process of interpreting a text of Scripture. Consequently, when one studies principles of interpretation, that is “hermeneutics,” but when one applies those principles and begins actually explaining a biblical text, he is doing exegesis. (W. Grudem)

EXPERIENTIAL SANCTIFICATION – Our experience in the Christian life is that we are (hopefully) being sanctified in daily life by the Spirit's power, as we grow in grace and in knowledge – and as we are

controlled by the Spirit of God. In this sense, sanctification refers to our practical righteousness and holiness. We stumble and fall, in thought, word, and deed. There are sins of omission and commission, and we stand before a holy and righteous God. If we confess our sins to God, and grow in grace and knowledge by study and application of the Word of God, we are being sanctified in time. (J.D. Pentecost)

## **F**

**FAITH REST** – The believer’s basic problem-solving device for claiming the promises of God and mixing them with faith through the filling of the Holy Spirit to generate tranquility of soul in the midst of the adversities or prosperities of life. (Robert B. Thieme, Jr.) It is sometimes referred to as Resting in the Word by Faith.

**FEAR-PANIC PPLY** – A mental attitude sin which shuts down thought and makes doctrinal application impossible. The mind is immobilized in a state of internal panic.

**FEDERAL HEADSHIP** – Adam and Christ were our representatives. They acted for us, instead of us; and what they did is attributed, reckoned, or imputed to us. Those who were represented by Adam, and this includes all human beings with one exception, died by his act. Similarly, those whom Christ represented – His people, those God gave to Him, the elect – live because He crowned a sinless life with a substitutionary sacrifice, and rose from the dead. To speak of Adam as our representative is to identify him as the federal head of the human race. To speak of Christ as the representative of those the Father gave to Him (the elect) is to identify Him as our federal head. (G. Clark)

**FELLOWSHIP** – Our fellowship is with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. True fellowship occurs, therefore, during Bible study, prayer, suffering for blessing, and when we are filled with the Spirit. Strictly speaking, socializing with other Christians is not fellowship.

**FIFTH CYCLE OF DISCIPLINE** – Destruction of a nation as a result of apostasy, the maximum rejection of biblical principles.

**FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** – When one has found peace, power, and blessing through a definite yielding to God and reliance on His strength alone, the Bible clearly assigns the cause to be a larger manifestation of the presence and power of the Spirit. So immediately after private confession of sin to God the Father through Jesus Christ in prayer, a believer is “filled with the Spirit” and for as long as he doesn’t sin, enjoys the peace, power and blessing previously mentioned. This has to do with the quality of life (experiential truth) of saved people, and is in no way a contrast between the saved and unsaved. (L.S. Chafer)

**FLOT** – A military acronym meaning “Forward Line Of Troops” used as an acrostic for the divine defense line of problem-solving devices formed from Bible doctrine circulating in the right lobe of the soul; God’s protection for the believer against invasion by all the insidious enemies of the spiritual life.

**FRAGMENTATION** - When a believer lives constantly out of fellowship, he fragments into one of two false systems of living: legalism or antinomianism.

**FRAME OF REFERENCE** – In the process of growing spiritually, you develop a doctrinal frame of reference. The more you know, the more you can learn; doctrine is built upon doctrine. When a principle is taught that is more advanced than your current frame of reference can accommodate, obviously you will not understand it. The problem is your ignorance. Your frame of reference (for example) lacks the doctrines of redemption, reconciliation, propitiation, the principle of the judicial imputation of all personal sins to Christ on the Cross, and an understanding of the privileges of your royal priesthood. As a result you are tempted not only to oppose some doctrine, but ever to denounce the pastor who teaches it. Eventually, as you continue to learn doctrine, you will construct the frame of reference that enables you to understand

and accept these doctrines. As it expands, you will be able to integrate doctrines that seemed difficult at the time with other doctrines that you have learned in the interim. You will never run out of things to learn. Spiritual growth is the dynamic process of increasing your frame of reference and integrating doctrine with doctrine. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**FREE AGENCY/FREE WILL** – It has already been proven beyond all controversy that free-will is nonsense. Freedom cannot belong to will any more than ponderability can belong to electricity. They are altogether different things. Free agency we may believe in, but free-will is simply ridiculous. The human will has not been capable of operating freely since the Fall; it has one of two masters continually influencing it. (C.H. Spurgeon) Everything related to our position in Christ is due to the sovereignty and omnipotence of God. The battle between the Lord and Satan in the soul of man cannot be over possession of the soul. The battle is within the soul of the redeemed one as to whether he will honor and glorify God or whether he will live to his own ends. That is related to our condition or experience and requires us to make daily decisions, preferably as free agents of God rather than free agents of Satan. (D. Barnhouse) In some senses of the word *free*, everyone agrees that we are free in our will and in our choices ... but free will is not sufficient to enable man to do good works, unless he is helped by grace ... When we ask whether we have “free will,” it is important to be clear as to what is meant by the phrase. Scripture nowhere says we are “free” in the sense of being outside God’s control or of being able to make decisions that are not caused by anything. Nor does it say we are “free” in the sense of being able to do right on our own apart from God’s power ... The kind of freedom demanded by those who deny God’s providential control of all things, a freedom to be outside of God’s sustaining and controlling activity, would be impossible if Jesus Christ is indeed “continuously carrying along all things by His word of power” (Heb. 1:3). If this is true, then to be outside of that providential control would simply be not to exist! An absolute “freedom,” totally free of God’s control, is simply not possible in a world providentially sustained and directed by God Himself. (W. Grudem)

**FREEDOM** – God’s freedom is that attribute of God whereby He does whatever He pleases. This definition implies that nothing in all creation can hinder God from doing His will. This attribute of God is therefore closely related to His will and His power. Yet this aspect of freedom focuses on the fact that God is not constrained by anything external to Himself and that He is free to do whatever He wishes to do. There is no person or force that can ever dictate to God what He should do. He is under no authority or external restraint. Psalm 115:3, Proverbs 21:1, Daniel 4:35. (W. Grudem)

**FUNCTION** – Functioning in the divine system is the intake, metabolization and application of Bible doctrine in the filling of the Spirit. Functioning in the divine power system is doing anything while being filled with the Spirit. You can *reside* in the divine system by merely sitting there in your chair in the filling of the Spirit. When you actually *do* something – mentally, verbally, or overtly – then you are functioning in the divine system.

**FUNCTIONAL VIRTUE** – Functional virtue is also called impersonal love, the basic Christian virtue. For the immature believer impersonal love is the relaxed mental attitude where he resists temptation to commit mental attitude sins and utilizes the confession of sin to God (rebound) when necessary. The immature believer obeys the divine mandates for basic Christian modus operandi as a result of his respect for God’s authority. But in order to develop into integrity, impersonal love must be strengthened by the motivational virtue of personal love for God. Hence, mature impersonal love is built upon the ministry of the Holy Spirit, momentum from Bible doctrine, teachability from genuine humility, personal love for God, and the objectivity of basic impersonal love. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

## **G**

**GATE** – Divine mandates for the Church Age believer can be organized into eight categories or gates. All eight categories or gates are engaged as one dynamic unity. These gates are a teaching aid to help explain the Christian way of life. By combining and functioning in each gate, the believer grows by spiritual

momentum to maturity. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.) There are a host of Scriptures under each category, too lengthy for this glossary.

Gate 1: Filling of the Spirit

Gate 2: Objectivity

Gate 3: Enforced and genuine humility

Gate 4: Perception & application of Bible doctrine

Gate 5: Personal love for God

Gate 6: Impersonal love for mankind

Gate 7: Momentum testing

Gate 8: Spiritual maturity

Gates are entrances "into" or "out of" God's divine plan or Satan's cosmic system. The mandates of God's plan are organized into eight categories, or gates. The traps, or labyrinths of sin in Satan's system, are organized in many gates. (ibid)

**GEOGRAPHICAL WILL OF GOD** – God has given every believer a sphere of influence to operate in at a given point in time. This sphere of influence could be a city block or thousands of square miles of foreign territory. When a believer is filled with the Spirit, he will know where this geographical location is at any given time. It can change from one place to another. Scripture abounds with stories of believers who went beyond or ignored God's geographical will for their lives at that time; they were all disciplined by God for rebelling against His plan.

