

Herman Dooyeweerd

The method he taught to help us see the unified whole of reality

Aspect 1

The **Quantitative**

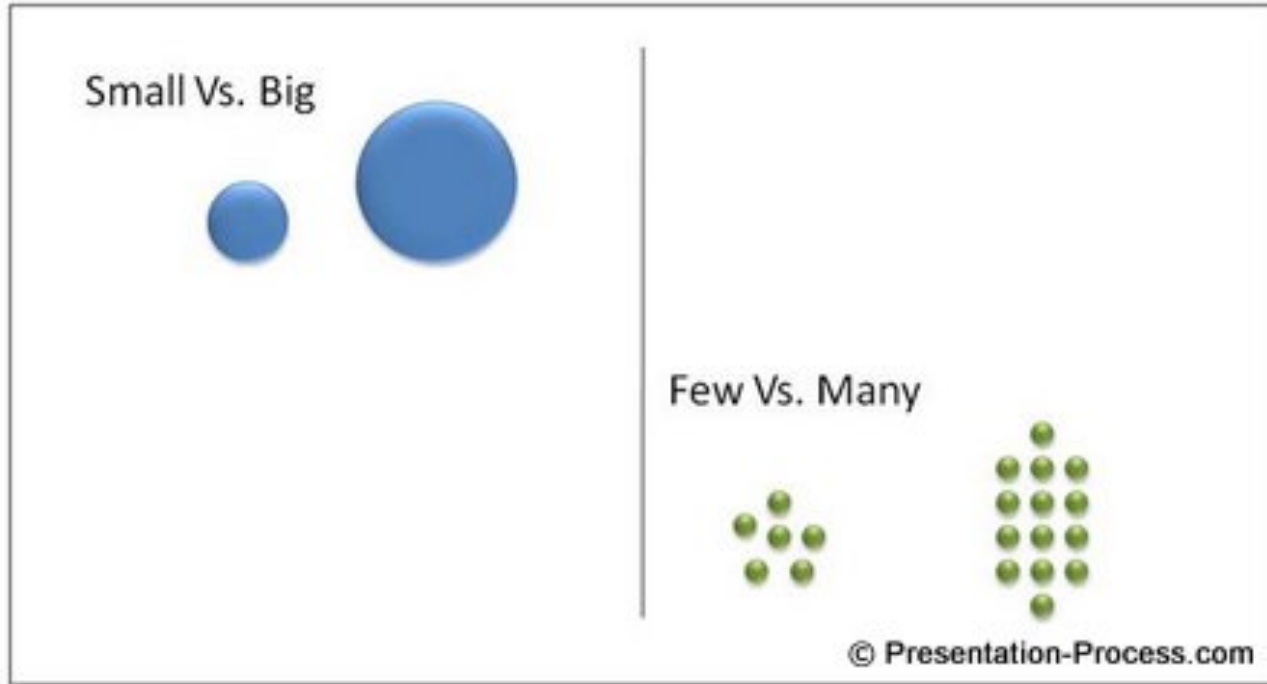
Everything that exists has a number that can be associated with it. This is a part of the reality in which we live.

An example would be this sentence:

This 1 slide is about the first of the 15 aspects, and has a certain number of words.



More examples of how we use the quantitative aspect everyday



Aspect two

The second aspect of reality is the **Spatial**

A major concern for most everyone is the use of space. From our cupboards to the city bus we want to ride on, space is a critical consideration.

A way to express something of this is to say,
This slide is laid out in rectangular areas.

Examples of how we see the spatial aspect in our everyday lives are these.



