

SPIRITICITY, August 1963

CALLED, CHOSEN, AND FAITHFUL

By Alden Truesdell

"THE LAST shall be first and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."

Actually, all men are called. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock," Christ says: "if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me."

This message is to all mankind; so it is safe to say all mankind is called. But it is obvious that not all choose to be chosen. Some have urgent business elsewhere legitimate business having to do with the vital activities of society: birth, death, marriage, the transfer of property.

The spiritual goal provides a substitute for each one of these practices. For the practice of birth, the birth of the Son of God in the core of the soul is recommended. "Let Christ be born in you."

Death is swallowed up in the victory of the Resurrection. So each one is advised to reckon himself to be dead unto sin and resurrected with Christ.

For marriage, the marriage of the Lamb is presented as highly desirable. "Come, and I will show you the bride of the Lamb," said the angel to John the Revelator.

Private ownership or transfer of property is so unimportant as to be completely negated by the command: Sell all you have, follow Me, have treasure in Heaven.

Although all God's children are called, the spiritual prerogatives are enjoyed by the ones who are chosen. And it is quite a thing to be chosen of the Lord. Such an experience caused one to cry in awe at the "terrible majesty of God." Another found himself to be "fearfully and wonderfully made."

Altogether, those who have been chosen of God have found themselves to have been inducted into an entirely new sense of being and state of consciousness. At first, the ones who are chosen for spiritual service feel like strangers in a strange land, and the land from which they have been chosen seems also to have changed. They are looked upon with suspicion by former friends and associates. Quickly they must learn to place their whole dependence in this new order - that they may not permit themselves to be judged by the unawakened, who have no conception of what is taking place in them.

During this transition period, each one must know, with Jesus, that men could have no power to judge him at all if it were not given them from on High. Then he must know that it is the fullness of time for him to make the particular demonstration for which he was brought into the world and brought to the place of judgment.

John wrote: "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world."

A day of judgment is the completion of a cycle. At each of these go-rounds, one is called upon to stand up and be counted, to make his ever new decision as to whom he will serve and whether he will keep on in the way he has chosen. Sometimes these days of judgment come at times of crisis, when a man's extremity is God's opportunity.

We remember Jesus' saying: "If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed: and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." To be free is to abide in the Spirit of the Lord, which is liberty; to be immune to all the machinations of self-seeking men; to be released from material bondage; to achieve the spiritual work for which your particular talent is designed.

Here is where each one finds he has a full-time job in expressing his own talent and cannot afford to scatter his forces by judging others. No one can do another's work; each one expresses his own talent for some specific purpose. Those who find their particular place in the complete pattern are the chosen - and they may be the faithful. The chosen are to be trained in the art of faith, and tested as to their faithfulness.

Even after the disciples were called and chosen by Jesus, there were many times when they failed to do the required works because of their little faith. When they murmured because they had no food Jesus said to them:

"O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets ye took up? neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?"

There is a constant training of the attention of all aspirants away from the lower and up to the Higher. This does not mean that everyone must join a monastery or take the veil; but that each one, right where he is, has the chance of being called, chosen, and faithful. Not everyone is called to the ministry.

Jesus found more faith outside Israel than in it. We find the same thing to be true today. I believe the so-called materialistic man, who uses the business methods he knows with the honest intention of making a profit, is closer to being chosen than the spiritual practitioner who uses malpractice for the same purpose: not to bring students to liberty, but to place them in bondage to the teacher for the sake of the profit the teacher may get from them.

We call one who uses physical superiority to subdue a weaker person a bully. We call one who uses personal will power a tyrant or dictator. But many who are subject to those who have knowledge of spiritual laws consider them as benefactors. Yet those who are using religious know-how to dominate others are emulating the conductors of concentration camps. This will get neither them nor the people into the land of promise and of liberty.

But if a spiritual leader has sufficient faith to live and even die for his cause, he will save himself and many others. Faith and fear are of the same school and work in similar manner. What we have faith in will come to pass, and what we fear will come upon us. This is why the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. For if we fear, or stand in awe of the Lord, the Lord will come upon us.

