

SPIRITICITY, May 1964

LOOK UP

By A. J. Truesdell

"THEY THAT WAIT upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles."

The eagle is a majestic bird, remarkable for the power of his flight. With wings outstretched, he soars high, delighting in his freedom and power.

While man is unable to lift his body above the ground by means of wings, he is the only being with the capacity to look upward and be conscious of what he is doing. He can keep his feet on the earth and let his gaze penetrate the Heavens.

The ability to look up is not dependent upon the physical eyes. With eyes closed a man can direct his inner visional faculty, so as to look wherever he will: to the past or future or present. He may lift his attention and, like the eagle, soar to realms above. But, unlike the eagle that must return again to earth, man may continue to gaze into the Finished Kingdom, above thinking, above being.

This is not theory; this is the most practical exercise in which man may engage. Through the ages the same instruction has come from the seers of all countries, of all religious faiths.

"Behold wonders never seen before! Within My Body see today the whole world, animate and inanimate, and all things else thou hast a mind to see. But thou canst not see Me with thy natural eye: I will give thee an eye divine. Behold My power as God!"

- - Bhagavadvita

"Verily, while he doth not there see with the eyes, yet he is seeing. For sight is inseparable from the seer, because it cannot perish."

- - Upanishads

"Without going outside the door, one may know the whole world; without looking out of the window, one may see the Way of Heaven."

- - Lao-tzu

"The soul is no longer conscious of body, ... but when, after having sought the One, it finds itself in His Presence, it goes to meet Him and contemplates Him instead of itself."

- - Plotinus

"Gazing up into the broad expanse of heaven, Xenophanes declared, The One is God!"

- - Aristotle

The teaching is the same whether found in Hindu, Chinese, Hebrew, or other scriptures. To us, the Scripture we are familiar with seems most vital and direct. From it we get such instructions as:

"There shall be ... upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity. ... When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

"Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else."

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

Along with this Call to endure "as seeing Him who is invisible," our scripture is filled with many descriptions of man's efforts to obey the instruction, the effect such practice has had in developing cooperation with God, and the disintegration that has followed neglect of the practice.

The Psalmist cried:

"My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee and will look up."

The Psalmist had discovered the secret of a successful day. This is the way to start a day right. To use an obsolete example, we might compare the exercise to that of a motorman connecting the trolley to the electric wire before trying to start the motor.

A connection with the Source of power has to be made before the work of the day can proceed in satisfying order. The principle is that of putting first things first.

Much has been said about the advantage of having good connections. But unless the first and original connection between man and God is made, all other practices are futile. All hinges upon this vital contact; and all other spiritual instruction deals with the results of making this connection.

The Psalmist says: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." He is like the motorman who puts on his trolley. He knows his help comes from the Most High, with which he makes contact by looking up.

Again, the Psalmist emphasizes his conviction of the dependability of that help: "My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

The man who has not made union with Divinity through uplook may be compared to a motorman who was too busy to put on his trolley. Such a man would probably be dismissed from his job.

But among men in general, the disconnected have always felt competent to judge the so-called "fool" who insists on keeping his connection with his Source of power.

Wise was the watcher who said: "My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning." He knew that every benefit and blessing comes from the Giver of every good and perfect gift by way of vision toward Him. He understood that no one has anything or can do anything or be anything except it is given him by God.

A man need not keep his body or affairs under close surveillance so long as he keeps his eye on the Heights. "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job; ... also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before."

Such a practice as this is not the negative worship that permits its practitioners to wallow in the sloughs of despondency until they "die in their sins." The God of the upward-watcher has nothing in common with the futile God of the popular religion that allows its adherents to die and teaches them it is right to do so. The God of the upward-watcher is oblivious to such foolishness. "Why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God; wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye."

Steadfast vision toward this God repays a man with bountiful and lasting blessings. "I am come that they might have life," Jesus said, "and that they might have it more abundantly."