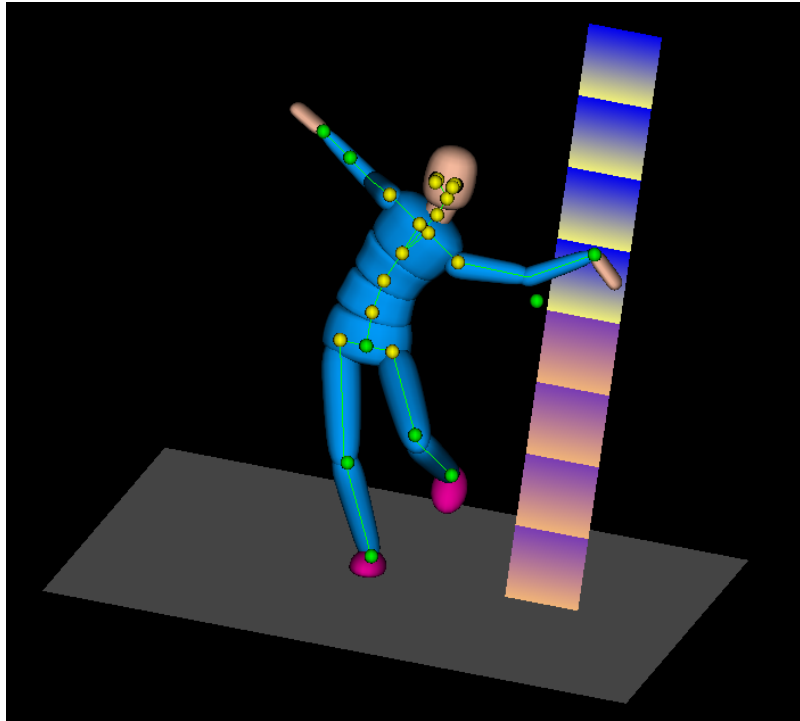
Aspect three

The third aspect of reality is that of the **Kinematic**

This has to do with movement. So we are now moving higher on the scale of aspects since not everything moves in our common perceptions of them. This means that there are entities in reality which do not participate in this and the following aspects since they only have the first two aspects.

An example sentence might read, My eyes move across the screen as I read this. But the screen is not moving unless it is acted upon.

Examples of the kinematic aspect



The image to the left appears to move. That includes, then, the kinematic aspect.

Aspect four

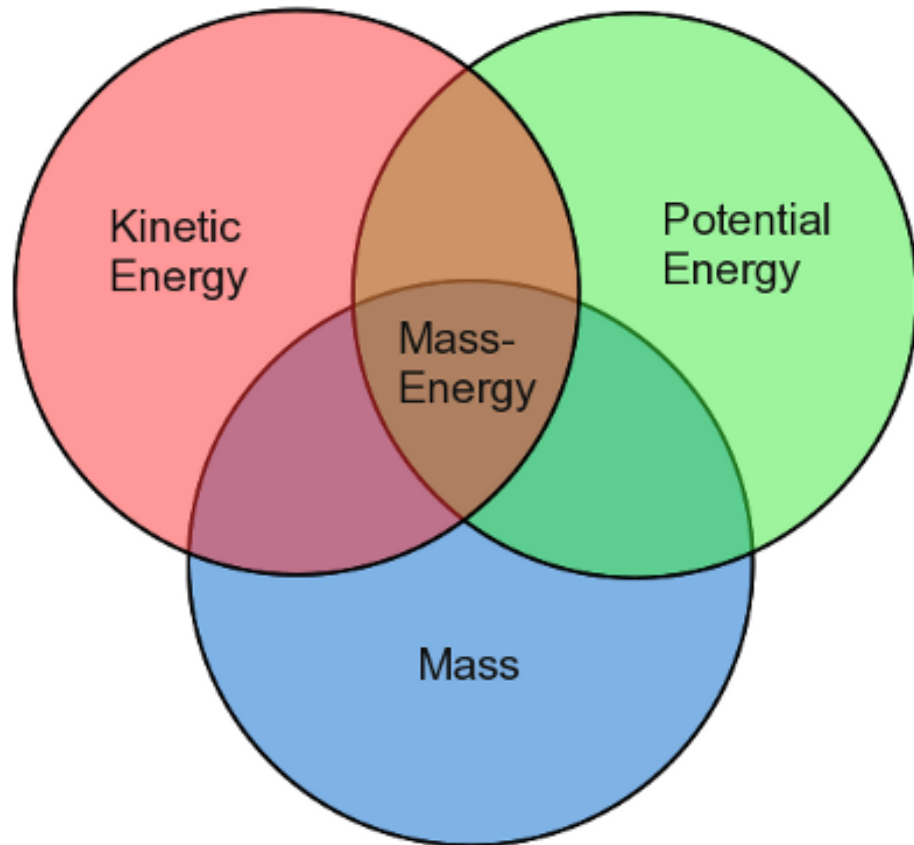
The fourth aspect is that of the physical.

This aspect has to do with the energy and mass of a specific object.

A sentence that could be used here is:

There is light being emitted from the screen in front of me.

The physical aspect



As you can see, we are getting more complicated as we move higher on the scale of aspects.

