

Review: Sophia: Wisdom; Thought Must Precede Action; Knowledge Produces Gratitude, Reciprocity, & Motivation; Tactical Winners & Strategic Losers; Spiritual Childhood

27. In the ritual plan of God as practiced in the dispensation of Israel, the action associated with the sacrifices, Sabbaths, and feast days was designed to develop thought in certain areas of theology.
28. But in the Church Age, thought must precede action before Christian service can be classified as divine good. The development of biblical thought begins with the filling of the Holy Spirit which enables the believer to learn the Word of God through Bible study.
29. Life is filled with problems and the advantage of knowing and understanding biblical principles that apply to these circumstances results in an ever-developing sense of gratitude toward God.
30. The spiritual sophisticate is able to deploy the ten problem-solving devices which are designed to manage the exigencies of life. But at the same time, the power of these devices and the problem-solving they produce results in gratitude.
31. In the Christian way of life, the inculcation of biblical truth increases the believer's knowledge of the divine policy's plan and purpose for his life.
32. This advance reveals the character, integrity, and infinite wisdom of God to which there is an increasing attitude of reciprocity that serves to motivate a continuing pursuit of truth.
33. This double-column advance leads to the tactical victory of a personal sense of destiny. In fact every decision the Spirit-filled believer makes in compliance with biblical mandates is a tactical victory.
34. The blessings that accrue from winning tactical victories are in stark contrast to the discipline and self-induced misery of the wayward reversionist:

Logistical grace sustains the strategic winner even though he lives in the cosmic system. In contrast, the tactical winner has exploited logistical grace in his advance to maturity so that, now, he is blessed by logistical grace and supergrace. No adversity can disturb his inner tranquility; any suffering he endures is intended for blessing and accelerated growth. The believer who is only a strategic winner, however, is upset by the most mundane problems and suffers unbearably under divine discipline. In all circumstances he creates his own misery, which is relieved only by intermittent stimulation that he mistakes for happiness. In similar circumstances the tactical winner manufactures his own happiness from Bible doctrine and shares the happiness of God.¹
35. In the initial advance the believer moves through spiritual childhood where he masters the first three problem-solving devices: (1) rebound, (2) the filling of the Holy Spirit, and (3) the three stages of the faith-rest drill.
36. In so doing he develops the habit of functioning under the three spiritual skills: (1) the filling of the Spirit, (2) motivation for regular Bible study, and (3) development of the basic problem-solving devices.

¹ R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Christian Integrity*, 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2002), 192.

37. In this process he also begins to express gratitude toward God for the phenomenal life he is beginning to enjoy, which also contributes to more motivation to continue the advance.

