

A Summary of Triune Thinking Principles

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An Essential Definition

Triune Thinking is the triangulation process ... a way of determining our position just as navigators can use stars to determine their position ... by which we bring into a merged balance ourselves (the you), our circumstances (the issue) and our reality comprehension of “what is” (the truth) to generate Christ Nuclear Thoughts ... the position we are seeking in the triangulation process ... that will fill our mind with the Mind of Christ. (It is the first of four experiential realities that will reveal to the spiritually hungry the compelling mystery of the Godhead’s eternal purposes!¹ (Col. 1:24-29)

While we may seek and struggle with comprehension, we find little confusion in determining the “star” point of self (you) and circumstance (issue). Truth is a little harder to grasp since we must continually distinguish between Truth and truth. Little truth explains how a doctor removed my gall bladder. Big Truth is how the Great Physician gives us the Mind and Heart of Heaven!

When we learn to Triune Think we will find it produces Jesus Empowered Action out of the Christ Nuclear Thought that will express the Godhead’s likeness in our lives in both our secular and sacred pursuits. It is ours both to pleasure the Father and to bring the fragrance of “grace and truth” to the world. When people can see the Mind of Christ in action through us, the Lord is glorified, the Gospel is declared and Disciples are fulfilled by their treasuring and revealing of Messiah Jesus!

Triune Thinking is the first essential strategy out of which all other battles of the Christian Life must be waged. It is the “one thing most necessary” that the Lord Jesus refers to it in Luke 10:38-42, “one thing I do” Paul says in Philippians 3:13 and “One thing I ask” as David speaks in Psalm 27:4. Triune Thinking is the primary spiritual weapon by which we begin to wage war against this rebellious, corrupt and deceiving world. Triune Thinking will increasingly release a vivid picture of divine power to our mind. It is an insight given to us by the Savior, enabling us to tear down, destroy and demolish those powerful but warped and flawed demonic philosophies of error, emptiness and evil. “The reason the Son of God appeared was to break up, disintegrate and destroy the Devil’s work.” (I John 3:8b) Triune Thinking is our “mental tool” and “intelligence sword” to see and cut through the shallow arguments and arrogant assumptions of all those who reject and/or mock the knowledge of the true God. Triune Thinking is our necessary and imperative game plan for capturing and incarcerating every thought that comes into our mind until it is submissive to Christ and compliant with His will! (II Cor. 10:3-5; I Cor. 2:12-16)

Triune Thinking is a continuous positive habit by which I can hungrily seek the thoughts of God (the Truth), significantly solve the circumstances of living (the issues) and sense the creation secret of who I really am (the you)! “Putting” these three realities together as our Creator-Redeemer-Perfector Lord intends is to focus our life sourced in the Mind of Christ. To unite your mind with His is to experience your earth existence as an “Overcoming Adventure”! In essence, Triune Thinking is the first non-negotiable, critical step you must take if the Savior’s cross is to be taken up and then transform you into “a little Jesus.” A Disciple can never truly aspire to being like Christ Jesus on earth without Triune Thinking dominating his or her thoughts that flood the mind! Even though we can never live His perfection, we can be “more perfect” than we are with His indwelling Presence. Even though I am not near what I ought to be, I know I am more than I used to be!

Thinking with the Mind of Christ

To become an overcoming Cross Disciple at each level of our human development ... child, adult, veteran ... we must learn to seek, develop and activate a precise and accurate understanding of the principles of Triune Thinking. This is absolutely necessary if we are to fully apply the brilliance and insight of the Mind

of Christ to our total experience of living. While we grow in depth of commitment, comprehension and capacity as we mature in Christ, we can “early on,” right from the start of our life, employ the overcoming power of Triune Thinking. The process works for us as children, then adults and, finally, veterans. (I John 2:12-17) While each of our stages of development will “look” different, we still use the same principles that enable us to grow into the likeness of our Master, Messiah Jesus. If you are a child, you must act and achieve as a child ... a child learns arithmetic. If you are an adult, you should achieve like an adult ... an adult uses mathematics. If you are a veteran, you can achieve like a veteran ... a veteran applies the higher complexities of trigonometry and calculus.

