The Path of Truth and Practical Philosophy



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THE PATH OF TRUTH

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Editorial

The Beam in our Eye

It is strange to think how often we blame circumstances or other people for our own shortcomings. All too frequently we look for the cause everywhere but in ourselves. If we disagree with others we think that they should change their ideas; if we quarrel with them we consider that they were at fault. This does not apply to all of us, naturally, but far too many.

Let us learn to adjust ourselves to people and conditions. Instead of trying to change others, let us examine ourselves and find out if the fault is not in us. This will require complete honesty — we should do our utmost to regard ourselves objectively that we may recognise our mistakes and correct them.

If we are not living harmoniously with those about us, before we begin to blame them let us find out if the cause is not in ourselves. See if there is not something we can criticise in our own behaviour and, if so, correct the fault.

"I asked you to pray . . . "

Extracts from letters received by the School of Truth

A week ago I phoned for prayers for J – as she was very ill with rheumatic fever and had been placed in an oxygen tent. She is now at home again, a bright, laughing little girl, and may even be allowed to go back to school next week. Thank you so much for your prayers.



A month ago the Council wanted to move me from a cottage in which I have lived for fourteen years. I was to move to a smaller place, very inconvenient and in a dangerous area. I had to go to the Council rent office to finalise the matter but I wrote to you and before I went I received a letter to go direct to the Director of Housing. God had undertaken in a wonderful way – I was allowed to stay on in my house. I thank you one and all for your prayers. May God bless you all.

Our most sincere gratitude goes out to all our known and unknown friends for the active love and trust shown in their constant spiritual and material support of this work of Truth we do in God's service. We give thanks that they are divinely blessed.

Since I wrote to you to pray for my daughter-in-law who had a stroke, she has completely recovered, thank God.

Her hand, leg, speech and face are all normal. She is out of hospital and I thank you for your prayers.

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Thank you very much for putting P-'s name on your prayer list. She was mentally unbalanced and refused to go into a mental home, but with the help of your prayers she has now quite recovered. It is indeed a miracle and I can only say a very big "Thank you".



I wrote to you at the beginning of the year asking for prayers for a suitable home for me in A-. These prayers have now been granted, and I have the one and only home in A - I have always wanted to live in. Thank you and the dear Lord.



You may remember that I asked you to pray for us as we tried hard to find a house in Salzburg. For many months I travelled innumerable times from Vienna to Salzburg, but not one of the available houses and flats was suitable. Thanks to God the construction of the firm's premises was very much delayed too. And, what a miracle, at the last moment – not too early and not too late – the house we had hoped for was found. Visitors keep remarking how very lucky we were to have found an old good house with garden, considering the fact that everywhere hundreds of small flats are being built, but no private houses for rent. They call it luck, but I call it God's never ending love for His children. But you, dear friends, have taught me how to believe in Him and therefore I am deeply grateful to you.

Thank you for your letter of encouragement and also for your prayers which were answered in the most marvellous way. At the age of 58 years I was having difficulty in finding employment. Well, when I got your letter I gave over completely and relaxed, and then, much to my surprise, my ex-boss asked me to come back to him. I am now with him and received an increase in pay. I say with all my heart, thanks to God and to the School for their prayers.

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Some time ago I wrote to you asking for prayers for my sister and brother-in-law who were desperate for a job, having been retrenched from a platinum mine. Our prayers were answered and we join in thanking you and, above all, our good Lord for guidance. They managed to find a similar job quite close by and although the salary is small they have very nice living quarters. They are hoping to be re-employed at the platinum mines when they start producing again.

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My son whose name you have on your prayer list is now making consistent progress after suffering for two years from an injured back. On visiting him a few weeks ago I was astonished to see him pick up his little five year old daughter and hold her in his arms just to show us how really strong his back is these days. This indeed seemed marvellous considering that all the doctors that attended our son could do so little for him, the verdict so often being, "Nothing more can be done".

About three weeks ago I phoned and asked you to pray for my mother who was to undergo a serious operation on the skull as the doctors suspected cancer. She had the operation which was a complete success and the doctors found no trace of cancer. Two years ago I asked you to pray for my father who was in hospital for two months, also very seriously ill. He is 100% now and his old self again. Thank you again for your prayers, dear friends.



This is to thank you most gratefully for your prayers and help during my very serious illness. I was rushed to hospital at 11.45 p.m. in a coma. The conditions were a coronary, double pneumonia and a slight stroke. The immediate prayers of my friends and later yours were granted and to-day I am making a good recovery. "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of," which is a most comforting thought.



Many years ago two little nieces of mine were orphaned and I looked after them until they were married. Now, one niece has heard that I was wanting accommodation and got in touch with me and has offered a flat to my husband and me and a caretaker basis. She also offered us a holiday flat at the coast should we at any time wish to take a holiday. Not for one moment had I ever thought that I should be repaid in this loving and amazing way, and so I know that my dear niece will be well blessed now and always for her great kindness.

Lecture delivered in Johannesburg by N C Campbell

If you will permit the power



I told you recently about the small boy with a tumour on his brain – who when operated upon – was found to have only a cavity there from which the growth had completely disappeared. Since then I have heard a similar story –

described by the narrator as "a natural demonstration of the Power of God." This one was about a young girl who had a large cerebral growth. Help for her was sought from the School of Truth where prayers on her behalf were offered up on the affirmation "Let Thy will of Good be done" was given to her and her family with the request that they use it.

When, a little later, the girl was taken to hospital it was found, on opening of the brain, that the growth had shrivelled away leaving no trace behind.

These two cases – within a week of each other – impressed me enormously, even after my many years of observing the wonders performed by God through and for His body temples.

Another instance of the Father's care comes to my mind in association with a young man who one morning limped into my office and, on my asking him how I could help him, said that he had a huge and excruciatingly painful callous on his foot. He was a travelling salesman for stationery equipment and his practice was to make calls from building to building, starting at the top and walking his way down to the ground floor; and even though he worked hard he was not making enough to keep his wife and himself, so that they were practically starving. He asked me if I thought God could help him.

"Of course," I replied, and his reaction was, "Well, how am I going to get rid of this thing on my foot?"

"Firstly I must correct you," I answered. "That thing is not on your foot, but in your consciousness."

He probably thought I was a little mental for he retorted, "Look, mister, it is on my foot, not in my consciousness. I am the one who is walking on this foot, and I know."

Nevertheless his condition was, I assured him, only the effect of a mental cause.

"You are," I said, "going the wrong way. How do you pray?"

"In the way in which I was taught," he retorted. "I say the Lord's prayer, repeat the psalms, and I use – not affirmations, I don't know anything about them – but all manner of quotations, and all this does not help a bit".

I replied, "We can help you if you will help yourself. Firstly I want you to imagine that you have come into a little depot; I am the man behind the counter and – metaphorically

speaking – you are going to leave this callous with me for me to hand over to God on your behalf." Then I wrote out the following: "This cause, or problem – too hard for me – is no longer mine, but God's. I am grateful that He is fulfilled in me, through me and for me. All fear of obstruction is dissolved in my consciousness." I handed this to him asking him to read it out. This he did and when I enquired if he understood it he said, "Yes, thank you very much," and left.