A man need not feel apologetic about subscribing to such a practice. His neighbor may not see eye to eye with him, because his attention is on creeds, buildings, choirs, crowds, and other things that have no power to maintain connection with the Creator, but which are pleasing to the eye of flesh.

One need not quarrel with neighbors, neither should one be judged by neighbors. A man's ability to give attention to the One Supreme Judge instantly places him on a higher circuit than that of the downward-watching neighbors.

Creeds and doctrines are impotent, denials and affirmations are powerless, unless the vital, quickening action that results from face-to-face contact with the Highest has caused an influx from the Storehouse of Power into the consciousness of the seeker. All communications other than an acknowledgment of the response from the Heights are superfluous.

Whole states of consciousness fall away before the gaze of the upward-watcher. "The earth and all the inhabitants thereof are dissolved," cried the Psalmist. Nothing but God is to be desired. "Thou only!"

The upward-watcher brings back with him power from on High that restores, blesses, redeems, and even saves his fellow man. He asks nothing, says nothing, even apparently does nothing; yet his achievements far, far surpass the efforts of his companions.

"Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

"What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch."

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always."

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PSALM _4 (In part)

Sons of men, how long will you turn My Substance to shame? You have loved emptiness and sought after a lie.

But know that the Lord has set His own apart for Himself. ... Speak within your own heart upon your bed, and be silent. ...

In peace will I both lie down and sleep; for Thou, O Lord, alone makest me live in security.

-Translated from the Hebrew by Robert Applegate, Jr.

SPIRITICITY, May 1964

THE CHURCH OF GOD

By Robert Applegate, Jr.

"ATTEND to yourselves; attend to all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers - to shepherd the Church of God which He has made His own by His blood."

The Church (as the word is used in the New Testament) is all men who acknowledge the Atonement of Jesus Christ - not perfunctorily, but wholeheartedly. These God "has made His own," since they accept the Atonement and make it the basis of their lives.

The Church is the Body, the extension, of Jesus Christ. It is the means by which He manifests Himself to the world. But it cannot be the Body unless Christ is the Head - not figuratively, but literally. The Church is no institution; it is people: those who belong to Jesus Christ since they have given themselves to Him.

Paul speaks frequently of "the Church" - often of "the Church of God" or "the Church of Christ." Paul meant something. If we are Christians, we believe that what he said is important to us. He could not have meant what today we understand by the word church. Paul of course never use the word church, because he did not speak English. He spoke of the ecclesia, which was a common word in his day. It meant a gathering. He gave the word a special meaning. The Gathering of God is all those persons who gathered out of the world by their faith in Jesus Christ. They have given their attention and allegiance to the Gospel of Jesus Christ rather than to the conventionalities of the world.

The Greek Church Father Cyril said: "We cannot have God as our Father without the Gathering as Mother." This is true. We who are the Body of Christ need one another (none of us discovered the Truth by himself; none is self-sufficient). We are "members one of another" and "the hand cannot say to the foot, I have no need of thee."

We must honor the Church of God: those who have given themselves to God. They are the light of the world - the only light there is. When we realize what the Church is, we see that it is true that "there is no salvation - no healing, no deliverance - outside the Church." But, again, this is no institution or organization.

As Paul says over and over, all that we do should be done for the upbuilding of the Body of Christ. This is the one worth-while work in this world. This is the one hope of the world.

"God gave some to be apostles, some preachers, some speakers, some shepherds and teachers, for the establishing of His people, for the work of ministry, for the building up of the Body of Christ - until we all attain unto the Oneness of the Faith and of the consciousness of the Son of God; until we attain unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

SPIRITICITY, May 1964

SURRENDER ALL LOADS

By Nell Truesdell

IN A RECENT ARTICLE I compared our consciousness to a sphere. In this article I shall compare it to a drop of water. We may begin by imagining rain falling in the Mesabi Range in the region of the headwaters of the Mississippi. Our drop of water, falling as rain, enters Lake Itasca that is the beginning of the Great River. Downstream, a few miles above Minneapolis, our drop flows in a clean river, for its waters are not yet contaminated by city waste matter.

