

LORD, BE THOU MY HELPER

By Nell Truesdell

MOST of us pray for God's help. Two attitudes keep us from receiving His help: self-justification and unforgiveness.

The story of the Israelites in the Wilderness illustrates man's mistake of self-justification. The people wanted to run their lives by their own self-righteous opinions. Moses reminded them not to forget God, but to be obedient to His Voice. He said: "And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of the Lord, and His statutes, which I command thee this day, for thy good?"

Like the children of Israel, who had just emerged from slavery in Egypt, we too forget the help that God has given to us in the past. We think that we have gotten where we are by our own efforts. We seem not to realize that our comfortable, easy-going, complacent attitudes are like the dry rot that causes seasoned timber to crumble into powder. This dry rot is an unsuspected inner decay that expresses in our consciousness as self-justification.

Who can justify himself before God? Micah answers this with a question: "Who is a God like unto Thee?" Dare we make ourselves equal with God? Even Jesus said, "The Father is greater than I."

Consider forgiveness. Does Nature forgive? No. For her, it is impossible to forgive a breach of her laws. For example: disregard the laws of health and punishment follows. There is no mercy in Nature.

Does the world forgive? No. If a man breaks a law, the world punishes him in some way or another. He bears the stigma of his mistake all his life; thus is the unforgiving spirit of human society - the world - revealed.

Does our memory forgive? No. Though we repent, its tyranny still grips us.

The prophet Micah saw that none but God can forgive. He said: "Thou wilt cast all (our) sins into the depth of the sea." God does not remember our mistakes; He forgives them and forgets them. His forgiveness introduces us to the possibility of our own change of character, by which we may recognize God's Purpose in us.

We may accomplish that Purpose only with God's help. That help is instantly available when we humble ourselves before God and accept His forgiveness; it purges us of all our human mistakes.

Jesus insisted over and over that as God forgives, so must we. In the Prayer He gave us He made us affirm: "We have forgiven."

The prophet Micah, repeating the instruction of Moses, said: "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

SPIRITICITY, May 1965

II PETER

By R. A. Applegate, Jr.

WE are not very familiar with the last several books in the New Testament, but there is much in them of value.

If you read through the second half of the New Testament (from Acts through Revelation), you will note that at first the Resurrection of Jesus Christ was so overpowering to the men who had witnessed it and those who were told about it that they were then filled with enthusiasm, joy, and a complete fearlessness. Nothing else mattered much to them except the Resurrection. "They held fast to the Teaching of the Apostles, to the Fellowship, to the sharing of meals, and to their prayers. Great reverence was in every soul. Many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles. . . . Day by day, with one heart, they spent much time in the Temple and in sharing meals at one another's houses. They took their nourishment with joy and simplicity of heart, as they praised God."

But gradually a reaction set in. Established religious ideas and customs opposed the freedom of the Gospel. Many wanted to put the new wine of the Gospel into the old bottles of orthodox Judaism. Also many self-seekers tried to exploit the new Teaching and the enthusiasm of its followers. "I know that after my departure," Paul said, "cruel wolves will come among you, who will not spare the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up who will say twisted things and draw away the students after them."

It was during this period of reaction, when the followers of Jesus Christ needed strengthening, exhortation, and warning, that the last part of our New Testament was written: including the Letters of Paul to Timothy and Titus, the Letters of Peter, James, Jude, and John; and, of course, Revelation. II Peter is probably the latest-written of these books. It is short and it is strongly-worded. I should like to offer a translation of it with a few explanations.

II PETER, Chapter I

1 Simon Peter, a Slave and Apostle of Jesus Christ, (To us the word "apostle" does not convey very much, except as a designation for the Twelve and later for Paul. But for the Jews the word had a definite meaning. An "apostle" was a slave who was sent on a mission with authority to represent his master. He was an extension of the person of his master, so that whatever he did, it was as though the master had done it, and whatever was done to him was done to the master. If he made a promise, the master was bound by it. If he was insulted, the insult was to the master. So Jesus said to His Apostles: "He that receives you receives Me and he that receives Me receives Him that sent Me.") to those who have been given faith in the Justice of our God and our Deliverer Jesus Christ - a faith of equal value with ours:

2 Love to you and all good - made full in the knowing of God and our Master Jesus.

3 His Divine Power has given us all things that are necessary for life and worship, by the knowing of Him who has called us to His

4 own Glory and Strength. By this Glory and Strength He has given us valuable and mighty promises, that through them we might become sharers in the Divine Nature, escaping the decay that is in the world through desire.

5 So for this reason, apply all earnestness. Add to your belief strength, to strength knowledge,

6 to knowledge self-control, (The word literally means inner rule: i.e. being ruled from within, rather than by circumstances or impulses arising from without.) to self-control endurance, to endurance reverence,

7 to reverence good will, to good will graciousness.

8 For if you have these things and they are increasing in you, they will keep you from being useless and unprofitable in the knowing

9 of our Master Jesus Christ. He that does not have these things is blind - short-sighted; he has forgotten how he was cleansed of

10 his former mistakes. So do you, brothers, strive rather to let your calling and your choice be established. For if you do this,

11 you will never stumble. And so there will be freely given to you access to the Eternal Kingdom of our Master and Deliverer Jesus Christ.

