

Spiritual Realities



in a Nutshell

Eva Peck

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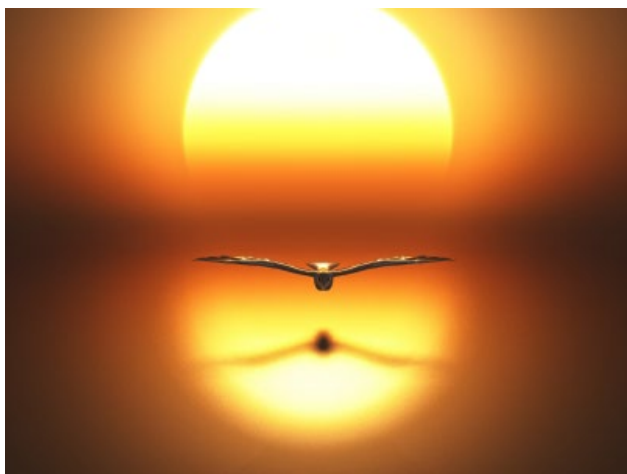
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- Fulfilment of Old Testament Types
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Introduction

This booklet, *Spiritual Realities in a Nutshell*, covers 35 topics, as the title suggests, “in a nutshell” – briefly and including just the basic facts.

These subjects are dealt with largely from a Christian perspective, though not exclusively. The text does not contain many references, but supporting and expanding information can be found in the “Further Reading” section.

Readers may find a different slant on some of the topics than they have been accustomed to – in other words, their long-held traditional beliefs may be challenged. They are invited to carefully consider each alternative view and prayerfully decide whether or not it may have merit. Whatever the conclusion, it is hoped that this booklet will enlighten, encourage, and help individuals on their spiritual journey.

God

God is the Creator of the Universe, Heavenly Father, the one true God, the God of Jesus and all humankind. God is also a Soul who has a Spirit. As Soul, God is a self-existent Deity, without beginning or end, and the Source of all that exists – with the exception of man-created phenomena, such as sin. God has a form, but He does not have a human form. God has a personality from which flow His attributes of life, Love, light, power, wisdom, etc. God is Spirit, but spirit is not God, only one of His qualities or attributes. God is a God of Love. Wrath and vengeance, as taught in the Bible, are no part of His nature. He has for His children on earth, as well as in the spirit world, only Love, solicitude, compassion, and sympathy.

The Universe

The universe can be seen as all that exists as “material reality” starting from the microscopic and expanding way beyond the Earth, the solar system, the Milky Way, galaxies and heavenly bodies photographed by powerful telescopes, and far beyond into unknown and expanding realms of space.

The understanding of matter and the universe has radically changed since the discovery of quantum physics principles. Drawing on the well-documented research of Gregg Braden in *The Spontaneous Healing of Belief* (Hay House, 2008), pp. 11-18, here are a few amazing scientific conclusions.

Matter – the stuff everything is made of – doesn’t exist in the way we used to think, namely in the form of particles such as atoms. Rather, quantum theories suggest that the universe and our bodies are made of ever-changing fields of energy, which interact with one another to create our world in ways that can

only be described in terms of possibilities, rather than certainties.

We are part of the energy doing the interacting in this interconnected system, and are enmeshed in the dance of energy that bathes all creation. This changes our role from passive observers to agents of change interacting with what everything is made of.

In 1944, Max Planck postulated that a “matrix” of energy provides the blueprint for our physical world. In this place of pure energy, everything is said to begin. This matrix has been referred to as the “field”, “quantum hologram”, “nature’s mind”, “divine matrix”, and even “mind of God.” Experiments have shown that through this matrix that joins all things, our consciousness, beliefs, and feelings affect the waves and particles of matter.

John Wheeler, a colleague of Einstein, postulated that we live in a “participatory universe”, where consciousness is not only important, but is actually creative. “The very

building materials of the universe are these acts of observer-participancy.” We can never be just observers, because when we observe, through consciousness, we create and modify what is created.

In the 1940s, Konrad Zuse postulated that the universe may operate as a big computer and asked if we may be living in a virtual reality running on a computer made of quantum energy. This would mean that all that exists is *information* rather than *things*. In 2006, Seth Lloyd concluded that “The history of the universe is, in effect, a huge and ongoing quantum computation. ... The universe is a quantum computer. As the computation proceeds, reality unfolds.”

Could the matrix or field that interconnects everything be the consciousness behind all things, or the Spirit of God (see later in the book) that emanates from God and in which everything “lives, moves, and has its being” (Acts 17:27-28)?

Spirit

This term can have several meanings:

- a spirit being (such as an angel or a deceased human), who lives and is visible in the spirit world, because of having a spirit body.
- the soul's active energy, emanating from the soul and creating a field of various energies and substances.
- the soul itself – some people use the word "spirit" to mean the soul (the identity and highest inner part of a person).

We usually use the word in the first or second meaning.

Spirit of God

This is the active energy of the Soul of God, emanating from Him and filling the universe. It can be said that this Spirit is everywhere – in trees, rocks, thunder and lightning, animals, humans, and in all other created things. It is the “life force” in whom people and all creation “live, move and have their being” (Acts 17:28).