**GLORIFICATION SALVATION** – The purpose for which we suffer is in order that we may be glorified with Him. This glorification is accomplished when we are perfectly conformed to the image of Christ and are awarded a share in His glory during His messianic reign. For those that walk in His footsteps, they will share in His inheritance and participate in His divine perfection. Positionally, all believers will be ultimately conformed into the image of Christ at the resurrection of the body. Experientially, only those who suffer with Christ will share in His inheritance. (J. Dillow)

**GRACE APPARATUS FOR PERCEPTION (GAP)** – God has supplied us with every prerequisite for learning His Word: the canon of Scripture, a pastor-teacher, the local church, the filling of the Holy Spirit, rebound (confession of sin), the human soul, the human spirit, physical life, and protection in the devil's world. These grace provisions are part of the grace apparatus for perception, or GAP. To summarize GAP: the believer filled with the Spirit concentrates on the pastor's message, comprehends it in the left lobe of his soul as academic knowledge, believes and applies it through the right lobe of his soul, where it eventually becomes wisdom and spiritual common sense. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.) GAP is a divine grace provision for taking doctrine into the left lobe of the soul, cycling it through the right lobe of the soul, and making proper applications of this doctrine to the daily situations in life. (ibid)

**GRANVILLE SHARP** - If two substantives are connected by *kai* and both have the article, they refer to different persons or things ...; if the first has an article and the second does not, the second refers to the same person or thing as the first ... Of course the rule could also be applied to a series of three or more.

**GRIEVING** – Grieving the Holy Spirit is rejecting the Word of God and refusing to confess your sins to the Lord. It is involvement in Satan's cosmos diabolicos, in particular his arrogance complex of sins (Cosmic 1). Eph. 4:30.

## H

**HAPAX LEGOMENA** - A Greek word used only once in Scripture.

HAPPINESS – Plus H (+H) is the inner spiritual happiness which accompanies spiritual maturity.

HENDIADYS - Two aspects of a single thought; the juxtaposition of two nouns with a single referent, with or without the conjunction (i.e. assault and battery, violence and destruction).

HOLY ROLLER - A derogatory term for apostate Christians who have let emotionalism take control of their soul (i.e. those in the so-called "charismatic movement").

HOMOOUSIOS – Of the same being, meaning that the Son and the Spirit are of the same, identical being as the Father. (R. Letham)

HONOR CODE - As members of a spiritual aristocracy, we have a royal honor code by which we can manifest Christian integrity during our temporary life on earth. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

HUMAN GOOD - The attempt by believers who are out of fellowship to do things for God. All such activities are useless in the eyes of God and will be burnt at the Judgment Seat as wood, hay and stubble.

HUMAN SPIRIT – Man was created as a tricotymous human being, having a body, soul, and spirit. He lost his human spirit at the Fall, becoming dichotomous – having only body and soul. Believers receive their human spirit back again at the point of salvation, once again becoming tricotymous. The purpose of the human spirit is to provide a habitat for the indwelling Holy Spirit.

HUMAN VIEWPOINT – As Bible doctrine is neglected or rejected, Christendom becomes increasingly heretical and controlled by emotionalism. The spiritual life must be based solely on the infallible Word of God; otherwise, it is merely “experience.” Christians minus doctrine think and act like unbelievers. They rely on the unreliable – human experience and human viewpoint – when they should rely on the reliable – Bible doctrine and divine viewpoint. Believers are equipped to use the power and dynamics of the spiritual life from the filling of the Holy Spirit and Bible doctrine. But in emotional revolt they become users of God, equating their own aims with the will of God, seeking to feel good, searching for miraculous deliverance, or pursuing pseudo-blessing from hyperemotional, mystical or psychological experiences. Believers with such chaos of soul become obnoxious troublemakers or confused seekers. Hence, we as believers are commanded in Romans 16:17-18 to separate from them. (Robert B. Thieme, Jr.) Human viewpoint is when a believer has a limited doctrinal frame of reference, his thinking is full of contemporary secular ideas, such as those provided by psychology, sociology, philosophy, biology, anthropology, etc. (ibid)

HEART - The ‘kardia’ or heart is the innermost part of man ... the seat of mental or spiritual powers and capacities. [Man looks on the outward appearance, God looks on the heart.] The heart is the seat of rational functions ... given by God .. and is often used for those with understanding, far-reaching insight, treasures of knowledge, thoughts, artistic sense, and attentiveness. From the heart comes planning and volition, inner impulses, direction, religious and moral conduct, and the seat of intellectual life. It is referred to as the seat of the will, the seat of the power of thought, and the focus of man’s being and activity as a spiritual personality. It is also used as the main organ of psychic and spiritual life, the place in man at which God bears witness to Himself, the source of all the forces and functions of soul and spirit, and the source of resolves. It is rarely used in Scripture to represent the physical organ we know as the heart.” (*Kittel’s TDNT, Vol. III, Johannes Behm*)

HYPOSTATIC UNION – Undiminished deity and true humanity united in One Person forever, Jesus Christ. It is the two natures of the Person of Christ – divine and human – inseparably united without mixture or loss of separate identity, without loss or transfer of properties or attributes. That is, He is the God-Man, He is one Person, and He will exist forever as both undiminished deity and true humanity. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

I

**IMPECCABILITY** – We ascribe to Christ not only natural, but also moral, integrity or moral perfection - that is sinlessness. This means not merely that Christ could avoid sinning (*potuit non peccare*), and did actually avoid it, but also that it was impossible for Him to sin (*non potuit peccare*) because of the essential bond between human and the divine natures. While Christ was made to be sin judicially, yet ethically He was free from both hereditary depravity and actual sin. (L. Berkof)

**IMPERSONAL LOVE** – Impersonal love emphasizes the subject; personal love emphasizes the object. Impersonal love depends on the honor and integrity of the one who loves; personal love depends on the attractiveness, capacity, and response of the one who is loved. Impersonal love is simply the consistent function of your own integrity toward other people. Impersonal love is unconditional, requires no personal acquaintance, is strong, depends on Bible doctrine, solves problems, and is mandated by God for all believers. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.) Impersonal love is a relaxed mental attitude; love for friends, strangers, even enemies - based on the subject who loves, not the object of love. (ibid)

**IMPUTATION** – Imputation is God’s method of bookkeeping. The sin of Adam is imputed to all of Adam’s race and that indebtedness stands against a man and is the basis of condemnation. When a person believes in Jesus Christ, his sin is imputed to Christ and Christ’s righteousness is imputed to him. God has done a divine work. (J. Dwight Pentecost) There are other examples of imputation in Scripture.

**INCORRUPTIBILITY** - The present tense, referring to the permanence of the Son, is often contrasted with the passing nature of heaven, earth, and the objects of the earth expressed in future tenses. (Simon Kistemaker) This universe that seems so solid and permanent will be rolled up, changed, and replaced by a totally new heaven and earth. But through it all, the Son remains unchanged. (F. Gaebelin) The permanence and eternity of Jesus Christ is often called incorruptibility as contrasted with the impermanence and temporal nature of His creation.

**INDEFINITE (INEFFECTIVE, UNLIMITED, THEORETICAL) ATONEMENT** – The theory that Christ on His cross intended to make it possible for every man to be saved, but left the final determination of salvation in man’s hands. Man’s freewill to choose or not to choose is the deciding factor. As opposed to Definite Atonement, which believes that Christ’s death actually accomplished redemption on behalf of a particular, chosen people, indefinite atonement says Christ only made it possible for someone to be saved by exercising their own volition.

**INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** – It is divinely purposed that under grace the believer’s life is to be lived in the unbroken power of the Spirit. The fact that the Spirit now indwells every believer is one of the outstanding characteristics of this age. It is one of the vital contrasts between law and grace. It is a gift that emphasizes the fundamental fact of the believer’s new estate. The fact of the indwelling Spirit is not revealed through any experience whatsoever; nevertheless that fact is the foundation upon which all other ministries to the child of God must depend. All Christians are indwelled by the Spirit. (L.S. Chafer)

**INERRANCY** – The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact. The Bible always tells the truth concerning everything it talks about. For over 99% of the words of the Bible, we *know* what the original manuscript said. Even for many of the verses where there are textual variants, the correct decision is often quite clear, and there are really very few places where the textual variant is both difficult to evaluate and significant in determining the meaning. (W. Grudem)

**INFANTS** – David says, “The wicked go astray from the womb, they err from their birth” (Psalm 58:3). But then what do we say about infants who die before they are old enough to understand and believe the gospel? Can they be saved? Here we must say that if such infants are saved, it cannot be on their own merits, or on the basis of their own righteousness or innocence, but it must be entirely on the basis of

Christ's redemptive work and regeneration by the work of the Holy Spirit within them ... It is certainly possible for God to bring regeneration to an infant even before he or she is born. This was true of John the Baptist, for the angel Gabriel, before John was born, said in Luke 1:15, "He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb." (W. Grudem)

