**METAPHYSICAL BIBLE INTERPRETATION:**
**"Mysteries of Genesis"**

*Part 9*

# DEVELOPING OUR SPIRITUAL FACULTIES

"Mystics tell us that man passes through twelve stages in his spiritual development. Each of these is a particular state of consciousness developed by a presiding ego or faculty. The last and highest state of consciousness is that complete, twelve-sided spiritual character attained by Jesus." (MG 231)

Chapters 29-31 relate the story of Jacob's (mentality or illumined intellect) sojourn to Haran, a mountainous region symbolizing an elevated plain of consciousness, his marriages to the daughters of Laban (natural man) Leah and Rachel (feeling nature of the soul), and the birth of 11 of his 12 sons. The intellect must unite with the feelings, and not just the desired (Rachel) but the undesired (Leah) also, with spiritual intention to draw forth a realization of the Christ within through our spirtual faculties.

The 12 sons are the first natural expression of the Divine, Christ, Power. These reach a spirtually guided level with the 12 Apostles and an ultimately balanced expression represented by the 24 elders in Revelations. These 12 spiritual faculties are inherent in each individual as our Divine pattern for expression of the image and likeness of God, Spirit, that we are. Faith, Strength, Wisdom, Love, Power, Imagination, Understanding, Will, Order, Zeal, Elimination and Life are the faculties through which we express the Divinity, Christ, that is within us. See Charles Fillmore's Twelve Powers of Man.

The 12th son is not born until after Jacob's reconciliation with Esau (physicality). We are physical as well as mental and spiritual beings. Jacob (illumined intellect) has reaped the rewards of following the spiritual path and now brings these blessings to the physical (Esau). But, he is fearful. He wrestles all night with "a man". This mental struggle with the physical man is similar to Jesus' experience in the garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:39) and Jonah in the belly of a big fish. Most, if not all, of us have experienced mental turmoil when faced with a difficult decision to do what we know we must do. "When the intellect or conscious mind realizes and exercises its superior ability there is an intuitive feeling of injustice and a fear of the results." (MG 259) He prevails, that is he follows Divine guidance, and is given the name Israel "He who strives with God". This gives him the courage to face Esau and be reconciled with him. He is now ready to bring this first level of spiritual unfoldment (sons) into completion.