



Freedom

Apostolic Resources

Encountering God

- 2 main pathways of entrance into heavenlies
- Relationship – intimacy with the presence and person of God: garden of the heart and garden of God via the river of life
- Rulership – yielding as living sacrifices to the kingdom purposes of God: thrones, courts, mountain of God

Encountering God

- Cannot rule in righteousness without coming from a place of rest and relationship – knowing Him as Father so that we can know Him as Lord and king.
- Priest before we are a king
- Love before service

Encountering God

- Encountering God is not always an end in itself but often leads on to worshipping or serving Him
- John 5:19 Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He **sees the Father doing**; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.
- John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the **Father abiding in Me does His works.**



*Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow,
it empties today of its strength.*



Encountering God

- Mystical or ecstatic experiences?
- Attract some and put off others
- Demystify encounters
- Encounters can be learned experiences through desire
- Position ourselves
- Prepare ourselves
- Practice

Encountering God

- Gen 28:12 He had a dream, and behold, **a ladder was set on the earth** with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And behold, the **LORD stood above it** and said, “I am the LORD,
- Gen 28:16 “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than **the house of God**, and this is **the gate of heaven**”.

Encountering God

- John 14:2 In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.
- Tradition says Father's house = heaven
- Heaven has many houses
- Jesus goes to heaven to build our houses
- He will return to take us to heaven

Encountering God

- John 14:2 In My **Father's house** are many **dwelling places**; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare you to be a **habitation**.³ If I go to prepare you to be a dwelling place, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that **where I am**, there you may be also (my paraphrase).
- John 14:10 Do you not believe that **I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me**? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

Encountering God

- Father's house = church
- We are the dwelling places
- Jesus went to the cross to prepare us to be dwelling places
- Jesus was resurrected to receive us into relationship
- Where I am is not a place but a relationship
- I am in the Father and the Father is in Me

Encountering God

- John 14:16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and **will be in you.**
¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you**”.

Encountering God

- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and **you in Me, and I in you.**
- John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our abode with him.**

Encountering God

- John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will **teach you all things**, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
- John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Encountering God

- Intimacy relationship
- Fellowship, communion
- Communication
- Not knowing about God, but knowing God personally
- Experiential knowledge, not intellectual knowledge
- Personal encounters with God

