

10. Spiritual momentum is often broken by the failure to handle and manage unfair situations and it occurs primarily to believers who have no spiritual self-esteem.
11. Unfairness testing occurs when the person responds with mental-attitude sins, indulges in self-pity, develops arrogance and bitterness, and then seeks revenge.
12. Life is filled with unjust situations and to react to them lowers the believer to the level of his antagonist while taking the situation out of the Lord's hands.
13. The Supreme Court of Heaven is eternally in open session. All injustices will be managed, rectified, and will ultimately benefit those who do not react.
14. Spiritual autonomy functions in the realm of the copacetic spiritual life and is therefore insulated from reactor factors regarding unjust treatment.
15. When a system involves some who are incompetent troublemakers, the policy of that system remains static. The mature believer submits to policy and continues to do his job as unto the Lord.
16. Other options are to quit or transfer out of the system. This is rarely the answer. One rarely wins by quitting because he has not benefitted from the learning curve provided by the test.
17. There are a number of principles that enables the believer to cope with system testing:
  - (1) What God does not remove, He expects for you to bear.
  - (2) All systems have those in authority and those under authority. Those under authority are able to orient and adjust if they understand the differences between leadership authority and management authority.
  - (3) Leadership motivates, management regulates. A pastor motivates by teaching the Word; he regulates if he forms a Clipboard Committee.

- (4) The function of those on the Clipboard Committee is to observe the behavior patterns of members, make notes on their clipboard, and report back to the pastor about who's been naughty and who's been nice.
  - (5) Leadership establishes authority by teaching clearly the principles of virtue, honor, and integrity and the biblical guidance that promotes these attributes.
  - (6) Leadership produces esprit de corps while management creates frustration, dissatisfaction, dishonesty, and conspiracies.
  - (7) Leadership creates integrity while management creates inordinate ambition.
  - (8) The leadership pastor delegates authority while the management pastor retains all authority to himself.
  - (9) The leadership pastor teaches doctrine while the management pastor browbeats the congregation.
  - (10) A leadership pastor teaches doctrine but does not interfere with the privacy of the members' priesthood.
18. System testing is a good training ground for believers. Bad systems provide real-life examples of how a bad system works and gives instructions and illustrations of what not to do if ever in a position of authority.
  19. The Bible contains numerous passages that give guidance and mandates related to system testing:

**Proverbs 24:10**      **If you become slack using due diligence in the day of adversity, your doctrinal capacity is weak. (EXT)**
  20. Paul provides a thorough dissertation about those requirements imposed on believers' relationships with others in Colossians 3:12–25.

### **Momentum Testing: Thought**

1. The constant requirement for passing any test, adversity, or challenge is to function inside the bubble, the environment where the filling of the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to function on resident doctrine.

2. It is from this environment that an erroneous idea can be analyzed from within or without the soul. The ability to rapidly analyze and determine its validity is what enables the autonomous believer to maintain the Spirit-filled life.
3. The soul status of every believer is determined by what he thinks. Thoughts centered on guidance from the Word of God provide stability while those centered on guidance from the sin nature, the world, or ignorance of *the* truth produce instability.
4. Incorrect analysis of incoming information can lead to poor decision-making. The conscientious believer investigates the issues presented and only arrives at a decision once all the facts are in.
5. Propaganda from the Dark Side only presents information that will promote and advance the conspirators' hidden agenda. These attacks are recognized and attacked in Scripture:

**Colossians 2:8** Constantly be on your guard that there will not be anyone who will capture and enslave you through human speculation, even empty deceit, according to the pseudo-traditions of mankind, according to the basic teachings of the cosmic systems and not according to the teachings of Christ. (EXT)

**1 Timothy 4:1** But the Holy Spirit explicitly reports, that in latter periods of time some believers will become apostate and shall depart from doctrine and pay attention to deceitful spirits and concentrating on doctrines from demons. (EXT)

**Ephesians 4:17** So I say this, and insist in the Lord, that you no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

**v. 18** They are darkened in their understanding being alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardness of their hearts.

**v. 19** Because they are callous, they have given themselves over to indecency for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. (NET)

6. The Lord warned the Sadducees about their lack of attention to what the Bible teaches:

**Matthew 22:29** Jesus answered them [ **Sadducees**<sup>1</sup> ], “You are deceived, because you don’t know the scriptures or the power of God. (NET)

7. The power of the Word resident in the soul defends the believer from problems indicated in the previous verses. One’s mental attitude is the function of thought. The content of that thought is reflected in decision-making and application.
8. Consequently, what a person thinks determines how he behaves: “What he thinks within himself, so he is” (Proverbs 23:7). Since thinking is the crucial issue, there are imperatives throughout the Bible regarding it:

**Romans 12:2** Stop being conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renovation of your thought, that you may prove what the will of God is, namely, the good [ **spiritual self-esteem** ], the well-pleasing [ **spiritual autonomy** ], the complete [ **spiritual maturity** ]. (EXT)

9. The development of an idea begins with vocabulary and progresses as it becomes associated with thought, notions, concepts, and conceptions:
- These nouns refer to what is formed or represented in the mind as the product of mental activity. *Idea* has the widest range. *Thought* is distinctively intellectual and stresses contemplation and reasoning. *Notion* suggests an often-intuitive idea or image conceived by the mind. *Concept* and *conception* are applied to mental formulations on a broad scale.<sup>2</sup>**
10. This process includes the ingredients of one’s renovation of thought that occurs when he engages in serious study of the Word of God.
11. This advance of thought develops humility in the soul as notions build concepts. Paul continues with this thought in:

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<sup>1</sup> “The Sadducees controlled the official political structures of Judaism at this time, being the majority members of the Sanhedrin. They were known as extremely strict on law and order issues” (The NET Bible [Dallas: Biblical Studies Press, 2005], Matthew 3:7sn10, 1811). They did not believe in the resurrection (Matthew 22:23). In this same passage (vv. 24–28) they tried to trap Jesus by contriving a question on levirate marriage described in Deuteronomy 25:5–10 and presenting it in the context of the resurrection. (Ibid., Matthew 22:24sn5, 1852.)

<sup>2</sup> *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* (2016), s.v. “idea: synonyms.”