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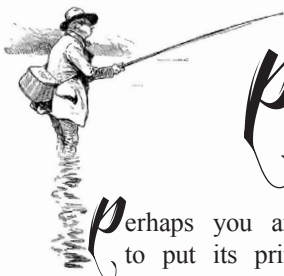
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THE PATH OF TRUTH

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Editorial.

Patience

Perhaps you are just beginning to study Truth and to put its principles into practice; and perhaps you are disappointed because the results are not what you expected them to be.

Have you spent your life in negative thinking; and do you think that you can change this in a day, a week or a month? Progress comes with steady and sustained effort, without which little of value is ever achieved. If we persist in thinking positively and constructively, we shall reap what we sow. It is better to advance slowly but surely, than to dash ahead and slip back. We must learn to master obstacles step by step as they appear in the path.

Let us have courage and be patient in learning to live the life of Truth and let us be content to advance by degrees – to wait for results with the patience the husbandman shows when waiting for the harvest to appear.

Extracts from letters received by the School of Truth...

"I asked you to Pray -"



Conditions in the office where my husband worked were becoming unbearable and staff relations deteriorated. The tension was such that he developed stomach ulcers and I was forced to write to you for prayers. Out of the blue J. was offered a five-day week position at a much better salary. My position as a chemist kept me away from home from 7:30 a.m. till 7:00 p.m. I left my two sons in a nearby crèche, but it was very unsatisfactory. Thank you for your prayers in this connection as well. God provided a very congenial position for me at the local hospital – three hours per morning only and five days per week. My son's health has improved considerably.

Our most sincere gratitude is extended to all our known and unknown friends for their loving and faithful spiritual and material support of this work of truth. To them all we send our blessing.

Three years ago, two of the leading eye doctors of this city told me that I would lose my sight within three years, that I was a hopeless case and that they could do nothing for me. I wrote to you for help and you will remember I was writing so badly I could hardly see the scrawls I made. I received wonderful letters from you and felt sure of my oneness with the light of God alone

to support me. That was three years ago and I am now 80. You can see for yourself how I am writing and I can still enjoy a book and see God's lovely world.



We managed to sell our house in Swaziland and thank you for your prayers in this connection. It is a great worry of my shoulders.



It is a great pleasure to inform you that God has answered our prayers and I am now completely healed of the defect in my ears. I therefore wish to convey my gratitude to you for having continually helped me to maintain contact with the Great Healer.



I wrote to you some time ago to please pray for my poor daughter who was so very unhappy as her husband just deserted her and then asked her for a divorce. He was then called away to England on business and she decided to accompany him. When they returned, I am pleased to say, everything was fixed up again and they now live happily together as before, I thank you for your prayers to God as we all know that those prayers were answered.



Many thanks for your prayers for my husband who was drinking excessively. It is now almost six months since he stopped drinking and he says it does not worry him at all. This can only be through prayer as for years he never had a sober moment.

My mother has been under medical treatment for years and everybody was assured that her illness was incurable. I could not succeed in getting anybody to understand my belief that she would get well. She was rushed to hospital a few weeks ago, not expected to live, but was soon out, with a clean bill of health. She is now back at home and doing fine. I thank you again for praying with me, and most of all because I feel you understand me, and in what I believe.



A few months ago, I wrote asking you to help us with your loving prayers as my husband was in the process of losing an excellent business as a result of insufficient capital. However, you advised us to trust in God and put all our troubles in His hands. This we did. You also mentioned that as one door closed on us, so would another open. That door did open. Two days before we decided to close our business a man walked in and offered to take over the premises and also asked my husband whether he would not like to join him in business. They joined forces and from that time have never looked back, making a wonderful combination together and a wonderful business. Again, we give thanks to our Heavenly Father for His love.



Recently I wrote to the School of our financial difficulties, and even before I received a reply to my letter, God helped us over our most pressing needs. My wife was going on a boat trip as one of six mannequins. We were completely out of money and I did not know what to do. But two days before sailing she was informed that she would get her fees for the trip the next day, and she was paid more than expected.

Lecture delivered in Johannesburg by Nicol C Campbell.

Growth through experience



Would any human being having, for example, three children whom he could endow with health, happiness and prosperity, give only one of those qualities to each, so leaving him lacking in the other two; or would he cheerfully go without his own good – if that were necessary – and bestow it on his offspring? The question answers itself, yet if we look around us, we see that some people have health and happiness and no prosperity, others enjoy happiness but lack both health and prosperity and yet others, have prosperity and lead miserable lives bereft of physical well-being and emotional satisfaction. Why does this happen? Who, or what, is withholding their good? God, we learn, is Love, and is impersonal and unbiased respecting the filling full of His Presence in the lives of all mankind, so where does lack arise?

For a long time, the eternal ‘why’ puzzled and worried me. Why should one be greatly blessed while another received nothing, and if the individual’s existence here on earth was the beginning of his life, why did some possess so many good things and others lack the bare necessities that keep body and soul together? Does God who works strictly according to natural – not supernatural – law, decide these issues? Surely if he did, far from being impartial

(as he undoubtedly is) he would be guilty of the grossest unfairness and favouritism. This, of course, is not so, and the explanation is that all of us here on earth are travellers on a journey. We have come from somewhere and when we shed our present bodies we shall go on into a new environment; the place of abode in which we now exist represents only one little station on route.

Think for a moment of a circular trip starting at Cape Town. We come by ship to Durban where we fly to the rand, in Johannesburg we entrain for Kimberly and so proceed back to the peninsula. It has been a journey during which we have not been permitted to miss out a single place, nor to double back on our tracks. Before embarking on the trip we heard from others who had made it already; a lot about climatic conditions, the kinds of people we should meet, the landscape we should traverse and the various coastal settlements we should sight as our ship steamed past them.

All these things we should have heard about but we should have no personal knowledge of them. Most people can imagine what it is like in Canada when the thermometer drops 20° below freezing, or the conditions that obtain in Durban when the humidity in the air has almost reached saturation point, but they cannot know these unless they have been in the places where they occur, so to experience them they have to visit the countries concerned.

So it is with the man on the round trip, he starts out from Cape Town a raw and unenlightened traveller, compelled to make that particular circuit which may take him a week, a month, a year or

100 years, and at every stopping place he learns by experience what each one has to offer. The same holds good for our life journeys out from God and back to him. We come from the higher realms of Spirit – imperfect or ignorant souls; countless numbers have preceded us on our one way voyage and they have already gone through what now befalls us, other innumerable millions are behind us. They have yet to learn of that with which we, who here on earth are in the most condensed state of consciousness in which the soul functions, are becoming increasingly familiar.

As we look around us on our present plane of awareness we recognise in some measure, what the souls indwelling the bodies we encounter have created for themselves in aeons past, for what has been sown must also be reaped.

“Behold, I send my messenger before me to prepare my way” applies to every man both here and elsewhere. Before the individual takes up his abode on any sphere, the experience that his soul within him, *and no one else*, has already selected and passed through, form his environment, conditions, equipment and assets in his new home, and what will be his loss in the next state of consciousness he is now preparing for himself.

From inexperience to knowledge, from unconsciousness to self consciousness, from ignorance to complete awareness we make the pilgrimage, learning from those who have gone ahead, leaving behind us for those who follow the answers we have found in the course of overcoming our own difficulties. Life as God-individualised-in-man has to experience everything in the

universe for Its purpose is eventually to know Itself completely, and this It cannot do if It has missed the growth and unfoldment that come only through experience.

