

## Principles for the Development of True Happiness in the Soul:

1. Happiness is the result of right thinking. A right thing done in a right way is right. This principle of protocol applies to thought, decision, and action.
2. Error occurs when man assumes that happiness can be pursued in and of itself, but happiness cannot be found by pursuing it.
3. Happiness is a mental attitude—an inner resource—that develops when one pursues truth. In order to pursue truth, one must first establish its source.
4. If one is successful in locating the source of truth, then certain results follow. First of all, the source of truth becomes the source of absolute norms and standards.
5. For truth to be truth it must be absolute. It must be as true tomorrow as it is today. The discovery of absolutes reveals principles of right and wrong by which we may direct our lives.
6. When we subscribe to these standards, we associate our thoughts, decisions, and actions with them.
7. If we habitually make right decisions, then we associate ourselves with right action. Over time, this association with right action builds spiritual self-esteem and camaraderie with the Source of truth, God the Father.
8. From this advance we learn there are absolutes which define human choices (sinful) and absolutes which define divine choices (righteous).
9. We are able to conclude that God made choices based on absolutes and has set up standards that even He is unable to violate.
10. For example, because of physical birth and the imputation of human life, we become objects of divine selection.
11. At gospel hearing, man is left free to make a choice between heaven and the lake of fire by either accepting or rejecting the gospel as an absolute truth.
12. Those who accept through faith that the gospel is absolute truth are the only ones God is free to elect. We can see attention to this absolute standard expressed by Jesus to John the Baptist in:

**John 3:36** “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

13. The Lord stresses both the positive and negative aspects of gospel hearing in:

**John 15:16** “You did not elect Me, but I elected you.”



**John 15:19** “If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have elected you out of the world. This is why the world hates you.”

14. For those who trust God as the Source of truth, both confidence and happiness will gradually define their lives.

**Romans 15:13** May the God of confidence fill you with happiness and prosperity as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with confidence by means of the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit.

15. Knowledge of truth results in motivational love for God which in turn creates a desire to acquire more knowledge.
16. The tandem problem-solving devices result from this advance: (1) personal love for God, followed by (2) unconditional love for all mankind.
17. These are the categories of virtue love which, when facilitated into character traits, produce true happiness in the soul.
18. Colossians 1:7–13 describes the nuances of spiritual growth:

**Colossians 1:7** Even as you have been taught from the source of Epaphras [ Ἐπαφρᾶς (*Epaphrás*), pastor-teacher of the church at Colossae<sup>4</sup> ], our dear fellow servant, who is faithful minister of Christ on our behalf,

**v. 8** and who gave us a written report about your unconditional love which the Holy Spirit produced in you.

**v. 9** Because of this [ **unconditional love** ], from the day on which we heard, we have not stopped praying for you and asking, that you might be filled with the epígnōsis knowledge of His will [ **spiritual maturity** ] by means of all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

<sup>4</sup> “Epaphras. A native of Colossae and founder of the Colossian church, who was with Paul when he wrote Colossians. Epaphras may have been Paul’s convert. As Paul’s representative he had evangelized Colossae and the neighboring towns of Laodicea and Hierapolis during Paul’s Ephesian ministry. His visit to Paul in Rome and his report concerning conditions in the churches of the Lycus Valley caused Paul to write Colossians (Colossians 1:7–9)” (D. E. Hiebert, “Epaphras,” in *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, gen. ed. Merrill C. Tenney [Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976], 2:315).

**Colossians 1:10** that you conduct yourselves worthy of the Lord, seeking to please Him in every way [ by functioning inside the operational divine dynasphere ], bearing fruit by every good work [ application of doctrine ], always making progress [ continuous spiritual growth ] in the sphere of the knowledge that comes from the source of God;

**v. 11** that you might be constantly made strong [ advance by means of doctrine through the areas of momentum testing ] by means of every enabling power—in keeping with His sovereign power which has His essence as its source [ delegated power through the filling of the Holy Spirit ]—in order that you might always have endurance, stability, and patience; happily [ χαρά (*chará*): unalloyed happiness of God: the copacetic spiritual life ]

**v. 12** being thankful to the Father, the One Who made it possible for you to share in the inheritance of the saints [ divine operating assets ] in the sphere of the Light [ operational divine dynasphere ].

