

## REFLECTION from 1 Corinthians 15.

The Fourth earthly phase of the spiritual path. (phases 1-3 are discussed in Acts 19-23.

Chapter 15 begins with "Let me remind you of the simplicity of what I request....I ask you to lay down willingly everything but your trust."

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 I was still 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 my own false limited perception of myself. Although NTI describes these aspects of the path as "stages or phases" in our development, they are more a statement of our "unlearning" or our 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.  
(But the stages are necessary within our limited perception see Acts Chapter 7

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 of 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.