

The Attackers: Capacity & the Divine Initiatives: Indirect: Spiritual Skills & Life Inside the Bubble; Failure to Utilize the Initiatives: Life in the Cosmic Systems: Self-Justification, -Deception, & -Absorption; Illustration: Saul Alinsky's *Rules for Radicals*; Conflict between Spiritual Skills & Arrogant Skills, Jas 4:6, 14–15; Jer 9:23–24; 2 Cor 10:17–18; 1 Pet 5:5b–6; 2 Pet 1:2–4

14. The post-salvation spiritual life introduces indirect divine initiative.
15. Following salvation every believer is then challenged to learn the plan of God through spiritual growth or to ignore requisite Bible study.
16. Grace provides the spiritual skills that can be developed to advance in one's knowledge of the plan of God.
17. Spiritual skills include the filling of the Holy Spirit. This is a status referred to as spirituality or life inside the bubble.
18. The Spirit becomes the supernatural Teacher that makes the communication of Bible doctrine understandable to the believer for his volitional consideration.
19. This also requires the believer's utilization of the grace apparatus for perception or Operation Z. Utilization of these skills develops problem-solving devices that train the believer how to fulfill the protocol plan of God.
20. Execution of the protocol plan requires the renovation of the soul through the inculcation of the thinking of Christ.
21. The continued inculcation of divine truth results in the believer attaining capacity righteousness. The more doctrine he knows the more capacity he has to execute the protocol plan.
22. Until capacity is developed, then blessings from God are limited. If there is no spiritual capacity then the believer remains in the cosmic system utilizing the skills of arrogance: (1) self-justification, (2) self-deception, and (3) self-absorption.
23. Self-justification approves the cosmic problem-solving device of the ends justifying the means.
24. Self-deception results when a person is divorced from reality.
25. When self-justification and self-deception are combined they ultimately require one to defend his actions by denial and projection.
26. Self-deception results in self-absorption which is total preoccupation with self. When combined with denial and projection, self-absorption results in the sins of vituperation, vilification, malice, judging, maligning, gossip, and the creation of the public lie.
27. The conflict between spiritual skills and arrogant skills are thoroughly discussed in Scripture:

James 4:6 - But He keeps on giving greater grace. Therefore it says, "God makes war against the arrogant believer, but he give grace to the humble believer."

James 4:14 - Yet you do not know what kind of life is yours tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while then vanishes away.

v. 15 - But as it is, you boast in your arrogance, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

Jeremiah 9:23 - Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the powerful man boast of his power, let not a rich man boast of his riches;

v. 24 - let him who boasts, boast this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises grace, justice, and righteousness on earth."

2 Corinthians 10:17 - But he who boasts, let him glory in the Lord.

v. 18 - Not he who commends himself is approved, but whom God promotes.

1 Peter 5:5b - All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God makes war against the arrogant believer, but He gives grace to the humble.

v. 6 - Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may promote you at the proper time.

2 Peter 1:2 - May grace and prosperity be multiplied unto you by means of the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

v. 3 - because His divine power has given to us for our benefit everything with reference to life even your spiritual life through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and virtue,

v. 4 - through whom have been freely given unto us a great number of extremely valuable blessings that through these you might become partners of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the cosmic system through lust.

28. Most believers today have no capacity for blessing from God. No capacity means that the believer is functioning under the arrogant skills.
29. Such believers are enmeshed in self-justification, self-deception, and self-absorption.