

therefore the word is passed on as the nut—swallowed whole— and does not provide new material for the fitness of the soul, nor repair the waste from our past life as an unbeliever. Simply put, no transformation takes places. We then become like those who are “*always learning and never able to come to the knowledge [epignosis or IC] of the truth,*” 2 Tim. 3:7.

SPIRITUAL DISTILLERY

And though metabolism gives us an excellent picture of how we receive IC, there is a much more powerful analogy found in the process of distillation. Webster's Dictionary defines distillation as a “process that consists of driving gas or vapor from liquids or solids by heating and condensing to liquid products and is used for purification, fractionating [to separate] or the formation of new substances.” And therefore to distill is to “extract the essence of.” I want you to concentrate on that. The process of distillation is to “extract the essence of.” That is precisely what IC is. It is God's *ESSENCE!*

**God's intimate counsel (IC) is the essence of who God is
to the degree God has decided to reveal Himself.**

Here is what Moses said in Deuteronomy 29:29. “*The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed [His intimate counsel] belongs to us ... that we may observe all the words of this law.*”

This is what is so exciting. This, my friends, should elicit a “*hallelujah*” and “*praise the Lord.*” We are talking about one of the most exciting doctrines in all of God's Word. Here is where we walk on “*holy ground*” It is by IC and IC alone that we come to know and love God, and it is exclusively by IC that we have the power or the ability to experience the dynamics of God's Word. IC is the closest we will ever get to God on earth. This is how we indeed see God.

I...C...God!

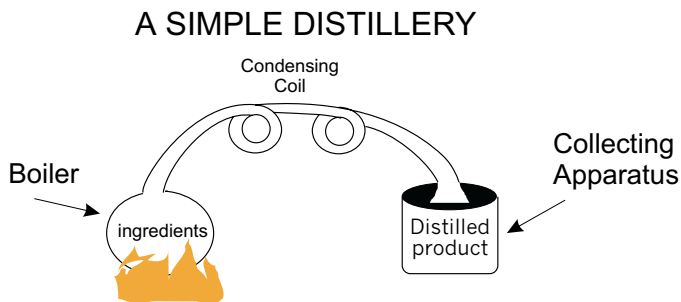
Are you starting to understand? It is a pure heart that sees God (Mt. 5:8). And how do you get a pure heart— but by being nourished by the spiritual pure word, 1 Pt. 2:2, which has been distilled from God's living and abiding Word. This is how you get “*the mind of Christ,*” 1 Cor. 2:16. IC is the literal mind of Christ revealed to our spirits through the agency of the Holy Spirit. And by your spirit, God communicates

His truths to your heart—that part of your soul which holds ideas and beliefs essential to your well-being. And all of this is done exclusively in the Sphere of Faith. IC transforms your thinking process to that of Christ's (see Jn. 4:34, 5:30, 8:29b), and when your thoughts have matured in a Christ-like fashion, you will have developed the capacity for ALL God desires to give you.

But let's look even closer here. ESSENCE is what the philosophers defined as “that in being which underlines all outward manifestations and is permanent and unchangeable,” (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary). It is the “ultimate or intrinsic nature.” God's counsel is the ultimate, unchangeable thing in all His creation, and you get it by using the nutcracker applied to God's Word in the Sphere of Faith. Now, the word “essence” comes from the Latin word, “ESSE,” meaning “*TO BE, IS.*” When God told Moses His name, He said simply, “*I AM WHAT I AM.*” God simply *IS*. “*He who comes to God must believe that He IS,*” Hebrews 11:6.

IC is who God IS to the degree He sees fit to reveal Himself to you and I.

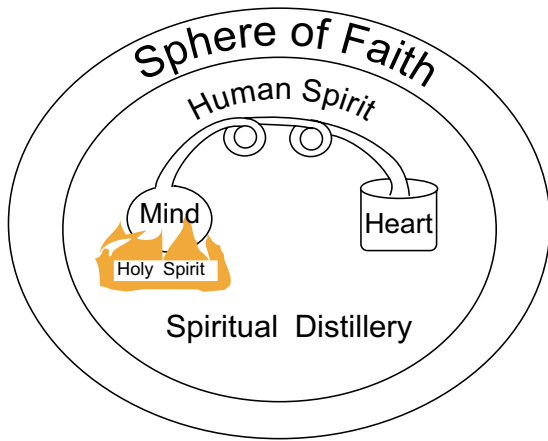
Now let me illustrate what it biblically means to be a Christian “on fire for God,” or “*filled with the Spirit.*” And no, it's not going around with a big, wide, silly grin on your face doing good deeds and asking everyone in sight, “Are you saved?”; “Have you received the baptism?” No, the example I wish to put forth comes from the idea of a distillery. And before you become offended, please note that distilleries distill many substances other than alcoholic beverages.



