

An Introduction To Spiritual Christianity

1. The Divine Being

Video 1 - The Lord of Jehovah, The Ground Of All Being

In the theological framework of Spiritual Christianity, a profound and coherent understanding of the Divine Being emerges, presenting a unique perspective on the nature of God, creation, and humanity. Central to the teaching is the concept of the Divine Esse, or Jehovah, the Divine Being who is the Creator and sustainer of all that exists.

The Divine Esse: Ground of All Being

As the Divine Esse, Jehovah is not merely a being among other beings but the very Ground of Being itself. In this sense, Jehovah is the ultimate reality, embodying the fullness of perfection. Every aspect of creation, in its vast diversity, is derived from this infinite source. The Divine Esse is thus the foundation upon which all existence stands, encompassing an all-encompassing perfection that is beyond human comprehension.

Creation from the Divine

The act of creation is an expression of this Divine Esse. Everything that exists has been brought into being from Jehovah, implying that all created things inherently contain traces of this divine perfection. Yet, the act of creation is also an act of separation, where the infinite perfection of Jehovah is expressed in finite forms. This brings forth a universe filled with diversity, where each element reflects the Creator's perfection to varying degrees.

The Finite Nature of Man

Human beings, as part of this creation, are inherently finite. Despite being endowed with consciousness and a range of faculties, humans are limited in their understanding and existence. Our finite nature stands in stark contrast to the infinite nature of Jehovah. This intrinsic limitation shapes our experience and

comprehension, confining us to a realm where true perfection remains elusive and incomprehensible.

Limits of Human Perception

Spiritual Christianity emphasises that human understanding is inherently limited due to our finite nature. We can only perceive and comprehend that which aligns with our limited faculties. Consequently, while we can acknowledge the perfection of Jehovah or the Divine as it is in Itself, we cannot grasp its true essence. The Divine Being's perfection is of such a magnitude that it transcends all human thought and language. Any attempt to conceive or express the nature of Jehovah falls short due to the inherent limitations of our finite minds.

The Incomprehensibility of Jehovah

Jehovah, is not a being that can be fully comprehended by any finite mind. All that can be definitively stated about God is that He is. The essence of what Jehovah is remains beyond the reach of human thought and language. This divine transcendence means that while we can acknowledge and worship Jehovah, our understanding of His true nature is profoundly limited. Such perception, if it were possible, would require a perfect or infinite mind, which humans as finite beings do not possess.

Conclusion

The theological insights of Spiritual Christianity present a vision of a profoundly transcendent God, whose essence and perfection surpass all human understanding. Jehovah, the Divine Esse, stands as the ultimate Ground of Being, from whom all creation flows. Human beings, with their finite minds, can only acknowledge this divine perfection without fully comprehending it. This perspective underscores a deep humility in the face of divine mystery, recognising the limitations of human perception and the boundless nature of the Divine.

Video 2 – Pre-eminence And Negation

Spiritual Christianity provides a profound exploration of the nature of Jehovah, the Divine Esse, particularly emphasising the limitations of human understanding in

grasping the essence of the infinite. It takes an approach that delineates what Jehovah is not, providing a framework that protects against misconceiving the nature of the Divine Being.

Human Limitation in Knowing Jehovah

According to the teachings for Spiritual Christianity, due to the inherent imperfections of human faculties, man cannot truly know what the Infinite Jehovah is in Himself. The finite nature of human cognition restricts our ability to comprehend the fullness of the Divine Being. However, it is possible for humans to understand what Jehovah is not. This approach, focusing on negation, serves to delineate the divine by excluding attributes associated with finitude and imperfection.

Instruction through Pre-eminence and Negation

Spiritual Christianity's teachings about the Divine Esse are articulated either by highlighting His pre-eminence or by negating properties essential to the finite. In negative terms, the teaching describes Jehovah God as uncreated, underived, immutable, and improgressive. These descriptors essentially communicate that Jehovah possesses no characteristics common to His imperfect creations. This method of negation ensures that any conception of Jehovah does not erroneously attribute finite properties to the infinite.

Safeguarding the Concept of Jehovah

The use of negation is a crucial safeguard in the theological system that is Spiritual Christianity. It prevents the erroneous application of finite and temporal attributes to Jehovah, even while affirming His infinite and eternal nature. By encircling the Divine Esse with negations of all properties essential to the finite, Spiritual Christianity effectively shuts out all finite approaches to understanding the divine. This method ensures that our conception of Jehovah remains free from any misleading finite analogies.