**INHERITANCE SALVATION** – The inheritance is meritorious ownership of the kingdom. Christ obtained his inheritance by spiritual obedience and filial relationship ... It is clear that the reign of the Messiah extends to heaven and earth. Since the *metochoi* are co-heirs with Him (Rom. 8:17), their reign by virtue of association with Him will extend to the cosmos itself. (J. Dillow) Having salvation and being in the kingdom of God may mean essentially the same thing. The Pauline usage of the phrase "kingdom of God" almost always refers to faithfulness, obedience, or reward (inheritance). (R. Kendall) The word "partaker" is used four times in Hebrews (1:4, 1:14, 6:12, 12:17) and refers to a reward for a life of faithfulness. The inheritance can be forfeited because of disobedience, as in the case of Esau (12:17), and it is only obtained by persevering, i.e. by "faith and patience" (6:12). Jesus has inherited a superior name to that of the angels (1:4) which He achieved by perseverance in suffering (2:10). Similarly, His companions (1:9) will "inherit salvation" (1:14) in the same way. We share in that future glory, the *inheritance-salvation*, only if we remain faithful to the end. Perseverance to the end, faithfulness, and doing the will of

God are the conditions of obtaining the inheritance-salvation in this epistle, conditions which are absent from the Pauline teaching of obtaining salvation (in the sense of final deliverance from hell) on the basis of faith alone. A different salvation is in view here: co-rulership with Christ in the coming kingdom. God's King-Son in the Epistle to the Hebrews has surrounded Himself with companions (*metochoi*). In the case of David there were many citizens living in his kingdom other than those who ate at his table as his mighty men. Many lived under Rehoboam's sovereignty who were not among those with whom he grew up. There were many in Caesar's kingdom who did not have the official title, "Friend of Caesar" or "Member of Caesar's Household," and probably there were many in the businesses of Sotas, Dionysius, and Peter who were not associates. The *metochoi* of King Jesus then are His co-heirs in the rulership of the messianic kingdom. They are those friends, partners, and companions who have endured the trials of life, were faithful to the end, who will therefore obtain the inheritance-rest. (J. Dillow)

**INTENSIVE DISCIPLINE** – There are three stages of discipline administered to the carnal believer or reversionist: warning discipline, intensified discipline, and dying discipline. For the believer who ignores or rejects the Lord's disciplinary knocking at the door of the soul during warning discipline, the next step is intensified misery. The believer uses his own negative volition to create ever-increasing problems, compounded by more bad decisions by wrong thinking and wrong motivation, all of which result in agonizing failure in his life. The pattern of punishment is designed for each person, to alert the believer to the fact that there is no advantage or true prosperity without Bible doctrine. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**INTERCESSORY PRAYER** – Intercessory prayer is praying for others. To accomplish this, every believer should have a prayer list. You can pray for those who have special jobs in the Lord's service – missionaries, ministers, evangelists. You can pray for friends. You can even pray for those who spitefully use you, for those who seek your harm and hurt – in other words, pray for your enemies.

**INVISIBLE ASSETS** – Spiritual tools which God has given to every believer to use when he reaches the momentum stage in his spiritual life (if he ever reaches it at all).

**INVISIBLE HEROES** – Jesus Christ blesses believers and unbelievers who adhere to the laws of divine establishment. He delivers far greater blessings to believers who execute the protocol plan of God and achieve spiritual maturity. Blessings to the mature believer overflow to the friends, relatives, and associates who live and work in his periphery. These people are blessed either directly by God or indirectly through the mature believer. The mature believer, therefore, has tremendous, invisible impact because individuals and organizations receive blessing by their association with him. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**IRRESISTABLE (EFFECTIVE) GRACE** – Irresistible means that when God has chosen some to be saved and when He sends His Spirit to change them from being hateful to being loving, no one can resist Him.

His grace is irresistible. He does what He sets out to do. It is also effectual, because it actually accomplishes what God intended for it to accomplish – drawing the elect unto Christ. (E. Palmer)

## **J**

**JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST** – Christ will evaluate the deeds, faithfulness, and words of born again believers at the Judgment (Evaluation) Seat of Christ, immediately after the rapture of the Church. The Lord will penetrate to the very core of a man and will reveal what his true motivations were. (J. Dillow) The issue will not be sin, but the quality of a believer’s life. (L. Chafer) Good works (gold, silver, precious stones) will receive rewards. Dead works (wood, hay, stubble) will be burned.

**JUSTIFICATION SALVATION** – There are three aspects of the salvation of a believer, justification salvation, sanctification salvation, and glorification salvation. Justification salvation is the past salvation or deliverance from sin. It is legal, forensic, and positional, and not automatically real in experience; it is absolute, not partial. Death to sin is real in our position, but not necessarily real in life. (J. Dillow)

## **K**

**KENOSIS** – Kenosis means to deprive oneself of a rightful function, to debase oneself. It explains how the supreme God of the universe condescended to become a man and suffer the humiliation of the Cross. Although Jesus Christ “was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9). Christ voluntarily deprived Himself of the independent exercise of His divine attributes from the virgin birth until His resurrection. At no time did he surrender any attribute of His divine essence or “empty Himself” of His deity, as alleged by a false doctrine of kenosis. God can never become less than God. He did not divest Himself of His deity because in Christ “all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form (Col. 2:9).” (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

## **L**

**LEFT LOBE** - The left lobe of the soul which contains receptive comprehension and academic knowledge, none of which is ready to be applied to daily life. It is merely a staging area for doctrine. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**LEGALISM** – The law works from without; grace works from within. The nature of the new Covenant is inward life, not outward command. Sin reigns through the law and through the condemnation of the law, which sin brings. As Christians, the law is not the criteria used to judge you. Grace is the criteria that judges you. Christians who try to live by the law (legalists) are in serious error. Paul’s entire epistle to the Galatians was written against those who attempted to impose the moral law and the ceremonial law that went along with it to Christians. Wrapping the law in religion is not the gospel, and therefore not good news. Legalism is any set of rules that purport to bring us to maturity or into right standing with God. Paul said that legalizers like to “glory in your flesh.” The law did not bring you into right standing with God, nor will it provide you the means to grow one iota in the Christian life. (K. Lamb) Legalism is living according to some external rules, rituals or traditions in self-righteous arrogance.

**LOGISTICAL GRACE SUPPORT** - The divine provision of the necessities of life for all believers, whether they are winners or losers in life. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**LOSERS** - Those believers who reject the plan of God and the daily intake of Bible doctrine and spend their entire life in one or more of the gates in Satan's cosmic system. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

LOVE COMPLEX - Another name for God's system of life for the mature believer (i.e. divine dynasphere, power sphere).

## M

MEDIATOR – It is important to distinguish between a Mediator, an Advocate, and a Priest. The Mediator reconciles God to man and man to God. The Advocate restores man after his sin. The Priest sustains man, and provides against his committing sin ... Christ's priesthood is exercised in heaven, not on earth. (W. Thomas) The priesthood being a mediatorial charge, established to maintain the relationship of the weak and infirm with God in His majesty, it was necessary that the high priest should be endowed with qualities which enabled him to show compassion to those who were weak and infirm ... We must always hold these two things – mediation and union. Christ's intercession for us is to maintain our communion with God in the righteousness we are made in Him. Our union with Him is in resurrection. (J. Darby) Jesus as priestly mediator between God and man gives Him certain privileges including "direct, unmediated access to God, interceding before God on behalf of the people, performing redemptive sacrifices on behalf of the people, hearing confession of sin and announcing forgiveness for them, and giving God's blessing to His people. (R. Palculict)

MENTAL ATTITUDE SINS – This is a debilitating category of sins that cannot be seen by another person unless they eventually become overt sins. Examples of mental attitude sins are jealousy, hatred, vindictiveness, anger, bitterness, self-pity, guilt, fear, worry, arrogance, etc. A person cannot grow in grace and knowledge while harboring a mental attitude sin.

MILLENNIAL REIGN – During the millennium God will resume His dealings with Israel, the church having been taken out of the world or "raptured" some time earlier (just prior to the tribulation). The millennium consequently will have a markedly Jewish character. The unfulfilled prophecies regarding Israel will come to pass at that time ... Christ will reign on earth during the millennium. He will be physically present at this time; He will return personally and bodily to commence the millennium. (Millard Erickson)

MIND OF CHRIST – The Word of God, Bible doctrine, is the mind of Christ. The Word is His thinking from divine perspective. As we learn doctrine by the filling of the Holy Spirit through a pastor-teacher, we grow in grace and knowledge, thinking His thoughts, and having His perspective. This is "putting on the mind of Christ."