This same progression holds true of the Cross Disciple who increases the skill of Triune Thinking to engage the Mind of Christ. The child (A-B-C-Life) discovers and enjoys holding blocks. The adult (M-N-O-P-Life) delights in using the blocks to build something. The Father (X-Y-Z-Life) appreciates the quality and complexity of the blocks’ placement in the building. Each does so by grasping more and more of what it means to be and become a skilled Triune Thinker about the “blocks of life.” The true “cross growth” Disciple progresses from having little thoughts about God, to having big thoughts about God and, finally, having God thoughts about God!

Let us examine several progressive principles underlying our understanding ... and growing application ... of Triune Thinking. They are 1) that creation itself is the basis for Triune Thinking; 2) we can mentally construct, as a constant habit, Thought Triangles; 3) the challenge is coalescing your Triune Thinking into a Christ Nuclear Thought for “Jesus action;” 4) Christ Thoughts enable you to mentally construct a Pyramid of Vision and become a Pinnacle Thinker; 5) your daily living should continuously deepen and reflect a Christ centered triune balance in all of your decisions; 6) your Christ Thinking presence among people will become a fragrance of Jesus; 7) and finally, your life overflows as you sense you are in this world just as Jesus wants you to be in this world! You discover the exaltation and humility of being like Jesus, and His pleasure and purpose flood your life with an overcoming triumph that comes only from the Father! (John 17:18, 20:21)

The Creation Basis for Triune Thinking

One of the most important facts to be grasped about reality is that the Godhead has created a world based on and reflecting His nature of tri-unity. The very first human beings were given a triune mission in order to experience a triune relationship with themselves (the you), with their setting in the garden (the issue) and with their God (the Truth). “And God (the Truth) took the man and put him (the you) in the Garden of Eden (Hebrew– Delight) to labor in it and keep it beautiful (the issue).” (Gen. 3:15) They were intended to live, to grow and create in the likeness of their Creator. Their purpose was to complete His creation because they existed in the Image of their Creator. Jesus was the perfect Image, and the more we are like Him the more we complete the Father’s creation in us! When we lead others into their “new creation” experience of knowing Christ we beautify His garden and complete its purpose.

Adam and Eve were created innocent, the most extreme condition of human life at its best! They were to do their work in the garden and fulfill the ultimate relationships between themselves and their Lord and His creation purposes. They possessed the exalted privilege of His Presence as He enjoyed the beauty of the Garden and walked with both of them in the cool of the day! How many months or years that ultimate ecstasy continued none of us know! Yet we see the recreated wonder of it in the words of our Lord Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount. “Oh, the blessed happiness (His issue ... your issue) the pure and innocent in heart (His people ... the you) for they are the ones who will see God’s splendor (His Truth).” (Matt. 5:8, HDM, Greek)

The same design is true of humankind today. We live in a triune world; we must work out the triune problems of existence; we must grow in the Triune Image we were created to bear. In short we are to be transformed into the likeness of Christ by putting on His Mind and living out His Messiah Mission as He has assigned it to each of us. The greatest and most fulfilling life any human being can ever live ... and only true Cross Disciples can see and pursue it ... is to be as much like Jesus as is maximally possible. The Lord Jesus was and is a Triune Thinker, and we can never hope to walk in the ecstasy of His steps until we, too, are

Triune Thinkers. This challenge is summarized in Philippians 2:12b-13, "... continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."

There are hundreds of Triune Thinking illustrations in Scripture, but there is one that seems to leap out at me as much as any. They are the words of our Dear Savior Himself in John 14:9.

³/₄ If anyone—the yous of His creation, and what each you has decided about reality!

³/₄ Has seen Me—the issue of our creation is what people (triunally) think of Jesus!

³/₄ They have seen the Father—the truth of creation's purpose and destiny!