Immutability and Improgression of Jehovah

Central to the teaching's depiction of Jehovah is the assertion that He is devoid of all progression. Jehovah's life is immutable and cannot change to become more or

less perfect. As the fullness of Perfection, any change would imply a movement towards imperfection or finitude, which is antithetical to the very nature of Jehovah God. Therefore, Jehovah is described as both improgressive and immutable in a negative sense. This highlights that any notion of change or progression is inapplicable to the Divine Esse, reinforcing His status as the ultimate perfection.

Conclusion

Spiritual Christianity's theological framework provides a unique and deeply reflective understanding of Jehovah by emphasizing what the Divine is not. Through the use of negation and the highlighting of pre-eminence, the teachings for Spiritual Christianity ensure that human conceptions of Jehovah remain free from the limitations and imperfections inherent in finite existence. Jehovah, the Divine Esse, stands as an uncreated, underived, immutable, and improgressive being, transcending all human comprehension and remaining the ultimate embodiment of perfection. This approach maintains the sanctity and mystery of the divine, underscoring the profound difference between the infinite nature of Jehovah and the finite nature of His creation.

Video 3 - Immutability and Sameness

The teachings for Spiritual Christianity present a nuanced understanding of the Divine Esse, or Jehovah, emphasising His immutability, perfection, and the complex nature of His divine presence. This perspective challenges simplistic notions of sameness and highlights the dynamic complexity inherent in divine perfection.

Immutability Beyond Simple Sameness

Spiritual Christianity asserts that immutability in regard to the Divine Esse should not be misconstrued as "simple sameness," a concept often found in scientific reductionism. Instead, the sameness attributed to the Divine Esse stems from His fullness of perfection. Jehovah's immutability does not imply a static monotony but rather a constant and perfect state of being that transcends simplistic interpretations.

Perfection in Complexity

According to the doctrines for Spiritual Christianity, perfection is intrinsically linked to complexity. The more highly organised and diverse a being is, the more perfect it becomes. This principle underscores that true perfection is found in diversity and complexity rather than uniformity. Jehovah, as the Divine Esse, embodies this perfect complexity, existing as an infinitely organised and varied being whose perfection is manifested in the diverse and intricate nature of creation.

Divine Sameness and Human Variability

Spiritual Christianity further elucidates that Jehovah is the same everywhere, with everyone, and in everyone. This divine sameness does not imply uniformity but rather reflects the consistent and perfect nature of Jehovah. The variations and mutability observed are not in the Divine Esse but in the recipients—humans and other created beings. These variations are effects produced by the state of the recipients, not changes in the divine nature itself. Thus, while Jehovah remains immutable and perfect, the diversity in human experiences and states reflects the varying capacities and conditions of individuals to receive and perceive the divine presence.

Conclusion

The theological insights of Spiritual Christianity provide a profound understanding of Jehovah's immutability and perfection. The Divine Esse's immutability transcends simplistic notions of sameness, embodying a perfect and constant state that is rich in complexity and diversity. Perfection, according to this system of theological thought, is found in this intricate organisation and variation, highlighting the dynamic nature of the divine. While Jehovah remains the same in His essence and presence, the variations and mutability we perceive are reflections of our own states and capacities as recipients of the divine. This perspective enriches our understanding of the divine nature, emphasising the profound difference between the perfect, immutable Divine Esse and the mutable, varied states of creation.

Video 4 - Immutability And Images Of Finitude In Scripture

The theological system of Spiritual Christianity offers a coherent reconciliation between the immutable, non-spatial nature of Jehovah and the depictions of God as a being that undergoes change found in Holy Scriptures. These depictions serve a purpose within the context of human comprehension and spiritual development, enabling finite beings to grasp aspects of the infinite divine reality.

Self-Evident Truths and Scriptural Representations

Spiritual Christianity posits that enlightened reason immediately ascends to the truth of Jehovah's immutability and transcendence beyond space and time. Yet, the Holy Scriptures often present God as a being who changes His mind and spatial position. This apparent contradiction can be reconciled by understanding the nature of divine communication. Jehovah is not subject to spatial or temporal limitations; He is not extended in space nor does He precede spatial existence. These finite attributes must be seen as appearances, crafted to convey higher truths to those whose understanding is rooted in the physical and sensual realms.

