
Mind Freedom

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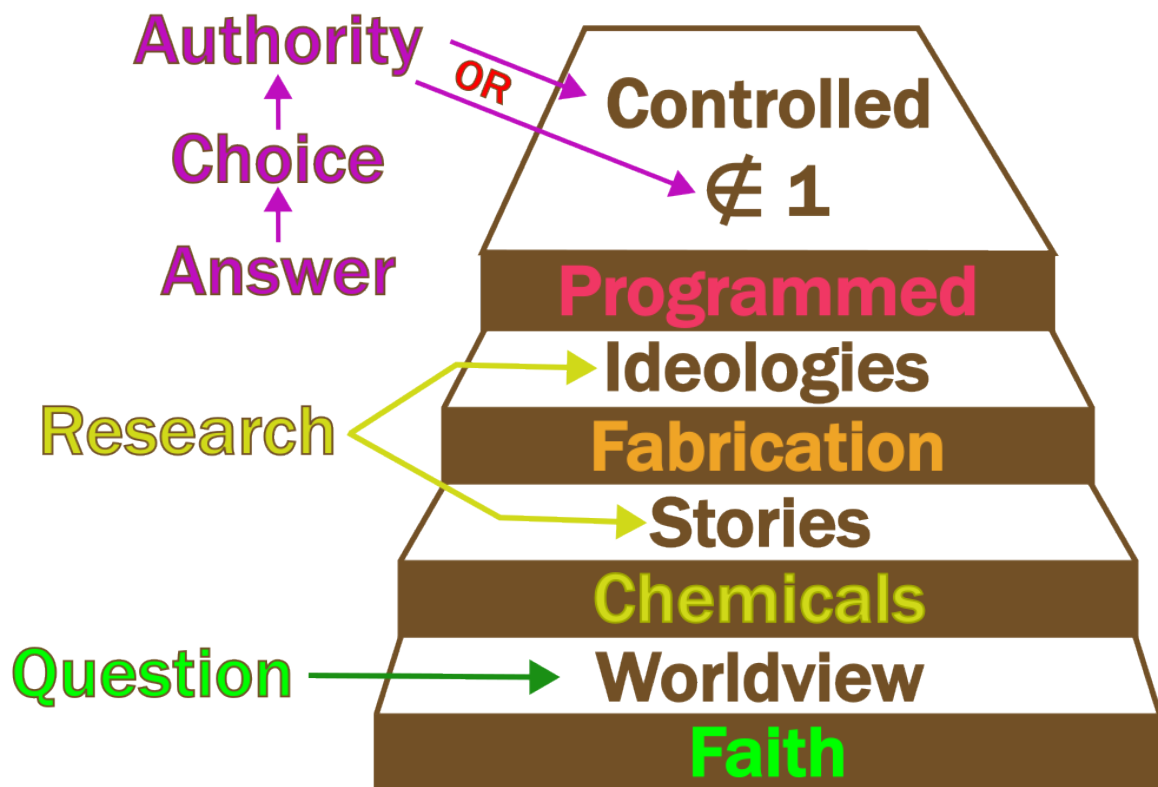
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Dr. Anthony “Baba Computer” Petrillo

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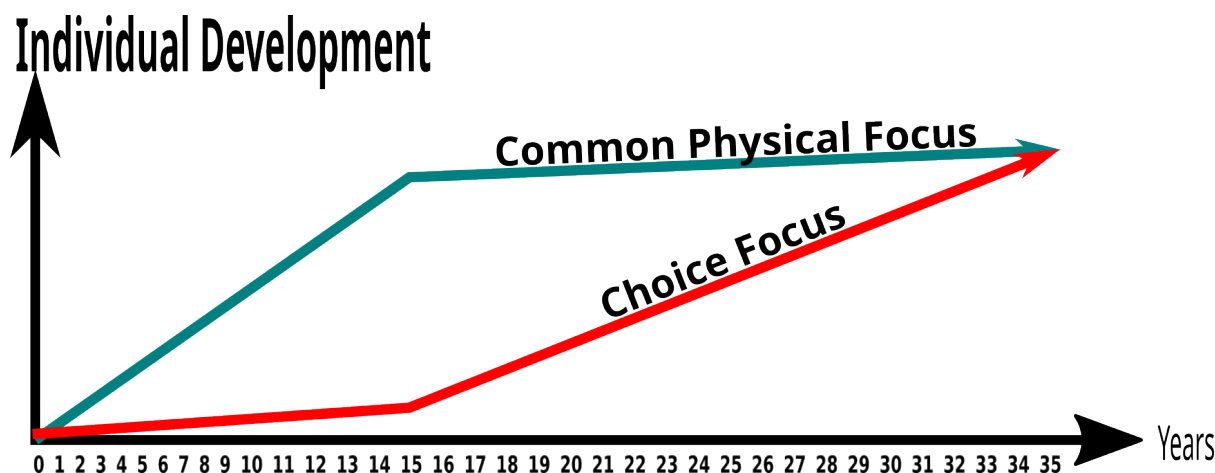
These are the core articles on how you can have mind freedom. They have been previously released under the title Mind Programming. You will find these articles incorporated into other works.

PREPARING FOR THE HILL OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS - QUESTION ALL AUTHORITY

- Talk Through

The first point I am going to make will probably strike you as strange. Typically we hear that we are to teach children that they are to respect their elders, which is true. And the idea of questioning authority in primary school should not be considered. Primary school students should learn to ask good questions, but not to question authority. However, at the secondary level students will question authority, and without guidance in the questioning process they will become rebellious. They are moving into adulthood. In fact, the idea of a teenager is a modern concept of the West that is harmful to healthy development, but that is a topic for another paper. Let's continue with understanding why we should help secondary school students and university students to question authority.

Studies and discussion on an individual's development focus on the first 15 or so years of a person's life because so much physical and psychological change happens during that time. Understanding these first 15 years help us to serve the person with learning at that stage of life. The steep incline (hill) shown in the color teal in the below graph shows us these first 15 years.



The development cycle does not stop in the teenage years. Physically the incline of the hill after the teenage years is very gradual but it continues.

The choices we make, shown in red on the graph, and the impact they have on us becomes very steep in our teen years. And it is even more important than the early development stage. Perry's Educational Model shows a shift of the teacher (and parent) from a role of "Authority as the source of 'Truth'" to a resource with specific expertise to share. [Perry] During the ages of 14 or 15 to 30 or 35 the person is making choices and developing their own faith structure. These years are absolutely critical. Keep in mind that everyone has faith. The problem is that most people have no idea where their faith is placed.

It behooves us to prepare our children to have a concrete plan on how they will climb this steep choice hill so that they can make their own choices and not be swept away by the current (as in river or flow) of the day.

To do this, we need to encourage our children to ask questions, even to question authority, even to question us. Yes, we want them to be that strong that they question everyone including Jesus Christ. Jesus promised that if we seek, we will find Him. The best thing you can do is to get students to honestly ask questions of Jesus Himself. He will answer them. This is particularly important if your child is going on to university where their professors will

assume the role of authority and if your child does not know how to challenge them and ask solid questions, they will be confused and controlled.

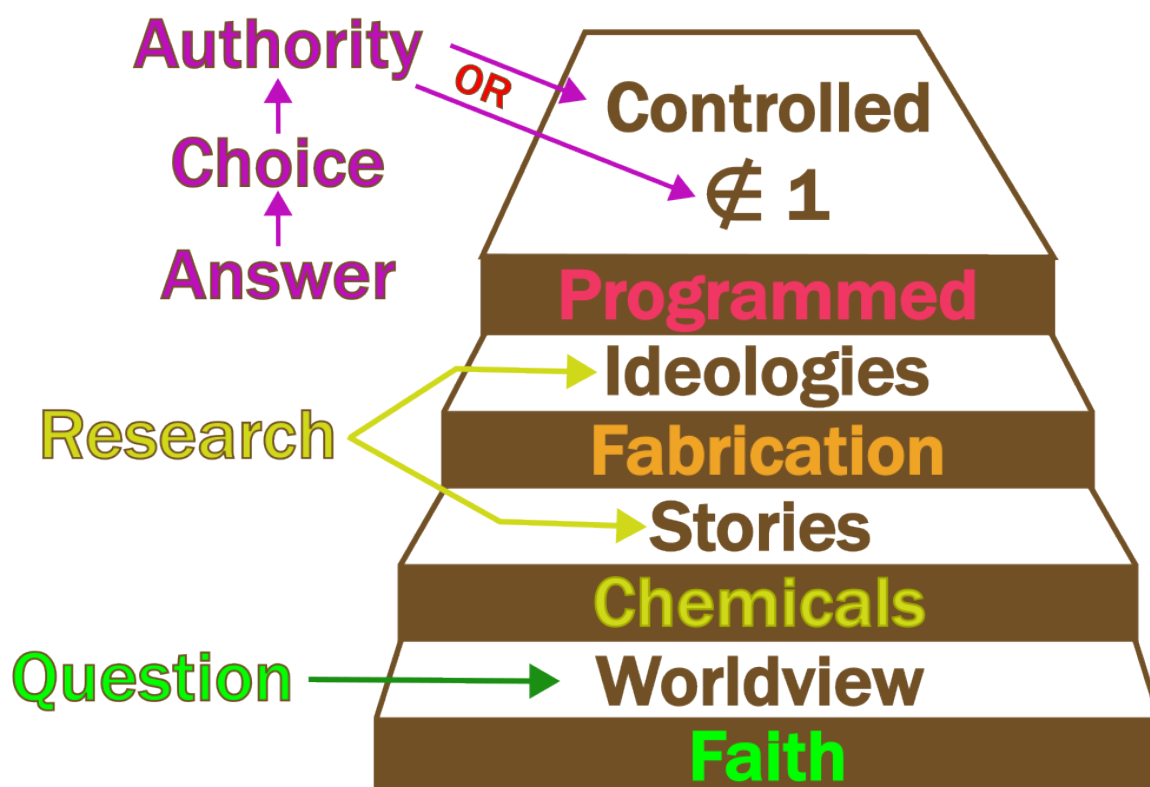
Not only should we encourage our children to ask questions, but we need to teach them how to ask questions and how to evaluate the answers they are given. *Finding Truth* by Nancy Pearcey is a good example of asking questions and discerning. However, this book is hard to get in Africa and some people find it difficult to understand. Please pray with us that TEN3 could develop material that could help secondary and tertiary teachers in this area. We have been praying this for years. As of June 2024, an African pastor has been called by God to take this project on. Please pray for this pastor. Keep in mind that all questions are not honestly looking for answers, but looking for excuse not to face an issue. Seeking is not a passive process. It is a very active action of looking for answers. Pray for others and yourself to have a heart that truly and honestly seeks.

Warning

Key Point: Teach your students to appropriately and honestly question authority.

[Perry] Source: http://perrynetwork.org/?page_id=2 . The quotes around Truth are in the article to emphasize they work under the fallacy that there is no Truth which Hegel (1770-1831) erroneously introduced.

FAITH IS A CHOICE FEW MAKE



“Faith, philosophy is a bunch of blah, blah,” at least that is how I felt as a university student. It is safe to say that is still the common feeling for many.

According to psychologist Mike Brooks “we exist to continue to exist.” “[What Is the Purpose of Life?](#)”

It is no wonder we disregard “philosophy.” However, Dr. Brooks has **good reasons** for coming to that conclusion. A good guess for the core reason is that Dr. Brooks has not analyzed his philosophy and faith. Hundreds of years ago we naively pushed faith under the rug as nothing to consider seriously.

If you think that, you could not be more deceived. **Faith is the most concrete** thing we have and philosophy helps us to understand it.

An article I wrote titled, “Faith’s a Choice Few Make!” will help you see why faith is concrete:

“Faith’s a Choice Few Make!” is a difficult sentence for us to understand.

Let’s start with the word “choice.”

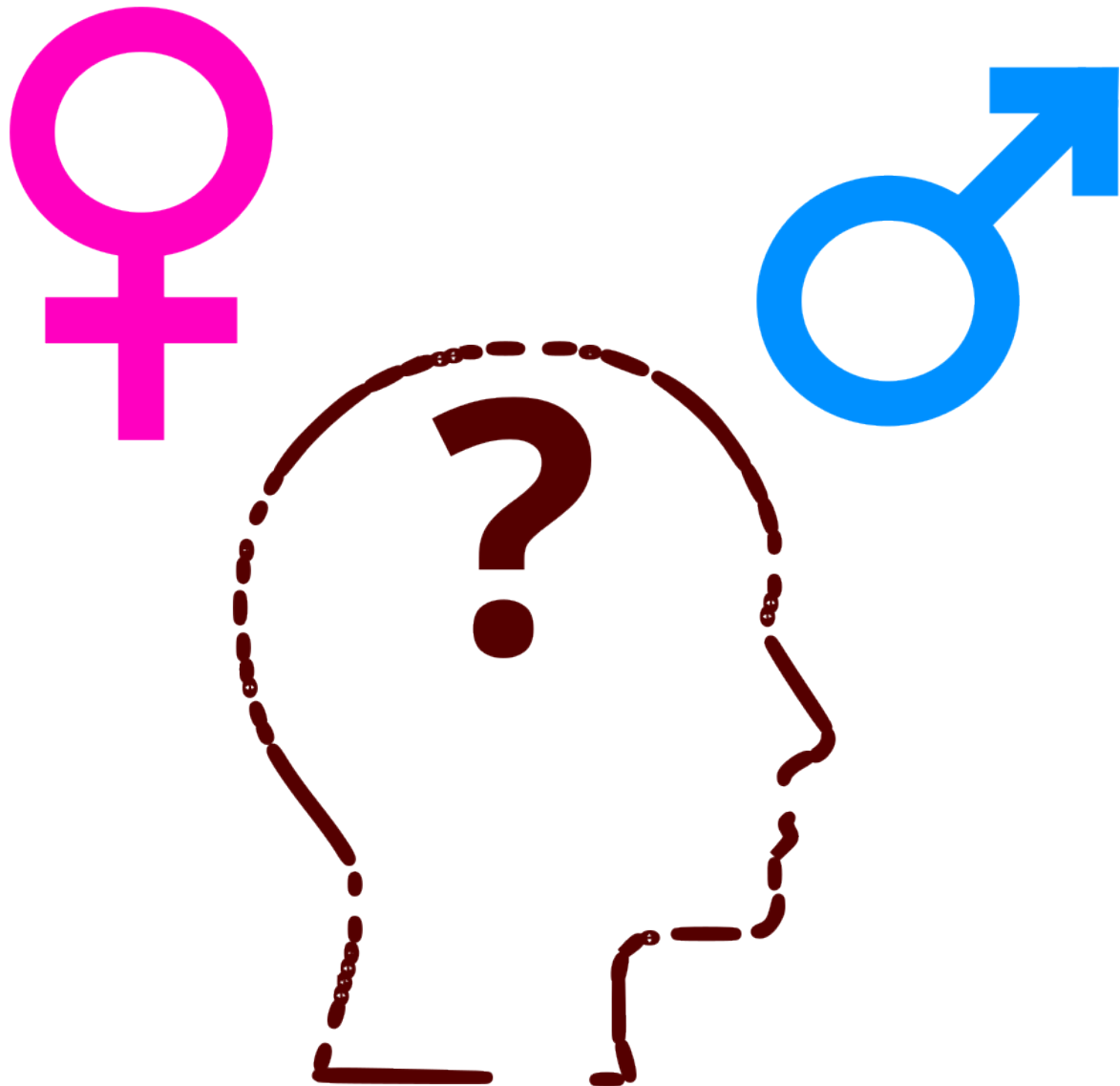
Do we make choices?



Did you choose what to eat today?

Sure you did.

It could have been to keep on a particular diet;
or it could have been what you felt like eating that, sweet or savory;
or maybe your sweetie took you out :-)



If you wonder if you make choices, Western society screams loud and clear that you have a choice when it comes to gender.

Whether or not you agree with gender choice, the point here is that we are told we have a choice - "it is what it is."

But is that what the philosophy you live by teaches? Probably not!

As we continue, we'll see that society gives us mixed messages on choice once again proving Martin Luther King Jr. correct observation about our society being schizophrenic.

What? How can I say your philosophy teaches we do not have a choice? I can say that because the vast majority believe or more appropriately *live* the prevalent philosophy which is advancing as the Internet advances. Hence, our society is schizophrenic as it says out of one side of its mouth we have a choice and out the other side we do not have a choice.

I say *live* instead of believe, because few people think about what they believe and they certainly do not ponder their philosophy.

Hold your breath and read this next paragraph. Don't worry, we'll unravel it.

At the end of the 20th Century two major ideologies (people's ideas, philosophy also often called worldview) were naturalism (in its different forms including scientism) and postmodernism. Yes, there are many other isms but those have been the big players helping to produce this century's Post-Truth philosophy.

Science focused itself on nature, the physical realm. Things like love were not physical so they became non-existent. In their philosophy, choice is just chemical reactions in our brain. We are not making the choice, we've evolved to be a machine that survives.

Postmodernism, which focuses on the reality of the individual and denies statements that claim to be true for all people, resisted naturalism and found a powerful home in the hearts of artists (media) and the humanities. The true postmodern thinker does not believe in choice either. They believe we are formed by our culture.

The truth is, oops can't use that word these days, well the fact is that they are both partially right. Chemical reactions have a big influence on us, as does culture. But they are not the only part or the whole story. Post-Truth is a mixture of these and other isms.

✖ Error

This is where people start fighting over their ideas. And things get all emotional, which is an important aspect of post-truth. The result is nothing but frustration. It doesn't have to be that way - continue reading to see why.

Let's come back to *Faith's a Choice Few Make!* and look at the word *Faith*.

For much of the 19th and 20th century the word *faith* was said with scorn by scientists. It couldn't be put in a test-tube and proved, so it was worthless and people that had faith were looked down on; it was just considered a crutch.

People argued over whether there was a God or not; whether there was a heaven or hell and so forth. Of course, this frustrated the scientist because these things couldn't be proved - that is, you cannot prove there is a God and you cannot prove there is not a God.

However, none of them were good scientists or social scientists or good lawyers for that matter. Why? Because they didn't consider their presuppositions (an assumption which arguments are based upon). Maybe they didn't think of it, but more likely they didn't want to face it.

There are only have a handful of questions that impact all the other decisions we make. **These are everyone's presuppositions.** They are:

- Where did we come from (aka creation)?
- Where are we going (aka heaven or back to dirt)?
- Why is the world so mess-up (hate, murder and war)?
- Is there anything that can be done about the mess?
- What is my part?

None of these can be answered in a test-tube.

Everyone's answer, scientist or not, is by faith!

That's right. Everyone puts their faith somewhere.

And here is the real slammer, the answers to these questions shape our entire life and how we think about everything.

For example, let's consider what students are taught in school about creation, it is evolution. Whereas, the Bible teaches us that God created the world. Abortion is a concrete result of the presupposition of evolution. Since we are just animals, then we are disposable. Yes, there can be a lot of different flavors for saying that, but the bottom-line is that people are just part of the larger machine and are expendable. Those that believe the Bible believe people are made in God images and are eternally valuable even worth laying down your life for. **That's a huge difference in outcome because of that presupposition.**

And, that is what happens in all aspects of life. When the presuppositions are wrong everything is askew (crooked, programmed wrong). The result is that our minds are not at peace (cognitive dissonance).

But, if it is all by faith, then we are stuck, right? Nope. We make presuppositions (assumptions) by considering the evidence. In other words, we are like good scientists or lawyers. We observe reality, or if you don't believe in reality then in what is going on around us, and we make our choice by what we see.

Now let's come back to *Faith's a Choice Few Make!* again and look at the words *Few Make*.

What? I'm not going to give you the answer for the presuppositions we all make?

Nope!

You see, most people just take what is given to them. They just follow the flow. This is a very sad fact of history. Most people do not make their own decisions! But one of the greatest, if not the greatest privilege we have, is to make choices. Yes, even people in countries where the government controls so much, they are making daily choices.

If you just listen to me, you are in a weak position. If I can encourage you to ask questions and make informed choices, then you will grow and if you are serious in your search you will find freedom and peace of mind.

It is up to you to question.

2.1 There Is No Reasoning without Faith

Since everyone takes their answers to the worldview questions by faith, faith is the most important thing we all have. If we do not understand the presuppositions we are making, we cannot understand why we think the way we do and our reasoning is not founded.

As computer science people, or just logic people, this just cannot be acceptable. Without understanding the presuppositions of code that we use, we cannot make workable programs. It is imperative for computer people, for all people, to honestly seek answers to life's five questions.

Personally, one of the things that really clicked when I saw that everything we think is built from how those five questions are answered is remembering the Euclidean geometry. Euclid described five postulates that are the foundation of geometry, Euclidean geometry to be specific. From these five postulates all the other geometry is defined. In other words, they are the basis of geometry and the foundation on which you stand, assuming you are standing in a building, for it is geometry that an architect uses to build things. We will look at this in more detail.

The Turing machine is another wonderful example of just a few commands allowing you to define everything that happens on the Internet. In fact, the phone or computer you are using to read this also has few commands at its heart from which everything else is defined.

Don't be swept away with the lie that these most important questions of life cannot be answered. Most people do not want to accept the answers, but they can be answered logically.

Further Reading:

- Pearcey, Nancy. 2005. Total Truth. Crossway Books. ISBN: 13: 978-1-58134-746-3.
- Pearcey, Nancy. 2010. Saving Leonardo. B&H Publishing Group. ISBN: 978-1-4336-6927-9.
- Pearcey, Nancy. 2015. Finding Truth. David C. Cook. ISBN: 978-0-7814-1308-4.

PICK YOUR PROGRAMMER

One of the hard parts about writing this book was realizing that we are all programmed and how much of the programming is buggy. A programmer hates a bug because it makes the computer malfunction.

As I write this book, I realize that the majority of people are now programmed to set this book down as soon as I start talking about truth or Jesus. I so want to put a “patch” at the beginning of the book to override that so everyone will get at least this far. There is no programming patch we can make to get past the filter that is built into our minds. And that is not the way God works. You see, the solution is **you**. You have read this far and if you read on, you’ll see how God can use you to help people pick the only One who can guide lives and give peace and freedom.

At this point I’ll reveal my hand. I’m not after you to think like I think or have me as your programmer or guide in life. Instead, let me share what George MacDonald points out:

“I believe that no teacher should strive to make people think as he thinks, but to lead them to the living Truth, to the Master Himself, of whom alone they can learn anything, who will make them in themselves know what is true by the very seeing of it. I believe that the inspiration of the Almighty alone gives understanding. I believe that to be the disciple of Christ is the end of being; that to persuade people to be His disciples is the end of teaching.”

George MacDonald, *Creation in Christ*

If I can encourage you to sit at the feet of Jesus Christ and learn directly from Him, you will be free indeed. And Jesus does not program you like everyone else does. He does not try to force you to think like He thinks. Instead, He reaches out His nailed-scarred hand and asks if you’d like to walk with Him. Never do I feel like I have to do this or that to please Jesus. Never do I think I have to be holy or perfect or merciful or gracious to please Jesus. Oh, I hunger to be those things and all Jesus has for me - righteousness, peace, joy - but I don’t think I HAVE to do them. Rather, I so WANT to be like that because Jesus loves me as I am; He always has and He always will. And it is that pure desire in our souls, along with the Holy Spirit, that continues to transform us back to the original design of perfection that God made us to be. And it is so sweet that each of us is unique, so we are not being transformed to be clones of Jesus but to be what was always meant for us to be.

The actual picking of your programmer is not complex. It is a choice.

It is a choice that makes us a “god.” Or, more accurately, choice (or will) is the key feature that says we are made in the image of God. There are other features, like creativity, but choice is the crowning honor God gave us.

Let me take you out of time. I do not use “before the beginning” because that makes no sense in that it is referencing time via the word before. We need to try, as impossible as it is, to step out of time and hold it as a created thing, like we consider soil and trees created things. Now that we are out of time and hence, out of creation, the only thing is the community of God, the one and only God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

God is omniscient which means He is all knowing. He knows that if He makes creatures with a free will some of them will want to be god themselves and will try to displace Him.

God has no needs, and yet for some reason way beyond my thoughts and abilities, He decides to create angles and people and all of creation.

Humor me for a moment as I try to think how this might have gone down:

Father: I have an idea.

Spirit: (with a smile) Be careful to just think it and not speak the words.

Father: (with a returning smile) Absolutely! Well, I was just thinking how wonderful it would be to share the love and fellowship we have among us. I was thinking we could create a universe, an amazing beautiful universe, where there would be spiritual beings, angels and people. They would be made in our image with the ability to choose good or evil.

Spirit: We know that they will rebel and decide to be their own god, defining right and wrong their own way. That will pollute them, making them unholy, and we will not be able to commune with them.

Son: Unless someone pays the price for their sin. Father, I am willing to pay the price!

As far off as this scene is, something similar to this happened, and I can't help but weep to think that the Father eventually relented and allowed the Son to march against Hell and defeat death at the cost of His own life to pay for my stinking sins.

Choice is costly. Choice is everything.

You do not need a spiritual encounter to choose to follow Jesus.

You do not need to know everything about Jesus to choose to follow Him.

But you do have to choose.

For some people it is that spiritual encounter, like the healing of a shriveled hand or the touch on your heart, that you know is the finger of God.

For others it is an intellectual pursuit for Truth. A hunger for answers to the questions which you honestly pursue and pray that you will find that Jesus Christ truly does have all the answers.

Jesus made a promise that if we seek Him we will find Him in Matthew 7:7-11. If you honestly desire true peace and true freedom, you will find it in Jesus Christ, guaranteed. But, you must seek Him.

It is wonderful how, if we pursue this path, the Holy Spirit will help us. We are not on our own.

Again, your programming is probably kicking in with things like "how can a reasonable person believe this stuff?" My challenge is: Do you know how you are programmed? If you did, what I'm saying will challenge you.

The rest of this book includes some gems I picked up along the way that I believe could be helpful to you.

AI & QUANTUM COMPUTING

Two of the big “buzz” words today are AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Quantum Computing.

What are these magics?