Aspect five

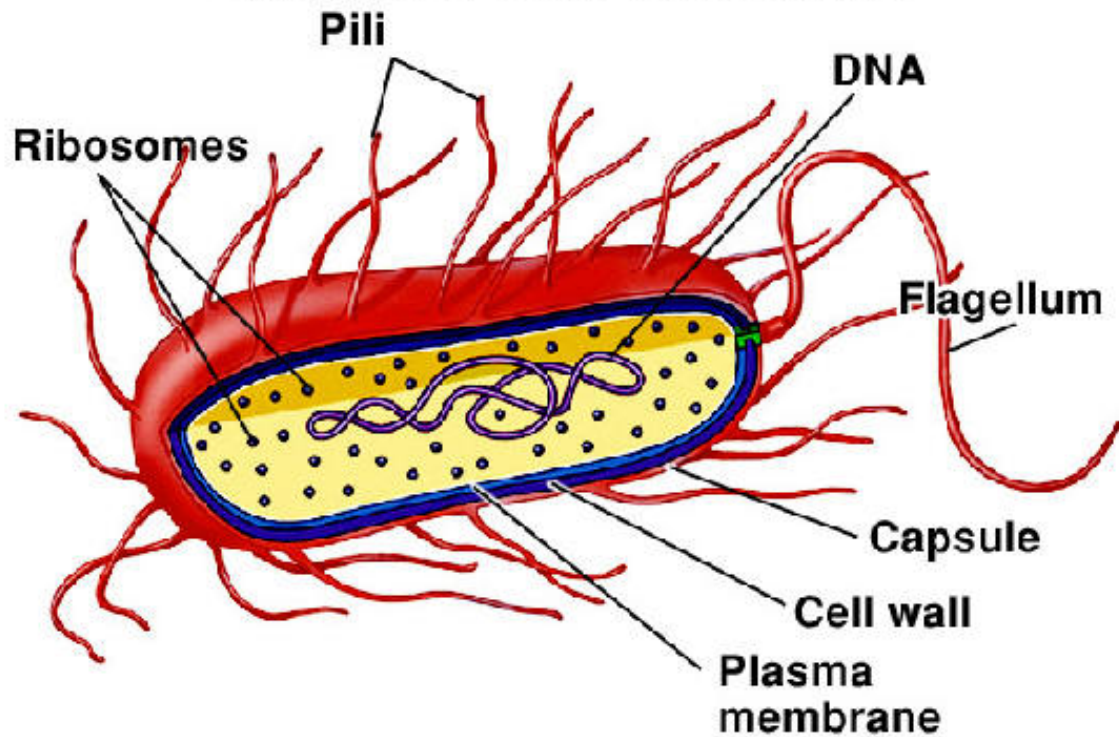
Aspect five moves us a bit higher on the scale as we add life so that now we are talking about organisms that have all the previous aspects ***and*** are living. The technical term here is that this is the biotic/organic aspect.

The study of biology focuses on this aspect.

