

CROSSROADS INTERNATIONAL BIBLE COLLEGE

DOCTRINAL TERMS & DEFINITIONS

Teaching Handbook Edition

A narrative handbook integrating key theological terms into a structured course of study

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
How to Use This Handbook.....	4
1. The Created Constitution of Man.....	5
Human Nature, Spirit, Soul, and Body.....	5
Godward Capacity and Original Design.....	5
2. The Fall, Spiritual Death, and the Darkened Spirit.....	5
Spiritual Death and the Unregenerated State.....	5
The Sin Nature and Self-Governance.....	6
The Conscience in Fallen Man.....	6
3. Regeneration and the New Man.....	7
The Regenerated Spirit.....	7
The Old Man and the New Man.....	7
Newness of Life.....	7
4. The Divine Nature, Enmesh, and Functional Union.....	8
Participation in the Divine Nature.....	8
Enmesh as a Technical Term.....	8
Divine Influence and Divine Life.....	8
5. Grace, Faith, and Proper Demands on the Word of God.....	9
Grace as Divine Enablement.....	9
Biblical Faith and Spirit-Born Conviction.....	9
Proper Demands on the Word of God.....	9
6. The Soul, Mind Renewal, and the Salvation of the Soul.....	10
The Soul and the Need for Renewal.....	10
Soul-Level Christianity and Spirit-Led Christianity.....	10
Inner Governance and Spiritual Regulation.....	10
7. Educating the Spirit and Digested Divine Truth.....	11
Educating the Spirit.....	11
Digested Divine Truth and Truth-Assimilation.....	11
Spirit-Formed Understanding and Spiritual Substance.....	11
8. The Voice of the Spirit, the Witness of the Conscience, and Discernment.....	12
The Voice of the Spirit.....	12

The Witness of the Conscience and Moral Discernment.....	12
Soul-Spirit Confusion and Spiritual Discernment.....	12
9. Centre of Gravity, Spiritual Weight, and the Gravitational Pull of Sin.....	13
Centre of Gravity and Dominant Inward Source.....	13
Spiritual Weight and the Pull of Embraced Thought.....	13
Internalised Grace and Formed Response.....	13
10. Covenant Consciousness, Faith-Consciousness, and Grace-Consciousness.....	13
Covenant Consciousness.....	13
Faith-Consciousness and Grace-Consciousness.....	14
God-Governed Living.....	14
11. Pentecostal Function, Unction, and the Anointing.....	14
Unction and Anointing.....	14
Discernment of Spirits and Spiritual Sensitivity.....	15
Spiritual Authority and Divine Order.....	15
12. Worship, Brokenness, and the Yielded Vessel.....	15
True Worship and Soulsh Worship.....	15
Brokenness and the Yielded Vessel.....	15
Spiritual Hunger, Inner Stillness, and Overflow.....	16
13. False Spiritual Conditions and Fleshly Energy.....	16
Hardness of Heart and Functional Deception.....	16
Self-Life and the Need for Ongoing Mortification.....	16
14. Conclusion: Toward a Mature Spiritual Vocabulary.....	17
The Purpose of Doctrinal Language.....	17
The Student's Responsibility.....	17

Introduction

This handbook gathers the doctrinal terms developed across the glossary material and re-presents them as a teaching document. Instead of remaining only in short definition form, the language is now placed into a broader theological flow so that the reader may see how each term relates to the others and how the full framework works together in the life of the believer.

This volume is therefore intended to be read slowly and thoughtfully. It does not replace Scripture, but seeks to clarify the specific sense in which certain terms are used throughout the curriculum. Some of these terms are common within Christian theology, while others are used here in a more defined and systematised way. The aim is clarity, unity, and a stronger doctrinal vocabulary for students, teachers, and affiliates.

The handbook begins with the nature of man and proceeds through regeneration, the Divine Nature, grace, faith, mind renewal, inner formation, spiritual discernment, covenant living, and Pentecostal function. Each major section includes carefully worded explanations and selected NKJV Scriptures so that the student is not merely memorising terms, but seeing how the language sits inside the wider counsel of God.

