

Supplemental images and narrative to
Is Your God Big Enough? Close Enough? You Enough?
Jesus and the Three Faces of God
by Paul Smith

CHAPTER 9



THE SPECTRUM OF SPIRIT AS CONSCIOUSNESS

(pages 213-224)

BASIC CONSCIOUSNESS

Looking closely at the biblical accounts and the experience of mystics down through the centuries we can generally identify about four different degrees of consciousness in human experience.

Spirit as Basic Everyday Consciousness resides within every person. It is the ordinary awareness with which we go about our day. I say “ordinary,” yet consciousness is extraordinary and mysterious. Researchers tell us that today’s “hard problem” is “What is Consciousness?”

In the Bible, everyday consciousness is the gift of life from God and is sacred. It ranges from barely enough awareness to keep going to the kind of mindfulness that keeps one in touch with their body, feelings, and surroundings.

The words translated as “spirit” in the Bible also mean breath, wind, and life-force. When looking at the phenomena associated with “spirit” in the Bible, it seems to me the best word we have for this today is consciousness. In the Old Testament all people were given the breath of life (consciousness) by God. I call this the basic or everyday, normal awareness with which you are probably looking at this page right now.

The picture below of the little girl blowing on the dandelion is my symbol for this basic awareness.

It puts together spirit, breath, wind, and life-force in one picture. Once dandelions turn from their vibrant yellow color to their white/gray seed, they can be blown, sending the seeds into the air like tiny helicopters. When each seed blows through the air, it eventually lands somewhere, where it will likely form a new dandelion plant. This is the process with which dandelions procreate; without their flowers turning to seeds, and blowing through the breeze to new locations, they would not survive.

I see our little girl as the very picture of “aliveness,” engaged in using her “breath,” creating enough “wind” to spread new plants. (Of course this picture only works if you can look past dandelions as weeds in your perfect lawn.)



