

For the last few sessions we have been looking at Level 2, Phase 1, where the son is given subtilty; the ability to see beyond what lies on the surface. Subtilty gives us an acuteness to discern the finer points of things. As an illustration of this, we have talked about discerning the finer points of the Father's business and the finer points of the satanic policy of evil.

We began by looking at some of the things pertaining to the Father's business and our part in it. We explained the two expressions in I Corinthians 6 where we are told we will "judge angels" and "judge the world." We also talked about what it means to "deliver the creature from the bondage of corruption" and we looked at some of the initial things that we will do to accomplish that deliverance.

We learned that those things will be accomplished in the dispensation of the fullness of times when "things in heaven and things in earth" will be brought together in one, where the earth and the creature will function together as a single entity. This is a process that will take some time and when that process is complete, then we will begin the "ages to come" which is see the normal function of heaven and earth, unfolding into one glorious phase after another in the eternal dispensation.

Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

Then, for the 1st time, creation as a whole (heaven and earth) can function according to its original design! The various parts of the creature's body can not only respond to each other, but they all respond to the earth (soul and spirit of the creature). That's our 1st vocational roll, to be involved in that. It takes some intelligence to orchestrate that and that's all provided for firstly by those 4 decision-making skills and the addition of subtilty which allows us to combine those skills in various manners to make the best decisions (judgments) possible.

And just to show you this same principle at work in another way, the same holds true for the members of the church, the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:27 Now **ye are the body of Christ**, and members in particular.

Colossians 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh **for his body's sake, which is the church**:

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of **the body of Christ**:

Romans 12:4 For as we have **many members in one body**, and all members have not the same office: 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one **members one of another**.

As members of the body of Christ, we are individuals, but we are not made to function individually. We are made to function in connection with the rest of the body, collectively, just as your physical body functions. And any new members introduced into the body are supposed to be integrated immediately and have them function in a living union relationship within the body. Well, we will have opportunity to talk about the details of this later on. For now, let's get back to looking at subtilty.

So far we have only looked at what subtility will do for us as it concerns the Father's business and our part in it. And, as I have said to you, it will also allow us to discern the satanic policy of evil in ways we could not see before. But there is something else that subtility does for us. It is when you get subtility that you begin to see more than just what lies on the surface of the Scriptures.

For example, most of us want a verse that outright tells us exactly what we are to know. That is one of the reasons why the 10 commandments are so appealing. Not only does your flesh naturally gravitate to the law (Romans 6:19), but we like for things to be "spelled out" for us. And for children, that is necessary.

But when it comes to dealing with us as adults, we need to be able to go beyond childhood ways of understanding. Why? Because the policy of evil against us is "subtile."

Do you remember the "strange woman" of Proverbs? She is pictured as a harlot, but do you remember what she represents? She is the satanic policy of evil. And what is said about her?

Proverbs 7:10 And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and **subtil of heart.**

Our own apostle warns us of the subtility of the adversary, as he seeks to corrupt our thinking, which affects our actions which in turn affects our ability to labor with our Father.

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve **through his subtility, so your minds should be corrupted** from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The reason you need subtility is because the policy of evil against you has subtility. That is why childhood understanding alone cannot suffice. But there is something else to this. The Scriptures themselves are "spiritually discerned" and you will need subtility to see beyond what is merely lying on the surface. That is part of what makes this book different from any other book in the world.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned.**

Even a lost man can understand "thou shalt not steal." That is so plain that unsaved parents teach their children not to steal. But there are many, many parts of the Bible that cannot discerned with a childhood understanding. Those things can only be spiritually discerned by someone with subtility. There are things sitting in the Scriptures that you cannot see without subtility.

Only subtility will allow you to see what is taking place "behind the scenes" with the verses. For example, take Romans 12, where you begin your instruction in the first of the 4 decision-making skills; wisdom. I have already told you that there are 6 components to this section, but how do I know that? How can you know that? Honestly, right now, you can't, at least not on your own.

Even though we aren't doing the detail work of it, I want to show you what "subtlety" allows you to see as you read and study on your own. You already understand what comprises your godly edification, even though you don't know how to fully utilize it yet.