How to Use This Handbook

Each section should be read as a whole. The terms are woven into the prose so that the reader may understand them in relation to one another rather than as isolated entries. This allows the student to move from bare terminology to doctrinal understanding, and from doctrinal understanding to spiritual application.

Because a number of these expressions are technical within this teaching system, the reader should allow the definition given in the handbook to govern the way the term is understood when it appears elsewhere in the course material. In this way, the handbook serves as a reference work, a teaching aid, and a unifying doctrinal guide.

1. The Created Constitution of Man

Human Nature, Spirit, Soul, and Body

Human nature is the created constitution of man as a spirit being, expressed through the soul and manifested through the body. Man is not merely a body with psychological functions, nor merely a mind operating within a material frame. He is a three-part being, consisting of spirit, soul, and body, and proper understanding of this structure is essential if one is to understand sin, salvation, sanctification, and spiritual growth. When the human constitution is viewed only at the level of psychology or behaviour, much confusion arises, because the deepest centre of man is spiritual rather than merely emotional or intellectual.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The spirit is the Godward dimension of man, the deepest seat of inward life and responsiveness. The soul contains the mind, will, and emotions, and functions as the conscious processing realm through which man interprets experience, forms judgments, and makes choices. The body is the visible and physical expression of the person within the natural world. Divine-Human Order exists when God’s life and truth influence the human spirit, the spirit governs the soul, and the soul directs the body in a proper and holy order.

Godward Capacity and Original Design

Godward Capacity refers to the human spirit’s created ability to know God, receive truth from Him, and respond in fellowship and obedience. Man was made with this capacity from the beginning. He was not created as an independent being whose highest potential lay in self-rule. Rather, he was made for fellowship, dependence, and communion. This is why human nature reaches its intended order only under Divine Influence. Man was designed to live from God, not merely before God.

Genesis 1:26 NKJV “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion...’”

True Manhood therefore refers to humanity functioning as originally intended by God, in conformity to His image and in living relationship with Him. Man becomes most truly human not by independence from God, but by restored conformity to God through Christ. Even before the Fall, human nature was never meant to function as a closed system. It was created to receive, respond, and reflect.

2. The Fall, Spiritual Death, and the Darkened Spirit

Spiritual Death and the Unregenerated State

Spiritual Death is separation from the life of God. It does not mean the cessation of existence, but the loss of Divine Life and the collapse of living fellowship with God. In the Fall, man did not

cease to be a spirit-being, but his spirit became darkened and cut off from the Divine Life for which it had been created. The result was the unregenerated state, in which the human spirit remains structurally present but functionally alienated from God.

Ephesians 4:18 NKJV “Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.”

A Darkened Spirit is therefore the human spirit in its fallen, unregenerated condition. It lacks true spiritual light and cannot originate Divine Life, nor provide living spiritual direction. This is why Spiritless Living is the normal state of the unregenerate. Life continues at the level of soul and body, and the conscience may still bear some moral witness, but the deep inward man is not alive to God.

The Sin Nature and Self-Governance

The sin nature refers to the condition of spiritual darkness expressed through thinking and living independently of God. It is not merely a list of sinful actions, but a condition in which human life operates in self-reference and self-governance rather than under Divine rule. Self-Reference is the tendency to interpret life primarily through self rather than through God and His revealed will, while Self-Governance is the practical ordering of life by independent thought, desire, and judgment apart from the ruling influence of God.

Romans 5:12 NKJV “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men...”

In this state, the soul dominates, the flesh exerts pressure, and the inward order of man is dislocated. The battleground of sin is therefore closely tied to the mind and to the accepted patterns of thought which operate apart from the truth and influence of God. Spiritual Darkness is not merely ignorance. It is the condition in which man thinks, desires, or acts apart from the light, truth, and influence of God. Functional Deception develops when a person lives from false assumptions or accepted darkness so that life becomes practically shaped by error.