I felt very sorry for him and I saw him go, but a week later he came in again, limping as badly as ever, "I've still got it, although I left it with you," he volunteered. "Look," and taking off his shoe he showed me the callous.

"Yes," I agreed, "you've still got it in your consciousness because, you see, you are cheating. You didn't leave it with me. If deep within you, you had believed that you had done so, the effect would have disappeared by now."

He regarded me very quizzically, thinking perhaps that there was something strange in the ideas of the School of Truth, and I said, "Give me your name again", adding as I put it down for the prayer list, "we shall continue to help you, but try to practise what we have asked you to do. If you have accepted that you had left your ailment here, why should you be hobbling along now?"

"Because it hurts," he said.

"Your faith is not in God, but in the pain," I continued.

"Well, I'll do my best," he replied and putting the affirmation back in his pocket once more went off.

This happened several times as he continued to limp in, with his plight unchanged, until one week he came, not to complain or to talk about his foot (though) he was still walking only on the heel), but just ask how I was getting on.

"I am very well indeed," I said, "and I see you are progressing because you have not mentioned your foot as you always do. That shows that illumination is beginning to stir in your consciousness."

"You really believe that?" he asked and I assured him that of course I did.

"I have sat here for years listening to tales of woe, and it is my business to assess the consciousnesses of those who come to see me."

He nodded, then quite happily took his departure, and as he afterwards told me, made his way to new building in which there were ten or twelve flights of beautiful marble stairs. As he was about to put his foot down on the first step "I suddenly realised," he said, "what you had been talking about. If I had left this thing with you to give to God, and if He is the All-knowledge, All-power, and the very Presence constituting my foot (as you say He is) then I must act accordingly." He placed his foot down very firmly and there was no pain for the callous was no longer in his mind, or in his foot!

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We know, as you do, that all negation is but an effect, so when we look at it in any of its forms, we do not invest it with the least power. It is as though a fire were blazing merrily away; if we do not replenish it, it will – as I have so often told you - burn itself out.

Your problems, whether mental, emotional, physical or material, are simply matters of awareness (like that young man's) they are what you are seeing. He started out with a belief, then having heard of the School of Truth he came to us in his search for healing, and for weeks he persisted, without success, with his affirmation, but it was only in a parrot-like fashion that he was repeating that God was fulfilled in, through and for him, and that all inner obstruction was removed from his awareness, Nevertheless, he was trying to realise the Truth and the constant repetition was building up from the mental to the emotional, so that he began to perceive, not something I told him, but the verity that, if God had indeed taken over his difficulty, it could no longer be his.

He who had been starving – and had had what he called 'a wonderful demonstration of the Power of God-in-action' realised that if God could work in physical body, removing something that was real, hard, and painful, He could also work in his affairs, becoming his prosperity, and he began to reason" 'God has become my health, can I make Him responsible for my welfare too?" He recognised that according to the teachings of the Master and the School of Truth God was LOVE, which is All-knowledge, All-power

and All-presence, that we live and move, and exist in It, and he asked himself in what exactly did that Love live, move and exist. He came to the conclusion that it was *in the people with whom he came in to contact*; that his whole approach to selling was faulty.

He had always been concerned, not with giving service, but with collecting commission, and he decided to change his point of view and to work in the consciousness of the Divine Presence – that is, IN LOVE. No longer would he sell goods to anyone purely for his own benefit, nor would he be a party to his employer's 'putting it across' the customers, through him. On the contrary, since he represented Love – which is God – he would serve all three. He would not concern himself with his own earnings, which brought his employer to his mind together with the possible loss, if payments diminished, of his job. But he would see his employer as God, that is, as the honesty, truth, sincerity, love and goodness which *are* God, and would keep ever before him the idea that though he was selling but stationery equipment these divine qualities were really his wares which he was taking *from* God *to* God.

Since there is not such a thing as separation he saw every humble typist sitting behind a desk as GOD to whom he owed nothing save love. His attention was no longer riveted on the commission he would receive but on her needs (of ribbons, pencils, erasers) that he would supply. Service, not selling with tongue in cheek, became his business and today that man pays a very large super-tax as he continues to conduct all his enterprises along the lines of service, first to God and then to humanity.

Every individual with whom he has dealings is – as we ourselves teach – the Hand of God. It may happen that to a hundred people he does not sell anything, but from a single one he receives an order which more than compensates for his other fruitless approaches.

That is the story of the man who came to me with the callous on his foot, whose faith the School of Truth helped to build up so that he could trust God enough to take the initiative and BANG down his foot on the hard marble step, at which moment all the Forces of Life, Love and Nature, which had brought him forth, sprang into action and released him in consciousness from his condition. Something as trivial as a piece of thickened skin made him his fortune.

Your problem is perhaps a bigger one than his, but is not the God constituting you the same God as dwells in that young salesman? Is not the sum-total of His Power and Knowledge an integral part of you? Is it not His-being-you that enables you to exist, to live, move and breathe? Or is there something that can interpose between you and his Presence? The answer – possibly unexpected – is Yes, YOURSELF! None other can in any way intervene between you and your God-awareness. There is no power apart from Omnipotence, which is God; no knowledge greater than Omniscience; consequently, the All-knowledge within you knows the answer to every problem

and is the Power that can *enforce* Its knowledge through Its own Spiritual Presence indwelling you and permeating every cell of your being.

We are the 'limiters': we, by the way we see, feel, think, speak, and act decide that we will retain our sickness, unhappiness and lack. There is no entity that can obstruct the Divine Purpose for you if you will permit It to work Its will of Love in you and your affairs. This Love is no sloppy sentimentality. It is a warmth, a sense of gratitude within the individual, the ability to appreciate the beauty of a flower, the glory of a sunset, the loveliness of a woman or the good looks of a man. It is the Eye that beholds beauty everywhere, reacts to it, and sees no shadows, no evil, no pettiness here on earth.

Lately, I read two letters exchanged between Truth students, and I was appalled by the viciousness of their content. One of the writers had been a metaphysician for fifty years, the other for about twenty-eight, and I could only recollect that 'many are called, few are chosen.'

Innumerable people talk glibly of God and, in so doing, they disclose not their knowledge of Him, but their ignorance of His Nature, No one can fool Deity, or those who have experienced Him; all by their words are justified or by their words condemned.

You might tell me that you were a mathematician, but if you could not solve a simple equation that I presented to you, your protestation would be an idle one and would impress me no more than the self-styled pianist who, after enlarging fluently on the subject of music, was unable to play an easy study for the piano.

I once knew a young man with the most beautiful speaking voice I have ever heard. He could talk for hours on symphonies, concertos, and opera, but could not play a note. Like the person who cannot perform on any instrument because he has no training, so the man who has had no practical experience of the working of Truth cannot resolve his problems.

But to return to the two correspondents mentioned a moment ago. They both revealed how little they know of God, and their shocking behaviour illustrates that it is not important what is done by one to another, it is the reaction only that is vital. If we do not want to separate ourselves (as they have in consciousness separated themselves) from Truth, we must learn to forgive our would-be enemies and by so doing release them. The golden rule for all who claim to love God and want to live lives of happiness, freedom, security and fulfilment is that which the Christ set before mankind when he admonished all to 'love one another.'

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According to Epictetus one of life's greatest values is contentment, a life of tranquillity, serenity, and composure. There is nothing worth becoming disturbed about, peace of mind is of supreme worth.