12 For these reasons I intend to remind you always of these things although you know them and have been strengthened in the Truth that is present with you.

13 I think it right as long as I am in this tent (i.e. body) to arouse you to remembrance; for I know that the

14 putting off of this tent is near, as our Master Jesus Christ has showed me. So I shall strive that

15 each one of you may have this reminder after my departure. (or, "escape": the same word that is used of the Exodus from Egypt.) For

16 we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we made known to you the Power and the Presence of our Master Jesus Christ. Rather, we had been eye-witnesses of His Majesty. He received from God the

17 Father honor and glory when these words came to Him from the Magnificent Splendor: "This is My Beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard

18 the words borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the Holy Mountain (the Mount of Transfiguration). So we have the prophecies

19 of the Old Testament more firmly established, to which you will do well to give your attention, as to a light shining in a gloomy place, until the day dawns and the sun arises in your hearts. (The Old Testament was the only Scripture that Peter and his contemporaries knew.) But know this first of all that -

20 no prophecy of Scripture admits of personal interpretation. For

21 prophecy never came from the personal will of man; rather men who were compelled by the Holy Spirit spoke for God.

(To be continued)

SPIRITICITY, May 1965

TARRY YE IN JERUSALEM

By A. J. Truesdell

ALL PROPHETS have said: Return to the Lord your God; give your attention to Him; be obedient to Him - then all will be well.

This instruction has been neglected by the majority of mankind and it has been distorted by the ones who have assumed the responsibility of relaying the teaching to the people. The people have not been rightly instructed about the

Kingdom of God within. As a result they have settled for less than the Spiritual Reality. They have sought everything but God.

And we find that these things we attribute to the way of the people with the Lord have a counterpart in our own consciousness. There is a perversity in us that finds many things of interest to distract us from doing what we know we want to do. It will not enter in nor permit the other departments of being to enter in. Even when we are coming close to a state of meditation, we find ourselves beset with urges to go and do something - usually something that could be postponed or left undone.

We know that when the exercise of waiting upon the Lord goes on uninterrupted, the reward of the inner realization far exceeds the value of any work that we might have done in that same time. Also quite possibly some of you have discovered the efficiency of the Law of God that works in its own time. Perhaps you have felt negligent about attending to certain tasks because you have been more interested in the things of the Spirit. The jobs have accumulated and you have not been prompted to act. Then all of a sudden, for no apparent reason, the One Worker swings into action. You do easily task after task until the agenda is empty.

Just before His Ascension Jesus said to His disciples: "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." The disciples obeyed. And they accomplished a work that we can only stand in awe of.

Jerusalem represents the Spiritual Self of man. Man is prone to avoid this Spiritual Center, much like the men in Jesus' parable, who had invitations to a dinner. "The first said, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it. . . . And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come."

There is much to be learned in Jerusalem. There great things are exposed to the seekers for the spiritual treasures. Yet, now and again, the tarrying in Jerusalem seems fruitless. Sometimes we may seem to be so out of touch with what is considered the normal way of life that we may question our own sanity. We need to be reminded how great is the reward of the watcher, and how those who have gone before us have had the same qualms, but have kept on in the Way. "Blessed is the man that endureth. . . . Behold, we count them happy that endure."

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SPIRITICITY, May 1965

TREATMENT FOR PROSPERITY

By H. B. Jeffery

ALL the Power there is, is devoted to my prosperity; I am not afraid.
All the Presence there is, is devoted to my welfare; I do not doubt.
All the Mind there is, is devoted to my success; God is my Provider.
I am not influenced by money considerations: I am master of money. I do
not perceive any power in money at all; all-Power is God.
There is no fear of money in me; there is no love of money in me.
Chasing money is pagan. I am not sordidly seeking after money, though
money is the commonly acceptable medium of exchange.

I am free from the curse of work - I labor not for the "meat that perisheth."

There is no truth in the idea of having to work for a living. LIFE IS. LIFE governs the sequence of Ideas in Mind, being the eternal Law of the soul. Whoever is spiritually alive makes his own place. Nothing can stop him, and no one can gainsay or resist.

When I am working, it is the Spirit, Mind, God, working. So my work is always successful, for it is God's work, perfect and divine. I acknowledge the fact and this makes me a more ready and open channel for good.

I know what it means to "take no thought." I do not fear poverty. There is no reality in the poverty of the poor; there are no poor. I know that there are no poor and oppressed; I do not doubt the truth. I am not afraid of poverty; I do not practice economy; I am not timid. I arouse my mind from the sleep of incapacity and incompetence. I understand the truth of universal prosperity: "Joy, joy, the glad news!"

I know the golden rule of prosperity of the Christian system and I perceive its spirit - "All things are mine."

I rejoice in my prosperity, for joy speeds the perception of the truth. I perceive that all my wants have been foreseen and provided for. I realize that my Father knoweth what things I have need of. I am conscious now of limitless abundance; all-Power brings mine own to me.