The Conscience in Fallen Man

The conscience is the inner faculty that bears witness to moral truth. Even in fallen man the conscience remains as a moral witness, though it is limited, shaped, and often distorted by darkness, culture, habit, and repeated resistance to light. The Witness of the Conscience does not create truth. It testifies concerning what is known, received, or violated. This is why unsaved man may still experience moral restraint, shame, guilt, or recognition of wrongdoing, even though he lacks Divine Life within.

Romans 2:15 NKJV “Who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness...”

A Seared Conscience is a conscience that has become dulled and hardened through repeated resistance to moral light. Its witness becomes weaker, not because truth has ceased to be truth, but because the inward faculty has been progressively desensitized. The Residual Image of God explains why fallen humanity still retains traces of rationality, moral awareness, creativity, and

personhood, even while distorted by sin. Yet this residual image is not enough to restore true life. The unregenerated spirit remains separated from God until regeneration occurs.

3. Regeneration and the New Man

The Regenerated Spirit

The regenerated spirit is the human spirit made alive to God through the new birth. Regeneration is not the polishing of the old fallen life, but the impartation of Divine Life into the inner man. This is why the New Man is not self-improvement, but new creation life. In regeneration, the believer is brought from Spiritual Death into Spiritual Life, restored to fellowship with God, and given capacity to receive Divine Truth in a living and transformational way.

John 3:6 NKJV “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

Spiritual Life is being alive to God through regeneration. It enables fellowship with God, responsiveness to His Spirit, and participation in His Divine Nature. The Regenerated Spirit restores the capacity to receive Divine Truth, partake of Divine Life, and walk in living relation to God. It is not merely a change of standing in heaven, though it certainly includes that. It is also a change of inward condition in the deepest part of man.

The Old Man and the New Man

The Old Man refers to the believer’s former identity in Adam, associated with spiritual death, bondage to sin, and separation from God. The New Man is the believer’s regenerated identity in Christ, created in righteousness and true holiness. The Christian is therefore called to live out of the New Man rather than remain psychologically, morally, or practically tethered to the old order.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Positional Truth refers to what is legally and spiritually true of the believer in Christ by virtue of the finished work of Calvary. Experiential Truth refers to the outworking in daily life of what is already true in Christ. The believer may therefore be positionally alive, justified, and united with Christ, while still needing the soul and outer life to come progressively into conformity with that reality. Legal and Experiential Salvation together describe this distinction between what Christ has secured in full and what the believer progressively enters into in practice.

Newness of Life

Newness of Life is the new order of living made possible through union with Christ in His death and resurrection. The believer is not merely forgiven and left to continue under the same inward principles as before. He is called into a new mode of life shaped by the Spirit, by grace, and by the indwelling reality of God.

Romans 6:4 NKJV “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death... even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

This newness is both gift and calling. It must be reckoned upon, yielded to, and lived from. The Christian life is therefore not merely moral restraint, but the expression of a new inward principle at work in the believer's spirit.

4. The Divine Nature, Enmesh, and Functional Union

Participation in the Divine Nature

The Divine Nature refers to the life, character, and moral perfection of God as revealed through His Word and imparted to the believer by the Holy Spirit. Participation in the Divine Nature is the believer's real sharing in the life, grace, and moral quality of God through Christ and by the Holy Spirit. This does not mean that man becomes Divine in essence, but that he truly partakes of what God imparts of His holy life and character.

2 Peter 1:4 NKJV "That through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

Functional Union describes the working relationship between God and the believer in which Divine Life operates within the believer without any blending of essence between Creator and creature. There is true union in operation and fellowship, while full distinction in being remains. This is the doctrinal safeguard required whenever strong language is used regarding participation, sharing, or inward spiritual union.

Enmesh as a Technical Term

In this teaching, the term enmesh describes the functional working of God's Divine Nature within and upon the believer's human spirit by the Holy Spirit. It refers to impartation, influence, alignment, and spiritual participation. It does not imply any blending of being or merging of essence between God and man. Rather, it speaks of a relational and operational union in which the believer partakes of Divine Life while remaining fully human and distinct from God.

