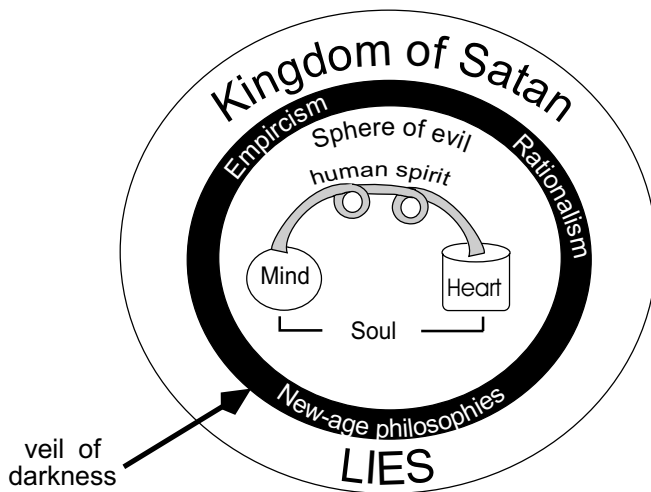


## VEIL OF DARKNESS AND DEATH

But before we continue with the believers training, I think it's important that we pause here to first see where the believer has been and how he got to be a believer in the Lord Christ Jesus. Like the Israelites who were held captive by Egypt until God delivered them, we too as believers were held captive. We were held by a conniving and tyrannical Pharaoh, and his name is Satan, lord of the cosmos.

Life in the cosmos, or the worldly system, is a life of darkness (spiritual ignorance); a life hid from the light and truth of God. It is a life caught up in Satan's power flow of corruption "*that is in the world by lust*" (2 Pt. 1:4). And lust slowly and insidiously destroys the fabric of man's soul, as rust destroys steel, or even the moth destroys the cloth.

In other words, Satan continually and without interruption corrupts our soul by appealing to our lusts through a variety of deceitful schemes. It is this method of deception and lies that Satan uses to keep us in his dungeon of death. Below is an illustration of man's captivity in Satan's kingdom within the Sphere of Evil.

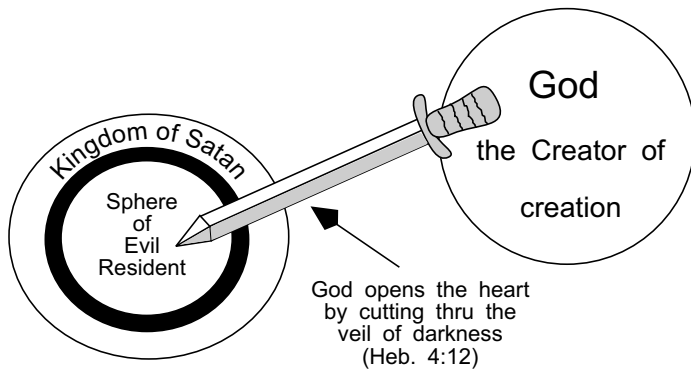


As you can see, the unbeliever in Satan's kingdom is spiritually blinded to God's truth by a *veil of darkness*. This veil is composed of empiricism, rationalism, man-centered philosophies, and, becoming more popular each day, new-age philosophies. It is these belief

systems which define for the unbeliever good and evil. They leave no room for what cannot be understood with the mind or experienced with the senses. Although with the rise of the new age movement, more and more people are beginning to believe in a supernatural existence; yet, they do not have the benefit of true spiritual discernment. Furthermore, the unbeliever's spirit is dead (as depicted by a darkened human spirit), and therefore he has no means by which to communicate with God, or God to communicate with him. That is to say, he is in no position to receive God's intimate counsel. Yet, if there is a *desire* in the unregenerate's heart to know the *creator of creation* in a personal way, God will reveal Himself to him. This desire might arise by contemplating the beauty of God's creation. The Bible states God has made Himself known in a general way by that which He has created, Romans 1:19-20. And through His creation, "*His invisible attributes, eternal power and divine nature are evident.*" But specifically, God has made Himself known in a more intimate way through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. For Christ is "*the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature,*" Heb. 1:3.