**v. 13** For He [ God ] rescued us from the authority of darkness [ the Satanic Academy of Cosmic Didactics ] and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love [ adoption into the royal family and enrollment into the Divine Academy of Grace Didactics ].<sup>5</sup> (EXT)

### Momentum Testing in 4 Categories

1. Momentum Testing is associated with the development of happiness in the soul or the Copacetic Spiritual Life.
2. The more truth a believer accumulates in his soul the more intense are the pressures from the angelic conflict in his personal life.

<sup>5</sup> Joe Griffin, *The Copacetic Christian: How to Be Happy in the Devil's World* (St. Charles, Mo.: Joe Griffin Media Ministries, 2011), 13-15. Audio stream: 2011 Shreveport Bible Conference, 2d session: (<http://www.joegriffin.org/media-archive/class-catalog/sbc11-02/>).



3. The believer with maximum doctrine in his soul is a combatant in the front rank of the Invisible War. The term to characterize this spiritual deployment is the Classical Greek noun, **πρόμαχοι** (*prómachoi*): “fighting in front” or “front rankers.”
4. The Spartans trained their children from the earliest ages to prepare for war. Their training was designed to develop the tactics and discipline that must be ingrained in order to fight as a unit in concert with **στρατιώται** (*stratiótai*)—fellow soldiers—in the phalanx [See Ephesians 6:11–17]:

**During the 7th century BC the Greek city-states adapted a phalanx eight men deep. [The panoply of] the Greek hoplite, the heavy-armed infantryman who manned the phalanx, was equipped with a round shield [ὄπλον (*hóplon*), a heavy corselet [aka: bell cuirass (*kwi-rás*] of leather and metal, greaves [κνημῖς (*knēmís*: shin armor)], an 8-foot pike [δόρυ (*dóru*): spear] for thrusting, and a 2-foot double-edged sword [μάχαιρα (*máchaira*)]. Since the phalanx held in solid ranks and was divided only into the center and wings, there was generally little need for an officer corps; the whole line advanced in step to the sound of the flute [αὐλός (*aulós*)]<sup>6</sup>. Such a formation encouraged cohesion among advancing troops and presented a frightening spectacle to the enemy.<sup>7</sup>**

5. The mission of the Christian soldier is to acquire maximum spiritual ordinance in his soul in order to defend truth while opposing the lie.
6. The term *prómachoi* describe mature believers who fight on the front rank of the invisible conflict that constantly rages between those of the light against those of the darkness during the course of Lucifer’s appeal.
7. The most important factor in preparation for battle was the total elimination of **φόβος** (*phóbos*): fear. To accomplish its avoidance, the Greeks developed the science of fear.
8. The tactics utilized trained cadets how to mentally prevent fear from reaching the psyche by denying reactions to danger or physical pain.

<sup>6</sup> The Greek words and definitions of the panoply are from: Liddell and Scott, *A Greek-English Lexicon* (1968).

<sup>7</sup> “Phalanx,” in *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica: Micropaedia* (2010), 352.



9. The Greeks contended that fear spawns in the body and must be combated there. Put the body into a state of **ἀφοβία (aphobía)**: “fearlessness,” and the mind will follow.
10. Therefore, their military training concentrated on eliminating fear caused by attacks on the body. However, in the Invisible War the concentration on managing fear must be focused on thought—incoming information that challenges one’s established inventory of ideas.
11. Events that have transpired in the United States over the last few months expose two concentrated campaigns. This word is used in various ways. Here are a dictionary’s definitions:

**Campaign. 1. A series of military operations undertaken to achieve a large-scale objective during a war. 2. An operation or series of operations energetically pursued to accomplish a purpose: an advertising campaign for a new product; a candidate’s political campaign. To engage in an operation planned to achieve a certain goal: an army that campaigned across the entire continent; an international group that campaigned for human rights.**<sup>8</sup>

12. For over two years the United States has seen the open exposition of growing rebellion designed to eventuate in a:

**Coup d’état: a sudden decisive exercise of force in politics; especially the violent overthrow or alteration of an existing government by a small group.**<sup>9</sup>

13. The above two terms define strategies associated with warfare and politics and are not precise to the events transpiring in our country. But a well-organized “campaign” has been active over the last three years whose strategy is the “alteration of an existing government by a small group.”
14. The “small group” is the Democrat Party which over the last 60 years, has propagandized three generations of our nation’s youth into becoming “agents of change.”

**(End JAS3-59-Review. See JAS3-60-Review for continuation of study at p. 51.)**

<sup>8</sup> *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, 5th ed. (New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016), s.v. “campaign.”

<sup>9</sup> *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, (2003), s.v. “coup d’état.”

