

REAL MAN IS VICTOR

By A. J. Truesdell

Those among you who have aspired to be healers have had the experience of taking to yourselves some other person's illness. Possibly you have prayed for someone who had a cold, and, after a night's sleep, awakened to discover your patient healed and the cold lodged in yourself. Perhaps, because of your spiritual preparation, you were able to throw off the symptoms, or chemicalize them which your patient was not able to do for himself. This erasing of error is accomplished by faith in Reality and a complete disregard of appearances.

Such an experience can be used as an example of the demonstration of Principle. Principle takes unsolved problems to itself and erases them - makes them nothing - replaces the problems with examples of its Presence. So, a strong spiritual character is able to chemicalize and make nothing the illnesses and distresses of others. Those who had been ill go free. "The ransomed return with singing."

The illuminated of all the ages have been familiar with such vicarious practice. All the prophets foretold the time when one should rise up who should be strong enough to take himself all the ailments and illnesses of the race and make them nothing.

Centuries ago this prophecy was fulfilled. Jesus Christ, born into the world, was subjected to all the mists of race mind. He even went through the most appalling experience of all, that of dying, and overcame because he had lived the spiritual life and had refused to compromise on any point.

"Himself took our infirmities and bear our sickness." Jesus was tempted in all points and yet remained without sin because he would not concede to anything less than Principle.

We ask, What was the reason for this service? The question might be answered with an analogy. Do you remember the first lie you told? Immediately you found it necessary to tell another, to cover the first one, and so on until the fabric of your life became unwieldly and very embarrassing.

Just so, the fabric woven from inferior thread which starts with the lie that man is a mortal-mental creature enmeshes the very life of the individual and would choke it off unless the falsehood is remitted, forgiven, dropped off.

The only sin is the first lie held to as truth. But when it is recognized for what it is and confessed, remitted, all the rest of the fabric of which it is the base drops off, as an old garment. The very confession is remittance, repentance, which clears the way for the truth to be revealed and established.

If the infirmities of man displays were intended to have a place in God's plan, it would be foolhardy for anyone to attempt any sort of vicarious atonement, or healing. All appearances of sickness and ailment would be permanent and incurable.

Though the majority of people prefer the lie, it can never be made real. It will always remain a lie. When any lie is recognized as such, it is

uncovered, exposed, and whenever this happens, it is loosened and soon drops into oblivion.

To speak correctly we should say that the maladies of man are recognized for what they are not. They are temporal and unreal. Jesus was able to handle them with skill and confidence because he dealt entirely with Reality, never with the lie (appearance).

As the focal point of your attention determines the quality of your thought, so your line of reasoning will determine your experience. If you start your reasoning with the statement that man is mortal and subject to mortal frailties, you will experience an expected end. If you start your reasoning with the belief that the world has power and exercises it in an arbitrary manner, you will discover yourself in bondage to the world and its ways and you will come to an expected end. If you reason from a God of retribution, you will develop a critical concept of the Most High.

A line of reasoning that starts with the fact that God is Spirit and man, his image and likeness is Spirit, will declare the truth all along the line and culminate in that truth established. If anyone starts with this thread, it will turn out to be the golden cord with which he weaves his own seamless robe. Such reasoning flexes "spiritual muscles" and develops faith in God.

All the suffering that mankind is acquainted with is the result of his belief in flesh as reality, and makes for bondage. This belief is the seat of opinions of the intellect, sensation, the sense of separation from "the good", pride of ancestry, obedience to social custom and tradition, subjugation to creed (religious and political), and so forth.

In the belief that he is a immortal abides intellectual analysis, and arrogant, but ignorant judgment. Here, man behaves to be seen of men, and honors one another with titles and writs, testimonies and obituaries.

However, since life is eternal, there is no excuse for man to believe in anything less than eternal life. Life outpictures as wholeness, health. Health is good, and is not something that is given by measure. Like life, health is not scaled off in days, weeks, months, or years.

Man, created by God in his own image and likeness, is heir to all the Father IS and has, and, we understand from the Master, it is the Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom.

In this Kingdom is all-supply, whether it be health or wealth. Supply is not dependent upon salary or the declaration of dividends. Such are but modes of expression for the flow of supply. Supply is more than money. It is the providence of God and is given freely from God as health or wealth or whatever the demand upon it.

If we would enter into the spirit of such truth and reason from this standpoint in Reality, we should discover ourselves living as children of God, sinless, free, healthy, whole and full supplied.

Man is absolutely dependent on God. God is responsible for him. The one who is most dependent receives the most care.

Such reasoning does away with old methods of striving to sustain life and attain a moderate portion of worldly goods. To reason from God makes man victor over sin, suffering, limitation and he knows himself as more than conqueror.

Who will stand and gaze steadfastly toward the Heights and know the truth of his being? Who dares to acknowledge and practice the love of God which can bide the time when all mankind will turn toward the Light?

