

# A Testimony to Theistic Science - From the Classroom

by: Maxwell Blair (retired as Physics instructor)



## The Burning Bush: Seeing the Sacred in Science

A Symposium by SSA and TSG in Pendleton Hall  
Bryn Athyn College of the New Church  
25 October 2025



# A Testimony to Theistic Science - From the Classroom

by: Maxwell Blair (Bryn Athyn College Physics instructor 2012-2022)

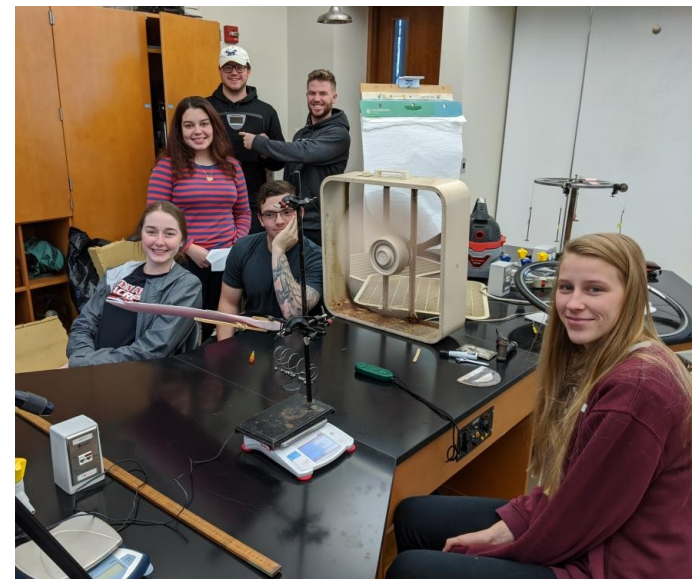
## Presentation Outline:

- 1) A testimony  $\equiv$  my development
- 2) First Day in Physics Class: End in View
  - a) Seeing materially
  - b) Spiritual necessity
- 3) The Physics of Relationships
  - a) Heavenly confidence

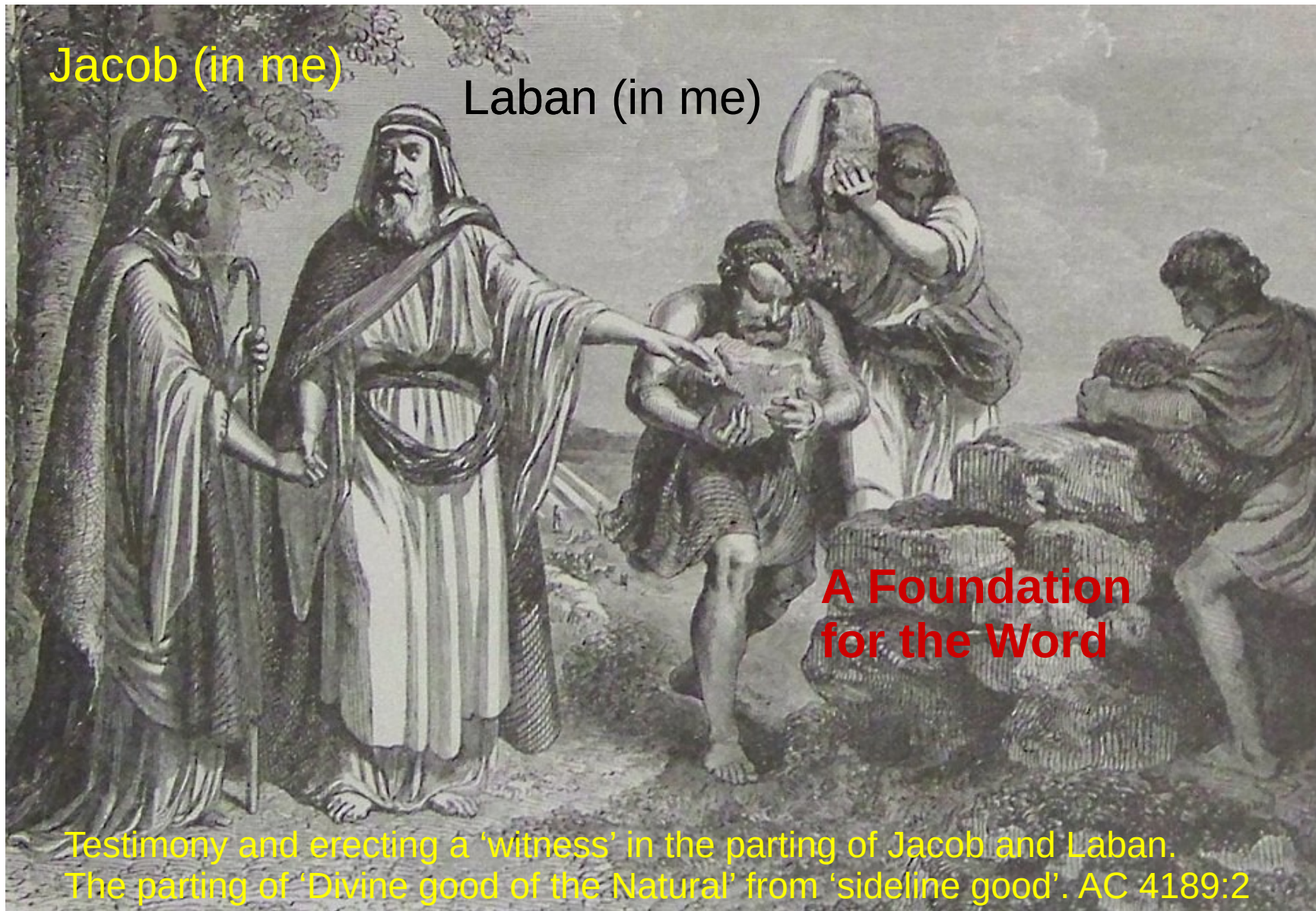
**Next Step:** Design a genuine  
New Church Physical Science major:

- Course layout
- Lesson plans
- Faculty development

In Light of the Academy Movement



## The Parting of Jacob from Laban (before reuniting with twin brother Esau)



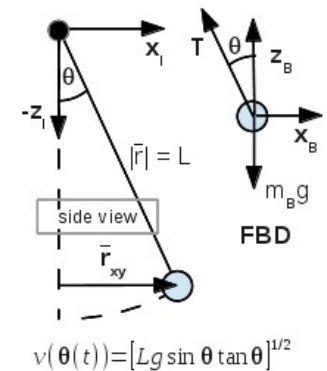
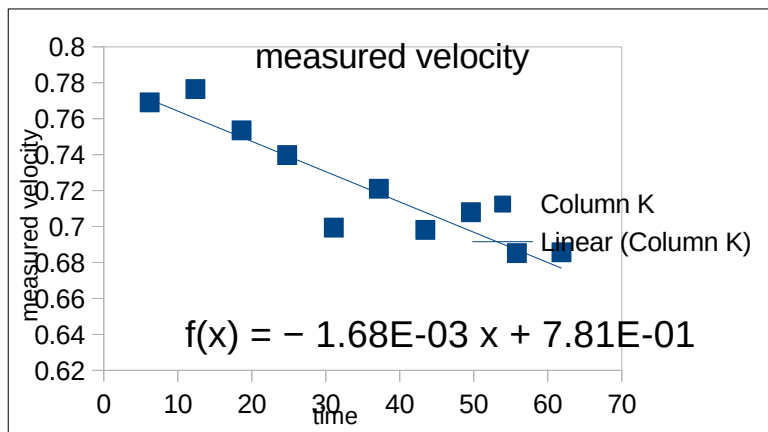
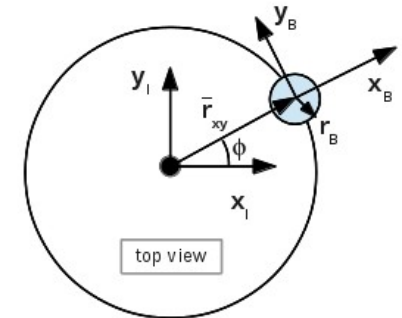
Genesis 31: [51] And Laban said to Jacob, Behold this heap, and **behold the pillar which I have set up between me and thee**. [52] This heap be a **witness**, and the pillar be a **witness**, that I should not pass by this heap to thee, and that thou shouldst not pass by this heap to me, and this pillar, for evil. [Kempton]

[ [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Holman\\_The\\_heap\\_of\\_witnesses.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Holman_The_heap_of_witnesses.jpg) ] & [AC 3727:2 & 4202-4208]

The Heap of Witness, as in Genesis 31:44–46, illustration from the 1890 Holman Bible



A three-story conical pendulum in Physics Lab at Bryn Athyn College in February 2014 without reference to spiritual gravity. How would you invite spiritual reality as a New Church Educator?



This Video is Effective in Introducing the Breadth of the Universe  
IN TERMS of LINEAR MEASUREMENT



Amazing to Watch: Cosmic Eye - zoom in and zoom out

[ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Are9dDbW24> ]

/home/mblair/Church/Thesistic\_Science/Max\_Blair/TSG\_Symposium\_2025\_Concept\_Graphics.odp



Heavenly Concepts

**Question:**

How much Secular Science can I teach before I lose faith in Spiritual Capacity?

Try the opposite: teaching from theistic principles! Introduce subjects with the Lord's blessing every day.

physical space and time end here  
(at the quantum scale)

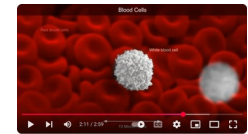
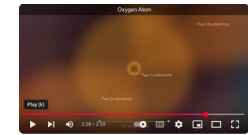
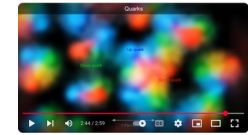
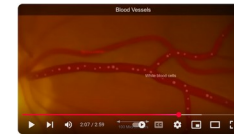
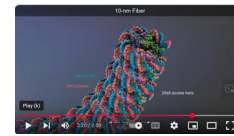
**Question:**

What is a Physics Educator and New Church Believer to Teach?

Is anyone confused?

Is anyone motivated?

Am I Alone?



physical length scale

Secular Science: The Physical Universe of Atomic Substance

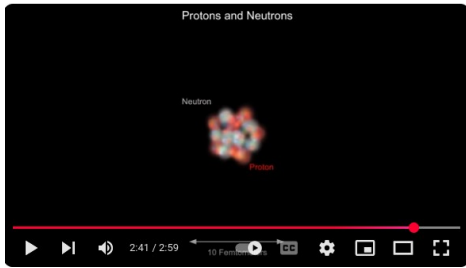
# An “Off the Left Eye” Episode in 2015 Ian Thompson is Interviewed by Curtis Childs

The image shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search" and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar are icons for a microphone, a "+ Create" button, a notification bell with "9+" next to it, and a profile picture. The main video area displays a green chalkboard background with white text that reads "SPIRITUAL PHYSICS". The chalkboard also contains various mathematical and scientific notations, including  $x$ ,  $1+3t$ ,  $R > NH$ ,  $100$ ,  $10 \times 40$ ,  $Yttrium$ , and a diagram of a human eye. Below the video player, the title "Spiritual Physics - Swedenborg and Life" is displayed. At the bottom of the video player, there are standard playback controls: a play button, a progress bar showing "0:02 / 1:09:39", a volume icon, a full screen icon, and a settings icon.

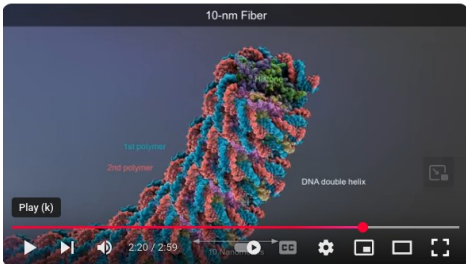
Watch the Video from:

[ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndTtR9qKsH0> ]

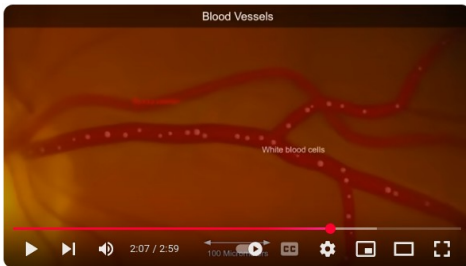
# Zooming in/out the Physical World



one proton



DNA



blood vessels

# moles or particles

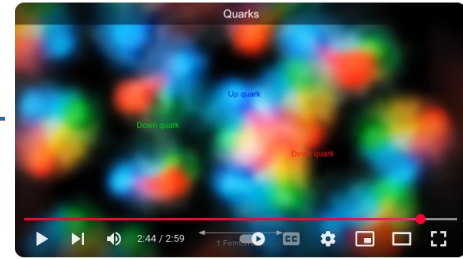
A Physical Particle

A Physical Body

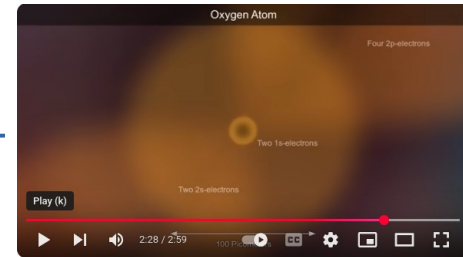
space scale

View Link:  
[Cosmic Eye]