MIRACLES – The gift of miracles was the power to perform miracles at will in the name of Christ. The gift of miracles has ceased. But we can pray for miracles today. A Christian can still appeal to God to do wonders, and God does answer prayer. God can still heal and even raise the dead if He chooses, but there miracles are sovereign and individual ... While therefore the gift of miracles is not part of the present program of God, the power of God to perform miracles must be affirmed. (J. Walvoord)

MODALISM – The blurring or erasing of the real, eternal, and irreducible distinctions among the three persons of the Trinity. This danger can arise when the unity of God, or the identity in being of the three persons, is overstressed at the expense of the personal distinctions. (R. Letham)

MOMENTUM TESTING – In order to accelerate the believer's momentum to the final objective of maturity, God periodically inserts momentum testing among the advancing believer's blessings. Four categories of momentum testing characterize Christian suffering in the advance from spiritual autonomy to spiritual maturity: people testing, thought testing, system testing, disaster testing. At this stage in his spiritual life, the believer should not be caught off guard by suffering. The suffering may be more intense than that experienced earlier under providential preventative suffering, but the believer now has the divine problem-solving devices necessary to take suffering in stride. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.) Momentum testing is 8

categories of testing, or divine exams, which come to a growing believer when he has attained a certain level of spiritual maturity through consistent intake and application of Bible doctrine. (ibid)

**MONOTHELETISM** – The idea that in the incarnate Christ there was only one will. This view was rejected by the church because “will” was regarded as a predicate of both of the two natures. If there was only one will, the human nature of Christ would be diminished or worse. (R. Letham)

**MOTIVATIONAL VIRTUE** – There are three motivational virtues: worship of God, confidence in God, and personal love for God. These virtues correspond to your two areas of responsibility as a Christian: your royal priesthood and royal ambassadorship. Your priesthood is invisible and directed toward God, and is based on motivational virtues; your ambassadorship is visible and public and is directed towards people, and is based on functional virtue. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

## **N**

**NEGATIVE VOLITION** – Rejection of Bible doctrine in general or rejection of the pastor-teacher’s authority resulting in rejection of the doctrinal message regarding God’s plan, will, and purpose for your life. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**NO-MAN’S LAND** – A phase or place in a supergrace believer’s life when he is about to be tested to the maximum in preparation for ultra-supergrace status. This testing and suffering requires all the doctrinal rationales the believer can muster. It is a war zone.

**NON-RESIDENT CONGREGATION** – Paul had a large number of Christians who considered him their pastor (and apostle) even though they lived in other cities, even countries. Paul communicated the Work of Truth to them by circular letters. Likewise today, a pastor may have a congregation of members that literally scatter the globe. They may receive instruction by written, audio, visual or other electronic means. Non-resident, therefore, means a member of a ‘church’ may live in a geographical area far away from the rest of the congregation.

**NORMS & STANDARDS** – Truth, meaning the infallible Word of God, creates a mirror in the soul in which you can accurately and objectively evaluate yourself and your circumstances from divine viewpoint. When you are inculcated with doctrinal thinking, you can rely on the Lord, make good decisions, and resolve the dilemmas of life God’s way. Faithful persistence in learning “line upon line . . . a little here, a little there” (Isa. 28:10) changes the human norms and standards in your soul to divine norms and standards. This does not occur through sporadic bursts of enthusiasm, but through tenacious reception, retention, and recall. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

## **O**

**OATH** – When God makes a promise, such as in the case of an unconditional covenant, His promise guarantees the promised outcome.

**OCCUPATION WITH CHRIST** – An advanced stage in a growing believer’s life where his soul is so filled with Bible doctrine (the mind of Christ) that he is occupied with Christ on a steady basis.

**OLD SIN NATURE** – This is not the equivalent of the popular song, “Old Man River.” It is the sin nature all of us inherited from the first man Adam. Please refer to the definition under SIN NATURE.

**OMNIPRESENCE** – God is not subject to limitations of space. The greatness of finite objects is measured by how much space they occupy. With God, however, the question of whereness or location is not

applicable. God is the one who brought space and time into being. He was before there was space. He cannot be localized at a particular point. There can be no plotting of His location on a set of coordinates. This seems to be a function of His immateriality or spirituality. There is no physical body to be located at a particular place. There is also no place where He cannot be found. (M. Erickson)

OMNISCIENCE – God knows everything. We are all completely transparent before God. He sees us and knows us totally. He knows every truth, even those not yet discovered by man, for it was He who built them into the creation. Knowing all things, He also knows what is good and what is not. He has all the facts; we do not have all the facts. (M. Erickson)

OPERATION FOOTSTOOL – The termination of the strategic victory of the angelic conflict by which the Lord Jesus Christ returns to earth to establish His kingdom and to remove Satan and all fallen angels. It constitutes a coup d’etat whereby Satan loses the rulership of the world to the Lord Jesus Christ (Psalm 110:1, Eph. 1:22, Heb. 1:13, 10:13). (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

OUTSIDE PRESSURE – People, organizations, weather, even our own thoughts, are all forms of pressure bearing in on our soul from the outside. If we succumb to these pressures in our daily life, we create stress in our soul. The Bible provides many problem-solving devices, specifically tailored verses and methods of applying those verses, to prevent the outside pressures of daily life from becoming inside stress in the soul.

## P

PARTAKER – The partaker (Gk: metachoi) holds to the eternal security of the Christian, but believes the warning passages in the NT apply to true Christians. The partaker is the Christian who perseveres in good works to the end of life. He is the faithful Christian who will reign with Christ in the coming messianic kingdom. He will be one of the servant kings. What is in danger, according to the partaker, is not a loss of salvation but spiritual impoverishment, severe discipline in time, and a forfeiture of rewards, viz., disinheritance in the future. For the partaker the carnal Christian is not only a lamentable fact of Christian experience but is explicitly taught in the Bible as well. (Joseph Dillow)

PARTICULAR REDEMPTION – see Definite Atonement.

PATIENT ENDURANCE - Patient endurance is steadfastness in the face of unpleasant circumstances. This steadfastness comes from utilizing the Bible doctrine in your soul – resting in the Word of God by faith. It is not merely gutting it out or grinning and bearing it, which is human viewpoint. Patient endurance is not exercised if God takes the pressure away when you cry out that you can’t take it anymore. It is holding your ground through the outside pressure with Bible doctrine, a major component of a believer’s experiential sanctification. Patient endurance is tested when God keeps the pressure active upon you, not withdrawing it until you utilize the divine resources obtained from the Word. He keeps the pressure on in order to teach you how to live by the Word, solving your problems and enduring suffering with divine viewpoint.

PERICHORESIS – The mutual indwelling of the three persons of the Trinity in the one being of God. (R. Letham)

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS – The shortest description of the perseverance of the saints is “once saved, always saved,” also called eternal security. Once you believe in Christ, you can never be lost, you can never go to hell. Christ will always be your Saviour. You will continue believing forever. No matter what happens to you, God preserves you to the end.

PHASE 1, 2, 3 – Phase 1 is salvation. Phase 2 is the Christian walk. Phase 3 is eternity.

**POLARIZATION** – When a believer goes negative towards doctrine, he fragments his life and tends to polarize towards one or more trends of his sin nature: legalism or antinomianism.

**POSITIONAL SANCTIFICATION** – In this sense, it means to “be set apart” to God. In this case it refers to one’s ‘position’, not with one’s ‘experience’ or one’s practice. It has to do with divine viewpoint. When God looks at His child, He sees His child set apart unto Himself; He sees His child having been set apart from sin; He sees His child as one who is a saint, beloved of the Father. This then is our position. (J.D. Pentecost)

**POWER SPHERE** – Another name for the divine dynasphere or the system of power given by God to man for sustaining him on earth and leading him to spiritual maturity.

**PRECEPTS** – Children walk by rules. Children have to be told every little thing to do. Hopefully, they come to the point of spiritual maturity where they know what is right without being told. The motivation of a child is enforced from without by precepts. (K. Lamb) Obedience to God is often enforced by rules until they come of spiritual age where they are motivated from within to follow His ways.

**PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER** – Since every believer is in union with Jesus Christ, we all share His priesthood. It is based on regeneration. You are a priest; I am a priest. All Church Age believers are permanent members of our Lord’s royal order of priesthood. As believer-priests we represent ourselves before God. We do not need to confess our sins to a “member of the clergy;” we confess them immediately, silently, privately, directly to God. Nor do we require a special category of priest to perform rituals for us. The rituals of the Levitical priesthood were fulfilled by Christ at the Cross and have been superseded as teaching aids by the completed canon of Scripture. The Church Age is the age of thought, not ritual. Our responsibility as priests is to grow spiritually through the perception of doctrine, the invisible side of the Christian life. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**PRINCIPLES** – Sons do not walk by rules but by principles. As a son, you are expected to act in a mature fashion. A son responds to the will of the Father without being told to do so. The motivation of a son comes from within. Jesus taught in principles and not in precepts. (K. Lamb)

**PROBLEM SOLVING DEVICES** – Ten divine solutions available to every advancing believer; the aggregate of all that God provides for the Church Age believer to accomplish His plan and to glorify Him; the only means by which Bible doctrine can be applied in the life of the believer. Every human problem can be solved through employing these ten devices: rebound, the filling of the Holy Spirit, the faith-rest drill, grace orientation, doctrinal orientation, a personal sense of destiny, personal love for God the Father, impersonal love for mankind, sharing the happiness of God, and occupation with Christ. (Robert B. Thieme, Jr.)