While the Spirit is not God, its manifestations are evidence of the existence of a real, never-changing, self-existing Being, who is not the creation of human minds, needs or desires. Rather, He is the Creator of all that is, even of those who cannot conceive of any God, but nature, which is the mere creature of His being, wisdom and power. He has established laws for the controlling and maintaining of His creation. Humans can perceive and to some extent comprehend these laws, powers and principles.

Could this Spirit be related to, or actually be, the “field”, the divine matrix, the “mind of God”

within which all that exists is interconnected,
lives, and has its being?

(See *The Universe* for more information.)

Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the active energy of the Great Soul and a special part of God's Spirit. It functions as a messenger of the Father to convey His Love and nature into human souls in answer to sincere longings (Rom. 5:5). The Love is the means of soul transformation from divine image into divine substance, and it is what eventually turns humans into divine angels with immortality and unlimited growth potential. The Holy Spirit is not God, a person, or a part of a "trinity", but merely God's instrument for conveying Divine Love into human souls.

(See also *Spirit of God*.)

Word of God

The Word of God (or "the Word") is used to convey several meanings:

- the "spoken" / inspired / written words from God to people
- the Bible as the word/s of God
- the Word that was in the "beginning" with God – John 1
- Jesus Christ the Messiah

We use the word to mean inspired communication directly from God the Father to a human being. Instances of this can be found in the Bible and other spiritual writings. In a figurative sense, Jesus is also the Word of God in that he taught and exemplified God's way of salvation through Divine Love.

The Bible

Christians believe that the Bible is the inspired written Word of God. It can be viewed as divine communication or God's self-disclosure to humanity. The Bible books identify God as the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and are an invitation to a close relationship with this transcendent Being. They include information unattainable through science or reason, addressing life's ultimate questions such as the purpose of life and the hereafter.

However, the Bible is not literally the Word of God – its contents were not just dictated by God for individuals to write down word for word. Nevertheless, the book expresses, sometimes in metaphor, what God said, did, continues to do, and will yet do in the future. The ultimate divine revelation was in the coming to earth of Jesus Christ who brought the message of God's Divine Love as the way to salvation and at-

onement with the Father. In teaching this vital truth, he also exemplified it by his life.

The Bible was written over a period of about fifteen hundred years by humans from different walks of life, different time periods, different locations, and in three languages. It has since been translated into hundreds of modern languages. The writers wrote in their own style, influenced by their background, education, culture, and political situation of the time.

Furthermore, today's Bible is the product of a complex process of document selection, copying, editing, compilation, and translation – all human activities subject to error. As a result, it has intertwining strands of teachings and even contradictions. Because of these factors and the complexity of the canonization process which occurred about three centuries after Jesus' death, the Bible is a set of writings with great diversity and inherent errors. Yet, it is a book that has inspired millions, pointed them to their Creator, changed their lives for the better, and set them on the way to salvation.

Divine Love

Divine Love, aka the Love of God, is the nature or essence of God – the main "substance" of God's Soul. The term "Love of God" in this context does not refer to human love for God, but rather God's Love with which He loves every human being on earth and in the spirit world. Love in this case is not just a feeling or emotion, but a substance or energy that can be felt and has the power to transform.

There is a difference between the natural love inherent in human souls and the Divine Love. The Divine Love is an unconditional and unchanging love regardless of circumstances or the status of another being. It is the Love that God loves the world with.

Jesus taught his disciples to love one another with the love that he had for them – which was the same as the Love that the Father loved him with (John 13:34-35; 15:9-13; 17:23). He also taught them to love and pray for their enemies. By doing this, they would be becoming perfect

like the Father, who showers favors on both the just and the unjust, is perfect (Matt. 5:44-48).

Growing in the likeness of the Father and having their souls transformed from the image of God into divine substance, they would become more and more at one with God. Jesus referred to the Father's Love in many ways, such as Living Water, Water of Life, Bread of Life (the daily bread in the Lord's Prayer), true manna from Heaven, the Gift of God, oil in lamps (parable), yeast in a batch of dough (parable), talents (parable), etc. It is the key to eternal life and immortality.

(See also *Holy Spirit*.)

Natural or Human Love

The natural love is the love we are born with and develop as we grow up. It is manifested as for example, parental love, sibling love, married love, and love for friends. In expressing love to God, it is fulfilled in obeying God's commandments, including worship – but may not go much beyond that as shown by the example of the rich young man who asked Jesus what was needed to inherit eternal life.

The natural love is a mere shadow or image of the Divine Love and is not sufficient to enter the Kingdom of God. No human of and by themselves can inherit God's Kingdom. This can only come through God's help in the form of the Divine Love imparted by the Holy Spirit and resulting in soul transformation and the new birth (Matt. 19:16-26).

The natural love needs to eventually be absorbed by the Divine Love. If humans, both in their physical life and when they enter the spirit world after death, refuse to ask for and receive

the Divine Love, they will remain separated from the Father. As a result, they will only experience the limited happiness – though great from their perspective – that the natural love affords them. In time, however, they will reach a limit to their growth and development, and in addition to their happiness, also experience a certain dissatisfaction.

If they are not awakened to the need for the Divine Love, there is nothing divine in them and they will remain in this state with no assurance of immortality or even continued life. Of course, their existence is sustained by the creating and life-giving Spirit – which is not God, but emanating from God – the universal energy or life force and consciousness in and behind all things (Acts 17:27-28).