Encountering God

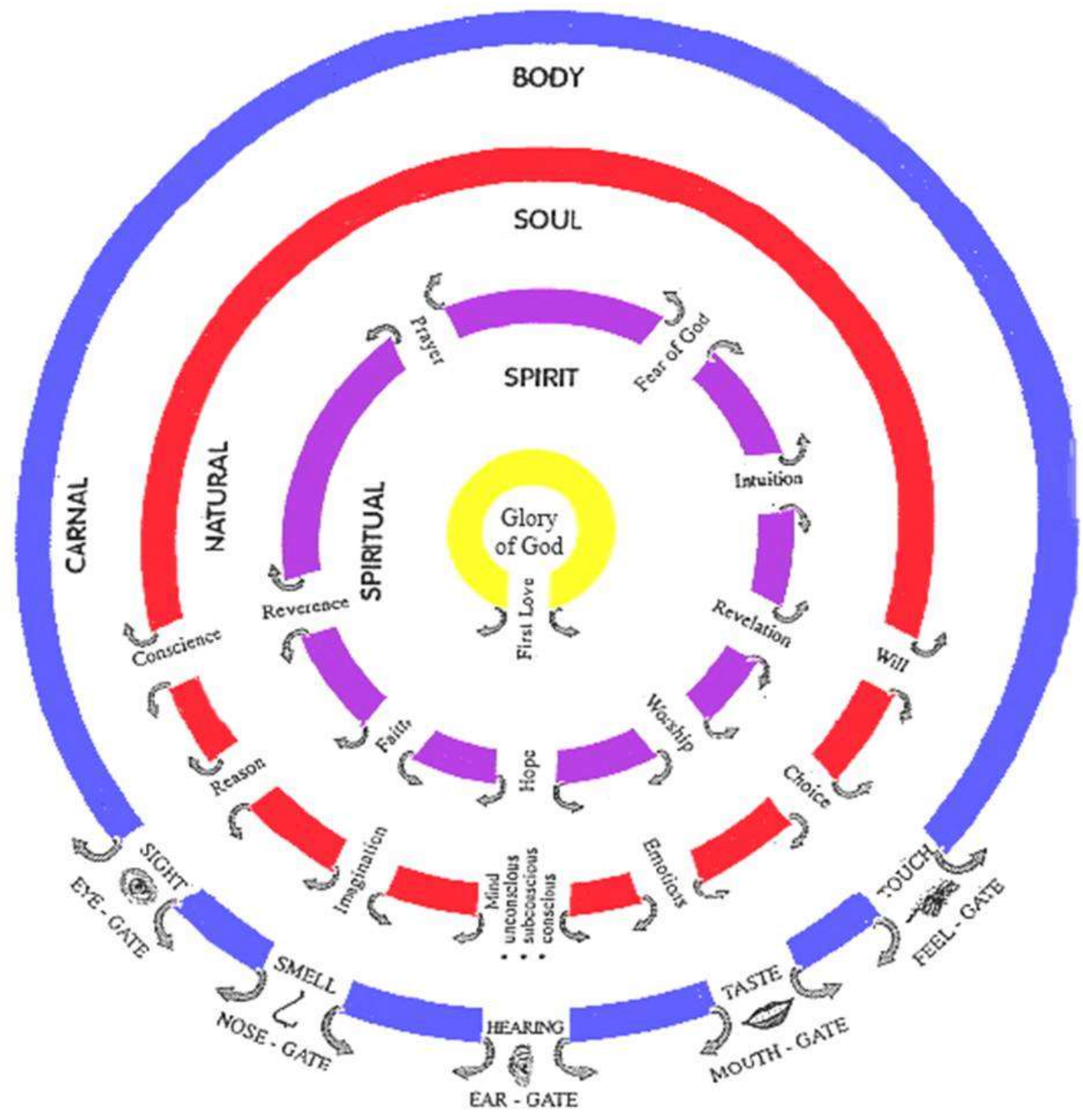
- More to the Kingdom than the Bible
- Without experience of God all you have is a relationship with a book.
- Engagement with God
- Hebrew mindset: 5 senses are involved when we say seeing or hearing
- Greek: hearing, thinking, trying to understand