I have stood on a high bank of the Mississippi River at Minneapolis. There the River is wide and its waters are a fresh blue. When I first saw the River at this point, I could hardly believe it was the Mississippi; for I had lived all my life in New Orleans.

At Minneapolis our drop of water is still relatively pure. But as it dances downstream in an ecstasy of anticipation it begins to take on unwholesome elements. These do not destroy it; they simply add their weight of foreign matter to it. Down and ever downstream it goes. Soon it comes to St. Anthony Falls where it dashes and plunges with headlong haste. It tingles in every molecule, and stirred with the thrill of movement, it vibrates with countless other drops rushing together in the Great River. Except for the foreign matter our drop has picked up, it feels very much itself. In the dash downward it rejoices that it is part of the great volume of water called the Mississippi.

Eventually a tremendous thing happens! Our drop feels the presence of strange drops that have joined the River. Just above St. Louis the Missouri has dumped its burden of silt into the Mississippi. But our drop willingly assumes its share of new weight. Caught in the pull of mighty waters, it feels an urgency that helps it to tolerate new burdens.

Deeper and wider the River grows and soon another burden pours in to blend with its volume. The Ohio empties its load of contaminated sediments that add a greater burden to our drop. But adjusting itself to its surroundings, it continues to swirl down river with its companions that are similarly burdened.

For hundreds of miles the Great River flows - past Memphis, and mile after mile further down, past Baton Rouge, then on to New Orleans, where as a girl I used to watch it. During every evening in the summer Mamma used to take her five children for a walk along the levee. In dry months we always ran down onto the wide sandbars that had piled up during the spring floods. And we always dipped our bare feet into the mighty River.

As the waters poured past my sandbar, I watched and watched the River. The setting sun across the mile of water in front of me tinged the sky with a red - red glow that seemed to surge and toss in a sea of gold. Sometimes I dug my toes into the warm soft grains or swished them in the water a few inches below me. As I continued to gaze at the River, its surface seemed to bend with successive curves - now forward, then a slight turns and a little movement backward. I felt the power and the deep -deep pull of dark waters. It was frightening, and I sat tight on the sandbar. The constant, noiseless movement

drugs the senses and I realized that the mighty River never yields up its prey.

But our drop, caught in the movement of countless other drops, swirls and rolls, under and up and around, on its way toward the Gulf of Mexico. There at last it can drop its burden of silt and waste particles. But what happens? It is no sooner freed of one set of burdens than it takes on another. Sea salts and minerals enter our drop and again it is loaded with weights. But the drop does not mind; it dances in the green waters or joins other drops in a dash against a seawall or a climb onto a sandy beach.

But the journey continues. On and on our drop with all the other drops circles through the straits of Florida and joins another multitude that is moving northward. On they go, along the East Coast of our continent. Then, caught in the Gulf Stream, they flow across the Atlantic Ocean and skirt the shores of the British Isles. Perhaps our drop may dash against rough cliffs somewhere on the coast of Britain and be caught up as mist in the atmosphere, only to be wafted by the trade winds back across the Atlantic Ocean.

Coming in over Mexico, our drop is caught by the prevailing westerlies and carried northeast back to Minnesota, where it is dumped as rain in the Mesabi Range, to flow down into the little lake that mothers the Mississippi.

Perhaps our drop repeats trip after trip, with all the experiences of accumulating wastes and silt, and then dropping these burdens for new ones of salt and minerals. It still remains the same little drop of water.

Is your life experience, or mine, much different? We begin as newborn babes, clean and unsullied by the weight of human existence. We have moved through our different environments and picked up the elements surrounding us until their weight has burdened us to the breaking-point. In the nick of time we have released old burdens - only to assume new ones, as we made transitions from one area of human experience into another.