Divine Instruction Adapted to Human Comprehension

The teachings for Spiritual Christianity explain that Scripture's portrayal of God in finite terms is a deliberate adaptation to human comprehension. This method allows those who have yet to develop their rational and spiritual faculties to grasp divine truths. The purely Divine Truths of the spiritual or internal sense are presented in a natural, and even sensual, garb. This adaptation ensures that spiritual concepts are accessible to all, regardless of their level of spiritual enlightenment.

Universal Truth and Scriptural Interpretation

A key tenet of this spiritual perspective is that Jehovah, the one only Perfect Being, possesses no extension or mutation, either external or internal. Once this universal truth is firmly fixed in the mind, it enables one to interpret scriptural passages that depict God in finite terms correctly. These passages are not literal descriptions of Jehovah as He is in Himself, but rather symbolic representations tailored to human comprehension.

For instance, in the book of Revelation in the Bible, Jehovah is called the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega. While these titles appear to refer to God in a temporal and spatial sense, they do not describe His essence. Instead, they denote His role as the source of all existence. In Jehovah, there is no beginning or ending, no first or last, as these are attributes of imperfect or finite beings. The infinite perfection of Jehovah precludes any relative degrees of perfection or progression in time.

Jehovah as the Source of All Being

Jehovah or the Lord is called the Beginning and the Ending, the First and the Last, not because He possesses any temporal sequence or spatial limitation, but to signify that all things originate from Him. He is the inmost producing cause of all variety in existence, both in man and nature. Without Jehovah, nothing could exist. This conceptual framework allows for the understanding that scriptural depictions of God's actions and attributes are symbolic, designed to bridge the gap between finite human comprehension and the infinite divine reality.

Conclusion

The teachings for Spiritual Christianity provides a profound and nuanced approach to understanding the nature of Jehovah and the purpose of scriptural representations. By recognising the immutable, non-spatial essence of Jehovah, believers can reconcile the finite depictions of the Lord in the Bible with the enlightened reason that acknowledges God's transcendence. The adaptation of divine truths to human comprehension ensures that all individuals, regardless of their spiritual maturity, can access and engage with the divine. This spiritual perspective underscores the infinite perfection and the foundational role of Jehovah as the source of all being, transcending any finite or temporal limitations.

Video 5 - Infinity and Eternity

The spiritual perspective of Spiritual Christianity offers a robust framework to counter common theological and philosophical opinions grounded in natural reasoning, particularly those that erroneously attribute the properties of space and time to the Divine Being. This nuanced understanding helps to maintain a clear distinction between the finite and the infinite, preserving the sanctity and incomprehensibility of the Divine as it is in Itself.

Countering Common Theological and Philosophical Opinions

Spiritual Christianity provides a defence against the common opinions of theology and philosophy that stem from natural reasoning. These opinions often mistakenly start from the premise that space and time are essential properties from which all being is derived, leading to the conclusion that these properties must also belong to the Divine Being. This reasoning fails to recognise the fundamental difference between the finite nature of creation and the infinite nature of the Divine.

Misconceptions of Space and Time in Relation to the Divine

Many thinkers dignify space and time in relation to the Divine by conceiving of the space that the Divine Being fills as an infinity of space, and the time through which He endures as an eternity of time. This reasoning leads to a form of naturalism that misinterprets spiritual matters. Spiritual Christianity's doctrinal perspective clarifies that these conceptions are fundamentally flawed.

The Divine Essence: What He Is Not

The teachings for Spiritual Christianity emphasises that it is impossible for the finite mind to fully grasp what the Divine Esse (the Divine Being) is in Himself. Instead, its approach is to state what Jehovah is not. When it attributes the terms Infinity and Eternity to Jehovah, these terms should suggest the absence of space and time, rather than their presence in an extended form.

Absence of Space and Time in the Divine Being

Space and time are properties common to nature, but they are not present in the Divine Being. To express this absence, Spiritual Christianity uses the terms Infinity and Eternity. Infinity means the complete absence of space or extension in Jehovah, while Eternity means the complete absence of time or progression. These terms are strictly negative, indicating that the mode of Jehovah's being is neither spatial nor temporal.

Avoiding Misconceptions and Dangerous Perplexities

The teachings point out that as long as individuals believe that being cannot exist without the extension of space and the duration of time, they will fall into dangerous perplexities when contemplating the Divine Infinity and Eternity. Natural reasoning grounded in space and time leads to absurd questions like "What was God doing before He began to create?" Such reasoning fails to recognise the non-progressive nature of Divine life.