God reveals the intimate thoughts of His heart to man only through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.*" (John 14:6)

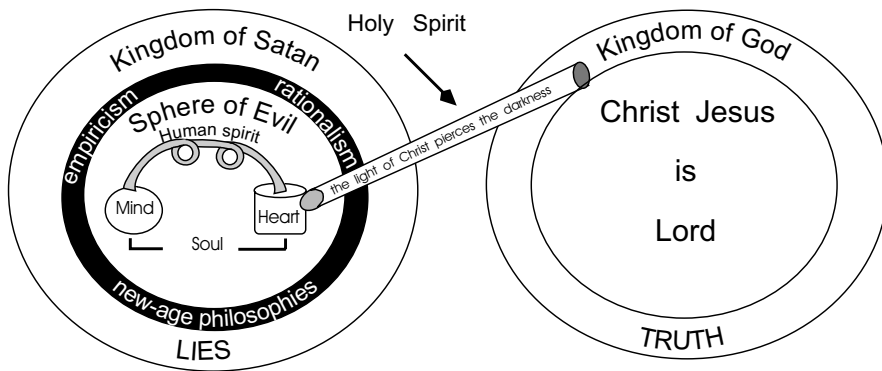
And it is through the written word and the preaching of the gospel that Christ Jesus is revealed. And with man's desire to personally know God, He will cut through the "*veil of darkness,*" for only God is able to do this, and open this man or woman's heart to respond. "*The Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.*" (Acts 16:14)



It doesn't matter if this unbeliever lives in the most inaccessible parts of the Earth, God will get the message of the Gospel to him, and his potential salvation is NEVER dependent upon any one man or ministry. What matters is his desire to intimately know His Creator.

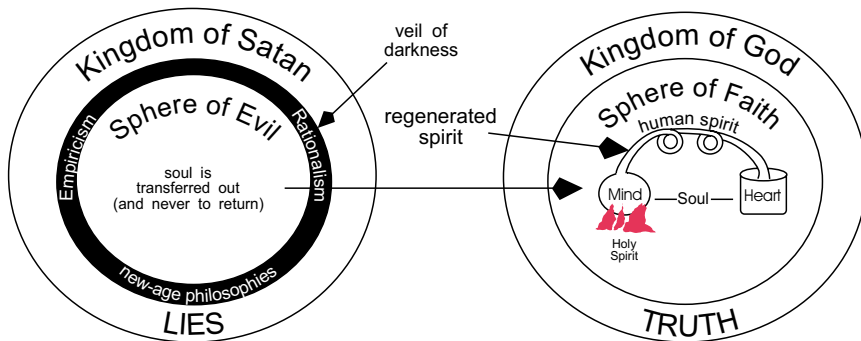
So if one man or ministry fails, God will raise another—perhaps even send an angel. In one particular case, a man desired to know God, and God sent an angel to tell him to send for the Apostle Peter. And so he did. Peter was found and went with the man's emissary to his house where he preached the gospel message to him and his friends. Upon hearing the message, he believed (Acts 10).

It is a fact that the unsaved does not have the spiritual means to receive IC into his heart because of his unregenerate or dead spirit. Yet, the Holy Spirit, who senses his desire to truly know God, will act as his spirit, and will deposit or communicate the truth of the Gospel into his heart.



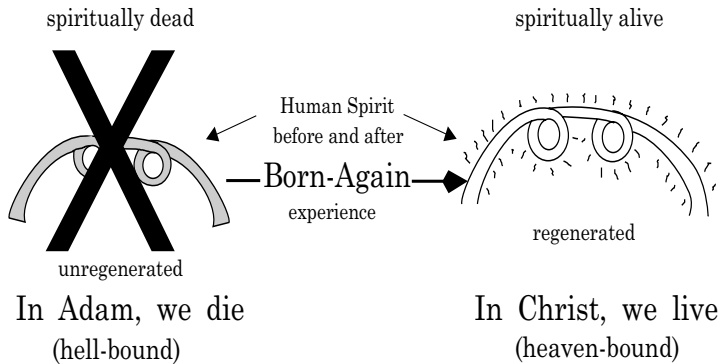
When Christ is then believed to be God's Son, the recipient will desire Christ as his personal savior and Lord. This desire manifests itself into submission to His authority, obedience to His will, and a full and complete yielding to His purpose and pleasure. Hence, he is no longer a slave to Satan, but a willing servant unto Christ. At this instant, the mystery of new life unfolds and the believer is then BORN AGAIN, transferred out of Satan's kingdom into the kingdom of God and placed into Orbit 7.

