

GRACE APPARATUS FOR PERCEPTION

*Much of the material contained in this doctrine is based on the booklet, *Grace Apparatus for Perception*, by Pastor R. B. Thieme, Jr. I was first taught this doctrine by Pastor Ken Jensen in 1971 and again by Pastor Ralph Braun, 1972-75.

1. The term Grace Apparatus for Perception refers to God's spiritual provision for a member of the human race to learn and use doctrine in his life. It is hereafter abbreviated GAP.
 - A. Ephesians 3:14 shows that it was the Father's provision for us after believing in Jesus Christ as personal Savior so we can learn His truth.
 - B. Grace found a way for every believer to advance to spiritual maturity in the devil's world apart from human works, or human I.Q.
 - C. The goal of the believer is to know the person of Jesus Christ and His viewpoint on all categories of events, circumstances, philosophies, and people. We are to learn to adopt the values of Jesus Christ into our lives. We must learn to think, talk, and behave according to the standards of the Word of God. This is the process called GAP.
 - D. There is a combination of Greek terms used to describe the GAP function. The diagram will help explain them.
 - 1) God's Word in written form, the Bible.
 - 2) God's Word taught by the Communicator with the spiritual gift to do so. The Pastor-teacher in the local church is God's meaning of learning His Word, Ephesians 4:11-13; Hebrews 13:7, 17, 10:25; Acts 20.
 - 3) The believer in Bible class hears doctrine taught and expresses positive volition to God's Word. The believer must be filled with the Holy Spirit through confession of sin for this to take place. Ephesians 5:18; 1 John 1:9.
 - 4) Doctrine enters left lobe of the mind (DIAGRAM NEXT PAGE)

LEFT LOBE

RIGHT LOBE

Conscience

FAITH

2. There is a difference between human and spiritual I.Q.
 - A. Colossians 1:9, being filled with EPIGNOSIS or full knowledge increases your spiritual I.Q. Learning academic facts may increase your human perception in the left lobe but it does not cause spiritual growth or produce wisdom. Left Lobe learning is simply the first step in the process.
 - B. 1 Corinthians 2:14, human I.Q. cannot understand the things of God so the academic data must be believed which sends it to the HUMAN SPIRIT where the Holy Spirit converts the knowledge to EPIGNOSIS or spiritual knowledge. 1 Corinthians 1:9-2:16.
3. The exclusion of human I.Q. from the GAP process is found in 1 Corinthians 1:9-2:16.
 - A. Human I.Q. has often been considered a factor in learning doctrine, but it is not.
 - B. A high I.Q. believer can learn, and a low I.Q. believer can learn because it is based upon GRACE.
 - C. God never allows any human handicap to interfere with the spiritual growth process.
 - D. God found a way in eternity past for every believer to learn doctrine apart from human I.Q. It is through the indwelling Holy Spirit who teaches each

one of us on our spiritual level. 1 Corinthians 3:16.

4. Receptive comprehension:

- A. The believer's soul possesses two frontal lobes, self-consciousness, mentality, volition, and emotion. The RIGHT LOBE is the home of the conscience.
- B. The LEFT LOBE of the soul is called the NOUS and is designed to assimilate objective information and knowledge (GNOSIS). This is not yet spiritual food for growth, but it is seed for future growth if you believe it.
- C. GNOSIS in the LEFT LOBE cannot be applied to experience nor does it Spiritual growth at this stage. Some have referred to this stage as "Head Knowledge".
- D. Residence of doctrine in the LEFT LOBE makes the believer a "hearer of The Word" but not a "doer of the Word", James 1:25.
- E. LEFT LOBE of the mentality thinking is called NOEO (thought) and there are two kinds of thinking there.
- F. GNOSIS is NEO thought.
 - 1) Objective NOEO is called PHRONEO and means to think about what you heard.
 - 2) Subjective NOEO is DOKEO and means to refuse to think about what you heard; it made you mad so you blocked it out, you are hypersensitive in that area so you shut out what was said.
- G. All of this is receptive comprehension and means to understand the different types of data.
- H. Receptive comprehension involves the following factors:
 - 1) Attendance in the local church where doctrine is taught.
 - 2) Privacy of the priesthood being protected, no dress codes, no outside interference with the believer's hearing of the Word of God.
 - 3) Student must see himself without portfolio, without rights, without authority, in other words as a DOULOS, slave ready to learn and use

what God's Word says.

- 4) The ministry of God the Holy Spirit converts the information into spiritual facts you can understand. GNOSIS or facts can exist in the left lobe with understanding and have absolutely no spiritual benefit at all to the believer unless he believes them by faith, 2 Timothy 3:7.

GNOSIS alone has no spiritual benefit to life at all. This is why some people who are focus only upon their area of interest such as prophecy, marriage seminars, creation, etc. may know a lot of facts about the Bible but still be spiritually immature as believers because they are failing their love tests, authority tests, and their relaxed mental attitude tests. Facts do not determine the level of spiritual growth of the soul.