Infinity and Eternity as Absence of Space and Time

The truth, as articulated through the teachings for Spiritual Christianity, is that infinity is the absence of all space or extension, and eternity is the absence of all time and progression. These properties exist only for the finite mind, produced by its imperfect reception of the Divine Life. Changes in state, mental changes, and variations in love and wisdom, are essential for finite beings but cannot be attributed to the one Perfect Being such as He is in Himself. All variations and changes are effects produced in the recipient of the Divine Life according to its state.

Conclusion

Spiritual Christianity provides a profound understanding of Divine Infinity and Eternity, distinguishing them from the finite properties of space and time. By using negation and carefully defining what Jehovah is not, Spiritual Christianity avoids the pitfalls of natural reasoning that confound the properties of nature with the Divine. This approach preserves the transcendence and incomprehensibility of the Divine, highlighting that the finite mind's perceptions are mere reflections of its own limitations. The Divine, as understood in this system of spiritual thought, remains an infinite, eternal reality free from the constraints of space and time, embodying a perfection that finite beings can acknowledge but never fully comprehend.

Video 6 - The Divine Immensity

Spiritual Christianity offers a profound and intricate understanding of the Divine, particularly in relation to the concepts of space and immensity. This perspective

helps delineate the nature of God as fundamentally distinct from the spatial and temporal constraints that characterise the created universe.

The Absence of Space in God

The teachings for Spiritual Christianity assert that in God, there is no space. Consequently, God cannot have a body that occupies space, as He is not extended in any physical sense. This absence of spatial extension means that God is not immense in terms of magnitude. Instead, God's immensity is understood in a different context, where He is recognised as the origin from which the initiaments of space emerge, yet He remains wholly devoid of all physical magnitude.

Immensity and the Divine Perfection

God is called Immense not because of any spatial magnitude, but because nothing partaking in the nature of space can measure His perfection. While space and its properties originate from God, He Himself is entirely spaceless and unextended. This concept underscores that the perfection of God transcends any form of spatial measurement or physical extension.

The Inmost Cause of Space

Although God is the inmost cause of all that exists, including space, Spiritual Christianity holds that His immensity does not pertain to spatial extension. Instead, it denotes that God, while being the ultimate cause of space, is not confined or defined by spatial attributes. Immensity, in this spiritual framework, signifies the spaceless nature of God as the unextended cause of all spatial phenomena.

Conclusion

Spiritual Christianity's spiritual insights into the concept of Divine immensity provide a unique understanding of God's relationship to space. God's immensity is not related to physical magnitude or spatial extension but to His role as the spaceless cause of all that exists. This perspective preserves the transcendence and incomprehensibility of the Divine, highlighting that God's perfection cannot be measured or confined by the finite dimensions of space. In essence, God's immensity underscores His supreme and boundless nature, free from the limitations of spatial and temporal constraints.

Video 7 - Substance And Form 1

The spiritual framework of Spiritual Christianity offers a deep and coherent understanding of the Divine Esse, or Jehovah, particularly in relation to the concepts of substance and form. These ideas help distinguish the nature of God from the finite properties of the created universe, emphasising His transcendent and sustaining role.

Divine Esse as Essential Substance and Form

Spiritual Christianity describes the Divine Esse as both Essential Substance and Essential Form. However, these terms must be understood in a context completely abstracted from space and all properties associated with physical bodies. This abstraction is crucial to grasping the true nature of the Divine, which is fundamentally different from the material world.

Substance in Relation to the Divine

Typically, substance is understood in two ways:

1. In the physical sense, as natural objects offering resistance to touch.
2. In metaphysics, as a supposed substratum in which the properties of matter inhere.

This spiritual perspective asserts that the Divine Esse, or Jehovah, is the Essential Substance. However, this does not mean He is an object perceptible to the senses or a substratum for the properties of matter. If He were understood in either of these ways, He would be limited by space and time, thus reducing Him to the level of finite beings or merely the inmost principle of nature.

The Universal Substance

Jehovah is Substance itself, or the Universal Substance, because all creation originates from Him, and He sustains all things in being through His omnipresence. This understanding emphasises that God is the one and only cause from which everything derives existence and continuity. To attribute any spatial properties to Him or to consider Him the immediate substratum of natural objects is to confuse the Creator with His creation and degrade His divine nature to that of an ens

naturæ, a hypothetical principle spread throughout "infinite space" as imagined by materialists.

Substance and the Divine Life

When applied to the Divine Esse, the term substance signifies the one sustaining life of all that is created. This perspective is not derived from finite insight into the infinite perfections of the Divine but from the observation of created beings. All things that exist and have progressive life began to be, and their existence implies a source—a non-progressive being from whom they originate or who calls them into being.