Can you understand what I am trying to explain to you, why some of you are poor, some unhappy and others poverty stricken? GOD IS NOT AT FAULT; He, as Life or Intelligence, actually constitutes you and is, as Love, the sum-total of Power, Knowledge and Perfection housed within your bodies, and as you find the consciousness of this indwelling Charity so does it seep through the entire being, like a tiny glimmer of light that, through a crack in the wall, steals into a darkened room. We are these murky chambers and are able to open up the cracks which, as they get wider and wider, admit ever more light, until ultimately its luminosity disperses all the darkness and dissipates all the negation that has been clouding and cluttering up our individual lives.

We all tend to put the blame upon others when we are poor, sick or unhappy, but persons have nothing to do with the conditions that obtain for us. These take their rise in the states of consciousness that we have, or have not, evolved for ourselves. There is no one, no thing, no power or principality that can interpose between us and our God-consciousness; none that can obstruct our good or saddle us with evil. We alone can promote or demote ourselves as we release or withhold the awareness of Power. Nine out of ten persons imprison It because they find it so extremely difficult to practise the simple Law of Love.

To love means being practical, a realist and by loving we shall call down untold blessings upon our own heads. To obtain the good we want, we must give of it to others, must see good in them, be prepared continually to forgive them, so bringing our hearts and minds into accord with this universal Presence of Love. The Christ overcame all things through non-resistance and the application of love, and today He has countless millions of followers. His teaching, "Give, and it shall be given unto you" has endured through the years. Give of your time, your money, your talents and particularly of your love for, unless your hearts go out with your hands, there is nothing to it; the gift without the giver is empty and vain.

All you can ever owe to any man is love which brings you into at-one-ment with Power, Beauty, Knowledge, Protection and Perfection and puts you into tune with all the spiritual ideas necessary to your well-being, success and prosperity.

Truth is eternal, none can destroy It, and when anybody has, as the result of prayer, had personal demonstrations over poverty, loss and unhappiness he cannot be shaken regarding the verity of what he has learned.

Day by day we all record in our minds and hearts our consciousness of either good or evil, and we see these qualities expressed in our physical bodies and in our material affairs. So, if anyone wishes to rid himself of certain conditions or to be freed from fear, let him fill his heart with love, which casts out all anxiety, worry, and turmoil and will give him peace.

I cannot be afraid of you, or you of me, if we love one another, for Love, as God, is a fulfilment of the Law, and faith in God sets It free. Nevertheless, is it not according to our faith that it is done unto us? It is our complete inner at-one-ment with, and acceptance of, the Bounty that is God. While Love puts us in rapport with Deity and His manifestations – our fellow men the world over – It must be allied to faith for All-good to be set free through us and to us. Whatever we perceive in our lives today, is a reflection of the messengers we have sent before us. Here in this material world, we see to some degree what we have put into life and thought into consciousness; so, if there are conditions that we would eliminate, such as poverty, disease or unhappiness, we know what we have to do. We have to change our way of thinking about them, to make a complete *volte face* and start living in the awareness of the thing we desire. The promise “All things whatsoever you desire” still stands. We must check our minds and hearts, discarding the weaknesses and strengthening the virtues, for only then can we hold out the Cup of Life which shall, for every human being, ultimately be filled in a measure to share and to spare.

But we alone can present It, and whether it be a thimble, a bucket, a tank or a reservoir, God, Who is Love, Beauty, Happiness, Peace and Harmony, will fill It with His Substance, everything our hearts can long for will be liberated by our faith. For it is faith that sustains us through all the ills that flesh is heir to and ultimately inspires us to stretch out our hands to God so that he can fill them full with His Living Substance.

Love fulfils the Law



A common fallacy among many students of Truth is the belief that faith is the chief attribute we should strive to cultivate. While there is little doubt that faith in its highest form is indeed a quality beyond price, it would be wise for us to look at this belief in the light of the highest concepts of Truth and see whether faith in itself is the greatest of the divine attributes.

In a previous article I gave the illustration of a man who possessed, according to ordinary human standards, a remarkably high degree of faith. Through demonstrating his faith in a practical way, he was able to inspire others to go and do likewise. He proved a real channel of blessing to them. Yet, in the final analysis, he lacked love in its true sense – that love which we are told is the fulfilment of the law. His faith had achieved for him success and prosperity out of failure and poverty, but in the attainment of these things he had lost humility. He had given too much importance to the material results of his faith, and in consequence, while his personality seemed to expand – there are many of us who are often overawed by ostentatiousness – his individuality receded into the background. Now we find that, while the material baubles are his, he has not serenity and peace of mind. He is constantly

striving for something which only the quality of *love which fulfils the law* can give.

Writers on Truth subjects make frequent use of the word 'love' and very few of us seem to realise what is meant by it. More often than not we visualise that type of love which manifests itself between men and women, parent and child, and so on. But this is only one small facet of the great diamond of love in its universal sense. The ordinary kind of love that we experience in our mundane affairs, whilst admirable, is not the love to which the teaching of Truth refers. And it is because we think of love in its very limited form, that we cannot agree that "love fulfils the law."

Often, I have had the query put to me that if love does indeed fulfil the law of our good, why do certain individuals, who are "living examples of love," fail to manifest health or happiness or prosperity? Why is there incompleteness in their lives? And when I have asked for a definition of love as used in the biblical quotation, it has always fallen far short of the Truth concept. Usually, I am told that so-and-so is a loving father, or a devoted wife, or "he is very good to his friends," or "the poor worship them." These are limited manifestations of universal love, but is one ray of the sun, the sun? Does being a loving father, a devoted wife, good to one's friends, or charitable to the poor, imply that state of uplifted consciousness which is universal love? No, it does not, but it is a step in the right direction and from these little expressions of love, the greater love can be developed; but in themselves they do not *fulfil* the law. We have only to look to

ourselves to realise that, while we may be practising these things, our love is very limited and often obscured by resentment and intolerance, and fear of much that we do not harmonise with, or that we do not understand.

Universal love is completely *unconditional*. It is the only form of love that casts out fear of all things –for can one fear that which one loves with an understanding love? It is that elevated state of consciousness which, regardless of circumstances or appearances, constantly flows out as a benediction. It recognises the absolute indivisibility of God and His creation and identifies itself with all things, seen and unseen, knowing them to be part of itself. It cannot be harmed, it cannot be deprived of good; for it is the fundamental power of the universe in action, drawing to itself that which it gives of itself.

In the East are certain highly evolved souls who have touched the fringes of this love. For long periods at a time, they go into the jungles to meditate and pray. As you know, much damage and loss of life is caused by wild denizens of these places and frequently the government is compelled to take preventative action. Yet these people spend their time there as safely as we would in the home of friends. Not only are they not harmed by the animals and reptiles, but great friendship exists between them. There is a complete understanding and the state of peace prevails.

Now with the Bhakti, or Disciples of Love, as these individuals are called, it is not a case purely of faith that they will not be

harm, neither do they make the conscious effort to apply their faith. As far as they are concerned, the whole matter resolves itself into one word – love. The fact that they should be afraid – at least from the ordinary viewpoint – does not enter their consciousness. It is a psychological impossibility to fear that which one loves; and they have cultivated that divine love for all things manifest and unmanifest. These men have made an integral part of themselves the truth that God and His creation are ONE, although it is unity in diversity. God is love, they are conscious of that love; therefore, in their life, harmony and peace must rule.

We, as onlookers, would probably say that they have great faith – and they have – but their love is so all-absorbing that faith is but an incidental aspect of it, just as wisdom, understanding and peace are different aspects. They are all contained in the one great whole – divine love. And the facet that shines most brightly in this diamond is humility – humility which is grateful for God and His manifestation, and thankful for the opportunity to share His love in its many forms, with the world around.