PRINCIPLE: You cannot spiritually apply GNOSIS or facts alone to life's experience, circumstances, or events to your personal life! Just because a person can quote the Bible from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation does not mean he is spiritually mature; rather he is good at memorizing. Memorizing the doctrines is not applying the doctrines.

5. Grace provisions for learning doctrine:

- A. The canon of Scripture or the completed Bible in written form. 2 Peter 1:19-20; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12.
- B. Divine authorization for the local church to teach doctrine in the church age. The Pastor-Teacher uses the lecture method as the believer sits in the assembly and learns under academic discipline. DIDASKO is the Greek term for this and means a public assembly where someone is teaching.
- C. The spiritual gift of Pastor-teacher is God's gift to the church. The gift is given the authority to teach the Word of God dogmatically as, "Thus says the Lord."
- D. The royal priesthood of the believer means the believer has privacy and freedom to accept or reject doctrine in public assembly.
- E. The indwelling Holy Spirit is the ultimate mentor and teacher of the believer in Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:9-16.
- F. Confession of sin so the filling of the Holy Spirit can occur, 1 John 1:9.

- G. Human spirit in the believer which assimilates doctrine for the believer and feeds it into the soul's right lobe, 1 Corinthians 2:12.
- H. Laws of freedom and privacy in a nation so you can assemble.
- I. Human body so you can carry your soul to Bible class.

6. Mechanics:

- A. Pastor-Teacher uses the I.C.E. (grammatical - historical method of study and presentation).

Isagogics—interpretation of the Bible in its historical setting, taking into consideration the customs and culture of the people at the time of writing.

Categories—hermeneutical principles of comparing Scripture with Scripture to determine the classification of doctrine.

Exegesis—analysis of each word in each verse, in its context of paragraph, chapter, grammar, syntax, etymology of its words, in the original languages of Greek, Hebrew and Chaldean.

- B. Stage two, GNOSIS stage, involves hearing the Word taught, positive volition to the message, recognition of the authority of the Pastor-Teacher, good manners in the assembly so you don't distract others, concentration while in fellowship through confession of sin. You are not required to agree or disagree, you are only required to understand it.
- C. Stage three, EPIGNOSIS, important part of the assimilation of doctrine. By faith the information is transferred to the human spirit. The converter is faith, not works. Negative volition will not allow it to become real to you.
- D. Stage four, KARDIA, the soul heart, or right lobe. Here the information is stored in the frame of reference, the conscience, memory and norms and standards are changed to line up with God's. The soul heart pumps these thoughts when you are under a test and God is glorified because you used His Word that you believed in a test instead of human viewpoint or Satanic viewpoint.
- E. Stage five, SOPHIA, storage of God's wisdom in the soul. Information to the frame of reference is called SUNESIS or in the English, discernment.

Information to the memory center is called SUNEIMI, and means that you become aware of the issues in time. Information to the norms and standards is called SUNEDESIS and means you have wisdom and know God's viewpoint.

Frame of Reference: As doctrine is stored here it builds up the ability to understand more advanced doctrine taught. The frame of reference performs these functions:

- 1) Establishes a new conscience compatible with God's views.
- 2) Forms divine viewpoint dynamics where the believer is able to bring every thought into captivity for Christ.
- 3) Deals with the problems of the subconscious guilt patterns and removes them.
- 4) Provides an alarm system to detect false doctrine and teaching.
- 5) Provides soul capacity and discernment for love, life, and adversity.
- 6) Provides soul comfort whereby God is able to share His happiness with the believer.
- 7) Provides the basis for the production of divine good.
- 8) Causes the proper function of the priesthood as the believer grows to maturity and then continues it after maturity.

7. Results of GAP upon the believer.

- A. Removes scar tissue from the soul and makes it possible for reversion recovery, Hebrews 6:1-4; Ephesians 4:17-19.
- B. Constructs the edification complex of the soul which is the attitude of Christ formed in you, Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:17-19.
- C. Provides the attainment of Greater Grace status.
- D. Provides the maximum basis for production of divine good.

- E. Glorifies God in this intensive stage of the angelic conflict.
 - F. Builds personal love sphere for Lord Jesus Christ, 1 John 4:10; Ephesians 3:17-19.
8. The edification complex of the soul is constructed through the GAP process. This terminology means that the mind of Jesus Christ is formed in the believer.
- A. The foundation for this building in your soul is EPIGNOSIS found in Ephesians 4:12-13.
 - B. First floor—Grace Orientation, Ephesians 4:29,
 - C. Second floor—Mastery of the Details of Life - Proverbs
 - D. Third floor—Relaxed Mental Attitude, Galatians 5:22-23
 - E. Fourth floor—Capacity to Love God and others, 1 Corinthians 16:22; Titus 2:4; Romans 12:13
 - F. Fifth floor—Inner Happiness, Philippians 4:4
 - G. Sixth floor—Greater Grace, James 4:4, maturity
 - Alpha Grace—first floor of maturity
 - Beta Grace—second floor of maturity
 - Gamma Grace—third floor of maturity
 - Delta Grace—fourth floor of maturity