I am in perfect peace, which perceives that there are no obstacles. The truth is that Infinite Abundance is mine eternally. I am conscious of prosperity. There is no fate or ill luck hanging over me or anyone. I am permanently conscious of unescapable prosperity. "Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Not to perceive this truth is to be a thief. There are no thieves within me or about me; no thieves at all exist. The error of stealing is of two sorts: (a) stealing from others, and (b) stealing from one's own self.

Both are overcome by the perception that "all things are yours."

Patanjula taught: "Abstinence from theft being confirmed, all jewels approach (him who has the perception).

"When one has given up self-love and thereby the desire for misappropriation, he stumbles at every step on wealth without actually seeking it,

"The more you fly from nature, the more she will follow you; and if you do not care for her at all she becomes your slave."

Moses: "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish His Covenant which He swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day."

Psalm 23:1: "The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want."

Think of all your mental affairs as being out in a warm spring rain.

Job 22:25: "Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defense, and thou shalt have plenty of silver."

Psalm 37:3: "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."

Proverbs 8:21: "I will cause THOSE THAT LOVE ME to inherit substance; and will fill their treasures."

Proverbs 10:22: "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it (or, toil addeth nothing to it)."

Increasing in spiritual riches means increase in outer richness without sacrifice of principle.

Be ever rich toward God and you shall not lack in richness toward
humanity.
God needs no prestige. He does not desire the applause of men. All there
is, He is. All there is to have, He has.
This therefore is also true of man in His exact image.
To desire human prestige is to be ignorant of our divine status, the
majesty of our spiritual being.
By these true words I perceive the complete extinction of the notions of
having to earn a living, of seeking prestige, of having to save up,
or of any lack.

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SPIRITICITY, May 1965

DANIEL

By R. A. Applegate, Jr.

THE BOOK of Daniel was written during a time of persecution to encourage the Jews to hold on to their faith in God. The theme of the book is: "The Most High rules in the kingdom of men; He gives it to whom He wants; He raises over it even the lowest of men." This is a truth that we need to return to today. We will do more good by holding to it than by mentally fighting the politicians who seem to be ruining our country.

The Book of Daniel has several prayers that are worth our attention. Amos said: "The Lord God of Hosts will be with you as you have spoken." It is important for us to speak (either silently or aloud to ourselves) the Truth about God. We formulate our life experiences by the words we speak. By our words we are justified and by our words we are condemned. We do not change the Truth by our words, but we do establish it for ourselves. This is the value of the psalms and prayers of the Scripture: they furnish us with descriptions of the Power and the Nearness of God - descriptions that are vital because they are the result of men's experience in seeking and finding God.

The following from Daniel has been helpful to me; it may be to you. No translation has the force of the original. But as the early translator Miles Coverdale said, "We know that we cannot find the right word, but we must try." So it is with me.

Daniel 2:20: May the Being of God be worshipped from eternity to eternity.

For ability and strength come from Him.

He changes times and seasons; He takes away kings (ruling ideas) and He sets up kings.

He gives ability to men to make them capable, and knowledge that they may have discrimination.

He reveals secret and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness.

For light lives with Him.

To You, God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise.

For You have given ability and strength to me.

Daniel 4:31: I lifted up my eyes to heaven and my reason returned to me. I worshipped the Highest; I blessed and glorified Him that lives for ever.

His Kingdom is an eternal Kingdom; His Rulership to generation and generation.

All who dwell on the earth are as nothing. He does as He wills with the host of heaven and those that live on the earth.

There is none that can stay His Hand, or say to Him, "What are You doing?"

Daniel 3:33: How many are His portents! How great His miracles!

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Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
for every week day of the month

MAY, 1965

1. ASK, and it shall be given unto you.

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3. Mercy and Truth shall go BEFORE thy face.

4. I CAME not to judge the world, but to save.

5. Thou art my Lord in whom is all my DELIGHT.

6. With thee will I ESTABLISH My Covenant.

7. Thine hands have made me, and FASHIONED me.

8. GROW in GRACE and in the knowledge of GOD.

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10. Is not my HELP in me?

11. I AM the Lord your God.

12. He that is JOINED unto the Lord is one spirit.

13. KEEP the charge of the Lord thy God.

14. I LEAD in the way of righteousness.

15. This is the Day which the Lord hath MADE.

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17. With Him is NEWNESS of life.

18. Thou Lord, only makest me to dwell in safety.

19. Thou wilt show me the PATH of life.

20. Be QUIET; fear not, neither be fainthearted.

21. All things are now READY.

22. I, the Lord, SEARCHETH the heart.

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24. THOU preparest a TABLE before me.

25. UPHOLD me with Thy free Spirit.

26. Pay thy VOWS unto the Most High.

27. They that WAIT upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

28. Thy YEARS shall not fail.

29. Be ZEALOUS for spiritual gifts.

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31. Teach me Thy way, O Lord: I will walk in Thy Truth.

"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."

As electricity is the working power of the electrical principle,
So Spiriticity is the working Power of the Spiritual Principle.

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