**PROPITIATION** – Propitiation is the God-ward aspect of the value of the death of Christ. While redemption was sinward, and reconciliation was manward, propitiation gives to us the third, or the God-ward aspect of the value of Christ’s death for us. The love of God for sinners could not be poured forth upon them until there was some basis upon which God might deal with men. Propitiation is the work of Christ that satisfies all the claims of divine holiness, righteousness, and justice, so that God is free to act on behalf of sinners. God the Father was propitiated or satisfied by the work of Christ on the Cross.

**PROSPERITY TEST** – When God sends monetary prosperity to a believer as a test to see if he abandons Bible doctrine for the pursuits and pleasures of life.

**PROTOCOL PLAN OF GOD** – God’s plan is a system. By understanding His plan as a system, we can adhere to all His mandates for us. We can avoid distortions of the Christian way of life by following His precisely correct protocol for the day in which we live. He gives us freedom to apply the correct doctrine in our own lives. Both innovation and practical application must be within His system. God’s perfect system, the Christian way of life, is greater than any human system or individual Christian. It works in every

generation for anyone who will follow its mandates. His protocol plan transforms all kinds of believers into mature Christians, winners in the devil's world. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**PROTOTYPE DIVINE DYNASPHERE** – The divine dynasphere which was given by the Father to the Son for Him to test and approve while on earth. When the testing was complete, it was then bequeathed to each Church Age believer in an OPERATIONAL form.

**PROVIDENCE** – The word refers to God's governance and control of the conditions under which man and beast and creeping things live. (G. Clark) God is continually involved with all create things in such a way that He (1) keeps them existing and maintaining the properties with which He created them (preservation); (2) cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do (concurrence); and (3) directs them to fulfill His purposes (government). (W. Grudem)

**PROVIDENTIAL PREVENTATIVE SUFFERING** – As the first category of suffering for blessing, providential preventative suffering performs a dual function. Its offensive role is to accelerate the believer's spiritual momentum beyond spiritual self-esteem into spiritual autonomy; its defensive role is to prevent him from following victim to arrogance. Arrogance must be prevented because it neutralizes the effectiveness of doctrine in the believer's life. To prevent Paul from his natural vulnerability to arrogance, God sent providential preventative suffering, which Paul called his "thorn in the flesh." (R.B. Thieme, Jr.) If you are advancing spiritually, comprehending the deep things of Bible doctrine, some form of providential preventative suffering will be placed upon you to ensure you do not succumb to arrogance and are able after testing, to proceed to the stage of spiritual autonomy.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES** – Psychological explanations about life and psychological solutions to life's problems are questionable at best, detrimental at worst, and spiritual counterfeits at least. Psychological principles are anti-God, anti-Christ, and therefore anti-Bible. Christians who try to integrate psychology with Christianity are anti-God, anti-Christ, and anti-Biblical. God has called us to a theological (divine) viewpoint of life, not a psychological (human/satanic) viewpoint of life. Psychological jargon and practices contaminate the Word of God and inhibit the work of the Holy Spirit in conjunction with learning Biblical truth. (M. Bobgan)

## **Q**

**QUENCHING** – Quenching the Holy Spirit is involvement in the hatred complex of sins, also known as Cosmic 2 in Satan's cosmos diabolicos. We are punished for prolonged involvement in this complex of sins if we do not confess them to the Lord.

## **R**

**RANSOM** – Jesus gave His life as a ransom for many, i.e., the elect of God. Man was in captivity, slavery and condemnation. There is always the payment of the price which effects release from captivity, and it is this price that is called the 'ransom'. Man was in the power of the enemy. Christ paid the ransom by the price of His life, freeing God's chosen people and bringing them back where they belong. (L. Morris)

**RAPTURE** – The rapture, or translation of the saints, is when the saints (both living and already dead) just prior to the great tribulation, are "changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump" (I Cor. 15:51-52). They are called to be with Him in the air. This will happen before Christ returns to the earth for His millennial reign. Believers alive at that time will not experience death, but will immediately possess resurrection bodies. Those who have already died will likewise receive their resurrection bodies.

**REBOUND** – The grace provision for the carnal believer to recover the filling of the Spirit through naming personal sins privately to God the Father; the method of restoring the believer’s fellowship with God to resume the spiritual life. (Robert B. Thieme, Jr.)

**RECOVERY** – When a reversionistic believer who has been negative towards doctrine for a long period of time finally turns around and begins to utilize God’s divine assets so as to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**REDEMPTION** – The Word of God looks upon men who are in sin as bond-slaves. It looks upon them under a master who has conquered and subdued them, and who can deliver them over to even greater bondage. The Scripture views the sinner as without any will of his own, indentured to serve sin and to be a bond-slave of Satan, to do whatsoever Satan demands. Jesus Christ came into that slave market in order to purchase those who are in sin’s chains and to set them free. When we were purchased out from the curse of the law and bondage to sin we were purchased out so completely and effectively that we can never be returned to that slave market again. We are delivered from its bondage forever. (J.D. Pentecost) The price of that purchase (redemption) was His spiritual death on the cross. This redemption was accomplished in the past and is still being applied to believers in the Lord Jesus Christ today. (J. Murray) This redemption infallibly secures the salvation of each and every one for whom it was designed, namely, “the children of God that were scattered abroad” (John 11:52), which is such a multitude of sinners declared righteous that no man can number them. (G.D. Long)

**REGENERATION** – This is a Latin term meaning “born again, born a second time, generated over again.” One who is born into this world spiritually dead must be born a second time, of a new Father, into a new family, if he is to have eternal life and is to become the child of God. If we are to be born into God’s family, it must be through a miracle of a new birth, of a new Father who can give a new nature to us, so that we may be called the sons, or children, of God. (Things Which Become Sound Doctrine, J. Dwight Pentecost)

**RELAXED MENTAL ATTITUDE** – A relaxed mental attitude is one that is free of sins, filled with the Spirit, and is not tempted to sin emotionally when in contact with people. Bible doctrine, and its resultant divine viewpoint, determines the extent of a person’s relaxed mental attitude. Grace orientation (as opposed to legalism), inner happiness from being saturated with the Word, mental stability and love for the brethren are components of a relaxed mental attitude.

**REMISSION** – The negative element in justification is the remission of sins on the ground of the atoning work of Jesus Christ. This pardon or forgiveness of sins applies to all sins, past, present, and future, and thus involves the removal of all guilt and of every penalty. (L. Berkhof)

**REPENTANCE** – Repentance means to *change one’s mind*, a mental turning around, a change in course, direction, or attitude. (J. Pentecost) It does not require feeling sorry for sin, although that may occur when thoughts, words and deeds are seen according to the light of Scripture.

**REPRESENTATIVE ANALOGY** – The *blood of Christ* is a representative analogy for the spiritual death of Christ on the cross. It is a pregnant verbal symbol or figure, not the literal element. In this case, it is a synonym for the saving work of Christ on the cross. See *blood of Christ*.

**RESIDENCE** – This is a theological term for being filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit indwells us, but we “reside” in Him only when we are filled by Him. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are residing in the divine power system.

**REVERSIONISM** – Although the believer can never lose his eternal life, he can be in danger of destroying his spiritual life and losing all the blessings that “God has prepared for those who love Him”. Without a true spiritual life the believer returns to the lifestyle of the unbeliever . . . thinks like an unbeliever, acts like an unbeliever, sins like an unbeliever. Reversionism is the way of life the believer chooses when he turns away from God’s plan, will, and purpose for his life and returns to a former belief, a former viewpoint, a

former modus operandi. He is usually under the influence of Satan's cosmic system of evil. By his own volition he involves himself in sin and evil, and suffers the consequences of self-induced misery and divine punishment.

**REWARDS** – Blessings are awarded in heaven to the believer who learned enough doctrine on earth to develop capacity for supergrace or ultra-supergrace blessings in the devil's world. Such blessings and rewards bring unending glory to the Lord Jesus Christ as well as happiness and vast prosperity to the one so rewarded. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**RIGHT LOBE** – The right lobe of the soul is where doctrine is metabolized, categorized, and placed on the launching pad ready for application to daily life.

**RIGHT PASTOR** – Every believer is given a right pastor-teacher by God who will train them in doctrine. This pastor must be properly trained and have the ability to carry the believer to the next level of spiritual growth or he is not the "right" one for you.