You know the 3 components to godliness: 1) godly thinking 2) godly living 3) godly labor. If the doctrine is going to produce that in you, then doesn't it make sense that it has to follow that outline? In other words, there has to be something in the verses that addresses your godly thinking, and it needs to address that first. Then, it would follow that you would encounter something about your godly living. That would be instruction as to **how** to implement your godly thinking. Lastly, you would encounter information as to taking the previous two components and utilize them in some operation of God that He wants accomplished; you godly labor.

So you might expect that God has a section on each in each epistle. And He does. But not only that, but there is that same breakdown for each of the 4 decision-making skills. And not only that, but there is that same 3-fold breakdown for each component of each decision-making skill. So, if I am correct when I say that godly wisdom (the 1<sup>st</sup> decision-making skill) has 6 components to it, then we would expect to find all 3 aspects of godliness in every single component. And, as it turns out, you do!

Let's take the first component of godly wisdom as an example. This first component is found in Romans 12:3-8.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Now, I don't want to teach this to you yet, so let me just summarize so you can at least get the example down in your mind.

Verse 3 contains the information on godly thinking.

Verses 4-5 contain the information on godly living. In other words, vv. 4-5 take the godly thinking and provides a natural outlet for it in conduct and behavior.

Verses 6-8 is designed to take your new thinking with that outlet of conduct and behavior and put it into a function that is working together with an operation that God has in effect.

And really, the depth of what is happening here is deeper than what I have shown you here. What you will find is that not only does the doctrine give you the godly thinking, but it also puts forth the old way of thinking that it wants to correct.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

That phrase that is in bold type is the wrong thinking that is being corrected by the godly thinking. In order to get the full benefit of what is being done here, you need to understand what it means for a person to “think of himself more highly than he ought to think.” Once you do, the next step is to understand what it means to “think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”

And the breakdown of what is going on in these verses goes even further than that. I don’t want you to worry about that right now, I just want you to see that subtilty allows you to see the verses in ways you never would have before.

When you take subtilty back to Proverbs, you see something else it allows you to understand. It shows you that there is a two-fold response to everything you will be taught. That two-fold response is that you will either have a “positive” and “proper” response to the doctrine, or you will have a “negative” and “improper” response to the doctrine. If you do not have a positive and proper response to the doctrine being presented to you, then the doctrine will NOT be effectually working in you to produce what your heavenly Father intended. That part of your education will not “take” if I can put it that way.

To see this, go with me back to Proverbs 3. Now, bear in mind this is Israel’s exhortation for their adoption. So whatever we read here, we have to keep in mind that we need to know our exhortation from our apostle. But to see what I’m talking about, look at Proverbs 3:1-4.

Proverbs 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:  
<sup>2</sup> For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. <sup>3</sup> Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:  
<sup>4</sup> So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Not only does subtilty allow you to know that the “law” of verse 1 is not talking about the law of Moses, but you will also understand that the “commandments” of verse 1 are not referring to the “ten commandments” of the law of Moses. But what I’m really after is this: verse 1 contains the “positive response” while verse 3 contains the “proper response.” Each of those responses have a benefit that the son is going to need in order for his advancement as a son to take place.

For example, read verse 1’s response and then the benefit given in verse 2.

Proverbs 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:  
<sup>2</sup> For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

The benefit for a son having a positive response to verse 1 is that he will have “length of days, long life and peace.” Again, this is Israel’s exhortation. Ours is going to be different, as you will see when we get over there in Romans, learning those decision-making skills.

Now look at the next 2 verses which apply to the “proper” response.

Proverbs 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: 4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

The “proper” response is in verse 3 and the benefit is in verse 4. In this case, our benefit perfectly matches Israel’s. This is not always the case (as in vs. 2) but many times it is. In this case, we will see Paul telling us about the same kind of benefit we will have for our proper response to the doctrine.

Now, all of this is in the context of Romans 12-16 (decision-making skills) but now let’s move over to when we get subtilty and notice the difference. This will take us to Proverbs 7. As we do this, keep in mind the things we just read in Proverbs 3, such as: law, commandments, bind them about thy neck, write them on thine heart, etc.

Proverbs 7:1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.<sup>2</sup> **Keep my commandments**, and live; and **my law** as the apple of thine eye.<sup>3</sup> Bind them upon thy fingers, **write them upon the table of thine heart**.

Now, it is not just being “bound about thy neck,” but it is to “bind them upon thy fingers.” While this is an advancement, what I’m really after is for you to see that subtilty allows you to do something that you could not previously do with the doctrine and what is being said about wisdom here in Level 2 is far more intimate than what is said about wisdom back in Level 1.