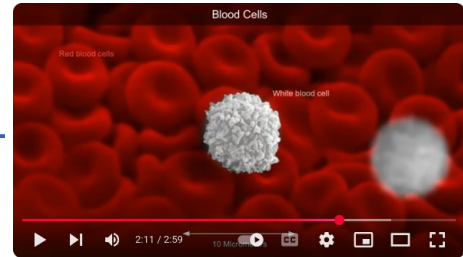
one quark



one atom



blood cell



human face



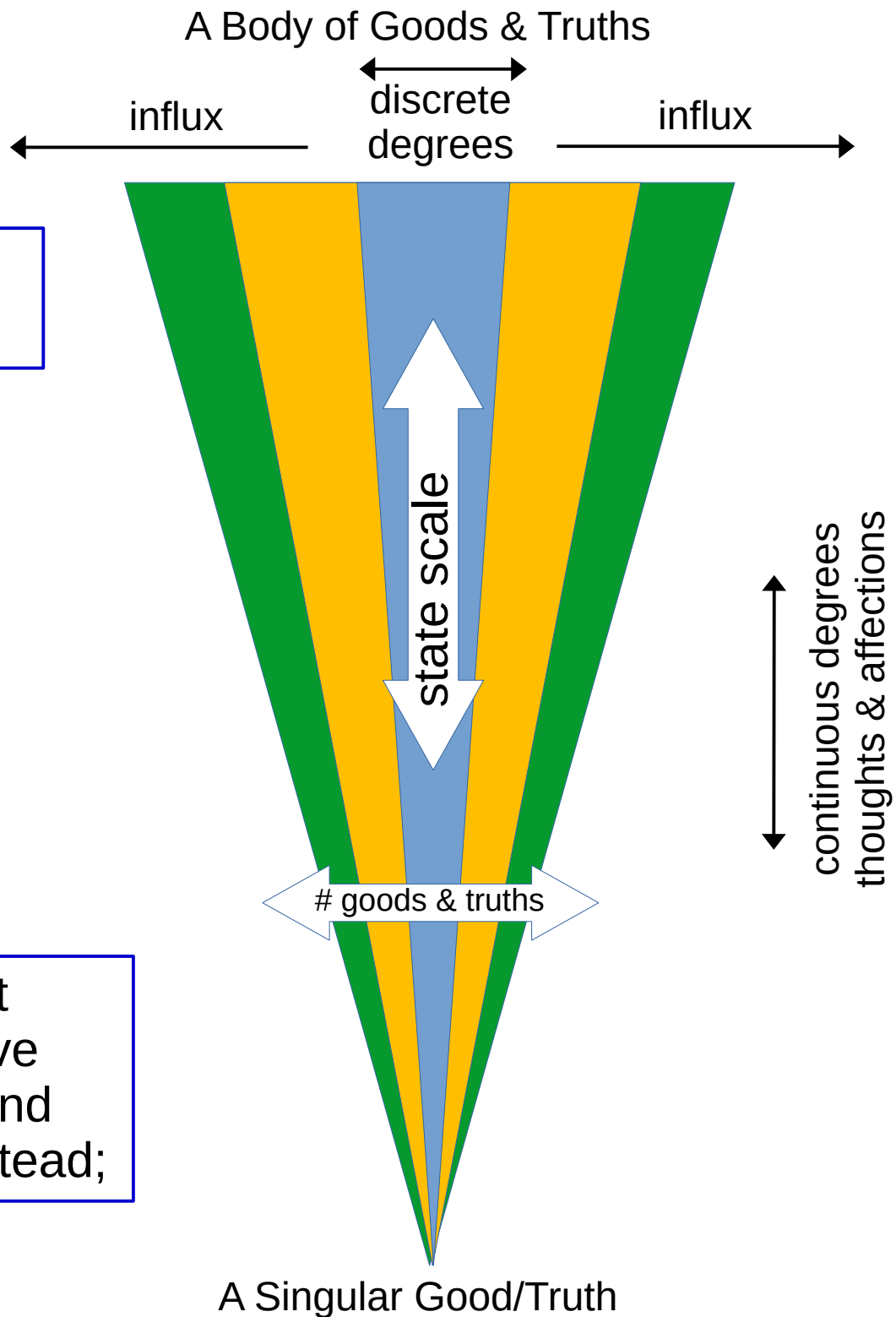
One mole is exactly  $6.02214076 \times 10^{23}$  elementary entities, approximately equivalent to the number of atoms in 12 grams of carbon-12 in the historical definition.

$7 \times 10^{27}$  atoms in an average human body

Observe being motionless:  
Zooming in/out  
Without Displacement

Zooming out/in the  
**Spiritual World**

AC 2625 . . . yet it is not long before they perceive that there is no space and time there, but state instead;

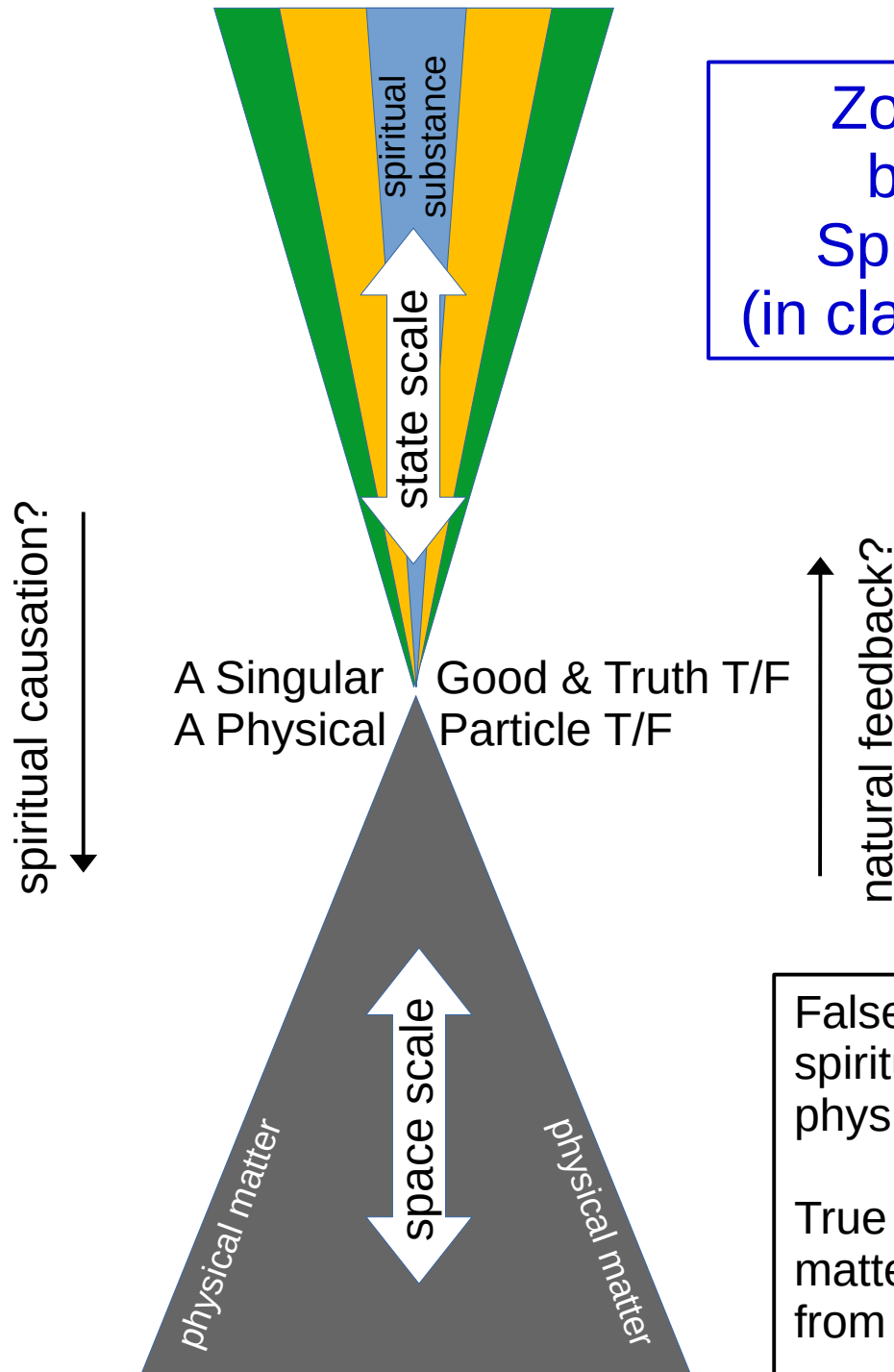


A Singular Good/Truth

A Diagram Involves an Observer



A Body of Goods & Truths



Zooming in/out  
between the  
Spiritual/Natural  
(in class for 10 years)

Taking Account:  
Who is the Observer?