(See also *The Universe and God's Spirit.*)

Nature of Man

Humans were originally created perfect, not sinful and depraved. However, pride and arrogance led them to rejecting God's offer of His Love and nature. As a result, they sinned and became progressively more corrupt.

While our soul had been created sinless, through the process of incarnation, it took on sin inclinations of the ancestors. These formed encrustations over the pure soul. In addition, through its environment and childhood programming, the soul picks up much negativity and proclivity to sin.

There are two ways out of the acquired corruption: overcoming sin by diligently observing the law, or accepting God's grace by asking for His Divine Love. Humans were also given freewill, meaning that each soul may make choices that are not in accordance to God's will and lead to harmful consequences. No matter what choices we individually or collectively make, God never compels people to

do what is right. He may, however, intervene to accomplish His purposes.

Physical Body

The physical body is the biological earthly body, which we all have and will leave behind at death and entering the spirit world. The physical body will decay and disintegrate into its elements, and the spirit body, which encloses the soul, will continue beyond death.

The mortal, material body will never be resurrected, and neither will any of its elements form another body for the purpose of a resurrection. This body is used only for the life on earth, and cannot be used for any other function, or for clothing any spirit in the spirit world because it is of a nature that cannot enter the spirit realms.

Spirit Body

The spirit body is each person's spirit form, made of a higher material / substance, which encapsulates the soul (the real you). The spirit body reflects each person's soul condition (visible in the spirit world) and is also the seat of their material mind and five or more senses.

The spirit body with the soul leaves the physical body at death and the human, now as a spirit, continues life in the spirit world. The condition of the soul determines their initial location – the degree of light or darkness. As the soul is cleansed of sins and encrustations, the spirit advances into spheres filled with more and more light. If the soul is filled with God's Divine Love, the spirit will eventually reach the Celestial Heavens or the Kingdom of God.

(See also *Soul*.)

Soul

The soul is the living, conscious, personal being – the real you with a unique nature and personality. It has abilities to feel, sense, perceive, express, communicate, develop, and much more. The soul is the highest and most perfect of God's creations, and the only part of a human being made in God's image. It forms the person's identity and will continue, together with the spirit body that envelops it, beyond death.

From its creation, the soul is not divine, but has God-given life. This life is not guaranteed for all eternity unless the soul acquires God's divine substance and nature through Divine Love transforming it from God's image into His substance. Without this transformation, the soul can only return to the state of perfection in which it was created. If it accepts the gift of the Father's divine nature, it eventually becomes an immortal soul, aka divine angel in the Celestial Heavens or Kingdom of God.

Sin and Evil

Sin is breaking God's law or getting out of harmony with His will. It separates us from God, and the law of cause and effect comes into force, exacting its penalty – if not in this life, then certainly in the next. Despite the fact that we sin, we are still God's beloved children, whom He created and loves unconditionally.

We are never condemned to hell forever, but may end up in one of the hells of darkness and suffering for a time. Eventually all sinners will reach either the original perfection of their created soul, which the first humans had before the Fall, or immortality in the Celestial realm or Kingdom of God.

It is important to recognize and acknowledge sin and our need for help with it, aka salvation. Apart from guilt and a wrong relationship with God, sin makes us sick at the soul level – our spiritual nature becomes weak and corrupted. Sin becomes our nature, but we are not totally

depraved or born that way. Sin makes us spiritually blind and dead to the things of God.

Once one has yielded to temptation and committed the first sin, a vicious cycle is set up – more sins follow increasing the state of sinfulness. This is what happened once the first parents disobeyed God. Sin originates from a corrupted heart.

Because sin is a human creation, it must be eliminated by humans. Each person is responsible for cleansing their soul from sin – either by conscious striving to overcome with God's help, or by soul transformation through God's Divine Love.

(See also *Law of Compensation and Hell*.)

The Law

The law entails rules and regulations, the purpose of which is to reveal and define sin and to regulate human conduct. This applies in principle to both God's law and human law. Many spiritual laws are binding and immutable (unchangeable). These are the unseen universal Laws of God, which govern the consequences of human behavior. Some Old Testament laws that were of ceremonial rather than moral nature are no longer binding on Christians because with the New Covenant brought by Jesus, his followers are under a different dispensation.

Spiritually speaking, the “way of the law”, as opposed to grace, is the way of obedience, and avoiding and overcoming sin by one's own strength. It is also the way of cause and effect – breaking the law exacts penalties – if not in this life, then in the next.

Countless physical laws exist governing the complex workings of nature and the universe.

(See also *Grace*.)

Law of Compensation

This law is also known as the law of cause and effect or karma. God hates sin for the harm it is causing, but does not hate sinners. They are all His created children, and He loves them and has compassion on them. Justice will occur through the Law of Compensation, whereby each sinner will need to pay the full penalty of their sins – which may involve great suffering in hellish conditions for a time, but not eternal torment in an ever-burning hell.

While appearing harsh and cruel, this is a benign and beneficial law in that it works for a relatively short time when the darkness and suffering are compared with an eternity of light and happiness. For those on the Divine Love path, the Law of Love will supersede the Law of Compensation.