Sometimes we, in our own consciousness, experience that sublime elevation of spirit where we love everybody and everything. The world becomes to us a place of beauty and contentment and we feel that all created things are part of us; that “God’s in His heaven and all’s right with the world.” It is at such moments that we get glimpses of universal love and of the power of dominion over circumstances that it brings. This is but the dawning in consciousness of that love which one day we

shall attain. We come to realise that all the little efforts we have made to give of the love we have, are contributing towards the building of that supreme structure that shall be, not merely in our consciousness, but shall *be* our consciousness – love universal.

At our present stage of spiritual growth, in order to demonstrate over conditions of lack, it is necessary for us to apply the limited form of love with what face we can muster. The one has to act as a support to the other. The more sincere the application, the greater the demonstration. Faith by itself can produce much, but without love as its motivating force it cannot give completeness in one's life. One or the other of the divine blessings will remain unmanifest in visible form. We have but to study our own lives and the lives of those about us to see the truth of this.

The consciousness of the love that fulfils the law does not come without effort, but each day is a new opportunity to cultivate it. Let us widen our horizons and rid ourselves of all those pettinesses that include this one and exclude that, that like this but detest that. Of all those personal, political, racial and religious prejudices that putrefy our lives, let us purify ourselves of them. If our brother will not be reconciled to us, let us leave him to the law which love fulfils. More than this we cannot do. The greater the scope of our love, the less we have to fear – this is a logical conclusion.

Whether it is health, or happiness, or supply you need, go right ahead and love yourself into these things. Know that everything concerning them is a part of yourself because it is a part of

universal Spirit. Love yourself into your good and your good will love itself into you. These are not meant to be nice-sounding phrases, the sugar-coating around the pill, as it were – they are the truth that has been demonstrated countless times in things big and small.

If you find, as most of us do, that it is not possible to give love to anyone or anything that is not personal to you, just try giving goodwill. This we can all do; and goodwill towards all things, even when we cannot understand them, is the first sign of a developing universal consciousness. How often have we not misjudged people or things simply because we have failed to understand them and because they have conflicted with what WE thought was right? How many times have we not discovered that our judgments were wrong? And even if the behaviour of these people or things does conflict with the standards of Truth as we know them, can we by our destructive criticism and condemnation or physical violence, draw them into the realm of Truth? We know that we cannot for our behaviour is in itself a travesty of Truth. It is tinged with Pharisaism. But in willing good for them they become impregnated with the subtle but powerful influence of Spirit, which in the end must express constructively through them for their and our own good.

This is the only way – there is no other – to freedom from fear, hatred, misery and lack, and the many other ills by which we are punishing ourselves. In identifying ourselves in consciousness

with the seen and unseen good of the universe, we destroy the mental separation we have, in our ignorance, built up and which is the cause of incompleteness in our lives. Where there is goodwill and ultimately unconditional love, there can be no separation and no lack spiritually, mentally or materially. Love casts out all fear for in love there is fulfilment. Love brings unity, love is utility – and God is love.

Opinions

It is more true to say that our opinions depend on our lives and habits, than to say that our lives and habits depend on our opinions.

– F.W. Robertson



*Opinion is the main thing which does good or harm in the world.
It is false opinions of things which ruin us.*

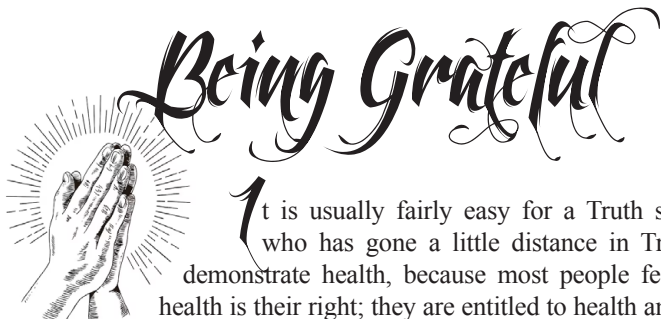
– Marcus Antoninus



An inspiring thought for each new day

*Speak to Him, thou, for He hears,
and Spirit with Spirit can meet;
Closer is He than breathing,
and nearer than hands and feet.*

– Tennyson



It is usually fairly easy for a Truth student who has gone a little distance in Truth to demonstrate health, because most people feel that health is their right; they are entitled to health anyway, and by having it they are not depriving anybody else. So, it is simple for them to believe in the possibility of God's restoring them to health, than if they were trying to demonstrate supply. Because as soon as it comes to supply, they know very well that it will only come to them through the medium of some human channel. Supply does not rain down out of heaven in the form of sacks full of hundred rand notes, it comes usually as a result of some service rendered. Then, when they are in need, they remember that, and find it very difficult to believe that they already receive, especially, if the need is such that they are presently burdened with a load of debt and cannot pay, and the position gets more urgent and they more worried. It seems an almost impossible situation. Yet the promise of the Christ was emphatic: "Whatsoever things ye pray and ask for, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them".

The principles governing supply are the same as those relating to health or any other blessing; there is no difference. Whatever supply you now have has come from God, even although it may

seem to be inadequate, and you may need more. What you have has come from God. But if you need more, you have to believe you receive it. Here is where you may make the initial mistake. You have, let us say, a thousand rand and you need two thousand. You look at this pile of bills and wonder what on earth you are going to do about the missing thousand. The need is pressing, people have trusted you and you must be worthy of their trust and pay them, but how? How are you to pay out two thousand rand when you only have one thousand? So, your mind runs always on the missing thousand, and as long as your mind is on what you lack, how can you possibly expect to believe that you receive?

But supposing that instead of that, you get your mind on the thousand that you have and realise that it came from God. Then begin to be grateful, if only for the reason that if you had not got it, how much worse off would you be. So, you are grateful for the little that you have even if it is not enough. You can be grateful for it if you stop and think. There are all sorts of circumstances raising side issues. Sometimes men are in positions where they have fixed salaries, fixed incomes, and they have employers who are not very sympathetic, some not even very human, and they look at their situation and think to themselves that there is no possibility of earning any more, because they are fixed in one job and they cannot leave it; they cannot get another job, especially at their age, they just have to put up with it, and there is no way in which they can expect to get more supply. To think like that, is doing the exact opposite of what the Christ advised us to do. You

have to find a way of believing you already receive. And the first need is to be grateful for what you have and to get your mind on that; to realise that it has come from God, no matter whom it has come through. It may have come through some employer or some investment, but it has come *from* God. The channel is neither here nor there. Begin by being grateful for what you have.

Then begin to realise that the same Father Who gave that original thousand rand, is well able and willing to give another thousand rand. On the authority of the Christ, we can say He is able and willing. If we are Truth students, we must elect to believe what he taught, even although we cannot yet see how it could possibly work out. Then we realise that God is not restricted in the channels that He can use. He can open up ways that we never dreamed of. He can bring supply to you, either through the channels He is already using, or some entirely new channel that you never heard of and never dreamed of. What channel He uses, when He uses it, how he uses it are things that you need not concern yourself with at all, they are not your business. Your part is to centre your attention wholly upon God as your supply.

On the authority of the Christ, you can believe that the Kingdom of God is *within you*, and where else would you expect to find God but in His Kingdom? Well then, the Kingdom of God within you means God *within you*, or as Paul says, “the Holy Spirit within you,” what Jesus calls “The Father within” and Paul calls “the Christ.” If you are in some job where your income is fixed and limited and not likely to be increased, that does not worry

you. You are now dealing with the Spirit of the Creator Who made the whole universe. He is within you, the Life in your body, and you are satisfied to know that He knows just how to answer your prayers. But because He has promised and because you believe, you can begin at once to thank Him that it is already done. “Thank You, Father, I know that Your abundant supply flows into my experience NOW,” and thoughts of that kind.