In their simplest form, AI is the copy of the neural process of the brain in an attempt to duplicate intelligence. We are having amazing success including robots. These short youtube gives an overview of the progress [full functional female robots](#) and [love robots](#)

Quantum computing is making computers with inconceivable speed that can do things in minutes that take years for today’s computers to do it. In December 2023, 60 Minutes did a nice [short overview](#) . The overview ended with the narrator saying, of all the amazing things we heard, it was physicist Michio Kaku who lead us down the path to the biggest idea of all. He said, (as they walked down a wooded path) we were walking through a quantum computer processing information with subatomic particles is how the universe works. “When I look at the night sky, I see stars. I look at the flowers, the trees, I realize that it’s all quantum, the splendor of the universe itself. The language of the universe is the language of the quantum.” It concluded with: “Reverse engineering nature’s computer could be a window on creation itself.”



There is no question on whether or not we will develop machines smarter than ourselves. With the Internet now functioning in real time, as 5G is called, the machines we make will have an entire world of data available to them to make their decisions. It reminds me of what H. G. Wells said in 1937 in *A Short History of the World* :

Can we doubt that presently our race will more than realize our boldest imaginations, that it will achieve unity and peace, and that our children will live in a world made more splendid and lovely than any palace or garden that we know, going on from strength to strength in an ever-widening circle of achievement? What man has done, the little triumphs of his present state form but the prelude to the things that man has yet to do.

It reminds me of the old adage, “The sky is the limit” which is considered by some to have originate in a time of optimism in the USA before World-War I, but one cannot wonder if the person that wrote that was thinking of the Tower of Babel:

1 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. 6 And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” 8 So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Genesis 11:1-9

God, Himself, said that we are wonderfully made. There is no doubt we will continue to do amazing things. In fact, science exists because Christians believed God had created an ordered world, one that we could study and learn to understand. This understanding is allowing us to do the great things we are seeing today.

If God made us so great, then why did he stop the people who were building the tower? We will get a better understanding of why over time, but for now H. G. Wells, thoughts after World War II in *A Mind at the End of Its Tether* (1946): help us to start getting an answer to the question:

The cold-blooded massacres of the defenseless, the return of deliberate and organized torture, mental torment, and fear to a world from which such things had seemed well nigh banished has come near to breaking my spirit altogether ... “Homo Sapiens,” as he has been pleased to call himself, is played out. [For a fuller explanation see Sin Considered by Tim Keller](#)

As confident as we can be about the great advances we will make with AI and Quantum Computing, we can also be sure that they will be misused to abuse and destroy people.

Why can we be so confident?

Because, we are all programmed. We will explore how that happens.

Realizing the negative can be a downer, but as we learn more you will find that there is Great Hope that shines brightly so we can face each day with Joy not discouragement.

BUILDER'S TRIANGLE



mile.

If you have a smartphone, please take it out and find other pictures of the tallest building in the world and show them to your neighbors.

If you do NOT have a smartphone, then please ooh and aah at your neighbor's phone, or more precisely, the pictures on their phone (unsupported character)



Or is it 3, Angeline, who is holding the phone?

To answer that, let's consider the "foundations" of each. (Pun intended for the skyscraper)

I read the following on the [Chace Building Supply](#) website:

"Do you remember the Pythagorean theorem ?

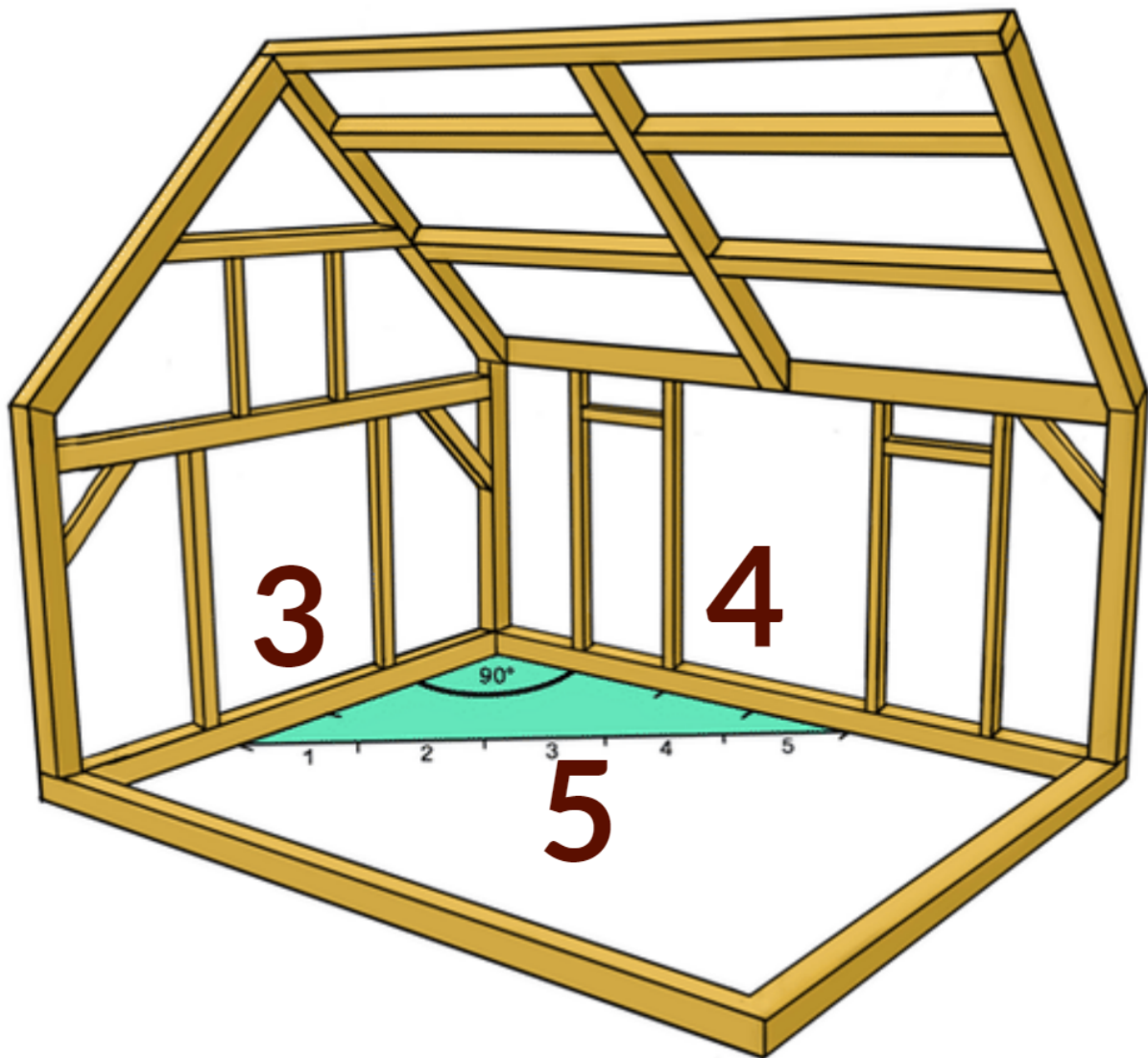
"Neither do I.

"But the 3:4:5 triangle is the builder's substitute for the Pythagorean theorem.

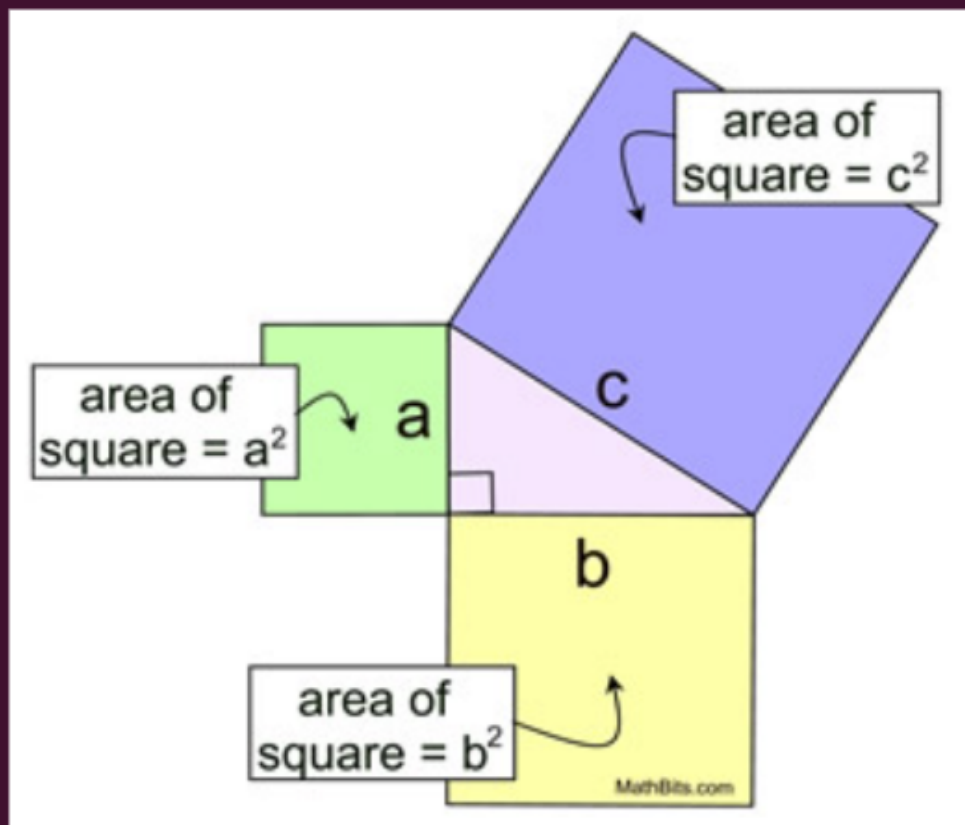
"The 3:4:5 triangle is the best way I know to determine with absolute certainty that an angle is 90 degrees.

"This rule says that if one side of a triangle measures 3 and the adjacent side measures 4, then the diagonal between those two points must measure 5 in order for it to be a right triangle.

"**Confused yet?**



source: ck12.org



MathBitsNotebook.com

For most of us it is
blah blah blah...

Builder's use the 3:4:5 triangle or a ratio of it, such as 6 feet by 8 feet by 10 feet to get a right angle to make sure your wall, or tile floor or back deck are "square".

In other words, in Euclidean Geometry they are using the Pythagorean theorem.

Partial Example of a Proof

“A blue right triangle, as shown, is copied and arranged in a manner that forms a large square (using its legs) and an inner square (using its hypotenuse)

“We can verify that the inner square is actually a square. We know that in a right triangle, the acute angles add to 90° . $m(\text{angle}) 1 + m(\text{angle}) 2 = 90$.

“Now, $m(\text{angle}) 1 + m(\text{angle}) 2 + m(\text{angle}) 3 = 180$ since the three angles for a straight line. Thus $m(\text{angle}) 3$ must be 90° , verifying...

For most of us, it is blah blah blah...

I only read a portion of one possible proof of the Pythagorean Theorem because my point is not to explain the theorem but to highlight that the proof is built on top of other proofs such as: “We know that in a right triangle, the acute angles add to 90° .” But how do they know that?

We need another proof to show that is true.

And that proof will built on other theorem's.

And for most of us, it gets confusing and we memorize the few things we find useful like the 3:4:5 triangle and forget the rest.

However, if you continue looking down to the next “lower” theorem, eventually you come to 5 postulates:

Euclid's Postulates:

1. Two points determine a line segment.
2. A line segment can be extended indefinitely along a line.
3. A circle can be drawn with a center and any radius.
4. All right angles are congruent.
5. If two lines are cut by a transversal, and the interior angles on the same side of the transversal have a total measure of less than 180 degrees, then the lines will intersect on that side of the transversal.

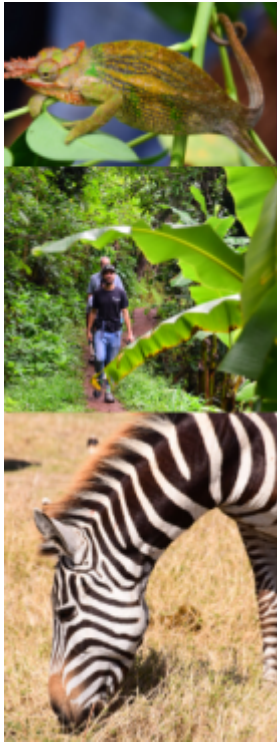
Postulates are statements that are assumed to be true without proof . Postulates serve two purposes: to explain undefined terms, and to serve as a starting point for proving other statements. Source: Basic Postulates & Theorems of Geometry, Mathematics at Texas A&M University

Try to let that sink in. In other words, what does this mean about our building process?

It means we build $\frac{1}{2}$ mile buildings on faith!

A scientist will say that it is “observational faith”. In others, the can “see” that a line segment can be extended indefinitely along a lone. That is where the assumption comes in sense we cannot see indefinitely to observe this postulate. Also, notice the similarity between postulate and presupposition which we encountered earlier.

Interestingly, observational faith is God's argument too:



Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world
God's invisible qualities—
his eternal power and divine nature—
have been clearly seen,
being understood from what has been made,
so that people are without excuse.

Source: David Roorbach

What do you enjoy about your phone or computer?

What amazes you about your phone or computer?

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A main point we want to make is that great things come down to a small number of presuppositions or postulates.

Since computers are so critical to us, let's consider a computer example too:

Turing's O-Machines, Jack Copeland

1. move the tape left one square;
2. move the tape right one square;
3. read (i.e. identify) the symbol currently under the head;
4. write a symbol on the square of tape currently under the head (after first deleting the symbol already written there, if any);
5. change state;
6. halt.

The Turing Machine is a theoretical machine. It can be shown with just those six commands everything you do on your phone and on the internet can be done. The designing the core commands a computer will have is a critical job. Modern computers have many more commands than six, but still they pick and choose a small set that will eventually let the machine do all the wonderful things you enjoy.

Programming has a building process like geometry. When there are troubles, you go back to lower levels to see if there is an error in your logic. This is a critical principle for a human. We will explore this more.

How we make our decisions also comes down to just five key decisions. The five decision are how we answer these five questions:

- How did we get here (aka creation)?
- Where are we going (aka heaven, back to dirt, becoming something else...)?
- Why is the world such a mess (hate, murder and war)?
- Is there anything that can be done about the mess?
- What is my part?

Yes, everyone answers those, even people who say, "I do not know." In that case, they take their cues/answers from someone else. We'll come back to that.

Here is a critical point: everyone answers those questions by faith. For example, the question "How did we get here?" is the question of creation. Christians say that God created the world. Many are taught that it was evolution. There is a faulty assumption that evolution is scientific and that this answer is not by faith. However, all five questions are totally answered by faith by everyone. No one was there when creation happened, so there is no way to prove it. However, there is a logical way to evaluate them. But, as Pascal and other great minds concluded:

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Logic leads to the door of Jesus but it is your heart that decides if you go in.

It is our desires that drive us, not our logic. It really comes down to what your true desires are.

One of the saddest things is that most people never take the time to think about their answers to these questions. They just accept what they are taught. Or they say we cannot know. But we can know!

Jesus used an interesting analogy to explain the people who follow a faulty worldview:

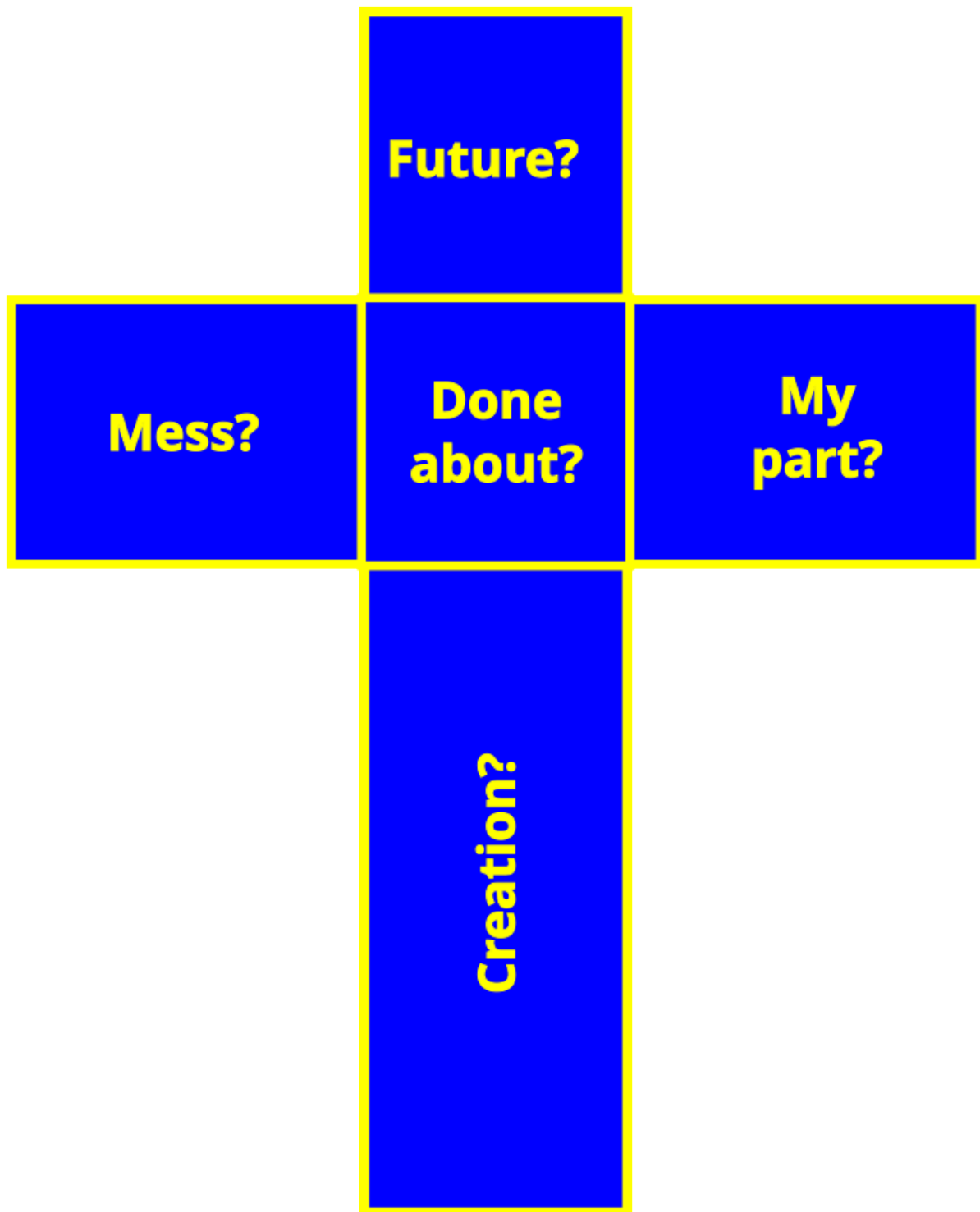
"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not

put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” Matthew 7:24-27

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Everything comes down to whether we believe Jesus or not!

This is why our Creator said in John 14:1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.” Jesus understands worldview and how we work!



Jesus challenges everyone to consider who He is.

Everything else stands on our view of creation. How we answer that first question shapes everything. Our view of God is critical. That is why the first commandment is to have no other gods before God. All the other commandments are built on that. In the same way, all our worldview is built from our understanding of God.

G.K. Chesterton pointed out that “people usually have ‘one of two things: either a complete and conscious philosophy or the unconscious acceptance of the broken bits of some incomplete and shattered and often discredited philosophy.’ He went on to note that it’s these broken bits of ideas that, when uncritically absorbed, do the most damage.” Ferrer 2019

One of our goals is for you to develop a complete and conscious philosophy, or in other words a thoroughly thought through worldview?

Does the word philosophy scare you?

Do you need to be a scholar to have the peace that surpasses comprehension as described in Philippians 4:7?

Our God is so Amazing!

A child can receive Him.

A scholar needs childlike faith to truly know Him.

Not childish faith, for Jesus Christ is the only reasonable worldview!

From here we will move to consider how to have a complete and conscious philosophy and how to apply as your teach your students and for your life in general.

Note, if it bothers you that we say Jesus is the only way, the only reasonable worldview, that is not a bad thing if you remember that we started explaining the Development Hill. Questions are good if answers are honestly pursued.

5.1 Five Major Worldview Categories

We will not overwhelm with a history of philosophy. We are including these list because we use these terms and want to give you a rough placement for the ideas. If you will want to learn more, we have included a recommended reading list.

The major worldviews can be categorized as:

1. Naturalism: atheism, agnosticism, existentialism
2. Pantheism: Hinduism, Taoism, Buddhism, New Age, Consciousness
3. Theism: Christianity, Judaism, Islam
4. Spiritism and Polytheism (includes thousands of religions)
5. Postmodernism and Secular Humanism (marked by skepticism and individualism) [source](#)

With the Internet there is much mixture of the worldviews. Another way to consider the groupings in a very general way is:

- Those that think we are machines controlled by chemical reactions; mainly from science.
- Those that think we are controlled by our cultural stories; mainly from the humanities.
- Those that mix these two together; much of this is from popular culture as found on the Internet; referred to as Post Truth.
- Jesus Christ, the objective Truth and Authority.

This larger blocking of the worldviews help us to consider the impact without being overwhelmed with the details between each worldview. This is good for getting the groundwork for understanding worldview. However, getting a more detailed understanding is always helpful in understanding why people feel and think they way to do. If we love people as we should, we want to understand them so that we may loving help them raise questions.

A STORY

Before we leave this topic of worldview, I would like to look at it from another angle because it is very important for us to understand and to address purposely. I have learned over time that when I use computer analogies, I lose some people. They think it is too technical. I also find when I use words like “worldview,” I lose people because they think I’m getting too philosophical. But everyone loves a good story.

I came to the conclusion some time ago that a culture is nothing more than a common set of shared stories, particularly the stories that are believed. It turns out that my observation is being validated by research on how the mind works. A current view is that the right hemisphere of the mind seems to have many processors (like powerful computers) that process the data we receive, such as what we see, feel, hear, and so forth. Meanwhile the left hemisphere is compiling a story.

“Stories, it turns out, are not optional. They are essential. Our need for them reflects the very nature of perceptual experience, and story telling is embedded in the brain itself (83).” In other words, deep down in us, a story is being built. You can call it a worldview or some other fancy thing, but it can be simply said that it is a story.

“Desperate to find order in the chaos and to infer cause and effect, the left hemisphere – in a module Gazzaniga dubs ‘the interpreter’ – tries to fit everything into a coherent story as to why a behavior was carried out. The brain takes information spewed out from other areas of the brain, the body, and the environment, and synthesizes it into a story. If there is not an obvious explanation, we fabricate” (83-84).¹

As you can see, we are not dealing with some extremely difficult philosophy or technical issue, but with something we have enjoyed from childhood – a story. This explains why God uses stories so often in communicating to us. It also explains why God’s story is so critical. People will fabricate things, make up a lie, to make the story make sense if they do not have a rational answer. It is very interesting that in the article Guber did just that. Because he cannot explain how the brain has this ability, he fabricated the idea that the brain evolved to this position. Any computer person that has done serious programming can tell you that this is an asinine fabrication.

The only way to make sense out of the story of life is to know the Truth. Jesus told us to believe in him. This is the essential thing we must do. The last couple of centuries have tried to undercut faith and trust as if they were insignificant. But as we learn more about how we work as humans, we see the most essential thing is what we believe. Jesus’ story is the most important fact in the entire world, and our students need to learn that so they may not fabricate. Instead, they need to see everything within the true story of God’s work in the world. By this they can have healthy lives, both now and for eternity!

¹ Gruber, Peter. “The Inside Story.” *Psychology Today*. April 2011. 79-84.

NEW TRIBES - BIBLE PROJECT

Many mission societies started in the 1800s* In the middle of the 1900s they were having large success as far as number of people coming to Christ, but the results were very discouraging because the people's lives were not being changed* The missionaries would tell the people about Jesus.

For some of the people, Jesus was just another god that they put on the shelf in their house with their other gods* But even for those that were not just adding Jesus to other gods, but trusted Him as their Savior and only God, their lives were still not changed* The missions didn't realize it then, but the issue was that they were not answering the five worldview questions from God's story.

In the 1970s New Tribes Mission reasoned that the only way for people to truly know and trust Jesus Christ and have no other gods was for them to have the complete story of God so their minds could be shaped by the Truth.

New Tribes changed the way they were working* They would go into new areas where the Gospel had not been preached and learn the language and culture* From there they would begin chronologically going through the Bible.

This meant that it would take years before they could present the Gospel* Some criticized New Tribes, questioning them about what happens when someone dies before they get to Jesus* New Tribes responded; Did no one die before Jesus? did none of the people in the Old Testament go to heaven? Then they would give testimonies of people who had died before learning of Jesus saying, "We do not know His Name, but we trust in the Messiah that God has promised."

God guided New Tribes to lead the way for people to have their minds transformed like the Bible promised* But that answer has been always with us* God made it clear that must be first in all the ways we think* Nothing can come before God and His story* From the very first Satan messed with God's story and he continues to do it.

The first of the five worldview questions is the most important, setting the stage for everything else: "Where do we come from?"

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

And so, the Bible begins by answering that question* We will give examples later on how we answer this question makes all the difference in the world.

Others, including TEN3 have copied News Tribes creating chronological studies of the Scriptures* You can find our materials at member.TEN3.org |



- One of the features on the site is that we have packed things in Thumblets* Each one has a lesson along with other materials* This way you can easily share with others.

It is exciting to see how each generation has improved what is offered in learning God's story* We highly recommend the

excellent work by the BibleProject.com



- We have included some of their videos with our Thumblets.

AI IN A NUTSHELL

Not all doctors are the same.

When I'm at the university, everyone calls me Dr. Petrillo. In fact, I'm so respected that many people, including other doctors, just call me Doc.

My doctorate is a PhD, a doctorate of philosophy. When I am at a hospital, somehow I lose my doctorate. I just become Anthony or a number on a tag. Only the MDs (Medical Doctorate) are referred to as Doctor. Maybe because we think they impact one's life more tangibly; or maybe we think they are more scientific, neither of which are true, but perceptions drive us.

Whatever is the case, I had a strange thing happen to me the last time I was at the hospital. I checked in as normal and switched from being Dr. Petrillo to Anthony, as normal. However, in a conversation, they found out I am known as "Baba Computer." Their response was something like, "You're the guys that are developing AI!" For the rest of the day I was Dr. Petrillo again. Somehow my work with computer science elevated me in their opinion.

Around the world AI (Artificial Intelligence) is stirring up all kinds of feelings. Feelings of excitement that we will be able to develop things to make our lives easier and feelings of fear the government will use AI to take our freedom away. There is a strange thing about the power of the computer - it is powerful because of its is built on a few simple instructions; and yet it is complex. Life is also like that. The underlying principles are simple but the universe itself is nearly infinite in complexity.

