

32. When germinated, a principle's association with similar ideas is processed by the Holy Spirit into the soul's frame of reference, memory center, vocabulary, categories, and conscience producing momentum and wisdom.
33. This verse introduces the doctrine of the grace apparatus for perception into the canon of the New Testament. Here is the expanded translation as far as we've gone:

James 1:21 Therefore, put away from yourself mental attitude sins that pollute the soul and all the excesses of an evil habit of mind, you must receive with humility the implanted word ...
(EXT)

The Doctrine of Grace Apparatus for Perception or Operation Z

A. Systems of Perception

1. **Rationalism** relies on reason as the source of knowledge, claiming that reason is superior to and independent of any sensory perception.
2. Rationalists believe that reality is what you think. Therefore, rationalists subject the Bible and interpretations of it to the test of human reason.
3. Consequently, since rationalism does not accept absolute principles outside a person's own inventory of ideas its proponents are wary of any system that requires submission to dogmatic authority.
4. Rationalism is the system of perception held by many today and contributes to the growing hostility against duly appointed authority and traditional standards.
5. Taken to the extreme and with enough adherents operating in concert, we observe the emergence of a soft form of anarchy which is defined as:

Anarchy. Political disorder and confusion. Absence of cohesive principle, such as a common standard or purpose.²

² *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, 5th ed. (2016), s.v., "anarchy."

6. **Empiricism** is the scientific system of learning by observation and experimentation. It holds that reality lies in the function of your sensory system relaying information to the brain.
7. Empiricists rely on absolute proof from experimentation, experience, observation, or evidence. They are not philosophic but heuristic, a method in which certitude is obtained through discovery through investigations.
8. The rationalist is philosophical while the empiricist is logical. And since the empiricist approaches things logically then he is best prepared of these two systems of learning to approach the third system of faith.
9. **Faith** is a system of learning by accepting the authority of the source. For example, the Bible may be accurately viewed as literature. If logic is used in one's analysis of its contents then he will ultimately conclude that its propositions are sound when understood in the context of faith.
10. If a person is objective, then he can approach the Bible as literature and utilize logic to discover that its content is structured on faith but based on an immutable source. Here are some points on logic and literature:

True study of literature requires critical analysis of characters, plots, themes, settings, literary devices, and symbolism. Tools of logic—defining terms, determining relationships, analyzing cause and effect—make literary criticism and study rich and effective. Clear thinking skills make it possible to divine connections between themes and a character's actions in novels, and between actions and consequences in a story. Patterns of orderly thinking help students as they read critically and as they write with structure, order, and persuasiveness.

Logic skills also make the study of history more compelling. An understanding of cause and effect propels students from the grammar of knowing what happened to whom, into the dialectic understanding of why events transpired, and toward the rhetorical extrapolating of what is likely to occur in the future as a result of current actions. The study of logic allows students to evaluate the past and to use those conclusions to make wise judgments in order to affect the future. The skills of logic shape students into persuasive speakers and debaters, and these abilities make them able influencers.³

11. These two paragraphs discuss importance of logic in the reading of any literary work. The objective empiricist can read the Bible and conclude that its arguments are valid.
12. An argument is valid when its conclusion follows logically from its premises. The argument is sound when all the premises are true and the argument is valid.
13. This system is utilized in Book 1 of the '89 Basic Series, *God Exists: Navigating the Web of Truth*:
14. On pages 3–6, the argument that God exists is determined by the presentation of six logical propositions:

Proposition #1: God Exists

We are looking at this concept from the standpoint of logic. Thinking logically, it would be inaccurate to make the statement, "I do not believe that God exists."

To say you do not believe God exists ignores the fact that He may exist outside the current boundaries of your knowledge.

You would be more accurate to say, "Based on what I now know, I do not believe that God exists."

Your conclusion must be based on one of two sources of reasoning: (1) Rationalism: Knowledge obtained through reason. Philosophers are rationalists. (2) Empiricism: Knowledge obtained through experience. Scientists are empiricists.

³ Leigh A. Bortins, *The Question: Teaching Your Child the Essentials of Classical Education* (Classical Conversations Multi Media, 2013), 139. <https://www.classicalconversations.com>

As a result, you would be accurate to make one of the two following statements: (1) On the basis of rationalism, I do not believe that God exists.” (2) On the basis of empiricism, I do not believe that God exists.