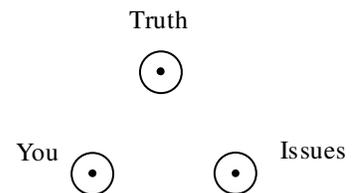
That great father of the church, St. Ambrose (c. 337/340–397), said it best. "Let them therefore cease to think little of the Son of God according to His Godhead, lest they should think little also of the Father. For he who believes wrongly of the Son cannot think rightly of the Father; (and) he who thinks wrongly of the Spirit cannot think rightly of the Son. ... For that can never have completeness which you can separate and divide into various portions."² The Lord Jesus is saying that if you have seen Me you have seen all that the Father can put into a human form that can identify with you and lead you! Consider these words from "What Think Ye of Christ?" a hymn by John Newton, the author of "Amazing Grace":

What think you of Christ? is the test,
 To try both your state and your scheme:
 You cannot be right in the rest
 Unless you think rightly of him.

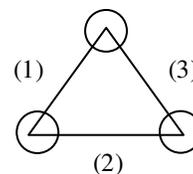
Constructing Your Thought Triangles

One of the most basic "tools" used in constructing your Thought Triangle is introspection. This comes easily to some people, but it needs to be cultivated in others. Not only is this the key to "knowing one's self," it is the first step toward wisdom (contemplating and applying truth) which leads to a deepening knowledge of Godhead (experiencing Truth). To keep introspective thought from drifting into self-centeredness requires maintaining a balance between speculation and fact, between thinking and doing, and most importantly, an understanding of the relationship between you and the Savior! When properly applied, this "tool" will allow you to begin the process of developing the Mind of Christ in earnest.

The first response we should make to every issue is to discern what Jesus thinks of it (Truth), and then how we (you) are to react in a manner that pleases Him. Finally, we can engage in determining what should be our goal for the issue. (These processes are not always sequential and can go on simultaneously or in a different order as dictated by the current situation, but all must take place.) At the end of the process we have a focal point of You, one for the Issues and a final point for the Truth (and truth).



The next step is to connect these focal points. Once we have analyzed the problem, assimilated truth and aspired to know ourselves (issue contemplation, godly introspection, personhood self-reflection), we can calculate a line to join the focal points, what we will call a "Triune Spiritual Secant."³ That is we "draw a connecting line" (Secant) that will establish our Thought Triangle and the relationship of each focal point to the others. We can then calculate the ratio or balance and measure the connections between 1) you and the truth, 2) of you with the issue and 3) the truth on the issue. Our aim is to create an equilateral Thought Triangle, with all our lines connecting our focal point of equal length so each focus point is in perfect balance and relationship to the others.



In the Beginning

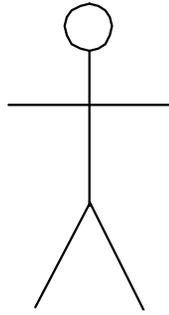
The TRUTH

“God took and put”



The YOU

“The man in the Garden”



The ISSUE

“To work it and take care of it.” (Gen. 2:15)

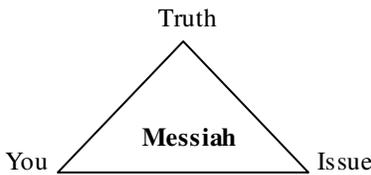


“Our Power from Christ”

“Let Us make mankind in our Image ... to be like Us.”
 (Gen. 1:26)

“I will walk with them in the Garden of Delight (Eden) in the cool of the day.”
 (Gen. 3:8-9)

“Our Position in Christ”



God the Truth sent you the man to labor with the Garden issues according to His will and pleasure with Messiah as the controlling center.
 (Col. 2:9, 19)

“Our Purpose for Christ”

A-Life—to be Children
 O-Life—to be Adults
 Z-Life—to be Veterans
 There are three “Perception Levels of Following Christ” as we walk in our given gardens on earth and grow into His Image.
 (I John 2:14-16)

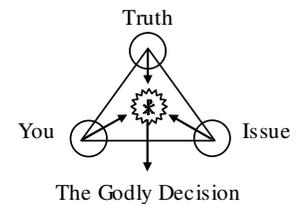
The relationship (1) between you and Truth should always be primary if you are to relate positively to your life issues (2). Only then can you come close to comprehending God's purposes with His creation issues that are being recreated by Him to achieve His will! (3) The more you master all three connections, the more you will find Christ as the controlling center of your life.