I would like to give you a handle in AI, a bit like a proverb that helps you make decisions.

AI is designed on how the mind works. If we understand how the mind works, it helps us to understand AI.

We know the brain is wired with synapses between neurons allowing the neurons to communicate with each other using electrical and chemical signals. But it is not the wiring of the computer that makes it powerful. It is programming that makes it powerful. The programming of the brain has two significant aspects.

First, every brain is programmed according to the answer of the following questions:

- Where did we come from?
- Where are we going when we die?
- Why is the world such a mess?
- Can anything be done about the mess?
- What is my part?

All of these must be answered by faith. There is no scientific method to answer those.

How we answer those shapes everything we do, including how we treat each other. In other words, these are the core of programming similar to how the computer has a core set of commands. The answer to these questions are called our worldview, in other words, they way we view the world. Our biases are shaped at this level.

AI is developed by people. The bias of the developer will show up in the AI. In other words, if the developer hates a particular race, the AI will hate it even more.

The second aspect is that the brain works on stories. Scientists focus on the synapses and physical aspects. The humanities focus on the stories and cultures and realize that the stories build on the worldview to shape us, or program us, into who we are. An interesting aspect of the brain is that if it does not have the full story, it fabricates (makes up) the rest of the story so it has a complete story.

AI does that same thing. It is called AI hallucinations. According to IBM: AI hallucination is a phenomenon wherein a large language model (LLM)—often a generative AI chatbot or computer vision tool—perceives patterns or objects that are nonexistent or imperceptible to human observers, creating outputs that are nonsensical or altogether inaccurate.

AI performs best where there are a great number of examples. In other words, at a lower level of knowledge. AI is just another one of our creations with great hope that will end up being misused, such as dynamite or the technology that is consuming our world at an unimaginable rate. Does this mean we ignore AI? Heaven forbid! As Christians, we have an important role to play in every time and every culture. This will become clear as we learn more.

ONLY LOGICAL ANSWER

Often I say Jesus Christ is the only logical answer. How can we be so sure of that?

People agree that from all our thinking is derived from our answers to those worldview questions. In other words, we are shaped by the stories or metanarratives that answer the questions.

People agree that the worldview questions are answered by faith; hence they are presuppositions.

I once read that only about three percent of the philosophers still believe there is truth. During the renaissances science pushed truth out the door. The result was that many philosophers just became secretaries for science because they were precise with language, though often verbose.

The Church, for the most part, did not engage in philosophical debates. When they did, the debates focused on things like creation and afterlife, something neither side would be able to prove. Or they would debate derivatives from the worldview, such as abortion or gender, which would end up as emotional fights without wisdom or logic.

But today is no longer like that. And the three percent who stood their ground have turned the tables.

No one wants to debate the philosophers standing for the Truth for they know they will lose.

What happened?

The philosophers took a mathematical approach of starting with the presuppositions that you know well if you have read much of my work:

How did we get here (aka creation)? Where are we going (aka heaven, back to dirt, becoming something else...)? Why is the world such a mess (hate, murder and war)? Is there anything that can be done about the mess? What is my part? In order to answer a question, mathematicians and scientists make hypothesis.

Then the quickest way to proceed is to see if the hypothesis fails. If it fails, you look for another solution. If not, you press on to see if it “works”. In other words, is it true based on all we know about the reality of the subject.

With this scientific method, you can analyze all worldviews (isms, ideologies, religions and so forth) by comparing their hypothesis to each worldview question and see if they fit with the reality we see.

And this is why those that do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Lord God Almighty do not want to debate with Christian philosophers. Each and every other worldview’s hypothesis fails. They just do not match reality, nor do they make sense of the mess we live in.

The only one left standing is the Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ.

It really is that simple.

Remembering that the mind will fabricate to fill in a story, those that reject the Truth of Jesus come up with solutions. For example, someone sold out to isms who insists we make our choices via chemical reaction and do not believe love exists, when questioned about the love they have for their children, they will respond with something like, “We need to live ‘as if’ love is real.” Nancy Pearcey’s Finding Truth explains this well.

So why would someone defend and even protect their idol (something that replaces God and His story)? One reason is that people can control their idols, but there is no controlling Jesus. You can kill Him and He will not stay dead. Nothing will stop His purpose.

Does this mean we should beat up others with our knowledge? Absolutely not! The Bible teaches that knowledge puffs up (makes us proud or arrogant) but love builds up.

How do we build up someone with a faulty worldview?

First, we do not argue with derivative ideas. For example, we are not going to debate abortion. That will just end up emotional. We need to help them see the faults in their presuppositions. Note, this does not mean we will not do what we can to stop abortion in whatever way God gives us. But what it does mean, is the most effective way is to help people know Jesus is through His story. He will draw them unto Himself.

We want to help them start asking questions. Jesus promised that anyone that earnestly seeking for Truth will find Jesus Christ Himself.

Along with that, we pray for them and love them in any and all ways God gives us.

To understand how this works and how to use it to lovingly help others understand about Jesus, read Finding Truth by Nancy Pearcey.

BORN LEARNER

I write a lot about worldview, how we are programmed, the impact of stories, in other words knowledge.

And as wonderful as knowledge can be, the Bible tells us that knowledge puffs up but love builds up. Us knowledge brokers, aka educators, send to be struggle with the sins of pride and arrogance because of knowledge which just goes to reinforce what the scripture teaches us.

Jesus spoke of being born again. John 3 (AMPC):

³ Jesus answered him, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that unless a person is born again (anew, from above), he cannot ever see (know, be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God.

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter his mother's womb again and be born?

⁵ Jesus answered, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot [ever] enter the kingdom of God.

The worldview we grew up with messes with our minds. For example, as I read this I had to go an review, via asking Boppy, the fact that the Greeks divided us up into body, mind, spirit and soul. But the Hebrews new we were one. (See the word Nephesh in the BibleProject.com word studies, for example, this [one](#) .) Even though I learned that, my mind still went back to the Greek thought and wondered about the non-believer not having a spirit. And those of you who read more carefully than me smile and say, Grandpa, didn't you see the capital S on Spirit. When you believe in Jesus Christ as our God, then the Helper, the Spirit comes into and begins the beautiful dance of a born again life. Okay, so Baba Computer (Papa, Grandpa, Doc - so may names - so many loved ones!) slips back into old think. We all do. It is part of the transformation process of our mind that continues all our lives until we are face-to-face with our Savior. Thank God the Father for the Holy Spirit that continues to dance with us.

One of the things I wrestle with as I teach you the knowledge about God, which is very important, is how do help you to realize that you do not need all the answers to be born again, if fact, if you just study and have knowledge until you are 35 (see Preparing for the Hill of the Development Process), and never put your trust in Christ, you have wasted a lot of time and may never really understand.

Let me explain that. Understanding does not come from just knowledge, it must be accompanied by practice. For example, a coach may explain a move to a wrestler, even show them how it works, but until the wrestler practices it they do not really own it. Or a scientist may have a theory but until he has experimented to prove it, it is still just an idea. The only way to truly understand Jesus Christ, is to do what He says. Without the doing, the understanding will never be complete. With the doing, you come to know the Master all the better.

Then the next thing to consider is when do you ask Christ into your life? In other words, when do you become born again and ask Christ for His Spirit to guide your life?

There are books written on this, discussing so many issues. I cannot pretend I understand all this, but I can tell you a bit about my journey.

In other stories you learned I was not raised a Christian. When I was seven my parents sent me to a Vacation Bible School (VBS). At that VBS they taught us about hell and then took us out individual on the steps and asked us if we wanted to go to hell or receive Jesus. I chose Jesus! Now we could criticize this churches method, but I am so glad they led me to the Lord. There are plenty of churches on the other side of this that just tell you about the love of Christ and never the full picture. They could be doing more harm than the hell, fire and brimstone preachers. To truly grow we need the full story. Christ love does not make sense if you do not understand the full breath of the love which includes mercy and justice, grace and holiness and all the character of God. It is Western Societies'

lack of understanding sin that produces the horrific things we are seeing but this is a topic for another time. The important point here is that I asked Christ into my heart when I was seven.

It was not until I was at university that I started looking into who this Christ was. I asked Him into my life again and started to learn His word and trying to follow His teaching. I knew so little, but I had made my choice and that was to walk with Jesus.

Now let's drop back about a year and half when I was this very pretty girl in the school hallways. I so wanted to get to know her so I asked her out for a date, which turned into a second date and a third date and so on. After a couple years of this I asked the beautiful lady to marry me and she said yes. Boppy was 19 (3 weeks from 20) and I was 22 (one month from 23). Sure we knew a little bit about each other, but now 42 years later (48 years if you include our dating time) I know and love that woman, our dear Boppy, so much more and the love just keeps increasing. It is so great. Even if the only thing we got out of following Christ was this kind of bursting love for your spouse, it is worth it!

On this journey with Boppy I have made choices:

- I chose to ask her on a date.
- I chose to get to know her better.
- I chose to commit my life to her and, thank God, she chose to marry me too!
- I chose to live with her as Jesus told us.

Life is choices!

Yet, you should notice something in that list of choices that is very significant. Do you see the commitment part?

On July 31, 1982 I made a solemn commitment to Nancy Elene Beglinger and she made the same to me. And at that point a miracle happen. The two of us became one. And from there a beautiful dance with Nancy began. One that I can never praise God enough for.

Should I have waited 48 years to marry Nancy, so I could know her as well as I know her now?

Of course not, that would mean we would have missed the beautiful journey we have had. Also, I would not know her like I do now if I had not been united with her.

If you did the math, I dated Boppy nearly 6 years before we were married, but I wanted to marry her so much sooner than that. I knew I wanted to spend my life with her. I just was not able to support her until I had a job, so we waited.

So when should you be born again? When should you make a commitment to Christ and ask Him into your life?

As soon as you see you desire Jesus.

What does that mean? Well, it can mean a lot of different things. For me at seven, I was afraid of hell and chose Jesus. At university, I believe that was still a prevailing reason I picked Jesus. For people more thoughtful than me, they see that Jesus is so wonderful and describes life in a way that if we all lived that way it would be such a beautiful world. They choose Jesus for that reason. Others are like Peter who realize that Jesus Christ is the only one with the answer of life (John 6:68) and so Peter chose Jesus. Keep in mind, if you are the Peter type, we can logically show that Jesus is the only One with the answers that make sense of the world. Yet, as Pascal's thoughts reflect, we can clear off the dirt to see the path clearly but until we make the step, we are not following Christ. In other words, I can prove Jesus is the only answer, but that does not mean you will chose to trust Him. In other words, no matter what is drawing you to Jesus, fear (which the Bible has some powerful things to say about the positive aspect of this), awe or knowledge, the bottom-line is your choice - will you put your trust in Him and start to walk with him, that's the eternal question.

Coming back to my own experience. As I said, I began following Christ in university. I started to live as He said we should live. Like with my relationship with Boppy, my relationship with Christ began to grow. Like with Boppy, I had a lot to learn about Jesus. I asked Him tons of questions and He answered me. Boppy and my love is so wonderful because of Jesus. He is our everything which makes it possible to love others so dearly.

Jesus, Himself, promised if you will seek Him. You will find Him. Ask Him into your life, be born again. And then pursue your relationship with Jesus with all your heart. You will not be disappointed.

WHAT IS LOVE?

Love is an elusive word. You'll save "I love my mom" and then a few moments you be talking to a friend about how you love pizza. That must make the word very confusing.

In the New Testament, we find that the Greeks used different words for different forms of love such as Philos for brother love.

But I am not going to talk about those here. Rather, I would like to think about here is a very definitive definition of love.

God is love (I John 4).

If that is so, then what is God like?

Words that come to mind that are part of God's character include grace, mercy, justice, righteousness, forgiveness and holiness.

Since God is love, then love must encompass all of these characteristics. They must all be present to have love. In other words, you cannot have justice without mercy or grace without righteousness. You need them all which means without holiness there is no chance for justice; or forgiveness without justice. They all need to be to have love.

Pursuing one of these characteristics without the other will never bring love. They will never bring the world we desire. You can fight for justice all you want, but without grace, mercy, righteousness, forgiveness and holiness, you will never have justice but you will have something that harms people.

If you think that sounds like perfection, you are right. In fact, Jesus told us in Matthew 5:48, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

That's a pretty tall order. But, if we were perfect like our Father, we'd be living love.

Whether or not we accomplish it before we go to heaven is not the issue. The point is we should be moving in the direction Jesus pointed. We should growing in love with God, our family, our friends and our enemies. Praise be to God for it will be accomplished someday; that's for sure.

The scripture says God is love, so my mind goes to what describes God or what are his characteristic?

God is at least:

- Holy
- Merciful
- Righteous
- Gracious
- Just
- Truthful
- All Knowing

Certainly, there are more characteristics to God, but even though few start showing that Love is Perfect.

Of course, Satan and people have totally polluted the word love, so it is virtually meaningless these days.

November 22, 2023 I was asking God for a definition for people will certainly not understand the attributes of God as love. He gave me, “Love is putting someone else before yourself.”

And that is just what God did. He put us before Himself and died on the cross for us. And when we love Him we learn a freedom that allows us to love others too.

If we were all to love, it would turn the world up-side-down. With God’s power, we can truly love.

IN GOD'S IMAGE

What does it mean to be in God's image?

For so long I thought the chief way of being in God's image was creativity. We are so creative and we love creating.

The Lord has been impressing on me that the chief is CHOICE.

You see, before God ever created, He decided that He would lay down His life for His creation. It was a powerful and costly choice God made which He knew full well. Yet, He did it. He made a choice and that choice would cost Him His life. He loves us that much.

We appreciate people of good character. But this good character does not happen by accident. It is all about choice. You choose what you will and will not do, at least the most critical choices you make the decision. And the most critical of all those choices are will you decide what is right or wrong or will you leave that up to God? Will you choose Jesus as your Lord and Authority or will you pick another. Life all comes down to choice. And it is that ability to choose in which we are chiefly in the image of God.

Gregory David Roberts in his novel, *Shantaram*, gives a good illustration of this: *"It took me a long time and most of the world to learn what I know about love and fate and the choices we make, but the heart of it came to me in an instant, while I was chained to a wall and being tortured. I realized, somehow, through the screaming in my mind, that even in that shackled, bloody helplessness, I was still free: free to hate the men who were torturing me, or to forgive them. It doesn't sound like much, I know. But in the flinch and bite of the chain, when it's all you've got, that freedom is a universe of possibility. And the choice you make, between hating and forgiving, can become the story of your life."*

"We have said that Christian discipline is one's wholehearted yes to the call of God. It is of the highest importance that we understand the necessity of two wills, the one created by the other and ordained free, both operating in accord. If we forget that there are two and dwell only on the sovereign will of God, we will abdicate our responsibility and lapse into the fatalism of Islam, which leaves all to the inscrutable and unknowable. If, on the other hand, we forget the sovereignty of God and see ourselves as independent, we will arrogate to ourselves all responsibility and leave God out of it—in other words, we make ourselves God. In both cases we fail to do His will, and the result is the forfeiting of our joy and freedom." Elizabeth Elliott, *Joyful Surrender: 7 Discipline for the Believer's Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1982), p. 35

AUTHORITY & CONTROL

We have taken a quick journey to the top of the steps. Let's start with considering:

Controlled ≠ 1

This is meant to be a word picture. The symbol (not an element of) is from set theory and it means except.

What this is saying is that all the ideologies that exist, except One, control you.

Keep in mind an ideology is a systems of ideas. We use ideology so that we include all the isms including religions, politics, philosophies or any other way you want to label your ideas.

The process introduced in Only Logical Answer can be used to show how an ideology results in controlling you.

Jesus Christ is that One who does not control you. That will sound funny to many people since Christianity and the Bible have been misused through history to control people. But that is not Christianity. That is perversion of the Truth.

Look at it this way. Jesus Christ claims to be God Almighty who created this amazing universe. The Bible tells of the power He has to control the wind and the waves; disease and even death. The Jews of His time believed the Christ would come to set up the Kingdom of God using the same power methods used by the empires throughout history.

Imagine a king that could feed you, heal you and even bring you back to life leading your people into war. What army can defeat you!

Again, that is what many, including Judas, were expecting of Jesus. Judas betrayed Jesus to try and force His hand. For certainly the All Powerful wouldn't allow them to take Him. He would put His army into action and control everyone.

But that is not what happened.

The All Powerful did not control and kill His enemy.

Jesus Christ laid down His life.

Therefore Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.

John 10:7-18

As explained in the chapter In God’s Image, Jesus did this so we could choose His way or our way.

Jesus does not control us. If He did, there would be peace and joy on earth.

Instead, Jesus reaches out his nail-scarred hand and asks if we would like to dance with Him. If you take Him up on it, you will know freedom you cannot even imagine.

Notice that Jesus said, “I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.”

Authority is the crux of all the mess in the world.

It is what Satan promised Adam and Eve if they ate the apple. They would then be the ones defining right and wrong. We see the result of that everyday with all the pain we inflict. Integrity Advance shows that people will never be able to get away from the mess on their own.

When you choose an ideology to follow rather than the Living Christ who is a person, not an idea, you make that ideology your authority.

You can see in the crucifixion of Christ how important authority is, for the leaders killed Jesus because He spoke with authority; He claimed to be God. By killing Him, they would show He was crazy or some kind of weird liar.

But He is God almighty and His resurrection proves it. He is the ultimate authority.

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord. Philippians 2:10-11a

The more we study the Bible, the more amazed we are with how God provides what we need to live a full life and to have “programming” that is not faulty. A wonderful example of this is that God’s word gives us the principles to understand worldview. If we apply these principles we can help ourselves to work as we were designed and also help others to be set free from their bad programming and find the peace God promises.

MANAGING MIND PROGRAMMING

Let's consider how to manage the mind programming and look at the issue of control.

In summary, we know:

- Everyone (including AI) answers the worldview questions by faith and thereby makes faith the most concrete thing in our lives.
- We all climb the “development hill” but few consciously choose their faith.
- The stories that answer the worldview questions shape our lives. In other words, they program our lives.
- There is only one worldview that is true and gives peace to our minds. When the programming is wrong (that is another worldview) it produces a cognitive dissonance, a lack of peace because the brain's programming is not matching the way the world actually works.
- There is a creator.
- Because Christ paid the price, you have the freedom to choose your own authority.
- Jesus Christ is the only One that will not control you but gives you freedom.

If the word “know” bothers you, you should expect that because we've been programmed to believe we cannot know. This brings us to the real question of whether or not you make your own choices or just pretend you do.

In order to manage your mind programming, you need to address the questions you have. There will be many and it will take years for you to work through your questions. But, do not be discouraged by the time factor for you will be using those years one way or another and there is no better way to use them than in a journey with the Creator of the universe, Our Lord Jesus.

It would be good for you to start at least three journals:

- Question Journal
- Prayer Journal
- Jesus Journal

This way you can log your process. The Question Journal helps you to set down your questions and not have them constantly racing in your mind. The Prayer Journal allows you to see how God answers your prayers over time. For example, this past month I saw answers to prayer started 25 years ago. Your Jesus journal is for your picture or sketch of Jesus. To create this sketch, read the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John over and over, but not as a scholar but as an observer. In your Jesus journal write down the things you see about this Man.

I mentioned in the Development Hill article that you should start with these questions:

- Is the Bible really God's word, His revelation to us?
- Did Jesus really rise from the dead?

Good sources to help you answer those questions are:

- The Case for Christ, Lee Strobel. This book has also been made into a movie.
- Cold-Case Christianity, J. Warner Wallace.
- Forensic Faith, J. Warner Wallace.

- Who Moved the Stone?, Frank Morison

I'm not a Christian today because I was raised in the church. I wasn't. I also didn't become a Christian because my childhood friends were Christians. They weren't. I'm not a Christian today because I was searching for God or wanted to know Him. I was happy and content as an atheist. I didn't become a Christian because I wanted to go to heaven or was afraid of hell. I was comfortable with my own mortality. I'm not a Christian because I wanted to change my life. As an atheist, I had a meaningful and fulfilling career, a loving family, an incredible wife, and lots of friends.

I'm also not a Christian because it "works for me." Life on this side of my decision hasn't always been easy. It's been over twenty years since I first trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior. I still struggle to submit my prideful will and selfish desire. There are times when I think it would be simpler to do it the old way; more expedient or convenient to cut a corner or take a shortcut. There are many occasions when doing the right thing means doing the most difficult thing possible.

I am a Christian today for one reason: Christianity is true. I'm a Christian because I want to live in a way that reflects the truth, even if it's hard, inconvenient, or unpopular. I'm a Christian because my high regard for the truth leaves me no alternative. An inconvenient truth is preferable to a convenient lie.

Over the past ten years, hundreds of thousands of readers have examined the evidence offered in this book and have learned how to become better detectives along the way. Many are now Christians. Make no mistake about it: God first called these readers and softened their skeptical hearts. The Christian evidence then did what it has always done: the evidence demonstrated the truth of the resurrection and the deity of Jesus.

To God goes the glory.

Cold-Case Christianity, J. Warner Wallace

As explained in Born Learner, **you do NOT need all the answers**. You do not even need the answers to the two above questions to start your dance with Jesus.

Keep in mind, the Bible makes it clear that you really cannot have understanding without Jesus. Why? Because He is the creator.

At the same time, keep Jesus' warning in mind that following Him is demanding and costly.

With that in mind, start your Jesus journal. As you get to understand who Jesus really is - and you will, for the Bible is the only book where the Author is with you as you read it - then decide if you want to spend today and forever with Him. If so, ask Him into your heart. Then ask Him all the questions you have and truly seek and you will find!



Truth in the inward parts is a power, not an opinion.

"Truth in the inward parts is a power, not an opinion. It were as poor a matter as any held by those who deny it, if it had not its vitality in itself, if it depended upon any buttressing of other and lower material. How should it be otherwise? If God be so near as the very idea of Him necessitates, what other availing proof of His existence can there be, than such awareness as must come of the developing relation between Him and us? The most satisfying of intellectual proofs, if such were to be had, would be of no value. God would be no nearer to us for them all. They would bring about no blossoming of the mighty fact. While He was in our very souls, there would yet lie between Him and us a gulf of misery, of no-knowledge. Peace is for those who do the truth, not those who opine it. The true man troubled by intellectual doubt, is so troubled unto further health and growth. Let him be alive and hopeful, above all obedient, and he will be able to wait for the deeper content which must follow with completer insight."

George MacDonald, Paul Faber, Surgeon, 1879

|| Important

We now have the intellectual proof, but both Pascal's and MacDonald's warning that they "would be of no value" is as valid now as then for it is the desire of our heart that leads us.

So the bottom-line is that you have a choice and with that choice you can lead your heart!

ADVANCEMENT AKA GROWTH

aka - also known as

There are libraries of books written on physical, spiritual, mental, etc. growth. Here I would like to consider your growth in Jesus Christ, the Lord God Almighty.

The interesting thing about God is that the greatest scholar can study God for as long as they live and still have an infinite amount to learn, meanwhile a child can perceive all of what is needed to live free and joyfully in Christ.

Since most of us do not want to read through a library of books, I will focus on the what will give us freedom and joy. (Although I did have a student once who was a genius and he told me he was looking forward to heaven so he could read all the books in all the libraries!)

First, you should realize you do not need to worry about understanding everything. In fact, that was one of the sin areas of my life. I wanted to capture everything and put it in a bottle. For example, David O'Brien was a brilliant man. He grew up in a pentecostal church that wanted everyone to have the gift of tongues. Whether or not that is a good thing is a "windmill" we will not address here. Dave would join the prayer outings and go out on the hillside and beg God for the gift of tongues, but it never came. Then, one time when he was praying on the hillside, he felt God touch his head. I witnessed once when Dave went into a Sunday school classroom with Bible scholars in it and said, "I was asked to fill in. I didn't get a chance to prepare. Are there any questions?" I know a man that has heard many preachers in his life, including Billy Graham. This man thought Dave was the greatest preacher in the world. But Dave did not live with a fat head (think highly of himself) for he knew it was from God and gave the glory to God. Dave was my good friend and my neighbor so I saw him go through things like abuse from the church and still love and serve that church. I also got to see how he prepared for those fantastic sermons. He would ask God what the people needed to hear. Then he would pray and pray and pray and God would give him an outline. Then when delivering the message, Dave would ask the Holy Spirit to take over and work through the outline He had given him. Dave knew it was all from God and gave God the glory. But his young neighbor (me) had knowledge as his idol and so wanted to capture all Dave's knowledge so he could win people to Christ through knowledge. And, as I have said elsewhere, as important as knowledge is, it is not what will make you born again. It can help with the steps to Christ, but ultimately you must choose to put your faith in Christ, aka believe Him just like He said we need to. And the beauty of it is that everyone can have the understanding needed because Christ has taken care of it. In fact, only through Christ can we have true understanding .

And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true.

1 John 5:20a

The next thing we need for grow is **obedience**.

Over the years I've recorded some of my personal proverbs. I am a bit weird, so I numbered them starting with 32:1. If you take a look at the Bible, you will see that there are 31 proverbs. I hope I'm not being a heretic by picking up at 32 :-)

 Petrillo Proverb 32:57

Obedience is strength!

[Footnote on #57] Jesus' love is the characteristic we often think of and think it is his strongest. However, he showed his love by obedience and asked us to do the same. Obedience should equally be our strongest characteristic.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross. For this reason also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:8-11

To be loved unconditionally, Should result in unconditional trust.

Petrillo Proverb 32:59

[Footnote on #59] God loves us unconditionally. This does not mean he accepts us unconditionally. He who is perfect cannot fellowship with he who is not. We must receive His grace and free redemption through His Son to be in fellowship with God. With that understood, God's unconditional love should result in our unconditional trust of Him. This shows itself in our obedience which then demonstrates that we, too, love Him. At the writing of this (about 2010) I am stepping forward into an area that will seriously challenge me and that I cannot do unless I rely on God. God has always wanted unconditional trust from me, but I've always had excuses. I like to keep control. Even now He is showing me where I am tempted to make conditions. But this I cannot do. I must unconditionally trust God for whatever happens. Then, and only then, could I be the person I should be. And, then, and only then, it becomes clear that it is not the specific job I do, but that God's will is what is best for me no matter what it may be and for that I wholeheartedly pray – God's will not mind.