The distillery is the place where various ingredients are broken down for whatever specific purpose the distillery has been established. As Christians, our distillery, the Sphere of Faith, is for the purpose of receiving the intimate counsel of God. Therefore, we must work toward collecting the necessary ingredients, God's Word, through daily study. Furthermore, His Word must be received in its pure form, not added to or subtracted from. This a common occurrence amongst denominational religions, charismatic occultists groups, and from the mouths of false prophets, who must doctor God's Word to where it is more palatable (spiritual junk food) to an unregenerate or carnal heart. Such beliefs as "veneration of the saints", various sacramental rites and rituals which go beyond Christ's teachings, the tomfoolery of snake handling and the drinking of poison, as well as seed faith, have what you say, positive confession, visualization, etc., all fall into a perverted presentation of scripture. Hear Gods Word.

*You shall not add to the word which I am
commanding you, nor take away from it Dt. 4:2*

Likewise, the distiller must always be very careful in his quality control procedures to insure the purity of ingredients to achieve his desired result. He places these ingredients into the boilers. In our case, the mind is our boiler. With the mind, we OBJECTIVELY receive God's Word or gnosis doctrine through study, either under a pastor/ teacher or however else we get God's Word-book, cassette, computer, etc. Then we have the condensing coil that is attached to the boiler and to the collecting unit for the distilled product. Our human spirit is the condensing coil which transports or communicates the pure Word of God which has been distilled from the mind by the Holy Spirit into our hearts, or treasure chests. (The mind and heart make up the soul, that part of our makeup which thinks. "As *one reckons in his soul, so he is,*" *Pr. 23:7.*) But the important phase in the distillation process is the heat. It is the heat which forces the essence of the boiler's ingredients through the condensing coil into the collecting apparatus. For the resident of the Sphere of Faith, who is filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit, the essence of God's Word is forced out by the heat of the Holy Spirit. And like a distillery with no heat and therefore no distilled product, a believer outside the Sphere of Faith will have no intimate counsel with God.



To sum up this portion, I want to compare the three resident types in the world today—the Sphere of Evil, Carnality, and Faith residents—with their ability to acquire IC. I hope at this point I have convinced you from scripture the importance of God's intimate counsel towards your all-around well-being. Therefore, God's counsel must be sought out, acquired, and acted upon.

And using the figure of our simple distillery, we should agree that the following features are necessary to manufacture a distilled product: the boiler, coil, collector, ingredients, and fire. Likewise, to receive God's IC, we need a mind, a heart, a regenerated spirit, God's Word, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

ABILITY TO ACQUIRE IC
BY SPHERE

Distillery Features	Sphere of Evil	Sphere of Carnality	Sphere of Faith
Boiler (mind)	●	●	●
Collector (heart)	●	●	●
Coil (regenerated spirit)		●	●
ingredients (God's Word)	●	●	●
fire (Holy Spirit filled)			●
distilled product (God's intimate counsel)			●

But from the comparison chart above, we see that only the Sphere of Faith resident has all the essentials (as indicated by a dot in each of

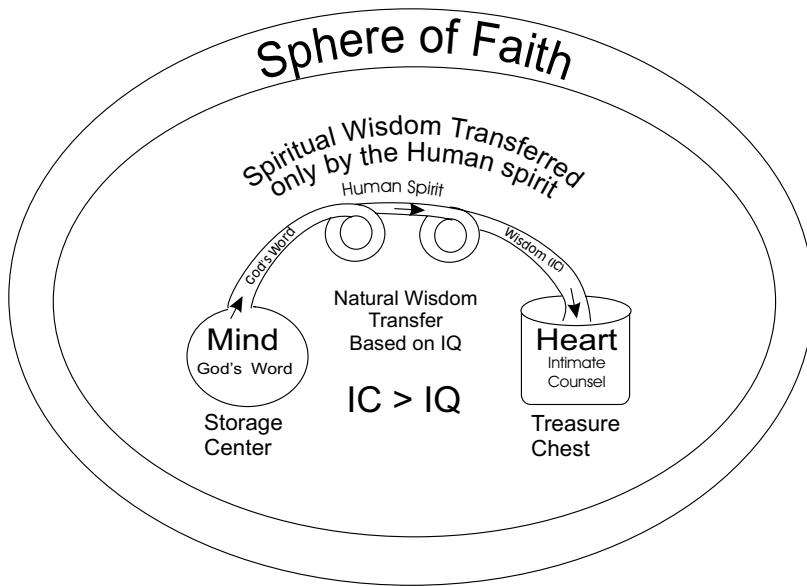
the five necessary distillery features) to acquire IC. The Sphere of Carnality resident has, like the Sphere of Faith resident, a mind, heart, regenerated spirit, and the capability of gaining knowledge of God's Word. However, we have learned in prior studies that his focus is not upon Christ, but upon his own selfish ambitions. Therefore, he is not spirit-filled and has cut himself off from God's Wisdom.