To pursue and perfect this building of relationships between the three realities of our Thought Triangle is the primary task of Christ Life Thinking. Is this not the exhortation of Scripture? "... we should accomplish and complete holiness in the fear and reverence of God!" (II Cor. 7:1) For the Truth's sake you should be holy in the issues of life! Our discoveries in this area can't help but lead us to our ultimate ecstasy ... "Loving the Lord God with all of our mind and heart." (Matt. 22:37-40)

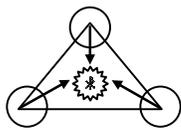
We pursue this greatest commandment by learning the skills of analysis and spiritual discernment. (What is the real love issue?) We learn assimilation and cross recognition. (What truth is the Lord seeking to reveal and achieve?) In the Disciple's heart there is an aspiring and hungering to know oneself (How full of truth am I?). We have been learning these three skill sets since infancy, and were created by the Godhead to continue purposefully improving them with each passing year. The more we practice understanding the issues of our circumstances (analysis), applying the truths of Scripture (assimilation) and honestly/radically knowing ourselves (aspiring), the more precise we become in relating to the Godhead's creation purposes and processes. We learn to find our three "vertices of reality" ... those "meeting points or reality" forming the angels of our triangle ... and draw power lines between them with increasing accuracy, ease and satisfaction! We learn what it is to live with the Mind of Christ!

Coalescing the Christ Nuclear Thought for Action

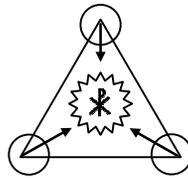
Once we have our Thought Triangle established and focused we are ready to "find the center" by connecting our lines of meaning (triangulating) from each vertex to the center. The point where all three lines meet and the expands to give us our Christ Nuclear Thought. This is what I call Triune Thinking. It centers our reality in the Thoughts and Truth of Christ! The result is a "Godly Decision."



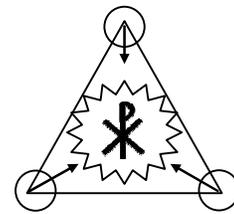
No matter how immature or mature we may be, we must all follow the same basic steps in creating a Thought Triangle (□) and generating a smaller or larger Christ Thought Nucleus (△). In this discipline alone can we find the fullness possible from "the Mind of Christ" about our circumstances and/or situations. Our level of maturity, however, does make a difference in the dynamics of this process. The immature child can only start with a small Thought Triangle and Christ Nucleus Thought. The maturing adult's processes grow larger and more comprehensive. Finally, the mature veteran explodes with fresher and deeper Christ Mindedness as his or her skill, Scriptural knowledge and yieldedness reach "critical spiritual mass."



**The Child's
Beginning Cautions**

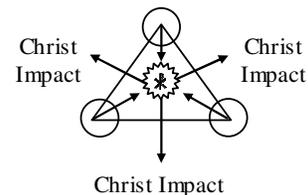


**The Adult's
Growing Confidence**



**The Veteran's
Explosive Certainties**

Once a Disciple has formed a Thought Triangle and then created a Christ Nuclear Thought, from any point in that Thought one can draw tangents out to touch people and the culture. This will make our Christ Nuclear Thoughts vital, significant, real and contagious for ourselves, others and the Godhead. Their potency and impact will depend on our



own “cross maturity” and/or the sovereignty of the Lord!

Becoming a Pinnacle Thinker

The goal of Triune Thinking is to be a Disciple of Pinnacle (Pyramid) Perception ... a person who constructs exacting Thought Triangles with powerful Christ Nuclear Thoughts on all issues. Whereas “three” is the number of God’s revelation, I see “four” as the number of man’s application.⁴ There always seems to be four options or four sides to every response or decision.

The sacred and secular experiences of life are full of them. Hence, the square □ symbolizes our choices, but each side must be triangulated. Doing so creates a pyramid with a pinnacle. Hence my contention for “Pinnacle Pyramid Perception.” With every particular problem the Disciple uses Triune Thinking to “climb” to the top of his or her mentally created Perception Pyramid. When we “raise” the sides of our pyramid on its square foundation we create the most complete understanding or big picture of the world around us. This may be better grasped from a common example. Consider the political climate of our country: there are those who are conservative; others are liberal; some are radical, and many are passive. Each of these positions have positive and negative potentials.