- Hebrew: seeing, feeling, experiencing

Encountering God

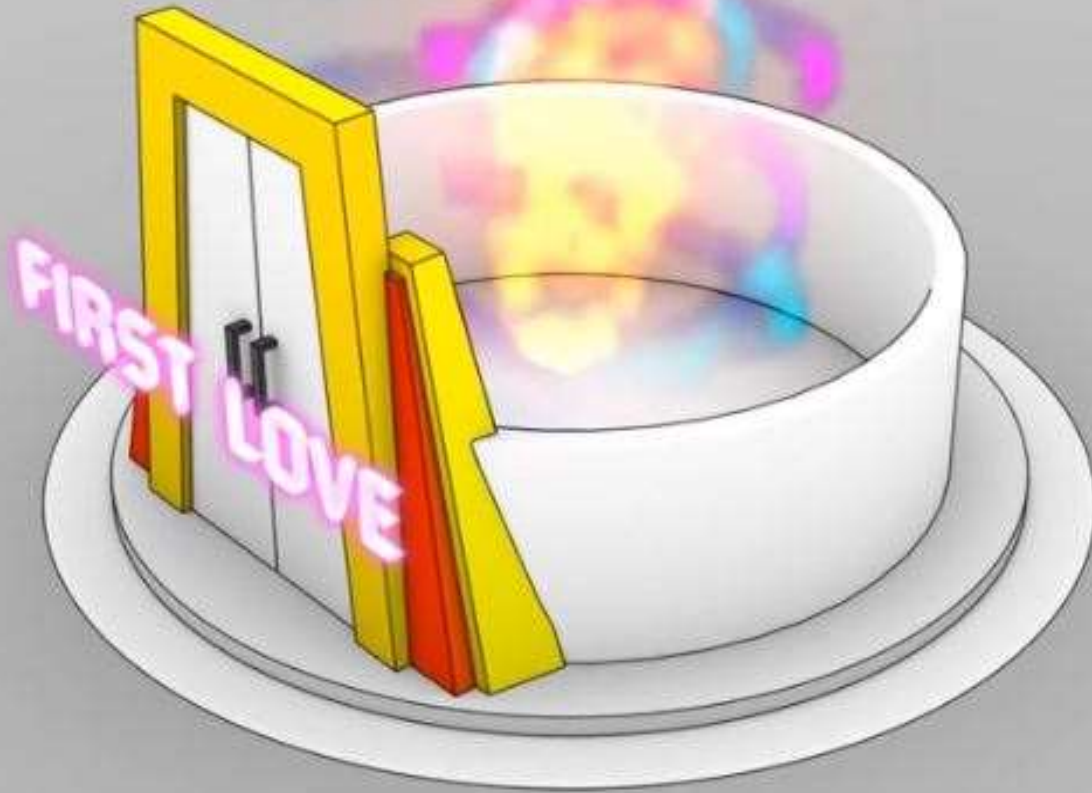
- The Old Testament word for know is “*yadah*” which means “personal encounter.”
- The New Testament word for know is “*ginosko*” and this is the word used for a man knowing his wife and bearing a child.