Well, all of this is to give you an example of how subtilty enhances, advances and furthers everything you learn in Level 1 of your sonship education.

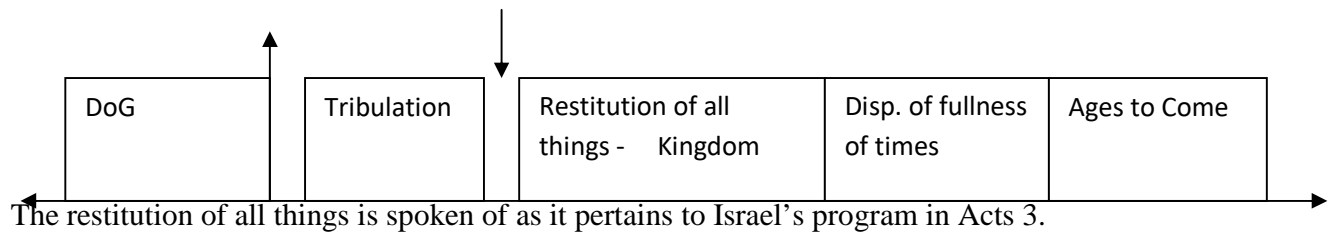
Subtilty also allows you to exercise your decision-making skills differently. For example, when you deal with a weaker brother in equity, it not only means that you deal with deference, but that you also deal with him in a way that benefits him as a son. I don’t know how much sense this makes to you right now, but when we get over there, you will understand that equity in Level 1 has to do with not offending a weaker brother. When the subtilty of Level 2 is added to that, then you learn not only “not to do this or that” which would wind up adversely affecting a weaker brother in the faith, but you also learn what to do in order to edify the weaker brother. Again, we will learn the details of this later on.

For now, let’s get ourselves back to the overview of subtilty that we have been engaged in now for the last several sessions, subtilty as it applies to our heavenly Father’s business and our part in it.

Concerning the first aspects of our part in His business, there are only two entities that know how to deliver the creature from the bondage of corruption; God (in all 3 persons of the Godhead) and an educated member of the new creation, the church the body of Christ; a son who has been adopted and taken through the sonship curriculum. No one and nothing else in the universe can make the kind of decisions necessary to get that done, because no one else knows what all is involved in doing that.

That knowledge can only be gained through the sonship curriculum and its effectual working in the inner man of the son.

Draw the timeline adding the d. of the f. of times, and “ages to come”



Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;<sup>20</sup> And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:<sup>21</sup> Whom the heaven must receive until **the times of restitution of all things**, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

For Israel, that will be a time when some things on the earth get restored. For us, the 1000-year Millennium will be the time for us to restore some things in the heavenly places. This will include that dismantling of some things that the adversary has built up there along with the removal of some things that the Lord God put into place back when He saw what the Adversary was doing.

We'll expand on this timeline in just a bit, but first, let's go back and examine some things regarding the creature. The 2<sup>nd</sup> heaven is given to you in 2 different ways; as the body of a creature and as a structure. As you presented with information in the book of Romans, you are first of instructed to observe the heavens as a creature and more specifically, as the body of a creature. That isn't the way we were taught to look at the heavens, so we don't normally or naturally look at it that way.

Then, secondly, we are taught to look at it as a physical structure. And the truth is, it is both of those. You could look at the example of the church. The body of people is the church and we also talk about the physical building as the church.

Those decision-making skills give you the ability and the capacity to be involved in both aspects of what we will be doing as we are “judging angels” and “judging the world.”

So what you are talking about us doing in the dispensation of the fullness of times is getting the earth to respond to the heaven and the heaven to the earth, reconnecting them so they operate as a single creature with a body, soul and spirit. Or to say it like Paul says it in Ephesians, we will bring all the things in earth and in heaven together into one. And that will take a process of time. And when it is accomplished, that will mark the end of the dispensation of the fullness of times. It is that ‘fulness,’ when all things are made “one,” from which the dispensation gets its name.

When you start looking at those decision-making skills that we're given in our sonship life, and you start perceiving closely what they're doing, then you'll notice that they fall into 2 descriptive categories, if I can say it that way.

That's why the heavenly places are both:

- 1) An architectural structure;
- 2) A creature—a living organism

The 1st skill sets we receive are primarily designed for the ‘living organism’ aspect of it, which is why, when we’re first taught about the heavenly places where our Father’s business is now, we’re taught about it being a living organism, it’s a creature.