Likewise, the Sphere of Evil resident has a mind and heart like the residents of the Spheres of Faith and Carnality, as well as the ability to gain biblical knowledge. But unlike these two, he is spiritually dead—meaning his human spirit is in an unregenerate condition—at enmity with God. And because of his hatred for and indifference towards God and His rule, he cannot be spirit-filled.

What is the remedy therefore for these two residents who are unable to receive God's counsel? It's simple. For the Sphere of Evil resident, Christ says to him, "*You must be born again,*" John 3:3. This requires that the evil resident must first see himself as a hell-bound sinner, and repent or make an about-face to the Lordship of Christ. In other words, he must wholeheartedly turn from Satan to Christ. And for the Sphere of Carnality resident, the Bible says in effect, "*You must be focused upon Christ.*" This, too, requires an about-face and return to Christ. For Christ says the carnal Christian has "*left [his] first love,*" Rev. 2:4. And Paul gives us this advice from his letter to the Ephesians, "*be filled with the Spirit,*" Eph. 5:18.

IC HIGHER THAN NATURAL WISDOM

As we close out this portion of our study, let's give some further examples from the Bible which differentiates God's Word from His counsel. There are four that come to mind: the honeycomb and the honey, the lamp and the light, the grape and the wine, and the breast and the milk. Each of these examples shows the necessity of the one to produce the other. Therefore, God's Word is absolutely necessary as we work to harvest God's wisdom. For without God's Word in the mind there can be no IC in the heart. Daily study therefore will ensure that there will be plenty of ingredients in the boiler of the mind for the Holy Spirit to extract its pure essence. But don't make the mistake of your thinking that your intellect can take the place of the Holy Spirit. It is the quintessence of arrogance for man to believe he can decipher, with reason alone, God's Wisdom from His Word. IC does not come by IQ.



As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. (Is. 55.9)

This is why there can be no mind to heart transference of God’s Wisdom. IC simply transcends and surpasses the human intellect. It is only through our human spirits which have been regenerated at our new birth that the transference of IC can occur, but only as we reside in the Sphere of Faith. Furthermore, the Apostle Paul said in the second chapter of 1 Corinthians, “*THE MIND OF CHRIST*” chapter,

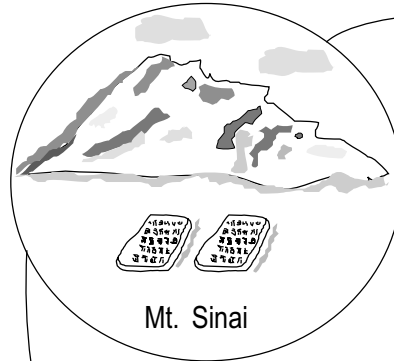
A natural man [sphere of evil and sphere of carnality resident] does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

It is only the spiritual man—the Sphere of Faith resident—who rightly appraises the value of God’s wisdom. The fool despises it. It is nonsense to him and of no value, for it does not fit into his foolish and frivolous plans. It is only the spiritual, the on-fire Christian, who heeds the following Godly advice:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding [through your IQ]. In all your ways acknowledge Him [His IC], and He will make your paths [lifestyle (i.e., orbits)] straight [so that you might fulfill God's calling on your life]. (Pr. 3.5-6)

THE CHRISTIAN CALLING

ORBIT 7



Mt. Sinai

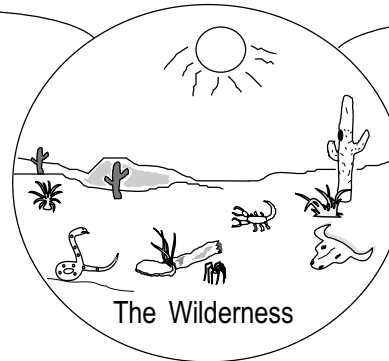
Biblical Analogy:
Orbit Goal:
Class:

Mt. Sinai
Learn IC
Righteousness Training
Program

Capacity:
Orbit Activity:
Resolve:
Progression:
Development:
Orbit Results:

Backbone
Active Faith
Take Hold
Blade
Child
Wisdom

ORBIT 8

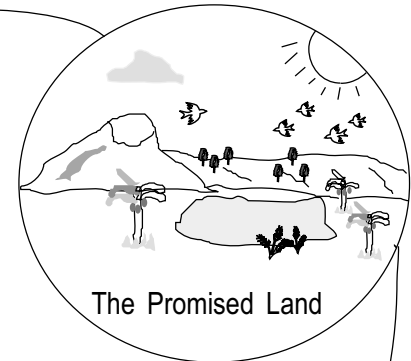


The Wilderness

Wilderness
Test IC
Obedience Training
Program

Muscle
Perseverance
Hold Fast
Ear
Adolescent
Power

ORBIT 9



The Promised Land

Promised Land
Graduate
Discipleship of Christ
Degree

Soul Fitness
Inherit Promises
Blessings
Full Corn
Adult
Joy/Peace

Out of the land of Egypt...through the wilderness...into the fruitful land, Je r. 2:6-7

It is important we understand that scholasticism and academic disciplines are fine and necessary for distilling natural wisdom from the knowledge we receive by our physical senses, but they are out of their league when it comes to discerning divine wisdom. Therefore, as brilliant as some theologians, scientists, and academics are, these men of “flesh and blood” cannot receive IC by IQ alone. Christ taught us this clearly in Mt. 11:25.

*I praise Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
that Thou didst hide these things [IC] from the wise and
intelligent and didst reveal them to babes [who suck
upon the breast of the Holy Spirit for the spiritual, pure
milk of IC].*

IC is the exclusive product of the Sphere of Faith, and cannot be manufactured by rationalism or empiricism, the two authority systems that the residents of the Sphere of Evil solely rely on and the carnal resident has fallen back upon. This is why Jesus spoke in parables, for they conveyed wisdom to the spiritual, yet kept it hid from the non-spiritual. If the non-spiritual could perceive spiritual truth within the Sphere of Evil or Carnality, salvation and spiritual growth would not be by faith, but by rationalism and empiricism. And if this be the case, spiritual reality would be limited to those of the greater IQ, which would be totally and unequivocally unjust. Here is what Jesus said.

*You [residents of the Sphere of Evil and Carnality]
keep on hearing, but will not understand [wisdom]; and
you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive [spiritual
realities] for the heart of this people has become dull, and
with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed
their eyes [to the truth] test they should see with their eyes,
and hear with their ears and understand [or spiritually
perceive IC] with their hearts and turn again,
and I should heal [or save] them. (Mt. 13:14-15)*

But to the Sphere of Faith residents, He says,

*But blessed are your [spiritual] eyes, because they see
[God's wisdom]; and your ears, because they hear [it].
For truly I say to you, that many prophets and righteous
men desired to see what you see, and did not see it; and
to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. (Mt. 13-16-17)*

God's wisdom is more valuable than all we can desire, yet it is freely given. Paul gives us God's grace policy in I Cor. 2:12. "*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know [spiritually discern] the things [IC] freely given to us by God.*"

IC is freely given. There can be NO price for it. But today's mega-ministries have become nothing more than money changers--raising large amounts of money through the selling of tapes, books, records, and video cassettes—promising success, prosperity, and miraculous hearings with little more than a positive word and an empty prayer. We apparently have not learned the lesson from Christ whose zeal for holiness and righteousness drove Him to drive out the money changers, who had turned God's temple into "*den of thieves,*" Jn. 2:14-17.

I believe over the last several years we have been witnessing the beginning of a major house cleansing. Various leaders of cults, occults, and ministries have fallen. Others will certainly follow. These *peddlers of God's Word* (2 Cor. 2:17) have preyed upon the ignorant, the superstitious, and the immature with promises of success and prosperity. These pseudo-spiritual hucksters spout what they call "revelation knowledge" concerning the blessings of God, when in fact, it is only foolishness. These mass *marketeers* con the unsuspecting out of their hard earned dollars-mounting into the millions each year to finance their latest building project, to pay off the debt from their last boondoggle, and to accumulate luxury goods for their own personal kingdom. Yet, they are nothing more than salesman—acting as God's ministers—using His Word as their script and the pulpit as their stage. But woe to these men who sell God's promises. God's promises are real, and they are for you and I, but they are not to be packaged for a price. They come about the old fashioned way: *faith and patience*, Heb. 6:12.