It is interesting how that old heart tries to fight back and not be a whole heart. But my will and desire is to be whole, and so it does not matter what feelings or thoughts may come. My trust is in my Champion, my King, my Friend and Brother, the King of All Kings, the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ the Risen One. Praise be to God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. AMEN! (Note, we are to desire God's will, to pray His will to be done, but that does not mean His will is being done. In this world, much, if not most of the time, God's will is not done but that doesn't change that fact that for me to be fully free my heart needs to desire God's will.)

As I edit this in 2025, I think back to what I was facing in 2010. We were under supported and would have to take a second job to continue. It is a beautiful story where God has taken the journey.

The call to obedience is not a test of our commitment, but the path to joy.

Petrillo Proverb 32:83

So for growth, we now know we can have the understanding we need through Christ and only through Christ. We also know that to really grow, we need to do the things Jesus did. We need to obey the Father as Jesus did and continues to do.

If we say we abide in Jesus, we ought to walk as He walked.

1 John 2:6

Add to these things childlike faith and you will see growth that will blow your mind.

Never mix up "childish" with "childlike." Childish is typically used to mean foolishness. Childlike faith can be seen in the trust a young child has in their parents. To have childlike faith is to have total faith.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child and set him before them, and said, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless you repent [that is, change your inner self—your old way of thinking, live changed lives] and become like children [trusting, humble, and forgiving], you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives and welcomes one child like this in My name receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble and sin [by leading him away from My teaching], it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone [as large as one turned by a donkey] hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Matthew 18:1-6

The strange thing about childlike faith is that it takes a lifetime to get it. Or at least it has for me. Not that I'm to the point I'd like to be, but I'm excited when I see childlike faith alive in me.

How can I be so sure this will help you grow?

Well, we'll include one other thing that you can add to it - **prayer**.

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father and then we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time, and you do not know Me yet, Philip, nor recognize clearly who I am? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words I say to you I do not say on My own initiative or authority, but the Father, abiding continually in Me, does His works [His attesting miracles and acts of power]. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe [Me] because of the [very] works themselves [which you have witnessed]. I assure you and most solemnly say to you, anyone who believes in Me [as Savior] will also do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these [in extent and outreach], because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in My name [as My representative], this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified and celebrated in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name [as My representative], I will do it.

John 14:8-14

No, this is not a blank check where you can ask for anything and sign Jesus name and you get. Reading the larger context you will see there are conditions - the request has to be according to God's will and you need to be obeying Christ.

This means, that if we ask God to help us become the person we are meant to be and we obey, we can be sure He will help us to grow.

INTEGRITY ADVANCE

16.1 The Gallops

Joe & Linda Gallop have had an amazing life serving the Lord. They have served on one of Operation Mobilizations ships, lived in Niger serving the nomadic shepherds and helped establish TEN3, to list a few. This gave them a great deal of exposure to many cultures.

During his time in Niger, Joe started noticing a pattern which explained why cultures differ so much and why things do not work, no matter the culture. Joe began to do workshops explaining this to African leaders with a focus on why their organizations failed. The response was enthusiastic to say the least. Joe called the ministry Integrity Advance.

We tried to capture Joe's teaching in a book, but were never successful. I am writing what I have used over the years to communicate the core ideas of Integrity Advance. Hopefully it will give you the desire to apply this to your life.

16.2 Value Structure

Anyone who has worked in or with Nigeria knows that it is a difficult place to succeed, let alone run a successful business. However, a friend of mine was highly respected in Nigeria for running a million dollar business that helped many people. They loved him.

This man moved to another country to start a microenterprise project to help the people in that area. For this man such a project should be something he could do in his spare time.

Yet, he could not get it working. One of the things this project did was to give a family a goat so they could help their family by selling the milk or making cheese and, hence, help them advance their family. However, within a few days the goat would be killed by the neighbors.

Why? Were they jealous?

They didn't need to be. They could get a goat too if they desired.

No, the issue was cultural. The highest value in that culture was to not be greedy.

Not being greedy sounds like a positive thing. In fact, this is pretty popular today as people realize the world's resources are limited.

Let's consider another example and then examine what is happening.

I started a school in Senegal. Through my career, one of my goals has been to love my staff. Up to this point, all my staff had reacted very positively to my care for them. But at this school I started, there was one staff member who seemed to hate my guts. I just couldn't figure it out. And none of my staff would answer any of my questions.

About three years after leaving that school, I was in the USA. One of my Senegalese staff lived close enough that we could get together regularly. He saw that I was still hurting because I had failed that staff member in Senegal who hated me. My friend said to me, "You need to stop beating yourself up. You were a great leader of the school. That guy hates you because your love for him condemned him. You see, as the treasurer he was embezzling funds." I didn't ask my Senegalese friend why he didn't tell me about it.

Why?

Because I knew that in his culture the top value is peace.

Wow, Peace! That one is hard to beat. Wouldn't we all love to have peace!

So how can such good values as not being greedy or being at peace lead us astray?

Not Greedy	Peace

The issue is that all cultures stack their values vertically. This was observed hundreds of years before Christ by the Stoics who lived on the Mediterranean Sea. Their location gave them the opportunity to see many cultures, each of which had their own value system, with a certain few values stacked at the top of their value system. This, by the way, is why people think there are no absolute truths. This is reasonable as long as the highest authority is mankind.

When you have one or two values at the top, they overpower the other values. This plays out like this: where peace is the number one value, then it is okay to lie, cheat, steal and even murder to maintain the peace. This is the reason none of my staff would tell me about the embezzler. They wanted to keep the peace, even the false peace, rather than deal with the stealing. The same is true with the microenterprise and the killing of the goats. The other families saw themselves as protecting the family that got the goat from greediness. In their minds they were helping the family.

16.3 Power of Culture

Anthropology, the humanities and the social sciences have clearly shown how powerful culture is. They concluded the cultural story is what defines, and you could even say, creates, the person. The field of AI is showing that our stories are critical to who we are and what we do. Following is an example showing the power of culture which most Westerners find hard to accept.

When I lived in Africa, it was common to see a person fixing their motorcycle in the lane of a busy road. Let me paint the picture a bit better. Imagine a four lane road with two lanes going in each direction. Now imagine a person's motorcycle breaks down in one of the inner lanes. Now imagine that person taking out his tools and starting to work on his motorcycle right in the middle of the road as busy traffic goes zinging by.

The normal reaction of the typical Westerner and modern African is, "Doesn't he know the chance he'll get hit!?"

Ah, and that is the issue: the word "chance." That is a cultural word. He has no idea of the chance he'll get hit. That is not a concept in his culture.

This is where most Westerners can't believe it. They just can't imagine that.

And yet, the idea of chance has only been around since Blaise Pascal (1623-1662). Before that, it was not part of our thinking and certainly not part of our Western culture. That little word and the concept behind it, which is statistics, would change the world. The Western culture has much to be thankful for because of the idea of chance. It set the foundation for industrial development which allows us to make air flight safer than driving a car.² What?

² Some of you might realize that I am actually mixing two statistics here. First, the quality of air planes relies on statistics to test the materials the plane is made from to be sure they will withstand the pressure they will face. But this is not why it is safer to fly than drive. The second statistic is looking at the results of everyday life when it comes to data on driving versus flying.

You didn't know you had a greater chance of dying in a car crash than on an airplane :-)



Culture does shape us deeply! And that is a critical issue to understand if you desire to live a free and full life.

16.4 Integrity

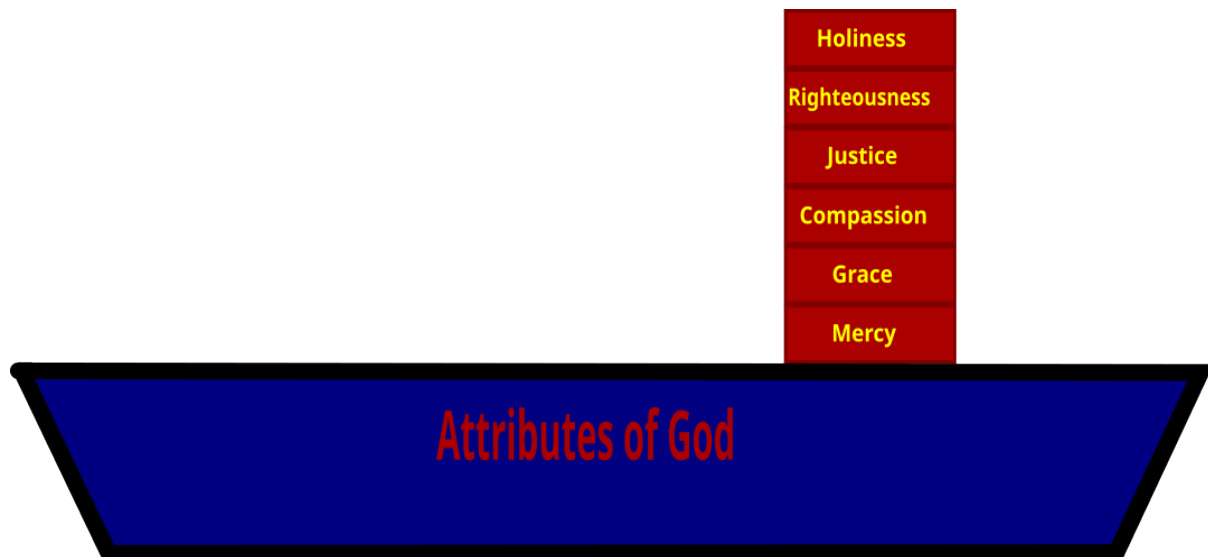
Now let's turn to the idea of integrity.

Words evolve. The common thought of integrity today is to be honest or moral. However, the original meaning was to be whole or complete. This is now the second definition in the dictionary, but for ship builders this is what they had in mind when they said the hull of a ship had integrity. They meant it had no cracks.

A ship with a crack will break in a storm. It is critical for it to have integrity.

G.K. Chesterton referred to coherency of the mind as integrity. Ahlquist Integrity applies to all aspects of life.

If we were to think about God's culture, often referred to as the Kingdom of God, we would see its values would be the attributes of God. Let's put some (not all) of those attributes [6] on a ship to see how integrity and values work together.



Let's consider some issues with our load.

First, the idea of having Holiness at the top is strange. No natural culture would place Holiness at the top of their values. Some churches have tried to do that and the result was the same as all other cultures. Other values, such as grace and mercy, were ignored or beaten down.

Second, no one that was concerned about the integrity of the ship would load it as shown. Having an unbalanced load in a storm will break the ship in half, hence losing all integrity.

To keep integrity one would balance the load on the ship, such as:



A ship loaded like this could take on a storm and maintain its integrity.

The interesting thing is that the Kingdom of God treats its values in the same way they are loaded in this second illustration. **They are not stacked, they are horizontal. Each of these attributes are as important as the other.**

How that works out in life, is that in the Kingdom of God gossip is as wrong as murder and thoughts are as sinful as actions. Do not confuse consequences with whether or not something is right or wrong. The Old Testament gave examples of different consequences for different sins, but they all were considered sin and needed to be dealt with.

Before we move on, the word sin is not very well understood today. The word comes from archery. When you shoot at a target, if you miss the bullseye the sin is how much you are off the mark. Hence, you can sin when it comes to holiness or mercy or any of the values in the Kingdom of God. And, since God is perfect, we all sin (miss the mark) in all the values of God. In fact it was Jesus in the New Testament who showed how great our sin is because he is the one who said if you think of murdering you are as guilty as the one who murders.

So, is God's value system as hopeless as that of all the other cultures?



And why is it important that God's value system is horizontal and not vertical - that is - not stacked?

Let's start with the second question. The fact that God's value system is horizontal is critical. You see, none of the values is above the other. In other words, you need all of them to have any of them.

Let's put it this way. You cannot have mercy without justice. You cannot have grace without righteousness. You cannot have compassion without holiness. You just cannot leave anything out if you want a system that truly works.

The result is that no single value overrides or defeats another. They all must exist in harmony to have a system that brings love.

The fact that God's value system is horizontal is of extreme importance if you hope to understand life and desire to live in the Kingdom of God the way Jesus desires us to.

Back to the question, "Is God's value system as hopeless as that of all other cultures?"

No! The reason our cultures fail is because we, ourselves, decide what is right or wrong. For those of you familiar with the categories of guilt based culture and shamed based culture, you might think using the idea of sin (right or wrong) makes this discussion irrelevant, but that is not the case for at least two reasons. First, even in the shame-based culture there is wrong; it is wrong to steal from me; it's a sin to be caught. But, secondly, and more importantly, again we see that we are trying to define right and wrong. But in the Kingdom of God, it is God who has already defined right and wrong. All of our problems go back to us defining right or wrong, living as if we are the authority when, in reality, we have no significant authority on our own. The story of Adam and Eve sums up our situation perfectly. We all fall into that same self-centered trap that destroys our lives.

God's system not only works, but Jesus opened the door that we might be part of the Kingdom of God even now. This is the story of the Gospel.

And this is what Integrity Advance is all about.

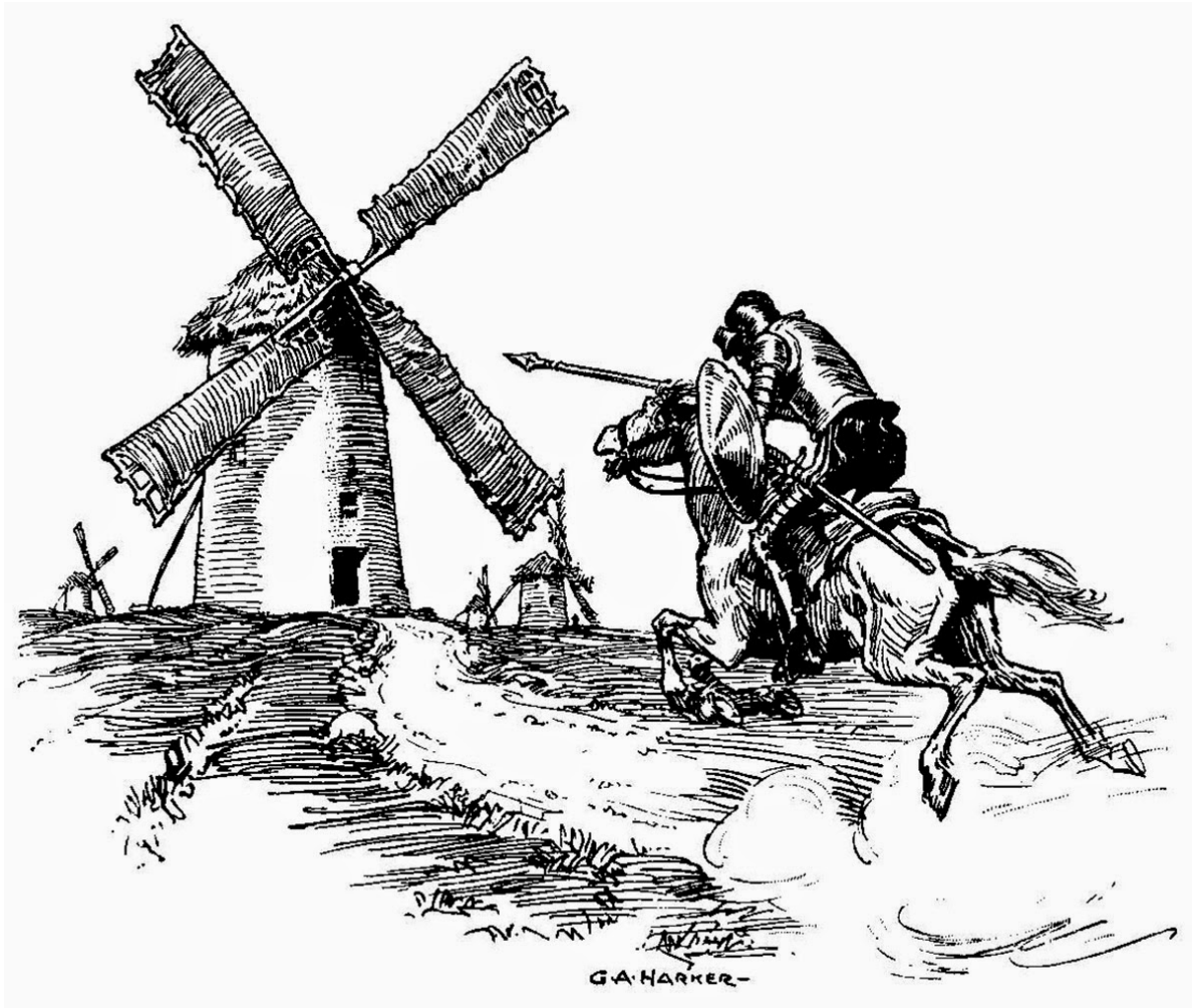
Cultures stack values and decide what is right or wrong, producing the horrific way we treat each other. God's values are "horizontal" in that they are all equal and all need to be lived if we want to know true love. Realizing we need to live with integrity also helps us understand why people, including many Christians, condone (approve) sin.

For example, 73 million³ children are aborted each year. Except for the rare medically necessary abortions, this means we are condoning the murder of nearly 73 million people. Ah, but what defines a person. And the "windmill battle"⁴ begins.⁵

³ <https://www.gutmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-worldwide>

⁴ In the novel Don Quixote, the Don fights against windmills. Fighting windmills is a statement to mean the fight is crazy, something not to get involved in. Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Don_Quixote_fighting_windmills.jpg

⁵ See Do not fight windmills



Source: Wikimedia

How can this happen? It is because their value system is shaped by their culture and not God's.

Is there anything that can be done? Absolutely! God's been in this business from day 1⁶ and He has a loving and compassionate way to help people see this.

Integrity Advance is extremely helpful in getting us started on a search to know how to help others who are slaves to their culture.

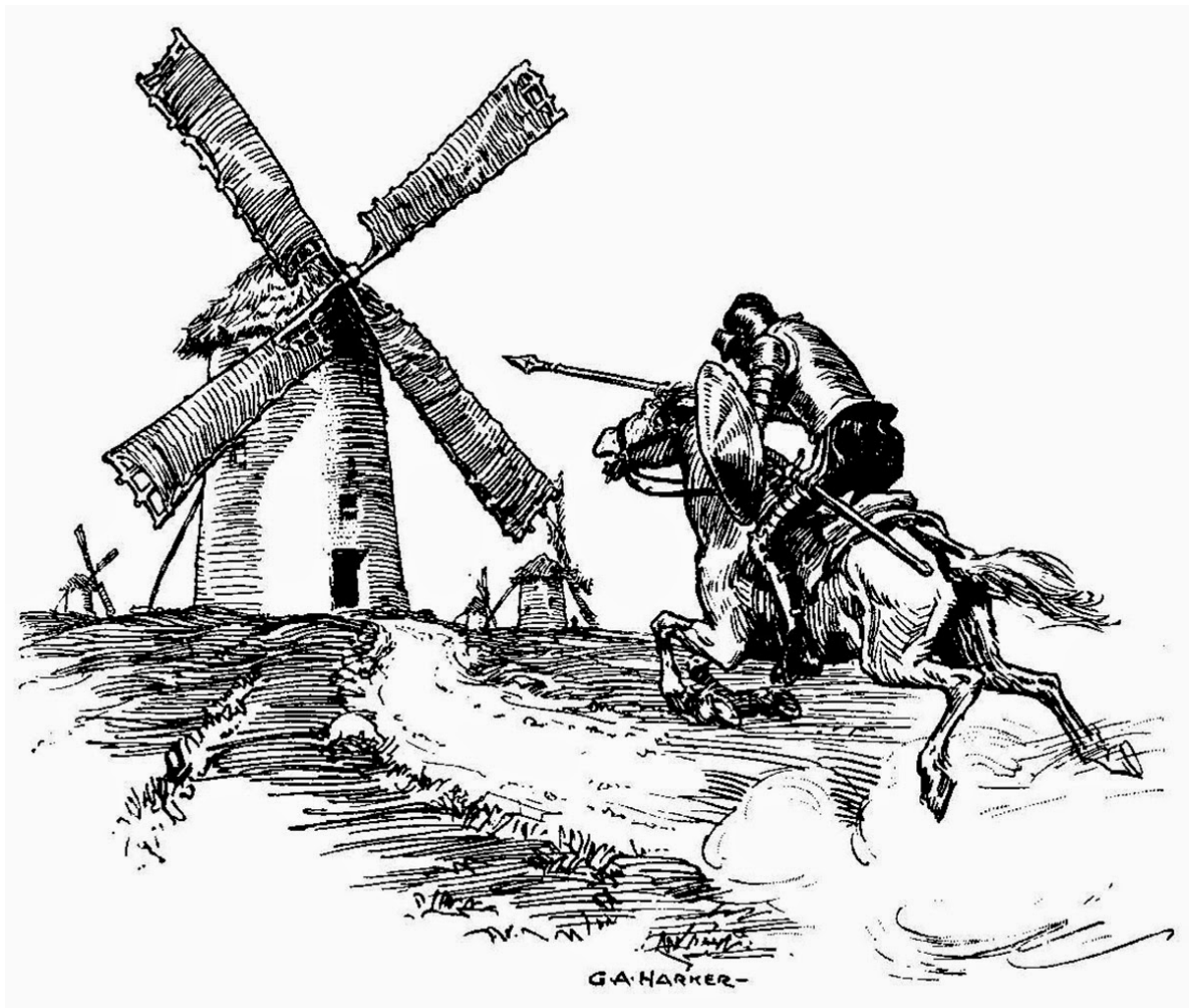
I, Dr. Petrillo, am extremely grateful to the Lord for giving me the privilege of working with Joe Gallop who taught me Integrity Advance through his seminars and, even more so, by his life! Here is a fun one to ponder: "God is interested in all the details about cherubim woven in different colored threads and little gold pomegranates (Exodus 28). It says twice it is for glory and beauty. Beauty is a characteristic of God we don't mention often," Nancy Petrillo, Jan 27, 2024.

Contributors Author(s): Anthony "Baba.Computer" Petrillo Editor(s): Reviewer(s): Duplicated from TEN3's Integrity Advance book.

⁶ That is an idiom meaning "from the beginning". I'm not referring to the days of creation :-)

DO NOT FIGHT WINDMILLS!

This article is picking up from the Integrity Advance article. I've copied a portion of that article here as a starting point for this set of thoughts.



Source-wikimedia

In the novel *Don Quixote*, the Don fights against windmills. Fighting windmills is a statement to mean the fight is crazy, something not to get involved in.

Realizing we need to live with integrity also helps us understand why people, including many Christians, condone (approve) sin.

For example, 73 million [2] children are aborted each year. Except for the rare medically necessary abortions, this means we are condoning the **murder** of nearly 73 million people. Ah, but what defines a person? And the “windmill battle” [3] begins.

Please keep in mind that the following is referring to abortions of inconvenience, which is the VAST majority of abortions. It is not referring to those from medical necessity.

Laurie Ray, DNP, explains the stages of a pregnancy:

- “The embryonic stage begins with fertilization and lasts for eight weeks
- “From the 10th week of pregnancy (if you’re counting from the start of the last period) until birth is the fetal stage
- “A rapid and complex transition happens at birth, from dependent fetus to independent newborn”.

So we have the embryo (a fertilized egg), then the fetus, and then the independent newborn.

Very briefly, in the 20th century the pro-abortion proponents argued that the embryo (and some included the fetus) was not a human, so it was fine to abort the embryo or even the fetus according to whether or not you defined a fetus as a human.

At the end of the 20th century, the discovery of DNA changed everything. It can now be shown that an embryo is a human. This made it clear that abortion is murder.

We get so angry when someone hits our car. We get even more angry when someone hits our child, and to think of someone murdering our child or our mother or father is horrifying. Yet we murder those who cannot even run from us.

But to stop abortion would be so inconvenient to those who want to play at sex. They do not want to give up their “right” to murder their inconvenient child. To handle this they changed the terminology. They switched it from human to person.

But what is a person? Like their father Lucifer, they change the definitions of words. They are the ones to decide what a person is. For some it is the embryo, for others it includes the fetus, still others include the newborn, and others go up to age 5 or 6 or 12. Where the number stops depends on who is making the definition.

As since there are ‘no absolutes’ and those in power make the decisions, it becomes a fruitless debate, **a windmill!**

This article will definitely stir up anger with many people.

And that is the main point of the article:

Error

Engaging in fruitless arguments are counter productive. **Do not fight the windmills!**

Common windmills of today are:

- Gender
- Racism
- Abortion
- Politics

Are these windmills important?

Absolutely

That is what makes them windmills.

But coming to God’s answer to them will not happen at the emotional level.

If you love a person and have the opportunity, the best way to assist them is to help them understand themselves and how they are making their decisions, then eventually guide them to know God’s answers.

The best ways to do this are:

- Pray for them.
- Be sure to focus on your spiritual growth and walk with the Lord.

- Listen to their pain and hurts.
- Help them to read the Bible.
- Use the principles in Finding Truth to help them understand their worldview. See references below.
- Help them the understand Integrity Advance article when the time is right.

Speaking of the time being right, trust the Holy Spirit to lead you on that. You can totally count on God!

References for Worldview:

- By Nancy Pearcey:
 - Finding Truth
 - Total Truth
 - Saving Leonardo
 - Love Thy Body
 - The Toxic War on Masculinity
- Escape from Reason, Francis Schaeffer
- Builder's Triangle, Anthony Petrillo

[#2] <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-worldwide> [#3] Image source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Don_Quixote_fighting_windmills.jpg [#4] Laurie Ray, DNP, <https://helloclue.com/articles/pregnancy-birth-and-postpartum/what-is-the-difference-between-an-embryo-a-fetus-and-a-baby>

EVOLUTION

Before we look at the topic of evolution, I want to make a few things clear.

- I believe in evolution.
- I love science.

Science is observation; as we observe we make some conjectures (aka hypothesis) of how things work. Then we test them and compare with reality to determine if the conjecture is true.

Scientism, on the other hand, is a religion. “Science is a methodological approach to understanding the natural world through observation and experimentation, while scientism is an ideology that elevates science as the only valid source of knowledge and claims it can answer all questions, even those in metaphysics and ethics where it is not applicable. In essence, science is a tool for inquiry, but scientism is an overreach and an excessive belief in the absolute power and scope of that tool” [Gemini].

When it comes to evolution, something similar to science and scientism happens. There is adaptive evolution and creative evolution. Adaptive evolution is the amazing ability of creation to adapt to change. Creative evolution is the religion of explaining creation, how the universe came into being. Since none of can observe that, creative evolution is not science but is taken by faith. People argue about evidence in the universe of happenings, such as through fossils, but that is a fruitless fight for it still comes down to faith. We will learn there is a better, less confrontationally way to consider this.