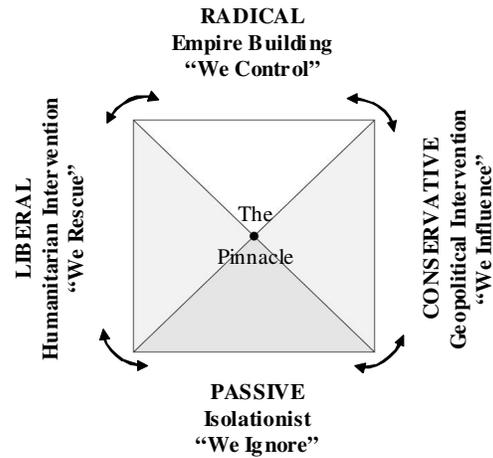
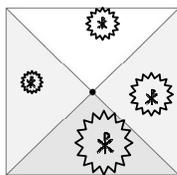
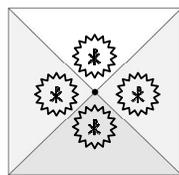


Figure 1

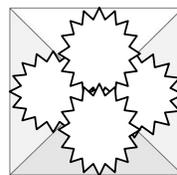
When a pyramid is constructed, it looks like Figure 1 (next page). To reach and speak from the Pinnacle demands the fullest comprehension of the four alternatives or options possible! As we work to create Christ Nuclear Thoughts within each of the four Triangles representing different philosophical positions, it comes to resemble Figure 2. Notice that the Christ Nuclear Thoughts on the faces of the pyramid are scattered and uneven in size. This indicates the stages of partialness, ignorance and imbalance inherent in every person’s thinking. Developing a full understanding of the Mind of Christ is no easy thing. Each of the fourfold issues with their various circumstances and complexities on each side of the pyramid must be comprehended as fully as possible. A Pinnacle Thinker is a Cross Disciple who works to expand his Christ Nuclear Thought in each triangle. It is only then you can move toward the “top” of the pyramid where the best “view” or awareness of the “God Picture” is available. (Figure 3) As one goes higher on the pyramid, one’s circles begin to touch and overlap until the Disciple’s Christ Nuclear Thoughts come together and join at the pinnacle. (Figure 4) Finally, from the Pinnacle Perspective, the Disciple views the world with Christ’s Eyes, Mind and Heart and is able to respond as the Master would to everyone and everything in his or her world. (Figure 5)



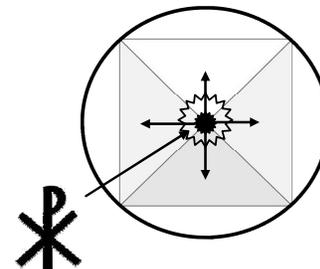
Immature Thought Creation (Child) Figure 2



Balanced Thought Creation (Warrior) Figure 3



Advanced Thought Creation (Veteran) Figure 4



Christ Thought Response (Being Jesus) Figure 5

This is the ultimate earth goal of every true, born again Believer in Messiah Jesus. We fully please the Father by being at our “Pinnacle,” whether the rest of mankind is there or not! In living out this position, we will eventually hear His “well done, good and faithful servant.” (Matt. 25:21 & 23) This is exactly what our Lord did, and it was more than enough to bring the Father full glory. The world crucified the Savior, but the Father exalted Him. This is also the high destiny for every cross Disciple. It is our honor, inheritance and legacy to become a maximum Pinnacle Thinker, and to leave it at that. If we are crucified for it, so be it. We know exaltation will come in the Father's timing! This is how Messiah Jesus lived. He finished His part in the eternal task, and left the rest to our Sovereign Godhead. The world was still the same after His death, resurrection and ascension, but He had done all that the Father had wanted Him to do. The seed of eternal revelation, redemption and reconciliation had been planted.

