

## WALKING IN SUNSHINE

The first three phases/stages of the spiritual path are detailed in Acts Chapters 19-21.

There is an absolutely beautiful passage towards the end of 1 Corinthians describing the Fourth Phase in spiritual development.

Chapter 15 (v 12 - 19) "The fourth phase is a glorious phase, upon which your feet shall barely touch the ground. As you walk the earth, you know where you walk, so that the earth is merely a symbol within the mind. You shall not know brothers, but you shall talk to them. You will not need food, but you will eat with joy. Music shall accompany you in your every moment, and yet, you will have no need for your ears. Your sight will be changed from earthly sight to sight that is provided from Heaven. All things shall be new, and you shall have no need for any of them. In this, your joy shall be complete."

To be honest when I read over phase four it seemed to be so out of my reach, so beyond my usual experience of life that I thought I was reading a fairy story. I heard myself saying to myself, "Yeah, right" and although I knew that was the ego talking again I was aware of how far away I felt from the reality described in Chapter 15.

The kind of thinking I fell into is a trap, a trap of judgment, comparison, unworthiness, and belief in our own false limited perception of ourselves. Although NTI describes these aspects of the path as "stages or phases" in our development, they are more of a statement of our "unlearning" or letting go of the ideas of what we are not so that we can see and know who we truly are.

We go through these stages, or we think we have to go through these stages because we still perceive ourselves in a limited way.

My limited vision is described in Acts 4(1-22) 1-5:

“I have told you before that you will be tempted to deny your guidance. And I have told you where this temptation will come from. It is resistance born of a sense of unworthiness. I have also told you where this sense of unworthiness comes from. It is born of guilt, born of the belief that you have stolen yourself from God.”

Just read over the fourth earthly phase in 1 Corinthians 15(12-19). Instead of dismissing it as being impossible or saying to yourself, “I am so far away from that” stop for a moment, and as you read that passage, listen to the yearning of your heart, listen to your heart as it reminds you the truth of this passage. Know that the yearning of your heart is not a wish for something, but a reminder of what is True. How could you yearn for this fourth phase unless you already knew the truth of it?

We yearn to be free because we know we already are.