Meditation

The Resurrection and the Life



Father God, over this Eastertide we ask You in humility and faith to help us to become ever more conscious our beloved Master and Wayshower, the Christ, and the Truth He came to give us.

We know that Your will for us is that we might have life and have it more abundantly; and because this is so, You sent Your Son to show us the way in which Your loving Spirit could be glorified through us, Your expressions here on earth. Realising our human weakness — our sins of omission and commission — it is not possible for us to follow this way in our own strength. But You have promised that Your strength shall be made perfect in our weakness, and in this we rejoice and are uplifted. We realise that it is only as we recognise our human limitations, and cast our burden on Your Spirit within, that we can experience the freedom for which Christ set us free

As we look back on our lives and perhaps forlornly view what we consider the failures of the past, help us to acknowledge now that they have not been failures, but necessary experiences which have all contrived to bring us to our present state of accepting, in childlike faith, Your promises that we may enter into the kingdom.

The Life and Promises of the Master



Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asket receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

The Master, Jesus, spoke these words, and like all of His utterances they were not spoken lightly or in jest. They were and are the truth as He taught it to His disciples. These men were not seeking material benefit nor asking for material gifts. They were looking for spiritual guidance that their ability to serve might be increased. And the promise that was given to them is a promise that is eternal – those who seek shall, eventually, find. Jesus set the pattern for His age and went His way, His task on earth completed. But that does not mean that His words and His example were applicable only to the men of His time and to the locality in which He was living. They are universal and eternal. The promise that He made to His disciples is a promise from God to every one of us.

There is no teacher who has lived at any time who has a greater claim to knowledge and understanding than we all possess, provided we live according to the laws of God. If Jesus were the Son of God, so are you; if He could call upon God's power to heal the sick, so can you; if He could obtain the answer to whatever questions were put to Him no matter how subtly phrased, and if He could draw from His own

fuller wisdom whenever He required to do so, so can you. This is His promise. The life of Jesus is a pattern of your own being – not only of your physical powers, but the pattern of the divinity within you. Even if it could be proved that He had never walked this earth, that pattern would still remain the same. For His life is the complete unfoldment of the divine. Power which animates each and every individual in any time and in any place. Step by step our spiritual unfoldment must follow His pattern.

There were seven steps in the life of the Master upon earth – His birth; His presentation at the temple; His temptation in the wilderness; His transfiguration at the time of baptism; His triumph at the entry to Jerusalem; His trial and crucifixion; and His ascension. They are symbolic of the steps which we, too, must take.

The birth of Jesus shows the conscious bringing to light of the aspiration to follow the true way. It is the first step which practically every person takes at an early stage in praise history. Once the sloth of savagery is shaken off, man as a race and as an individual begins to seek the way. In his striving man may choose idols and false gods, witchcraft, or superstition; but he has begun to seek — he is groping as the new-born babe who turns to the fount of sustenance. He is seeking the path.

The second step we make is symbolised in the episode of Jesus' boyhood when, taken by His parents to Jerusalem, He turned from them to the priests with whom was the spiritual bond. It is a step which we take when, even for a moment, we set aside those things which can give us material comfort or material gain, and put them behind us in order to reach for an ideal. Probably at that stage of our career the ideal is unobtainable, but because we have reached towards it longingly, as one reaching towards the moon, we have made a definite step forward. We have realised that there is more required for our development than the physical well-being that our earthly parents and our earthly condition can give us. We seek wisdom and understanding, and there we meet with difficulties. We have reached, like the hero of the fairy story, into an enchanted land where there are giants and dragons as well as good fairies.

In the realm of desire for the spiritual things, we meet, as Jesus met, with temptation. This is the third step. All things are here for our taking – are we going to be content with riches, with material prosperity, and with personal gifts for ourselves? Are we going to be content with the wisdom of the world that will bring us the admiration of our fellowmen? Or will we recognise those gifts at their true value and hold to our aspiration, that we may grow in wisdom and understanding; not as a matter of pride, or of wealth, or of safety, but because it is the law that we should grow; and because we are doing that which is natural to us – doing God's will, and sharing our good with others?

If we hold to our aspiration and are not lured away by the things of the world, we reach the fourth step – the transfiguration that has accepted us as disciples of the Eternal. We have then entered the final grade in which we achieve the triumph of self-knowledge, and the glory of our unity with God – which is the fifth step. Having arrived there we pass on to the sixth – we are tested and experience the loneliness of Gethsemane. Having realised, spiritually, the truth of unity, we must know the temporary difficulties of solitude. Whether we go forward or whether we stand still is our concern, and we must know this, we must recognise that we are responsible for ourselves – that we are, for the time being, alone in consciousness and faced with difficulties and dangers – cast into the valley where there seems to be no light. But we must go forward through the loneliness to the suppression self and the abandonment of all unworthy desires and surrender ourselves completely to the Universal Spirit of which we are an integral part.

Passing through this testing time we come to the final step – the ascension and withdrawal into the silence which is the consciousness of at-one-ment with God.

All this is the natural progress which each of us will make whether it be completed now, or in the ages to come. And because it is the natural course; and because, by aspiration we have started upon that course and know that we must and shall complete it, let us remember the promise of the Master – that wheresoever we are, and at whatever stage of the journey we may be, we shall not be alone. God is always with us to help us along. We can at all times ask, knowing that we shall receive; knowing that through Him we can seek and find; and that no matter how high and thick the wall of difficulty which

confronts us we have but to knock at the gate and it will be opened for us.

There is no reason why any individual should doubt his worthiness to receive these gifts. He has made his choice even as the Master made His. He has set out on the path, and carries with him the Comforter, Who was promised in olden times. The Master said that He would not leave us, but that we should have the Spirit of Love with us always. Therefore, if we are sincere in our efforts to live the Good Life, we are entitled to every right and privilege of a son of God in make life's journey. Any guidance we need is ours for the asking.

But the asking must be honest and full asking, not a casual and half-hearted request that we may be helped. Our very lives should be a prayer earnestly directed to the Source of all Power. We must live our request and show that we are pilgrims desiring to make the journey. We must seek earnestly with all our souls, our hearts, and our minds – seek for aid, and it will come to us. And when we knock, let us knock knowing that we have the right to enter – that it is our home, and none can refuse us.

Let us set aside any humility that makes us feel we are unworthy to receive aid or guidance. We are the glorious sons of the morning; God is our Father; and we have the right to His gifts; and the power to use them well and wisely. So let us go forward even as Jesus went forward, following as far as in us lies in His footsteps.

Faith for a New Beginning



At a meeting in the City Hall, Cape Town, a well-known professor mentioned the dream Alexander the Great had of building the foundations for the ultimate Unity of Mankind. This was not just a theory, but part of a philosophy of values, a flash

of insight given to an extraordinary military genius amid the darkness of his world and far in advance of contemporary opinions. It failed. Alexander, perhaps sensing the shortness of his life, tried to build bridges too hastily. By marrying his officers to Persian wives, for example, and adopting the Eastern Salaam, strange to Greek tradition, he went too far for the men of his day. And when he died, his generals fell back on the old competition for power, with all the usual selfishness of human motives. Nevertheless, by opening up the East, Alexander prepared the way for the Stoic philosophy of the brotherhood of man which we find in Epictetus and in Seneca – revitalising the teaching of the East, while foreshadowing the spirit of Christianity.