This term is retained because it captures the idea of real inward interaction, not merely external help. Yet its meaning must always remain fenced. The Divine Nature enmeshes with the believer in the sense that God's life, grace, truth, and power are brought to bear upon the regenerated human spirit, influencing, forming, empowering, and governing the believer from within. In this way, the word functions as a technical theological term rather than as vague poetic language.

Divine Influence and Divine Life

Divine Influence refers to the active working of God upon and within man by His Spirit, His truth, and His grace. Divine Life is the life of God imparted to the believer through regeneration. These concepts belong together. Divine Life gives the believer living capacity, while Divine Influence describes the ongoing operations of God bringing light, order, conviction, direction, and empowerment into the life of the believer.

John 14:23 NKJV "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

The Life of God is therefore not an abstract idea. It is the active, holy, living reality of God's own being as shared with the believer through spiritual regeneration and continuing fellowship. To receive this life is to be restored to the sphere of true spiritual existence and Divine communion.

5. Grace, Faith, and Proper Demands on the Word of God

Grace as Divine Enablement

Grace is the enabling power of God working within the believer. It provides both the desire and the ability to live according to God's will. Grace-Impartation is the actual communication of this enabling power into the believer's life, and the Energies of Grace refer to grace in active operation, producing holy desire, spiritual strength, and obedient action.

Philippians 2:13 NKJV "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."

Grace must never be reduced to an abstract doctrine of favour alone. In living experience, grace is Divine enablement. It is God working in the believer, not only for acceptance, but for transformation and obedience. Where grace is received, righteousness becomes possible in practice. Where grace is resisted or frustrated by the embrace of darkness, progress is hindered.

Biblical Faith and Spirit-Born Conviction

Biblical Faith is a Spirit-born conviction produced by the Word of God within the human spirit. It is not mere mental agreement or natural optimism. Faith arises when truth is not merely heard but spiritually received and inwardly established. Spirit-Born Conviction is that inward certainty produced by the Holy Spirit through truth received into the human spirit, and it forms the substance of Biblical Faith.

Romans 10:17 NKJV "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

When Divine Truth becomes inwardly established, faith is no longer a borrowed idea or emotional reaction. It becomes a formed inward persuasion. This is why faith is deeply connected to the state of the inner man. The stronger the inward formation by truth, the more stable and substantial faith becomes.

Proper Demands on the Word of God

Proper Demands on the Word of God refers to the believer's faith-filled appropriation of what God has promised, on the basis of covenant truth and the finished work of Christ. This language does not speak of arrogance against God, but of lawful, humble, faith-governed appropriation. The believer does not invent claims. He lays hold of what God has already declared and provided.

Hebrews 11:1 NKJV "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Covenant Consciousness, Faith-Consciousness, and Grace-Consciousness all converge here. The believer becomes aware of his standing in Christ, aware of the faithfulness of God's promises, and aware of his dependence upon Divine enablement. From this place, he approaches prayer, obedience, and daily life with holy confidence rather than fearful uncertainty.

6. The Soul, Mind Renewal, and the Salvation of the Soul

The Soul and the Need for Renewal

The soul contains the mind, will, and emotions. Although the believer is regenerated in spirit, the soul requires ongoing renewal if the outer life is to become ordered by truth. Mind Renewal is the process of bringing one's thinking into alignment with God's truth, and the Salvation of the Soul is the progressive renewal, healing, and sanctifying of the mind, will, and emotions by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:2 NKJV “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

The renewed mind becomes the servant of the renewed spirit rather than the carrier of independent darkness. Where the mind is not renewed, old patterns, distortions, emotional impulses, and false assumptions continue to exert power. Thus a believer may truly belong to God, yet continue to think in ways that are inconsistent with his new life in Christ.