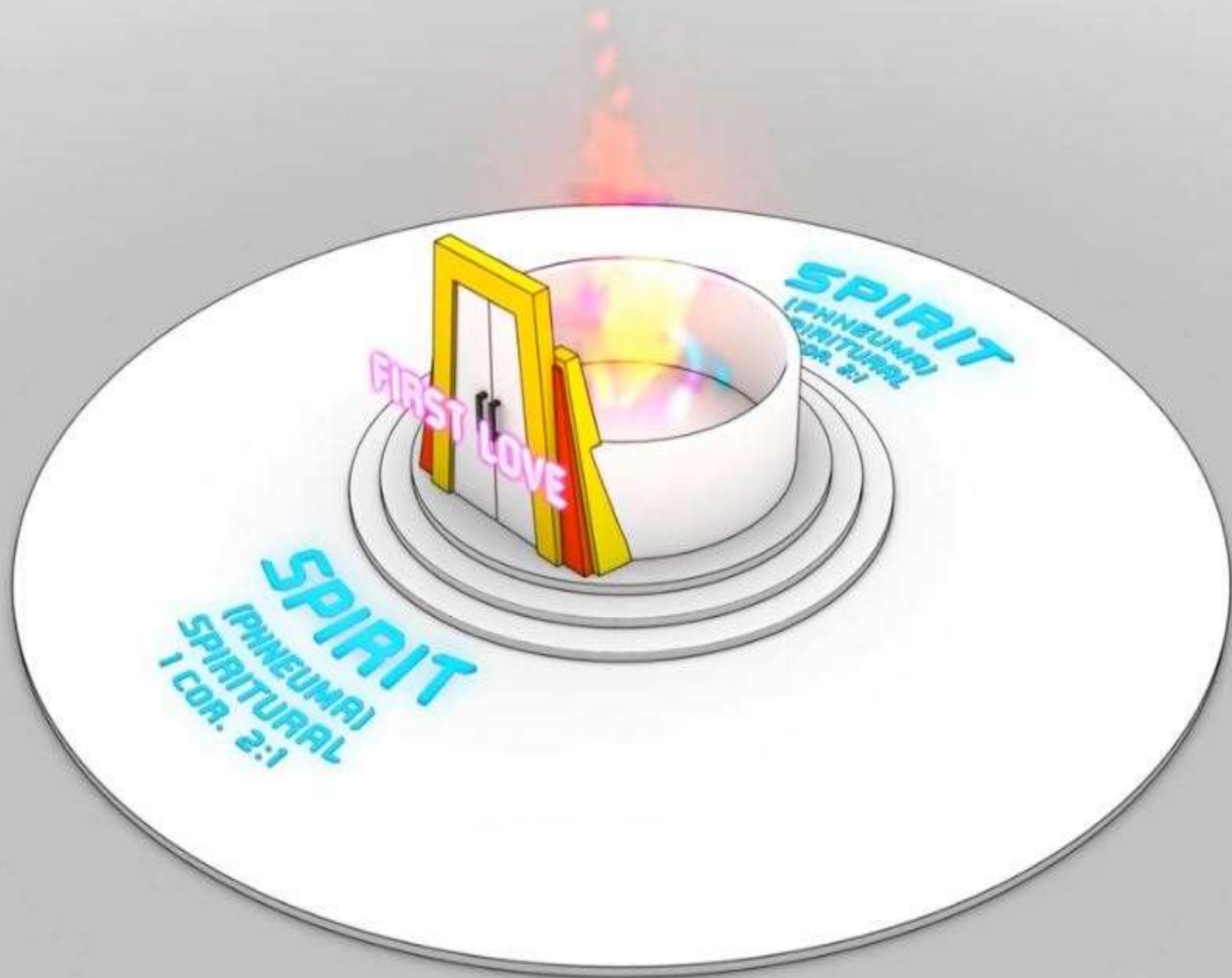
Encountering God

- 1 Cor 6:16 Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, “The two shall become one flesh.”¹⁷ But the one who **joins** himself to the Lord is **one spirit** with Him.
- You are a house, dwelling, habitation of God – an embassy of heaven on earth
- You are a gateway of heaven to earth – an ambassador



