

5. **The Third Floor** is where accumulation of biblical problem-solving devices is developed. There are ten of them that are developed sequentially. As spiritual growth develops, the believer advances from spiritual childhood to spiritual maturity. These problem-solving devices are: **(1) Rebound:** Confession Alone to God Alone [1 John 1:9] which results in **(2) Filling of the Holy Spirit** [Ephesians 5:18b; Galatians 5:16]. The basic device is **(3) the Faith-Rest Drill** [Romans 4:20–21]. **(4) Grace Orientation** results in eliminating legalism from the soul [1 Peter 5:5b–6]. **(5) Doctrinal Orientation** [Romans 12:2–3]: Bible study accumulates specific biblical categories that develop into doctrines. This advance results in **(6) Personal Sense of Destiny** [Romans 14:7–8], orientation to the Christian way of life in time and a clear focus on eternity. The most powerful device in the sophisticated spiritual life is **(7) Personal Love for God** [Romans 8:28] which provides the mental capacity to have **(8) Unconditional Love for all mankind** [1 Corinthians 13:4–7]. Having total command of one’s soul results in the copacetic spiritual life: **(9) Unalloyed Happiness or Sharing the Happiness of God** [John 15:11]. The summum bonum is **(10) Occupation with the Person of Christ**.
6. **The Fourth Floor** is **spiritual self-esteem** characterized by **cognitive self-confidence**. “‘Cognition’ means ‘to come to know.’ ‘Cognitive’ is the adjective and refers to conscious intellectual activity such as thinking, reasoning, or remembering. Here you have the capacity to apply empirical factual knowledge.”¹
1. The Fourth Floor is where you begin to apply and use Bible doctrine. Previously, the go-to problem-solving device was claiming promises. Now you rely on facilitated categories of doctrine.
 2. The two problem-solving devices are **Personal love for God and Unconditional love for all mankind**. With these doctrines inculcated and facilitated, the believer is prepared to face and endure suffering for blessing.
 3. This category of suffering is providential preventive which is for blessing. The exigencies common to the devil’s world often confront believers who are unprepared to overcome them.

¹ Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed. (2003), s.vv. “cognition, cognitive.”

4. Cognitive self-confidence is a level of spiritual advance where one's inventory of biblical doctrines are sufficient to face challenges by using divine power to oppose and overcome them.
5. The devil's world not only produces great categories of suffering yet has the temerity to also offer its cosmic solutions in the form of psychotherapy whose primary problem-solving device is the development of self-administered self-esteem.
6. Contrarily, spiritual utilization of personal love of God and unconditional love for mankind provides a mind-set that empowers the believer to orient to sophisticated problem-solving.
7. The love of God is the integrity of God founded on His righteousness, protected by His justice, and confirmed by His omniscience while functioning under His policy of grace.
8. This defines God's love for us. If we are to love God, we must acquire the same mind-set although on a human level. It begins with the development of personal integrity based on an ever-enlarging inventory of theological ideas.
9. Our love for God must be founded on the presence of divine viewpoint in our souls each principle reflecting righteous standards obtained from Scripture.
10. Because we do not know all things and because we have the propensity to sin, we must develop an internal police department, constantly critiquing our inventory of ideas.
11. This requires orientation to divine justice to which volition must rely in decision-making. The believer can only access the doctrine he knows in order to decide how to apply.
12. In English dictionaries, the noun "self-esteem" is defined as "a confidence and satisfaction in oneself." In other words, human viewpoint.
13. In spiritual self-esteem, the inventory of ideas is not based on human viewpoint but biblical principles. At this level of spiritual growth, the believer has advanced to the point that his inventory of doctrinal ideas has produced "spiritual self-esteem."



14. When a believer's spiritual advance understands the meaning of the integrity of God being the love of God, then he is able to rely on the unique example of Jesus Christ in His true humanity as the pattern to follow.

The believer with spiritual self-esteem thinks and applies Bible doctrine to life, motivated by his personal love for God. He understands enough doctrine to think independently, having the courage of his own perceptions and doctrinal applications rather than being erroneously influenced by others.

Furthermore, he orients to the biblical reality of who and what he is as a member of the royal family of God and at the same time never loses sight of who and what God is.²

15. Volition allows every person the autonomy to make his own decisions. He may independently respond to truth or reject it. The Law of Freedom guarantees and manufactures inequality. Some believers advance to spiritual maturity and become winners. Some remain ignorant of divine operating assets.
16. In the scum of the Angelic Conflict, believers are targets of the Dark Side's agents. Their task is to frustrate believers so they will exit the bubble and retaliate overtly. Communication of truth is advisable, but that approach must be conducted inside the bubble.
17. Nevertheless, believers are under scrutiny from the forces of darkness. This must be understood and tactics for survival must be learned and then applied. These tactics require understanding of Providential Preventive Suffering.
18. Two tactics are assigned to believers that are designed to protect while empowering them to engage in the contest for truth.
19. Providential Preventive Suffering introduces the first category of suffering for blessing. It functions both offensively and defensively. The former is designed to accelerate the believer's spiritual momentum. The latter is intended to prevent the problem of arrogance.

² R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Christian Suffering*, 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2002), 80.