### Born Again



*For He delivered us from the domain of darkness  
[Sphere of Evil] and transferred us to the kingdom of  
His beloved Son. (Col. 1:13)*

Notice, He does not deposit IC into the mind, but heart, as noted in the top figure on page 34. There is no real salvation experience unless the heart is involved. And upon his born-again experience, he is forgiven of all sins, his spirit is regenerated, the Holy Spirit indwells (takes residence within) him, fills (empowers) him, seals (forever saves) him, and gives him a spiritual gift.



“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again,  
he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (Jn. 3:3)

Now many might think the born-again phenomenon and the regeneration of the human spirit entails the entire salvation experience. It does not—no more than our physical birth entails the entire human experience. But regrettably, too many think so and progress no further in their spiritual growth.

The human spirit is that which sets us apart from the plant and animal kingdoms. The plant, like man, has substance, but no mind or spirit. And the animal, like man, has substance and a mind, but like the plant, no spirit.

### GOD'S LIVING CREATION

Creation	Body	Mind	Spirit
Plant	●		
Animal	●	●	
Man	●	●	●

Truly, no plant or animal can say that he was created in God's image. "God is spirit," Jn. 4:24. And man was created in the "image of God," Genesis 1:27. Therefore, man is a spiritual being; for as we have learned, his spirit was created to be eternal—though it resides temporarily in man's body while alive on earth. Furthermore, it was designed to communicate with God on an intimate and personal basis with our souls—which it forever encases—therefore keeping intact the individuality of each and every man, woman, and child throughout eternity. Intimacy, however, is maintained through trust and fidelity. This intimacy was established through the first man, Adam, but lost through his sin of disobedience. (Rom. 5:19). This resulted in the collapse and cessation of the spirit's purpose: to have the ability to communicate with God on an intimate and personal basis. This *cut-off* resulted in the spiritual death of Adam as God promised it would, Gen. 2:17, and it is this unregenerate state which all men inherit (Rom. 5:12). This condition ultimately results in eternal death. But through the obedience of One, Christ Jesus, there results justification for all (Rom. 5:18,19). And believing in the One, the human spirit is regenerated, or brought back to its original state before the fall, resulting in eternal life to all who believe. (Our eternal destination has nothing to do with the quantity or degree of sinfulness, but whether or not we are "born again." Our sinfulness does however play a key role in our eternal status. Refer to *The Power Spheres*.)

So regeneration of the human spirit is vital to the salvation experience and essential for becoming a new creation, but man's soul in this process (his thought-life) is little touched (except for the fact that he desires Christ as savior and Lord). So even though the new believer is born again, he still carries within his soul the corruption of his former self. Because of this fact, the new believer is very susceptible to misinformation which can get his eyes off of Christ and on to man with disastrous effects. He could in fact, fall out of Orbit 7 into the Sphere of Carnality within days, hours, minutes, or seconds of his salvation experience. Therefore, it is vital he find a shepherd after God's own heart. If not, the wolves will devour him.

## **RIGHTEOUSNESS TRAINING**

But for our study purposes, we are going to say this new young believer has indeed come under a ministry led by a minister who has been brought up by God's intimate counsel. Therefore, we can proceed with his RIGHTEOUSNESS TRAINING PROGRAM.