GLORY
OF
GOD

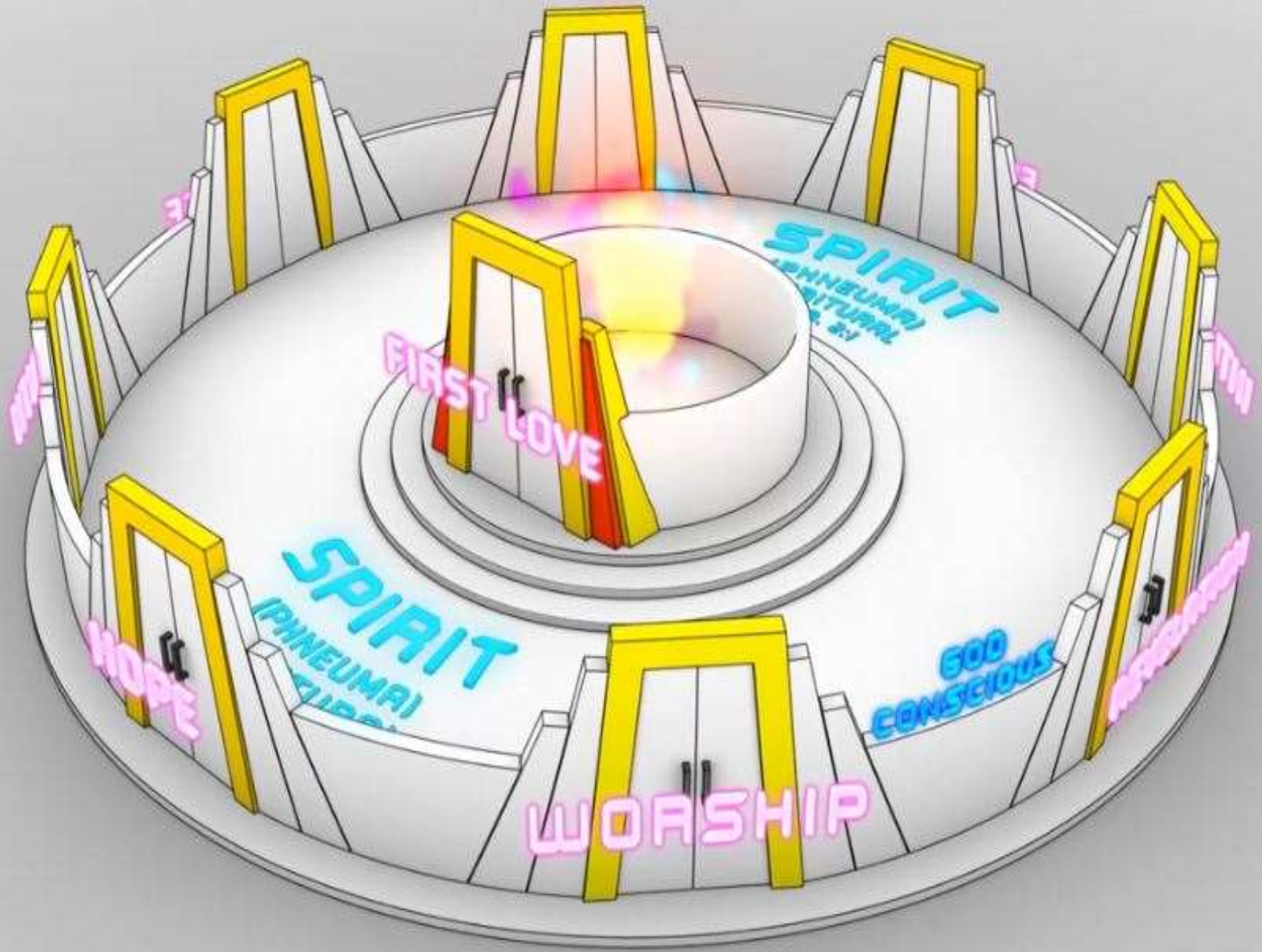


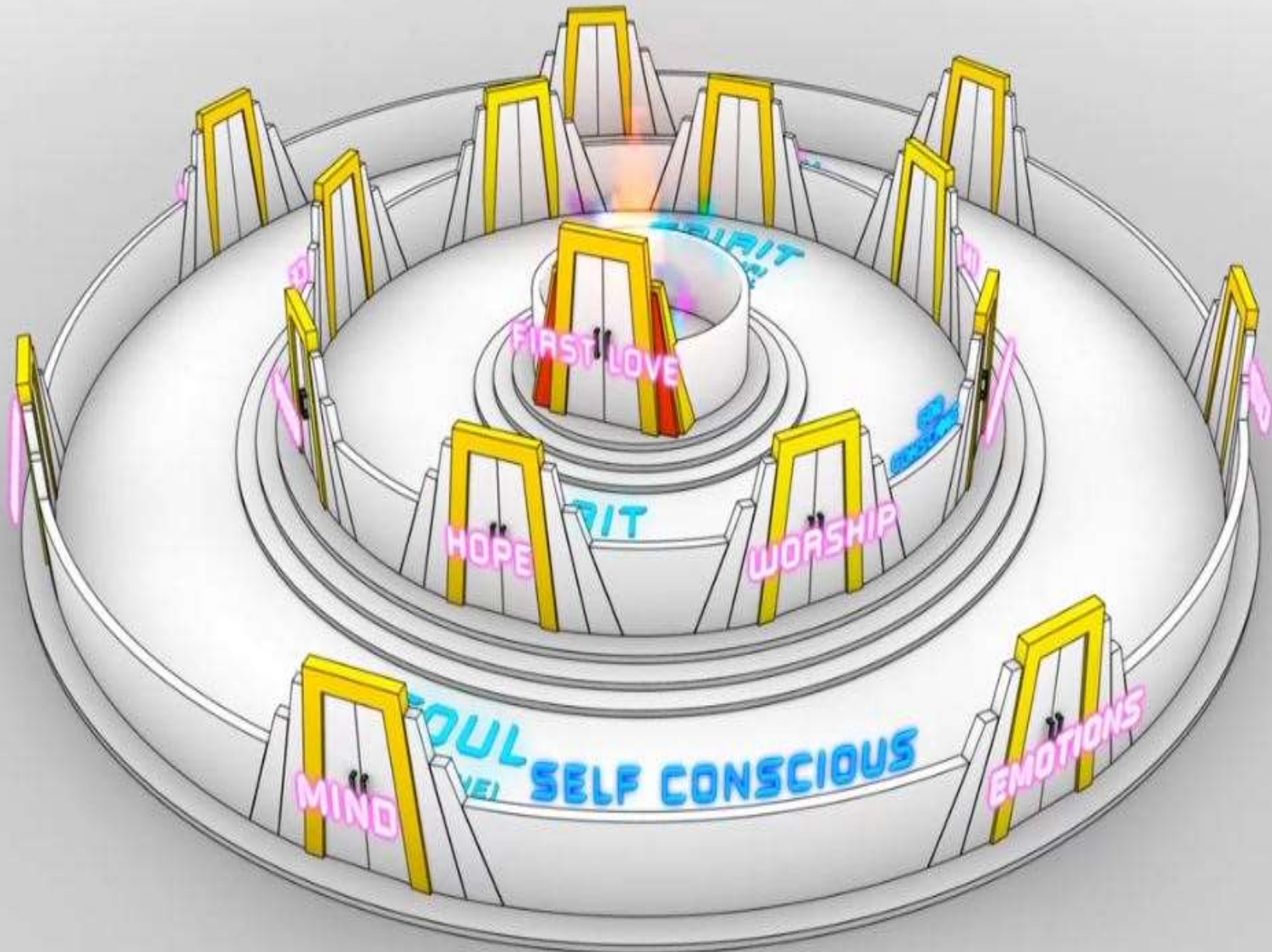


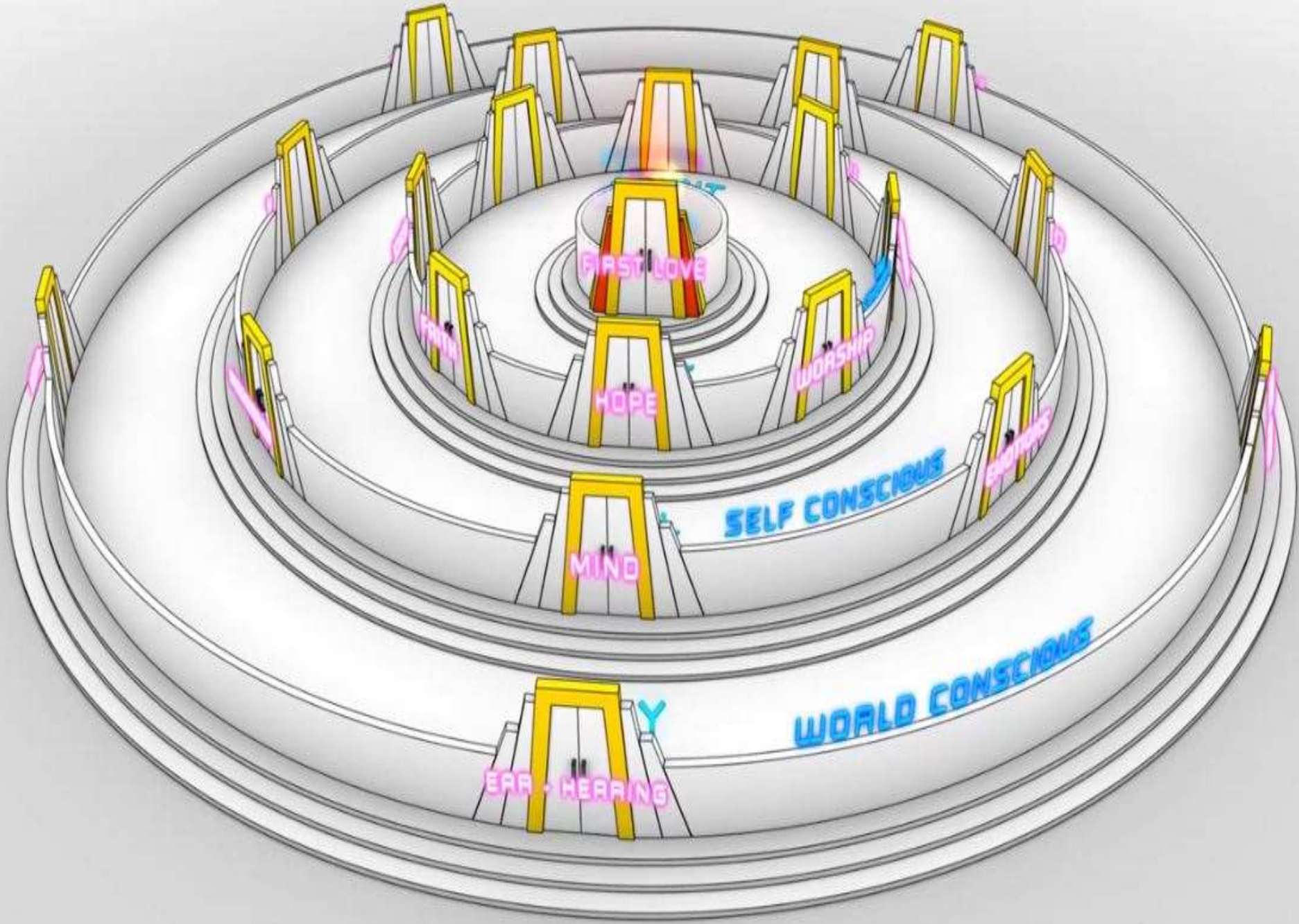
FIRST LOVE

SPIRIT
(PNEUMAT)
SPIRITUAL
1 COR. 2:1

SPIRIT
(PNEUMAT)
SPIRITUAL
1 COR. 2:1







Encountering God

- Everything has flowed from the outside in
- Learn to relate to world around us through our 5 physical senses
- Interpret the world through electrical impulses in the brain
- See – interpret spatial awareness
- Hear – interpret mechanical pressure waves
- Smell – interpret chemical particles

Encountering God

- Taste – sweet, sour, salty, bitter, savoury
- Touch – hot, cold, soft, hard
- Memories of experiences stored and reused
- Learned through practice to train our senses
- Soul also has senses that have been trained, from the outside in by nature, nurture and trauma
- Spirit also has to be trained to flow from inside out

Encountering God

- Learn to tune into God's voice inside
- Learn to see from the inside
- Learn to hear from the inside
- Learn to feel from the inside
- Learn to be guided from the inside
- Learn to smell from inside