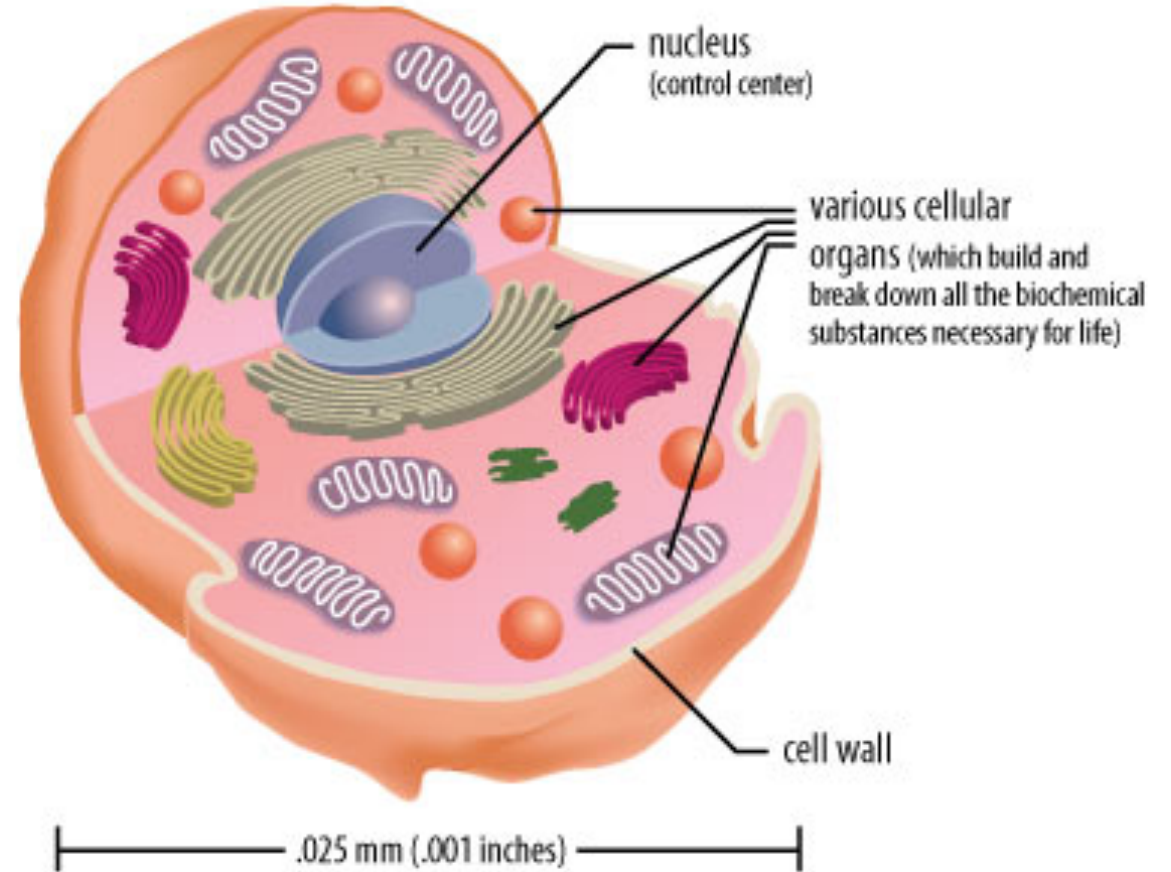
The biotic/organism aspect

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Bacterial Cell Structure



Anatomy of a Human Cell



Aspect six

Aspect six moves us up a step to the level of the sensing/ feeling / psychic dimension of existence.

A sentence containing this idea would be, I can see this slide with my own eyes.

The sensing/feeling level



On this slide one can see a diagram of a person's five senses. By using one of them, sight, we can also see a photo and get a "feeling" of what the person in the picture is feeling.

Aspect seven

The seventh aspect in Dooyeweerd's system of describing reality is the analytical level. Here we come to the level where we use our mind to ponder what our senses are telling us.

A sentence might read, I can see the words on this slide and think about them.

The analytical aspect

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: Vimal is 7 ranks ahead of Sathish in a class of 39. If Sathish's rank is seventeenth from the last, what is Vimal's rank from the start?

- A. 11th
- B. 13th
- C. 16th
- D. 18th

Answer: C. Sathish is 17th from the last and Vimal is 7 ranks ahead of Sathish. So, Vimal is 24th from the last.
Number of students ahead of Vimal in rank = $(39 - 24) = 15$.
So, Vimal is 16th from the start.

Question: Ram ranked ninth from the top and thirty-eight from the bottom in a class. How many students are there in the class?

- A. 44
- B. 45
- C. 46
- D. 47

Answer: Clearly, number of students in the class = $(8 + 1 + 37) = 46$.

The questions to the left ask you to think about the facts presented and come to a conclusion. That is the analytical aspect of life

Aspect eight

The eight of Dooyeweerd's system of aspects is the formative. That means that with various items, we can think about what we want to make, and then do it.

The example of a sentence would be, you can construct an opinion about what you have just read!

The formative aspect



An architect dreams of what a house might look like, he draws up plans for the house, then he and others get together to build the house. All part of the formative aspect of reality. See if you can name how all the previous aspects are a part of this as well.

Aspect nine

The ninth aspect now carries us beyond the structural aspect to the lingual aspect. Here we are investigating the aspects of language and words, and how words convey meaning (or lack thereof.)

A sentence might read, Of course you understand what I am talking about!! Don't you?

The lingual aspect

Just because I know
English does not mean I
know Croatian!