A widow once went to the prophet Elisha because her sons were about to be taken into slavery, in payment of her debts. She had nobody to turn to, no old age pension, nothing of that kind. So, she did the only thing she could do, she went to the Man of God. That may be what you do. You have nobody to whom you can turn. You may have relatives and friends who would help you if they could, but they may be in the same position as you so they cannot help. For one reason or another, you are obliged to go to God. The first question the prophet asked her was, “What have you in the house?” He did not say, “How much are you short of, and what do your debts amount to, who are your creditors?” He did not discuss that at all. His query was, “What assets have you got; what have you in the house?”

Now here is a lesson for us. Is our attention on what we have, what we can see, or is it on what we *have not got*? So let us get our attention on to what we have, what we can see. The widow said, “I have a little oil, perhaps an ounce or two”, and that stood between her and starvation. The prophet said to her, “Go and borrow empty vessels, not a few”. And she might very well have replied, as we

might, “What for? What am I going to borrow money sacks for, what is the good of going to the bank to get a new cheque book?” But she did not, she made no objections but did precisely what she was told; she went out to borrow empty vessels as her act of faith. She took the risk of neighbours saying to her, “What do you think you are playing at, borrowing empty vessels and bringing back empty vessels?” She took that risk because that was what the prophet said.

How much are we prepared to demonstrate our faith as the widow did? Let us pause and ask ourselves that. Have we anything like her faith? Anyway, she went and borrowed these vessels then the Prophet said “Now begin to pour the oil”. And then, as you know, the widow went on pouring and pouring some invisible supply until all the vessels were filled, and there were no more. Then Elisha said, “Now go and sell the oil, pay your debts, and live on the remainder”. He might just well as well have given her money, but he did not; he wanted her to use the pitifully small resources that she had; he wanted her to demonstrate her faith. She did not say, “What is the use of pouring two ounces of oil out of this bottle into those vessels? It won’t even fill the bottom of one of those bottles”. No, she did not hesitate, but just began to pour. Again, have we anything like that widow’s faith? We are not dealing with oil, and the circumstances are not in detail the same for us, but the principle is the same, and it is the principle that is important.

When people come to us for advice, and they are in the position that they have a thousand rand and need two thousand,

we say to them, “Now swallow your pride, and go to each of those creditors and pay him half of what you owe him, and then tell him that you will pay him the remainder very shortly, but you are paying him this now in order to show your good faith.” You may not like it; it is not a very nice thing to have to do, to go to the grocer and say, “I owe you two hundred rand, and I can only pay you one hundred.” It hurts your pride, but that is what you have to do. You have some resources, and they are resources given to you by God, and He is using those resources through you; it is God paying through you, even though He is paying only half the account. But the fact that He is paying only half is nothing to do with you; you are His agent, so you release that amount of money, and with blessing give it to the creditor. You are not drawing from your limited resources, you are drawing from the inexhaustible resources of God; He is paying through you, remember that. You are not paying anything to anybody – God is paying through you to the creditors. Try to grasp that and centre your attention on what you have and pay gladly; be glad that you have got that to pay and are not in a position where you cannot pay anything at all, which would be so much worse.

We are dealing all the time with the Spirit of the Creator Who can as easily create a couple of hundred gallons of oil as a couple of ounces. What difference does it make to Him? But we have to grasp Whom it is we are dealing with; not the creditor, not ourselves, not our employer, not the channels that we normally expect our supply to come through, but the *Spirit of the living*

Christ within us. Then we can believe we receive; we can believe we have already received – the Spirit lacks nothing. And the Spirit within us is Infinite Supply. It will pour Itself through us and into our affairs to the degree that is necessary for our needs; not for our wants – that may be something very different but for our needs.

The stories in the Bible illustrate to us in the clearest possible language the principles which are at work in our lives. So, it does not make any difference whatsoever, whether you can see no way at all by which God can increase your supply. Whether you can see it or not has nothing to do with the case. You cannot see five seconds into the future – God can see all the way. If it is necessary for your relief to come from San Francisco or Tokyo or Melbourne, what is that to you? It might come from there – from your next-door neighbour, or from somebody within your own household.

Once we can grasp these fundamental principles and work by them, really believe them, we shall find they are as valid for us as they were for the people of long ago; otherwise, what was the point of the Masters teaching? He taught us these things; He told us that it was the power of the Father working through Him that healed the sick and raised the dead and gave sight to the blind and so on. And that same power working through Him, gave the disciples all their fish; working through Elisha multiplied the widow's oil; through Moses brought manna down from heaven and water out of the rock. All these stories are intended to bolster up our faith, and experiences through which we pass are intended to give us the opportunity to use the little faith we already have.

What is the use of telling ourselves that we have faith if we never use it? So, these experiences come to us, to give us an opportunity to prove that faith, and by proving it, to go a step higher on the spiritual ladder. They are NOT evil in themselves; they are not designed by a God Who wants to bring some evil into our lives. God does not strike us down with poverty or sickness; God is of too pure eyes to behold iniquity; God is Light, and Light has never seen the darkness, because wherever Light is there cannot be any darkness. And if we begin at once to realise, even faintly, the presence of God within us and then surrender utterly to His will and let His will be done, only good – in whatever form we need it – can possibly come to us. If we acquaint ourselves now with this great principle of the indwelling Spirit of God within us, capable and willing to do for us what he did for those people of long ago, we shall find it easier to believe that, in spite of the fact that all we can see is a sheaf of bills and only half the amount of money to pay for them, or a quarter or a tenth or whatever it may be, the law of God is at work, for no other reason than that we dare to trust and have courage to hold on in spite of the appearance.

That is the invitation that comes to us from the Scripture, and if we will take the trouble to learn about the indwelling Spirit of Christ, we shall realise what St. Paul meant when he said, “The Spirit beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and if children then heirs.”



The Prodigal Son

The story of the prodigal son is one of the most quoted of the biblical stories and probably more sermons have been based upon it than upon any other of the parables; but how seldom one hears an exposition of it that does other than hold up the prodigal as a horrible example.

Properly considered, the story has much more to tell us than that. Its characters are a father and two sons, but more often than not, in sermons and writings, the second son is passed over as being of very little importance. He is pictured as a somewhat selfish being who is annoyed and resentful because he has not been so favourably treated as was his brother. In fact, he is used as a sort of foil to the main character in the story – the prodigal.

Let us examine the whole story in detail and see what we can get from it that will be valuable to us. Which is, that it is not merely a story told as a warning to us not to be prodigals but is a picture of God as the Father; humanity as the sons, and of the relationship between them. If we can accept this explanation of it, it becomes apparent that there are several misconceptions about God that will have to be discarded.

We hear much about how greatly we can disappoint God by our behaviour, and how sorrowful He can become on account of our ignorance and wilfulness. We are also told of His anger, caused by our sins, and the dire punishments that He will mete out to us in due course; but a study of the characteristics of the Father in the story fails to reveal these things. We are taught that it is possible for God – if He so chooses – to interfere in our lives and force us to undergo this, that, or the other experience. The story does not reflect this either. When the son who is to prove himself to be the “prodigal” announces his intention of going forth into the world to make his own life for himself, we do not find that the father sternly forbids such a course, neither does he in any way use his power to prevent it. Here we must remember that, for the sake of simplicity, the Master used human characters to illustrate the point of His story, thus the Father is a picturisation of God, who is Omniscience. He must have known then exactly what the experience of the son would be. He knew just how adverse the conditions would be; he knew that the son would suffer as a result of his self-made adversities, but he made no move to prevent them. Why not? Because he also knew that by means of these experiences the son would grow in knowledge, and that at the end of them he would inevitably return to his Father.