- Learn to touch from inside

Encountering God

- Develop spiritual sensitivity
- Develop our spiritual senses
- Tune our soul senses to sense spirit flow
- Understanding our spirit/soul/body gates
- Cleanse the imagination
- Purify the conscience
- Heal and restore our motions
- Renew the heart – subconscious mind

Encountering God

- How do we hear the voice of God?
- How do we recognise the voice of God?
- God is a spirit being who transcends time and space
- Eph 4:6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.
- Develop a lifestyle of the supernatural
- God is not everything and everything is not God
- We can engage with God through His creation

Encountering God

- John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own **know Me**
- Psa 103:7 He made known **His ways** to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel.
- John 10: 27 My sheep **hear My voice**, and I know them, and **they follow Me**

Encountering God

- What is God saying = focus on hearing
- What is God saying? Rather than what can you see, what is going on
- Heard information Greek mindset interpretation - understanding.
- God wants us to experience and not just hear.
- Focus on hearing – often miss out on seeing, feeling, sensing what is going on around us in the spiritual realm.

Encountering God

- God's voice is a flow of spontaneous thoughts, pictures, feelings, impressions etc.
- Become still so you can sense the flow of thoughts and emotions within
- Fix the eyes of your heart upon Jesus to see in the spirit
- Journal what He says and shows you

Encountering God

- Children often criticised – “you’re just imagining that” or “its all in your imagination”;
- Shuts it down as not being real.
- Active and passive imagination. You are in control of the active: use it.
- Passive = thoughts pictures etc. projected from God in dreams visions etc.

Encountering God

- Usually you activate your imagination by thinking of something eg. fixing your thoughts on Jesus
- Focus that thinking into visualising the object
- Sometimes memories and images appear
- Dreams operate in the imagination with the conscious mind asleep.



Freedom

Apostolic Resources

For more teaching from Mike Parsons,
please visit freedomtrust.org.uk/AR