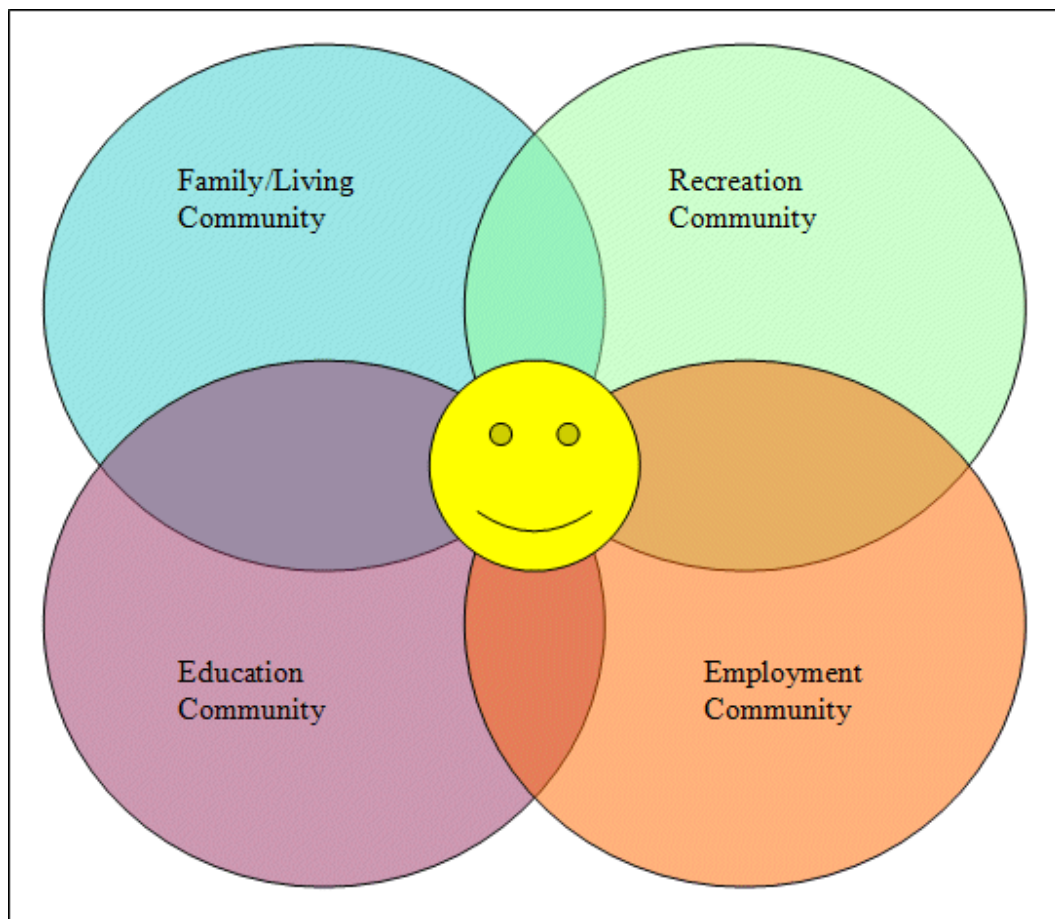


Aspect ten

Aspect ten introduces a new level of complexity. So far we have focused only on individuals, in the tenth we focus on the social aspect.

A sentence might read, You have a role to play in society. You need to fulfill it to be a leader.

The social aspect



I have a role to play in many different areas of life. Each one is a different social area.

Aspect eleven

The eleventh aspect has to do with economics. Here we focus on the way that monetary value comes to play in our lives. What is of value to others? To me?

This aspect deals with the issue of frugality and the management of various resources.

The economic aspect

Living frugally allows
you to live richly in ways
that you choose.



Aspect twelve

Now we arrive at a level of some abstraction because here things can be a matter of opinion in ways that could not be thought of before. So we arrive at the aesthetic level of reality.

A sentence with this aspect would be, I love the color of that flower arrangement?

You do? I don't like dandelions at all!

Aspect thirteen

Aspect thirteen goes beyond the aesthetic level to the juridical aspect. In the aesthetic aspect, we have opinions, but in the juridical we have social laws which are enacted to require us to think and act certain ways.

A sentence might be, How did you do justice to your responsibility to your neighbor?

The juridical aspect



In the book of Daniel, the king is told that he has been weighed in the balances and found wanting

Aspect fourteen

The fourteenth of Dooyeweerd's aspects is one which asks us to describe our attitudes. It is called the ethical/attitudinal aspect. This aspect has to do with the idea of giving of oneself for others.

A sentence involving this aspect could read, Did you go beyond what was required or not?