The righteousness training program, as stated earlier, has as its primary function to transform the believer's corrupted thinking from

His former life in the Sphere of Evil by divine wisdom from God's "living and active" Word. He is to learn he must no longer conform his thinking to the former belief systems of Satan's kingdom. These systems are based upon a humanistic approach to life where man is the center of all things and that through reliance upon rationalism or empiricism—his primary source of truth and authority—he will be guided to a rich and full life. And let us not forget the growing popularity of the New Age Movement, which teaches that each of us is god—a creator in our own right, and therefore nothing is impossible for us if we only apply ourselves in a positive way. And sure enough, there are many successful men and women who have achieved great success through humanistic concepts and beliefs—not to mention the same through New Age hocus-pocus. But surely, this is the height and epitome of pride. For pride creates its own world into the likeness of its lusts. But it is humility, which allows us to be created by God into the likeness of His Son. Therefore, for the newborn Christian, there is only one true God, and rational thought and science will become subordinate (even as the wise men who represented scientists and rational thinkers bowed to the infant Christ, the Word) to faith in God's Word. He will learn the Holy Bible as the infallible (John 10:35, Heb. 6:18), inspired (2 Peter 1:20-21), and inerrant (Mt. 22:29), but not always literal (John 11:11-14) Word of God. By "not always literal," I mean to say we must determine whether God's Word is to be taken literally, figuratively, or symbolically according to the Holy Spirit's witness and its context.

And as the Orbit 7 believer, or the spiritual child, undergoes this transformation, he will come to see God's good, well pleasing, and perfect will for his life. Romans 12:2 gives us the objective for the righteousness training program.

*And do not be conformed to the world [Kingdom of Satan] but be transformed [from the Greek meaning metamorphosis] by the renewing of your mind [thinking process] that you may prove what the Will of God is, that which is good and acceptable [or well pleasing] and perfect.*

Peter says much the same thing in 1 Peter 1:14-15.

*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves [by the means of residency in the Sphere of Faith] also in all your behavior [or orbits 7-9].*

With that objective in mind, the spiritual child begins the process of saving his soul, or undergoing a spiritual transformation of his thinking (Phil. 2:12). This is done by sowing righteousness with the view of harvesting IC, using the nutcracker. And as is the trait in newborns to have a voracious appetite, the newborn believer will have a strong desire to know God's Word. He therefore must immediately begin to feed on It.

*Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the Word [IC] that by it you may grow in respect to [the] salvation [of your soul]. (1 Pt. 2.2)*

Peter said it is by obedience and submission to God's word of truth that our souls are purified (1 Pt. 1:22). Paul spoke of how the sacred writings give wisdom which will lead to soul salvation.

*... the sacred writing, which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith [life in the Sphere of Faith] which is in [positionally and experientially] Christ Jesus. (2 Tim. 3:15)*

And as a last example of our transformation by God's wisdom, Paul says in Colossians 3:9-10,

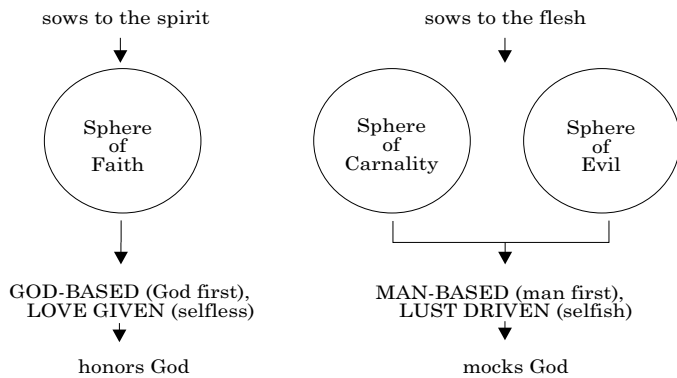
*Since you have laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge [epignosis] according to the image of the One who created him ....*

As he progresses, the new believer is learning how to pray effectively, to study diligently, and to meditate (think, consider) on God's Word. And, as he learns IC, he is being trained in the way he should go by applying his faith to God's Word using the nutcracker technique (desire, concentration, diligence) that God's wisdom might be revealed.

