

The Attackers: The Commands for Children to Learn the Bible from Parents, Ps 34:11 & Grow in Grace, 2 Pet 3:18; the Process & the Problem-Solving Devices: Spiritual Adolescence, Spiritual Adulthood, & Spiritual Maturity; the Child Must Be Taught Respect for Authority which Prepares Them to Respect God; Fear Is Not an Option for the Believer, Matt 10:28

24. Spiritual maturity does not occur overnight. This is why Peter uses the word “grow” to describe the process leading to it in:
- 2 Peter 3:18** - **Grow** [**present active imperative of the verb ἀρξάνω (auxánō)**] **in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**
- ἀρξάνω (auxánō).** **To grow, increase, to augment. For someone or something to grow (auxánō), it must be acted upon by an outside power.¹**
25. That outside power is the Word of God processed into the *kardía* of the soul of the positive-volition believer by the filling and teaching ministries of the Holy Spirit.
26. Spiritual growth advances the child through the basic problem-solving devices of spiritual childhood:
- (1) Rebound: confession alone to God alone,
 - (2) the Filling of the Holy Spirit (fellowship), and
 - (3) the Faith-Rest Drill.
27. Utilizing these devices, the child is enabled to advance to the problem-solving devices of Spiritual Adolescence:
- (4) Grace Orientation, which requires genuine humility,
 - (5) Doctrinal Orientation, which enlarges his inventory of ideas, and
 - (6) Personal Sense of Destiny, where spiritual self-esteem, based on confidence in his eternal future, moves him into the adult spiritual life.
28. Spiritual Adulthood is the believer’s advance into the sophisticated spiritual life:
- (7) Spiritual Self-Esteem produces Personal Love for God and
 - (8) Unconditional Love for Mankind: *exōterikē harmonía*: virtue love for others.
29. This is the most difficult area of the process, for one must maintain maximum residence inside the bubble to develop true love for God by which he acquires unconditional love for mankind.
30. Once accomplished, the believer moves into the rarified atmosphere of Problem-Solving Device:
- (9) Sharing the Happiness of God, or the Copacetic Spiritual Life: *esōterikē harmonía*: internal joy within the soul, i.e., the stress-free life.

¹ *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, rev ed., ed. Spiros Zodhiates [Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1993], 289.

31. With complete dependency on God, understanding he is in His perfect plan, and that he is kept on this earth to function as a *doúlos*² – bondsman or “bond-servant – for Christ, advances the believer to the summum bonum of life on this earth:
- (10) Occupation with Christ.
32. From this positive analysis of one’s relationship with God we are better able to understand the two seemingly antonymic translations of the Hebrew word *yare’*: (1) fear and (2) respect.
33. Unbelievers should *fear* God, a principle pointed out by the Lord in His instructions to the disciples in:
- Matthew 10:28** - “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
34. On both occasions of the use of the word “fear” in this verse, we have the present middle imperative of the verb **φοβέομαι (phobéomai)**: to be afraid.
35. In context, the disciples have been ordered by the Lord to “go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 10:6).
36. He advises them that there is a good chance that they will run into stiff opposition: “You will be hated by all because of My name” (v. 22b).
37. In the face of these facts, what attitude are these disciples commanded to assume? They are not to fear “those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul” v. 28a).
38. Believers have eternal life. They are to be unafraid of what man can do to them for all man can do is kill the body; he cannot kill the soul which at the moment of physical death is present with the Lord.
39. Therefore the first mandate of verse 28 is not to fear your adversaries. The second commandment of the verse is to “fear Him who *is* able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
40. Here the word “fear” emphasizes the power of God that no man is able to overcome. God has the power to cast into the lake of fire those who reject His expression of unconditional love through the provision of Jesus Christ as Savior.
41. Matthew 10:28 reads in the NASB, “fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” The word “destroy” is the aorist active infinitive of the verb **ἀπόλλυμι (apóllumi)**: “to be ruined.” It refers to the eternal punishment to body and soul in the lake of fire, identified here by the noun **γέεννα (géenna)**.
42. Believers no longer live under such a threat, but they are to be aware that they once were among the condemned and must have “respect” for the power of God to so deal with those they are about to introduce to the gospel of salvation.
43. The expanded translation of our verse reads:

² “δοῦλος (*doúlos*). Metaphorically spoken of voluntary service, a servant, implying obedience, devotion [Romans 6:16–19]. Spoken of the true followers and worshipers of God [Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:1; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1; Revelation 1:1: ‘bond-servant’]” (Ibid., 483).

Psalm 34:11 - Come, you children, listen and concentrate and obey; I will teach you by repetition respect for the authority of the Lord. (EXT)