Does the story in any way show that these experiences, undergone by the son as a result of his own wrong thinking (“sinning” if you prefer the term), were in any way hurtful to the Father? Does it give you the impression that the Father was only waiting until the son came home again in order to heap pains and penalties upon him? Definitely not. On the contrary, the Father

waited until the son came home in order to heap a multiplicity of good things upon him. Had the Father anything to forgive? Since the son had hurt only himself, and not his Father, there was nothing for the Father to forgive, but very much for him to “give-for”. Rich in hard-won experience, having a very clear knowledge of the relative value of good and evil, the son had returned equipped to appreciate and use the treasures of his Father’s house. And the Father, knowing this, freely gave them to him.

In this parable the master sought to show his hearers how God, whom he called “our Father,” really deals with us, his children. Surely of all people, he is the best qualified to give us the real picture, and yet it is his own followers who have set up a picture that is very different from his. In his picture, do we find the God of anger, jealousy, and dire punishment? Such a Father is not reflected at all; what is reflective is love – love to the uttermost. And consequently, the story is in line with all his teachings.

And what of the other son? He also has a great lesson to teach the student of truth. Great stress has been placed on his very human reactions to the conditions surrounding the reception of his brother. Many people, who would act and frequently do act, in exactly the same way, are quite sure that they can see where *he* was wrong. The workers in this school are frequently made aware of this from such statements as: “I so often see the pages of letters published in your magazine of answers to prayers that students have received, but God does not seem to answer mine. I cannot demonstrate the good that I so badly need.”? Is this not exactly the attitude of the second son in the parable? Does this

question not imply a certain amount of doubt as to the fairness of God's dealings, and does it not contain an element of envy and disappointment? The answer to it is contained in the story in the reply of the Father to the complaint of the son: "Son, thou art always with me and all that **I** have **IS** thine."

This answer throws the onus of failure on to the son, and we can easily extend it in our own words, somewhat like this: "Son, why blame me for your lack? What you really lack is understanding and faith. All that I have is already yours, but you have not believed it. You have entertained doubts and fears and so have not been able to take that which is already yours. You have feared that perhaps I had not enough; you have feared that perhaps I may not have wanted to let you have all the good things you need. You have not understood our real relationship and have thought that it was necessary for you to approach me in fear and trembling seeking to be *given* that which I already bestowed. Freely and lovingly have I given to you all that I have, but the gift cannot benefit you until you *accept* it. Your brother chose the hard road of bitter experience, whilst you chose to stay at home. Both are roads upon which understanding can be gained; why complain because he has reached that understanding and reaped its reward before you? Is it not his success that has led you to seek the cause of your own failure?"

This parable of the Father and his sons contains great truths, wonderful teachings; and one of the most important of those teachings is again brought out in the instructions of the Master that we should pray believing that we *have it* and it *shall* be given unto us.



Prayer

*Our Father, Spirit That is Love within me,
Revered and holy be Thy name,*

*Let thy Kingdom of Love and Goodness
come into expression through me, and Thy Will
be carried out in and by me, here upon earth
as is done in Thy Spiritual Realm.*

*Be thou, this day,
the fulfilment of my every need and
the illumination of my understanding.*

*Help me to forgive my debtors
that I myself may be set free.*

*Teach me of Thy Presence of All-good
And lead me away from all error thinking,
all negation, delusion and vacillation.*

*Preserve me, my Father,
from every kind of separation.
For Thine is the Kingdom within me,
The Power and the Glory that fill me,
For ever and ever,
Amen.*

July 1st**MONDAY**

God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever
— Ps. 73:26

There are times when most of us feel the need of help. We want someone stronger than ourselves on whom to lean. Man can sometimes help us but he is fallible, so if we want to be sure of getting the aid we need we should turn to God. He is all the strength and wisdom there is, and His Spirit is within each of us. Yet so often we turn to Him only in our extremity.

Do you feel that you have come to the end of your strength — that you can do no more to help yourself? If so, remember that the indwelling Christ's strength is made perfect in weakness. Take your trouble to Him, no matter what it may be, and leave it with Him. Open all your channels of awareness to the inflow of God's power, and then relax and let Him solve your problem, overcome your difficulty, or give you whatever help you need.

***God is my refuge and strength,
a present help at all times***

July 2nd**TUESDAY**

Mine eyes are ever towards Jehovah; for he will pluck my feet out of the net – Ps 25:15

Everything that is good in our lives comes to us from God. Men are merely the channels He uses to distribute this goodness.

So many people, when they have problems to solve, put themselves and their affairs into God's hands, but nevertheless, go on worrying about them, thus proving that they are lacking in faith. Those who are not, having handed their problem over, relax in God's love and allow love to do its perfect work unhindered by their doubtful thoughts and emotions.

God knows our needs before we go to Him for help, and no problem presents any difficulty to Him. Then why not trust everything to Him? It is not for us to tell Him what to do, or how to do it, but in humble faith and gratitude to wait for Him to pluck our feet out of the net.

***I wait patiently and trustfully
for God's will to be done in my life***

July 3rd**WEDNESDAY***He that seeketh findeth – Matt. 7:8*

Have you noticed that if God's promises are to be fulfilled there is something for us to do? If we want something we must ask for it; and we must seek if we would find; and knock if it's to be opened unto us. It is good and right that we should have to make our human effort, and not have the good things of life dropped into our laps like manna from heaven.

We must seek God if we would find Him – seek Him in our thoughts which are also our prayers. Seek Him by talking silently to Him during the day; and by continually giving thanks to Him for all the blessings He bestows upon us.

Whatever it is we need we can go to God for it. If we do not receive, it is because it would not be the best thing for us to have; or because He has something better in store for us.

***I seek God with all my heart,
knowing that he cares for me***

July 4th**THURSDAY****August 1st**

Teach me good judgement and knowledge – Ps. 119:66

There is only one Teacher to Whom we can go for knowledge, and that is to the Spirit within us. We were brought forth by infinite Divine Mind, and our individual minds are instruments through which It works in our particular affairs.

To explain this we might liken Omnipresent Intelligence to a central power-house that supplies a number of sub-stations with electricity, which in turn distribute the current as light, heat and energy. It is to these radiating points that our minds correspond; they recognise that this spiritual Force constitutes all things and can manifest, if their thinking is positive and constructive, as every good – health, happiness, success and supply – that makes up man's life and all that concerns him.

If his attitude is a negative one the opposite will express for him. The outside world, which judges by appearances, will teach him only of conditions, so if he does not want these to manifest in and through him, he *has* to go within and obtain knowledge.

***Always the source of knowledge is within me,
and there do I seek it***

July 5th**FRIDAY****August 2nd**

He that is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much
– Luke 16:10

We all have to face crises in our lives occasionally and probably we face them with courage and endurance, but do we, in like manner, meet the little annoyances which so often occur?

Let us cultivate graciousness and dignity when we are confronted with people who might irritate us if we allowed them to do so. Let us not lose our poise because they lose theirs, and thus increase the disharmony. Our task as Truth students should be to pour oil onto troubled waters, not stir them up.

The loving Spirit of Christ within us, and our desire to express It under all circumstances, will help us to deal with inharmonious conditions, if we remember It and call upon It. It gives us the power to rise above conditions which may have become disorderly, and to deal gently with people who are irritating and disturbing.

***I will express love and trust in things
both great and small***

July 6th**SATURDAY****August 3rd**

We received not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is from God – 1 Cor. 2:12

It is difficult at times, amid the stress of our daily living, to realise the truth of the above text. We have so many mundane things to cope with that we do not recognise that it is NOT the spirit of this world, but the indwelling Spirit of God that must govern us.