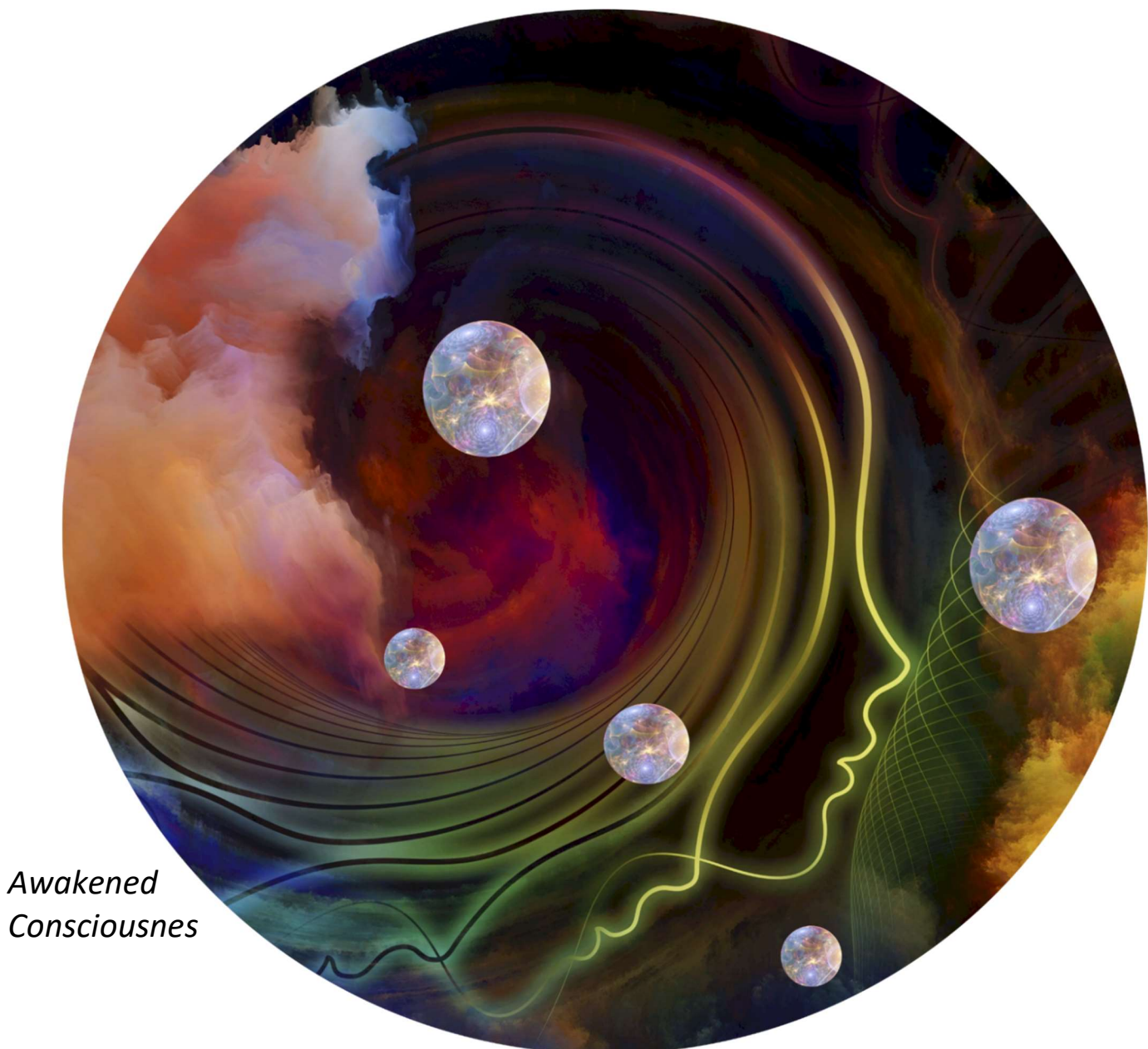
*Basic
Consciousness
Spirit-breath*

AWAKENED CONSCIOUSNESS

A few people, such as Moses, Samuel, and Samson in the Old Testament were given a more intense form of spirit-breath- consciousness which I call awakened consciousness. This allowed them to access uncommon wisdom, strength, courage, and leadership. In the New Testament spirit-breath- consciousness was almost exclusively thought of as this awakened consciousness. It was seen in Jesus and the followers of Jesus in the early church.

In this symbol below for awakened consciousness, the crystal globes rising up in the person's awareness represent the awakened spiritual gifts, qualities, perceptions, visions, and other paranormal phenomena associated with awakened consciousness.

In elevated or awakened awareness we become conscious of spiritual reality, not only physical reality. We begin to feel even more alive. We experience the presence of God and the reality of Jesus' friendship. Our spiritual gifts come alive.



*Awakened
Consciousness*

TRANSCENDENT CONSCIOUSNESS

In this even more intensified or higher consciousness our awareness becomes filled with the vast stillness of God as I AM or Infinite Being.

The heart is filled with the bliss of divine peace and joy that radiates from identifying so fully with our divine nature.