There is a seventeenth century Latin saying which the Quakers use: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials tolerance, in all things charity." Our difficulty is that we do not agree as to what the essentials are. When we look around us and note the organisations that speak for our educational and religious bodies, we see their contentions often based on the assumption that only by cunningly anticipating on the lowest plane can

they further their own interests. But if we could firmly and courageously base all our thought, teaching and action on the right motive; if there were no reservations and twistings in regard to the fundamental principle, we would move forward step by step and would know that the *direction* of our progress, if slow, was continuous; not subject to the fluctuations that mirror the windings of a policy of expediency. In the long run, because we could take the long view, we would gain. Our tragedy is that we think it "practical" to take the short view; with the result that we are perpetually being short-circuited.

Can we find a principle that could form a basis for unity and yet leave room for individual diversity? One that would contain the unique Greek capacity for seeing beyond the accidental external, beyond the many to the One, and yet in practice would have the Roman respect for growth and elasticity in application? What is important is not the diversity of opinion and theory, but the disrupting of values in the world.

World-famous figures in atomic research, like Erwin Schrödinger and Werner Heisenberg, have recently suggested that technology and science would do well to remember their origin in the Greek world, and go back to the time when *philosophia* included both science and a philosophy of values – when the "know how" was not divorced from the "worthwhile". Writing as a scientist who has played a leading role in our time, Heisenberg says: "What is, and always has

been, our mainspring is faith," and by faith he means belief "in our task in this world."

But in what are we to have faith? There are all sorts of parties and groups and theories, political, theological, economic, sociological, to which different people will give their allegiance, but for the most part these groups tend to obstruct one another. May I suggest that this is because we think too much in terms of theories and parties, and not enough in terms of values?

Clarity of insight can come only from a return to simplicity and truthfulness and fidelity to spiritual principle. If we believe deeply enough we must act – and by acting we learn to understand practical situations often overlooked by the theorist. Yet fear that we may impair our own particular tradition often holds us back. It has been said: Perfect love casteth out fear. When we have the courage to put this into effect, we usually discover there was no need to be afraid. The generous thoughts we send out return to us and strengthen our position, whereas if we send out thoughts of suspicion and enmity, it is suspicion and enmity that come echoing back. That is a law of the Spirit that operates as surely as a law of Nature, but because we cannot demonstrate it materially in a laboratory we distrust it. Yet the great company of those who have truly tried it can testify to its validity; and it is open to everyone who will approach it in a spirit of truth and humility to make it part of his experience.

Here is another belief that has echoed down the ages: "Of one blood He created them." It does not mean that all men here and now are equal, or that power must be given to those who are unripe for it; but it does mean that every individual has the capacity to grow and develop. It commits us to the main teaching of *Humanitas*, the highest product of the Graeco-Roman world, which urges us to find links between human beings and not to erect barriers. But not only human beings. As far back as Heraclitus at the beginning of the fifth century B.C. we find the conception that human law must be based on the divine law of the Universe, the *Logos*, which is so inadequately translated by "Word" in our Bible. Today the faith in an ultimate universal law has largely been lost; but the faith of Sophocles, Plato and Vergil will, I believe, be justified and there will be a return.

The biggest thing we can work for is Unity, a real Unity filled with the variety of real life, not a dull superficial uniformity; and the peace we strive for must not be a negative, a mere absence of strife, but an intensely active harmony of various elements. It must have the co-operative harmony of various elements. It must have the co-operative activity of a great symphony. This may sound Utopian, yet it is not beyond the possibilities of the human spirit; and it can be achieved. If we could get our values right, we could bring up our children to dislike the animosities that embitter the adults and the shallow generalisations of the unscrupulous. They would be ashamed of and consider indecent anybody who deliberately injured the cause of unity.

It was a man from Africa and an ex-slave who wrote, *Homo sum; humani nil a me alienum puto* – "I am a man: nothing that is human do I believe alien to me." If our action could be directed with due regard for practical problems by faith in the underlying principle of this Unity of Mankind, however hard its application may be, however fraught with disappointment, might well shape our world nearer to the ideal of a heaven on earth.

A quite impossible dream, you may say. Yet is it *right*; its direction is right, and we must not throw it aside as useless because it cannot be realised at once. Rather we must bend all our energies to the task of realising it. We must, in spite of all obstructions and discouragements, set ourselves the daily tasks as individuals to find and multiply the links: building up by every means contact between people who misunderstand one another, forging a bond of language here, of sentiment or common experience elsewhere, maintaining an undefeated good humour in the face of pettiness, organising our society so that a more gracious spirit may develop. But we should realise that unless the spirit is selfless and engaged in loving application of the right principle: unless we have the quality of affectionate but determined and disinterested faithfulness, all our organisation will avail us nothing. We may create an elaborate kingdom of organised efficiency around us, but the Kingdom of God is within.

The struggle of Man on the whole, in spite of wickedness, obtuseness and a persistence that would seem to justify the

cynic, has been slowly upward. Necessity now demands an acceleration of the pace; and if he is to live up to his unprecedented discoveries in the field of science, the acceleration will have to be considerable. Many are despondent. Yet the newly awakened sense of responsibility in the ordinary citizen and his growing awareness of pitfalls to be found in selfish power, give strong hope that our widening horizons will lead to a genuine New Order. In the words of Vergil: "The great cycle of the ages is being born anew."

We must not give ear to every saying or suggestion, but ought warily and leisurely to ponder the things according to God. But alas! Such is our weakness that we often rather believe and speak evil of others than good. It is great wisdom not to believe everything which thou hearest, nor presently to repeat again to others what thou hast heard — Thomas a Kempis.

There is but one virtue; to help human beings to free and beautiful life; but one sin: to do them indifferent or cruel hurt; the love of humanity is the whole of morality. This is Goodness, this Humanism, this is the Social Conscience – J. William Lloyd.

An enlightened mind is not hoodwinked; it is not shut up in a gloomy prison till it thinks the walls of its own dungeon the limits of the universe, and the reach of its own chain the outer verge of intelligence – H. W. Longfellow.

Meetings: March/April 2021

Due to lockdown some meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Contact your local representative.

New version of the 23 Psalm.

The Lord my Shepherd rules my life.

He gives me all I need.

He leads me by refreshing streams.

In pastures green I feed.

Thy goodness and Thy Gracious Love persues me all my days.

Thy house O Lord shall be my home.

Thy Name my endless praise.



Speech

Talk happiness. The world is sad enough Without your woe. No Path is wholly rough. Look for the places that are smooth and clear And speak of them to rest the weary ear Of earth; so hurt by one continuous strain Of mortal discontent, and grief, and pain.

Talk faith. The world is better off without Your uttered ignorance, and morbid doubt. If you have faith in God, or Man, or Self, Say so: if not, push back upon the shelf Of silence all your thoughts till faith shall come. No-one will grieve because your lips are dumb.

Talk health. The dreary never-ending tale of mortal maladies is worn and stale; You cannot charm, or interest, or please By harping on that minor chord disease. Say you are well, or all is well with you, And God shall hear your words and make them true.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox



The other fellow

Through our eyes the other fellow Oft appears as someone strange, Someone that we cannot fathom, Someone we should like to change.

