

SPIRITICITY, January 1945

Beloved of God, greeting:

Probably one of the clearest expressions defining the fundamental need of man is in the phrase, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

All mankind enjoy life: it is the common possession of all. But life appears to have limitations in the world of men. The Master announced: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. He also said, I am life.

Liberty is a real factor in interrelations of persons. Each should enjoy the power to do as he pleases, but in his freedom should refrain from restraining or compelling others to obey his dictates.

Jesus came saying: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me ... to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Paul wrote: Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

The pursuit of happiness leads man a merry chase. He follows it in haste to capture and hold it fast to himself and is disappointed when it eludes his grasp. For happiness is not something that a man possesses; it is something he shares through service to others.

Our Scriptures promise: Happy is the man whom God correcteth; whose God is the Lord; who findeth wisdom; who hath mercy on the poor; who trusteth in the Lord; that keepeth the law; that suffer for righteousness' sake. And the Master taught: If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Sincerely yours,

A. J. Truesdell

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FRIENDSHIP

Job had many friends when he was well off. When he was not so well off, three persons who called themselves his friends undertook to bring to his attention numerous shortcomings which they described as lack of religion, unrighteousness, inconsideration, hypocrisy, self-justification, impiety, presumption, impatience, wickedness, divers sins, and self-righteousness.

We understand a friend to be one who seeks to further the welfare of the person for whom affection and esteem are entertained. To promote the good of another is proof of friendship. So it appears that the men who called themselves Job's friends failed to aid him in time of dire need even though they came to mourn with him, rent their mantles, and sprinkled dust upon their heads.

Instead, they were mindful of the opportunity to unleash their store of criticism which took the form of exact judgments against and interpretations of his former course of conduct. The nicety of their fault-finding hypotheses were like countless pin-pricks to a sensitive skin and caused Job to beat the air in an effort to escape. So long as Job harangued before them, his dominant thought was that he might escape his misery through death, which refused to come.

But then a younger man, Elihu by name, entered the controversy and spoke in God's behalf. He became wrathful against Job because he justified himself, rather than God, and against the three friends because they had found no answer and yet had condemned Job.

Elihu drew the attention of his hearers direct to God saying he would ascribe righteousness to his Maker. Among other things, he said:

Behold, God exalteth by his power: who can teach like him?

Remember that thou magnify his work, which men behold.

Behold, God is great, and we know him not; neither can the number of his years be searched out.

Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict. Men do therefore fear him: he respecteth not any that are wise of heart.

After Elihu left off speaking, Job's consciousness was so attuned to God's instruction that he heard:

Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou Me.

Attention God-ward always stirs the sleeping integrity within - ever lying in wait at the roots of man's nature. With the mighty awakening he rises with majesty and confidence born of the spirit in the inward man, and like a true son, sure of his heritage, with Job exclaims:

I will demand of Thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard Thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth Thee.

In the realization of his hidden Lordship, Job became a friend to his so-called friends and earnestly prayed for them. After this proof of friendship God gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Let us now turn our attention away from Job and give it to the Master, Jesus Christ. Two of the Gospels reveal that he said he had been accused by the Pharisees of being a friend of publicans and sinners. In the Gospel of John he is reported to have said:

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends: for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Jesus always decried the ostentatious and self-righteous. There was no common ground upon which he and they could meet because there was no point of contact where they could assume a footing. All his mind, heart, soul, and strength were centered in God. The Pharisees centered their attention in musty tradition and religious restrictions which warped their souls and the souls of their followers.

Jesus walked among the common people who heard him gladly. As he talked to them the burden of living in a state bordering on slavery lifted from their hearts. He pointed his listeners to the Kingdom of God in which can be found all that man seeks, and he assured them that Kingdom was at hand, even within them.

Men and women alike loved him. When he talked to a group of shepherds about seeking out one sheep that was lost, he was mindful of the women hovering in the background and graciously turned to them and said: Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?

Would not this courtesy and friendliness cause all hearts to throb a little faster and add unnamed joy through such gracious consideration? Jesus never made life hard to any. Wherever he went, he made himself necessary to the people for he dealt generously with them. By so doing, he lifted them a little higher in self esteem and he reaped gratitude of the magnitude which prompted Mary to give her priceless possession to anoint his feet.

Through his friendship for people, Jesus taught them to value themselves. He inspired them to allow the inherent, but sleeping powers in them, to come alive. When Peter, Andrew, James, and John saw the Master, and he said, Follow me, they unhesitatingly left their business of working for a living and from that moment began to learn to live for a working. Matthew, the successful business man, could not resist the magnetic attraction of this Friend of the people and he renounced his gainful occupation to accept the then dubious opportunity to learn how to be a friend instead of a tax-gatherer. Jesus became suddenly dear at the very first to all who followed him and, while all of them missed the goal he set for them, he never ceased to love them, nor they him. In the final analysis, none of them would have amounted to anything without their Lord.

A real friend always comes to us unsought. He makes us do what we can do, though the road be uphill all the way; and we know without him we should have failed.