And most importantly, the new believer must become what I call GOD-BASED, LOVE GIVEN. GOD-BASED, LOVE GIVEN means that one is well grounded in God's Word, given to and influenced by its mandates (designed for his well-being), and believes it's his privilege in life to serve God the Father (Lk. 17:8) and his fellow man. I might add that this type of attitude fulfills the two great commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart ... soul ... and mind .. and ... love your neighbor as yourself," Mt. 22:37,39.

In contrast, the nonbeliever is what I call a MAN-BASED, LUST DRIVEN individual. It is a mindset which each man, woman, and child born into this cosmic system has to one degree or another. Basically, the man-based, lust driven individual rejects the supremacy of God in favor of his own. Therefore, he is to be served, admired, and held in esteem. He seeks the glory of self, rather than the glory of God. Unfortunately, his glory often comes at the expense of his fellow man—especially those who are weaker, less educated, and privileged. He seeks his pleasure above that of God's. He is a humanist, the belief that man's interests and ideals are central. But now, he is evolving beyond that into a New Age philosophy where man is indeed a god himself—a creator of his own universe through various mind control techniques. In a word, such a man-based, lust driven attitude defines evil.

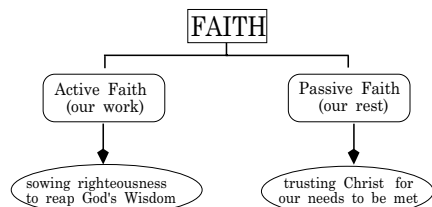
*You too have done evil ... each one walking [in one of six orbits, either 1, 2 or 3 in the Sphere of Evil, or, 4, 5 or 6 in the Sphere of Carnality (see The Power Spheres) ] according to the stubbornness of his own evil heart, without listening to Me. (Jer. 16:12)*



But I also see these evil traits in various evangelical crowds. These are the prosperity cults who see God as someone to serve their interests by means of their so-called faith. Faith to these individuals is nothing more than a power tool to get what one wants, and joy a force by which one achieves success in life. Then there are the holiness cults which believe holiness is achieved by “DO'S AND DON'TS,” and service (works) is simply a means to please God. But in true Christianity, faith, holiness, service, and joy are all RESULTS of life in and from the Sphere of Faith.

All legalistic traps as expounded by the aforementioned prosperity and holiness cults must be avoided. We do have needs; we do have burdens, but we must entrust these to Christ. We must delight in Him and HE will give us the desires of our hearts (Ps. 37:4). Our focus must remain on Christ, not on our desires. Our desires then will be fulfilled as we desire Christ. “Commit *your works to the Lord, and your plans will be established,*” Pr. 16:3.

We simply must not get involved in legalistic activities, such as giving money to various ministries to get a blessing from God. (Tithes and contributions are commanded by God to provide materially for what the ministry provides spiritually. And those who give with an attitude of gratitude *will be* blessed (Mal. 3:10, Rom. 15:27). But our primary activity as Christians within the Sphere of Faith is not to see what we can wrangle from God's hands, but what I have called “sowing righteousness with a view to harvest IC.” I refer to this as our active faith. In contrast, there is a passive faith. By this I simply mean a faith which trusts in Christ to do what He says He will do in our behalf. He knows our needs; He is aware of every tear we shed. It is ludicrous to think God would have us give money to some man's ministry in order to encourage Him to act in our behalf. But this is what some suggest. Such men play upon the natural man's impatience and greed. But God would have us wait upon Him. This is our passive faith; it is our REST. Our active faith is our WORK. All “naming and claiming”, “vowing and decreeing,” or “seed faith techniques” are legalism and variations of new age occultism. What we are to sow is RIGHTEOUSNESS, not money, vows, or positive confessions. Period!



And as we respond to Christ through active and passive faith, God will respond to us with the Glory Blessings. Yes, we will get the desires of our heart, we will inherit the land, and we will have abundant prosperity, but ONLY and LEGITIMATELY as we *prioritize* around Christ Jesus, NOT around our desires as in our former life. If the Orbit 7 believer can understand the concept of being *God-based, love given*, he will be able to avoid the many pitfalls that the *man-based, lust driven* individual experiences throughout his lifetime.