Something of ourself we vision When we look at other men;
Oft their faults are ours for mending By our quite superior ken.

Know then when we judge adversely, When our thoughts condemning roam, That reform had best be started In ourself and right at home!

F.R Whitney



If a man says, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen. – 1 John 4:20.

Let us love one another: for love is of God . . . He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. –1 *John 4:7.8*.

Be ye therefore imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, even as Christ also loved you. *Eph.5:1,2*.

There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. *Rom 8:1*.

Let patience have its perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing. – *James 1:4*.

Our citizenship is in heaven. Phil. 3:20

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! *Ps. 133:1*



March 1 Monday

♦ The Kingdom of God is within you – Luke 17:21.

IT IS MY FATHERS GOOD WILL TO GIVE ME THE KINGDOM.

Some people may still regard the kingdom of heaven as some place beyond the skies, but it is nothing of the kind. It is a state of consciousness. As the Christ said, the kingdom of heaven is within us.

We experience this state when we obey the Universal laws, the greatest of which is the law of love. If we do not love God and our neighbours as ourselves, then we cannot know the kingdom. For love is the key which opens the gate and lets us in.

There is nothing lacking in this spiritual realm. All that we need for our well-being has been provided for us there, and our love, wisdom and understanding bring it into manifestation. It is the state of all goodness, truth, beauty and peace. It is the state in which God reigns supreme.

Then let us search our hearts and minds, and be sure that nothing that is not good is being harboured within us. Let us try to become ever more conscious of the kingdom which is ours.

March 2 Tuesday

♦ For this my son was dead, and is alive again – Luke 15:24.

I WILL ARISE IN CONSCIOUSNESS AND GO TO MY FATHER.

There is much to be learnt from the story of the Prodigal Son who took his substance and journeyed to a far country where he wasted it in riotous living. He was reduced to feeding swine, and suffered from hunger; and no man gave unto him. Then he repented of his misdeeds and returned to his father, ready to become one of the hired servants. But his father received him with love.

So does our heavenly Father receive those who have strayed from Him – with love in His heart. This parable like that of the lost sheep tells us so. However low we may have fallen the Father's arms are ever open to receive us when we repent and return to Him. He does not punish us – we punish ourselves, as did the Prodigal Son. He suffered for his sins, but he was fully and freely forgiven.

We may think that we are no more worthy to be called children of God, but when we turn back to Him He is always there.

March 3 Wednesday

The Son can do nothing of Himself but what He seeth the Father doing – John 5:19.

I LET THE WORKS OF MY HANDS AND THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART BE ACCEPTABLE IN GOD'S SIGHT.

Consciousness in man is the activity within him of the Mind that is God which indwells him, and all his accomplishment proceeds from the use, positive or negative, that he makes of that Divine Intelligence. He can never embark on, and bring to Fulfilment, anything that is outside the scope of God, for if the movement he initiates is an erroneous one it will produce only impotent effects that will die of their own inertia. All of his deeds that bring forth fruit follow directly after what he has observed and ingested of the Self-expression of God.

Man does not invent anything, but if he has eyes that see, ears that hear, and hands that are eager and willing to DO, he will if he faint not bring forth that which 'he seeth the Father doing.'

March 4 Thursday April 1

♦ Both riches and honour come of Thee. -1 Chr. 29:12.

GOD IS MY SOURCE OF ABUNDANCE FOR WHICH I GIVE THANKS.

There are probably people still left in the world who think that it is God's Will that they should endure poverty. Yet His Kingdom is a Kingdom of Abundance to which they are heirs did they but realise the fact and know how to make use of it. They have but to look around them to see how lavish Nature is, so surely man is not meant by God to be without the necessities and the good things of life, to share with others and enjoy for himself.

We need money to live, and we all desire the comforts of life, and they are ours when we realise that God is the Source of all good; and when claim our share of the good things in faith. But we must deserve them. If we are nurturing hatred, selfishness, greed, or any other destructive emotion, we must get rid of it if we expect to enjoy God's bounty.

Let us know, however, that the riches of the mind and the Spirit will serve us when wealth fails to satisfy our needs.

Friday

April 2

♦ I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me. -Ps. 23:4.

I TRY TO BECOME EVER MORE CONSCIOUS OF YOUR PRESENCE WITHIN ME, FATHER.

So many of us fear things that never come to pass, and suffer in consequence. As someone has said: "Today is the tomorrow you were worrying about yesterday."

Why anticipate anything that is not good? If we expect misfortune we are inviting it to visit us. That which we fear may come upon us, so the thing to do is to get rid of fear. How are we to do this? By using what faith we have, however little it may seem to be; and by overcoming the small fears first and working up to the bigger ones. If we could FEEL the Presence of God within us we should not be afraid for He is All-Power.

Let us cultivate courage that we may live richly and fully. We can never do this if we shrink away from experience. Harold Sherman says: "Life is a school from which humans are constantly graduating in Consciousness. Life is a turbulent stream which we must learn to breast, and which – once we have developed within us the power to ride the waves – bears us majestically along to higher and finer things!"

Saturday

April 3

◆ Today if ye shall hear His Voice. – Heb. 3:15.

IT IS MY FATHER PLEASURE TO REVEAL TO ME THE RICHES OF HIS KINGDOM WITHIN ME.

Today! How important is today and how quick are human beings to put off until tomorrow the recognition of the blessings which Truth so freely offers to all and sundry.

We, who appear to have so many unfulfilled needs, fail to realise that today is the day of our salvation. We do not have to carry on the struggle for the things we think we lack. We are sons and heirs of the Most High in whom there is no shortage of any kind at all. We must believe this, must know that 'one is our Father which is in Heaven;' that He cares for us, looks after us, protects us, and is our day to day Supply of All-Good.

What we cannot perceive we find difficult to accept, but faith is the evidence of things unseen and the Kingdom of Heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, and with faith and gratitude the size of such a seed the Kingdom is ours, and all that's in It

Sunday

April 4

MEDITATION

AT-ONE-MENT



My Father,

When I come into Your Presence I come not to ask You to do things I must do myself, but to take time off from the hurly-burly of the outside world, to recognise what my at-one-ment with You implies.

It means – if I can live entirely in the consciousness of it, thus shutting out of my awareness all appearances, error phenomena, human thinking, doubts and fears – that only Your GOOD can manifest in my life, being, body and affairs.

If I wake up in a mood of depression the knowledge – not belief – of my unity with Your Perfection must cause this to fade out immediately to be replaced by 'the Joy of the Lord;' if sickness tries to move into my flesh, it cannot but find no entry into Your stronghold; if lack would invade my affairs it will find no room to settle where Your Fulness fills all space.

I do not come to You, my Father, to beg for health, wealth, happiness, or security, I come to BE STILL that, relaxed and serene, I may recognise their indwelling.

March 8 Monday April 5

♦ Neither do I condemn thee: go thy way: from henceforth sin no more. — John 8:11.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST IN ME GREETS THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST IN THOSE ABOUT ME.

How kindly and understanding was the Master. He realised the frailty of human nature, and forgave those who sinned. It is a pity that so many people are less tolerant. They criticise and condemn often not knowing how great was the temptation; and without considering whether they, too, might not have erred in similar circumstances. As the old French proverb says, to understand all is to forgive all.