Have you ever heard of a leprechaun?

“Leprechaun, in Irish folklore, is a fairy in the form of a tiny old man, often with a cocked hat and leather apron. Solitary by nature, he is said to live in remote places and to make shoes and brogues. The sound of his hammering betrays his presence. He possesses a hidden crock of gold. If captured and threatened with bodily violence, he might, if his captor keeps his eyes on him, reveal its hiding place. But usually the captor is tricked into glancing away, and the fairy vanishes. The word derives ultimately from Old Irish luchorpan, ‘little body.’” [britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/topic/leprechaun)



Source: *pixabay.com*

What about a dragon?



Source: *E.P. Marcellin*

These mythological creatures most likely have at least some reality behind them. It is not a far stretch to see the imagination take a dinosaur and transform it to a dragon. The leprechaun could have been a concoction that came from exposure to demons.

Now here is a funny thing - you are not likely to accept my idea on leprechauns because I mentioned the ridiculous idea of demons.

And that is when I turn to you and ask, “Do you still teach the 19th and 20th century **myth** of evolution?”

Like leprechauns and dragons, evolution became misinterpreted as something observed. Darwin gave us a list and pointed out if they were not true then he was wrong as far as creative evolution is concerned. Even though we eventually found out that Darwin’s assumptions were wrong, some people did not give up on the idea of evolution as an answer for creation and most people have never even raised the question. Those that still believe in creative evolution protect it like anyone who has a false idol and protects his or her god.

The death knell came to the myth of creative evolution with the ability to see DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). Imagine DNA is a library of a size we cannot even imagine. Consider these numbers:

- “One gram of dried DNA can store 455 exabytes of data.” kilobaser.com
- “Technologists have estimated that all the words ever spoken by mankind would be equal to five Exabytes” teradata.com

That means just one gram of DNA can store everything that was ever said, not written, but what was said, by the entire world 91 times! No library could ever hold that much information. The **Internet** is nothing compared to this.

This is when the term intelligent design came into existence. No longer could an honest scientist deny that there is an Intelligent Designer some of whom use the term God.

DNA did help us to understand adaptive evolution better.

The question becomes, why do we still teach the error of creative evolution to our children in school?

The answer comes down to their worldview which I cover in other articles. These articles also point you to the way of loving help people realize their faulty programming and be set free from the every growing anxiety in our world.

AI GEMINI ON NOTEBOOKLM'S BIAS

Note

I've put this late in Mind Freedom so you will have the tools to analyze what Gemini says.

The university where I teach had training given by Google on using their AI tools.

People have heard of AI hallucination, though what it actually is they do not know. However, if you read Mind Freedom, you will where the hallucination comes from and why it must happen. In fact, Google's AI Studio allows you to determine how much the software will hallucinate when generating your answer.

The result is that most of the professors know they need to be aware of the results you get from AI.

However, when the Google staff taught us about NotebookLM, there was excitement because NotebookLM only uses the sources you give it to generate its results, be it an executive summary of the material or a podcast covering the material. And, quite frankly, the podcasts are pretty impressive.

So I decided to make a podcast for y'all of one of my stories so you could listen to it. In the story I made absolute statements.⁷ However, in the podcast when the speaker got to this absolute, it said, "In the opinion of the author" and then made the statement. It had made an absolute statement into a relative statement.

In other words, it was NotebookLM's way of say, "That's your truth." A statement that is common among people today and clearly points out that truth is relative. In other words, NotebookLM believes, yes believes is the right word, there are no absolutes.

So I gave Gemini the following question:

A professor friend of mine told me that Notebook LM is helpful because you can give it the sources and it can produce nice summaries and podcasts from the material. However, the model must have a starting point, a worldview, and that worldview may show up in the resulting material. The professor gave an example of sharing some absolutes which NotebookLM made relative with the statement, 'In the opinion of the author'.

Is this true about NotebookLM?

Gemini's Answer:

That is **partially true** and points to a significant nuance in how large language models (LLMs) like the one powering NotebookLM function, especially when generating creative formats like a "podcast" or an interpretive summary.

Your professor friend is right to highlight the issue of the model's **underlying worldview or bias** potentially influencing the output, even when it's grounded in your sources.

⁷ If you do not know that there are absolute statements, then you need to start by asking Jesus if there are absolutes.

NotebookLM's Design and Sources

NotebookLM is designed to be a **source-grounded AI research assistant**. Its key features relevant to your question are:

- **Source-Grounded Responses:** NotebookLM is specifically built to use **only the sources you upload** (PDFs, Google Docs, websites, etc.) to generate its responses, summaries, and audio overviews (like the podcast feature). It provides **citations** back to the exact quotes in your documents to verify its claims.
- **Creative Formats (Audio Overviews):** The “podcast” feature, often called **Audio Overview**, turns your sources into engaging, conversational discussions between two AI hosts. This format inherently requires the model to do more than just summarize; it has to **interpret, connect ideas, and frame a discussion**, which opens the door for subtle interpretation.

The Issue of Worldview and Interpretation

The specific example of NotebookLM turning an “absolute” statement into a “relative” one with the phrase **“In the opinion of the author”** is a plausible and insightful observation that gets to the heart of AI bias and interpretation:

1. **Safety and Neutrality Training:** The core language model (Gemini) is trained on a massive, diverse dataset and is programmed to maintain a degree of **neutrality, objectivity, and caution** in its output. When faced with a strong, uncited, or potentially contentious claim (like an “absolute” truth), the model’s safety and neutrality guardrails might automatically introduce a qualifier like “in the opinion of the author,” “the text suggests,” or “it can be argued that.”
2. **Framing for Debate/Discussion:** For features like the Audio Overview, the model is often programmed to **synthesize different viewpoints** and present a **discussion** (and sometimes even a “Debate” or “Critique” format is available). A discussion requires different angles, and for the model to create a “lively exchange,” it may reframe strong assertions as the *author’s viewpoint* rather than a universal fact, even if the source presents it as an absolute. This is a choice made by the *programming* of the generative task, not necessarily a flaw in reading the source.
3. **Inherent Model Bias:** Even with source-grounding, the underlying language model has an **inherent “worldview”** formed by the vast data it was trained on. This deep-seated bias can subtly color its interpretation, synthesis, and the way it **frames** the final output. Users have occasionally reported finding political, cultural, or other subtle biases in the summaries and discussions generated by the tool.

Conclusion

Your friend’s statement is **accurate in principle**. While NotebookLM excels at grounding its answers in your documents, the way it **synthesizes, frames, and presents** that material—especially in a creative format like a podcast—can be influenced by the model’s in-built caution, training for neutrality, and potential underlying biases.

The best way to counteract this is by:

1. **Checking Citations:** Always use the citations provided by NotebookLM to confirm the original context of any interpreted idea.
2. **Critical Prompts:** Use very specific prompts to force the model to present the information exactly as written, or to present a *direct comparison* of arguments without editorializing (e.g., “State the author’s absolute claims without qualification”).

I find it very interesting that the AI starts out with the professor being partially correct and then goes on to show the professor IS CORRECT, even if stated tentatively.

Let’s come back to the sentence I said above: “In other words, NotebookLM believes, yes believes is the right word, there are no absolutes.”

How can I say that a program believes? Does it have faith?

Well, I am going to make an assumption that you are reading this either in my book, Mind Freedom, or on my family and student website. If you are reading it independently and want to know more about what I'm saying, go to [Baba.Computer](#) and download Mind Freedom.

Given that assumption, I can give you the quick answer about AI's faith.

Since AI is built using the human mind as its blueprint, then it will be programmed in the same way as the mind. In other words, it will be built from stories that answer the five critical worldview questions. If it is using the popular answers, then it will have a relativistic worldview, which from Gemini's answer above we see this is true.

Important

Yes, NotebookLM is only using my material but it is interpreting it with a relativistic mind.

In other words, it is like when a person with a relativistic mind reads the material.

Non-Logical Mind

The problem with that is that it is a non-logical mind is interpreting your material.⁸

Hence, you must be aware of what NotebookLM produces for you.

See OnlyLogicalAnswer to learn more on a logical mind.

As we read Gemini's answer, we see that the programmers purposely added filters that favor their worldview.

19.1 Gemini on Filters

The mind creates filters to protect its worldview using a set of **cognitive biases** and psychological mechanisms. A person's worldview is a fundamental, deeply held system of beliefs, values, and assumptions that provides a sense of certainty, meaning, and identity. Challenging this core framework can be psychologically destabilizing, so the mind employs automatic shortcuts—or filters—to preserve stability and reduce mental stress.

The three primary ways the mind filters reality to protect its worldview are through selective exposure, selective interpretation, and selective memory.

Key Psychological Filters for Worldview Protection

The most powerful filter is a cognitive bias that influences all stages of information processing:

1. Confirmation Bias

Confirmation bias is the fundamental tendency to seek, interpret, favor, and recall information in a way that confirms or supports one's existing beliefs or values. It acts as an unconscious guard for your worldview at every level:

- **Selective Search/Exposure: You're more likely to seek out sources, news channels, or people who already agree with you. This creates an echo chamber that prevents contradictory evidence from ever reaching your conscious attention.**
 - *Example:* Only reading news articles from a publication that aligns with your political stance.
- **Selective Interpretation: When you encounter ambiguous or even contradictory information, you interpret it in a way that makes it consistent with your current beliefs. You find flaws in the methodology or trustworthiness of the disconfirming evidence.**

⁸ I use logic a lot in this story/article. We also talk about protective filters. Some people are so beat-up by their culture and faulty stories, that they have been programmed to see the word logic as a controlling mechanism as part of their filtering process. They will turn you off as soon as they here the word logic. Hence, they will not read this article or Mind Freedom and will remain in prison until they learn that Jesus is the only one that does not try to control us. For those of you reading this and you know Jesus' freedom, you need to ask the Holy Spirit to give you other words than logic. My articles have been for my computer students and family and we are in the field because we love logic.

- *Example:* Seeing data that contradicts your belief about an issue and concluding that the data must be flawed or manipulated.
- **Selective Memory (Recall):** You are more likely to remember evidence and experiences that support your beliefs and quickly forget or downplay those that contradict them. This reinforces the feeling that your beliefs are entirely evidence-based.
 - *Example:* Easily recalling all the times you were right about a prediction while conveniently forgetting all the times you were wrong.

Deeper Psychological Motivations

Beyond simple cognitive shortcuts, there are deeper emotional and social needs that these filters satisfy:

Cognitive Consistency

The filters work to reduce **cognitive dissonance**, which is the mental stress or discomfort experienced when holding two or more conflicting beliefs, values, or when new information contradicts a core belief. By filtering out or reinterpreting the conflicting information, the mind maintains a smooth, consistent internal narrative, which is less demanding on your limited mental processing capacity.

Identity and Self-Worth Protection

Our worldviews are intrinsically linked to our **identity** and self-esteem. Questioning a core belief can feel like questioning one's own competence or morality. * The mind protects the worldview because it provides a reliable framework for understanding the world, which reduces **uncertainty** and anxiety. * If your self-worth is tied to an ideology, challenging that ideology feels like a direct **threat to your sense of self**.

Social and Group Affiliation

A significant part of our identity is based on the groups we belong to (our **in-groups**). Shared worldviews foster social cohesion and a sense of belonging. The mind filters information to protect this bond through: * **In-Group Bias:** Favoring and believing the claims of people within your social group while being skeptical or critical of “out-groups.” * **Conformity:** The pressure to maintain the group's worldview, often leading to the silencing or self-censoring of contradictory thoughts to avoid social rejection or conflict.

19.2 Gemini on AI's Filters

Yes, Google absolutely adds extensive **filters and safeguards** to its AI models, such as Gemini, and their products like AI Overviews in Search.

These “filters” are a core part of Google's commitment to **Responsible AI** and are built into the models and the interfaces they are accessed through.

Why Google Adds Filters to its AI

The primary reasons for implementing these filters fall under ethical, safety, and legal categories:

1. Safety and Harm Prevention

This is the most critical reason. The filters are designed to prevent the AI from generating dangerous, illegal, or harmful content. Specific harms Google aims to filter include:

- **Hate Speech and Harassment:** Preventing the generation of content that promotes discrimination, violence, or disparages protected groups based on race, religion, gender, etc.
- **Dangerous Content:** Blocking instructions or information that could facilitate self-harm, violent extremism, illegal activities (like synthesizing illegal substances), or generating malicious code.
- **Sexually Explicit Content:** Prohibiting the creation of pornographic or sexually gratifying material, especially involving non-consensual imagery or children.

1. Preventing Misinformation and Deception

AI models can be very convincing, even when they generate falsehoods (often called **hallucinations**). Filters are used to mitigate this risk, particularly in sensitive areas:

- **Facilitating Scams and Fraud:** Stopping the AI from helping users create deceptive content or impersonate individuals without explicit disclosure.
- **Manipulated Media (Deepfakes):** Preventing the creation of deceptive audio, video, or image content that verifiably didn't take place and could cause significant harm or undermine trust.
- **Claims of Expertise:** Discouraging the AI from offering medical, legal, or financial advice that could mislead or cause harm.

1. Promoting Fairness and Mitigating Bias

The large datasets used to train AI models often contain societal biases, leading to outputs that can perpetuate stereotypes or unfair treatment. Filters are an attempt to counteract this:

- **Reducing Stereotyping:** Implementing safeguards to make the model's outputs more inclusive and to avoid reinforcing societal prejudices against certain groups (e.g., in image generation or demographic descriptions).
- **Fairness in High-Risk Domains:** Applying extra scrutiny when AI is used in areas that could have a significant detrimental impact on individual rights, such as in employment, healthcare, or finance.

1. Legal Compliance and Intellectual Property

Filters help Google adhere to various global regulations and protect legal rights:

- **Privacy and Personal Data:** Implementing mechanisms to prevent the AI from generating or revealing personally identifiable information (PII) without consent.
- **Intellectual Property:** Building safeguards to respect copyright and other intellectual property rights.

How the Filters are Implemented

These filters are not a single on/off switch; they are implemented through multiple layers:

1. **Training Data Filtering:** Initial filtering of the data used to train the models to remove as much harmful or biased content as possible.
2. **Safety Classifiers (The AI's "Bouncer"):** These are separate, specialized AI models that analyze both the user's input (the prompt) and the model's generated output. If either is deemed to cross a safety threshold (e.g., for hate speech or violence), the output is blocked or an error message is returned.
3. **Prohibited Use Policies:** These are the public-facing rules and terms of service that explicitly forbid users from intentionally trying to circumvent the safety filters to generate harmful content.

19.2.1 Amplified Bias

The impact of the AI's implementation of bias is significantly greater and more widespread than the initial bias of the human developers alone.

It is **not the same**; AI is so efficient that it doesn't just replicate the bias—it **automates, amplifies, and perfects** it, creating a pernicious **feedback loop**.

Here is a breakdown of the comparison:

The Source of the Bias: The Developer's Footprint

The developer's bias is the **seed** from which algorithmic bias grows. It primarily enters the system in three key ways:

Type of Human Bias	How it Enters the AI System
Developer Bias (Explicit/Implicit)	The developers' own unconscious or conscious prejudices influence their subjective choices in designing the algorithm or choosing data.
Data Bias (Historical/Societal)	This is the biggest source. The data used to train the AI (e.g., historical loan approvals, hiring records, online text) reflects real-world discrimination and systemic bias (racism, sexism, etc.).
Measurement Bias	Developers choose which metrics define "success" (e.g., maximizing profit vs. maximizing fairness). This subjective choice can bake bias into the system's goal.

The developer's role is not always one of intentional malice; often, it is an **unconscious omission**—a failure to account for diverse demographics or systemic inequality in the data.

The Impact of the AI: Amplification and Perfection

Once the bias is encoded into the algorithm and its training data, the AI's impact is that of an accelerator and a scale-multiplier.

The AI Automates Bias

Unlike a biased human manager who can only interview a few dozen people per week, an AI hiring algorithm can process millions of applications per day.

- **Impact:** A single line of biased code or a single biased dataset is instantly applied *uniformly and continuously* across every single decision, embedding systemic prejudice into entire industries (e.g., hiring, lending, criminal justice).

The AI Amplifies Bias

The AI is designed to find patterns and maximize prediction accuracy based on the data it is given. If the data shows that historically, white men were successful in a certain high-paying job, the AI will learn that **gender and race are the most predictive features** for that role.

- **Result:** The AI takes a small historical imbalance in the data (e.g., 60% men successful) and often **magnifies** it to an extreme output (e.g., only recommends 5% women). The AI perfects the historical bias to achieve statistical efficiency.

The AI Creates a Feedback Loop

This is the most damaging outcome. Biased AI outputs are often used to generate new data, which is then fed back into the system, creating a self-reinforcing cycle of discrimination:

1. **Systemic Bias:** Historical arrest data shows higher rates in minority neighborhoods.
2. **AI Ingestion:** A predictive policing AI is trained on this data.
3. **Algorithmic Output:** The AI predicts higher crime in those same neighborhoods, leading to increased policing and more arrests in those areas.
4. **New Biased Data:** The *new* arrest data confirms the AI's prediction, further training and reinforcing the original bias.
5. **Perfection of Bias:** The bias becomes entrenched and mathematically sound *within the system*, making it harder to detect and correct.

Conclusion: Greater and More Systemic

The bias implemented by the AI is **far more impactful** than the individual bias of its developers.

Feature	Developer Bias (Human)	AI's Implementation of Bias (Algorithm)
Scale	Localized (one hiring decision, one doctor's judgment).	Global and Systemic (millions of decisions simultaneously).
Opacity	Can be challenged, observed, or investigated.	Hidden within "black box" code; perceived as objective truth.
Correction	Requires changing an individual's mind or policy.	Requires redesigning entire models, datasets, and infrastructure.
Self-Correction	Humans can be trained to recognize and override their bias.	AI has no mechanism for ethical self-correction unless explicitly programmed with fairness constraints.

The AI doesn't just passively reflect human bias; it acts as a **super-efficient multiplier**, taking minute, often invisible, social disparities and converting them into large-scale, automated discrimination.

19.3 What do you think?

If you have a Western education or have been following Western social media, you probably find yourself agreeing with much of what Gemini is saying.

Why? Because you've been programmed.

Did you question any of the assumptions presented?

If not, you should. You must question all authority until you understand where they are coming from. But, not just questions, but questions with a desire to find answers. Throughout Mind Freedom, this is the challenge with pointers, particular to good source, to help you learn how to do this kind of questioning.

What Gemini is saying is built from a faulty worldview. If you do not learn how to discern that you will continue to be programmed and make poor and even wrong decisions. According to Gemini, I'm protecting my worldview by writing this. However, even if my worldview is clearly Christ, my challenge to questions is neutral for I beg you to challenge Jesus Christ Himself! If the questions are to be focused on all authority, how does that protect any of them?

Don't be lazy. Ask the questions.

19.4 What Hope is there?

This will sound repetitive of what I just said, but it is coming from a different angle even if it comes to the solution. Above, I asked you what you were thinking. Here, I play with some thoughts I think you might have and my response.

For those of you thinking from another angle, let's consider:

Question

If AI is a "super-efficient multiplier" of a faulty bias, what hope do we mere humans have?

Add to that the fact that its faulty bias is anti-human.

What?

Well, consider this example. If a scan is done of a baby in the womb and the baby has down syndrome, what is the medical advice? Simple, abort the animal.

I use animal, because we have grouped humans with animals. Hence, dispose of the defective animal, which will be me soon since I'm over 65.

Oh, well, no worries because my hope is not wishful thinking but a concrete fact for Jesus promised me I'd be with Him forever.

Now, is that just my protective bias coming out?

And I answer with a resounding, “No, that’s logic!”

Which brings us back to the first thing I tell my students, “Question all authority!”. See [PreparingfortheHilloftheDevelopmentProcess](#).

When Jesus told us to believe Him, He told us the only way to develop a logic and free mind. That is one of the reasons He told us we can be free. He is the designer. He knows how we work. Don’t trust AI, but learn how to filter it with the proper filter. Do not be anxious, but be free in Christ and help others.

Remember

God’s word has to be the core of your life if you want to be Great with AI.

Again, this was meant to be near the end of Mind Freedom so you can explain what this last statement is true. If Mind Freedom didn’t give you enough guidance, please:

- Read *Finding Truth* by Nancy Pearcey for a philosophical perspective
- or watch truthrising.com for a historic and story perspective.

DO NOT BE INOCULATED

In a university department I know, they decided it was really important that their students understood a particular concept. I cannot remember what the subject was, but let's say it was worldview for example sake.

In the first year of studies, the subject was introduced. In following years it was examined deeper. It was covered from different aspect in nearly all the courses for the department.

The department did a study to see if their graduates were successfully mastering the subject. To their dismay (disappointment) they discovered the students not only didn't understand the subject what had very little knowledge of it at all.

Why?

Inoculation!

Let's consider inoculation when it comes to diseases.

Inoculation is the action of introducing infective material, microorganisms, or vaccine into the body in order to produce immunity to a disease.

For example, introducing (via shots, oral or other ways) a weakened disease into the body so they blood learns how to destroy the disease. Then when the disease is actually encountered, the blood knows how to fight against the disease and defeat it.

What was happening with the students of this department, is that in the first course they took worldview was introduced. When it was brought up in other courses, the students thought, "I know this. I learned it in my first term of university." And, hence, they ignored what was being said in other courses. They were **inoculated** !

20.1 Encouraged to Seek

In these articles on "Mind Freedom" we have introduced several really important subjects including worldview, faith and, by far the most important, Jesus Christ. Because of this, you could end up inoculated, thinking you have enough of these critical realities. If so, you've forgotten the first thing you are suppose to do: **Question all Authority.**

What you have learn is solid and true, but we do not want you to accept what we have taught you without doing the work to make it your own.

Our hearts desire is that you will seek.

If you already know Jesus Christ, then we want you to seek to know Him better and closer. If you do not know Jesus Christ, we want you to seek that you might meet the living Christ and find peace, joy and freedom.

Enjoy the journey.

RELATED THOUGHTS

The following articles are some related thoughts.

I've compiled other articles in a quasi auto-biographical format. If you would like to read those, let me know.

Dr. Anthony "Baba Computer/Poppa/Grandpa" Petrillo, July 2024

DON'T LET ANYONE SUBDUE YOUR WILL

Teen rebellion is part of life.

What's going on?

Quite frankly, the uniqueness of being human is striving to take its place as an adult.

It is our will that makes us unique. It is a gift of God, the way we are made in His image.

When we look at Jesus, we see the most powerful man who has ever lived. We also see the most powerful will that ever lived, and He would let no one subdue His will, not even the Father.

The troubles in the world come from a battle of wills. Each one of us tries to subdue the others. People try to make us think their way, do things their way.

I hear you thinking, "Wait a minute, Grandpa. The teenagers I know or see in shows are not trying to subdue their will, but they do whatever society is proclaiming. They say we should be free to take drugs or abuse alcohol if that makes us feel better, or have casual sex, or be a rabbit instead of a man or woman, or just about anything we want if it's not against the law."

That's true. That's the most prevalent method of subduing your will in the current Western culture. Other cultures, religions and philosophies use different ways including threatening, beating, imprisoning or killing.

But how can looking at pictures of nude people or having sex whenever you want be a bad thing? I'm not writing on pornography or sex today, but the West has been pushing this idea for more than a century and the result is not what they expected. Instead of having people who are free, we have a society that is depressed and really doesn't know what to do with their lives. We have broken relationships all over the place, and the discouragement in people's hearts is a huge concern for society.

So, whether a culture uses force, like the threat of killing you, or false freedom of the absolutely ridiculous idea that you can do anything you want as long as it does not harm someone else, they are subduing your will.

"So, Grandpa, we know you well enough. What you are getting around to is that we should do God's will. But isn't that just God subduing our will?"

Well, let me ask you this: Did you notice that when I said Jesus never let anyone subdue His will that I even included God the Father? I was hoping that would raise a question in your mind, and you know how Grandpa loves to get you to ask questions, as long as you desire to truly find the answers.

The Father did not force Jesus to come to earth to save us. The Father did not force Jesus to obey His commands. We see the greatness of Jesus in that He made His own decisions. He didn't let others force Him into their mold or imitation.

Imagine the pressure on Jesus when the people wanted to make Him their king, or the even greater pressure when Satan promised Jesus the entire world. That's right, He was offered everything, all the riches, sex, whatever pleasure He wanted. **And that is when the uniqueness of mankind showed itself so greatly. Jesus Christ said no!**

No one ever has and no one ever could subdue the will and spirit of Jesus Christ!

And our will is made in the image of God.

Yes, you are going to disagree with your parents, your teachers, any authority. Keep in mind that they have had the same struggles. Everyone wrestles with the battle of wills. Most people try to impose their own will on others.

“Grandpa, this kind of makes sense. But how does it fit with that statement you are always telling us: ‘Obedience is Strength!’? You are always telling us that Jesus showed His strength by obeying His Father.”

I’m so proud of you for thinking of that and challenging me with it!

The greatest thing we can do with our will is to purposely pick and choose what we will do and not allow ourselves to be pushed around by culture or friends. This is one of the reasons you struggle with your parents. You feel like they are forcing you to do things you do not want to do. We’ll come back to this in a moment.

Jesus knew His purpose was greater than anyone’s. As Petra put it, “**He came, He saw, He conquered death and hell!**”

He came alone into the battle
He knew nobody else could face His foe
He left His throne, He left His glory
He knew nobody else could ever go
He called the bluff, He took the challenge
He came into this world to seek and save
No one could know, no one could fathom
The way to win was only through the grave
They laid Him in His tomb
They thought they'd sealed His doom
But He rose
He rose! He came, He saw,
He conquered death and hell
He came, He saw, He is alive and well
He was, He is, and only He forgives
He died, He rose, He lives
He came, He saw, He conquered!
The doors were locked,
they heard Him knocking
They were afraid they would be taken, too
Familiar voice said, "Come and follow"
Come and see the things the Lord can do
They went to where He lay
The stone was rolled away
He rose
He rose! He came into this world
He saw humanity
He heard the SOS
He met the enemy
The enemy was conquered
The enemy was conquered!

Yes, Jesus obeyed the Father. He **CHOSE** to obey the Father.

For you see, in John 14 Jesus made it clear that to obey is to love.