- me in me
- my friend/enemy in me
- good/bad spirit
- the Word
- the LORD
- all the above?

Is this a believable  
diagram for  
spiritual/natural  
correspondences?  
Why or Why Not

View Link:  
[[Cosmic Eye](#)]

False Belief: There is no  
spiritual life contained in  
physical matter.

True Belief: Physical  
matter has existence  
from spiritual causation.

A Physical Body

A Diagram Involves  
Multiple Observers



Spiritual Mind

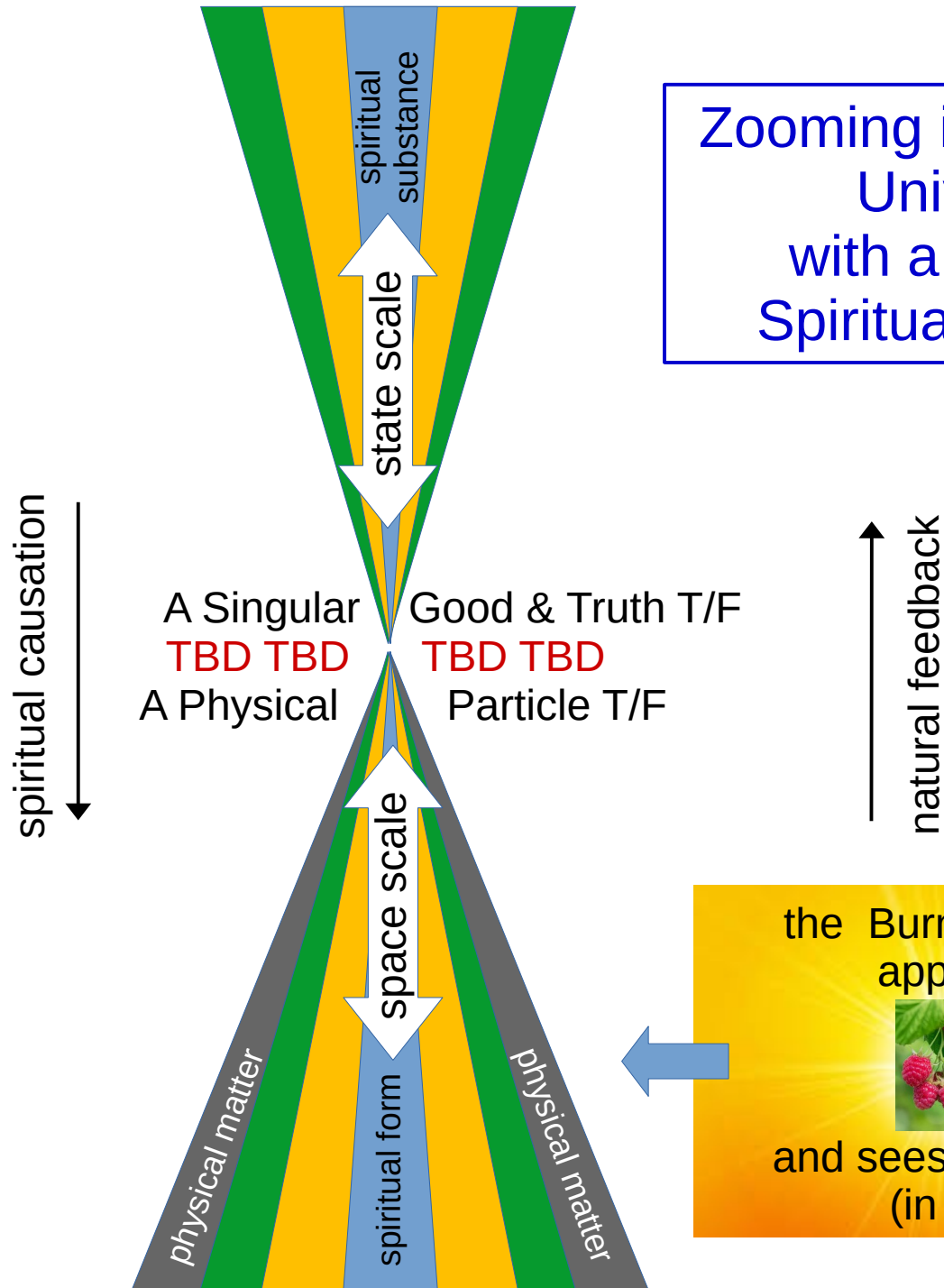
Natural Mind



Sensual Mind

View Link:  
[Cosmic Eye]

A Body of Goods & Truths



Zooming in/out of the  
Universe  
with a **Unified**  
Spiritual/Natural

the Burning Bush  
appears



and sees the Crisis  
(in me)

A Physical Body

DLW 46: . . . Consequently if one regards only the forms, it is impossible to see anything of life in nature, still less anything of love and wisdom, and so neither anything of God.

DLW 295: It was apparent from this that natural and spiritual things differ in accordance with degrees of height, and that they do not communicate with each other except through correspondences.