Have we really any right to pass judgment on our neighbours? Does it not show a certain arrogance and self-righteousness? We all fall from grace at times, and we should remove the beam from our own eyes before we try to take the mote out of another's.

Emerson says: "A man cannot speak but he judges himself." The psychologist says that we blame in others what we dislike in ourselves. Then let us be careful.

Tuesday

April 6

 \blacklozenge What I have, that give I thee. – Acts 3:6.

I GIVE OF MYSELF IN A SPIRIT OF LOVE AND GRATITUDE.

Do you think that you have nothing to give to humanity because you have only enough money to supply your needs? Just think for a moment! People need love, do they not? And you can give love without spending anything at all in the way of money. That poor man walking the street who obviously is not manifesting health – can you not send him out a blessing? That lonely woman who equally obviously needs friends – can you not do something to help her? Even though you may be lacking some things yourself, you can send out thoughts of health and happiness, and abundance to others. And in doing this you take your mind off your own troubles, if you have any.

What we give we receive, but we must give in the right spirit – the spirit of love – and not from a sense of duty or because others are giving. And we should give in secret, that we may not draw attention to ourselves, or to our giving. We should do it without any thought of reward.

Wednesday

April 7

♦ Let us not love in word but in deed and truth. – 1 John 3:18.

MY LOVE FOR MY FELLOW BEINGS IS EXPRESSED ACTIVELY IN THOUGHT AND DEED.

It is so easy to love 'in word' but how very hard it proves to do so 'in deed' when our charity has to be bestowed upon those who, far from evincing any good will towards us, go out of their way to hurt and humiliate us.

The Christ admonished us to love our enemies, and if we are to manage to obey Him we shall have to call upon something higher and more encompassing than mere human affection. However, when God created man He invested him with *all* His attributes so we have within ourselves the Love Divine that we can – if we will make the effort – set in motion to bless and save. This is the Love that looks not for a return, that does not calculate, seek its own but gives and gives, for that is Its right to give, and give, and give.

Thursday

April 8

♦ Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. – John 16:33.

WITH GOD'S HELP AND MY OWN EFFORTS I RISE ABOVE ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES.

Are you feeling depressed at the moment? Have things gone wrong in your life? Perhaps you are feeling frustrated, or maybe someone has disappointed you in some way. If so, do cheer up! Most of us feel frustrated at times, especially if we have set ourselves a high standard and have not lived up to it. But we can go on trying, and success does not always lie in achievement. As for being disappointed in someone or something — well, you will get over that too. And so often when one door closes another opens. Since no one is perfect, we must not be unduly upset because someone has failed to live up to our expectations. Probably we have failed, too at times. Anyway, never make the mistake of losing your faith in mankind as a whole because someone has disappointed you — that is an adolescent attitude to take.

Claim God's help in faith and love and KNOW that all things are working together for your ultimate good, and so it will be

March 12 Friday

April 9

◆ Jesus manifested forth His glory. – John 2:11.

I, IF I BE LIFTED UP, SHALL DRAW ALL MEN UNTO ME.

Over this period of Easter we once again commemorate the crucifixion and resurrection of the Master, Christ. It is well for us at this time to dedicate ourselves anew to those enduring principles of Truth which He gave to mankind. But let our rededication be not merely of lipservice, but of action. This is the only true way we can honour Him.

The keynote of His teaching was love in its universal sense, and no one before or since, has demonstrated so clearly the power of a love consciousness expressed in action. He came among us as the great Exemplar and teacher – a Man who put His own words to the acid test of action – and He advised us to do likewise that we, too, could show forth in our lives the overcoming power of Spirit. This was the purpose of His mission and it rests with each one of us to take from it what we will. The principle, the method and the example are there for our guidance and inspiration.

Saturday

April 10

One God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all. – Eph. 4:6.

I SEEK TO BECOME EVER MORE AWARE OF YOUR SPIRIT WITHIN ME, FATHER, AND MY UNITY WITH YOU.

If only we were completely conscious that God is in each one of us as whatsoever we need. Then, always provided we were living the Good Life, we should be well and happy. Instead of being ill we should be aware of God in us as our health. Instead of being miserable we should know Him as our joy. Instead of lacking the good things of life we should realise that He is our Source of supply.

How are we to acquire this awareness? We do it by keeping constantly in touch with Him; by thanking Him even for the smallest blessings that come to us; and through prayer and meditation. We do it by cultivating faith and putting it into action. It is not enough to say we trust God, we must prove it to our own complete satisfaction. No one can give us faith, it is something we must achieve for ourselves, and we do so by putting what we have, however little it may be, into practice.

Sunday

April 11

MEDITATION

SERVICE



My Father,

How much there is in the world that we take for granted!

I was considering all the wonderful work being done for mankind – people being cared for by doctors and nurses, the valuable work of teachers, and all the people who serve our daily needs – the dustmen, the bus drivers, the deliverer of milk and other foodstuffs, and those who serve in shops as well as hundred and one others so often scarcely noticed in the daily round . . .

I thought of the care of those close to me and the interchange and interaction which shone through in their love and consideration. Then my thoughts turned to the glorious variety and colour of flowers; the teeming life in the soil; the beneficent light and power of the sun; the lifegiving breeze stirring the trees; the joy of birds and animals and the sea with the million forms of strange and beautiful life which it holds . . .

For all who serve mankind, I thank You, Father.

Monday

April 12

◆ For I have given you an example. – John 13:15.

THIS DAY I REJOICE THAT THE CHRIST CONSCIOUSNESS OF DIVINE MASTERY RISES ANEW IN ME.

The Master came on earth as a Being within Whom the Christ love, power, and wisdom blossomed in their full beauty. And in this blossoming was given to Him the power to heal the sick, aid the afflicted, open the eyes of the blind, and the ears of the deaf, and even to recall the spirit about to depart. He gave all without thought of reward. He thought, spoke, and acted according to the truth of God's great law.

Jesus ascribed all His power and virtue to the Giver of all good gifts, claiming that of Himself He could do nothing. And all that He received flowed through Him to His fellows. His aim was to teach and to serve in love. That was the example He gave to us during His ministry on this earth.

When mankind learns to follow that example, individual jealousies will be overcome, and all will march forward together towards the same goal – God's kingdom of joy and perfection.

Let us examine ourselves and see if we are true disciples of the Master

Tuesday

April 13

♦ Love worketh no ill to his neighbour. – Rom. 13:10.

I WILL REMEMBER ALWAYS TO HELP THE HELPLESS AND TO RENDER SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED.

Are you sure that you know who your neighbour is? When the Master asked. "Who is my mother?" He answered His own question by gesturing to those nearby and saying, "Behold, my mother and my brethren." Your neighbour is not just the person who happens to live next door, or in your immediate vicinity. All mankind is your neighbour to whom you owe nothing save love which, because It is the fulfilment of the Law, covers all that is.

The average human being is more inclined to be kindly disposed to his fellowman than otherwise, but it is not enough that he should do him no ill. Something much more positive is required of him, and that is that he give him spontaneous unselfish service, seeking him out in his need, binding up his wounds — mental, emotional or physical — and sharing with him in all that is his.

Wednesday

April 14

◆ Be not anxious for your life. – Matt. 6:25.