Many persons prefer to look toward some other objective in whom they place all their trust and faith. Some look toward an institution, or a book, or some person, and they are terribly disappointed when all eventually fail.

We cannot compromise with less than God. He is the One Truth that stands. Any person or place that does not point steadily toward God is not to be trusted. For no person, no matter how consecrated he may be, and no place, no matter how holy, has the power of God, nor can either take the place of God.

Let us continue to lift our vision toward HIM who created the world and all therein. Let us open our ears to listen to the Great Teacher who announced there is only One Good, even God. Let us accept his simple realization for himself and all mankind, "I and my Father are one."

Perhaps it is our mission to stand steadfast in this simple recognition of the Allness and Goodness of God. It takes good courage and a strong heart to maintain such an attitude in the face of unfavorable conditions and beliefs on the part of friends and associates. But we can do it, for we have a good start and have already proved our faith.

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SPIRITICITY August 1948

REWARD OF WISDOM

By R. A. Applegate, Jr.

Down through the ages has come the instruction to seek Wisdom. Moses prayed, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Solomon declared, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." In Ecclesiastes we read, "Wisdom giveth life to them that have it." Socrates insisted that wealth, health, power, beauty, and all things which men usually consider good are either beneficial or harmful according as they are wisely or foolishly used, so that wisdom is the only thing which is unconditionally good. Jesus Christ reproved the crowds that gathered around him with the statement, "The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, a greater than Solomon is here."

We know the wise men of history and can see what their wisdom did for them and for others. Moses was the wise Law-giver who led the Israelites out of Egypt and preserved them for forty years in the wilderness until the nation was strengthened and purified. Thus he was able to deliver his people from galling slavery and make them a free and self-respecting nation.

Solomon chose wisdom as the one gift which he asked of the Lord. "And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honor, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honor, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like." It was fulfilled unto Solomon as the Lord had declared.

Jesus Christ was the embodiment of the Wisdom of God, "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge," and so he was able to perform the atonement for the world; to take the world's error upon himself and dissolve it into nothingness.

Wisdom has been defined as ability to judge soundly and deal sagaciously with facts, especially as they relate to life and conduct; and also as perception of the best ends and the best means for attaining them. While these definitions do not tell us what wisdom is, they do help us to think about it, and we can see, then, that such a quality would be an invaluable possession.

We need to have a goal towards which to direct the activity of our life. Otherwise, our energies are constantly dispersed and dissipated and we ourselves distraught and distracted, as we are torn by conflicting desires and shift from one purpose to another. If we have a goal towards which we aim constantly (no matter what engages our activities at a given time), our forces are integrated and channeled and our whole being is unified and renewed. The choice of the best goal and of the best means of attaining it would certainly be a salvation for every one.

Our modern scientists are able to tell us some of the factors that contribute to intelligence, although they do not know all the secrets of Wisdom. If we study their writings, we find that they agree remarkably with the teaching of Jesus Christ. Dr. Alexis Carrel says, "When our activity is set towards a precise end, our mental and organic functions become completely harmonized. The unification of the desires, the suplications of the mind to a single purpose, produce a sort of inner peace. Man integrates himself by meditation, just as by action. But he should not be content with contemplating the beauty of the ocean, of the mountains, and of the clouds, the masterpieces of the artists and the poets, the majestic constructions of philosophical thought, the mathematical formulas which express natural laws. He must also be the soul which strives to attain a moral ideal, searches for light in the darkness of this world, marches forward along the mystic way, and renounces itself in order to apprehend the invisible substratum of the universe." Thus the scientist is forced by his studies to arrive at the same conclusions which the mystics have been maintaining all along.

Since Jesus Christ was the embodiment of Infinite Wisdom and was the very Word of God, it would be prudent to give attention to his teaching first of all. If we accept the definition of wisdom as perception of the best end and the best means toward attaining it, we should remember he told us clearly and unmistakably what it was; namely, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness." Our life must be directed toward this end, and the means to attain it is to follow Jesus Christ. This is what we shall do if we are wise: "Watch and pray always"; "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength"; and, "love thy neighbor as thy self." These conditions are the means of attaining the end we

desire. Choice of the Kingdom for our goal, and obedience to the required means of winning it would reveal real Wisdom in this present time. If we apply ourselves unto such as we already have, more will be given us and ultimately we shall discover that it is not we who are seeking Wisdom, but that Wisdom is seeking us. Within ourselves, "Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" will be revealed, and there will be uncovered to us that "hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world, unto our glory."

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HE IS THE ROCK

By Nell Truesdell

The mystics, seers, and prophets of old compared God to a rock. They sought to impress upon their own minds, as well as upon their hearers, the fact that God is as permanent and as unshakable as a rock. When we recall that our Scripture originated among a people who dwelt in rocky country, we understand why such a comparison would be natural.