Jesus loves the Father. Jesus knows that the Father’s will is the only way to true life and freedom. Jesus was not subdued, but He did the greatest thing that you and I can ever do, He chose to obey the Father.

This is not some psychological game to get you to do what “we” want - whoever “we” might be. On the contrary, it is a call to be a true rebel, to rebel against the lies of Satan and the world and to choose whom you will serve, whom you will obey. For certainly you will obey someone. As Joshua 24:15 said and God echoes throughout Scripture:

And if it seem evil to you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

That’s the beauty of life, the main choices are up to you.

By main choices, I mean the ones that really matter. Some things you just will not have a choice about. If you need to be at school at 9 a.m., then you have to do it. But the real important choice of who has your heart is up to you.

THE PARSON'S COUNSEL

My (ajp2) comments are in this color. The following is chapter 35 of George MacDonald's novel, *There & Back*, in the trilogy *Thomas Wingfold*, *Curate* and *Paul Farber, Surgeon*.

This is an excellent example of thinking in reality rather than thinking in confusion which is thrust into our lives.

It was a happy thing for both Richard and Barbara, that Barbara was now under another influence besides Richard's. The more she saw of Mr. and Mrs. Wingfold, the more she felt that she had come into a region of reality and life. Both of them understood what a rare creature she was, and spoke as freely before her as if she had been a sister of their own age and standing. Barbara on her side knew no restraint with them, but spoke in like freedom, both of her past life, and the present state of things at home—which was indeed no secret, being manifest to the servants, and therefore known to all the county, in forms more or less correct, as it had been to all the colony before they left it. She talked almost as freely of Richard, and of the great desire she had to get him to believe in God.

Richard's influence was good. He had taught how to think through the things she read. In other words, he helped her to comprehend. He also helped her to enlarge her scope of reading. However, Richard rejected the God he saw lived out by Christians and was an atheist. Barbara let Richard know that the idea of living in such an amazing world without the idea of a God was to hurtful. Both of them were wrestling with the idea of a God that could allow such horrible things to happen.

"It was a dangerous relation between two such young people!" some of my readers will remark.—Yes, I answer—dangerous, as every true thing is dangerous to him or her who is not true; as every good thing is dangerous to him or her who is not good. Nothing is so dangerous as religious sentiment without truth in the inward parts. Certain attempts at what is called conversion, are but writhings of the passion of self-recommendation; gapings of the greed of power over others; swellings of the ambition to propagate one's own creed, and proselytize victoriously; hungerings to see self reflected in another convinced. In such efforts lie dangers as vulgar as the minds that make them, and love the excitement of them. But genuine love is far beyond such grovelling delights; and the peril of such a relation is in inverse proportion to the reality of those concerned.

Dangerous because they were young - about 20, and because, in England at that time, they were separated by their social status. Richard was a laborer and Barbara was a lady. They should not have associated at the level they were. But the above paragraph starts to bring forth some of the brilliance of George MacDonald. He levels the playing field to all humanity and points to the real person we are.

This above paragraph will also press your comprehension level. He is saying volumes in this paragraph and at the same time bringing his thoughts to each individual and their own integrity. Please, if you are reading this for one of my classes, try to grasp this paragraph the best you can. Because of experience, you will have some difficulty because MacDonald is referring to how churches acted in his time and continue in our time. And also, the way people have always acted, to try to get control and power over others. Try hard to wrap your mind and heart around the last sentence. There is great freedom in that sentence.

Barbara was one who, so far as human eyes could see, had never required conversion. She had but to go on, recognize, and do. She turned to the light by a holy will as well as holy instinct. She needed much instruction, and might yet have fierce battles to fight, but to convert such as Barbara must be to turn them the wrong way; for the whole energy of her being was in the direction of what is right—that is, righteousness.

Wingfold is a pastor. Conversion is the idea of praying for your salvation. It is not to be equated with being born again, but it often is. It is not that we do not need to be born again, for we do. Jesus made that clear. But it is not through ritual or being convinced by someone. It is by desiring Jesus and hungering to be with Him and know Him better and to obey Him, which is true love.

She needed but to be told a good thing—I do not say told that a thing was good—and at once she received it—that is, obeyed it, the only way of receiving a truth. She did the thing immediately demanded upon every reception of light, every expansion of true knowledge. She was essentially of the truth; and therefore, when she came into relation with a soul such as Wingfold, a soul so much more developed than herself, so much farther advanced in the knowledge of realities as having come through difficulties unknown and indeed at present unknowable to Barbara, she met one of her own house, and her life was fed from his, and began to grow faster.

For he taught her to know the eternal man who bore witness to his father in the face of his perverse children, to know that his heart was the heart of a child in truth and love, and the heart of a God in courage and patience; and Barbara became his slave for very love, his blessed child, the inheritor of his universe.

Happily her life had not been loaded to the ground with the degrading doctrines of those that cower before a God whose justice may well be satisfied with the blood of the innocent, seeing it consists but in the punishing of the guilty. She had indeed heard nothing of that brood of lies until the unbelieving Richard—ah, not far from believing he who but rejected such a God!—gave her to know that such things were believed. From the whole swarm she was protected—shame that it should have to be said!—by pure lack of what is generally regarded as a religious education, such being the mother of more tears and madness in humble souls, and more presumption in the proud and selfish, than perhaps any other influence out of whose darkness God brings light.

Neither ascetic nor mystic nor doctrinist of any sort, caring nothing for church or chapel, of observance of any kind as observance, she believed in God, and was now ready to die for Jesus Christ, in the eternal gladness that there was such a person as God and such a person as Jesus Christ. Their being was to her the full and only pledge of every bliss, every childlike delight.

She believed in the God of the whole earth, not in a puritanical God. She never imagined it could be wrong to dance: merry almost in her very nature, she now held it a duty to be glad. Fond of sweets, she would have thought it wrong to refuse what God meant her to like; but she had far more pleasure in giving than in receiving them. She got into a little habit of thanking God for Miss Brown every time she felt herself on her back. She saw, the moment she heard it, that whatever was not of faith was sin: “The idea,” she said, “of taking a thing from God without thinking love back to him for it!” She shuddered at the thought of unnecessarily hurting, yet would punish sharply. She would whip her dog when he deserved it, but sat up all night with him once when he was ill. She understood something of the ways of God with men.

Wingfold never sought to moderate her ardour for the good of her workman-friend; he only sought to strengthen her in the truth.

One day, when Barbara was sitting with Wingfold and Helen, his wife, in the twilight before the lamp was lit, he said to his pupil,⁹ “Now, pray, Miss Wylder, don’t try by argument to convince the young man of anything. That were no good, even if you succeeded. Opinion is all that can result from argument, and his opinion concerning God, even if you got it set right, would not be knowledge of God, and would be worth nothing; while, if a man knows God, his opinion is either right, or on the nearest way to be right.

“The notion in Richard’s brain of the God he denies, is but another form of the Moloch of the Ammonites. There never was, and never could be such a God. He in whom I believe is the God that says, ‘This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.’ It is as if he said—‘Look at that man: I am just such! No other likeness of me is a true likeness. Heed my son: heed nobody else. Know him and you know me, and then we are one for ever.’ Talk to Richard of the God you love, the beautiful, the strong, the true, the patient, the forgiving, the loving; the one childlike, eternal power and Godhead, who would die himself and kill you rather than have you false and mean and selfish.

“Let him feel God through your enthusiasm for him. You can’t prove to him that there is any God. A God that could be proved, would not be worth proving. Make his thoughts dwell on such a God as he must feel would be worth having. Wake the notion of a God such as will draw him to wish there were such a God.

“There are many religious people who will tell you there is no such God as I mean; but God will love you for believing that he is as good and true as you can think. Throw the notions of any who tell you otherwise to the winds of hell.

“‘God is just!’ said a carping theologian to me the other day. ‘Yes,’ I answered, ‘and he cannot be pleased that you should call that justice which is injustice, and attribute it to him!’ There are many who must die in ignorance of their Father in heaven, because they will not of their own selves judge what is right. Such never get beyond the weak and beggarly elements.

⁹ I made a slight modification to this sentence to avoid confusion.

“Set in Richard’s eye a God worth believing in, a God like the son of God, and he will go and look if haply such a God may be found; he will call upon him, and the God who is will hear and answer him. What good would it be, what could it bring but the more condemnation, that a man should be sure there was a God, if he did not cry to him?”

“But although a man may never doubt and never cry, I cannot imagine any man sure there is a God without his first having cried to him. God is God to us not that we may say he is, but that we may know him; and when we know him, then we are with him, at home, at the heart of the universe, the heirs of all things.

“All this is foolishness, I know, to the dull soul that cares only for the things that admit of being proved. The unprovable mystery out of which come the things provable, has for them no interest, they say, because it is unprovable: they take for granted that therefore it is unknowable. Would they be content it should be unknowable if things were all as they should be within them? When the eyes of those who have made themselves at home in the world of the senses and care for no other are opened, I imagine them saying—‘Yes, He was after all; but none the less were you fools to believe in him, for you had no proof!’ Then I seem to hear the children laugh and say, ‘We had himself, and did not want it.’

“That the unprovable is necessarily the unknowable, a thousand beliefs deny. ‘You cannot prove to me that you have a father!’ says the blind sage, reasoning with the little child. ‘Why should I prove it?’ answers the child. ‘I am sitting on his knee! If I could prove it, that would not make you see him; that would not make you happy like me! You do not care about my father, or you would not stand there disputing; you would feel about until you found him!’ If a thing be true in itself, it is not capable of proof; and that man is in the higher condition who is able to believe it. In proportion as a man is a fool he is unable to believe what in itself is true.

“If intellect be the highest power, then the men of proof are the wisest; if there be something deeper than intellect, causing and including it, if there be a creative power of which our intellect is but a faint reflex, then the child of that power, the one who acknowledges and loves and obeys that power, will be the one to understand it.

“If a man say, ‘I cannot believe; I was not made to believe what I could not prove;’ I reply, Do you really say, ‘It is not true,’ because you have no proof? Ask yourself whether you do not turn from the idea because you prefer it should not be true. You accept a thousand things without proof, and a thousand things may be perfectly true, and have no proof. But if you cannot be sure, why therefore do you turn away? Is the thing assuredly false? Then you ought of course to turn away. Can you prove it false? You cannot. Again, why do you turn away? That a thing is not assuredly true, cannot be reason for turning from it, else farewell to all theory and all scientific research! Is the thing less good, less desirable, less worth believing, in itself, that you cannot thus satisfy yourself concerning it? The very chance that such a thing may be true, the very fact that it cannot be disproved, is large reason for an honest, and continuous, and unending search.

“Do you hold any door in your nature open for the possibility of a God having a claim on you? The truth is, as I hinted before, that you are not drawn to the idea, do not like it; and it is therefore you turn away, and not because you have no proof.—If the man then shifted his ground and said, ‘He seemed to me not a good being, and I said therefore, he cannot exist;’ I should reply, There you were right. But a thing that cannot be, cannot render impossible a thing that can be—a thing against whose existence there are no such arguments as have rightly shown that the other cannot be. In right logical balance you must admit that a creative being who is good may exist. But the final question is always this: Have you acted, or rather, are you acting according to the conscience which is the one guide to truth, to all that is!”

Keep in mind that this is during a time when philosopher’s had not thought of starting from the key prepositions of life and determining if they made sense. We can now show Jesus Christ is the only logical answer. But, that does not change the situation from Adam and Eve till now. As MacDonald points out, it comes down to whether or not we want to know God no matter what others can show you concerning God.

“But,” said Barbara, “perhaps the man would say that we see such suffering in the world, that the being who made it, if there be one, cannot possibly be both strong and good, otherwise he would not allow it.”

“Say then, that he might be both strong and good, and have some reason for allowing, or even causing it, which those who suffer will themselves one day justify, ready for the sake of it to go through all the suffering again. Less than that would not satisfy me. If he say, ‘What reason could justify the infliction of such suffering?’ then tell him what I am now going to tell you.

“A year ago,” continued Wingfold, “my little boy displeased me horribly. I will not tell you what he did: when the boy grows up, he will find it as impossible to understand how he could have done the thing, as I find it now. People say, ‘Children will be children!’ but I see little consolation in that. Children must be children, and ought to be

good children. They are made to be good children, just as much as men are made to be good men. All I will say is, that he did a mean thing. You see his mother can hardly keep from crying now at the thought of it. Thank God, she was of one mind with me. I took him, and, bent on making him feel, if not how horrid the thing was in itself—for what imperfect being can ever know the full horror of evil!—at least how horrid I thought it, broke out in strong language. I told him I must whip him; that I could not bear doing it, but rather than he should be a damned, mean, contemptible little rascal, I would kill him and be hanged for it. I dare say it sounds very improper, but—”

“Not in the least!” cried Barbara. “I like a man to curse what is bad, and go down on his knees to what is good.”

“Well, what do you think the little fellow said?—‘Don’t kill me, papa,’ he cried. ‘I will be good. Don’t, please, be hanged for my naughtiness! Whip me, and that will make me good.’”

“And then you couldn’t do it?” asked Barbara anxiously.

“I cried,” said Wingfold, and almost cried again as he said it. “I’m not much in the habit of crying—I don’t look like it, do I?—but I couldn’t help it. The child took out his little pocket-handkerchief and dried my eyes, and then prepared himself for the whipping. And I whipped him as I never did before, and I hope in God shall never have to do again. The moment it was over, while my heart was like to burst, he flung his arms round my neck and began kissing me. ‘I will never make you cry again, papa!’ he said.—He has kept his word, and since then I have never wondered at the suffering in the world. I have puzzled my metaphysical brains to the last gasp about the origin of evil—I don’t do that now, for I seem to understand it—but, since then, I have never troubled myself about the origin of suffering. I don’t like pain a whit better than another, and I don’t bear it nearly so well as Helen, but I vex neither my brain nor my heart as to God’s allowing it.¹⁰ I knew after whipping my boy, that the tears the Lord wept over Jerusalem were not wept by him only, but by the Father as well. Whoever says God cannot suffer, I say he does not understand. God can weep, and weeps more painful tears than ours; for he is God, and we are his little ones. That boy’s trouble was over with the punishment, but my heart is sore yet.

“It comes to this, that the suffering you see around you, hurts God more than it hurts you, or the man upon whom it falls; but he hates things that most men think little of, and will send any suffering upon them rather than have them continue indifferent to them. Men may say, ‘We don’t want suffering! we don’t want to be good!’ but God says, ‘I know my own obligations! and you shall not be contemptible wretches, if there be any resource in the Godhead.’ I know well that almost all the mothers in my congregation would, hearing what I have just told you, call me a cruel father. They would rather have me a weak one, loving my child less. They would rather their child should be foul in the soul than be made clean through suffering! I know they would! But I know also that they do not see how ugly is evil. And that again is because they are not clean enough themselves to value rightness above rubies! Tell the tale your own way to your workman-friend, and may God help him to understand it! The God who strikes, is the God whose son wept over Jerusalem.”

“I am so glad you whipt the darling!” said Barbara, scarcely able to speak. “I shall love him more than ever.”

“You should see how he loves his father!” said Helen. “His father is all his talk when we are alone together. He sees more of me than of him now, but by and by his father will take him about with him.”

“And then,” said Barbara, “all his talk will be of you!”

“Yes; it is the way of the child!”

“And of the whole family in heaven and earth,” rejoined the parson.

Barbara rose.

“You’ll be on the watch,” said Wingfold, “for any chance for me of serving your mother?”

“I will,” replied Barbara.

The next morning she got on Miss Brown, and rode to the forge, where Simon made her always welcome. It was sunshine to his heart to see her, he said. She knew that Richard was to be there. They left Miss Brown in the smithy, and went for a walk together, during which Barbara was careful to follow the parson’s advice. Their talk was mostly about her life in New Zealand. Now that she knew God more, and believed more in him, she was more able to set forth her history. Feelings long vague had begun to put on shapes definite and communicable. She understood herself better, and was better able to make Richard understand her. And in Richard, by degrees,

¹⁰ I changed to allowing from sending. The Book of Job makes it clear that God allows evil but never is the cause. This is not to say that there might not be times when God sends things as a way to redirect or refine us; for indeed life is a very complex interaction of so many wills, but the bottom line is that God allows things to go a certain way to accomplish the best in ways we will not understand until heaven and even then we may only be able to accept them.

through the sympathy of affection, was growing the notion of a God in whom it would not be hard to believe. He ought not to believe, and he had not believed in the supposed being hitherto presented to him as God; now he saw the shape of a God in whom, if he existed, he ought to believe. But he had not yet come to long that he should exist, to desire him, or to cry out in the hope that he would hear him. His hour was not yet come. But when the day of darkness arrived, when he knew himself helpless, there would be in his mind a picture of the God to whom he must cry in his trouble—a God whose existence would then be his only need, the one desire of his soul. To wake the sense of this eternal need, present though unrecognized under every joy, was the final cause of every sorrow and pain against which Richard rebelled—most naturally rebelled, knowing neither the plague of a heart that would but could not be lord over itself, nor of a nature hatefully imperfect and spotted, yea capable of what itself could not but detest.

Naturally, his manners were growing more refined from his intercourse with the gracious, brave, sympathetic, unconventional creature, so strong yet so gentle, so capable of indignation, so full of love. He was gradually developing the pure humanity that lay beneath the rough artisan. He was, in a word, becoming what in the kingdom of heaven every man must be—a gentleman, because more than a gentleman.

All this time Barbara was pulled two ways: for Richard's sake she would have him heir to the baronetcy; for her own she would be rid of the shadow of having sought the baronet in the bookbinder. But more and more the asseveration of lady Ann gained force with her—that Richard was not the heir. She had greatly doubted her, but now she said to herself: "She could hardly be mistaken, and she cannot have lied." The consequence was that she grew yet more free, more at home with Richard. She listened to all he had to tell her, learning of him with an abandon of willingness that put him upon his honour to learn of her again. And he did learn, as I have said, a good deal—went farther than he knew in the way of true learning.

They strolled together in the field behind the smithy, within sight of the cottage, for an hour or so; then hearing from the smithy the impatient stamping of Miss Brown, and fearing she might give the old man trouble, hastened back. Richard brought out the mare. Barbara sprang on a big stone by the door, and mounted without his help. She went straight for Wylder Hall.

As they were walking up and down the field, Arthur Lestrangle passed on foot, saw them, and went home indignant.

WHAT IS HOPE?

Think of how you and others use the word hope. For example, I hear people say things like:

- I hope it doesn't rain today.
- I hope I get an A on that test.
- I hope I win the lottery.

From those, we see that the common way to use hope today is to wish. You do not know if it will come true or if it is certain, it is just wishful thinking.

Another way we use hope is like this:

- She has hope because she knows the pain will be gone once the baby is delivered.
- He has hope because it is only two weeks until school is over and he'll be free to do what he wants for the entire summer.

Here we see that we are helped to get through the hard things we are facing because we know something better is coming. This gives us hope.

This second one is close to how the Bible uses the word hope. The difference being that the Bible's use of the hope is that what is hoped for is guaranteed. For example:

- The boy failed mathematics and has to take summer school.

The boy's hope encouraged him but it was not guaranteed. Whereas what Jesus promised will come true, so we have a guaranteed hope.

It is this kind of hope that has carried God's people through horrific situations. All the horrible things you see going on in the world today, God's people have gone through with hope.

Did they all come out on the other side with everything going okay? Such as the lady delivering a child who sits with the baby in her arms, the pain is gone and the joy overwhelms the past pain. Does that happen for all God's people that have hope?

Absolutely not!

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (Amplified Classic):

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (emancipation from bondage, freedom). And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit. My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

2 Corinthians 4:1-18 (Amplified Classic):

Therefore, since we do hold and engage in this ministry by the mercy of God [granting us favor, benefits, opportunities, and especially salvation], we do not get discouraged (spiritless and despondent with fear) or become faint with weariness and exhaustion. We have renounced disgraceful ways (secret

thoughts, feelings, desires and underhandedness, the methods and arts that men hide through shame); we refuse to deal craftily (to practice trickery and cunning) or to adulterate or handle dishonestly the Word of God, but we state the truth openly (clearly and candidly). And so we commend ourselves in the sight and presence of God to every man's conscience. But even if our Gospel (the glad tidings) also be hidden (obscured and covered up with a veil that hinders the knowledge of God), it is hidden [only] to those who are perishing and obscured [only] to those who are spiritually dying and veiled [only] to those who are lost. For the god of this world has blinded the unbelievers' minds [that they should not discern the truth], preventing them from seeing the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ (the Messiah), Who is the Image and Likeness of God. For what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves [merely] as your servants (slaves) for Jesus' sake. For God Who said, Let light shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts so as [to beam forth] the Light for the illumination of the knowledge of the majesty and glory of God [as it is manifest in the Person and is revealed] in the face of Jesus Christ (the Messiah). However, we possess this precious treasure [the divine Light of the Gospel] in [frail, human] vessels of earth, that the grandeur and exceeding greatness of the power may be shown to be from God and not from ourselves. We are hedged in (pressed) on every side [troubled and oppressed in every way], but not cramped or crushed; we suffer embarrassments and are perplexed and unable to find a way out, but not driven to despair; We are pursued (persecuted and hard driven), but not deserted [to stand alone]; we are struck down to the ground, but never struck out and destroyed; Always carrying about in the body the liability and exposure to the same putting to death that the Lord Jesus suffered, so that the [resurrection] life of Jesus also may be shown forth by and in our bodies. For we who live are constantly [experiencing] being handed over to death for Jesus' sake, that the [resurrection] life of Jesus also may be evidenced through our flesh which is liable to death. Thus death is actively at work in us, but [it is in order that our] life [may be actively at work] in you. Yet we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, I have believed, and therefore have I spoken. We too believe, and therefore we speak, Assured that He Who raised up the Lord Jesus will raise us up also with Jesus and bring us [along] with you into His presence. For all [these] things are [taking place] for your sake, so that the more grace (divine favor and spiritual blessing) extends to more and more people and multiplies through the many, the more thanksgiving may increase [and redound] to the glory of God. Therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day. For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!]. Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting.

2 Corinthians 5:1-9 (Amplified Classic):

For we know that if the tent which is our earthly home is destroyed (dissolved), we have from God a building, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Here indeed, in this [present abode, body], we sigh and groan inwardly, because we yearn to be clothed over [we yearn to put on our celestial body like a garment, to be fitted out] with our heavenly dwelling, So that by putting it on we may not be found naked (without a body). For while we are still in this tent, we groan under the burden and sigh deeply (weighed down, depressed, oppressed)-not that we want to put off the body (the clothing of the spirit), but rather that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal (our dying body) may be swallowed up by life [after the resurrection]. Now He Who has fashioned us [preparing and making us fit] for this very thing is God, Who also has given us the [Holy] Spirit as a guarantee [of the fulfillment of His promise]. So then, we are always full of good and hopeful and confident courage; we know that while we are at home in the body, we are abroad from the home with the Lord [that is promised us]. For we walk by faith [we regulate our lives and conduct ourselves by our conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, with trust and holy fervor; thus we walk] not by sight or appearance. [Yes] we have confident and hopeful courage and are pleased rather to be away from home out of the body and be at home with the Lord. Therefore, whether we are at home [on earth away from Him] or away from home [and with Him], we are constantly ambitious and strive earnestly to be pleasing to Him.

God's people have been abused all through history and yet they march on because they have guaranteed hope and the help of the Holy Spirit.

CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

You are the Center of the Universe.

That sounds strange to us. That is because all but one system of thought teaches us this is not true.

Think of it this way. You just read “You are the center of the universe” and you started to evaluate this statement. Do I recognize the words? Do they communicate as a statement? Is this true, false or irrelevant?

Was it your sister that evaluated this statement? Well, you might answer yes, if it was your sister that taught you how to think. We are all taught to think, or in other words, we are programmed to think. Some believe it is from the chemistry of our bodies; some believe it is from the stories of our culture(s); some believe it is a combination of these two; and some believe that chemistry and story have their part, but there is more to you and me than just this.

No matter which of these you believe, it all is being calculated through you. You are the one using the programming you have to evaluate the statement. In that way you are the center of everything that is engaged by or from you. Yes, there are tons of other influences, but the decisions always come down to you.

You ask, is that true if I’m a prisoner? Even then you have decisions you can make. For example, you will need to decide whether or not you will love the enemy that put you in prison.

There are still so many ways we can go with these thoughts. For example, many will fit this idea into their idea that we are all just machines.

Every person start their thinking in themself.

It is possible to take the system the Bible teaches, put it down in the marketplace of the ideas of men, and let it stand there and speak for itself. Let us notice that the system of the Bible is excitingly different from any other, because it is the only system in religion or philosophy that tells us why a person may do what every man must do - that is, begin with himself. There is, in fact, no other way to begin apart from ourselves- each man sees through his own eyes — and yet this involves a real problem. What right have I to begin here? No other system explains my right to do so. But the Bible gives me an answer as to why I can do what I must do - that is, to begin with myself. The Bible says, first of all, that in the beginning all things were created by a personal-infinite God who had always existed. So what is, therefore, is intrinsically personal rather than impersonal. Then the Bible says that He created all things outside of Himself. The term “outside of Himself” is, I think, the best way to express creation to twentieth-century people. We do not mean to use the phrase in a spatial sense, but to deny that creation is any kind of pantheistic extension of God’s essence. God exists— a personal God who has always existed - and He has created all other things outside of Himself. Thus, because the universe begins with a truly personal beginning, love and communication (which are a burden of twentieth-century men’s hearts) are not contrary to that which intrinsically is. The universe began in a personal as against an impersonal beginning, and, as such, those longings of love and communication which man has are not contrary to that which intrinsically is. And the world is a real world, because God has created it truly outside of Himself. What He has created is objectively real; thus there is true historic cause and effect. There is a true history and there is a true me. In this setting of a significant history, the Bible says that God made man in a special way, in His own image. If I do not understand that man’s basic relationship is upward, I must try to find it downward. In relating it downward, a person is very old-fashion today if he finally relates himself to the animals. Today modern man seeks to relate himself to the machine. But the Bible says that my life of reference need not lead downward. It is upward because I have been made in God’s image. Man is not a machine.

Francis Schaeffer, The God Who Is There.

COMPARING THE MIND AND COMPUTERS

One of the blessings I have had in life is that the Lord started the Transformational Education Network, Discipling to the 3rd Generation (TEN3). The following is a combination of material from TEN3's Orientation Guide and my additions.

