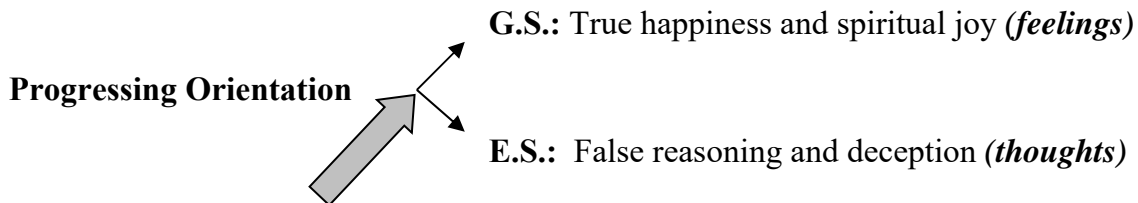


GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DEEPER DISCERNMENT

Spiritually Progressing Persons: (from Good to Better)

For those who are growing into a deeper intimacy in their relationship with the Lord, they are living more deeply in God's grace and their experiences are usually those of consolation.

However, they need to discern the different experiences of consolation and their sources because consolation can come from both the good spirit and evil spirit. The evil spirit gives us consolation with the intention to deceive and draw us from God, whereas the good spirit consoles to lead us toward authentic growth.



Angel of Darkness:

For those who are further along the way, the method that *angel of darkness* (E.S.) will use is one of *deception*, disguising itself as the angel of light in order to deceive and mislead the soul. The enemy bombards the individuals with false reasoning, subtleties, deception (head) because it knows that it cannot easily tempt them in their felt experience of God.

Angel of Light:

The *angel of light* (G.S.) on the other hand draws the individuals deeper into the experience of true happiness and spiritual joy (back to the felt-experience of God's grace within the heart).

A Metaphor: "A Drop of Water"

Another way to understand the dynamics of spirits in a spiritually maturing person is that the actions of the *evil spirit* is often noisy, violent and disturbing, like "*a drop of water on a rock*," which is *splattered* everywhere.

The actions of the *good spirit* are often delicate, gentle and delightful, like a "*drop of water on sponge*," which is readily *absorbed* by the soul.

Dealing with False Consolation:

Examine the whole course of progression from beginning, middle and end to discover the root cause of the deception (*the serpent's tail*)

Deception in the *afterglow* (*running ahead of grace*)