Justification

This means being pronounced “not guilty”, whereby God regards us as free from sin and forgiven. This state is achieved in one of two ways. The first is through purification of soul by deciding to live a righteous life and working to the best of one’s ability toward that end through one’s efforts and with God’s help.

Alternatively, an easier way leads to atonement with God and occurs through soul transformation by the Divine Love imparted by the Holy Spirit. With the Divine Love comes divine nature, new heart, new birth, immortality, becoming a new creature, being “in Christ”, and inheriting a place in God’s Celestial Kingdom. This is the way of grace. While individual effort and involvement is required, the Divine Love is an unconditional God-given gift free for the asking.

Both paths ultimately lead to a sinless state where penalties for sin cease. True justification only occurs on the Divine Love path as one

ceases to resist the Holy Spirit, and thus stops committing the unpardonable sin – which cannot be pardoned only because the individual continues in it.

The person is then under no condemnation. The Law of Compensation (cause and effect) is transcended by the higher Law of Love. Forgiveness occurs every time we ask God for it. Contrary to orthodox Christian teachings, our justification is not brought about by Jesus' death on the cross paying the penalty for our sins and us putting faith in his blood.

(See also *Law of Compensation*, and *Unpardonable Sin*.)

Jesus Christ

Jesus was the firstborn son of God (with others to follow). He was the child of Joseph and Mary, but born without sin. He was special by being the first to experience Divine Love in his soul, through which he became the Christ or Messiah (meaning anointed). He brought the gospel of salvation and immortality to light by teaching and living it. He spoke of the new birth, or birth from above, as a condition of entering the Kingdom of God.

The path to the kingdom which Jesus taught involves accepting God's gift of Divine Love and cultivating it so that one's soul becomes transformed from only divine image into divine substance. Divine nature is acquired and thereby sin is eliminated. This path leads to eventual at-onement with God and immortality in the Celestial Kingdom of God.

Jesus died as a martyr for his teachings that threatened the religious establishment of the day, but he did not die as a "sacrificial lamb" for

human sins. Upon death, his soul and spirit body went to the spirit world. However, as a special sign to his disciples, he briefly returned to earth, dematerialized his physical body, and appeared, barely recognizable, in his spirit body. He is now the Master of the Celestial Heavens and lives close to the Fountainhead of God as God's most advanced and loving son. However, he is not God to be worshipped.

Each person has the same potential to reach the Celestial Kingdom of God by following Jesus' teaching and example.

(See also *New Birth, The Gospel, and Salvation.*)

The Gospel

The word *gospel* means “good news” and deals with God’s all-encompassing plan to fulfill his purpose for humanity. Mankind are God’s highest created beings on earth. At or near the beginning of their existence, they made a wrong choice and since then, they have largely been going astray and becoming “dead in sins” (Eph. 2:1-5). God’s plan is to save people from their sins, bring them back from spiritual death to spiritual life, and help them become inwardly transformed through His Love by acquiring divine nature and becoming a new creature. This process occurs by grace – without each person having to earn or deserve it. They only need to desire it and be willing to cooperate in the process.

Other than the gospel of God’s grace (Acts 20:24) and the gospel of the kingdom (Matt. 24:14), the message of salvation that Jesus brought is referred to as gospel about Jesus Christ (Mark 1:1); gospel of Christ (Rom. 15:19)

and seven other references); gospel of the glory of Christ (2 Cor. 4:4); gospel of God's son (Rom. 1:9); gospel of our Lord Jesus (2 Thess. 1:8); gospel of God (Rom. 15:16 and five other references); gospel of the blessed God (1 Tim. 1:11); gospel of your salvation (Eph. 1:13); and gospel of peace (Eph. 1:13).

In a nutshell, Jesus, who from birth was spiritually inclined and sinless, was commissioned by God to preach the good news of salvation – the rebestowal of God's Love that was withheld after the first humans rejected it. Jesus recognized the presence of this Love in himself and correctly perceived that this was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies of the new heart (Ezek. 36:26; Jer. 24:7). His experience, teaching, and example of God's Love in his life for others to follow is the key to the fulfillment of God's purpose and ultimate will for humanity.

(See also *Salvation* and *New Birth*.)

Prayer

Prayer is communication with God which can take many forms and be expressed in various ways. An attitude of prayer is possible in every waking moment – it is being open to God’s influence and Love as we go about our day. Prayer can be an active process with thoughts going to the Creator frequently, and this attitude and devotion can be interwoven into all our daily experiences. This is a goal or aspiration rather than a reality – most of us are not at this point except for brief periods of time.

Divine Love in one’s soul is the key to reaching this goal. As we allow the expression of our soul longings for the Love’s flow, and not inhibit them with our minds, God will use us to express His Will in the world. In this flow of Love into our soul and out to others, our lives become an ongoing prayer in action.

Baptism

This can be a physical symbol or enactment of the death and burial of the sinful self and resurrection to a new life. However, the water or the ceremony of and by itself cannot bring about any change. Of utmost importance are the inner changes of repentance, faith, and desire to embark on the path to salvation. This is an ongoing process as the Divine Love imparted by the Holy Spirit transforms one's heart and soul into divine substance. The new birth occurs when the transformation is complete.