There is a third means of perception known as faith: the acceptance of an established criterion as the basis of reality.

In Christianity, the established criterion is the Bible. Whatever the Bible says is considered to be reality. Application of principles learned from the Bible is considered to be one’s guide for life and practice. Consequently, the Christian learns under a system of faith and that faith is directed toward the writings of Scripture.

Faith is a nonmeritorious system of learning. The subject never has the merit but rather the object. So under faith, the issue is not the one who believes but what is believed. Further, the Christian maintains that the only objects of faith which hold merit are Jesus Christ and the Bible...the Living Word and the Written Word.

Proposition #2: God Reveals Himself

If God exists, then we are forced to assume that He is responsible for our existence.

For God to be God nothing could logically have existed before God existed. If it did then who created it? And if this were true, would not that person be God instead? The only way for God to be God is for Him to transcend all things. This requires of Him eternal life. Now since God is the first Person on the scene then all things that subsequently came into existence must have been created by Him.

Now if God has created us—and under the logic of cause and effect He did—and if He desires to have a relationship with us, then it follows He must reveal to man the terms of that relationship.

In order for God to reveal to man the terms of a meaningful relationship with Him, God has to reveal Himself to man.

However, God is infinite and man is finite. Therefore, not only does God have to reveal Himself to man, He has to do it in such a way that man can understand it. Therefore...

Proposition #3: God Makes Sense

Up to this point, we have determined under logic that God does exist. For this existence to be made known to man, God must reveal Himself to man and He must do so in a way which makes sense.

Christianity believes that the manner in which God reveals Himself to man is by means of the Bible.

You may not accept the Bible at the moment as the only source of divine revelation, but under the logical premise that if God exists and if He desires that man know about Him, then He must reveal Himself in some way.

If we exclude the Bible as that source of information, then we are left to debate what is the alternate official source of divine revelation. That controversy has been argued for millennia and we do not have the time to resolve it here. Allow me to cite a couple of passages from Scripture involving the fact that God makes sense.

1 Corinthians 14:33 God is not a God of disorder.

v. 40 Everything should be done in a professional and organized manner.

Romans 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Romans 1:19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

v. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been created, so that they are without excuse.

Proposition #4: God Has a Plan

If God reveals Himself to man and if God desires to have a personal relationship with man, then it must follow that God has designed a plan in order to accomplish this end. Consequently, God's plan must be a perfect plan and that plan must include you.

Proposition #5: I Am a Human Being

If you consider yourself to be a person then it is logical for you to believe that God has a personal plan for you.

So, if there is a God, and if He has revealed Himself, and if He makes sense, and if He has a perfect plan for you, then you own God a hearing.

Proposition #6: I Owe God a Hearing

The operative word here is “hearing.” To listen to a presentation requires nothing but an open mind.⁴

B. Faith Application

1. When the content of what is communicated is understood academically then volition is challenged to give a response.
2. For example, when it is understood that Jesus Christ is both God and man and in His true humanity He was free of any sin and therefore perfect as Adam was when he was created, and when on the cross He received the imputation of all the sins of the human race and was judged for them, then the only thing a person is required to do is either believe the statement is true or it is not.
3. When a believer receives information communicated by the pastor the same process applies. If the information is understood academically then he either believes it or not.
4. If he believes the information then it becomes a permanent part of the soul and may be recalled when its content is applicable to a given situation.
5. For the system to function efficiently, the believer must be positive to the acquisition of biblical ideas. This approach becomes habitual when the believer buys into the premise that the Bible contains absolute truth.
6. Over time, application reinforces the premise building confidence in the trustworthiness of the Word to produce positive results.
7. As doctrine demonstrates its power in application, the believer increases his desire to acquire more of this powerful source of decision-making and problem solving.
8. When a mathematician learns formulas and applies them, he quickly learns he may depend upon them for decision-making and problem solving.
9. A scientist pursues an Assumption by proposing a Hypothesis to provide more than a tentative explanation.

⁴ Joe Griffin, *God Exists: Navigating the Web of Truth* (St. Charles: Joe Griffin Media Ministries, 2010), 3–6.