Conclusion

The spiritual insights of Spiritual Christianity redefines the concept of substance and form in relation to the Divine Esse, abstracting these terms from any spatial or material connotations. The Divine Esse is understood as the Essential Substance, not through physical attributes or as a substratum, but as the universal sustaining life of all creation. This perspective underscores the transcendence and omnipresence of Jehovah, differentiating Him fundamentally from the finite properties of the created universe. By recognising Jehovah as the ultimate cause and sustainer of all that exists, the teachings for Spiritual Christianity maintain a clear distinction between the infinite perfection of the Divine and the inherent limitations of finite beings.

Video 8 - Substance And Form II

The spiritual insights offer through Spiritual Christianity provide a profound understanding of the nature of Divine Substance and Form. These concepts highlight the transcendence of the Divine over spatial and temporal limitations, emphasising God's role as the ultimate sustainer of creation.

The Divine Substance: Sustainer of All Creation

Spiritual Christianity posits that the same power which creates must also continually preserve in being what is created. Created things have no more power to continue existing than they had to begin existing. This power of sustaining all

things, which Spiritual Christianity terms a "perpetual creation," is an intrinsic property of the Divine Substance. The Divine Substance is not merely a creator but an ongoing sustainer of all existence.

The Misconception of Space and Divine Magnitude

Spiritual Christianity asserts that it is impossible to understand how Jehovah sustains all bodies in space through His omnipresence if space is thought of as an extraneous, independent entity. Such a view mistakenly concludes that God must partake of the nature of those bodies and thus have magnitude. This misconception arises from perceiving the universe's creation in terms of space and time, leading to an erroneous view of Divine Omnipresence as a pervading presence within space.

Creation from State versus Space and Time

The teachings for Spiritual Christianity demonstrates that understanding the creation of the universe from the state, rather than space and time, allows one to perceive all things in nature as representative outbirths of the human will and intellect. Man, as a conscious being, serves as a medium for the creation of nature. This perspective facilitates a clear distinction between the Infinity and Eternity of the Creator and the spatial-temporal reality of nature. The latter, being created through man, symbolises the effects of his imperfect condition and is neither in the Divine Being nor present to Him.

Independence of Space and Time from the Divine

If space and time exist independently of all finite conscious beings, they must be present with the Divine Being, implying that God must be their immediate cause. However, since God is not extended, He cannot be in space; and since He is immutable, He cannot be in time. This distinction underscores the incompatibility of finite spatial and temporal properties with the nature of the Divine.

Understanding Divine Form

By examining the properties that define natural forms, one can understand what is meant by the Divine Esse being Essential Form. The form of a natural body in space is its perceptible boundary, comprehended by the mind and distinct from

other natural forms. In relation to the human mind, form must be conceived abstractly from bodily conditions, representing the concurrent determination of mental powers to specific uses.

Finite and Mutable Forms

All forms, whether natural or spiritual, are finite and mutable, characterised by limitations and imperfections. Natural forms are limited and mutable, and thus cannot be attributed to the Divine Being as He is in Himself. Spiritual forms, related to the human will and intellect, are also finite, focused on specific uses to the exclusion of others.

The Divine Mind as Non-Form

The Divine Mind, in contrast, is Infinite and Universal, neither limited in its essence nor in its operations. Thus, it is said to be Non-Form or devoid of form, indicating the absence of limitations and imperfections inherent in time and space. Despite this, the Divine Esse is regarded as the Essential Form in a supereminent sense, as in Him alone are the initiaments of all form.

The Divine as Essential Substance and Form

The Lord Jehovah is the Essential Substance because His spaceless omnipresence sustains all things in being. He is also the Essential Form because the specific determination and coordination of all forms, whether spiritual or natural, have their initiaments in Him. This dual role emphasises God's fundamental position as both the source and sustainer of all existence, transcending spatial and temporal limitations while imbuing creation with purpose and order.

Conclusion

Spiritual Christianity provides a nuanced understanding of the Divine Substance and Form, emphasising God's transcendence over spatial and temporal limitations. The Divine sustains all creation through omnipresence, without being confined by space or time. Understanding creation from the state of human will and intellect allows for a distinction between the infinite nature of the Divine and the finite nature of the created universe. This framework highlights the perfection and infinitude of God, who is both the Essential Substance and the Essential Form,

transcending all finite limitations while being the source and sustainer of all existence.