(See also *Holy Spirit, Salvation, New Birth, and Faith.*)

Grace

Grace is an unearned or undeserved gift that God bestows on those who seek him, repent of their sins, desire God's salvation after realizing their powerlessness, and choose to follow God's Way of Love. It is not based on human works, goodness, or any other merit, so that no one can boast.

Jesus brought the gospel of grace, announcing that God's gift of Divine Love was again available to humans after the first couple rejected it and in pride and arrogance chose their own way (tree of knowledge of good and evil). This gift of grace is available to all for the asking, and will transform the recipient into a new creature with a new heart and divine nature. This is the new birth which is the key to salvation.

Transformation and/or salvation is not accomplished through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, who though he was perfect and sinless, is believed to have suffered the full

penalty of the law in our place. While Jesus did not take on, or pay the penalty for, our sins, through transformation of our soul by the Divine Love, we do, in a sense, receive his righteousness. We are no longer under condemnation, but come under grace. As a result, we become heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ through having “Christ in us” which means to have the Love of the Father in our soul and becoming at one with Him.

(See also *The Gospel, Salvation, New Birth, Divine Love.*)

Salvation

Salvation is the way out of sin and its effects. Humans have two ways to overcome sins. The natural love path is one of purification through striving to eliminate sinfulness, that is of man's making in their present life as well as over generations, to reach their original state of purity and perfection. This is a long and arduous path made easier with God's help.

The Divine Love path is a way of soul transformation through God-given Love and nature that leads to a new life enabled by a new heart and new birth, and ultimately salvation and immortality in the Kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit imparts God's Love into the heart/soul when sought. There is then no more room for intentional sin – we have “died to sin,” though we will still slip and sin, but without wanting to.

The Bible symbolically refers to this radical life change as resurrection to a new life, regeneration, renewal, new creation, rebirth, circumcision of the heart, and walk in the Spirit. Progressively, the

person's outlook, thoughts, beliefs, desires, motives, values, habits, and behavior change as they are becoming more and more in harmony with God's will and holiness. While it is possible to arrive at this state during one's life on earth, in most cases, sinlessness will only be reached in the next life.

(See also *New Birth*.)

New Birth

The new birth means that the soul, made in the image of God, is by the Divine Love imparted by the Holy Spirit transformed into the substance of God. The Bible also refers to the result of this process as becoming a new creature/creation; being born again/from above or being born of God; and rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (John 1:13; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; 1 Pet. 1:23; Titus 3:5; 1 John 3:9 and 4:7).

Through the new birth, humans become at one with the Father. This is the effect of the Divine Love flowing into one's soul and replacing all that tends to sin and error. As the Divine Love takes over the soul, it changes it to the quality of the Great Soul of the Father. Thus the human becomes divine and immortal which upon passing into the spirit world, enables them to enter the Celestial Kingdom of God as a divine angel and a redeemed child of God.

Faith

Faith consists of belief (assent) and trust leading to commitment. Belief is of the mind or intellect; trust is of the heart/soul. Faith is vital, but is not of and by itself the person's righteousness. Their sins will not be covered by their faith in Jesus' name or sacrifice.

Saving faith and the only way to salvation occurs by praying for God's Divine Love and having faith that one is receiving it and that their hearts / souls are being cleansed through transformation into God's substance. This is the new birth which makes individuals true and redeemed children of God. Faith increases as one prays for and receives more Divine Love.

(See also *New Birth and Salvation*.)

Life after Death

Each human being consists of the impermanent material body, which will disintegrate upon death, as well as a spirit body and soul which will survive death. One's individuality and personality, formed during the earthly life, is preserved and will continue in another dimension outside our time and space – the spirit world.

The soul is encased in and protected by a spirit body which gives the soul its individuality as a conscious entity and remains with the soul as long as the soul lives. With the spirit body survive all the things pertaining to the mind of the individual. Hence, one never ceases to remember, progress, and know that they are a being which death cannot destroy. In fact, humans never cease to live, and life in the spirit world is not a new life, but merely a continuation of the old life with mind and conscience intact.

At death, the so-called silver cord, which in this life holds the physical body and spirit body together, is broken and the connection is severed for all eternity (Eccl. 12:6-7). The physical body, after having fulfilled its earthly purpose, breaks down over time into its constituent elements. It will never again be used by the same individual or another spirit or soul.

The passage into the spirit world happens through a “resurrection” of the spirit body which contains the soul and has a real substance. It does not need and cannot be clothed with another physical body as this would contravene laws both on earth and the spirit world. Humans who have passed into the spirit world retain all the aspects of their mind, conscience and soul that were theirs in the earthly life. The spirit body continues to house, protect and control the soul. The spiritual state of the soul determines one’s initial place in the spirit world.

(See also *Physical Body, Spirit Body, Soul, and Resurrection.*)

Resurrection

There will be no resurrection of the physical body nor another fleshly reincarnation. However, a resurrection that is common to all does exist. At the moment of death (“in the twinkling of an eye”), all humans rise in a spirit body that has been with them throughout their lives. This resurrection has been occurring throughout human history and long before the time of Jesus. Continuation of life in the spirit world has been understood by various people around the world.

However, in addition to this universal resurrection, Jesus taught another resurrection – one vital to human salvation. When the first humans sinned, the potentiality of at-onement (becoming at one) with God the Father and its accompanying immortality, was lost to them, and in that sense they died. Jesus brought the news and exemplified in his life, that this potentiality has been restored. This is the true resurrection – to divinity and immortality.