**ROYAL FAMILY** – All believers are members of a royal, aristocratic family due to our being placed in union with Jesus Christ at the moment of regeneration.

## **S**

**SAINTS** – All believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are saints, individuals "set apart unto God". There are no other qualifications for being a saint. Some Christian organizations and many cults have redefined this term over the years in order to exclude the general Christian population from "membership" and to confer rights and privileges upon a special group of 'holier than thou' individuals for dubious purposes.

**SANCTIFICATION** – This term means "set apart unto" God. Our position before God as believers is that we are sanctified, set apart unto God; our experience is that we are being sanctified in daily life, by the Spirit's power, as we grow in grace and in knowledge, and as we are controlled by the Spirit of God. (Things Which Become Sound Doctrine, J. Dwight Pentecost) These two stages of sanctification are often contrasted as standing (position) and state (condition). There is also a stage called ultimate sanctification when we receive our resurrection bodies.

**SANCTIFICATION SALVATION** – The concept and meaning of salvation in the Scriptures is multi-dimensional. The present aspect of salvation, sanctification, is deliverance from the power of sin. (Earl Radmacher)

**SATISFACTION** – The satisfaction of Christ is the only satisfaction for sin and is so perfect and final that it leaves no penal liability for any sin of the believer. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). The satisfaction of Christ also embraces the fact that He will lose nobody that He died for on the cross. He accomplished His work, it was quite effective, and none of the elect will ever be lost. The doctrine of satisfaction, therefore, makes a hypothetical salvation dependent on man's free will an impossibility.

**SCAR TISSUE OF THE SOUL** – Synonymous with "hardness of heart" in Scripture, scar tissue is formed by the influence of evil on both the left and right lobes of the soul. Blackout of the soul originates in the left lobe; scar tissue in the right lobe. Scar tissue prohibits doctrine from circulating in the stream of consciousness. The ability to utilize the frame of reference and memory center as a source of doctrine evaporates. The rate of forgetting exceeds the rate of remembering doctrine. Doctrine is no longer fed into the vocabulary to develop doctrinal categories. Norms and standards degenerate. Momentum halts. All spiritual functions shut down. This is the prelude to the sin unto death. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**SELF-INDUCED MISERY** – The believer outside the divine dynasphere cannot be distinguished from the unbeliever, except that divine discipline compounds the believer’s self-induced misery. The believer who rejects God’s game plan still belongs to the royal family and will live forever in heaven, but his own negative decisions make his life on earth inferior to the life of the genuinely humble unbeliever ... We must never allow one sin to become the cause of another and another in a subjective chain reaction. After perfect God has forgiven us, a guilt complex or self-pity or a “root of bitterness springing up” must be classified as nothing but a devastating mental attitude sin, a prime cause of self-induced misery. By understanding and applying the powerful doctrines that underlie the simplicity of the rebound technique, we are able to prevent the now-forgiven sin from igniting another sin. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**SEPARATION** – As a believer, you are commanded to separate from those who are in perpetual sin or from those who cause you to react and sin yourself. This separation can be mental, if the person is a spouse or member of your family, and you are able to keep from sinning mentally or verbally. If this is impossible, your Christian life is of paramount importance, so physical separation to one extent or another (from simple avoidance to outright departure) is warranted until you are strong enough to withstand the impetus to sin when in their presence.

**SERVANT KINGS** – Believers are to become servant kings. That is our destiny. The prophets often called this destiny ‘salvation’, but it is not a salvation from hell, but the glorious privilege of reigning with Messiah in the final destiny of man. In the eternal plan, only those who strive to be servants NOW can qualify for this great future privilege THEN. All Christians are not servants, but only those who are will be great in the kingdom. Only those sons who are “sons indeed” will be co-heirs with their coming King in the final destiny of man. Many who have begun lives of discipleship have not persevered. They risk forfeiture of this great future. However, those who are obedient and dependent servants NOW and who persevere in discipleship to the final hour will be among Christ’s servant kings in the thousand-year kingdom of the Son of Man. All Christians will be in the kingdom, but tragically not all will be co-heirs there. (J. Dillow)

**SESSION** – Jesus’ ascension means that He is now seated at the right hand of the Father: Jesus Himself predicted this in His statement before the high priest (Matt. 26:64). The session at the Father’s right hand was referred to by Peter in his Pentecost sermon (Acts 2:33-36) and before the council (Acts 5:31). It is also mentioned in Eph. 1:20-22, Hebrews 10:12, 1 Peter 3:22, and Rev. 3:21 and 22:1. The significance of all this is that the right hand is the place of distinction and power. Jesus’ sitting at the right hand of God should not be interpreted as a matter of rest or inactivity. It is a symbol of authority and active rule. The right hand is also the place (Heb. 7:25) where Jesus is ever making intercession with the Father on our behalf. (M. Erickson)

**SEXUAL PROSPERITY** – The perfect example of this blessing from God is that of Abraham, whose sexual apparatus was revived in extremely old age – both for the propagation of children and for his enjoyment.

**SG2** – Paragraph SG2 (Supergrace Two) includes five categories of blessings: (1) spiritual blessings of occupation with Christ, sharing the happiness of God, capacity for life and love, and the inner resources from Bible doctrine to meet every exigency of life; (2) temporal blessings in various areas of prosperity which may include professional prosperity, social prosperity, romantic prosperity, mental prosperity, health prosperity, leadership prosperity, etc.; (3) blessing by association to those in the periphery of the supergrace believer; (4) historical blessing to the nation – the supergrace or ultrasupergrace believer becomes the spiritual ‘Atlas’ holding up his generation of history; (5) dying blessing, a period of supreme inner peace and happiness prior to or coterminous with death.

**SG3** – Paragraph SG3 (Supergrace Three) contains the surpassing grace rewards and blessings over and above the usual blessings reserved for all believers in phase three. “In order that in the ages to come [phase three] He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness [generosity] toward us in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:7)” When a believer possesses supergrace or ultrasupergrace capacity, God pours out fantastic blessings which glorify Him in time and eternity. Spiritual maturity is the goal for every believer. Here, you reap what God sows, not what you sow. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**SHARING THE HAPPINESS OF GOD** – The mature believer’s “completed state of happiness” includes sharing God’s happiness, becoming spiritually self-sustaining, receiving supergrace blessings, and being appointed to the highest order of royal family knighthood. It is a result of knowing God and being inculcated by His thinking, as revealed in Bible doctrine. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**SHEKINAH GLORY** – During the Age of Israel, the preincarnate Jesus Christ as the Shekinah Glory dwelt in the Tabernacle or Temple. The Shekinah Glory appeared as a cloud by day or a pillar of fire by night, as well as a bright light over the ark of the covenant. In the present Church Age the Holy Spirit creates a temple in the body of the believer for the indwelling Christ as the Shekinah Glory. The indwelling of Jesus Christ as the Shekinah Glory is a guarantee of the believer’s security, spiritual riches, and sanctified position (Gal. 2:20) that make attainable the purpose of the spiritual life. That purpose is the glorification of God in our bodies (1 Cor. 6:20). While the indwelling Shekinah is invisible, His reflected glory is seen through the Church Age believer who advances to supergrace. For the reversionist the indwelling of Christ has no effect; there is no reflection of glory. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**SIGNS** - Signs were unique events, miracles or warnings designed to alert a nation and awaken it to its spiritual need.

**SIN NATURE** – An integral part of every human being which resides in the cell structure of the human body. The sin nature was acquired originally by Adam at this fall and is subsequently passed down genetically to all mankind through procreation. The consequences are spiritual death and total depravity of all humanity, except Jesus Christ. The sin nature is composed of an area of strength, an area of weakness, trends toward legalism or antinomianism, and lust patterns. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**SIN OFFERING** – The sin offering was for the congregation, the priest, the ruler and for individuals. Different animal sacrifices were required for different people, e.g., bullocks, goats, and lambs. The purpose of the sin offering was to cover unknown sins and to cleanse from all unrighteousness.

**SINS OF THE TONGUE** – This is a category of sin that carries a double dose of discipline – once for the mental sins that arise and another for voicing the result of those mental sins to another. Examples of sins of the tongue are maligning, slandering, backbiting, gossiping, arguing, vituperation, verbal brawling, and judging.

**SIN UNTO DEATH** – The sin unto death is the means by which the reversionistic believer transfers from time to eternity (1 John 5:16; Psalm 118:17-18). He is removed from phase two under the administration of maximum punitive punishment without benefit of dying grace. The sin unto death involves a painful, horrible, miserable death as well as loss of blessing, both in time and eternity. The sin unto death is God’s greatest and last expression of divine punishment to the reversionistic believer. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**SOCIAL LIFE** – Social life with other Christians can be a good thing, but it is not the fellowship spoken of in the Bible. Whether you are “wining or dining” with believers or unbelievers, social life is just social life.

