

Spirituality of the Probationary Path

The Probationary Path consists of the Planetary Bands of the Great Continuum of Consciousness between the Biophysical Universe and the First Planetary Initiation.

For our webinar today, we will explore these forms of spirituality on the Biophysical Universe, the Abstract Mind Plane, the Psychic Realm, and the Wisdom Plane. These realms are the abode of the New Thought and New Age systems of spirituality that play a key role in non-Judeo-Christian faith communities in Europe and America, and increasingly, in other parts of the world as well.

We will begin our exploration with movements of the Abstract Mind Plane. [Use the handout to identify the levels specified in range.]

Type	Range	Technique(s)	Description
Quantum Mechanics and Unified Field Mysticism	Geographical Astronomical Subplane of the Biophysical Universe to the Temple of Philosophy	Breathing into the Soul, using a mantra to unite with the Soul	These groups are typical of the New Consciousness Studies, exemplified by the writings of Deepak Chopra and Gary Zukav, which describe a state of mystical union with the universe. Writers of this genre speak of the unified field, the brain as a hologram, and the emergence of consciousness in the universe through man's brain. They link principles of quantum mechanics with the power of manifesting intention.

Type	Range	Technique(s)	Description
Present Time, Sacred Time, Power of Now Groups	The wave of the present time on the Akashic Aether to the top of the Materialization Dematerialization Subplane	Focusing attention on the wave of the present time on the Akashic Aether; some ride up the beam that connects this wave with the Soul to unite with the eternal.	Groups influenced by Eckhard Tolle's writing use this method, as do some process meditation groups. Some of these groups emphasize remaining in union with "the present time," which they view as a state of enlightenment.
Process Meditation Groups	The wave of the present time on the Akashic Aether to the top of the Dynamic Creation Subplane	Process meditations done individually or as an array of processes addressing a theme	Scientology™ and groups derived from L. Ron Hubbard's teachings such as the Landmark Forum, or Life Spring, who use process meditation to release buried issues in the unconscious mind and to rehabilitate the abilities of the Soul.
Coaching Groups	Dynamic Creation Subplane to the top of the Materialization Dematerialization Subplane	Evocative questions coupled with systems of programs designed to bring personal transformation and realization of one's dreams	Coaching groups that promise transformation, including weight loss, finding one's ideal partner, career and financial success, and attainment of one's dream lifestyle. Some may bring in elements of the Law of Attraction.
Subconscious mind programming groups	Body Mind Programming Subplane to the Universal Mind	Autohypnosis, entering suggestions to program the Subconscious mind	Groups like Silva Mind Control and Autogenics, as well as other self-help systems based on hypnosis aim to influence the Subconscious mind.

Type	Range	Technique(s)	Description
New Thought Groups, the Power of Positive Thinking	Universal Mind Subplane and beyond	Affirmation and visualization, “treatment of negative beliefs,” changing negative thoughts to positive ones	New Thought Groups such as Unity, Science of Mind, Religious Science, and Christian Science seek to align human thought and belief to the universal laws of mind. These principles are used widely, in New Thought groups, as well as in Judeo-Christian religion and psychotherapy.

Access to the Subconscious, unconscious, and Superconscious mind—with an aim to transform negative conditions into positive ones, to fulfill human desires, and to connect with the empowered core of the Soul—mark the groups that colonize the Abstract Mind Plane.

The underlying meta-belief is that mind can influence matter through the agency of suggestion and affirmation. This works through the interface of the Subconscious and Superconscious mind with the brain.

Most aspirants have been exposed to the principles promulgated by Abstract Mind spiritual groups. We will examine how these have influenced you.



How Have New Thought Teachings Touched Your Life?

Have you ever explored any of the varieties of New Thought Spirituality? Have you attended any programs put on by New Thought organizations or participated in their religious services? What are some of their basic assumptions?

Have you read books written by authors that tap the Abstract Mind Plane?

Have you ever used affirmation, process meditation, autohypnosis, or visualization to change your beliefs or behavior, or to transform yourself, or to manifest a desired condition in your life?

Have you ever had coaching? Did it help you get what you want?

Have you ever used a vision board? Do you put up affirmation cards around your home, at your workplace, or in your car?

Do you believe that your mind can influence matter? Have you ever visualized something you've wanted, and asked "the universe" to manifest it for you? Did it work?

Have you ever resolved a long-standing issue or problem using process meditation?

Barbara Ehrenreich, in her book, *Bright Sided: How Positive Thinking is Undermining America*, speculated that the dynamic optimism of America and other successful nations is due in large part to their wholesale embracing of the notions of New Thought spirituality.

She cautions that expecting positive outcomes, and that visualizing something does not always bear fruit in reality. She traces the collapse of the real estate market and the periodic declines of the stock market, among other examples, to the failure of people to make contingency plans for the real possibility that positive trends will not continue indefinitely into the future.