Soul-Level Christianity and Spirit-Led Christianity

Soul-Level Christianity refers to a way of living the Christian life primarily from mind, emotion, preference, or natural effort rather than from the regenerated spirit under the influence of the Holy Spirit. It may appear sincere and active, yet remain shallow or unstable because it lacks sufficient inward formation. Spirit-Led Christianity, by contrast, is life lived from the regenerated spirit as it responds to the Holy Spirit, receives Divine Truth, and governs the soul and body accordingly.

Galatians 5:16 NKJV “Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

The difference between the two is not outward busyness alone, but inward source. One lives mainly from the visible and emotional level of life; the other lives from the deeper inward man where truth and grace are at work. For this reason, the Christian life must never be reduced to mental assent, emotional sincerity, or personal discipline alone. These may have a place, but they do not replace Spirit-led living.

Inner Governance and Spiritual Regulation

Inner Governance is the practical rule of the believer's inward life by truth, conscience, spiritual perception, and the Holy Spirit. Spiritual Regulation refers to the ordering, restraining, and directing effect that God's truth and grace bring to the believer's inner and outer life. When Inner Governance is sound, the outer life becomes increasingly ordered. When it is weak, confusion, inconsistency, and impulsive living follow.

Mind Renewal, therefore, is not an optional academic exercise. It is a central part of sanctification. As the mind comes into agreement with the life and truth already present in the regenerated spirit, the whole person begins to move toward congruence. Thought, affection, and conduct increasingly harmonise with God's revealed will.

7. Educating the Spirit and Digested Divine Truth

Educating the Spirit

Educating the Spirit refers to the process by which Divine Truth is not merely understood mentally, but received inwardly so that the human spirit becomes formed, strengthened, and responsive in relation to God. The expression does not deny the role of the mind, but it insists that true spiritual formation requires more than information gathering. Knowledge must pass beyond the surface level of mental retention and become inwardly digested truth.

Hebrews 4:12 NKJV “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit...”

An Educated Spirit is therefore not simply a spirit attached to a well-read mind. It is a regenerated human spirit that has been formed and strengthened by inwardly received truth. Such a spirit becomes responsive, stable, and aligned with God. An Uneducated Spirit, by contrast, is a spirit that, though regenerated, has not yet been sufficiently formed by Divine Truth and therefore lacks strength, clarity, and maturity.

Digested Divine Truth and Truth-Assimilation

Digested Divine Truth is truth that has moved beyond external hearing or mental agreement and has become inwardly received, spiritually established, and life-giving within the believer. Truth-Assimilation is the process by which Divine Truth is absorbed and incorporated into the believer’s thinking, spirit, and practical life. Only truth that is spiritually digested has power to form conviction, strengthen the inner man, and give the spirit a clear voice in harmony with God.

John 6:63 NKJV “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”

Historical Truth may be known as fact, record, or doctrine without yet being inwardly possessed. Relational Truth, however, is truth personally received, inwardly embraced, and held in living fellowship with God. The goal of all sound teaching is therefore not merely historical retention, but relational assimilation.

Spirit-Formed Understanding and Spiritual Substance

Spirit-Formed Understanding is understanding that has moved beyond intellectual comprehension and become inwardly established as spiritual reality. Spiritual Substance is the inward solidity and weight produced within the believer through spiritually received truth and grace. This is why certain believers carry depth, steadiness, and moral weight in spiritual matters, while others remain easily shaken, reactive, or shallow despite exposure to the same doctrines.

Formed Conviction arises over time through repeated exposure to truth, inward reception, testing, and spiritual confirmation. The result is an inward solidity that gives endurance to obedience and depth to faith. The Christian life therefore requires more than attendance, more than enthusiasm, and more than religious language. It requires inward formation.

8. The Voice of the Spirit, the Witness of the Conscience, and Discernment

The Voice of the Spirit

The Voice of the Spirit refers to the inward expression that arises from the human spirit as it responds to God. It is formed through digested Divine Truth and alignment with the Holy Spirit. It is not mere intuition, nor independent authority apart from Scripture, but the inward witness, prompting, or perception that comes from the regenerated spirit as it has been educated and made responsive under God.