**SOTERIOLOGY** – This term comes from the Greek word “soter” which refers to salvation or deliverance. Soteriology is the doctrine (or study of) Christian salvation.

**SOUL RAPPORT** – Social life between believers who share the same doctrinal framework in their soul.

**SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD** – God is sovereign over this world, over every person and event, as every believer knows when he prays. You recognize that God is the author and source of all the good that you hope for in the future. When we are on our knees, we know that it is not we who control the world. It is not in our power, therefore, to supply our needs by our own independent efforts. Every good thing that we desire for ourselves and for others must be sought from God, and will come, if it comes at all, as a gift from His hands. This is also true of our salvation. You give God thanks for your conversion, because you know in your heart that God was entirely responsible for it. You did not save yourself; He saved you. (J.I. Packer)

**SPIRITUAL ADVANCE** – Believers during the Church Age dispensation only advance in the spiritual life by the consistent intake, metabolization and application of Bible doctrine in the filling of the Spirit. Any other attempt to please God outside of this system, His system, is rejected by the Supreme Court of Heaven.

**SPIRITUAL AUTONOMY** – Success in handling the pressures of providential preventative suffering dramatically increases the believer's confidence in God. As a result, legitimate self-confidence also grows. The believer becomes keenly aware of belonging to God's protocol plan and of possessing tremendous divine assets that work in time of crisis or tranquility. Occupation with Christ and sharing the happiness of God cause the believer with spiritual autonomy to conduct himself with confidence, graciousness, and unshakable poise. Characteristics of a believer in spiritual autonomy are: continuation of contentment, perpetuated mental stability, impersonal love for all mankind, cognitive self-confidence, grace orientation to life, doctrinal orientation to reality, greater decisions from a position of strength, personal control of one's life, a personal sense of destiny, command of self, qualification for momentum testing, and attainment of a new phase of the unique life. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**SPIRITUAL FATIGUE** – There will be days when we become despondent, when we lose courage and want to give up the Christian life. Despondency is one of the first signs of the loss of fellowship. What it really means is that you have exited the divine system and are no longer communing with your best friend, Jesus Christ. The goal is for every believer to realize that their spiritual fatigue is due to being out of fellowship, and that they need to confess their sins to God and reenter the divine system. Continual residence and function in the cosmic system "tires" the soul. The believer who is stuck in this rut becomes discouraged in life and loses heart. He reacts to the circumstances and people in his life from a position of weakness instead of strength. He becomes frustrated, bored, lonely for "someone who understands him," and almost always ends up in a pity party. He is no longer the cheery person everyone knows and loves. These are warning signs for the fatigue of reversionism.

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS** – Spiritual gifts are divinely given capacities to perform useful functions for God, especially in the area of service. (John Walvoord) Throughout the Church Age, God the Holy Spirit sovereignly bestows spiritual gifts at the moment of salvation. Totally apart from human merit, ability, or talent, spiritual gifts operate on divine power, not on human energy. Therefore, the spiritual gift remains unexploited until the believer has begun to grow. When he reaches spiritual adulthood, his gift functions fully and effectively - even if he is unaware that his activities involve a spiritual gift. The only gifts that demand special preparation in order to function properly are the communication gifts, particularly the gift of pastor-teacher, and certain gifts of administration. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**SPIRITUAL HAPPINESS** – Believers who (a) live in continuous fellowship with the Lord, i.e. filled with the Spirit, (b) study the Word on a regular basis, and (c) are able to apply what they have learned from the Word of God to life - reach a stage of Christian growth where they are spiritually happy, i.e. sharing the happiness of God. Very few believers truly attain to this state of happiness, because it requires a substantial amount of Bible doctrine in the soul.

**SPIRITUAL MATURITY** – Maturity, the goal of the Christian's life, is achieved through steadfastness in the sphere of the Holy Spirit's power, where the believer acquires capacity for life, for love, for happiness, for "greater grace" or supergrace beyond God's faithful sustenance of all believers. The superior quality of the mature believer's life is a testimony to divine grace. God can prosper the mature believer with a maximum expression of grace because he has the capacity to appreciate God's blessings without forgetting their source. The mature believer approaches life from the divine viewpoint, which is manifested in discernment, thoughtfulness toward people, the ability to astutely interpret current trends of history, spiritual common sense, and poise in all circumstances. Characteristics of spiritual maturity are: maximum contentment, mental stability, maximum use of virtue-love as a problem-solving device, cognitive independence, maximum grace-orientation to life, maximum doctrinal orientation to reality, the greatest decisions in life from a position of maximum strength, maximum control of one's life, maximum dynamics

in living, escrow blessings, qualification for evidence testing, and attainment of the final phase of the unique life. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**SPIRITUAL MOMENTUM** – Spiritual momentum is perception and application of Bible doctrine, our door to the reality of God and His marvelous plan. Our attitude toward doctrine IS our attitude toward God. If we pursue doctrine, we love God; if we listen to Bible teaching only at our convenience or when we are in trouble, then we ignore and insult God, despite our pious pretenses. The one form of worship that gives meaning to all other expressions of worship is the perception and application of doctrine. Without a thorough, growing knowledge of doctrine, any alleged worship of God becomes ritual without reality. Divine blessings in both time and eternity are distributed according to the believer's understanding of doctrine. As we grow in knowledge of doctrine, i.e. spiritual momentum, we become personally familiar with the Lord Jesus Christ. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**SPIRITUAL PROSPERITY** – True spiritual prosperity in life is divine and only comes from maximum Bible doctrine in the soul. Examples of spiritual prosperity in time are perfect happiness, grace orientation, temporal success, fame, fortune, loving spouse, promotion, being a blessing to others, having an historical impact, stability under pressure, and occupation with Jesus Christ in His Word.

**SPIRITUAL RAPPORT** – Our spiritual rapport is with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All three members of the Trinity indwell the believer, but only the mature believer knows of their presence. It takes many years and a complete systematic theology in your soul to be able to enjoy the pinnacle blessings related to spiritual rapport. If and when you grow to this level, you may share this rapport with other believers who have advanced with you.

**SPIRITUAL SELF-ESTEEM** – Human self-esteem is an elusive and flimsy substitute for what man really needs and what God in His grace has provided: spiritual self-esteem. Spiritual self-esteem is based on who and what God is, not on who and what man is. It stands on God's absolute integrity, not on man's unstable character. The Christian achieves spiritual self-esteem by faithfully learning and applying Bible doctrine, by advancing step by step within God's protocol system. The believer's self-confidence is not derived from self (psychological counterfeit) but from knowing that he has a unique relationship with the God of the universe. God has made available to us Bible doctrine and the delegated omnipotent power of all members of the indwelling Trinity to reach the stage of spiritual self-esteem. Characteristics of spiritual self-esteem are: the beginning of contentment, mental stability, composure marked by self-assurance, grace orientation to life, doctrinal orientation to reality, good decisions from a position of strength, the beginning of personal control of one's life, the use of spiritual self-esteem as a problem-solving device, the beginning of a personal sense of destiny, post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation, command of self, a new attitude toward life, qualification for providential preventative suffering, and attainment of the first phase of the unique life. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**STANDING** – The believer's standing, or position, is the result of the work of Christ, and is perfect and entire from the very moment that Christ is received by faith. The weakest, most ignorant, most infirm and fallible man on earth, if he is a true believer on the Lord Jesus Christ, has precisely the same title (standing) as the most illustrious saint. Positionally, the believer has perfect standing forever. (C.I. Scofield)

**STATE** – The believer's state, or condition, is quite different than his unchanging standing. It was not all at once that he became as royal, priestly, and heavenly in walk as he was at once in standing. The believer is given the highest possible standing, and is then exhorted to live (maintain) a state in accordance with that standing. The beggar is lifted up from the dunghill and set among princes, and then exhorted to be princely. Experientially, the believer has a state or character of walk in life that goes up-and-down depending on the quality of daily decisions. (C.I. Scofield)

**STRATEGIC VICTORY** – Christ's strategic victory over Satan was achieved through death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and session.

**SUBSTITUTION** – The necessity for substitution arises out of the righteous and holy demands of a righteous and holy God that sinners should be punished for their sins. A holy and righteous God must execute the sentence which He had decreed upon sin. When Adam sinned and entailed the whole race in his sin, and when by imputation the sin of Adam was placed to the account of the race, it was necessary that God judge sin and that sinners be punished because of their transgressions. God found a way whereby He might be just, and at the same time the Justifier – Jesus Christ was provided as our Substitute. He took the sins of His people upon Himself on the cross; He paid the penalty for us. God’s judgment was meted out upon Him, and now He can receive us through Jesus Christ. (J. Pentecost) The substitution was completely accomplished for those that it was intended for: His elect, His sheep. It was not a hypothetical substitution waiting for man to provide his part. It was not a synergistic effort; it was done in total without any input from man. The Greek word “huper” in the Genitive case often provides the idea of substitution, being translated “on behalf of” or “in place of.”

