

Gratitude: Hunger, Rebellion, Bitterness, Exodus 16:3; Obedience Test: Exodus 16:4, Review of Walking

There is no way that a person who is without gratitude for the grace provisions he is granted can have any true happiness. Lacking any gratitude for a series of miracles specifically created for them, these Jews begin to hint that their first husband was a better provider than their second Husband is currently.

Exodus 16:3 - And the Israelites said to Moses and Aaron, “Would that we had died by the Lord’s hand in the land of Egypt when we sat by the pots of meat and we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this Jornada to kill this entire assembly of people with hunger.”

This is irrational. If Moses and Aaron are plotting to kill them and if, as they assert, Pharaoh would have killed them then what difference does it make whether they die as freemen or as slaves? Those who have become slaves in their souls had rather be pampered by a liberal dictator than learn principles of integrity from a just God.

Principle: The human soul of fallen mankind is more prone to place its confidence in the promises of safety and security from his fellow man than to have faith in the promises of a just, omnipotent, and loving God.

Because they cannot become skillful in using the assets of the spiritual life, they constantly react with emotional sins when under the pressure of testing. God is not trying to kill them—the *Jornada* is trying to do that. God is using the sparse provisions of the *Jornada* to check out their gratitude and they fail every time. And after every failure God miraculously provided their needs: freedom, the execution of their adversaries, the provision of water to drink, and the haute cuisine of angels to eat.

Failure to utilize the spiritual skills of learning doctrine plus no faith in the promises and integrity of God resulted in ignorance, fear, bitterness, and failure. Their human solution of returning to Egypt was no solution. The divine solution of depending on God and His grace was the only solution.

Remember, they are not being disciplined by God but allowed to be tested by the inability of the *Jornada* to sustain them—a gut-check of their faith-rest.

D. The Obedience Test: “Walk in My Instruction”

When God provided the food of the angels it was a daily provision throughout the 40 years of wandering.

Exodus 16:4 - Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain upon you bread from heaven for you and the people will go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.”

Note the word “walk,” the Hebrew verb *halakh*. It means, “to go,” or “to walk.” There’s much more to it than this however, and I want to amplify the entire message contained in this word used by our Lord.

“... *whether or not the Israelites will walk in My instruction*” indicates that a test is being administered. The Lord conducts an experiment to determine what the outcome will be: obedience and gratitude or rebellion and complaint.

I will quote from a volume in a set of books edited by two writers whose intention, according to the liner notes, “*is to concentrate on meaning, starting from the narrower, everyday senses and building to an understanding of theologically significant concepts.*” It is this progression that I hope to utilize as we observe their etymology of the Hebrew word “to walk,” the verb, *halakh*.

Botterweck, G. Johannes and Helmer Ringgren (eds.) Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament. Vol. 3. Translated by David E. Green. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1986; pp. 388-403 passim:

NOTE: Ten years ago, we studied the eight gates of the Divine Power System as the Doctrine of Walking. Our study of the Hebrew verb “to walk,”—*halakh*—will expand the dimensions of that study as well as amplify several others we have noted over the past several years.

Review of the Doctrine of Walking (1987-1997)

A. Divine Power System

Gate 1: Filling of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:18. (1st Power Option; 2nd Spiritual Skill.)

Gate 2: Basic Problem-Solving Devices. (1) Rebound, 1 John 1:9; (2) Filling of the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 5:18; (3) Faith-Rest Drill, Romans 8:28. (Problem-solving devices 1-3.)

Gate 3: Humility: Organized, enforced, and genuine. Produces teachability. Involves Grace Orientation to Life and Doctrinal Orientation to Reality (problem-solving devices 4-5). Results in gratitude. Psalm 25:8 and Psalm 25:9; Proverbs 15:33; James 4:6.

Gate 4: Grace Apparatus for Perception: Perception and metabolization of doctrine into the stream of consciousness. 1 Corinthians 2:1-1 Corinthians 2:16. Storage of doctrine into long-term memory traces on the hard disk of the soul, the cerebral cortex of the brain, for application to life and circumstances. (Problem-solving device #6.) Romans 7.

Gate 5: Motivational Virtue: Personal Love for God. 1 John 5:3

Gate 6: Functional Virtue: Unconditional Love for all Mankind. 1 John 4:20, 1 John 4:21

NOTE: These are problem-solving devices 7-8 and they work in tandem. You can't love your fellowman unless you love God first. You do not love God unless it results in loving your fellowman. The Lord established the divine order of the tandem in Mark 12:29, Mark 12:30, and Mark 12:31: Personal love for God must precede unconditional love for mankind.

Gate 7: Momentum Tests: (1) Old sin nature: Rebound; (2) People: Unconditional love; (3) Thought: Doctrinal rationales; (4) System: Unconditional love and doctrinal rationales; (5) Arrogance complex: Life inside the divine power system; (6) Hatred complex: Life inside the divine power system; (7) Disaster: Faith-rest drill and Occupation with Christ; (8) Prosperity: Genuine humility plus metabolized doctrine in the soul.

Gate 8: Spiritual Maturity: Sharing the happiness of God to the maximum (problem-solving device #9); niche attainment; escrow blessings in time; anticipation of escrow blessings in eternity (the 7 Nike Awards in 13 paragraphs). Revelation 2-3. Qualification and capacity for Evidence Testing. The Book of Job.

B. Other doctrines studied over the past 10 years which amplify and expand upon the Doctrine of Walking, or the Doctrine of the Divine Power System:

1. Problem-solving devices 1-3 in the 1989 Basic Bible Doctrines Series.
2. Problem-solving devices 4-10 in the Doctrine of Problem-Solving Devices.
3. The Two Power Options: $FHS + HIQ = SIQ + GAP = 2Pos$
4. The 3 Spiritual Skills: $FHS + GAP = 10 PSDs$
5. The Sophisticated Spiritual Life:
 Spiritual self-esteem + Providential Preventive Suffering = Spiritual Autonomy + Momentum Testing = Spiritual Maturity + Evidence Testing = Maximum Glorification of God
6. Stream of Consciousness, or *kardia*, in 7 compartments:
 1. Frame of reference
 2. Memory center
 3. Vocabulary storage
 4. Categorical storage
 5. Conscience with norms and standards
 6. Momentum
 7. Wisdom
7. The Theology of Neurology: The cerebral cortex of the brain as the hard disk for the soul and linked with the Memory Center for storage (wheel-tracks of righteousness) and recall of doctrine by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. Hebrews 12:13; Psalm 23:3; Romans 7.
8. The Equation of Hope:

X Radical is the life of the unbeliever up to salvation, or arrival at Kansas City.

Y Radical is the believer's spiritual growth, or life on the Santa Fé Trail by way of the Jornada.

Z Radical is experiential sanctification, i.e., spiritual maturity, or arrival at Santa Fé.
9. The Gratitude Gauge: The Israelites' post-Exodus experience in the Sinai.

1st generation: an *jornada del muerto*, or 40 years of ingratitude.

2nd generation: an *jornada de la vita*, or an ever-increasing reading on the Gratitude Gauge. The Pentateuch.

Primarily, we will learn without doubt that the first priority in the Christian way of life is to learn the Word of God. Once learned the next priority, under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, is to start acting upon it. In so doing we undertake the renovation of the soul spoken of by Paul in Romans 12:2.