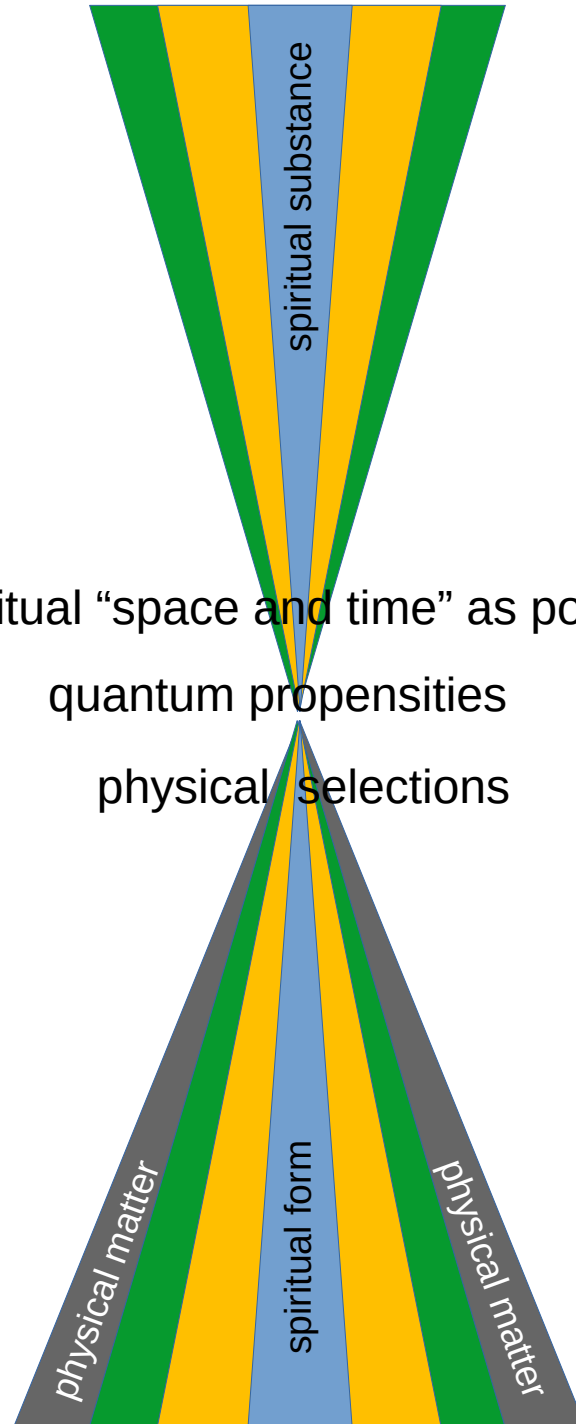
HH89: It needs to be realized that the natural world arises from and is sustained in being by the spiritual world, exactly the way an effect relates to its efficient cause.

AC 3483. Everything at all visible in the universe is representative of the Lord's kingdom, so much so that nothing exists in the starry sky above, or on this planet and in its three kingdoms below, which is not in its own way representative. For every single thing within the natural order is an ultimate image, in that the Divine issues forth into celestial things, which are expressions of good; celestial things issue forth into spiritual, which are expressions of truth; and celestial and spiritual things issue forth into natural things. This shows how stupid, indeed how earthly and also topsy-turvy, human intelligence is which separates or isolates natural forces from that which is prior to them and flowing into them - that is, from their efficient cause - and then attributes everything to natural forces. And people who think and talk in this fashion seem to themselves to be wiser than anybody else, that is to say, by their attribution of everything to natural forces. Angelic intelligence however is quite the reverse - it attributes nothing to natural forces but every single thing to the Lord's Divine, and so to life, not to anything devoid of life.

DLW 295: For the image of creation is spiritual. But for this image to be visible and serve a useful purpose in the natural world, and for it to remain fixed and endure, it must assume material form, that is to say, it must be infused with the material substances of that world.

DLW 315 The heat, light and atmospheres of the natural world only open seeds, keep their productions in a state of expansion, and induce in them material substances which cause them to endure. However, they accomplish these effects, not in consequence of any forces from their own sun, forces which, regarded in themselves, are powerless, but in consequence of forces from the spiritual sun, by which they are perpetually impelled to these actions.

A Body of Goods & Truths



Spiritual-Physical  
Correspondence  
Diagrammed Through  
the Lens of  
Quantum Physics



Spiritual Mind

Natural Mind



Sensual Mind

View Link:  
[[Cosmic Eye](#)]

A Physical Body

influx  
discrete  
degrees

A Body of Goods & Truths



Spiritual Mind

Natural Mind

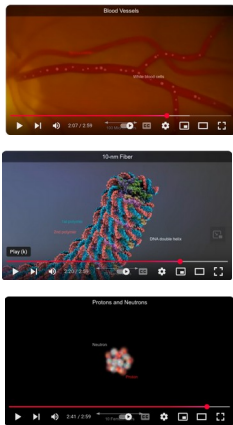
Natural Mind



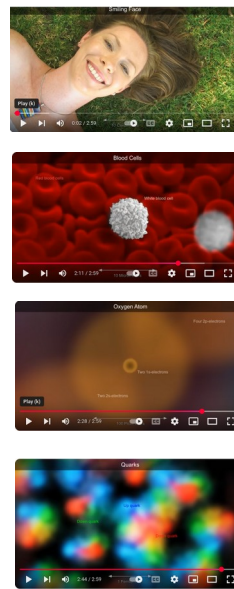
Sensual Mind

View Link:  
[Cosmic Eye]