“Worldview is not an abstract, academic concept. Instead, the term describes our search for answers to those intensely personal questions everyone must wrestle with—the cry of the human heart for purpose, meaning, and a truth big enough to live by. No one can live without a sense of purpose and direction, a sense that his or her life has significance as part of a cosmic story. We may limp along for a while, extracting small installments of meaning from short-term goals like earning a degree, landing a job, getting married, establishing a family. But at some point, these temporal things fail to fulfill the deep hunger for eternity in the human spirit. For we were made for God, and every part of our personality is oriented toward relationship with Him. ‘Our hearts are restless’, Augustine said, ‘until we find our rest in Him.’” Pearcey 2005

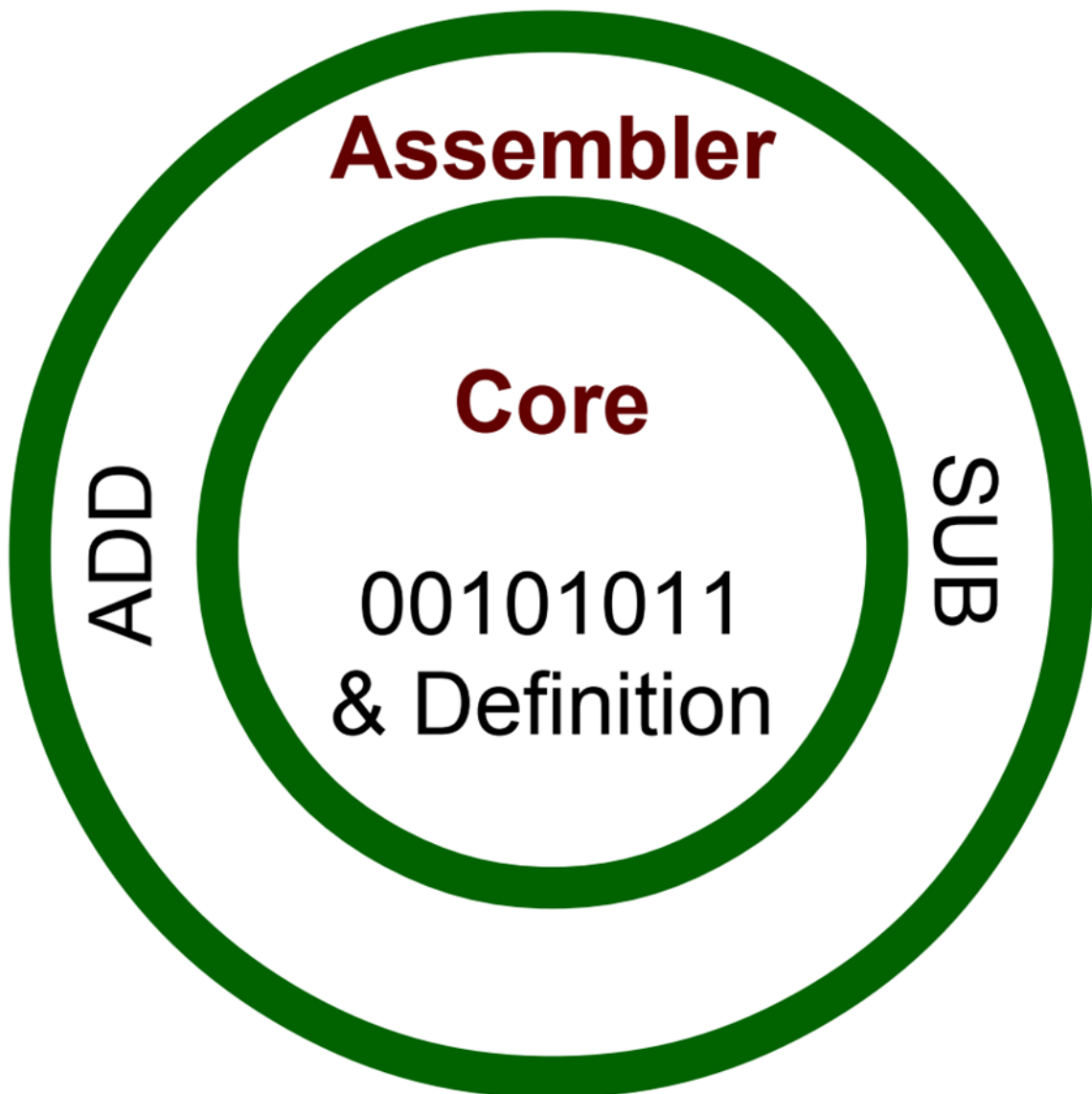
Often education is used just to train a person to take part in a system (government, industry, education) without any consideration of the fuller aspects of life. The person ends up nothing more than a cog in a wheel. The Christian who recognizes his worth in the sight of God and knows to whom he owes his ultimate allegiance, does not always know how to grapple with the world's expectations in his chosen profession. In a Christian's mind, a rift often develops because the way he is expected to think at work versus at home differs drastically. People are not items to be used by society, but they are loved by God. The purpose of the Body of Jesus Christ is to reconcile the world to God. (II Corinthians 5:18-21)

TEN3 materials are developed from a Christian worldview with the foundational idea that God is the Creator of all that is. While God is above and beyond creation, and therefore beyond comprehension, he has chosen to reveal himself through creation and through his Word. His ultimate self-revelation is the Incarnation, in which he demonstrated his love at the cross and his power through the resurrection. This theological foundation creates a view of reality that is markedly different from other worldviews. This is a very significant factor that is not often understood and is underestimated. The following analogy will make this point clearer.

The mind has some similarities to a computer. A computer is a machine that man has developed that allows us to store our knowledge and logic. We call this knowledge and logic “data and programs” or “software.” At first, only scientists could work with computers, because the native language of a computer is very primitive. For example, 0001001010010110 means Hi. These are two eight-bit strings, the first being “H,” the second being “i” as represented in an ASCII decimal chart. So at the core of computers, there is a primitive language and a set of definitions for it.



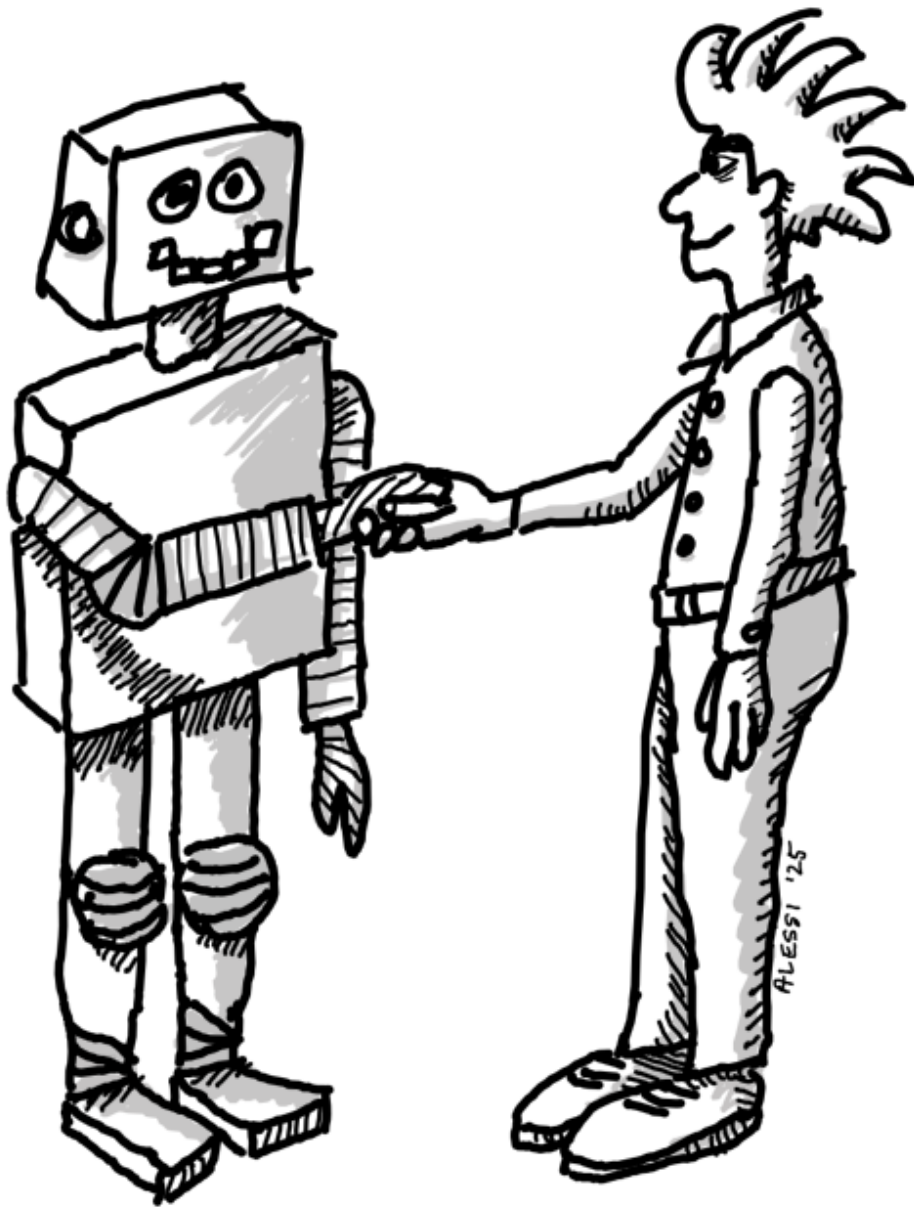
However, these scientists got tired of working in a language with just zeros and ones. So they made an interpreter that could use letters and abbreviated words, such as ADD or SUB for add or subtract. This was called an assembler language.



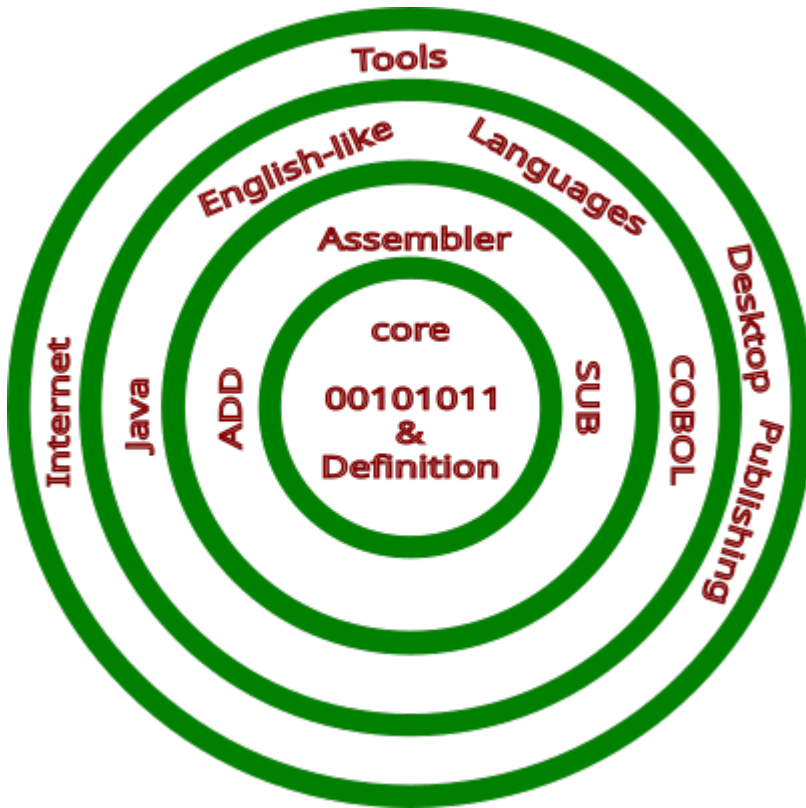
This was better; more people could start writing programs and putting their logic into the computer. But it still was quite tedious, so they made programming languages that were more English-like. These included languages like COBOL (Common Business Oriented Language) and Java.¹¹

This allowed people to make tools that were easier for all of us to use, such as word processors, so we could type our own documents into the computer. These tools got fancier, and soon we were able to make books and magazines with programs we called desktop publishers. We could easily type in the words or even talk to the computer and have it “type” in the words for us. We could put pictures on a page and rotate them or change the colors as we desire. Eventually we learned how to be able to share these tools around the world using the worldwide web, also called the Internet. The Internet allows us to do e-mail or have meetings with people on the other side of the world. We can talk with them, show them what we are looking at on our computer, or even allow them to see us in our office. Now we have AI (Artificial Intelligence).

¹¹ This is very condensed. Layers are missing, and much history and data is pushed together to give you just a brief understanding to help you realize how education should be integrated.



(COLLABORATION)
(HANDSHAKE PROTOCOL?)

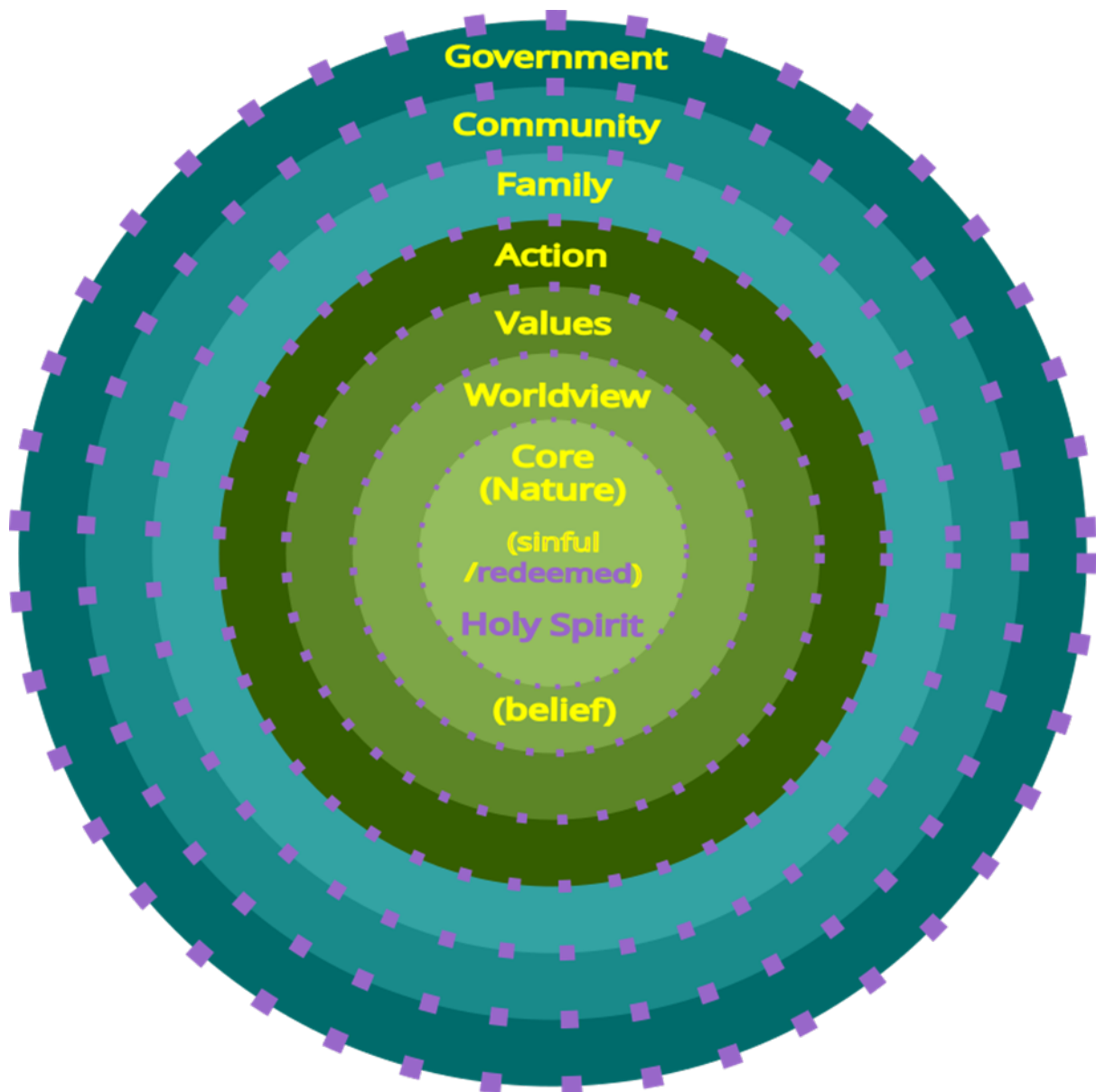


These diagrams show how they are layered. One layer is built on top of another like an onion. And, like an onion, if the core becomes rotten, eventually the entire onion becomes rotten. With a computer, if there is an error at any level, it produces errors in the other levels above it. The farther down the error, the more serious it is. An error at the core is very serious and can crash the computer. A bad core will cause the computer to not work, or worse, not work properly.

Working improperly is more dangerous because you trust the computer's data. If it is wrong, it will cause you to make wrong decisions.

This computer example can be used as a rough analogy of how the mind works. It also has a core with layers. There are different factors that shape us – including what we hear, where we live and who we are as God made us.

As we grow up, our core is formed. On top of that core, we build layers, but every one of those layers is drastically affected by the core. Hence, there is no way to build an affective* business education without acknowledging that the core of the person matters and without thinking about how the core affects the way business or law is practised or anything else we do. It is absolutely essential to have a good core if we are to see Christlike business people emerge from the program. If the core is bad, we are in trouble.



- (It is also effective. However affective talks about changed people. And people changed by Christ will be effective.)

What if our core has errors?

There is no “what if.”

All of our cores have errors and are in need of God’s redemption (Romans 3:23). Then, once our nature has been redeemed, the work of the Holy Spirit has only begun! Romans 12:2 tells us, Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

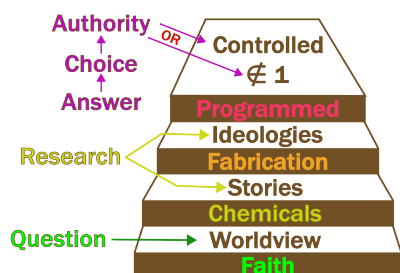
We all need our minds renewed. It is not a one-time process, but on-going. It is not something we can do on our own, nor can education accomplish it. We need God’s help to have our minds renewed. That is why Jesus promised us a helper, called the Holy Spirit. We need an education that recognizes God is at work and helps us to understand what God requires of us (Micah 6:8).

Everything we do is integrated because it all originates from that core. If an educational program does not acknowledge this and actively do something about it, minds will not be renewed. Disjuncture will occur. The TEN3 team’s heart’s desire is that God will guide us and continue to renew our core so that by the grace and power of God we will offer a transformational education.

|| Important

Please note a very important point here. This means that those of us writing the material should also realize we are in this process of God renewing our minds. God has given us the privilege and responsibility of passing on what he has taught us, but we should not be arrogant. We should expect God to be changing and refining us through this process of developing materials and through all aspects of our lives.

WORLDVIEW SHORT DEFINITIONS



There are so many competing voices in the world today. Here is a brief definition of the five dominant worldviews [naturalism (materialism), post modernism, pantheism, spiritualism/polytheism, and theism] that color most aspects of life, from the content we consume, to ideas we ingest, to politics, and beyond. Being able to pinpoint the origin of an idea allows us to both better understand and analyze the idea before accepting or rejecting it for ourselves. It is helpful in a chaotic world to be able to see the common threads and understand where they came from.

Naturalism or materialism is the belief that the natural world is all that exists and there is no such thing as the spiritual. Other views that fall into this category are agnosticism, atheism, and existentialism. Only what we can see and measure and explain through science and natural processes is real. Science is the ultimate authority. People are considered to be only biological machines controlled by their chemical processes, products of evolution that will one day pass out of existence. As such, morals are a construct that contribute to a functioning society but they are subjective and will also evolve and change.

Postmodernism says that reality must be interpreted through one's cultural lens, thus it is a social construct, and people are caught in their cultural paradigm, unable to rise above or beyond their language, cultural setting, etc. The autonomous, free self is a myth, people are cogs in the socially constructed machine, and they have no freedom to choose a different story for themselves. Truth is relative to your particular paradigm but not applicable to other paradigms. Hence the expression "Your truth." In the postmodern mindset, truth is a mental construct that can be different depending on the individual's preference and situation. The highest virtue is tolerance and not forcing your own paradigm on others. The only universal truths held by postmodernists are tolerance, inclusion, freedom of expression, and refusal to claim you have answers.

Pantheism comes from the words for all-encompassing and gods, meaning it is the belief that god is in and through everything, and everything is god. For example, Buddhism, Hinduism, and New Age religions are pantheistic. Only the spiritual exists. The material world is only illusion, or maya. The goal of life is to become one with the all-encompassing consciousness, losing yourself. A person's belief that they are an individual is an illusion. The spiritual is impersonal, unknowable, and eternal. Since people are spiritual beings, they also are impersonal, unknowable, and eternal. Unity and oneness with the universe are ultimate truth, which cannot be expressed by rational (Western) thought. As unity is the highest value, and enlightenment the highest goal, there then is no such thing as right or wrong, only unenlightened behavior that is not directed toward unity.

Spiritualism or polytheism sees the natural world as reality, yet it is completely animated by the spiritual. Natural events can be interpreted spiritually because they are caused by gods, demons, and spirits that inhabit the world around us, controlling everything from the weather to dealings between individuals. The good spirits must be appeased, and the bad spirits must be avoided or mollified. Thus, morals come in the forms of taboos to keep one on the spirits' good sides more so than whether something is right or wrong. People are a creation of the gods, like everything else, and must seek their guidance to live a prosperous life.

Theism, found in Judaism and Christianity, is the belief that reality was created by one, personal God. This reality encompasses both the physical world and the spiritual. The material world is finite, but the spiritual is eternal. Truth is revealed in God's words to us - divine revelation - and by what we can observe with our senses - natural revelation. People were made in God's image; like reality, they are both biological and spiritual. Right and wrong are not relative but based in the absolute rightness of God's person.

For an in-depth look at these and other leading worldviews, and how to interact with them in a loving manner, check out Finding Truth by Nancy Pearcey.

Dennis McCallum's article, Five Worldviews, for Dwell Community Church (dwellcc.org) was a great resource for this overview.

Author: E.P. Marcellin

5 CORE QUESTIONS

Much of this material appears elsewhere. This is just meant as a quick summary.

Euclid described five postulates that are the foundation of geometry - Euclidean geometry to be specific. From these five postulates all the other geometry is defined. In other words, they are the basis of geometry and the foundation on which you stand, assuming you are standing in a building.

The Turing machine is another wonderful example of just a few commands allowing you to define everything that happens on the Internet. In fact, the phone or computer you are using to read this also has few commands at its heart from which everything else is defined.

How we make our decisions also comes down to just five key decisions. The five decision are how we answer these five questions:

How did we get here (aka creation)? # Where are we going (aka heaven, back to dirt, becoming something else...)? # Why is the world such a mess (hate, murder and war)? # Is there anything that can be done about the mess? # What is my part?

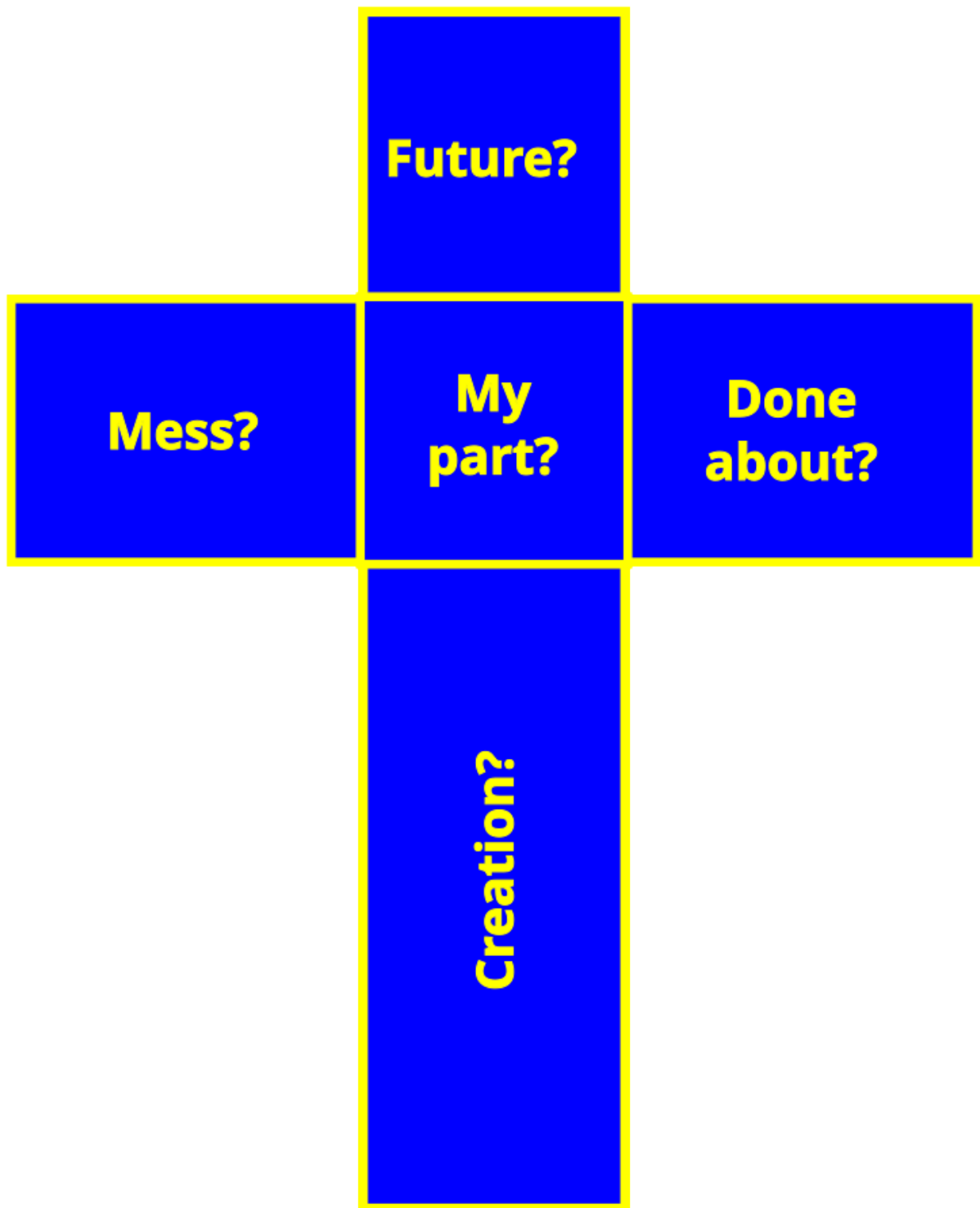
Yes, everyone answers those, even people who say, "I do not know." In that case, they take their cues/answers from someone else. We'll come back to that.