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven,” we are admonished. Does it not seem queer that when we have been set upon a material plane, we should seek there a heavenly Kingdom instead of an earthly one? If it were, that in doing this we should lose the earthly one it would indeed be strange, but the contrary is the case. We can achieve complete happiness and well-being where we are, only when having sought God’s Kingdom, we come into the knowledge of the Truth which shall set us free from all that is unlike Him. Only when we can accept the spiritual fact of our at-one-ment with our Creator, and His ALL-GOOD, shall we be able to discount the lies our physical senses present to us and lay claim to their opposites in the conviction that He has bestowed these upon us.

***As I recognise my unity with God,
I know that all that he has is mine***

July 7th

SUNDAY

August 4th

MEDITATION

All is Well...

My Father

I now take my mind off conditions and circumstances and lift my consciousness to receive Your Guidance and Reassurance. I am aware of Your enfolding Love, and I am encouraged and strengthened. My unity with You is reflected in my recognition that all people and everything in the Universe are bound to me by immortal and everlasting ties.

As I rest in peace I send out loving thoughts to all people everywhere and recognise their part in Your Perfect Plan wherein each one of us has been allotted a special work to do for You.

Thus, in working with You in love and trust, no task is too big for me when I have built a full realisation of Your Power to help me. In contemplation of Your willingness to help and guide me I now surrender all fears and confusions and sense Your Divine Presence leading me to my highest good. I let go to You and, as I feel the load released from me, I KNOW that ALL IS WELL.

July 8th

MONDAY

August 5th

Let not the sun go down upon your wrath – Eph. 4:26

Most of us lose our temper on occasions, but there is no reason why we should remain bad tempered for any length of time.

To allow things to rankle in our minds is to allow them to grow, probably out of all proportion to the cause. To talk about the reason for our loss of poise has the same effect – we keep the matter alive. The best thing to do is to forget a quarrel as soon as may be. Instead of thinking about it, we should oust all bitterness from our minds at once. If someone has hurt us in any way, it does no good to us or to them to think about it. We should immediately forgive the injury and send out thoughts of love to the one who caused it.

Difficult? Not if you realise that the forgiving love of Christ is within you – that He is ready to help at any time if you will ask Him in faith.

***I forgive as I desire to be forgiven
for my transgressions***

July 9th**TUESDAY****August 6th**

Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of Jehovah
— Ex. 14:13

One of the difficult things we have to do when we or those dear to us are in trouble, is to be still and trust God. We try to work in our own puny strength. We want things to move quickly in our time, instead of being willing to wait for God to accomplish them.

When we are in trouble, let us open all our channels of awareness to the inflow of God's help. Let us wait quietly and patiently for Him to solve our problems. Let us not make up our minds that help can come only in this way or that, but leave all to Him in faith knowing that He is aware of our needs and has the answer to our problems which are no problems to Him. Instead of becoming panic stricken, let us relax, breathing evenly and deeply, remembering today's text.

***I put my faith in God and wait quietly
for His help***

July 10th**WEDNESDAY****August 7th***Judge not that ye be not judged – Matt. 7:1*

We all tend to pass judgement upon our fellowmen, because we constantly compare their conduct with what we imagine ours would have been in a similar situation. Naturally we think we should have acted rightly, so, if they have done differently, they have obviously been wrong. Usually, we know nothing *of the root* of the matter that has come under our censure, nothing of the circumstances connected with it, and less than nothing of the individual mixed up in it, yet we feel quite competent to form an opinion and to voice our condemnation.

There is only One Who is not biased either for or against the person involved. Only God is All-knowledge, only He is perfect Charity. We do NOT know the end from the beginning. Let us, then, when we are about to criticise or to apportion blame, send out a kindly thought instead, speak an encouraging word, give a friendly smile. As we do this our hearts will expand with compassion and understanding, and we shall see – as God does – only that which is good.

When my eyes are too pure behold iniquity in my brethren, there will be far less of error in myself

July 11th**THURSDAY****August 8th**

Give, and it shall be given unto you – Luke 6:38

Are you doing well in your work? If not, do consider whether you are putting your best into it. Are you willing to give that little extra time now and then when it is necessary? Are you interested in what you are doing, or is it merely a means of earning a living?

Have you many friends, and are you popular with them? As Emerson says, to have a friend one must be a friend. One must give affection and help if one expects to receive these things. There is no true friendship where one does all the giving, and the other the receiving.

Let us be generous in giving what we can to the world. Let us make the best contribution to life that we can. God gives us so much, and in giving to His children we repay a little of His generosity to us.

***In gratitude to God, I give back to life
a little of what he gives to me***

July 12th**FRIDAY****August 9th***Be still and know that I am God – Ps. 46:10*

When we are torn by doubt, rent with misgivings, a prey to abject fear, when all human help has failed us and we know not where to turn, we are told to cease from struggling and be still.

We cannot approach God when our hearts and minds are in turmoil, when our thoughts are racing like rats in a cage, and every nerve is on edge. We can come into His Presence only when we are sufficiently composed to draw near to the Spirit indwelling and to give heed to Its Voice saying, “I am God. I, the Christ within you – your hope of Glory – am YOUR God, Whose one desire is to protect you, to care for you, and to pour out upon you My All-good”.

***He shall give his angels charge over me
and under his wings will I dwell in peace***

July 13th**SATURDAY****August 10th**

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace... – Gal. 5:22

There may be times when we find ourselves in uncongenial surroundings, amongst people whose ideas and ideals are not our own.

We can be sure, when this happens, that there is some good reason for it. Life is not haphazard, and there is a purpose behind every experience which comes to us. It is necessary for our spiritual progress that we should learn to adapt ourselves to these conditions – learn to love these people with a cosmic love.

When we move from one place to another; from one set of conditions to another; or from one group of people to another, we must readjust ourselves to the new environment. We must remember the law of love, for fulfilment of it is necessary if we are to live happily and make others happy too. In such circumstances let us claim God's help, in gratitude and faith. Let us ask that His wisdom may guide us in all our undertakings.

***As I adapt wisely to conditions so do I grow
in spiritual power and character***

July 14th

SUNDAY

August 11th

MEDITATION

*My Abiding Place...**My Father*

Your blessing now rests upon me at this moment for, with a heart full of gratitude, I am fully aware of actually making my home – my abiding place – in Your Love.

With this knowledge I am protected and possess a wonderful sense of freedom as I carry out my daily duties. This abiding place I recognise as my spiritual home where nothing of a negative nature can affect me. In this happy consciousness I find all the joy I need to share and to spare.

In all the work that is placed before me I find a deep spiritual satisfaction. Great or small, every task has become a loving service to You. The joy I find within is my reward and it is sufficient.

Thankfully I accept Your guidance, comfort and care. A peace that passeth understanding is mine whenever I choose to enter my abiding place – Your dwelling place of Love. The door opens and I enter – ALL IS WELL.

July 15th**MONDAY****August 12th**

The righteous is a guide to his neighbour – Pro. 12:26

There is nothing that we do which is not “seen of men” and does not exert some influence upon them. We are not, of course, set up in all cases by our neighbours as their exemplars, but inevitably our deeds affect them and tend to modify to some degree their own actions.

No man lives unto himself alone. We either help or hinder our fellow-creatures, and it is our bounden duty to see to it that we do uphold them on their journeys through life, instead of thoughtlessly putting stumbling blocks in their way.

The Christ commanded us to do unto others as we would they should do unto us; that can mean only that we have to deal with them in love, putting them first and ourselves last, promoting their good instead of our personal welfare, forgiving them seventy times seven, and not ourselves sinning against them, giving our coats with our cloaks, and going the last mile. When we do these things our little candles will throw out their beams and shine, like good deeds in a wayward world.

