

1. Meister Eckhart – (1260 – 1328)

- Dominican Friar (like Thomas Aquinas)
- Theologian
- Mystic – not intending to create dogma but to inspire his congregants to reach a higher spiritual level.

2. Common Principles of the Mystical:

- Christian Mystics (Meister Eckhart, Theresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross)
- Jewish Mysticism
- Quantum Physics<sup>12</sup>
  - Quantum science is Mystical Science.
  - Human Consciousness itself affects the reality of the universe.

“We have learned to live with the fact that nobody can understand it.” Murray Gell-Mann, 1969 Nobel Prize for Physics

3. Principle of Continuous Creation:

- God was always in a dynamic process of creation.
- Also found in Jewish Mysticism and certain quantum theories on informational exchange.

4. Theology – Psychology – the Soul

- In the 1300s, the theologians had sophisticated models of the human soul
  - The same is found in Jewish mysticism.
- There was a belief in an area of the soul -the divine spark – where man’s soul communed with God.
- In the 1300s, what we call a “psychologist” was a Theologian.
- One of the first uses of the term “psychologist” was by Philipp Melanchthon, a theologian, in 1530 – in his “*Commentary on the Soul*” (he was a protégé of Martin Luther).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Eduard Shyfrin, *From Infinity to Man: The Fundamental Ideas of Kabbalah Within the Framework of Information Theory and Quantum Physics* (2019) (written from a Jewish mystical perspective).

<sup>2</sup> Paul Levy, *Quantum Revelation: A Radical Synthesis of Science and Spirituality* (2018) (written from a secular perspective, not Christian).

<sup>3</sup> Wayne G. Rollins, *Soul and Psyche: The Bible in Psychological Perspective*, 1999.

5. **Biblical Metaphors** – Meister Eckhart loved to use Biblical Metaphors to inspire his followers toward spiritual and psychological transformation.

- God creates patterns in the Bible.
- those patterns repeat throughout history and in our spiritual journey.
- The bible story then becomes a metaphor for us to understand our soul and spiritual journey.

6. 1300's sermon structure:

- Start with a passage of scripture.
- Comment on the literal or historical nature of the passage
- Move into the spiritual meaning.
  - Metaphorical – how is this passage a metaphor for the spiritual life
  - Allegorical
  - Eternal life

7. Biblical stories with a metaphorical application for your spiritual journey:

- Abraham – called out to follow God
- Exodus – delivered from slavery to having God dwell in the midst (Exodus 40:34-38)
- Blood of Passover Lamb – Paul calls Jesus the Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7)
- Christmas story??

8. the **Soul** -

Soul		
Hebrew	<i>Nephesh</i>	Feminine
Greek	<i>Psyche</i>	Feminine
Latin	<i>Anima</i>	Feminine

Feminine gives birth.

9. Meister Eckhart on the Christmas story:

Literal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Immaculate conception through the Holy Spirit</li> <li>- Virgin birth of the Christ-child</li> </ul>
Spiritual Metaphor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the soul (fem.) gives birth through the Holy Spirit to the Christ-child, who is birthed in you.</li> <li>- You now mature as a “little Christ” – a Christian</li> <li>- spiritual growth is the continuous birth of the Christ within you.</li> </ul>

- Galatians 1:15-16
- Galatians 2:20 “Christ lives in me.”
- Galatians 4:19 “Christ is formed in you.”

10. Christmas Celebration takes on two meanings:

1. Celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ-child
  2. Celebrate the birth of the Christ-child in your soul.
- what does it mean that you are to grow (mature) to be a “Christ”? an anointed one? A King?