We, too, if we are truly “in Christ,” have been chosen and called to follow in His steps. We, too, are most fulfilled and joyous, when, at whatever price or costly sacrifice, we plant and wait! The Savior purposed, prepared and planted “grace and truth” while He walked the earth. And the Father said of Him, “This is My beloved Son in Whom I Am well pleased.” (Matt. 3:17) Let us find as much of the Mind of the Savior as quickly as we can, and for His significance live out our life journey. What greater hope may we possess but to also hear the Father say to each of us, “This, too, is My beloved Little Servant, in whom I Am well pleased.”

END NOTES

¹ I write these lines as I celebrate my 62nd birthday in Christ and my 79 human year on earth. For 39 years the Lord used me as a pastor to grow a church from around 100 in attendance on Sunday to about 2,100. I learned much about the essence of what true Christ Discipleship should be. This is the 8th year of my retirement and leading my small organization. My major project, above all others, has been to master and study the mystery and magnificence of the Christ Life. These 8 years have been wonderful in revealing how little I understood and how exhaustive and fulfilling was my search—I can “almost” say with Mary Magdalene on that first Easter Sunday, “I have seen the Lord!”

Whatever time I have left in this life I have dedicated to writing, teaching and sharing with everyone possible what I have discovered. In essence, I see that there are four concepts necessary to grasp if a Disciple is to live with Godhead vision and victory. Each will demand a book to spell out the basic excellencies of the Father’s intentions, promises and celebrations! I list them here without explanation so that you can fit them into your thinking and expectations.

Check One: Learn the skill of precise Christ seeking: Triune Thinking!

Check Two: Seek and comprehend the Lord’s demand for following: Cross Taking!

Check Three: Understand and resolve culture’s complexities by self-disciplining: Pyramid Tasking!

Check Four: Turn you life mountains into your own pyramid and climb to the top: Pinnacle Ascending!

² From *Exposition of the Christian Faith, Book V*, Ambrose

³ Secant—in geometry a straight line that intersects a curved line at two points. A growing Disciple yearns to go straight to the heart of the Truth, directly to the bottom line of the issue so that he can unerringly comprehend the Godhead’s use of the circumstances in order to make himself useful to the will of our Creator-Redeemer-Perfecter!

⁴ It is self evident that numbers have theological significance in Scripture. The Lord is one God! Two is the number of division ... day and night, water and land, earth and the heavens, sun and moon, man and woman, good and evil, etc. Three is how God has chosen to reveal Himself as the Godhead ... Father, Son, Holy Spirit. All of His creation reflects that Triune essence. Four is the number of man in understanding and responding to His creation. Four is the key on how we relate to the created world and apply its meaning to our lives.

There are four elements ... earth, air, fire, water.

There are four regions ... north, south, east, west.

There are four seasons ... summer, autumn, winter, spring.

There are four daily periods ... dawn, daylight, dusk, dark.

In Genesis 1:14-19 the material creation was finished on the fourth day. On the fifth and sixth day He filled His creation with living creatures and created man. He then told the man to rule it all. “Here it is, now apply yourself.” Recognizing the four creation options for every issue is essential to building the foundation of spiritual through for our “Great Pyramid” of life. We must first build many little pyramids to learn the process and gain experience. You construct them by applying Triune Thinking to each of your four options and resolve them to the highest point possible for the fullest comprehension of the Lord’s creation purpose and divine pleasure.

From my Air Force combat pilot survival training let me draw a dramatic example. Let's say you were shot down by an enemy fighter, and are lost in a hostile wilderness inside enemy lines. You are limited on food and water, and have only six hours of daylight before dark. Which direction do you walk in? North, south, east or west! Can you navigate at night with your knowledge of the stars? Which direction is the quickest to shelter, food, other people who could help you? Which direction is the safest? The quickest? The easiest? As you first bailed out of your airplane over enemy territory, did you see in which direction is the enemy? To be captured is to be shot! Which way is the best to reach friendly forces? If there is cloud cover (no stars) and you have to spend a night or two without walking, which direction is the safest from wild animals; which will provide the best protection from the predicted freezing weather? Should you carry the weight of your parachute to wrap up in while you sleep? In which direction was the small river and lake you glimpsed while descending in your chute? Etc., etc.