***Let my small light help to illuminate the road
that my brother has to tread***

July 16th**TUESDAY****August 13th**

That ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding – Col. 1:9

In the above text we have two things to consider: a potential “knowledge” of God’s will and the understanding and spiritual wisdom we shall have to acquire in order rightly to align ourselves with it. Most of us would agree as to God’s Omnipotence, consequently we know that “His will” is not anything we can avoid, but is something to which we have to submit; and unless we are acquainted with Its nature, that could be a very disturbing thought. We have, however, been taught that our Father is ALL-GOOD, and that there is nothing in existence which is not of Him, so it follows that His will for us is benevolent.

Let us now go a step further. As He is ALL-ness, far from being separate from us, He IS us, and in His Omniscience, He knows exactly what we need. When, then, we are sufficiently advanced spiritually to understand this, the only wise course we can pursue is to put our whole trust in His government and pray the prayer of thanksgiving “without ceasing”.

***In the knowledge that God is my whole being
and in all my affairs, I go free from all
anxiety and fear***

July 17th**WEDNESDAY****August 14th**

So that thy youth is renewed like the eagle – Ps. 103:5

No not allow the thought of age to depress you. Though our bodies grow old we can keep young in spirit. A sense of humour is a tremendous help – so are love and kindness.

Instead of dwelling on the ‘good old days’ let us move with the times and enjoy the best in the present. We need not accept the things of which we disapprove but let us not be over-critical.

Age should bring us knowledge which we can use to help others. It should also bring us poise which aids us to face life with courage. And we should remember that each age brings its own consolations. As the years increase, they should bring added leisure in which to do the things we have not had time to do before.

It is important that we should keep our minds alert to the wonders of the world about us; to people; and to affairs.

***I remain young in spirit for my mind
and heart are stayed on God***

July 18th**THURSDAY****August 15th**

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small
— Pro. 24:10

It is very easy to have faith when everything is going smoothly for us, but when troubles come it is difficult to maintain that only *God* is.

We have, of course, been taught that He is ALL-NESS and All-good, but how can we know this in our hearts, when we suffer from all manner of negations which seem to have descended upon us out of the blue? We begin to argue with ourselves that God Himself must have sent them, if not in sheer malice, then to punish us for our sins, or, in order to teach us certain very hard lessons that we could have learned in no other way.

This faulty reasoning causes us to see our tribulations as Realities so that we give up hope, forgetting that God cannot be ALL-GOOD and still cognize evil any more than light can cognize darkness. All He knows is love, which pours forth from Him as freely, spontaneously and unrestrainedly as sunbeams shoot out from the sun.

***In all experience I accept only God's working
for my highest good***

July 19th**FRIDAY****August 16th**

For freedom did Christ set us free – Gal. 5:1

Let us not be bound to negative or destructive thinking. If we think positively and constructively, we shall not give way to fear, and fear is one of the things we need to conquer if we are to live fully and richly.

More and more we are becoming conscious of the power our minds exercise over us. If we can control them, we can control our actions.

Some people say: “I’m made that way, and there’s nothing I can do about it,” but they are wrong. We build character as we go along, and whether we build well or badly depends on our mental outlook. There is no reason why we should be bound by habits of behaviour, for we have the power to conquer them if we will. Instead of saying, “I can’t” do this or that, we should say, “I can, and with God’s help I will.” We have all God’s power to draw upon.

***With the help of God, I gain control
of my mind and my emotions***

July 20th**SATURDAY****August 17th**

*Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us
with benefits – Ps. 68:19*

When we are in need of something, do we always remember that God is our Source of supply, and that all we need has already been provided for us in the realm of the Spirit?

People so often go to God in time of stress with doubt in their hearts, forgetting that according to their faith it is done unto them. Thought is creative, and so is speech, so we should think in terms of good, and affirm with confidence that our needs are met.

Another thing we must do is to give thanks, even before we receive the benefits we need, as a sign of our faith. And we must put the kingdom of God before all else. That is most important; for if we seek first His kingdom and righteousness, our requirements will be met.

***I give thanks that I share in the riches
of God's kingdom***

July 21st

SUNDAY

August 18th

MEDITATION

The Secret Place*My Father*

Within me is a place of quietness, confidence and security where all things are known and understood. This is a centre of consciousness where Your Divine Peace reigns supreme. It is a secret place that is always open for me to enter. Here the Spirit of Love satisfies all my longings and all my prayers are answered. No longer do I worry or struggle in dealing with my affairs, but as I enter the secret place I come into unity with your All-knowing Mind and find the understanding and fulfilment of my every need.

I am an expression of the intelligence that created all things and to the degree that I realise this Your Divine Intelligence is expressed in and through me. In this realisation I KNOW that within me exists the answer to all my problems.

In the stillness of the secret place within my own being Love leads me to my highest GOOD under grace and in a perfect way.

July 22nd**MONDAY****August 19th**

For as he thinketh within himself, so is he – Pro. 23:7

There are some people who make it very difficult to obey the law of love. They themselves, perhaps, appear to have little love in their nature. They look for the worst in those about them and are continually condemning them.

Mind-control is needed if we are not to dislike such folks who treat others unkindly. We must do what they do not do – look for Christ in everyone. We must not allow ourselves to dwell on their unattractive traits but try to see the good in them. We must forgive them for what may seem unpardonable behaviour.

We have the power of God within to help us to control our thoughts. We have only to claim it in faith and use it to clear our minds of all that is not pure and good, loving and beautiful. As we think, so we are.

***I use the creative power of my thought
to uplift and bless***

July 23rd**TUESDAY****August 20th***Forbearing one another in love – Eph. 4:2*

It is in the petty things which come up daily that it is most difficult to “forbear”. The majority of those who have advanced a little in Truth can, when occasion demands, summon up enough charity to pardon a really big injury. To forgive a grave wrong may require one tremendous spiritual effort but, when once we have made this, we experience a feeling of real satisfaction, not unmixed at times with a modicum of complacency.

The small irritations – little slights, unkind words, carping criticism, impatient gestures, slanderous gossip – are more wearing. They are like a steady drip of water upon a stone; they are not important enough to really upset us, but they are continuous, and though we have to overlook them again and again, we cannot take unto ourselves any particular kudos for so doing. It is in connection with these things that we have to remember the injunction, “Be not weary in well doing,” and then take comfort in the words that follow, “for, in due time, ye SHALL reap, *if ye faint not*”.

***I seek to be forbearing for thus
do I expand in spirit and character***

July 24th**WEDNESDAY****August 21st***Perfect love casteth out fear – 1 John 4:18*

We fear the unknown because we do not know whether it is well disposed towards us or not. We must either ourselves love, or be convinced that we are loved, in order to be entirely free from any apprehension, doubt or mistrust. Can we be so sure that God loves us as to have absolutely no fear of Him? After all He is Omnipotence, no one can gainsay Him and if He is antagonistic to us, we have no defence whatever.

The Christ told us specifically that we are one with the Almighty, spoke of Him as our “heavenly Father” and assured us that it was His good pleasure to give us the Kingdom. It is also written that God Himself declared that we are ever with Him and that all that He has is ours.

In the face of this can we feel anything but love for one Whose only desire is to bless us, to meet our every need, and Whose ALL is ours to command? Surely, we should approach Him at all times and in all circumstances with complete trust and gratitude.

***My trust in God's love for me
eliminates fear from my heart***

July 25th**THURSDAY****August 22nd***Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart**– Isa. 65:14*

Religion should not be connected with long faces and dowdy clothes. God's people should be vivacious and attractive. The days should have gone when to be religious meant to be solemn.