It isn’t very long after you discover the “creature” aspect of the heaven, until you learn that the body of Christ is going to make up an “intelligentsia” for that creature. We will bring divine life to the creature by being that intelligized body that inhabits it, but more than that, we will form an organized administration that will have its residence in the creature.

Think of it like Congress. Congress is a body of people who make decisions for the nation. Congress is also the building (or structure) in which that body of people carry out their business.

In the creature, this organized administration consists of principalities, powers, thrones, mights, dominions, etc. This kind of governmental breakdown breaks up the heavenly places into a territorial structure. It really is a government. But it is much more than that, so don’t get to thinking that all there is to this is you filling a position in God’s government. God does have a government and it is different from any government that has been on this earth, but there is more to it than that.

This government is accomplishing more than just bureaucracy. It is operating on more than human wisdom.

What I’m after here is to point out the fact that as you go along in your education as a son—you’re learning that the place where you’re going to be going about conducting your Father’s business—that realm has these 2 functionalities to it—it’s a creature, and it’s a territory with administration to it that’s housed within a building-type structure to it.

The kind of skills we receive through our sonship education is designed to deal with both aspects of that heavenly realm, because we’re going to be involved with both aspects of that realm:

- We’re going to be giving it its functional life as that creature
- We’re also going to be involved in administering its government
- We are also going to be dealing with its architectural structure (because there’s going to be some dismantling we’re to oversee and get accomplished by means of utilizing the angels to do the work).

It’s really not until you get out here in Level II of our sonship education that we begin dealing with the details of the creature or the heavenly places as the physical, architectural structure that is going to need to have all these adjustments made (the demolition that we’ve talked about) to it. You get issue of the building concept at the end of Ephesians chapter 2.

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;<sup>20</sup> And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;<sup>21</sup> In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: <sup>22</sup> In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

So when you talk about our understanding of the creation as it pertains to the heavenly places, we are to see that it is both a creature, and an architectural structure at the same time. Our heavenly Father teaches about the most important aspect first (the body concept) - and the one that would require our skills and our understanding & appreciation of first, because that one is going to naturally lead into us being able to wisely deal with the other one.

So then, as we view “outer space” today, in view of what God did at the judgment of the flood of Noah’s day, coupled with the issue of God subjecting the creature to vanity (which happened way back when sin entered that realm and it became the usurped possession of the Adversary), there is no physical evidence that the creature even exists. That can’t be observed at all, and no one would ever know that the heavenly places (outer space) are this creature unless God tells you about it in His word.

When God made the creature subject to vanity, that means that anything by which it could give evidence of that creature being functionally alive, is now being restrained from being given.

But you do see (when you look up there), and you do find God talking about the heavenly places as a physical structure (an architectural building) in a lot of places—(for instance in the book of Job) that gives you great insight as to the kind of structure that’s out there.

Job 38:1-7 - God puts Job’s attention on the earth.

Job 38:1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,<sup>2</sup> Who *is* this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

This is what the POE seeks to do. It will “counsel” you with words that appear to be words of wisdom. But they will be “darkening counsel.” Now, notice as God focuses on the earth.

Job 38:4 Where wast thou when I laid **the foundations of the earth**? declare, if thou hast understanding.<sup>5</sup> Who hath laid the **measures thereof**, if thou knowest? or who hath **stretched the line upon it**?<sup>6</sup> Whereupon are **the foundations** thereof fastened? or who laid **the corner stone** thereof;

These are not “words of accommodation” or anthropopathisms. The earth has an actual corner stone and Job knew where it was. The earth actually does have foundations and God did actually stretch a line upon the earth.

Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?  
8 Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? 29 Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it? 30 The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.  
31 Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?  
32 Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? 33 Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth? 34 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee?



You can see those constellations mentioned in the passage and the truth is, that is going to be the place of your vocation. And it is in your Level 2 education that you are going to receive the subtilty that allows you to see the finer points of your Father's business and your part in it when you are in those heavenly places. You are going to function up there in that creature.

Job 38:16 Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth? <sup>17</sup> Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death? <sup>18</sup> Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all. <sup>19</sup> Where *is* the way *where* light dwelleth? and *as for* darkness, where *is* the place thereof, <sup>20</sup> That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths *to* the house thereof?