Jesus taught that to obtain this resurrection, humans must earnestly seek and pray for the Divine Love imparted by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). This will transform their souls from only divine image into divine essence and make them at one with God. This opportunity is available to both mortal humans on earth and the inhabitants of the spirit world, but it must be chosen and sought. Those who have not received this resurrection through the Divine Love do not have the gift and consciousness of immortality and in that sense are still in a condition of death.

By his example and teaching that humans can through a special resurrection attain eternal life and immortality, Jesus was the resurrection and the life (John 11:25).

(See also *Jesus Christ, What Happens at Death, Salvation.*)

Spirit World

The spirit world is a dimension, where humans go after physical death. It consists of various spheres or regions – ranging from dark hells to increasingly bright and glorious levels of the spirit heavens of natural love (Paradise) to the unimaginable beauty and joy of the Celestial Heavens (Kingdom of God).

Upward progression occurs as the soul develops in its moral, mental, or spiritual / soul qualities. When a deceased person, now a spirit as soul in a spirit body, enters the spirit world, it is met by loving family or friends, who help it to awaken to its new existence and adjust to the environment. The spirit then moves to where it is destined based on its soul condition in accordance with the Law of Attraction.

Most spirits start on the earth plane, in which there are several spheres with conditions similar to those on the earth. Depending on the spirit's desires and priorities, it will proceed along the lines of intellectual, moral, or spiritual

development. Based on the Law of Compensation (aka cause and effect or karma), a contaminated soul cannot have a place in the Spiritual Heavens (Paradise) unless it is first purified. The purification process involves a period of suffering and learning in the hells.

All spirits have work to do and opportunity to grow and progress to higher realms. Eventually all souls will become cleansed and reach the point of their original purity. Those who seek spiritual development by praying for the Divine Love will achieve the New Birth, which is the only way to the Celestial Spheres or Kingdom of God.

(See also *Salvation, New Birth, Kingdom of God.*)

Kingdom of God

Also known as the Celestial Kingdom, the Kingdom of God is the realm of the saved with unimaginable beauty and unlimited possibilities for growth and service. Jesus was born to bring the gospel (good news) of the Kingdom of God (also referred to as the Kingdom of Heaven) and taught how one could enter it.

Jesus is the firstborn of many siblings (Rom. 8:29), and the first to have entered this realm. The church can be seen as “the Kingdom in embryo” – those who are following in Jesus’ footsteps as younger brothers and sisters (Col. 1:18) and becoming at one with the Father through fully acquiring His divine nature. (2 Pet. 1:4).

(See also *Spirit World*.)

Unpardonable Sin

There is no unpardonable sin as traditionally taught, namely that some sins cannot and will not be forgiven. Such teaching can enslave people in an unhealthy fear of God and of displeasing Him. Also, it prevents those who come to believe that they have committed the “unpardonable sin” from seeking salvation as they feel there is no hope for them to find it.

The truth is that no soul is without the privilege of being able to come to the Father and ask for and obtain His Love and mercy, even in the spirit world. However, the Bible does allude to a sin that will never be forgiven, namely, “blasphemy against the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 12:31-32; Luke 12:10). What does it mean?

All sins of breaking God’s laws will be forgiven and forgotten as humans ultimately become purified in their natural love and thus sinless. The greatest and unforgivable sin is against the Holy Spirit, which involves resisting the Spirit in not seeking the Divine Love and

union with God. As long as a person is in a state of such refusal, this is unforgivable, for the sin is ongoing.

This sin differs from other sins in that the latter cease after having been committed and only their consequences remain and must be suffered. The sin against the Holy Spirit is continuous as long as a person remains in the state of mind of resisting the Spirit in not seeking the Divine Love. When that resistance ceases and the Divine Love is sought, this sin too is forgiven.

Destiny of the Unsaved

Those who have done evil and refused to repent will not suffer for ever in an ever-burning hell as commonly believed. However, upon coming into the spirit world, they may start in a “hell” region. This is a dark place of intense suffering. The actual hell sphere and the degree of suffering depends on the life they lived and their soul state at death. They will have an opportunity to progress into lighter realms as their souls are purified. The length of time in hell is determined by their rate of progression which they are in control of.

Ultimately, upon reaching the original perfection of soul, they will end in Paradise at the sixth sphere – a place of happiness, but with no guaranteed immortality and with only limited opportunities for further growth. When salvation through transformation by the Divine Love is no longer available, they will remain in a state of “second death” – without the possibility

of salvation and receiving immortality in the Celestial Heaven or Kingdom of God.

(See also *Hell, Kingdom of God and Salvation.*)

Hell

Hell is a place as well as a condition of mind. Many hells exist, causing different degrees of suffering, and evil individuals are assigned to them depending on their soul condition. In the broadest sense, hell is everything outside of heaven. While the hells are places of darkness and pain, there is no fire and brimstone. The suffering is not inflicted by an angry or vindictive God, but is the result of each person's earthly actions.

Hells exist for the purpose of the outworking of the Law of Compensation (karma or sowing and reaping), which is necessary to preserve or restore harmony in the universe. But even in a hell, there is mercy and goodness of the Father, because the spirits confined there would be more unhappy in heaven.