Unlike a drop of water that is the victim of circumstances we may, after the touch of Christ Truth upon our consciousness, voluntarily stop in our tracks and size up our opportunity to free ourselves from the world by surrendering it and its vanities. Tears of regret will not deliver us. We must be sufficiently brave to pick out the humanness that is tightly interlaced with the warp and weft of our being so that our consciousness may accommodate the new pattern of spiritual existence to be woven in and through us by the Master Craftsman of Creation.

SPIRITICITY, May 1964

LETTER from Muncie, Indiana

Dear Friends in Christ Truth:

I HAVE THOUGHT of you so much since I came home from the hospital and can only say each thought has been filled with love and devotion to you and your great work.

If you could only see this wonderful baby, this God's baby. The doctor has been telling people that he has never delivered such an alert baby and they all say he looks like a six-week's old child, he is so active and responsive. People are simply raving about him even more than the usual necessary amount.

Each day when they brought him to me in the hospital, I said my prayers over him that I learned from you. I am so much more relaxed and do not worry about every little thing as I did with my first child.

The doctor has checked my son and assures me he is perfect in every way. He was never red; just pink and white. Someone asked me if I have the blues that follow a pregnancy and I answered that I am too thrilled with this child to do anything but thank God a million times a day.... My love for God is stronger than ever and I know now that He does listen to prayers.

Blessings to you always.

(Name withheld by request)

LETTER from Canon City, Colorado

Dear Mr. Truesdell:

IT MIGHT INTEREST you to know that several days ago I added up the bills I would have to pay at the end of the month, and figured there would be only a few dollars left over to carry me until next payday, if I saved out the \$50.00 I'll need to make a payment on the accounting course I am taking by correspondence. Today I wrote the checks for all the bills, including two I had forgotten about, saved back the \$50.00 for the school, and ended up with \$25.00 left in the bank. I know it does not make sense to people who do not practice Truth, but that is the way it happened. This is something that the girl I lived with in Waco could never understand. Since we worked together and lived together, she knew exactly what my income was, and approximately how much I owed. We would add it all up before payday, and it would appear that my check would not cover everything. But when payday arrived, it did cover it all, and there was always some money left over. Truly, God does work in mysterious ways.

Thank you so very much for all your help.

Sincerely yours,
Mae Wright Cason

NOTE:

Mrs. Cason has been a friend of the Christ Truth League for many years. She has always practiced tithing and has had many marvelous experiences that have revealed her complete faith in God and His Law.

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Alphabet Of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
for every Week Day of the Month

MAY 1964

1. The New AGREETH not with the old.
2. I AM the BREAD of life.
4. My CUP runneth over.
5. In DUE season we shall reap.
6. EVERYONE shall receive of Thy words.
7. The FATHER is with me.
8. GODLINESS with contentment is GREAT GAIN.
9. Is not my HELP in me?
11. The Spirit maketh INTERCESSION for us.
12. Teach a JUST man, and he will increase in learning.
13. God is of great KINDNESS.
14. LEAD me in Thy Truth.
15. At that day shall a MAN look to his MAKER.
16. Maintain good works for NECESSARY uses.
18. Set thine house in ORDER.
19. Every PRUDENT man dealeth with knowledge.
20. QUENCH not the Spirit.
21. Thou bearest not the ROOT, but the ROOT thee.
22. Be ye STRONG.
23. Ye are TAUGHT of God to love.
25. UPHOLD me according to Thy Word.
26. VOW, and pay unto the Lord your God.
27. WISDOM is better than WEAPONS of WAR.
28. I remember ... the kindness of thy YOUTH.
29. Ye are ZEALOUS of spiritual gifts.
30. As the Father knoweth me, even so I knoweth the Father.

"When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

SPIRITICITY is the Working Power of the Spiritual Principle
as electricity is the working power of the electrical principle.

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