

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Sunday, February 12, 2017*

YEAR A - SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
PROPER 1

Greetings and welcome everyone. Last Sunday we discussed our Epistle reading from 1 Corinthians, wherein Paul emphasizes experiencing the power and Spirit of God in preference to the false wisdom of the archons. He does acknowledge, however, that he speaks "wisdom among the initiated." But the Corinthians to whom Paul writes are not yet considered "among the initiated," for in our reading today, which continues the Epistle, we read first the Paul, "was not able to speak to you [the Corinthians] as Pneumatic men, but as men of the flesh." And he goes on to tell them that, "neither are you now yet able, for you are still of the flesh." Now, whether these Corinthians are truly not as yet initiates, or whether they are simply acting as if they are not because of their petty rivalries, Paul makes it clear that if they are going to act like children instead of men, that is how he is going to treat them.

To be an initiate is not merely to have undergone a ritual of initiation. The ritualistic aspects are a crucial element, to be sure. But the actual initiation, the true transformation of consciousness represented by the ritual act, does not necessarily occur at the time of the initiation. The real initiation can occur before, after, or not at all. For it is certain that many never ascend in actuality to the height of the degrees that they have outwardly received, which is only in potentiality.

Moreover, the initiation, as the word expressly denotes, is a beginning. It is a trigger of sorts that initiates a process of unfolding. And one cannot be said to have attained a particular grade in full until that particular phase of the unfolding of consciousness is complete. Also, there are different types of initiation, some of which operate concurrently, and others which operate consecutively. That is, while some initiations can only truly begin after one has attained a preliminary or prerequisite grade, others may operate simultaneously. In every case, though, the unfolding of the new awareness is a process, not a single event. Although there may seem to be sudden leaps of consciousness and understanding from time to time, it is only because a process has been working gradually in the background of the consciousness. It is not dissimilar to the electron that suddenly leaps to a new quantum state; but only after having built up the requisite energy to do so.

We use the term "unfolding" because the process is a form of evolution. And nothing can evolve that was not already involved. In other words, one cannot attain to something for which the potential was not already present. Just as in genetic evolution, spiritual evolution can only manifest what was already latent, whether by nature, or by addition through some superior spiritual force...but that is a topic for which we do not have the time to enter upon today. Know only that every evolved characteristic of an individual was already involved.