

The *circle of life* brings you to your inner self. Your *inner self* is controlled by the communication between God's Spirit and your spirit.

Your *outer self* is controlled by the power of your soul: your will, your feelings and your thoughts. Your *outer self* lives according to the beliefs that you believe deep down inside you. These beliefs are driven by needs and feelings shaped by your past experiences. Think of family traditions, your upbringing, your experiences with friends, the trauma you have experienced and the transfer of knowledge, etc.

Your *inner self* is what God is looking for; the person He created for a purpose. The Father wants to communicate with that *inner self* and give His view of life and circumstances. Our spirit lives in that *inner self*. God the Father seeks contact between His Spirit and your spirit. He longs to show you what He sees. God usually views the world differently than you do. He wants to show you how He views the world and the plan He has for it. Above all, He wants to let you know how He looks at you, why He made you and how you fit into His plan.

Moses

Moses was born at a time when his people had to work as slaves for their Egyptian rulers. Egypt was a powerful nation that worshiped different gods and ruled other nations. Moses was miraculously saved, because all the other newborn boys were killed by the Egyptians. This miracle brought Moses to Pharaoh's court. He was brought up there in the Egyptian culture. Moses was taught at court to become like his brother, a mighty man who could control everything.

However, the Spirit of God began to do His work in Moses. Moses found out that the Jews were his people. Moses had been set apart by God to become a savior of the Jewish people. Because Moses had learned to be a strong leader, he thought he could help the Jewish people. This went completely wrong, Moses killed a slave driver and had to flee immediately. He had tried to solve the problem in his own strength.

The *outer I am* of Moses took a long time to be broken. His *inner self* still had to awaken. This happened suddenly when Moses was shepherding his sheep in the mountains. He saw a burning bush. The strange thing about this bush was that it did not burn. Moses heard a voice calling and speaking to him. Here, at this bush, God the Father opened Moses' eyes. This made him look differently at the slave people. At this bush he came to see that God had a better plan for His people. God showed Moses why he was on this earth. He would become the leader who would bring the people to the Promised Land.

Moses, who had used his own strength to help a Jewish slave, didn't really like God's idea at all. In the end, Moses understood that he could not fulfill the commission in his own strength. He understood that God gave him the calling to speak to Pharaoh from God's heart. Moses steps out in divine authority. God had shown him who he was, what his mission and talents were, and what to do. Moses began to "see" very differently. He thereby became the man God the Father intended him to be. His *outer I am* became one with his *inner I am*.



Mary

Mary, who thought about life together with her fiancé Joseph, was completely and unexpectedly surprised by the angel's message. Mary heard that she was going to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit. She was ready to listen right away, much more so than Moses. Mary saw what God saw. She would become the mother of the long-promised child who would bring salvation. She did not understand how this could happen, but her eyes were opened by the words that God had spoken to her through the angel. Mary quickly surrendered her inner self, despite what she had learned from the Jewish teaching about the coming Kingdom of Peace. As time went on, the greater her faith in her son became. Mary saw that the wine had run out at a wedding feast. She knew there was apparently nothing left. But she believed that Jesus could solve the problem. She had learned to look at things differently.

Just as unexpected as the message of pregnancy came, so did the end of her son's life. Mary, like the others, did not understand what was taking place, but her spirit continued to trust and expect a miracle to happen. Her inner self therefore remained faithful to what God the Father had shown her. Her son would bring salvation. In this story we see that from a very young age Mary relied on the words of God spoken to her. Her outer I am was early on subject to her inner I am. Not what she wanted, but what He wanted.

Paul

Paul was a very well-known scribe. He was very passionate and thought that persecuting the new sect of followers of Jesus was a noble act. He saw it from his old world of experience, the *outer I am*. He had studied the scriptures and was well aware of them. His *outer self* was visible through his zeal. But the reason he was alive had not yet been fulfilled.

On the way to Damascus, he heard a voice. "Paul why are you persecuting Me?" Paul had no idea what that was about. He also could no longer see because of the bright light. The next three dark days became the turning point of his life. The prophet came and opened his eyes so that he could see. Paul started to look at the world around him completely different. His *inner self* also "saw" through the Spirit of God. His *outer self* immediately exhibited different behavior.

I AM

God created you for a purpose. You are not just here. God is looking for a way into your mind to change your view of yourself and the world. What you see with your natural eyes is not always God's reality. He wants to show you His reality. This reality goes far beyond what our natural eyes can perceive.

How you look at yourself is especially determined by events in your life. The lessons you have received, the experiences you have lived through, the influence of your environment, etc. determine how you view yourself and what you think about yourself. I call this the outer I am. Perhaps you have not learned to look at yourself and the world around you with God's eyes. God sees your inner I am often differently than you see it. Do you want to see with God's eyes?

EXERCISE

Have you already learned to look at yourself with God's eyes? Have you seen through this lesson whether you live more from your outer I am that is driven by your past experiences? Or have you been able to look at yourself with God's eyes and see who the real inner I am really is?

Share what discoveries you have made about yourself through this lesson? Is there anything you would like to learn about that inner self that God sees?

PRINCIPLE 2

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