Where truth remains merely intellectual, the inward voice lacks clarity and authority. But where truth has been inwardly digested, the spirit becomes witness-bearing. A Witness-Bearing Spirit is a regenerated spirit capable of inwardly testifying, perceiving, and responding in agreement with Divine Truth.

The Witness of the Conscience and Moral Discernment

The Witness of the Conscience is the testimony borne within a person concerning moral rightness, wrongness, approval, or violation. Moral Discernment is the ability to perceive the ethical and moral quality of thoughts, desires, actions, and influences in light of God's character and truth. The conscience bears witness to what is known, while discernment increasingly evaluates in the light of truth and spiritual maturity.

Romans 9:1 NKJV "I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit."

In the believer, the conscience is meant to increasingly bear witness in harmony with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Where the mind is renewed and the spirit is educated, the conscience functions with greater sensitivity and clarity. Where darkness is embraced, its witness may become obscured or resisted.

Soul-Spirit Confusion and Spiritual Discernment

Soul-Spirit Confusion is the inability to distinguish between what arises from the human soul and what arises from the human spirit under God. Spiritual Discernment is the Spirit-enabled ability to distinguish between truth and error, light and darkness, the spiritual and the soulish, and the things that differ in moral and doctrinal quality.

1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God... nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

This area is especially important in ministry, guidance, and personal decision-making. A believer may mistake emotional pressure, personal preference, fear, or psychological reaction for spiritual leading if soul and spirit are not rightly distinguished. Hence the continuing need for Scripture, inward stillness before God, and disciplined responsiveness to the Holy Spirit.

9. Centre of Gravity, Spiritual Weight, and the Gravitational Pull of Sin

Centre of Gravity and Dominant Inward Source

Centre of Gravity refers to the dominant inward realm from which a person lives, thinks, and responds. If the centre of gravity is located in the regenerated spirit under Divine influence, the person will tend toward light, truth, and obedience. If it is located in the unrenewed soul or flesh, the person will tend toward self-rule, instability, and recurring darkness.

This concept helps explain why two believers may face similar outward conditions yet respond very differently. The difference often lies in the inward centre from which they are living. One lives from the spirit under truth. The other lives largely from emotion, preference, woundedness, or habit.

Spiritual Weight and the Pull of Embraced Thought

Spiritual Weight refers to the inward force or influence that embraced thoughts, affections, and spiritual conditions exert upon a person's life and responses. Truth embraced carries weight toward righteousness, while darkness embraced carries weight toward sin. The Gravitational Pull of Sin refers to the inward tendency toward sinful thoughts and actions that develops when darkness is accepted and meditated upon.

Repeated meditation upon wrong thinking gives that area increasing force in the life. By contrast, repeated meditation upon Divine Truth increases inward alignment toward righteousness. This explains why inward habits of thought matter so profoundly. The battle is not only over outward acts, but over the settled inward atmosphere and weight of accepted thought.

Internalised Grace and Formed Response

Internalised Grace is grace that has moved beyond doctrine and become an active inward principle of spiritual strength, desire, and response. In a similar way that darkness can create inward gravitational pull toward sin, grace and truth can create formed response toward righteousness. Thus the believer is not called merely to resist evil externally, but to build an inward life shaped by truth, grace, and the active operations of God.

The aim is not strain without substance, but inward formation that makes obedience increasingly congruent with the believer's true identity in Christ.

10. Covenant Consciousness, Faith-Consciousness, and Grace-Consciousness

Covenant Consciousness

Covenant Consciousness is the believer's inward awareness of standing in Christ under the promises, rights, responsibilities, and provisions of the New Covenant. It shapes the way the believer approaches God, reads Scripture, and interprets his position before the throne of grace. A covenant-aware believer does not approach God as though still outside the finished work of

Christ. He comes as one who has been brought near by blood, reconciled, justified, and given access.

Hebrews 4:16 NKJV “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Such awareness does not create presumption. Rather, it gives proper confidence grounded in God’s own covenant faithfulness. It protects the believer from both servile fear and self-reliant independence.