Rocks are the most formidable, immovable, and substantial things on land that is dry and sunbaked, and covered sparsely with brush and wire grass. Everywhere the eye falls, there are the inevitable rocks.

In our limited experience we have had little direct dealing with rocks, except possibly, when we dug in our flower gardens and clashed with them. The one thing we are sure about a rock is that it is hard; a rock cannot easily be broken, nor, if it is a large one, can it easily be moved. No matter what we might try to do with it, it still remains a rock.

We know that the persistent rushing of waters can wear away great boulders and reduce them to small pebbles; but, the change in size does not affect the original character of rock. A pebble is only a small rock, but it is just as hard, just as rocky, as the large body of which it was once a part. This symbolic steadfastness, this strength, is what we want to learn to associate with the nature of God. We must sense that he is durable, changeless, everlasting, no matter how our beliefs about him change.

"Who is God save the Lord: or who is a rock save our God?"

To remember God as firm as a rock renews our strength and vitality. We contagion the strength we attribute to God. We should have little respect for a weak God. But God as strong as a rock gains and holds our admiration.

Jesus Christ gave this parable: "Whoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."

Upon The Rock - that is, upon the Principle of Good (which is God), we are to build our abode, our dwelling-place. This Rock is our integrity within us. It is that firm place in consciousness where we know we can stand and not be moved or shaken.

Our particular house is our own consciousness. It is filled with all that we are, and with all that we believe (though what we are is so submerged beneath what we believe, that our beliefs seem to be the reality of us). However, the reverse is true. Actually, what we believe we are is inferior to what we are in reality. But this belief shapes and influences our destiny, and we are "up" or "down" according to our belief.

Now, no matter how firmly we believe a lie, we cannot make it the truth. However, what we believe affects or colors all that we do, and all that we think about ourselves, our neighbors, and our God. In those rare times when we look straight "into" ourselves, we glimpse that we are doing a great deal less than we are capable of because we are too inert to arouse ourselves sufficiently to break away from bondage to false beliefs.

Always there is a state that transcends what we believe. It is never touched by what we believe, for it is the Integrity Rock within that cannot be damaged even by our ignorance of its presence. Like radio waves that are invisible, but everywhere, this Presence fills all space and interpenetrates all form: it is never absent for a moment from any spot anywhere.

Ask yourself, "What is the truth about me?" And, get the answer direct, "I am a child of God, created in his image and made in his likeness."

Are you afraid of your divinity? Suppose you chose to think and act from this unmovable aspect of yourself, what would happen? Your thinking would change, for you would believe in your divinity. Consequently, you would act as you know in your heart God would prompt you to act. Your whole life would be based in your love of God, and that love would influence your dealings with everybody and everything around you. God would come first. Life would take on a tranquility not possible in the hectic everyday living so familiar to all people.

We seldom look to or talk to God because we are so busy finding out what we think we ought to know and do in the world. We pay a lot of attention to effects because we are so heedless of the Source of all effects, even to the most trivial imagination of our indulgent and vain self-seeking. We are always talking about our own plans instead of listening for instructions from God that would reveal his plan for us. We are afraid to trust his plan because in our present state we are so vague about what it is or what it would involve.

We casually admit part of a life-time spent in contemplating God in order to discover him would be time well allotted; but, the years fly and ruefully we observe we simply will not stop long enough to get the first directions. Moses took forty years to get his instructions, and we say, "Well, that was all right for Moses." Jesus bided his time in the presence of God, and when he eventually came forth, he could not be persuaded by the most crafty of his generation to step down from his Integrity Rock within.

This, too, will be true for us if we but believe and accept God as our Rock upon which we may stand.

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Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day of the Month

August 1948

2. Be ... APT to teach, patient.
3. BLESSED is the man whose strength is in Thee.
4. Thou, O Lord, art a God full of COMPASSION.
5. The Spirit searcheth ... the DEEP things of God.
6. EVEN as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.
7. Come FORTH and serve.

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9. He GIVETH power to the faint.
10. Let thine HEART keep my commandments.
11. Open unto Him IMMEDIATELY.
12. It is JOY to the JUST to do JUDGMENT.
13. He that KEEPETH thy soul, doth not he KNOW it?
14. I have LOVED thee with an everlasting LOVE.

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16. The MEEK shall increase their joy in the Lord.
17. NOW will I arise, saith the Lord.
18. ONE day is with the Lord as a thousand years.
19. Ye shall ... be led forth with PEACE.
20. It is the Spirit that QUICKENETH.
21. Let the word of Christ dwell in you RICHLY.

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23. He will SAVE.
24. Let not ... TRUTH forsake THEE.
25. I UNDERSTOOD as a child.
26. Thy VISITATION hath preserved my spirit.
27. The WORK of righteousness shall be peace.
28. Let not YOUR hands be weak.

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30. Have a ZEAL of God.
31. Give unto the Lord glory and strength.

Please join us in DAILY MEDITATION.