Determine that today shall be a joyous day. You may say that you do not feel at all happy – that this or that has happened to make you miserable. If so, do not give way to your misery. Count your blessings one by one and give thanks for them. Put yourself and all your problems into God's hands and relax. Having done this stop worrying about them. Determine that today you will bring joy into the life of at least one other person. Find something to praise in those you meet, and you will please them. And in bringing pleasure and joy to others you will find them for yourself.

My religion expresses itself in joyousness

July 26th**FRIDAY****August 23rd***As he thinketh within himself, so is he – Prov. 23:7*

In every situation there are always two points of view between which to choose, the optimistic and the pessimistic, and it is for us to decide which one we will adopt, for on that depends how things will work out.

Of two persons who are about to start gathering in the harvest, the one looks at a small cloud on the horizon and immediately makes up his mind that it is the harbinger of the rain which will surely ruin his crop; the other who sees exactly the same thing, remembers that GOD is in charge of his affairs, and thinks, “Thanks be. It is going to be a dull day; we shall not all sizzle under a blazing sun, so the work will go forward much more quickly, and in far greater comfort.”

Perhaps you may think that the reactions of two farmers to a cloud in the sky could not possibly influence the weather, but God never fails to honour our faith in Him, so in some way or other – and that a perfectly natural one – the man who puts his trust in Him will be able to get his grain in, while the other will probably have to leave his lying wet on the ground.

I put my trust in God and He directs my ways

July 27th**SATURDAY****August 24th***For Jehovah is a God of justice – Isa. 30:18*

Never imagine that you can suffer from injustice. Never think that others are treating you unfairly.

All things work together for our ultimate good, even though it may not seem to be so. No one can deprive us of what belongs to us by divine right. If it were so there would be no such thing as absolute justice. We must not judge by appearances but remember that often when one door closes another opens. If anything is denied us it is because, for some reason known or unknown, we do not deserve to have it, or it would not be good for us. If we cannot understand the reason, we must make use of our faith knowing that whatever is, is best.

Let us be just in all our dealings with others. Let us not be constantly imagining that others are cheating us. As students of Truth we must look for the good in those about us, and not expect the worst.

***I believe in divine justice and that all things
work together for good***

July 28th

SUNDAY

August 25th

MEDITATION

*1 Behold Beauty Everywhere**My Father*

In this time of quietness and peace, I withdraw deep within the recesses of my being and sense a fusion of body, mind and soul in harmony with You. As I contemplate Your beauty expressed all around me, I absorb the radiance and the glory until I become one and part of all the beauty in the Universe.

I ask myself, “Who is it that observes and registers these radiations of beauty?” Then gradually, as I fully accept “Thee in me, and me in Thee” I recognise *my* part is in seeing only that which is beautiful and true. Here I come into a realisation of my true self, independent of all but Spirit. The “I” that chooses the thoughts that pass through my consciousness and makes them real; the gatherer of beautiful ideas; the experiencer of heavenly joy and harmony; the listener to divine music within my soul... all these am I in You.

I am one with All Truth, All Beauty, All Wisdom, All Love. This is the contemplative “I”, recognising the immutable bonds that bind me.

July 29th**MONDAY****August 26th**

So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another – Rom. 14:19

If we want peace in the world, we must have it first in our own hearts and minds. We must think, speak, and act in terms of peace. If those around us give way to anger we must seek God's help in order to be able to pour oil on troubled waters. We must give the soft answer that turns away wrath. We must be sure that nothing we think, say or do will arouse discord.

Let us always do everything in our power to promote harmony within the family circle, and amongst all with whom we come into contact. If we do this, we shall be playing our part in bringing peace to this troubled world. We may not be able to play a very big part, but we should all do what we can.

***The peace of God flows into me
and through me to bless others***

July 30th**TUESDAY****August 27th**

Everything created by God is good – 1 Tim. 4:4

Lying in the fragments of shattered experience, in among the wilting fibres of life once radiant, in the flat chill of grief, is God's presence – warm, hope-filled, life-giving and joyous. This is the real stuff of life, the rest is the debris of illusion, of pride, intellect and sensuality.

God desires that you tread His simple and infallible path through life: "I give you good alone. Take it, use it, share it. It is without limit. I have laid no traps for you. There is no sorrow added to my gifts. Trust Me absolutely."

Let life's stresses and grief fall from your shoulders. It is a burden you have imposed on yourself, one which you need not bear. Turn away from hardship and fear and embrace Goodness. *Accept* that you are His beloved child and that your well-being is infinitely dear to Him.

I turn from grief and embrace my Father

July 31st**WEDNESDAY****August 28th**

Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees – Isa. 35:3

There come times in the lives, of even the most self-confident and self-reliant persons, when they have reached the end of their tether and do not know where to turn for aid.

If they have not yet achieved the consciousness of God, they run hither and thither from friends to relatives, from them to ministers and organisations, to soothsayers and charlatans, and always they go empty away, for it is idle in the time of trouble to seek out the princes of this world. We have, instead, to lift up our eyes to the hills, to a higher, more advanced state of spiritual understanding, whence alone cometh our help. If we would find the support we need, we must acquaint ourselves with Truth. We have, to learn of the Spirit indwelling, that we are not orphans in this world but are sons of GOD, indivisibly one with Him, and that since He is expressing through us, He is responsible for our safety and wellbeing. When we can trust these to Him, knowing that in Him we live, and move, and exist, we shall find that in all this His Strength is sufficient.

Life will teach me one thing only: the fulfilment of my good lies in the God within myself

THURSDAY**August 29th**

You see that man is justified by work and not by faith alone – Jam. 2:24

Omnipresence means that we cannot find fulfilment through our thoughts and feelings alone. It must include our bodies and affairs. God manifests on this apparently physical plane for a purpose and that purpose will not be denied.

“Seek first (as your first priority) His Kingdom, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.” Divine substance wells-up from unknowable depths within us and spills over and out into our entire world. Only then are we “justified”. “I (God’s presence in you) came that you may have life, and have it abundantly.” Commit everything that you do to your heavenly Father, do and give generously, never counting the hours, effort or personal cost for, as His substance flows through you, so does it reside *in* you.

With mind and heart stayed upon God, the works of your hands unfailingly bring light and joy to others.

I commit all I do to God within me

FRIDAY**August 30th**

*Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks
in all circumstances – 1 Thess. 5:17*

Paul's instruction falls hard on today's ear, but that is because we associate it with formal religion. Once we make it part of our moment-to-moment living it becomes less daunting. It is the natural expression of one who aspires towards true Self, toward certainty that all is well with them in spite of circumstances.

Optimism is Paul's rejoicing; thinking, feeling and acting positively is Paul's prayer; a grateful heart is Paul's thanks. Truth is a way of life, not isolated practises. The ordinary moments you spend certain of God's support count more than any amount of speculative supplication. You find God in every moment lived in trust.

There are no universal formulas for Truth. We each have unique temperament. But know that you are God's expression and therefore there is always a pathway made especially for you that leads to him.

I live every moment trusting in God

SATURDAY

August 31st

*Seek ye first His kingdom and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be yours as well – Matt. 6:33*

The “first”, in the Master’s exhortation does not mean first in time, but first in importance. We would never get started in realising God’s material good if we had to wait until we had found God’s kingdom, which is profound state of mind and heart. Revelations of Truth come only as we are ready for them.

The so-called spiritual and so-called material (or physical) are forms of the one Substance, Which is God Himself. This understanding, is the divide that followers of Truth must cross in order to hold their own in a materialistic world. As they approach this divide, there are many who would call them fools and deride them. The Master, knowing this, advises us “when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

Your Father knows your every need and true desire, and reveals them to you as you open your mind and heart to receive them.

I open mind and heart to God’s fulfilment

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