**SUFFERING FOR BLESSING** – In order to grow spiritually in God’s plan, growth requires periodic suffering. This suffering for the purpose of blessing draws upon the believer’s reservoir of doctrine, exercising and increasing his inner strength. Bible doctrine is spiritual nourishment; suffering for blessing is spiritual exercise. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

**SUPERGRACE** – A combination of Greek superlatives represent the “much more” or “super-abounding” grace that has been provided for us in salvation (positional), and which are available to us by living the Christian way of life, growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (experiential). There are blessings and rewards, both in time and eternity, for growing to spiritual maturity, i.e. fulfilling our spiritual destiny. Believers are supplied by God with everything they need to advance into the greater spheres of grace: supergrace A (spiritual self-esteem), supergrace B (spiritual autonomy), and ultra-supergrace (USG: spiritual maturity). You never stand still in the Christian life! Either you progress into supergrace or you retrogress into reversionism, depending on whether or not you continue to listen to and metabolize Bible doctrine. Supergrace status is God’s standard for the spiritual life, the correct exercise of the believer’s royal priesthood, and the place of glorifying God. The supergrace nomenclature is derived from the literal Greek of James 4:6: “But He gives a greater grace [superior or supergrace].” The believer who seizes and holds the high ground of spiritual maturity receives the blessings of two special paragraphs that were written into the plan of God specifically for him. I have labeled these paragraphs SG2 (supergrace and ultrasupergrace) and SG3 (surpassing grace).

## T

**TAXATION** – During the dispensation of Israel, there was no such thing as separation between Church and State. What is commonly called “tithes” were in reality income taxes, used to support the nation and the Levitical system. (LWB) The view that Christians are required to give at least ten percent of their income lacks adequate support from the biblical data. This is not to say that Christians are not required to give, but that no Scripture commands a certain percentage as the minimum giving requirement ... The relationship between the Mosaic Law and the new covenant does not support a mandated tithe for Christians ... The tithe’s function in the Mosaic Law was connected to the Temple and Sacrifices ... It must be clear that it belonged, in conjunction with the whole system of giving and offering, to the dispensation of shadows, and that it therefore has lost its significance as an obligation of giving under the new dispensation. (Kostenberger & Croteau)

**TESTING** – God places obstacles in our race of life, intended to further our inner development, to strengthen our spiritual muscles, to give us opportunities for victory, and to help us to be more transformed in character and conduct, into practical accordance with the holy nature of the eternal goal. Every time we stand the test, we further our spiritual progress. Tests are seeds to bring forth the fruit of peace and righteousness. This growth in sanctification increases our joy. God works in us a practical righteousness of life and walk by providing us with periodic testing. (Erich Sauer)

TITHES – see Taxation.

TOTAL INABILITY (DEPRAVITY) – To say that man is totally depraved is to say he is dead in trespasses and sins and can do nothing to save himself. To say man has total inability is to say his will is enslaved to sin and cannot make a positive decision to embrace Christ without supernatural assistance from the Holy Spirit. Total depravity explains the troubles in our world. It also teaches us that we are thoroughly bad and in a terrible state of affairs unless God helps us. And it also teaches that if a person has a desire to ask God to help him, it is only because it is God who is working within him to will and to do according to His good pleasure. (E. Palmer)

TRINITY – There are three distinct Persons, and the being of each Person is equal to the whole being of God ... Christian theology has come to use the word *person* to speak of these differences in relationship, not because we fully understand what is meant by the word *person* when referring to the Trinity, but rather so that we might say something instead of saying nothing at all. (W. Grudem) The Trinity is a theological word used to describe the co-equal and co-eternal unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The phrase “Three in One” is sometimes used to express this unity, i.e. one God in three Persons. Sharing the divine attributes (divine essence) is what creates this trinity.

TRITHEISM – The belief that there are three gods. An exaggerated stress on the three persons of the Trinity can, it is claimed, lead to a belief that there are three gods, not one. (R. Letham)

TRUTH – The Bible is God’s Word, and God’s Word is the ultimate definition of what is true and what is not true: God’s Word is itself truth. Thus we are apt to think of the Bible as the ultimate standard of truth, the reference point by which every other claim to truthfulness is to be measured. Those assertions that conform with Scripture are “true” while those that do not conform with Scripture are not true. What then is truth? Truth is what God says, and we have what God says in the Bible.

TYPOLOGY – A method of interpretation distinguished from allegorical interpretation, which affirms the historical meaning of the text but also notes that entities (people, objects, events) mentioned in the text prefigure subsequent and corresponding entities (for example, King David is viewed as a “type” of Christ). (Moises Silva)

## U

ULTRA-SUPERGRACE – The third and final phase of supergrace which occurs after passing evidence testing in gate 8 of the divine dynasphere. This phase is characterized by glorifying God to the absolute maximum.

ULTIMATE SANCTIFICATION – This is a theological term for the future glorification of believers in resurrection bodies.

UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT – An unconditional covenant has no conditions for the recipient to meet. The recipient does not have to show obedience or faithfulness to receive the provisions of the covenant or contrast. Unconditional covenants are confirmed by the unqualified oath of God. Even apostasy does not destroy the covenant. All of Israel’s covenants were unconditional except for the Mosaic Covenant. (J. Walvoord)

UNIFORM OF GLORY – White garments in Rev. 3:4-5 refers to a reward God has provided for believers who fulfill His plan. The uniform of glory is a translucent garment worn over the resurrection bodies of those believers who execute the unique spiritual life of the Church Age. It indicates that they made the great investment of Bible doctrine in the soul. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

UNIVERSALIST – This theory holds that because Christ died “for everybody” on the cross, then everybody will ultimately go to heaven. Universalists do not believe in hell.

## V

VESSELS OF HONOR & DISHONOR – Within the house of God are two types of vessels of mercy. There are vessels of honor and dishonor. Vessels of honor are those Christians who grow in grace and knowledge on earth and will receive rewards in eternity. Vessels of dishonor are those Christians who were saved, but who lived life in carnality, slaves to some facet of satan’s cosmic system.

VESSELS OF MERCY – Those of us who are saved are called vessels of mercy prepared for glory by God. We were made vessels of mercy by the sovereign grace of God. (Donald G. Barnhouse)

VESSELS OF WRATH – Those who are not saved and who will spend eternity in torment are called vessels of wrath. There is no hint that vessels of wrath can be otherwise; and there has never been a case where one of them would if they could, or could if they would. (Keith Lamb)

VIRGIN BIRTH – Jesus’ conception in the womb of Mary was not the result of sexual relationship. Mary was a virgin at the time of the conception, and continued so up to the point of birth, for the Scripture indicates that Joseph did not have sexual intercourse with her until after the birth of Jesus (Matt. 1:25). Many became pregnant through a supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit upon her, but that does not mean that Jesus was the result of copulation between God and Mary. It also does not mean that there was not a normal birth. (Millard Erickson)

VIRTUE LOVE – The believer must possess virtue, honor, and integrity (from having maximum Bible doctrine in his soul and being able to apply that doctrine to experience) before he has the capacity to love God or man. The only way to manufacture virtue love is inside God’s protocol plan for the Christian way of life. You do not “practice love,” but you start with learning doctrine, which builds virtue and the capacity for true love by means of the Holy Spirit. (R.B. Thieme, Jr.)

## W

WALK BY THE SPIRIT – Walking in the Spirit means to depend upon the Spirit to lead and guide you in the Christian life. It depends upon a positive attitude of reliance upon the presence and power of the indwelling Spirit. It has two negative conditions: (1) not grieving the Spirit by willfully refusing to confess sin, and (2) not quenching the Spirit by saying “No” to God. It also has one positive condition: yielding or allowing the Spirit to work in your life. (L.S. Chafer)

WINNERS – Believers who attain supergrace status while on earth and who will reign during the Millennium and throughout eternity based on their spiritual attainments on earth.

WONDERS - Wonders were unique events that attracted attention to the person of Christ; their purpose was not to warn a nation of spiritual need, but rather to evangelize.

WORD OF GOD – A phrase that refers to several different things in the Bible, including the Son of God, the decrees of God, God’s words of personal address, God’s words spoken through human lips, and God’s words in written form, the Bible. It is this last form of the Word of God that is the focus of systematic theology, since it is the form that is available for study, for public inspection, for repeated examination, and as a basis for mutual discussion. (W. Grudem)

**X**

**Y**

**Z**