Psychic Realm Spirituality

Whereas spirituality in the Abstract Mind Plane is embedded in the body-mind, and interfaces with it through techniques such as hypnosis, process meditation, and affirmation; Psychic Realm spirituality moves onto the Astral Plane beyond the mind, and activates the astral body. If Abstract Mind spirituality can foster hypomanic states of mind, Psychic Realm spirituality—which begins by becoming detached from reality in states of trance—can become frankly delusional.

The Psychic Realm is the home of the many varieties of New Age groups, which range from the expectations of the Law of Attraction believers for miraculous manifestation; to the ardent faithful, who are convinced that the present, dire state of the world will be transformed through the compassionate intervention of advanced, extraterrestrial civilizations.

Type	Range	Technique(s)	Description
Law of Attraction (LOA) Practitioners and Groups	The wave of the present time on the Akashic Aether to the top of the Materialization Subplane	Affirmation and visualization, using “intention” to “create” what you desire	The Law of Attraction, popularized by the movie, “The Secret,” has become familiar to many. It believes that the efficacy of this method is contingent on one’s ability to maintain focused intention and unwavering faith that what one visualizes will manifest.



Type	Range	Technique(s)	Description
Doomsday and Utopian Groups	Materialization Dematerialization Subplane to Heavenly Realms Subplane	Contact with a spiritual entity in a state of trance [e.g., an angel, an Ascended Master, Jesus, or God} who grants a vision or revelation about the future of the world, which may be a doomsday scenario, a utopian paradise, or some combination	Some of those who are obsessed with these apocalyptic visions may stockpile provisions for the end of the world. Others teach of the coming advent of a savior. Some may create utopian communities so they may preserve their purity, to ensure they will be chosen, and enter the promised paradisiacal world to come where there is no more evil or sorrow. Jehovah's Witness, the Latter Day Saints (LDS Church), and other groups of this type are heavily influenced by these visions and revelations.
Healing Groups	The wave of the present time on the Akashic Aether to the top of the Healing Subplane	"Laying on of hands," "tapping," visualizing, giving healing "attunements"	This work is typical of groups like Reiki and JoRei that are anchored on the Healing Subplane. The Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) is a form of healing that uses tapping on acupuncture points to bring about emotional healing.



Type	Range	Technique(s)	Description
Psychic Powers Training Groups	Psychic Powers Subplane to the top of the Heavenly Realms Subplane	Focusing attention on the colored chakras of the psychic vehicle; activating them by breath, visualization, or chanting. They may also teach how to commune with a spiritual guide, or receive telepathic messages.	Many of the psychic training groups are offshoots of the Spiritualist Church. The majority of these training programs focus on the psychic vehicle on the Psychic Powers Subplane; some will train in contacting “spirits,” or “guides” on the inner Planes.
Metaphysical Training Groups	Healing Subplane to the top of the Heavenly Realms Subplane.	Study and practice of the “intuitive sciences” and learning alternative healing arts technologies	These groups train others in metaphysical principles, and in systems of interpretation such as Astrology, Numerology, Tarot, and Palmistry. They may also teach healing methods such as flower remedies and homeopathy; radionics and frequency modulation methods; and color, sound, and music therapies.
Spiritualist and Guide-Centered Groups	Heavenly Realms Subplane to the Astral Form Subplane	Contemplation of guides or departed spirits; channeling these and other entities; union with the Soul by the “I AM God” mantra	These can take the form of structured communion practices of the Spiritualist Church, or gaining insights from sundry channelers and mediums, who channel various entities.

Type	Range	Technique(s)	Description
Psychic or revelatory Judeo-Christian faiths	Materialization Dematerialization Subplane to Heavenly Realms Subplane	Prayer to the form of God that can be known in the Heavenly Realms Subplane; channeling angels, prophets, saints, or Jesus to receive guidance	In addition to the apocalyptic beliefs of the Materialization Dematerialization Subplane, many of these Psychic Realm religions may channel scriptures and holy books from these sources; the LDS Church received the <i>Book of Mormon</i> in this fashion. Other texts like <i>Oaspe</i> , and the writings of Immanuel Swedenborg tap these realms.
UFO Groups	Pleiadean Vortex Subplane	Investigating UFO “cover-ups”, viewing UFOs in-person, invoking alien beings, receiving channeled guidance from extraterrestrials and “galactic commanders”	Some of these seek to photograph and contact aliens. Some have received channeled information that an alien species will come to rescue the earth. Others receive revelations of advanced technologies or “spiritual” teachings from advanced civilizations on other planets
Channelers of “highly evolved entities”	Astral Forms Subplane to the Psychic Guide Subplane	Communing with guides via guided meditation to gain union with the Soul; receiving individualized guidance and readings from the entity; may also teach LOA principles and read past lives	These channelers typically contact “Ascended Masters,” or entities like “Abraham,” “Ramtha,” “Seth,” or “Melchizadek,” who do not teach a Judeo-Christian doctrine and who have a broader range of teachings than the “spirit encounters” of the Heavenly Realms Subplane.