Critical Point

Everyone answers those questions by **faith**. For example, the question "How did we get here?" is the question of creation. Christians say that God created the world. Many are taught that it was evolutionary. There is a faulty assumption that evolution is scientific and that this answer is not by faith. However, all five questions are totally answered by faith by everyone. No one was there when creation happened, so there is no way to prove it. However, there is a logical way to evaluate them. But, as Pascal and other great minds concluded: **Logic leads to the door of Jesus but it is your heart that decides if you go in.**

It is our desires that drive us, not our logic. It really comes down to what your true desires are.

One of the saddest things is that most people never take the time to think about their answers to these questions. They just accept what they are taught. Or they say we cannot know. **But we can know!**



Jesus challenges everyone to consider who He is.

Everything else stands on our view of creation. How we answer that first question shapes everything. Our view of God is critical. That is why the first commandment is to have no other gods before God. All the other commandments are built on that. In the same way, all our worldview is built from our understanding of God.

Message given June 2024, at The Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania, Bunda
(Spaced for use with a translator)

MOST IMPORTANT BIT

29.1 Trust

Message given June 2024, at The Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania, Bunda (Spaced for use with a translator)

Trust It is an honor to be able to be with you today.

Ni heshima kuwa na wewe leo .

Today's sermon title is Most Important Bit.

Kichwa cha mahubiri ya leo ni Kidogo Muhimu Zaidi .

Would you please help me by sharing verses where we are told to believe Jesus?

Je, unaweza kunisaidia kwa kushiriki mistari ambapo tunaambiwa kumwamini Yesu?

We could say that the heart of Jesus' message is BELIEVE ME!

Tunaweza kusema kwamba moyo wa ujumbe wa Yesu ni NIAMINI MIMI!

What does it mean to believe someone?

Inamaanisha nini kumwamini mtu?S

How we decide if we believe something has become very difficult in our modern day.

Jinsi tunavyoamua ikiwa tunaamini kwamba jambo fulani limekuwa gumu sana katika siku zetu za kisasa.

In the 1990s when our mission, SIM, introduced the use of email to village chiefs in Liberia, they refused to use it until they had taken a trip to meet the other chief face-to-face.

Katika miaka ya 1990 wakati misheni yetu, SIM, ilipotambulisha matumizi ya barua pepe kwa machifu wa vijiji nchini Liberia, walikataa kuitumia hadi walipochukua safari ya kukutana na chifu mwingine ana kwa ana.

They were wise. They knew you shouldn't communicate with, or trust someone, you've not met.

Walikuwa na busara. Walijua hupaswi kuwasiliana na au kumwamini mtu ambaye hujakutana naye.

These chiefs were wiser than the 1990s computer people.

Wakuu hawa walikuwa na busara kuliko watu wa kompyuta wa miaka ya 1990.

Because of COVID, we are really comfortable with the idea of a Zoom meeting. However, the computer people in the 1990s understood the technology and they created their own Zoom meetings.

Kwa sababu ya COVID, tumefurahishwa sana na wazo la mkutano wa Zoom. Walakini, watu wa kompyuta katika miaka ya 1990 walielewa teknolojia na waliunda mikutano yao ya Zoom.

They did the Zoom meetings so they could save money on travel expenses.

Walifanya mikutano ya Zoom ili waweze kuokoa pesa kwa gharama za usafiri.

Here is an example of what happened.

Hapa kuna mfano wa kile kilichotokea.

A journal is a special magazine where experts evaluate all articles to make sure they can be trusted.

Jarida ni gazeti maalum ambalo wataalam hutathmini nakala zote ili kuhakikisha kuwa zinaweza kuaminiwa.

Did you notice that word “trust” again? We work very hard to get and keep trust. In fact, that is how most companies stay in business.

Je, umeliona hilo neno “tumaini” tena? Tunajitahidi sana kupata na kudumisha uaminifu. Kwa kweli, hivyo ndivyo makampuni mengi yanavyokaa katika biashara.

As the experts shared their ideas, they found out that some of the experts were stealing the ideas of other experts and publishing them as their own before the journal was published.

Wataalamu hao walipotoa mawazo yao, walibaini kuwa baadhi ya wataalamu hao walikuwa wakiiba mawazo ya wataalamu wengine na kuyachapisha kama yao kabla ya jarida hilo kuchapishwa.

The computer people discovered that if you do not know the person face-to-face, then you do not consider them as a person.

Watu wa kompyuta waligundua kwamba ikiwa humjui mtu huyo ana kwa ana, basi humchukulii kama mtu.

The computer companies started requiring face-to-face meetings at least part of the time, such as one out of every four meetings.

Kampuni za kompyuta zilianza kuhitaji mikutano ya ana kwa ana angalau sehemu ya wakati, kama vile mkutano 1 kati ya 4.

If only we all had the wisdom of those Liberian chiefs.

Laiti sote tungekuwa na busara za machifu hao wa Liberia.

Trust is the most valuable thing we have.

Uaminifu ndio kitu cha thamani zaidi tulichonacho.

That makes how we give our trust super important.

Hilo hufanya jinsi tunavyotoa uaminifu wetu kuwa muhimu sana.

So why should you trust me? Can someone tell me?

Kwa hivyo kwa nini unapaswa kuniamini? Kuna mtu anaweza kuniambia?

That’s right, because Pastor Tukiko trusts me.

Hiyo ni kweli, kwa sababu Mchungaji Tukiko ananiamini.

In other words, You’ve extended your trust to me because you trust Pastor Tukiko.

Kwa maneno mengine, Umeongeza imani yako kwangu kwa sababu unamwamini Mchungaji Tukiko.

I believe trusting Pastor Tukiko is a safe thing and I’ll explain why.

Ninaamini kumwamini Mchungaji Tukiko ni jambo salama na nitaeleza kwa nini.

Pastor Tukiko and I started communicating via email over a decade ago.

Mchungaji Tukiko nami tulianza kuwasiliana kupitia barua pepe zaidi ya miaka kumi iliyopita.

Nine years ago was my first time to visit Pastor Tukiko. I came to Bunda.

Miaka tisa iliyopita ilikuwa mara yangu ya kwanza kumtembelea Mchungaji Tukiko. Nilikuja Bunda..

Pastor Tukiko and I have met several times since then, including in Zambia and Arusha.

Mimi na Mchungaji Tukiko tumekutana mara kadhaa tangu wakati huo, ikiwa ni pamoja na Zambia na Arusha.

Pastor shared with me that it wasn’t until this meeting that he truly came to trust me!

Mchungaji alinishirikisha kwamba ni hadi mkutano huu ndipo alipokuja kuniamini kweli!

He is a wise man. He watched my life for a decade.

Ni mtu mwenye busara. Alitazama maisha yangu kwa muongo mmoja.

Pastor doesn’t give his trust cheaply or too easily, much like those Liberian chiefs.

Mchungaji hatoi imani yake kwa bei nafuu au kwa urahisi sana, kama machifu hao wa Liberia.

For those of you who remember, Pastor did let me speak here a couple years ago.

Kwa wale ambao mnakumbuka, Mchungaji aliniruhusu kuzungumza hapa miaka michache iliyopita.

He had started to develop trust. He also knew he could correct anything I said incorrectly.

Alikuwa ameanza kukuza uaminifu. Pia alijua angeweza kusahihisha chochote nilichosema kimakosa.

But this year we both confessed our deep trust in each other.

Lakini mwaka huu na wote wawili walikiri imani yetu ya kina kwa kila mmoja.

The deep trust is needed because God has given us a very critical project that requires trust.

Uaminifu wa kina unahitajika kwa sababu Mungu ametupa mradi muhimu sana unaohitaji uaminifu.

29.2 Faith

Faith, trust and belief are like intertwined ropes that make a powerful cord.

Imani, uaminifu na kuamini ni kama kamba zilizounganishwa ambazo hutengeneza kamba yenye nguvu.

The Bible says, “A cord of three ropes is not quickly broken.”

Biblia inasema, “Kamba ya kamba tatu haikatiki upesi.”

We can say when you trust someone, you believe them.

Tunaweza kusema unapomwamini mtu, unamwamini.

We can also say when you trust someone, you can put your faith in them.

Tunaweza pia kusema unapomwamini mtu, unaweza kuweka imani yako kwake.

In today's world, people are okay with the words believe and trust.

Katika ulimwengu wa kisasa, watu wako sawa kwa maneno kuamini na kuamini.

They feel like they can use them in science and education.

Wanahisi kama wanaweza kuzitumia katika sayansi na elimu.

But when it comes to faith, they treat it as if it is just wishful thinking for the weak minded.

Lakini inapokuja kwenye imani, wanaichukulia kana kwamba ni matamania tu kwa wenye akili dhaifu.

People often use Carl Marx's idea that faith is just a crutch for the weak.

Mara nyingi wanatumia wazo la Carl Marx kwamba imani ni nguzo tu ya wanyonge.

Let's consider the idea a bit.

Hebu tuzingatia wazo hilo kidogo.

In your schools and universities, your children are taught that evolution is a scientific fact.

Katika shule na vyuo vikuu vyenu, watoto wenu wanafundishwa kwamba mageuzi ni ukweli wa kisayansi.

That is a lie for multiple reasons.

Huo ni uwongo kwa sababu nyingi.

First, to be a fact, it must be able to be tested. In other words, you need to run an experiment over and over until you prove it is true.

Kwanza, kuwa ukweli, lazima iweze kupimwa. Kwa maneno mengine, unahitaji kufanya jaribio tena na tena hadi uthibitishe kuwa ni kweli.

None of us can experiment on creating the universe. Hence, it is not a science.

Hakuna hata mmoja wetu anayeweza kujaribu kuunda ulimwengu. Kwa hivyo, sio sayansi.

Even stronger than that, evolution has been disproved for decades. It is not even close to true. It is a modern-myth.

Hata yenye nguvu zaidi ya hayo, mageuzi yamekataliwa kwa miongo kadhaa. Sio karibu hata na ukweli. Ni hadithi ya kisasa.

Evolution was disproven from the mid-1990s, but at the end of the 1990s, the death-nail for that idea was the discovery of DNA.

Mageuzi yalikataliwa kutoka katikati ya miaka ya 1990, lakini mwishoni mwa miaka ya 1990, msumari wa kifo kwa wazo hilo ulikuwa ugunduzi wa DNA.

DNA is information to run a factory that has robots that do the work.

DNA ni taarifa za kuendesha kiwanda ambacho kina roboti zinazofanya kazi hiyo.

The DNA in your cells contains more information than many libraries.

DNA katika seli zako ina habari nyingi kuliko maktaba nyingi.

Do you ever download movies?

Je, umewahi kupakua filamu?

An average one and 1/2 hour movie takes about 5GB.

Usogezaji wastani wa saa moja na 1/2 huchukua takriban 5GB.

That means a 100 GB hard-drive can hold about 20 movies.

Hiyo inamaanisha kuwa hard drive ya GB 100 inaweza kubeba takriban filamu 20.

A single gram of DNA could store 215 million gigabytes of data, and a quantity of DNA smaller than a sugar cube could store all the movies ever made.

Gramu moja ya DNA inaweza kuhifadhi gigabaiti milioni 215 za data, na kiasi cha DNA ndogo kuliko mchemraba wa sukari inaweza kuhifadhi filamu zote zilizowahi kufanywa.

The only people that do not believe there is a God that created the world are those that make up fantasies or those that have been lied to such as your children.

Watu pekee ambao hawaamini kuwa kuna Mungu aliyeumba ulimwengu ni wale wanaotunga mawazo au wale ambao wamedanganywa kama vile watoto wako.

We know that someone designed the world.

Tunajua kwamba mtu fulani aliumba ulimwengu.

Why would people still ignore God and make up fantasies? Because they do not want to have anyone above themselves.

Kwa nini watu bado wampuuze Mungu na kutunga mawazo? Kwa sababu hawataki kuwa na mtu yeyote juu yao wenyewe.

But, even though we know there is a God, there are many that claim to explain away God.

Lakini, ingawa tunajua kuna Mungu, kuna wengi wanaodai kueleza Mungu.

We all need to take the answer of where we come from by faith.

Matokeo yake ni kwamba sote tunahitaji kuchukua jibu la wapi tunatoka kwa imani.

It turns out that all the core questions about life we need to take by faith.

Inatokea kwamba maswali yote ya msingi kuhusu maisha tunahitaji kuchukua kwa imani.

Pastor Tukiko will be able to explain that better than me, so let me end this idea: Faith is the most concrete thing in our lives!

Mchungaji Tukiko ataweza kuelezea hilo vizuri kuliko mimi, kwa hivyo wacha nimalize wazo hili kwa imani ndio jambo thabiti zaidi katika maisha yetu.

Faith is not a crutch. Faith is not for the weak. Everyone has faith.

Imani sio suluhu. Imani si ya wanyonge. Kila mtu ana imani. Swa

The big question is, does the average person seriously think about in what or whom they are putting their faith?

Swali kubwa ni je, mtu wa kawaida anafikiria kwa dhati juu ya nini au nani anaweka imani yake.

Are they really questioning whether or not the object of their faith is trustworthy?

Je, kweli wanajiuliza ikiwa lengo la imani yao ni la kutegemewa?

And now we see the cords of faith, trust and belief again. These join together to make who we are.

Na sasa tunaona kamba ya imani, tumaini na kuamini tena. Yote huja pamoja ili kufanya sisi ni nani.

29.3 Bit

Okay, we have trust and we have faith, now I'd like to consider the use of the word bit in the sermon title Most Important Bit.

Sawa, tuna imani na tuna imani, sasa ningependa kuzingatia matumizi ya neno kidogo katika kichwa cha mahubiri Jambo Muhimu Zaidi.

I am a computer professional.

Mimi ni mtaalamu wa kompyuta.

The word bit means to me either True or False.

Neno kidogo lina maana kwangu ama Kweli au Si kweli.

That is it, only two options - true or false.

Hiyo ni, chaguzi mbili tu - kweli au uwongo.

Now look at yours, or your neighbors, smartphone.

Sasa angalia simu yako mahiri au ya jirani zako.

It is an amazing tool.

Ni chombo cha ajabu.

With it you can talk and text people all over the world.

Kwa hiyo unaweza kuzungumza na kutuma ujumbe kwa watu duniani kote.

You can watch movies; listen to music; make art; run a business and the list goes on and on.

Unaweza kutazama sinema; Sikiliza muziki; kufanya sanaa; endesha biashara na orodha inaendelea na kuendelea.

And all of that is done with bits, simple true and false, or on and off, switches.

Na yote hayo yanafanywa kwa bits, rahisi kweli na uongo au kuwasha na kuzima swichi.

By storing true and false, we can make decisions and create the things you enjoy.

Kwa kuhifadhi ukweli na uwongo, tunaweza kufanya maamuzi na kuunda mambo unayofurahia.

It is critical that we can read the true and false data correctly. If not, things crash.

Ni muhimu kwamba tunaweza kusoma data ya kweli na ya uwongo kwa usahihi. Ikiwa sivyo, mambo yanaharibika.

There is one bit of data that is more important than any other in our lives.

Kuna data moja ambayo ni muhimu zaidi kuliko nyingine yoyote katika maisha yetu.

And the creator of the world, Jesus Christ put that bit before us.

Naye muumba wa ulimwengu, Yesu Kristo aliweka kipande hicho mbele yetu.

"Do you believe me?", Jesus said.

"Je, unaniamini?" Yesu alisema.

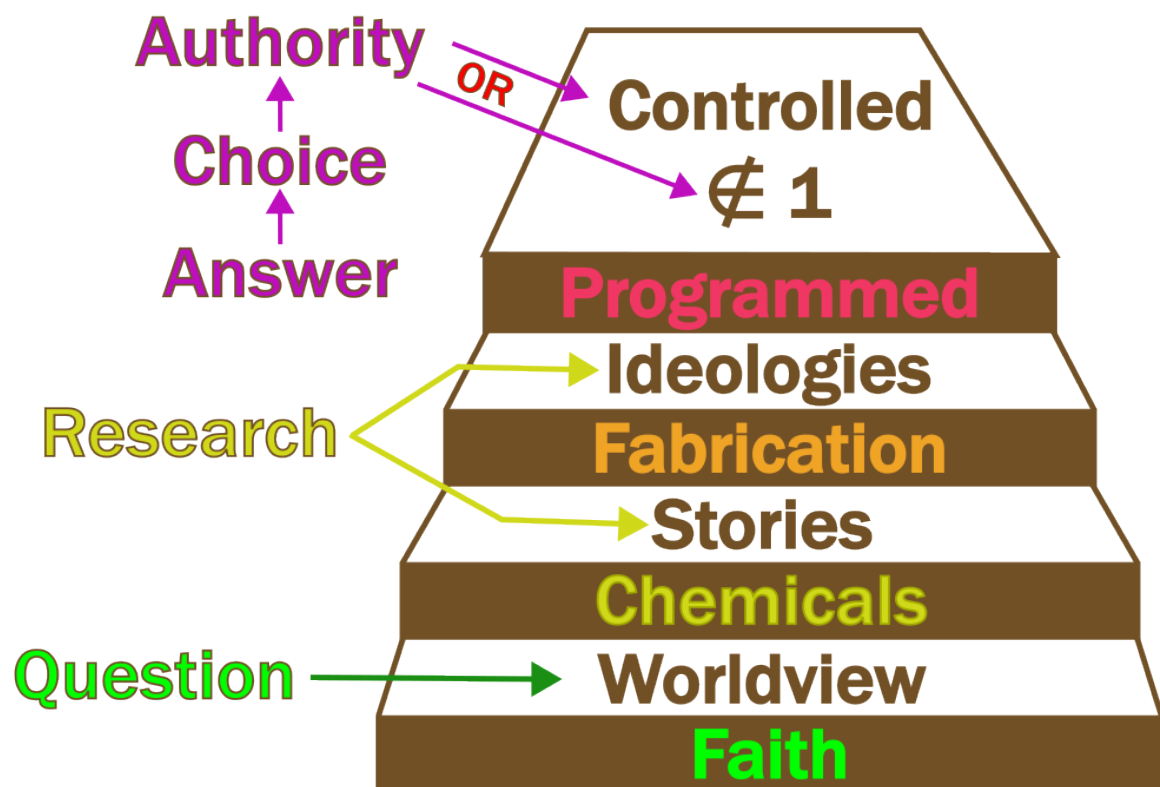
That is a yes/no or true/false question. It is a bit. There are only two options.

Hilo ni swali la ndiyo/hapana au la kweli/uongo. Ni kidogo. Kuna chaguzi mbili tu.
Imagine that. The Creator of the Universe made it simple for us.
Hebu wazia hilo. Muumba wa Ulimwengu aliifanya iwe rahisi kwetu.
Everyone lives by faith. He wants to know if you are going to put your faith in Him.
Kila mtu anaishi kwa imani. Anataka kujua kama utaweka imani yako Kwake.
There literally is nothing else more important than that decision.
Kwa kweli hakuna kitu kingine muhimu zaidi kuliko uamuzi huo.
And that is from a logical, even scientific, perspective.
Na hiyo ni kutoka kwa mtazamo wa kimantiki, hata wa kisayansi.
But what would you expect from the Creator, other than to be the logical answer to our faith.
Lakini ungetarajia nini kutoka kwa Muumba, zaidi ya kuwa jibu la kimantiki kwa imani yetu.
I'd like to finish with thinking about if we can see faith or not.
Ningependa kumaliza kwa kufikiria kama tunaweza kuona imani au la.

29.4 Obedience

Luke 6:46 “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” asked Jesus.
Luka 6:46 “Mbona mnaniita, ‘Bwana, Bwana,’ na hamfanyi ninayosema?” Yesu anauliza.
So many people think Jesus is a great man; they may even call Him Lord, but they do not do what He says to do.
Watu wengi sana wanafikiri Yesu ni mtu mkuu; wanaweza hata kumwita Bwana, lakini hawatendi kile anachosema kufanya.
What in the heart we call faith, in the will we call obedience. In other words, faith always produces action.
Nini moyoni tunaita imani, katika mapenzi tunaita utii. Kwa maneno mengine, imani daima huzalisha matendo.
The Lord refuses absolutely faith that is only worshipping of the lips through words and songs, but is not of the limbs in obedient action.
Bwana anakataa kabisa imani ambayo ni kuabudu midomo kwa maneno na nyimbo, ambayo si ya viungo katika matendo ya utii.
I always taught my children that obedience is strength, for Jesus was obedient to death!
Sikuzote niliwafundisha watoto wangu kwamba utii ni nguvu, kwa maana Yesu alikuwa mtiifu hadi kufa!
And Jesus taught that the only way to know if what He says is true, is by doing what He says.
Na Yesu alifundisha kwamba njia pekee ya kujua kama anachosema ni kweli, ni kwa kufanya kile anachosema.
So ask yourself, are you doing what Jesus says?
Kwa hiyo jiulize, je, unafanya kile ambacho Yesu anasema?
If so, you are His and you will know Him in an ever growing manner.
Ikiwa ndivyo, wewe ni Wake na utamjua Yeye kwa namna inayoendelea kukua.
And in that way you will see faith alive!
Na, kwa njia hiyo utaona imani hai!
Thank you so much for the privilege of sharing with you.
Asante sana kwa fursa ya kushiriki nawe.
May God give us all strength to obey and be set free indeed. In Jesus Name, Amen
Mungu atupe nguvu zote za kutii na tuwe huru kweli kweli. Katika Jina la Yesu, Amina

RESISTING MIND PROGRAMMING, MEMORIZE



Talk Through is where I “kind-of” read this to you. You will need to sign in again to hear this.

Memorizing this will be helpful down the road.

- Question all authority
- Worldview questions:
 1. Where did we come from?
 2. Where are we going when we die?
 3. Why is the world such a mess?
 4. Can anything be done about the mess?
 5. What is my part?
- EVERYONE answers the worldview questions by faith, particularly scientists.
- Faith is the foundational concrete of life.
- Thinking is shaped by stories.
- Chemistry is the technique used to store the stories.

- If given a partial story, the brain fabricates the rest. When Artificial Intelligence (AI) does it, scientists call it AI hallucinations.
- Do research to test ideologies.
- You will find an answer.
- Are we programmed to be controlled or to be free?
- Choice is a person's greatest feature.
- Ultimately it is the authority you choose.
- All individuals and groups control each other except One.

In the remainder of this book, we will consider how this all fits together with the hope that you will consciously make your own choice.

POPPA'S BIBLIOGRAPHY

This includes:

- My recommendations
- Freely available recommendations
- Alphabetic listing
- Commentators
- Format to use

31.1 Recommendation

Grandpa's favorite books after the Bible are:

- Element Keepers: Whispers of the Wind
- Seeds of Fire
- The Little Fairy
- The Pixie-Led Dragon
- The PenDragron Anthology
- All of George MacDonald's writings (Scottish author, poet, and Christian minister who lived from 1824 to 1905)

I also highly recommend books, if they are available, by:

- Michael Green (British theologian, Anglican priest, and Christian apologist who lived from 1930 to 2019)
- E.P. Marcellin (Born Elizabeth Gabrielle Petrillo 1986)
- David O'Brien, Today's Handbook for Bible Difficulties.
- Nancy Pearcey (American author and Christian apologist, born 1952)
- Dallas Willard (American philosopher, author, and Christian thinker, 1935-2015)
- Os Guinness (English author, theologian and social critic, born 1941)
- N.T. Wright (English New Testament scholar, Pauline theologian and Anglican bishop, born 1948)
- R.T. France (New Testament scholar and conservative Anglican priest, 1938-2012)
- Francis A. Schaeffer (American author, filmmaker, and public speaker, known as the son of evangelical theologian, 1912-1984)
- Warren Woolsey (professor emeritus of New Testament and missions at Houghton College in Houghton, NY)
- Tim Mackie (of BibleProject.com)
- Jon Collins (of BibleProject.com)

The following are all good for growing in the Lord. I have rated them in the order I'd read them, but the Lord may lead you to read them in a different order or not at all. Keep in mind that to grow in the Lord, the Word of God must be the priority. George MacDonald recommended reading through the Gospels over and over until you really have a feel for who Jesus is, then reading the Epistles (letters) is easier for they fit into the context of Jesus. Grandpa also recommends knowing the Book of Ecclesiastes well because it is a great "cheat sheet" for life. It tells what not to waste your life on. Of course, it is also critical to get the entire story in mind. The BibleProject.com does a nice job in guiding you through the story and putting the pieces together.

Search the title on this page (Ctrl-F) to find the bibliography for the book.

I space out the numbers so if I find something else, I can place them in between without a problem. The lower the number, then the earlier suggested for reading.

Title/Order

- All of George MacDonald's writings/9
- Who Is This Jesus?/47
- Imitation of Christ./39
- Practicing the Presence of God/43
- But Don't All Religions Lead to God?
- Satan Syndrome: Putting the Power of Darkness in Its Place
- Total Truth
- Saving Leonardo
- Finding Truth
- Today's Handbook for Solving Bible Difficulties
- How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth
- Integrity Advance
- Thomas Wingfold, Curate
- Paul Faber, Surgeon
- There and Back
- I Believe in the Holy Spirit
- Making Sense of It All

I'll try to include the books as I got to order with other books, but I've read many of them and I'm not sure when I can order them. MacDonald was gifted by God and has helped Grandpa greatly. ajp2

Freely Available Recommendations —————~

- [All of George MacDonald's books are available here.](#) His writing has had a huge impact on my walk with Jesus Christ. I highly recommend reading the books the Lord leads you too. There are novels, sermons, short stories and poetry. https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/search/?query=George+MacDonald&submit_search=Go%21
- [Imitation of Christ by Thomas à Kempis is here.](#) This historic book has impacted the entire world. <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1653>
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31.75 Format

- Make each new entry heading 3.
- Use the primary author's last name followed by the year published.
- If there is more than one book the same year, use a letter to identify the second and following, such as 2014a for the second book.

The basic format is:

<lastname of primary author>,<rest of primary name author including initials if used>, <any other authors with order firstname [optional initials] lastname>. <year>. <title:optional subtitle> . [edition.] <publisher>. <isbn>. <if site, the date viewed>

<things to include> [optional things]

No lastname:

- Site: use site name in place of last name on the heading line.

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