

The Attackers: The Sheep Metaphor: Sheep Perfectly Illustrate the Believer: Helpless, Leaderless, Vulnerable, & Defenseless; Positive Volition Activates Divine Power & Guidance to Construct an Edification Complex through the Double-Column Advance inside the Bubble & Develop Motivational & Functional Virtues & True Happiness in the Sophisticated Spiritual Life: How a Sheep becomes a Ram

8. Sheep cannot be driven; they must be led since they have no sense of direction. Therefore, the shepherd moves forward before the flock and leads them, calling them as he goes. Seventeen times in the Gospels Jesus encouraged people to “follow Me.”
9. There are a number of ways that sheep are helpless and therefore require someone to lead them.
10. We are the Lord’s sheep and we must be led by Him and in His absence we must be led by His Word. As we pursue truth we benefit from divine protection: “God shall be our fortress / Truth shall be our guide.”
11. Sheep are not able to clean themselves therefore the shepherd must do so. Two illustrations may be drawn from this: (1) we are forgiven of our pre-salvation sins through faith alone in Christ alone and (2) of our post-salvation sins through confession alone to God alone.
12. Sheep are helpless when injured. Most animals lick their wounds but sheep do not, therefore, wounded sheep must be cared for by the shepherd. When we are wounded spiritually in the Invisible War, God comforts us by means of recall from His Word.
13. Sheep cannot defend themselves from predators; they are vulnerable to the attack of carnivorous animals, birds, and reptiles since they cannot fight back nor do they have the propensity to do so.
14. Humans do not have the assets of most of the lower animals who use sharp teeth, slashing claws, gripping talons, blinding speed, concealing camouflage, or striking fangs. Sheep simply stand still and bleat, which is sheep language for whining.
15. So what do we have? Knowledge, promises, doctrinal rationales, doctrinal conclusions, faith, confidence, motivational recall, trust, problem-solving devices, inner integrity, demonstrated honor, rectitude, and probity – all of these are components that make up the believer’s edification complex of the soul.
16. The Holy Spirit’s filling ministry provides the foundation for the development of Christian integrity.
17. From His teaching ministry the believer develops spiritual momentum based on a standard of rational thinking from Bible doctrine resident in the soul.
18. In order to avoid the arrogance that constantly plagues mankind, the believer must develop genuine humility to maintain teachability and to continue his spiritual advance.
19. This momentum enables the believer to acquire spiritual self-esteem and the motivational virtue of personal love for God.
20. Without motivation, function is impossible. Personal love for God is designed to develop the objectivity necessary to direct unconditional love toward all mankind.

21. The modus operandi of a believer in spiritual autonomy removes the intensity previously associated with interpersonal relationships. Spiritual autonomy allows the believer to manage the events of his day without being defeated by them, whether thought, system, people, or disaster testing.
22. By reducing the exigencies of one's life to a level of insignificance, the believer in the sophisticated spiritual life has achieved victory in the Angelic Conflict. His mental attitude is copacetic, unaffected by what causes most people to come completely unwound.
23. The copacetic Christian lives inside the bubble, has ascended to the top floor of the Edification Complex of the Soul, and functions under the ninth problem-solving device of true happiness which is defined as:

An inner resource developed from maximum Bible doctrine resident in the soul and is so advanced in its grace orientation to the plan of God that all aspects of life are evaluated with regard to eternal rather than temporal implications. Consequently, happiness is the penultimate problem-solving device.

24. Having facilitated the sophisticated spiritual life, the copacetic Christian has the confidence and courage to depend upon the Lord's daily provisions behind the divine wall of fire. (Zechariah 2:5)
25. Such a believer is no longer a sheep but a ram: **(1)** no longer ignorant but cognitively self-confident, **(2)** no longer dependent but cognitively independent, and **(3)** no longer immature but cognitively invincible.
26. English dictionaries define *sheep* as "a timid docile person; especially: one easily influenced or led."¹ This approaches the mind-set believers must possess if they are to consistently grow spiritually in the Divine Academy, however, the doctrine they learn will transform their souls into sources of great power when in combat with the Dark Side.
27. The ram, the adult male sheep, is often used as a symbol of power, resilience, and stability: **(1)** powerful through the enablement of the Holy Spirit inside the bubble, **(2)** resilient by means of doctrine in the face of momentum testing, and **(3)** stable from advancement to the sophisticated spiritual life.
28. Arrival at this level of the spiritual life requires a constant supply of divine logistics which is symbolized by the sheep's need for food and water.
29. A sheep cannot find food and water independently. He has no sense of orientation to find either and therefore needful of a shepherd to lead him.
30. With God as our Shepherd, we are guaranteed our daily logistics, a doctrine summarized by Jeremiah in his Lamentations:

Lamentations 3:21 - This I have been caused to recall to mind; therefore I have confident expectation.

v. 22 - The unfailing love of the Lord never ceases, because His compassions fail not.

v. 23 - They are renewed every morning. Great is Your faithfulness.

¹ Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed., s.v.: "sheep."

31. Whenever the believer becomes frightened by the course of human events and begins to worry about his safety, his logistics, and even his life, he is reacting as would sheep which are easily frightened and panic-stricken.
32. God has provided a system for believer-sheep. It is true that the faith-rest drill is a basic problem-solving device, but lack of recall of divine protection and logistics indicates loss of true happiness and disorientation to grace.
33. The faith-rest drill is designed to restore order to the soul:

Romans 8:28 - We know, in fact, that to those who love God all things work together for the purpose of good to those who are the elected ones according to the predetermined plan.