Type	Range	Technique(s)	Description
Psychic Ascension Groups	Healing Subplane to the Astral Forms Subplane	They use Kriya-like techniques to “raise the vibrations of the psychic vehicle” so people can make their “ascension;” they may also use powerful mantras to stimulate psychic powers; they may also use “attunements” to awaken the inner vehicles of others. These practices can generate significant imbalances.	These attunement and ascension groups are often associated with popular channelers and New Age visionaries, who use techniques like the MerKaBa method, and selected methods to stimulate the vehicles of consciousness on the Psychic Realm into heightened activity.

Distortion and over-valuation of the significance of their visions and revelations are markers of Psychic Realm spirituality. We discuss these pitfalls, and ways to ameliorate them, in greater depth in our book, *The Psychic Realm: Finding Safe Passage through the Worlds of Illusion*.



How Have New Age Teachings Touched Your Life?

Have you ever explored any of the varieties of New Age Spirituality? Have you attended any programs put on by New Age organizations or participated in their meditation or prayer services? What are some of their basic assumptions?

Have you read books written by authors that tap the Psychic Plane? Have you seen movies like “The Secret,” “The Celestine Prophecy,” or “Three Magic Words”?

Have you ever used the Law of Attraction or creation through intention to manifest a desired condition in your life?

Have you ever had a psychic reading done for you? What type? Did it give you information that you found valuable, and you were able to use what you were told?

Have you received channeled guidance? Was the communication helpful? Why or why not?

Have you ever communed with a spiritual guide from the Psychic realm? Where did they take you? What did they tell you or show you?

Have you ever had someone read your past lives? Have you ever done a past life regression? Have you ever had remembrances of your own past lives?

Do you follow your horoscope daily? Is it accurate?

Have you ever seen a UFO?



Groups of the Wisdom Plane

Typically, the experience of the Wisdom Plane is a very individual one, but there are a few groups that are established on this Plane. Some of them use the native understanding and forgiveness faculties of this realm to work through personal issues. Others look beyond into the Divine Presence on the First Exoteric Planetary Initiation, and invoke it as the Holy Spirit, or the Divine Presence. Here are examples of these types of Wisdom Plane groups.

Type	Range	Technique(s)	Description
Forgiveness Groups	Forgiveness and Understanding Subplanes	They remember life incidents that evoke anger, grief, and shame, and use forgiveness to heal this. They may invoke unconditional love to uproot fear and self-loathing. They contemplate your relationships with others so you can understand them and forgive them.	This is found in therapeutic groups that use forgiveness and self-acceptance to free the personality from traumatic experiences.
Course in Miracles Groups	Entire Wisdom Plane with invocation of the Holy Spirit in the 1st Exoteric Initiation	Contemplating the meaning of messages purported channeled from the Holy Spirit; using affirmation and prayer to clear away obstacles to doing, being, or having what one dreams.	These groups use invocation of the Holy Spirit, and contemplation of the teachings of <i>A Course in Miracles</i> to bring about miraculous manifestation and transformation.

Type	Range	Technique(s)	Description
Rastafarian groups	Entire Wisdom Plane with invocation of the Holy Spirit in the 1st Exoteric Initiation	Prayer and invocation of the “Most High God,” (Jah); partaking of the sacrament of cannabis; singing praise to God and the King of Kings, emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia	These groups evidence great enthusiasm and love for God. They stand at the gateway of Initiation. They are held back from “entering in” by believing in a being, who cannot save them, and clinging to the vestiges of sorcery (active drug use).

How Have Wisdom Plane Teachings Touched Your Life?

Have you ever explored any of the varieties of Wisdom Plane Spirituality? Have you attended any programs put on by Wisdom Plane organizations? What are some of their basic assumptions?

Have you read books written by authors that tap the Wisdom Plane?

Have you ever used *A Course in Miracles* to overcome personal limitations, or to manifest a desired condition in your life?

In overview, it appears that the main emphases of groups of the Probationary Path include:

1. Discovery of the immanent Divinity within the Soul
2. Manifestation of desires
3. Gaining powers to control the Subconscious, Superconscious, and elements of the unconscious mind

The ultimate purpose of this phase of spiritual development is to prepare the Soul for entry into the Great Stream of Life, and for overshadowing by the Divine Will.

The “inner education” that the Soul receives from exposure to the teachings of these groups sparks in it an intuitive grasp of what is required to achieve Mastery of these Planes.

The challenges for the Soul at these levels include overcoming the cognitive and perceptual distortions inherent in some of these bands of the Probationary Path, and to gain the requisite

- Self-discipline
- Discernment
- Willingness to be of service
- Compassion and unconditional love
- Understanding and forgiveness
- Faith in its own ability, and the ability to invoke a power “Greater than Itself:
- Ability to rightly use the abilities that it gains on these ascending Planes of Light

Some of those listening to this webinar may still be working on the challenges of the Probationary path. Others have gone on to enter the Divine Stream of Life, and have begun their conscious communion with the Living God, who has now begun to guide and overshadow their Souls.



Thank you for attending our webinar today!