Transcendent Consciousness

ONENESS CONSCIOUSNESS



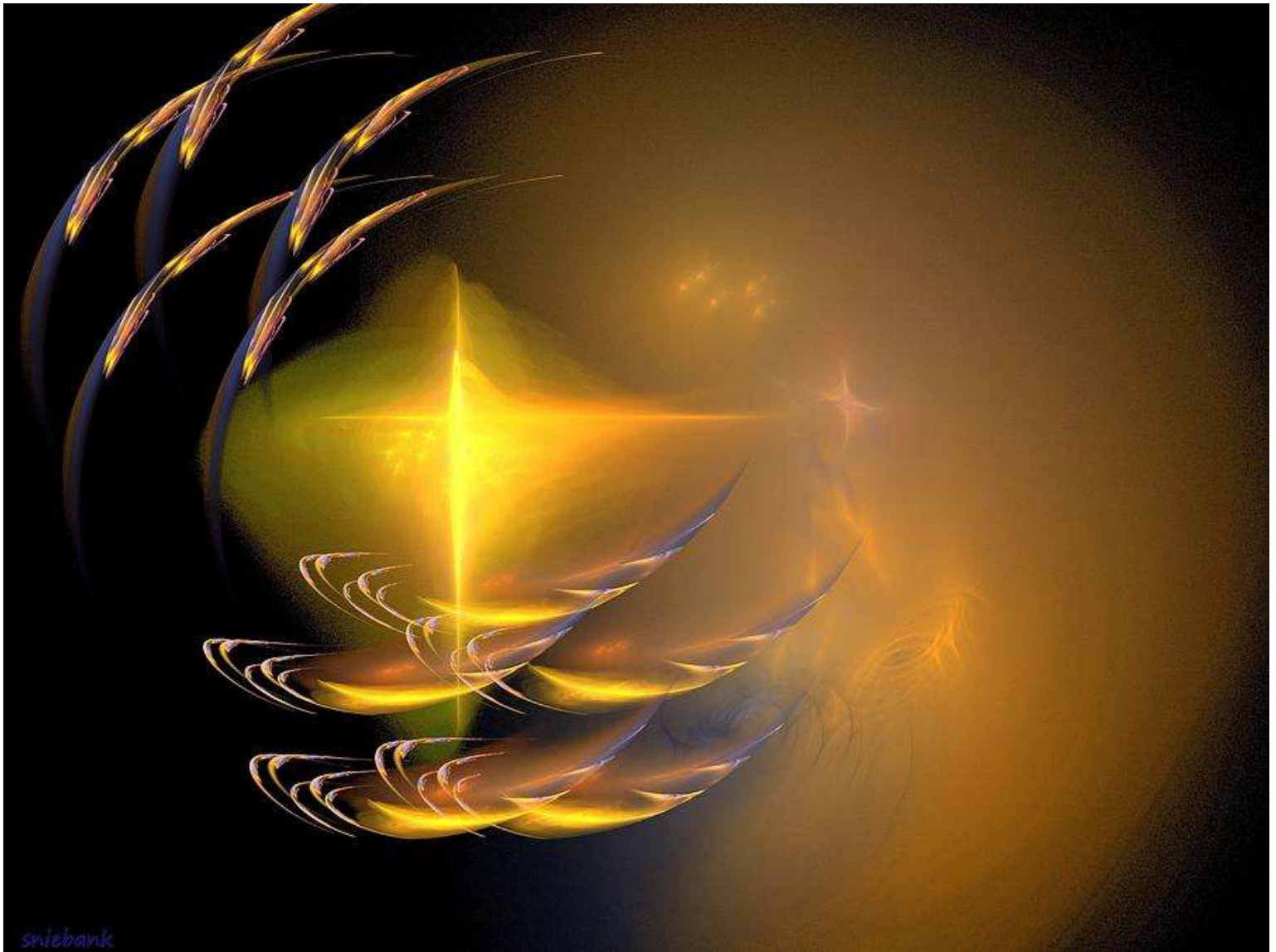
This is what Jesus called “single-seeing.” He said the eye is the light of the whole body as we see nondually or from unity consciousness. If we understand that the word “Christ” is the symbol for everything in one seamless whole, then this can also be called “Christ Consciousness.” We look out from this Christ or Oneness Consciousness and see no separation between God and people, between people, and between us and creation. Jesus also called this the Reign (Kingdom) of God, the main point of his teaching.

Four Fractal Images Representing the Spectrum of Consciousness

BASIC CONSCIOUSNESS

The Spirit-Breath of God (*ruach/pneuma*) as our Life-Force. This is the gift of life itself manifest in humankind as the most evolved consciousness of all sentient beings.

Every breath we take is breathing in divine spirit that fills us with life.



(Consciousness Fractal by Sarah Hoffman)

AWAKENED CONSCIOUSNESS

The wondrous realities of the non-physical spiritual world

This is the opening of our awareness to the wonderland of experiencing the presence of God, Jesus, spiritual guides, angelic beings, intuitions, guidance, divine messages, visions, heightened abilities, and other mystical phenomena of the awakened consciousness.



Wonderland by cygx1

TRANSCENDENT CONSCIOUSNESS

God Being Us as Infinite Being, Consciousness, and Bliss

This is often experienced as a still mind and a full heart. It may initially be a momentary flash or peak experience. As it comes into our awareness more and more, this peaceful, joyful simple feeling of being can become a normal way of living. From this place we can witness the busy, conflicted world without losing our peacefulness. We can then manifest our part in healing the world, embodying God as a divine agent of love, light, and healing in our small part of the world. Since everything is connected, this then brings more love, light, and healing into all the world.



The Awakening versus evolution by cygx1

ONENESS CONSCIOUSNESS

This is seeing all things from the *single-eye opening of nondual Oneness*. This Jesus called this the Reign of God and he said is the goal of life. It can arise suddenly or gradually over a period time as a momentary or sustained sense. It is always transforming and life changing.



Awakening by cygx1

*Life will give you whatever experiences are most helpful
for the evolution of your consciousness.*

Eckhart Tolle