Eventually, all those in the hells will leave upon being purified and forgiven. However, some may experience a hell existence for centuries before they awaken and realize that

they may become children of light and then start progressing in that direction. So the duration of one's stay in hell varies depending to the spirit's initial soul condition and their progress while in hell.

A temporary stay in hell enables spirits to realize that the Law of Compensation is real and that there is a penalty for evil deeds and the disregard of divine laws. Hells assist in cleansing of souls to prepare them for higher realms. Once the penalty has been paid and forgiveness is achieved, the spirits gradually move from darkness to more and more light.

(See also *Law of Compensation*.)

Religion

The word “religion” is derived from the Latin verb *religare*, which has several meanings, including: “to join again, re-link or reconnect; to bind together; to hold back by tying; to thwart from forward progress.” It can therefore be a double-edged sword.

Religion can lead to a higher degree of relationship because it binds, just as marriage binds a man and a woman for a lifetime. This can be a binding relationship with God, Jesus, or another higher being. On the flip side, religion can become a system of sociological control, based on sometimes erroneous, dogmatic, and not-to-be-challenged beliefs, which can hold back the progress of human consciousness.

Through religion and a church, temple, or synagogue, many have been led to a connection with a Higher Power, finding help, meaning, inspiration and personal deliverance, while others have been hindered in their intellectual,

emotional, or spiritual development, hurt, traumatized, and even had their faith shattered in both God and man.

Truth vs Error

Truth is that which is – the Reality. Absolute Truth stands by itself and is subject to no variations or modifications. It is fixed and unchangeable, while beliefs as relative truth are changeable unless founded on Absolute Truth.

Only God has all the Truth – human knowledge is at best limited to only relative truth. Truth is not based on human perceptions, which are fallible. Perception of truth may not be Reality, but we are to grow in truth (2 Pet. 3:18). We can progressively discover and learn more and more of the Truth of God. As we pray for and grow in Divine Love in our souls, we will also grow in soul perceptions and understanding of Truth.

Truth will by its nature lead to division among people as they cherish different beliefs. In extreme cases, even hatred and fighting can occur among those of differing views. This is the result of the unavoidable conflict between Truth

and error – the latter of which exists because free will influences human thoughts and beliefs.

Because of the gift of free will given to humans, Truth, even with the power and knowledge of God behind it, will not compel anyone to accept it against their will. And being fallible with limited mental faculties, a person may not surrender erroneous convictions until Truth comes to them in such a way as to persuade them of its reality. In the end, Truth will be established in the hearts and minds of humans, so that harmony and peace shall reign in all God's universe.

Spirituality

Spirituality involves the recognition of a feeling, sense, or belief that there is something greater than ourselves, something more to being human than sensory experience, and that the greater whole of which we are part is cosmic or divine in nature. It is an experience of the soul and can be defined as an individual's search for ultimate or sacred meaning and purpose in life.

It can also mean search for personal growth, religious experience, belief in a supernatural realm or afterlife, or making sense of one's own "inner dimension". Examples of spirituality include breathwork, meditation, quiet time, spiritual reading, contemplation, prayer, time in nature, and service to others.

Appendix:

Prayers for Divine Love

The crux of the gospel of salvation that Jesus brought to earth is the transformation of the soul by Divine Love imparted by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5). Each person needs to come to desire this gift in their own life – it will never be forced on them.

The following are example prayers for the receipt of the Divine Love. None of them have to be prayed verbatim, but they can give ideas how to approach the Father who is always happy when His children ask for His Holy Spirit which imparts the Divine Love (Luke 11:13).

It is important to be consistent and continue to pray for the Divine Love, as soul transformation does not happen all at once, but is a process.

“Prayer Perfect”

The prayer below contains the basic truths given to humankind by Celestial Spirits.

Our Father, who are in heaven, we recognize that You are all holy and loving and merciful, and that we are Your children, and not the subservient, sinful and depraved creatures that our false teachers would have us believe. That we are the greatest of Your creation, and the most wonderful of all Your handiworks, and the objects of Your great soul’s love and tenderest care.

That Your will is that we become at one with You, and partake of Your great Love which You have bestowed upon us through Your mercy and desire that we become, in truth, Your children, through love, and not through the sacrifice and death of any of Your creatures.

We pray that You will open up our souls to the inflowing of Your Love, and that then may come Your Holy Spirit to bring into our souls Your Love in great abundance, until our souls

shall be transformed into the very essence of Yourself; and that there may come to us faith — such faith as will cause us to realize that we are truly Your children and one with You in very substance and not in image only.

Let us have such faith as will cause us to know that You are our Father, and the bestower of every good and perfect gift, and that only we, ourselves, can prevent Your love changing us from the mortal to the immortal.

Let us never cease to realize that Your Love is waiting for each and all of us, and that when we come to You, in faith and earnest aspiration, Your Love will never be withheld from us.

Keep us in the shadow of Your Love every hour and moment of our lives, and help us to overcome all temptations of the flesh, and the influence of the powers of the evil ones, which so constantly surround us and endeavour to turn our thoughts away from You to the pleasures and allurements of this world.

We thank You for Your love and the privilege of receiving it, and we believe that You are our Father — the loving Father who smiles upon us in our weakness, and is always ready to help us and take us to Your arms of love.

