

SPIRITICITY MAY 1944

EFFECTS OF THE PERSISTENT UPLOOK

The human race always admires its outstanding characters, preferable from afar, for men of genius are rather uncomfortable playmates. The great seem just a little peculiar to the common garden variety of folks, who usually stand in awe of them.

Men we call great are those who have never departed from their working agreement with the Lord, or Something which might be defined as Principle. They are men who have turned back to or who have been thrown back upon their own original resources. Some call this an all-accomplishing Intelligence.

To the unknowing, unusual accomplishments are classed as miracles. This is only because they wonder how such things are done. If they knew, they would no longer wonder. Any intelligent work is a miracle to the uninstructed, but to those who are truly taught, it is the result expected.

We have often said that when any one or any group turns to and depends upon God, mighty works are accomplished. All mighty accomplishments in the world can be traced to the inspiration of some person in a group who translated the ideal to his fellows. The framing of the Constitution of this country was accomplished, in large measure, through inspiration.

Benjamin Franklin, considered at that time to be one of the wisest of our statesmen, was insistent that any attempt to frame a governmental constitution without the aid of Divine guidance would cause the participants eventually to become the laughing stock of all nations.

It has always been true that if any project is at all worthwhile, we can know positively that God is in it and must be acknowledged. In every body of men there is always one who looks just a little higher than his companions. His influence is felt and his name remembered to the degree of his uplook toward and his obedient co-operation with an Intelligence higher than his own mind.

In the instance of framing the Constitution, the accumulated wisdom of the great men involved was brought into a common storehouse for the general welfare of the government being established, and we know many of those men looked to God for guidance.

The process involved in any great undertaking is always the same. The Scriptures are filled with instruction; the challenge to attainment is clear-cut. It is, "Look." "Look unto Me." "Return unto Me, and I will return unto you.."

People looking to exalted egos for their success are becoming disillusioned and will become more so even though there seem to be brief advantages gained. The deflated ego is a pitiful thing; but the exalted Principle is beautiful to behold. As this nation has endured because its founding was ushered into being by a spiritual urge and a divine directing impulse, just so will every man build wisely who turns to the Lord.

In turning, a man need not be circumscribed by former religious concepts, or even past concepts of truth. The instruction of the Holy Spirit is not subject to the approval of some prevalent popular magazine, an exalted

potentate, or public opinion. A man need not be bound and fettered by any former presentation of things spiritual. If it was good, it has already done its good work, it has already proved effective.

"God has not lost His ancient magic touch." Nor has He surrendered His ability to form and re-form ruling world powers, and penetrate the minds and hearts of His people with His saving Presence. God will and does stand by those who stand before Him.

A direct revelation of the Presence of God to the individual consciousness is better than reams of doctrine and libraries of instruction. Every man comes into this world to awaken to his relationship to this Presence. Jesus Christ clearly defined this relationship: I and my Father are ONE.

Christianity has been much maligned and cruelly misrepresented. Christianity understood becomes the way of truth. The way of truth is not cumbered with much traffic. To the average individual it seems to be an isolated stretch and so narrow that he has difficulty in keeping balanced enough to remain in the way. However, those who tread the way report much greater progress and actually less discomfort than that experienced in the more popular and congested highways.

The way of truth is good. Much flexibility of opinion as to what constitutes good is prevalent in the world. The good thought, the good word, the good act; all have been taught as the right rule of behaviorism. Back of these, however, is the motive which governs and influences results. Is God the motive? If the motive is God, good will come out of it.

The good thought acts as a magnet to draw other good thoughts. Every heart responds to a good word sincerely spoken. A good act is applauded on every hand. All true descriptions engender silent acquiescence. Every mind would be delighted to hear truth if it were permitted. We have become confused because we see unsavory practice on the part of exponents of truth. We hear calls of, Lo here, and, Lo there. One advocate declares, You must die to know. Another proclaims, Your attainment is the secret.

Many stumbling blocks are in the way through the world. Eventually we discover, after years of struggle with the world's way, the many "ifs" and "buts" in the covenants we have signed with man-manipulated concepts concerning what is good. The siren call of well-arranged tours to realms celestial is difficult to resist. But such tours have one thing in common: they culminate at their starting points, for the point of departure and the point of arrival are one.

However, one tour is guaranteed to deliver the traveler to a place different for the one he left. This tour, conducted by a Guide who has proved His worth, is not so popular as we are wont to believe. Even the nearest of His associates lost heart at times. It is recorded in John 6:66-69,

"From that time many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered Him and said, To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ the Son of the living God."

It sounds egotistical to read into prescribed religion a higher order of belief and a greater working efficiency than is commonly accepted. Such

audacity is offensive. But if any phase of the Christian religion is true to the doctrine upon which it is based, it must admit of a more efficient working of the Principle than is commonly taught.

There must be something more desirable for everybody than the age-old practice of beginning and ending. Birth, a span of life, and death must cease to be the ruling elements in the life of man. If man thinks this is his life, he is putting his hope on falsehood and comes to an expected end. Such a life is an unsolved experiment, which, if solved would reveal a conclusion of fact transcending the experiment itself. Any experiment is made to prove a point in truth, to reveal a hidden splendor of fact that remains obscure until the experiment is successfully concluded. The principle of mathematics works whenever it is worked; Spirit works whenever it is invoked.

If any phase of religion is true to the Principle within it, it cannot help but attest to a higher understanding of the reality of being, a higher level of existence right where man is, not to be attained in some future time.

The word of life is the word of eternal life. Life is God active, from everlasting to everlasting. The life that lives you, and the life that lives me, is the same life; it is eternal for it is the activity of God in both of us. We live, move and have our being in life. We cannot get out of life, though we may fail in our experiment to prove this point. But our failure does not make eternal life untrue. For the truth of it does not fail. Declaration of truth defeats failure.