CHRISTIANITY IS AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP

Christianity is not a religion. As I have stated before, religion is an attempt by man to please God through his own works and good deeds. Religions focus upon the betterment of man to please God. Christianity focuses upon the perfection and righteousness of Christ Jesus, who alone was found well pleasing with God the Father (Mt. 3:17). Christianity is a relationship with the perfect man, the Lord Jesus Christ, and we receive our vitality and power based on a commitment to and intimacy with He who came forth from the Father. Christianity is a desire on the part of an individual to please Christ Jesus with his every thought, word, and deed. This is his ambition (2 Cor. 5:9). This

relationship is developed and built within the Sphere of Faith by the building block of the soul, IC, or God's Wisdom. So whether you are wise, or not, mighty or not, or noble or not (1 Cor. 1:26), IC, God's Wisdom, is available for you, (you who have been born again). And its availability is there so that the recipient of IC might advance to the highest calling in all the universe, Orbit 9.

GETTING SOUL FIT

Now that we have established God's wisdom or IC as the means to build capacity, let us move on to the way in which capacity is built and getting SOUL FIT, so that we might advance to maturity.

The Sphere of Faith is a perfect environment for spiritual growth, development, and achieving life's greatest riches. It is *GOOD GROUND*. "*And other seed fell into the good ground, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great,*" Lk. 8:8.

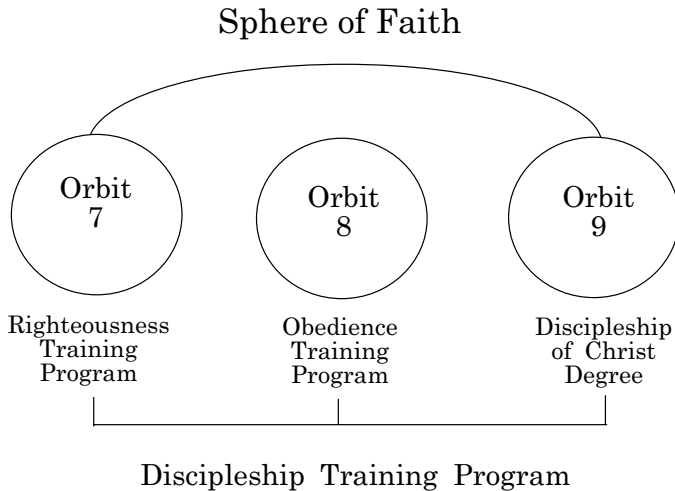
GOOD GROUND	= positional and experiential sanctification
GREW UP	= advancement to spiritual maturity
100-FOLD RETURN	= production of good works and the receiving of the glory blessings

A resident in this good ground, or the Sphere of Faith, is a believer who "*fears the Lord.*" He is therefore focused upon the Lord Jesus Christ and has a living relationship with Him. His face is towards (his desires are upon) Christ, heaven, and the glory blessings, while his back is to the Kingdom of Satan. Because of this fear or reverence for God, his eyes and ears are open to receive God's wisdom, and thereby he will GROW UP spiritually and advance to Orbit 9, where he will receive a hundred-fold crop, or the glory blessings.

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

But God's Word is like a diamond with many facets, whose beauty can only be appreciated by viewing it from each facet. There is another facet to the Sphere of Faith, and we are going to describe it as God's training grounds for the purpose to instruct men and women to be spiritual teachers here in the earth, and kings and lords for eternity in the City of God. Therefore, the Sphere of Faith is God's university with one degree program on a "pass or fail" basis. (If you fail, you can try again). This university program is called the Discipleship Training

Program, and it is divided into two classes: elementary and secondary. The elementary class is for Orbit 7 believers, and the secondary class is for Orbit 8 believers. Upon completion of these two classes, the believer then graduates into Orbit 9. Orbit 9 is the highest orbit man can achieve. Only God is higher. But within Orbit 9, the mature believer can continue to advance in spiritual wisdom, and ever more add to his eternal wealth and rank. (see The Christian Calling on pages 26-27 for a more detailed graphical account.)



The Discipleship Training Program is patterned after three major events experienced by the Israelites. The first major event happened at Mt. Sinai where God's commandments were given. The second event was the forty-year trek in the wilderness where God tested his children with those commandments. And the last great event was the entering of the Promised Land by those who remained faithful to the end.

As mentioned, the Discipleship Training Program is divided into elementary and secondary classes. The elementary class is called the Righteousness Training Program. This program is for Orbit 7 believers, and its primary objective is to teach the truth of God and transform the thinking process of the new believer. The secondary class shall be called the Obedience Training Program and this program is designed for Orbit 8 believers to test their resolve, dedication, and commitment to God and His Word.