CASTING MY BURDEN UPON THE FATHER I GO JOYFULLY ON MY WAY.

"Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns: and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not of much more value than they?" Now, while the birds do not sow nor reap they nevertheless have to look for their food – it does not fall into their mouths. And so we, too, must play our part. Certainly we should not be anxious about anything at all, for God has provided all we need in the spiritual realm; but we are not expected to sit down and do nothing – we must do our share.

We so often waste time in being anxious in anticipation of things which never happen, proving that we do not trust God as we should. If we did, we should simply put the situation into His hands and let Him deal with it, if we had failed ourselves. Strangely, people so often say that they are still worrying. Let us cultivate perfect faith in God.

Thursday

April 15

◆ A city set on a hill cannot be hid. – Matt. 5:14.

LET ME SO LIVE THAT I MAY DRAW OTHERS TO YOU, FATHER.

When we live the life of love we are like cities set on a hill.

Let us allow our light to shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify the Father Who is within us; for it is by the love we shed to all who come within our orbit and by our works that we are known. When we live the life of Truth we attract others to it. Has someone never said to you: "I see what your religion has done for you, why should it not do the same for me?" And if this has happened has it not given you joy, and a sense of gratitude to God for using your as His instrument?

There are people who seem to radiate love and so love comes back to them. As freely as it flows to them from God so does it flow from them to those they meet. Whether we realise it or not, we influence those about us, unless they are very strong-minded and self-assured. Then let us see that the effect we have on them is always for good.

Friday

April 16

◆ Solid Food is for fullgrown men. – Heb. 5:14.

I AM MY BROTHER'S KEEPER AND I SEND OUT MY LOVE TO ALL MY FELLOWMEN.

Anyone, even a child, who has taken his first steps along the Path of Truth is more mature, spiritually, than one who has not yet started upon that way. The Truth student is ready for this "solid food" which will give him the power to take the Master's "burden" upon his shoulders as he sets out upon his daily round. We are taught that this "burden" is light, but for the average man to "love all and do wrong to none" is not always an easy matter. Most of us are prepared to love those that love us, and to return in kind the good that we receive, but when we are required to cherish them that hate us and to overcome evil with good, we do not find it such plain sailing. Then it is that we have to depend upon "My Strength" which is ever sufficient and was, at our beginnings, implanted in us for our salvation.

Saturday

April 17

♦ Jehovah will keep thy going out and thy coming in. – Ps. 121:8.

I KEEP MY MIND AND HEART STAYED ON GOD AND I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.

God is with us all times and in all places, and nothing we can do will make Him desert us. We may set up barriers between ourselves and Him through wrongdoing or a sense of separation, but He is still with us; and this, surely, should give us much joy.

Are you undergoing a time of stress when the way looks dark before you? Give yourself into God's keeping in faith and let Him show you the path. "That shall be better to you than light, and safer than a known way." We all pass through times of strain, but God helps those who put their trust in Him. When we fear conditions it shows that we have more faith in them than in Him, and how foolish that is!

Forget your fears and know that God will be with you, and trust Him to see that only what is for your greatest good occurs, no matter what the result may be.

Sunday

April 18

MEDITATION

COURAGE



My Father,

In the early morning I start out happy and confident in the feeling that there is no separation between me and my Creator; then as they day wears on negative conditions arise, all sorts of difficulties crop up, appearances crowd in upon me and I begin to worry, so allowing doubts and fears to creep into my awareness until I am all at sea.

It is then, my Father, that I know I must go apart and reason with You a while, that I must shut out the clamour of the outside world and listen in the stillness to Your Voice saying (as in my innermost heart I know It will), "FEAR NOT, for I am with you, even unto the end of the world, with you as whatsoever you need."

What I need is courage to look error in the face and to deny it, and perseverance with which to keep my eyes single to the GOOD, and *these I receive in ample measure* when, in complete assurance and trust, I come into Your Presence and wait patiently on You.

Monday

April 19

♦ Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. — Ecc. 9.10.

MY WORK IS GOD'S WORK AND I DO IT WELL.

We do need to be enthusiastic if we wish to be successful in our undertakings. Henry Chester says: Enthusiasm tramples over prejudice and opposition, and like an avalanche overwhelms and engulfs all obstacles. It is nothing more or less than faith in action.

"Faith and initiative rightly combined remove mountainous barriers and achieve the unheard of and miraculous."

Bring enthusiasm into everything you do, even the little things. You will probably infect others with it and that will be a good thing. Particularly bring this faith in action into your religious life. Prove for yourself how faith works and helps you in all your undertakings. You will not be enthusiastic however, unless you believe in what you are doing, and know that it is right.

Tuesday

April 20

♦ Thou art a son, an heir of God. – Gal. 4:7.

WHAT THE FATHER HAS GIVEN ME I WILL SHARE FREELY WITH ALL MY FELLOWMEN.

If you found yourself to be the heir of anyone you would take steps to posses yourself of your heritage, but although each of us has received the assurance "All that I have is thine" we don't bestir ourselves to enter into the Kingdom that the Father has bestowed upon us.

We cannot see It with our physical eyes or take hold of It with our human hands so we allow It to go by default. That which would fill our lives to overflowing with all good, we neglect to make our own because It consists of spiritual qualities rather than concrete things. What we do not recognise is that when we accept, use and share these gifts from on High, the concrete blessings will follow for no man can be attuned to his Maker and his neighbour and lack any good whatever since the bread he casts upon the waters must, and will, return unto him multiplied.

Wednesday

April 21

♦ *Tarry ye, and wonder. – Isa. 29:9.*

HELP ME TO APPRECIATE THE BEAUTY ON EVERY SIDE, FATHER.

We do far too little tarrying in this speed age. We are often in so much haste to get from one point to another in the least possible amount of time that we miss much pleasure. The flower by the wayside, or the flash of a bird's wing, how often do we pause to look or to listen? Faith Baldwin says: "Every day we live brings wonder if we are aware of wonder, and every night we experience a marvel, which is sleep, not fully explainable even to scientists. Every day is a beginning, but no night an end."

Let us retain our childish sense of wonder. Let us constantly be asking why. Let us be interested in the simple things as well as those more complex. The Space vehicle is a marvel of modern science, but is it any more wonderful than the oak which springs from an acorn? Man has accomplished much that is amazing, but what he has done cannot compare with the works of God.

Take time to look at the things around you – do not merely glance at them. Your appreciation will be pleasing to God.

Thursday

April 22

◆ Now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. – 2 Cor. 6:2.

I ACCEPT THE PRESENCE OF THE FATHER WITHIN ME NOW, AND GIVE GRATEFUL THANKS FOR IT.

Perhaps there are many people, whose lives are running in pleasant places, who think little about God. They feel no need of His help. But how different it is when they are in distress and human aid has failed them. Where, then, can they turn but to God?

It must be difficult for people who have had no religion to try to acquire it in times of trouble. Faith is something we have to cultivate, and we cultivate it by exercising that which we have and proving that according to our trust in God so it is done unto us. To turn to Him in despair, as a last resort, and with no experience of what His love and power can accomplish, will hardly lift our spirits and fill us with hope.