spiritual causation



endeavor



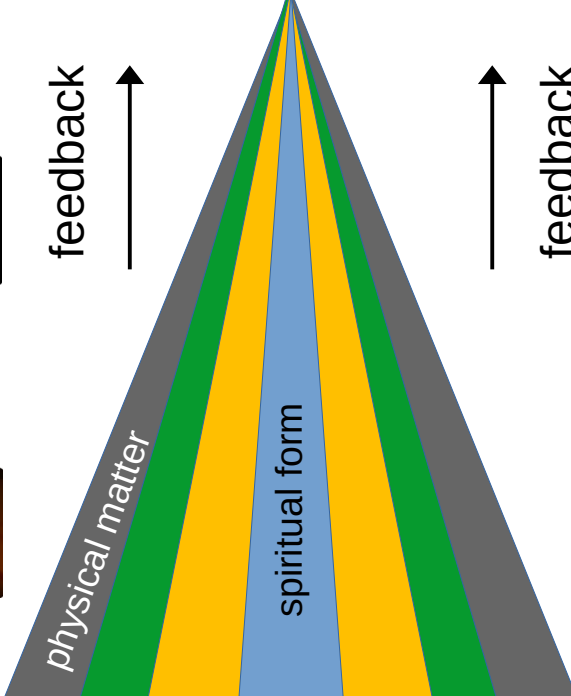
endeavor

continuous degrees  
thoughts & affections

spiritual-natural  
fold line

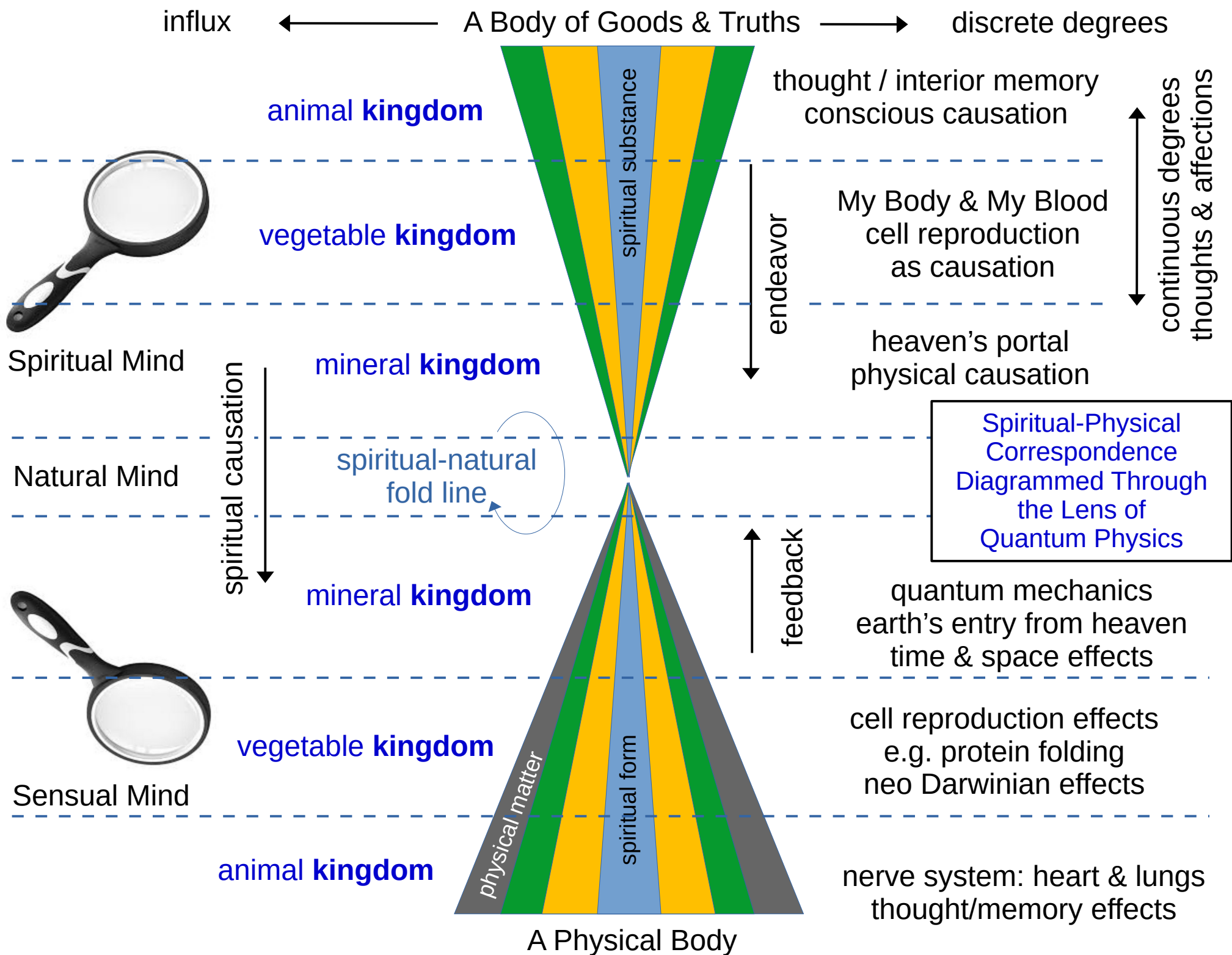
feedback

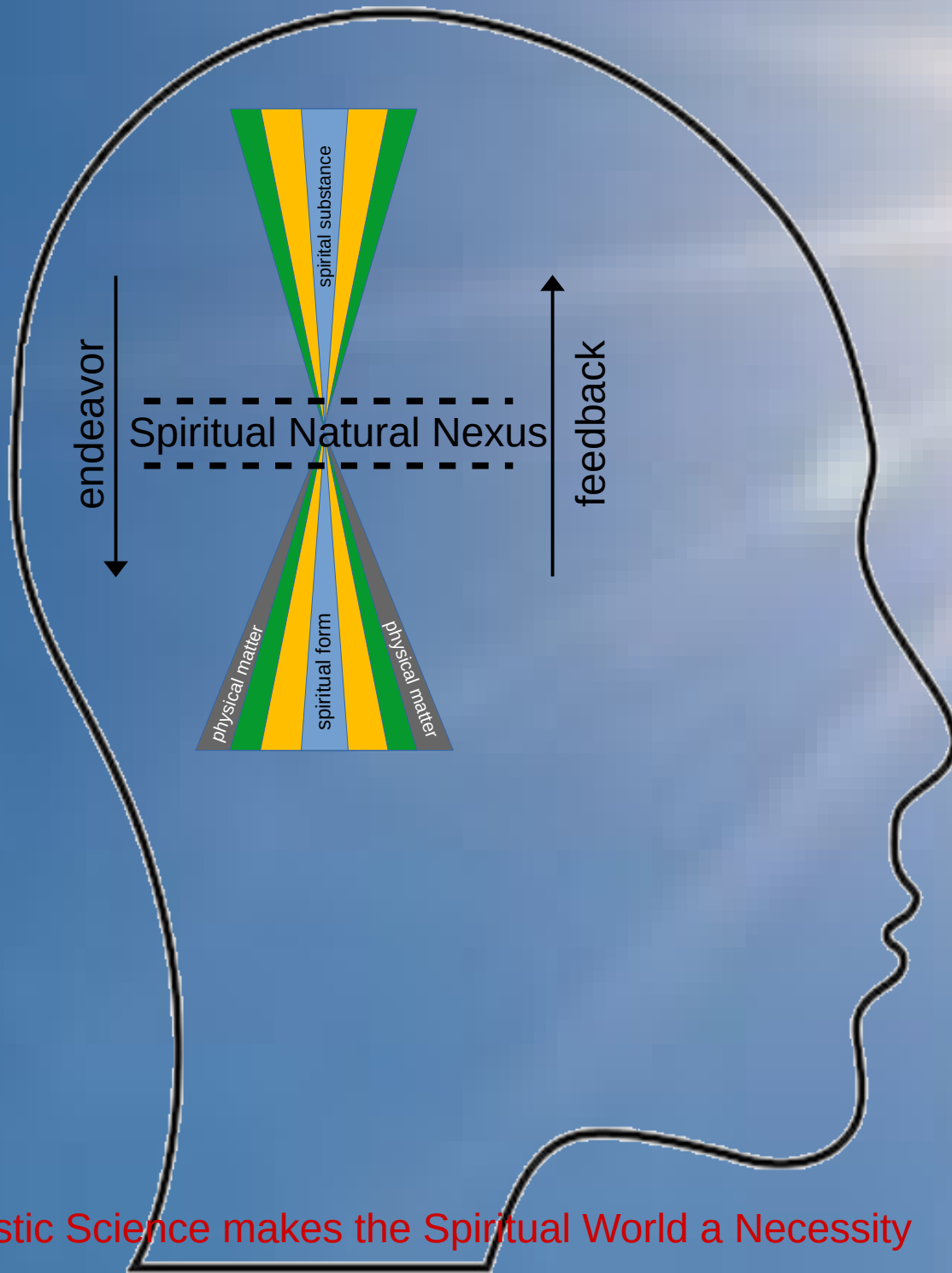
feedback



A Physical Body

Spiritual-Physical  
Correspondence  
Diagrammed  
Through  
the Lens of  
Quantum Physics