Whoever has the word of life is constantly in acknowledgment of life. He thinks, speaks, and acts in terms of life; vital, positive life. Whoever speaks of saving souls before they die acknowledges death and is going in the direction of death. This falsehood is diametrically opposed to life and to God. Whoever speaks of hell-fire and damnation is a servant of hell-fire and damnation and is moving away from God. He will wind up at his starting point, drawing with him all who listen.

Whoever speaks of heaven now, salvation now, is going where he is looking. Starting with that objective, there will be rest when his tour is completed. "My words ... are life unto those that find them." We are instructed definitely to choose life. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

This knowing must be more than worship of a man, or passive acknowledgment of a doctrine. This knowing comes from living a life; a perception and appreciation of all life as God. God is the life of all things, animate and inanimate.

Certain religious practices consider it quite a triumph if a sinner acknowledges God before he dies. This itself is an indictment of such systems. They are recognizing the triumph of death over life, which is not true. The man they claim to worship decried any such concept as of value. "If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death."

The word of life is potent. It knows how to live and how to adjust conditions to its mode of living. Speak the word of life and watch the response in those for whom you speak. If love of God accompanies your word, the response will be permanent. You will find yourself doing good works through the simple expedient of using the right word.

Exercise of your spiritual prerogatives may not make you the most popular person in your community, but you will be a saving presence among your fellows. Press on in His Name and they will seek you out when they need you. Like Benjamin Franklin you might insist, silently of course, that any progress hoped to be made rests upon consideration of the things of God first. When these possess the minds and hearts of all people, all things will work together for good, and good effects will be lasting.

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Dear Friend:

Life, as it is lived in the world of appearance, is not the true life. It is rather a superficial expression of the true life, a shadow really. As we cast our eyes around, we see what we believe to be real. But what we see is subject to change. One day everything is all right; another day this is not so. Among our few gems of happiness we have much negation, much that is not savory.

But if we look up, we set our course by a higher law than that of the world. This is not easily perceived by a student just entering the study of truth. However, the student need know little of truth to practice it, just as he knows little about the air he breathes to be able to breathe it. Its benefits are free.

"April showers bring May flowers," might illustrate my point. The squalls, sometimes so violent, and the darkness so thick through which we walk in broad daylight, dampen and handicap us momentarily. But it is during the trials, not after them, that we are to lay hold consciously on what we perceive to be our good. In the very time that we are "all wet" we are to rejoice and be glad, not in the opportunity to suffer, but because we can cast our glance on High and more definitely adhere to the Light that shines from above. No matter how many clouds there are in the sky, the sun still shines above them.

After a little practice, we see how practical we can be in the midst of trial, how safe and protected we are regardless of what appears to happen around us.

The CHRIST TRUTH LEAGUE will be keeping the High Watch with you. Blessings to you this Maytime when your blossoms of goodness will bear witness to your steadfastness of purpose in His Name.

Lovingly yours,
Nell Truesdell

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Beloved of God, greeting:

Your body is the working field of your mind. Your mind is the working field of your vision. Mind glorifies or cramps the body as the visional sense runs high or low.

Those among you who are entirely satisfied with the results you are obtaining through the practice of right thinking will not be unduly influenced by the statement that there is another way, considered by those who practice it, the more excellent way. People who practice the law of "right thinking" are impatient with others who practice the gospel of "think not." Thinking Christ is practicing the law; letting Christ think you is practice of the gospel.

Arbitrary systems of words, long courses of study, which place the soul of man under intellectual discipline and supervision, causes repression of the spontaneous action of Divinity from within. Each one, with his little glimpse of truth, is insisting that others see the truth as he sees. Like a small boy looking through a knothole at a ball game believes himself to be the only spectator. The knothole is not important; the game is the thing.

Truth has many sides; it may be approached from many angles. Each viewpoint is beautiful. The direction of the attention is the thing. When the attention is stayed on the Heights until one becomes a partaker of high truth, then one becomes an active participant in the game of life and learns to exercise self-control. The first call is to look up. The big job is to face the Light steadfastly.

Become curious about God. Who are you? What is your relationship to God? When you get a glimpse of the answer, you have nothing new; you have simply awakened to the truth that was in the beginning, the truth that you and God are ONE. "I and my Father are one."

Sincerely yours,
A. J. Truesdell

Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For every week day of the month

MAY 1944

1. In ALL thy ways ACKNOWLEDGE Him.
2. BE thou an example of the BELIEVERS.
3. CALL unto Me, and I will answer thee.
4. The heavens DECLARE the glory of the Lord.
5. Mine EYES have been ENLIGHTENED.
6. Above all things, have FERVENT charity.

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8. Open to me the GATES of righteousness.
9. Blessed is the man that HEARETH Me.
10. Let INTEGRITY and uprightness preserve me.
11. Make me to hear JOY and gladness.
12. The KINDNESS ... of God appeared.
13. Thou art my LAMP, O Lord.

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15. The MEEK will He teach His Way.
16. Serve in NEWNESS of Spirit.
17. OBSERVE and hear all these words.
18. Let PATIENCE have her PERFECT work.
19. QUICKEN me again.
20. Be RECONCILED to thy Brother.

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22. SEE the works of the Lord.
23. A wholesome TONGUE is a TREE of life.
24. UPHOLD me with Thy free Spirit.
25. O VISIT me with Thy salvation.
27. YE are the salt of the earth.

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29. He was ZEALOUS for His God.
30. Watch and pray.
31. The Lord deal kindly with you.

Everybody wants results. The active practice of DAILY MEDITATION on some true words will produce effects that sometimes seem marvelous. Continued thought on any word rebounds as something manifest, as a quality, condition, or thing.