We pray this with all the earnestness and longings of our souls, and trusting in Your Love, give You all the glory and honour and love that our finite souls can give. Amen.

Here is a list of other Prayer Perfect resources:

- [Video version](#) of the prayer
- [Sung version of the prayer](#) accompanied by piano.
- [Illustrated PDF file of the prayer](#)
- [Illustrated JPG image](#) of the prayer.
- [Prayer Perfect Outline](#)
- [Prayer Perfect Structure](#)
- A [7-part slide show](#) of the prayer combined with the spiritual practice of *Lectio Divina*
- A slide show combined with [reading of the prayer](#)

Divine Love Prayers from the Bible

Here are four personally inspiring Bible passages which are prayers of thanksgiving attributed to the apostle Paul (though the exact authorship is not important). They are also prayers for the Divine Love and its results in one's life. Quoted from the New International Version of the Bible, they are easy to read. I have bolded the parts that particularly speak to me, and have also inserted notes in brackets that parallel information in this book.

Ephesians 1:16-19:

16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. **17** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that **you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened** [*prayer for increased soul perceptions*] in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, **the riches of his glorious**

inheritance [*Celestial Kingdom*] in the saints **19** and **his incomparably great power** [*Divine Love that transforms our souls from divine image to divine substance and mortal to immortal*] for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ...

Ephesians 3:16-21

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with **power through his Spirit in your inner being**, [*soul growth and soul perceptions through Divine Love*] **17** so that Christ [*Divine Love*] may dwell in your hearts through faith. [*Divine Love in the soul*] And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, **18** may have power, together with all the saints, **to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ**, **19** and **to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God**. [*all aspects of Divine Love*] **20** Now to him **who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to**

his power that is at work within us [*how awesome!*], **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Philippians 1:9-11

9 And this is my prayer: **that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight**, [*prayer for growth in Divine Love and soul perceptions*] **10** so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God. [*through Divine Love transforming the soul.*]

Colossians 1:3-6, 9-14

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, **4** because we have heard of your **faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints** – **5 the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for**

you in heaven [*again, Divine Love*] and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel **6** that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood **God's grace in all its truth.** [*Divine Love is a gift of grace*] ...

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to **fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.** [*again, soul perceptions*] **10** And we pray this in order that you may **live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way:** bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, **11** being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully **12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the**

kingdom of light. [*Celestial Kingdom reached through Divine Love*] **13** For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the **kingdom of the Son he loves,** [*Celestial Kingdom of which Jesus is the Master*] **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. [*through praying for and receiving the Divine Love*].

References and Further Reading

More about this and related subjects can be found on the author's website, [Universal Spirituality](#), as well as the following:

- [Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth, Vol. I](#)
- [Angelic Revelations of Divine Truth, Vol. II](#)
- [New Birth website](#)

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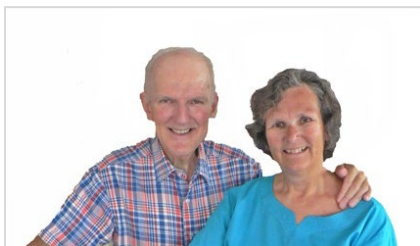
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Eva Peck has an international and Christian background and is an ordained minister and trustee in the Foundation Church of Divine Truth. Having lived and worked in Australia, the United States, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, including teaching English as a foreign language, she has experienced a range of faiths, cultures, customs, and environments. She now draws on those experiences in her writing.

Eva has a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences, post-graduate Diploma in Education, and Master's degree in Theology. Since her retirement from teaching, she has been

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Eva lives in Brisbane, Australia, with her husband, Alex, and cat Whitey.

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- *Life After Death*, Eva Peck
- *Jesus Christ – A New Look at His Identity and Mission*, Eva Peck and Michael Nedbal
- *Fulfillments of Old Testament Types*, Eva Peck
- *Who and What Is God?* Eva Peck
- *Nature of Soul and Spirit*, Eva Peck
- *Discerning Truth and Divine Guidance*, Eva Peck
- *Antidote to Fear and Anxiety – Fear of God*, Eva Peck

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- *Artistic Inspirations - Paintings of Jindrich Degen* arranged by Eva and Alexander Peck
- *Colour and Contrast – Artwork of Jindrich Degen* arranged by Eva and Alexander Peck

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- *Variations – Art Exhibition of Jindrich Degen*, arranged by Eva and Alex Peck
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Spiritual Realities in a Nutshell

This booklet, *Gospel in a Nutshell*, covers 35 spiritual topics, as the title says, "in a nutshell," including just the basic facts.

These subjects are dealt with largely from a Christian perspective, though not exclusively. The text does not include many references, but more and supporting information can be found in the "Further Reading" section.

Readers may find a different slant on some of the topics than they have been accustomed to - in other words their long-held traditional beliefs may be challenged. They are invited to carefully consider each alternative view and prayerfully decide whether or not it may have merit. Whatever the conclusion, it is hoped that this booklet will enlighten, encourage, and help individuals on their spiritual journey.

Eva Peck has an international and Christian background and is an ordained minister and trustee in the Foundation Church of Divine Truth. She has written and published a number of books on spiritual themes, as well as building and maintaining several websites. Eva lives in Brisbane, Australia, with her husband, Alex.



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