Faith-Consciousness and Grace-Consciousness

Faith-Consciousness is the inward state of living with awareness of God’s truth, promises, and present help rather than living governed by fear, natural appearance, or self-limitation. Grace-Consciousness is awareness of dependence upon God’s enabling power rather than self-effort. Together, these guard the believer from despair on one side and fleshly striving on the other.

A believer may know doctrinally that God is gracious and that faith is required, yet still live with practical consciousness shaped mainly by lack, fear, performance, or the testimony of circumstances. The goal of sound teaching is to re-shape inward consciousness so that the believer thinks and responds from covenant truth, living faith, and grace-dependence.

God-Governed Living

God-Governed Living is life ordered under God’s truth, Spirit, and authority. It is the intended expression of the Christian life. Here Responsive Yieldedness becomes crucial. Responsive Yieldedness is the active, willing posture of the believer who responds to Divine prompting, truth, and conviction with surrender and obedience. Inner Agreement is the inward consent of the believer’s spirit and will with the truth, will, and direction of God. Where there is such agreement, grace flows more freely into action and life becomes increasingly ordered under God.

11. Pentecostal Function, Unction, and the Anointing

Unction and Anointing

Unction refers to the tangible anointing or presence of the Holy Spirit upon or within a believer. The Anointing is the Divine enabling of the Holy Spirit upon a person for a specific purpose or function. These expressions should not be reduced to emotion, excitement, or religious atmosphere. Unction is not identical with intensity, and the anointing is not identical with personality. Both refer to real Divine operation that transcends natural ability while remaining morally and doctrinally accountable to Scripture.

1 John 2:20 NKJV “But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.”

In Pentecostal life and ministry, these realities matter deeply. Yet they must be held with sobriety. False Unction describes a perceived spiritual intensity not actually originating from God. It may arise from emotion, imitation, pressure, performance, or personality. Therefore the believer must learn to distinguish between what is truly of the Spirit and what merely appears impressive.

Discernment of Spirits and Spiritual Sensitivity

Discernment of Spirits is the Spirit-given ability to perceive the source behind spiritual activity, distinguishing between Divine, human, and demonic influence. Spiritual Sensitivity is the inward capacity to perceive and respond to the Holy Spirit. It develops through obedience, inward purity, humility, and continual exposure to truth.

Where spiritual sensitivity is shallow, a believer may confuse atmosphere with anointing, charisma with authority, or intensity with truth. Where sensitivity is matured by truth and the inward man is educated, spiritual perception becomes clearer. Such discernment is indispensable in ministry, worship, prayer, and pastoral care.

Spiritual Authority and Divine Order

Spiritual Authority is the right and capacity given by God to act in alignment with His will. It flows from relationship with God, not position alone. Divine Order is the arrangement of life and ministry according to God's design, producing harmony, clarity, and spiritual effectiveness.

True authority never operates independently of truth, character, humility, and submission to God. Nor does genuine Pentecostal freedom discard Divine Order. Rather, the Spirit of God brings both liberty and order, power and purity, spontaneity and submission. These belong together, not in opposition.

12. Worship, Brokenness, and the Yielded Vessel

True Worship and Soulsh Worship

True Worship is worship that proceeds from the spirit in truth and alignment with God. It is not merely music, atmosphere, or emotion, though emotion may certainly be involved. Soulsh Worship, by contrast, is worship driven primarily by feeling, atmosphere, or personal response at the level of the soul. It may appear moving, but if not rooted in truth and the inward work of the Spirit it lacks depth and endurance.

John 4:24 NKJV "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The distinction is not meant to suppress feeling, but to rightly order it. In true worship, the spirit leads and the soul responds. In soulsh worship, the soul often leads and mistakes emotional stimulation for spiritual reality. Therefore worship must remain governed by truth, humility, and the real inward action of the Holy Spirit.