Let us turn to God NOW, if we have not already done so. Let us not leave Him out of our lives until we find we cannot do without Him, but welcome Him to share our joys as well as our sorrows

Friday

April 23

♦ Love worketh no ill to his neighbour. – Rom. 13:10.

MY PURPOSE IS TO SERVE AND TO BLESS WITHOUT THOUGHT OF RETURN.

We are told that we must love our neighbour "as ourselves" and though most of us do not consciously love ourselves we certainly want, in everything that concerns us, only the good that life has to offer. If we really put this kind of love into practice we shall have to consider our neighbour in all things before ourselves; to be ready to give to him that which we dearly want, and to cede to him the place we long to occupy – and all that with a smile!

We may not, irrespective of the provocation, return evil for evil; instead we must overcome evil with good, blessing them that hate us and helping those who would destroy us.

We can never lose by this. What we give freely, that is, without any thought of the return it may bring, will come back to us increased, for by our very giving we have fulfilled the Law of Love and set It in motion towards us.

Saturday

April 24

◆ Pray without ceasing. – 1 Thess. 5:17.

MY FATHER KNOWS WHAT I HAVE NEED OF BEFORE I ASK HIM AND GIVE GRATEFUL THANKS.

Do you think that St Peter meant that the Thessalonians were to spend their days talking to God? For that is what we usually think of in connection with prayer, is it not? However, the people of Paul's day like ourselves must have had work to do and their various affair to attend to, so this could not have been what Paul meant.

The fact is that everything we do can be a prayer if we make it so. We do not necessarily have to talk to God in order to pray. Emerson says: "As soon as the man is one with God, he will not beg. He will then see prayer in all action. The prayer of the farmer kneeling in his field to weed it, the prayer of the rower kneeling with the stroke of his oar, are true prayers heard throughout nature,"

By living according to the law of love our very lives can be a prayer. If we were conscious of our unity with the Spirit we should not need to pray for we should know that all we require is already ours.

Sunday

April 25

MEDITATION

DIVINE PURPOSE ...



My Father,

This day, and every day, I endeavour to surrender myself wholly so that I may see Your wisdom and guidance outworking in my life. Your mighty purpose is apparent in all the good I see around me and thus inspires my mind and my body and reflects as good in my life and affairs. No longer do I strive for understanding through the human intellect alone, but, with my mind in tune with Your All-Mind, I can claim all the strength I need to fulfil the tasks which You have given me to do as part of Your Divine Purpose for me and the Universe.

I see your plan unfold like a tapestry of rare craftsmanship and beauty. Thread by thread, colour by colour, the realisation grows within me as I progress towards the inner perfection which is Your Will for me.

Daily, I give thanks that Your Divine Plan for me has been perfect from the beginning and but awaits growth in consciousness to be realised. With this understanding I look past appearances and possess my soul in peace as I work patiently with Your Plan.

Monday

April 26

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee. – Isa. 26:3.

I USE MY THOUGHT CONSTRUCTIVELY TO UPLIFT AND BLESS.

We cannot expect peace of mind if we are filled with hatred, selfishness, greed, fear, jealousy, or any other destructive emotion, These things block up the channel through which God's love and goodness flow. HE does not stop the supply, but we set up barriers between it and us.

To have one's mind stayed on God is to have it stayed on all that is good. Yet so many of us think too much of its opposite. Instead of dwelling on the truth we are misled by appearances. Instead of thinking always of health, we allow our minds to be filled with notions of sickness, and so on.

Our thoughts are of vital importance because as we think, so we are. And everything we do begins as a thought. Instead of thinking, and speaking, and acting negatively, we must think, speak, and act positively and constructively.

Let us hold the right thoughts not only for ourselves, but also for others

Tuesday

April 27

♦ That he may . . . refuse the evil and choose the good. — Isa. 7:15.

WITH MY HAND IN THE HAND OF GOD, I TRAVEL ON A KNOWN WAY.

God laid a great responsibility upon mankind when He gave us the power of choice, but had He not done so we would have been mere machines and life, instead of being a stimulating adventure, would have been a dreary pilgrimage from the cradle to the grave.

Every morning we start out anew. As we go forth in the knowledge that God is with us, mighty to save, we are freed from all doubt and fear, ready to meet and overcome all difficulties and to go along the Path of Truth with confidence, knowing that One goes before us guiding and protecting us. So that irrespective of how dark the night, how threatening the storm, for us who put our faith in Him there will be a pillar of light by day and pillar of fire by night to guide us and ALL will be well.

Wednesday

April 28

♦ In the shadow of thy wings I will rejoice. – Ps. 63:7.

I GIVE THANKS THAT, UNWORTHY THOUGH I MAY BE, I AM STILL MY FATHER'S BELOVED CHILD.

Do you sometimes feel quite unworthy to be called a child of God? Are you dissatisfied with your spiritual progress? Keep a courageous heart and go on. You do not have to rely on your human strength to send you forward and upward – you have God's Power to call upon.

Derek Neville says: "It is at the very point where we are conscious of our own weakness that we are able to begin to consider God's strength. The very beginning of real wisdom is to understand that we ourselves have no wisdom whatsoever. Above all, it is by the contemplation of the perfection of God that we can become perfect. It is when that stream of His light and love flows through us that we are able to be expressed by Him."

One of the first requisites of spiritual achievement is to yield ourselves up to God within us and allow Him to work His Will of all Good in us and through us in whatever way He sees fit

Thursday

April 29

♦ Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might. – Ecc. 9:10.

I DO MY BEST WHEREVER I HAPPEN TO BE, THAT I MAY GLORIFY GOD.

Is your work uncongenial? Are your surroundings not what you would like them to be? It is possible that you need to prove yourself just where you happen to be before you can expect to be moved on. If you are a junior in the firm and aspire to being general manager you must first show your ability to perform the lesser tasks before you can expect to be given a more responsible position.

Try to realise that you are where you are for some good purpose. Whatever the conditions, they are what you need for your spiritual advancement. Emerson says that a great man is always willing to be little. Whilst he sits in the cushions of advantages, he goes to sleep. When he is pushed, tormented, defeated, he has a chance to learn something; he has been put on his wits, on his manhood; he has gained facts; learned his ignorance; is cured of the insanity of conceit; has got moderation and real skill.

Friday

April 30

♦ Giving thanks always for all things. – Eph. 5:20.

I HAVE FAITH IN GOD'S UNCHANGING LOVE, AND I GIVE THANKS FOR HIS BLESSINGS BEFORE MY EYES BEHOLD THEM.

I Once met a man, quite a simple Swiss, who told me that, no matter what came his way he always received it, good or bad as it might appear to be, with the words spoken aloud and sincerely meant, "Muchissimas gracias," because he was sure that God never could, or would, send him anything of evil.

He was a happy, carefree individual with – when I met him and he was what is known as "well on in years" – not a single wrinkle on his face. Intrigued by his unusual outlook I asked him about his life, which he had lived in a foreign land, very, very far from his own tiny, closed-in country. He told me that it had not been by any means just plain sailing. He had seen many ups and downs, some sickness, and not a little sorrow, but in his many changes he had always been able, confidently and gratefully, to thank his Heavenly Father that *all was well with him and his affairs*. How that was to be, he did not pretend to know; all of which he was absolutely certain was that God was Good and loved him dearly, and he found that, without exception, in the end all things worked together for his good.

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