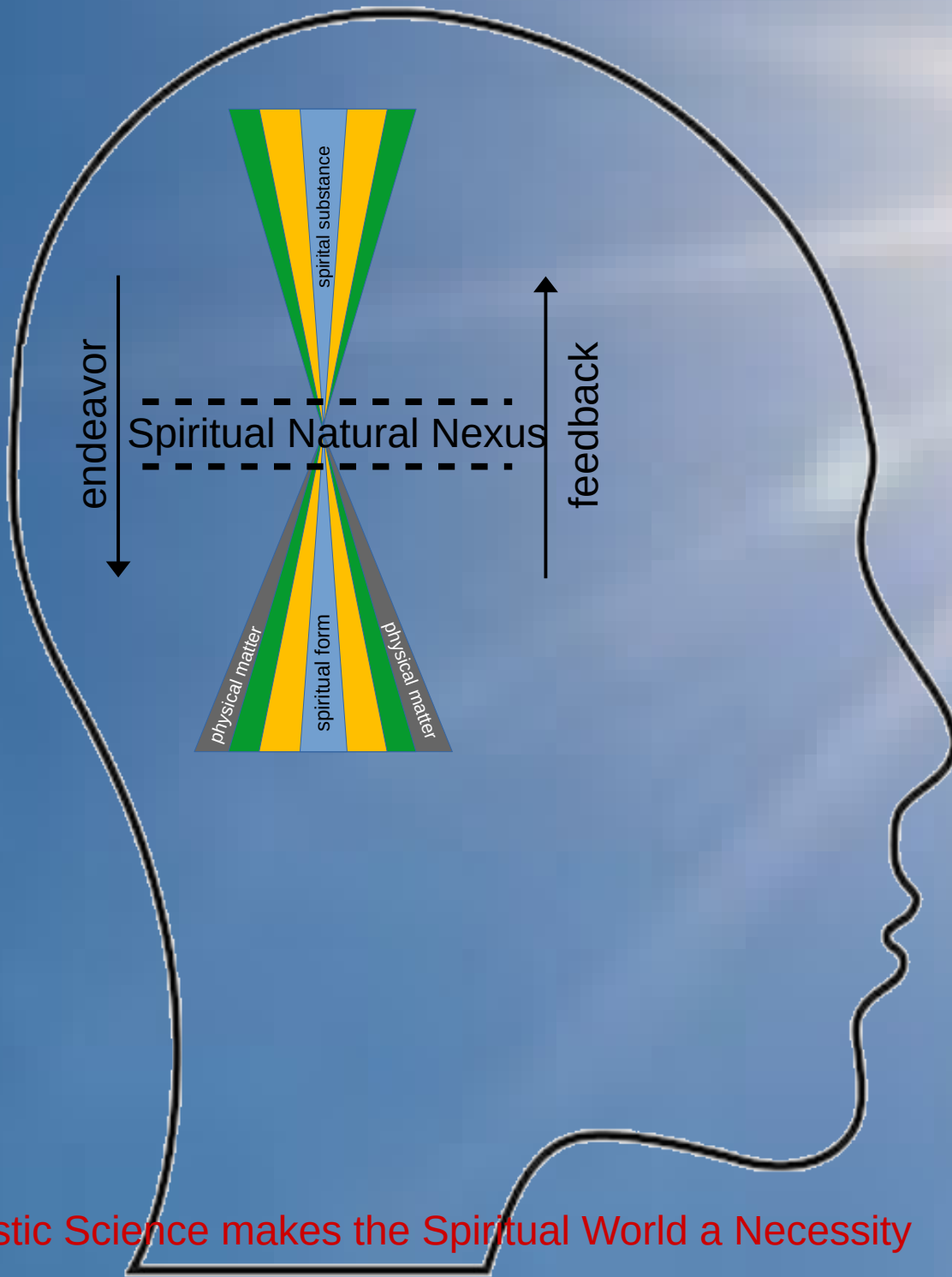




Still Taking Account:  
Who is the Observer?

- me in me
- my friend/enemy in me
- good/bad spirit in me
- the Word in me
- the LORD in me
- all the above?

Theistic Science makes the Spiritual World a Necessity



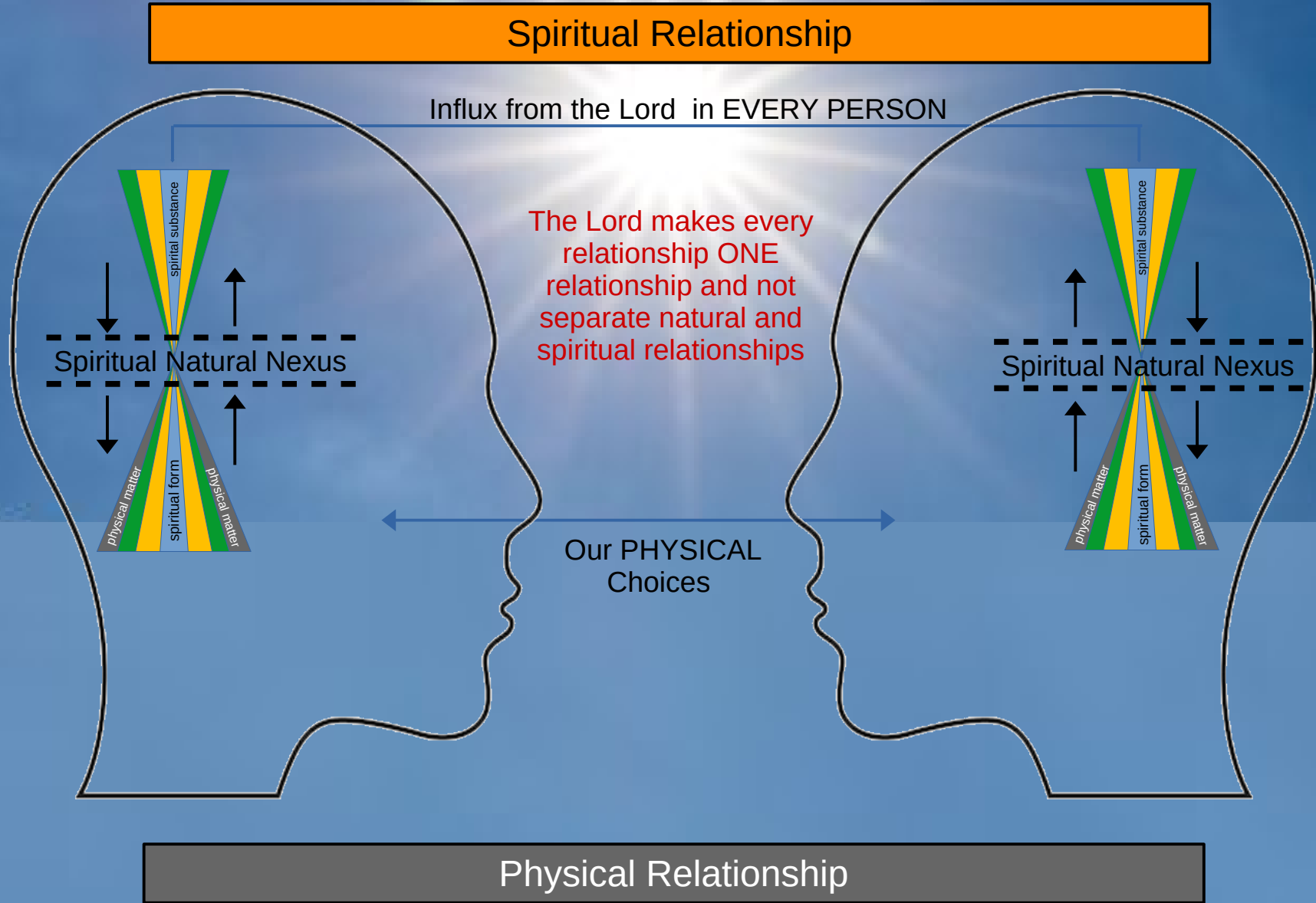
On working alone with one's self:

AC6484 I talked to him and he said that he was in his heaven when things were thus, and that no other heaven could possibly exist than that which he created for himself. **But I was led to reply that his kind of heaven is turned into hell as soon as heaven as it really is flows into it.**

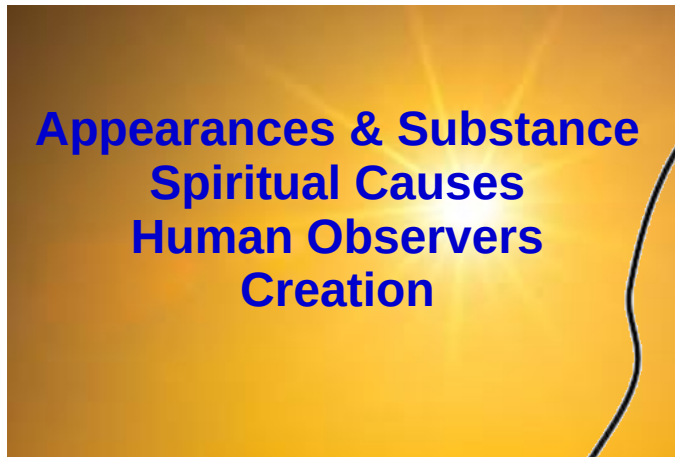
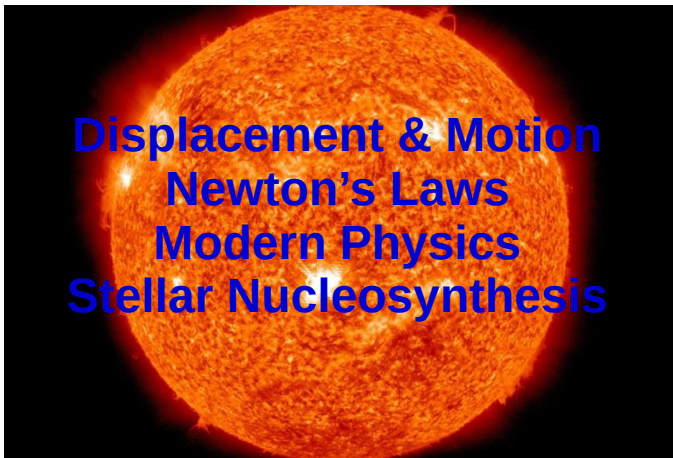
Theistic Science makes the Spiritual World a Necessity

Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

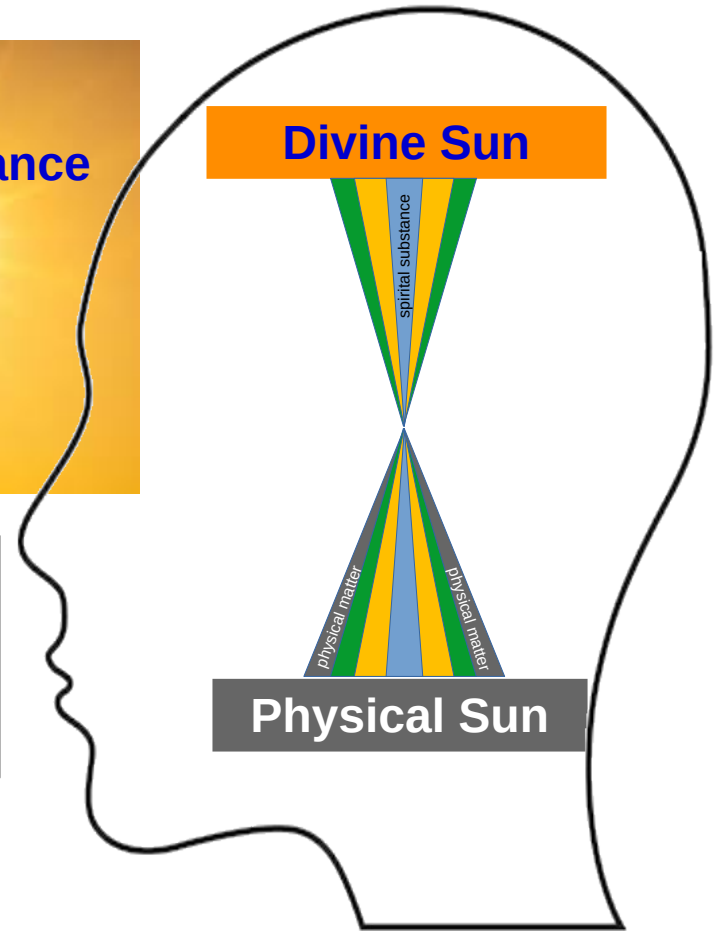
Matthew 18:20



This diagram achieves a closed path in one relationship with ONE God  
Marriages: [good & truth] [Lord & Church] [husband & wife] [soul & body]



Discussion for Another Day:  
Developing a New Church Physical Science Major



H 1																	He 2	
Li 3	Be 4											B 5	C 6	N 7	O 8	F 9	Ne 10	
Na 11	Mg 12											Al 13	Si 14	P 15	S 16	Cl 17	Ar 18	
K 19	Ca 20	Sc 21	Ti 22	V 23	Cr 24	Mn 25	Fe 26	Co 27	Ni 28	Cu 29	Zn 30	Ga 31	Ge 32	As 33	Se 34	Br 35	Kr 36	
Rb 37	Sr 38	Y 39	Zr 40	Nb 41	Mo 42	Tc 43	Ru 44	Rh 45	Pd 46	Ag 47	Cd 48	In 49	Sn 50	Sb 51	Te 52	I 53	Xe 54	
Cs 55	Ba 56	Hf 72	Ta 73	W 74	Re 75	Os 76	Ir 77	Pt 78	Au 79	Hg 80	Tl 81	Pb 82	Bi 83	Po 84	At 85	Rn 86		
Fr 87	Ra 88																	
		La 57	Ce 58	Pr 59	Nd 60	Pm 61	Sm 62	Eu 63	Gd 64	Tb 65	Dy 66	Ho 67	Er 68	Tm 69	Yb 70	Lu 71		
		Ac 89	Th 90	Pa 91	U 92	Np 93	Pu 94	Am 95	Cm 96	Bk 97	Cf 98	Es 99	Fm 100	Md 101	No 102	Lr 103		

Doctrinal  
Curriculum & Textbooks  
Faculty Training  
Marketing / Admissions  
Financial Models  
Mentoring Support  
Career Paths

Theistic Science Makes the Spiritual World a Necessity

**End of Slides**

**Begin Backup Slides and Constructions**