Brokenness and the Yielded Vessel

Brokenness is the condition of a heart humbled and yielded before God. It is not despair, passivity, or psychological collapse. Rather, it is the end of self-sufficiency and the willing surrender of life to Divine rule. A Yielded Vessel is a person who has surrendered to the will and working of God, and as such becomes usable for Divine purposes.

Brokenness is deeply connected to grace because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. The believer who remains unbroken may possess gifts, energy, and even outward

activity, yet remain difficult for God to deeply govern. The broken believer becomes more transparent to truth, quicker to repent, more teachable, and more fit for holy use.

Spiritual Hunger, Inner Stillness, and Overflow

Spiritual Hunger is a deep inward desire for God and His truth. Inner Stillness is a state of inward quietness before God that allows clearer perception of His voice and leading. Spiritual Overflow is the outward expression of inward spiritual fullness. These realities together describe a healthy interior life. Hunger keeps the believer seeking. Stillness keeps him listening. Overflow describes what happens when the inner life becomes full enough that what God has worked inwardly begins to move outward in life, worship, ministry, and witness.

13. False Spiritual Conditions and Fleshly Energy

Fleshly Energy and Carnal Rule

Fleshly Energy is human effort operating without dependence on God. Carnal Rule is the state in which flesh, unrenewed thought, and natural desire exercise governing influence over the believer's practical life. These two often work together. A believer may sincerely attempt to do good, minister, or maintain outward order, yet do so mainly from self-generated strength. The result may be visible activity without true spiritual substance.

Galatians 3:3 NKJV "Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?"

Where Fleshly Energy rules, strain often replaces grace, and performance begins to take the place of inward formation. This is one of the great dangers in ministry and discipleship. External movement may continue while inward dependence declines.

Hardness of Heart and Functional Deception

Hardness of Heart is a condition in which a person becomes resistant to truth and conviction through repeated rejection of light. Functional Deception, as noted earlier, is a state in which a person operates under false assumptions or accepted darkness so that life becomes practically shaped by error. These conditions often develop gradually. A believer may not consciously choose rebellion in one moment, yet by repeated small resistances to truth, light becomes dimmer and self-justification stronger.

Softness before God, therefore, is not sentimental weakness. It is spiritual health. The heart that remains sensitive to conviction, quick to repent, and ready to yield is one that remains governable by grace. The hardened heart may still speak in religious language, yet become increasingly immune to the very truth it professes.

Self-Life and the Need for Ongoing Mortification

Self-Life is life governed by self-interest, self-rule, and independent human desire rather than submission to God. It is one of the central expressions of the fallen condition and remains a continual threat to the believer's practical walk if not crucified and denied in light of the Cross.

The answer to Self-Life is not self-hatred, but cross-centred surrender. The believer must continually reckon upon the finished work of Christ and refuse the false centrality of self.

14. Conclusion: Toward a Mature Spiritual Vocabulary

The Purpose of Doctrinal Language

A mature spiritual vocabulary does more than multiply words. It helps the believer think clearly, distinguish carefully, interpret experience rightly, and walk more consistently before God. Terms such as Divine Nature, enmesh, Spirit-Born Conviction, Educating the Spirit, Soul-Level Christianity, Covenant Consciousness, or Responsive Yieldedness are only useful if they help the believer more faithfully understand Scripture and more carefully submit to the Holy Spirit.

The goal is therefore not novelty, but clarity. The language must serve truth, not replace it. Where these expressions help articulate the workings of God in man, they should be retained and used with precision. Where they are used carelessly, without definition or Scriptural grounding, confusion follows.

The Student's Responsibility

The student should read these terms prayerfully, compare them with Scripture, and seek to understand not merely the wording but the realities to which they point. Terms learned only as labels remain weak. Terms understood as part of a living theological framework can become strong aids to discernment, faith, worship, and holy living.

2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

The hope of this handbook is that it will help produce believers who are not only informed, but inwardly ordered; not only doctrinally aware, but spiritually mature; not only acquainted with theological language, but able to live from the truths that language is seeking to protect and express.