The ethical/attitudinal aspect

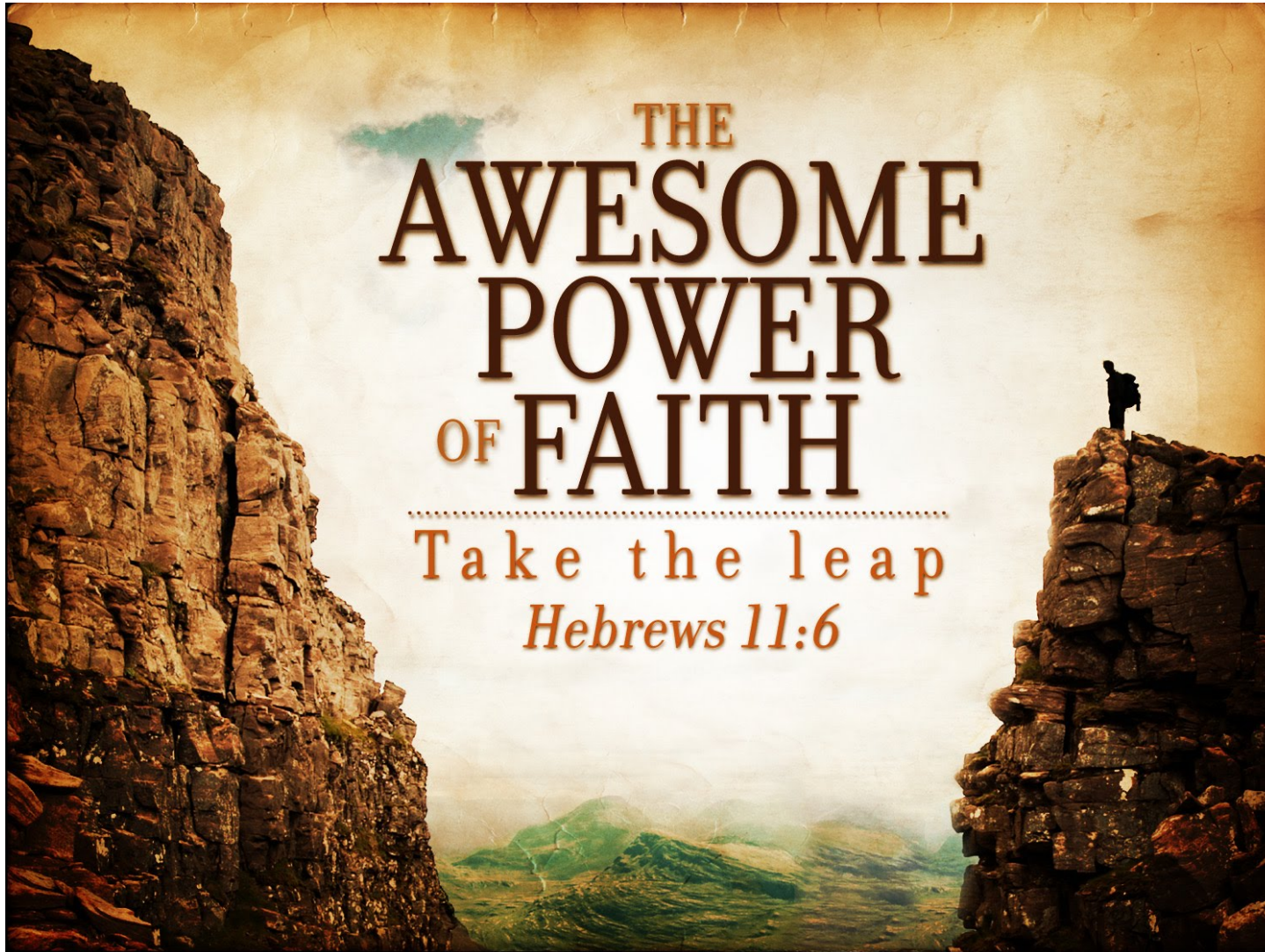


Aspect fifteen

The final aspect that we find in reality is that of the pistic/faith aspect. We come finally to the questions of faith and believing.

A sentence with this in might read, I believe in what I am writing on this page, and I believe it's important.

The pistic/faith aspect



So, those are the fifteen aspects of reality as Herman Dooyeweerd developed them. As we think about them, we find that there is reason to focus on each of these individually, but, we do not do justice to the creation if we reduce a person for example to merely a number. Or if we elevate a number to the level of ethics.

I hope that this admittedly sketchy introduction to Herman Dooyeweerd's thought will encourage you to read more about his philosophy and to attempt to think Christianly about the creation in which we live.