Universities teach all subjects in great detail. They guide the intellect swiftly and with unerring decision through the maze of accumulated knowledge which is sifted into the consciousness of students in such quantities that they cannot help but retain some of it. But our great schools fail to teach human beings how to be friends - to each other and to humanity.

Friendship is the most beautiful relationship people can experience. While love is the greatest thing in the world, it is abstract, unknown, until revealed through friendship, one with another.

There is not your friendship for me, nor mine for another. But you and I, and others, participate in and utilize the same friendship. For there is only one friendship and all may exercise it. In it, all are drawn closer together than if there were many friendships, individually expressed. The moment you

enter into friendship with another you are instantly one with everybody everywhere, for you meet the whole of humanity in it.

Friendship brings into togetherness all who know it. Friendship is warm. It offers opportunity for closeness without transgression. It is the great binding property among human beings that draws and holds in groups for mutual benefits. It binds without fetters; it yokes without chafing.

Friendship gives freedom. It grants each his own opportunity to be himself and helps him to know what he must do. In this freedom is courtesy and respect that refrains from insult and personal domination.

Friendship gives the cup of cold water that quenches thirst and renews strength. It speaks the soothing word that heals and restores wasted body, spent mind, and scattered estate.

The Master had friendship for the race. He said we were his friends if we did what He commanded; e.g., love one another.

Friendship for the Master arouses strength, warmth of heart, a quickened mind. Its softness of spirit blankets the whole nature and hugs it round about without binding. It becomes the robe of righteousness, fitting perfectly, restricting nowhere.

The Master responds in friendship to the devotee. His friendship is Light: radiant without glare, white-hot without heat, stimulating without enervating, giving benedictions of peace and security without weakening the recipient with a sense of need.

The Master walks the highway of life with his friends. He is the blessed companion who inspires, instructs, directs, and leads. His presence never tires, irritates, or becomes burdensome. He is the wanted, the sought after, the much desired companion any and all times.

Whoever knows him, knows friends in the world who are imbued with and who reciprocate his qualities. Whoever knows the Master becomes masterly. He has a strength sufficient to help his fellowman and grows stronger by so doing.

Empowered by thy love, O Lord,
Emboldened by thy grace,
I learn to see in all mankind
The image of thy face.

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SPIRITICITY, January 1945

Dear Friend:

Every demonstration gathers its necessary substance in a period of stillness immediately following intense activity. Unless this essential lapse of time is granted, the chances of making a successful demonstration are jeopardized.

You may check on this instruction if you will. During some period of your life you wanted something very definitely and very persistently. When it failed to mature as soon as you wished, you let the whole idea drop, perhaps some

months or even years after intense, concentrated thought. Then suddenly, much to your surprise, the complete demonstration fulfilled itself. It is possible, by that time you did not care whether or not it matured.

The point to realize is that every demonstration you ever make in any degree, is made in the same way. First, an intense desire, a strenuous longing for some form of good stirs in consciousness. Then a sense of void, an emptiness, sets in. And lastly, the whole idea unfolds itself in the form essential to its substantiation.

This empty condition in consciousness is the silence. Out of it issues everything that has form, whether idea or material phenomena.

We look toward God in a very active sort of way. When our mentals catch some inspiration from the Heights, we allow our mind to rest before him, knowing in our hearts God is ever able and willing to give good gifts to his children. He never fails.

The CHRIST TRUTH LEAGUE maintains the High Watch in your behalf and gives you its blessing in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Lovingly yours,

Nell Truesdell

Alphabet Of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day Of The Month.

JANUARY 1945

1. His glory is ABOVE the earth and heaven.
2. The Lord God shall BLESS thee.
3. CLEAVE unto Him.
4. DECLARE His DOING among the people.
5. Thy words were found, and I did EAT them.
6. Great is thy FAITH.
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8. Ask, and it shall be GIVEN you.
9. Thou HAST been HONORABLE.
10. Take fast hold of INSTRUCTION.
11. We are JOURNEYING unto the place of which the Lord said, I will give it you.
12. So shall I KEEP the testimony of Thy mouth.
13. The LAMB ... is LORD of LORDS.
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15. MAKE MENTION that His name is exalted.
16. NEW things do I declare.
17. I spake OPENLY to the world; ... in secret have I said nothing.
18. PRAISE the Lord, call upon His Name.
19. QUIT ye like men.
20. The glory of the Lord shall be REVEALED.
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22. SEEK the Lord and His STRENGTH.
23. I will TRUST, and not be afraid.
24. UNTO the UPRIGHT there ariseth light in the darkness.
25. Obey His VOICE.
26. The eyes of all WAIT upon Thee.
27. YEA, I have loved thee.
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29. Where is thy ZEAL and thy strength?
30. I will walk before the Lord.
31. I will sing the mercies of the Lord forever.
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Words may be spoken without feeling, but all words spoken engender feelings. Therefore, it behooves us to select the words we utter for they stir the roots of our nature and cause us to carry out their implications. We invite you to keep the DAILY MEDITATIONS with us.