## TESTS, TRIALS, AND TRIBULATIONS

After a certain point in time in the young believer's life, God will decide he is ready to graduate from Orbit 7, and begin his obedience training program in Orbit 8. It will be a program exclusively designed for him. This program will consist of a number of tests, trials, and tribulations to determine his loyalty during duress. This will be his WILDERNESS TEST.

Every Christian must go through this desert experience if he is to advance to Orbit 9—no exceptions. Christ, Himself, had to endure many tests and trials in his life—the first being a literal wilderness test. “*Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil,*” Matt. 4:1. There are three points here we need to point out for an overview of the testing process. The testing process is initiated by the Spirit. The testing ground is the wilderness. And the tempter, or he who tests, is the devil, or Satan. So in effect, God takes us into a place of duress to allow the devil to test our resolve and prove our faith. But to keep this in perspective, and perhaps alleviate some fear you may be having at this time, James said this: “*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance,*” James 1:3. And we endure great and difficult circumstances—perhaps from a cause we support, because we believe that in the end there will be reward for our efforts. When our faith is tested therefore, let us learn from such men as Moses and Peter.

*For he [Moses] was looking to the reward [Glory Blessings.]. By faith, he ... endured, as seeing Him [Christ] who is unseen. (Hebrews 11.26,27)*

*Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:13)*

There will be great and abundant blessings for those who can endure and persevere during their darkest hours. Christ talked about joy which follows sorrow (Jn. 16:20). And who would know better than He? There is a drive in the pursuit of peace which enables us to continue when our souls are crushed and our emotions shattered. Christ's darkest hour came at Gethsemane when Satan attacked Christ with all that he could muster. How he must have tempted Christ with forfeiting the cross. Surely there was another way, he would have insisted. And how he must have pelted Christ with all He would have to endure if He kept His face towards Jerusalem. And would anyone care? This temptation attack was so severe and complete that He sweated blood. He was faced with a cup from the

Father that shook His will and grieved His soul to the point of death. Yet, He did not come to the earth to accomplish His own will, but the Father's. And it was this intense desire to please His Father, and I believe the joy of releasing us from Satan's stronghold, that enabled Christ to drink from the cup and go forward with the Father's will.

## CHRIST'S CUP

So what was in that cup? Well, I realize I am on holy ground, but let me suggest the following. First, the cup represents Christ's separation from the Father. This He had not experienced since all eternity. Only a child who loses his parents in a crowd can even begin to realize what terrifying thoughts Christ must have suffered nailed upon the cross. It was this estrangement from His Father that would drive Christ to utter that which was prophesied by David in Ps. 22:1. "*My God, My God, why has thou forsaken Me?*" For on the cross, the sins of the world would be cast upon Him. God cannot have intimate relations with anyone covered, immersed, and saturated in sin. Therefore, God turned His back upon His one and only Son. The consequences would be dire.

Secondly, I believe the cup refers to all the hideousness and foulness of nervous sin and perversity that Christ—sinless and holy—would personally experience upon the cross. Only a man drowning in excrement could even begin to understand such abject horror and repulsion.

And thirdly, of course, Christ would experience the full wrath of God upon the cross for your sins, my sins, and the sins of the world. He would be crushed in soul by God Himself (Is. 53:10). Such intense agony has never been nor ever will be experienced again by any other soul. For He experienced the wrath of God, not for one man's multitude of sins, but for all men's sins from the beginning of time. And who else could endure such white-hot scourging of the soul without the relief of unconsciousness or death, but the Son of the living God? God dished it out, and God's Son took it. And it was not until *every* sin was paid for, that Christ said, "*It is finished,*" committing His spirit into the Father's hands.

And He would undergo all this for you and me. For in the night of His betrayal, *being in agony*, fervent in prayer, His brow sweat blood. For He was fully aware of the bitter and deadly contents of the cup mentioned above. And under great distress, He said, "*My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me.*" But glory to God, He overcame the fear of separation from His father, the baptism into the foulness of man's corruption and