Sometimes the more fearful and helpless we feel, the more will the Lord be able to do for us. Fear is faith in reverse, and the fear of the Lord may become the faith that moves mountains.

The exercise of faith is not for the purpose of building up a personal dominance; but it is for the purpose of attending to, depending upon, and anticipating from, the Invisible One, who is "able to do exceeding - abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

It is good to recount the miracles of faith: the feeding of multitudes, raising the dead, healing diseases. But it is also good - in fact better - to know that these miracles are not confined to person or place; that the Doer of these deeds promised us that we too can do such things - and greater things than these, because He, our Elder Brother Jesus, has gone to our Friendly and Faithful Father.

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SPIRITICITY, August 1963

SALUTATION

By H. B. Jeffery

"This is the day which the Lord has made." We will rejoice in it, and be glad and salute the Author of it, the Creator of heaven and earth, who "giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." (Acts 17:2) We will salute that One, rejoicing in the fact that He has caused us to come into being, and to represent Him and express Him in this world. We look up. In the words of Job: "Thine hands have made me and fashioned me. ... My witness is in heaven, and my record is on high." (Job 10:8, 16:1)

And so we salute the Author of our being, the Giver of life and breath to all living. We rejoice in His Presence and hearken to the one command that has come down from the heights to man: "Look unto Me." - "Turn unto Me."

You will find in all the wisdom religions and among the writings of the good and the great, the seers and sages of all ages, that one command. It is at the height of the teaching of every religion. It is the only command issued by Deity.

This day we heed that command; we turn to salute the One who gave us being, who has caused us to be, and to be His own. "I will be their God, and they shall be My people." (Eze 37:2) If we can realize that and know that, our hearts will leap with joy. Just think about that. Think: God is my Father. "Call no man your father upon the earth: for One is your Father, which is in heaven." (Mat 23:9) Our Father. Our God.

We are children of the Supreme Being. Should we not be glad and rejoice to know it, to realize it - to walk daily and hourly in the consciousness of that truth? "The Spirit Itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." (Rom 8:11) Paul said that. Do you not know it? Jesus said: "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou has sent." (Jn 17:3)

This is life eternal - to know God. We believe in Him; do we know Him? Is our belief becoming knowing? If our eye is single and undiverted, if we are obedient to the High Call, we shall find that we are moving out from believing to knowing. We are coming into a conscious realization of oneness with that One and sonship to that One. We are able to address knowingly that One by the name "Father." We feel a oneness with God. And so we look up. We are obedient to the High Call. With undiverted vision we move in the consciousness of the Presence of God. God is Spirit; everywhere we turn, we face Him.

Wherever you are, you are in the Presence of God; and wherever you turn, you face Deity - as long as you remember. One of the great sages said: "If a thousand times an hour you forget to face Deity, a thousand times an hour remember Deity faces you."

The Divine Presence is everywhere: God Omnipresent; God Omnipotent, All-powerful, Almighty!

You walk in that Presence; you live in that Presence, whether you realize it or not. If you realize it - if you know it - it will mean much to you. You want to be taught the ways of that One and to be conscious, perhaps more clearly, of the fact that you are children of that One and that you are here in the world to express that One. It is a great privilege.

St. Augustine said: "Thou hast created us for Thyself." God has created us for Himself. Through us He wants to make Himself manifest; to show His Nature: His Joy and Love and Peace and Wisdom and Strength and Power. So we salute that One, addressing Him always as "Father" - "our Father."

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty," heaven and earth are full of Thy Glory. In Thee "we live, and move, and have our being." (Rev 4:8) It is Thy Hand that fashioned us. Thy Spirit gives us life. So, our Father, we thank Thee for our life. For Thou hast breathed into us being and hast breathed the Universe into being. We behold Thee as the Power and Might and Majesty that created it all and sustains it all. Thou hast said: "I have made the earth and created man upon it. (Isa 4:12) ... I have created him for My glory ... (Isa 4:7); I am the Lord, and there is none else. ... (Isa 45:5) Look unto Me." (Isa 45:22)

We acknowledge the Allness of Thy Being and Thy Presence. We rejoice in Thee.

It will be well for us to rest in the truth of Thy Presence, and to be still.

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SPIRITICITY, August 1963

THE LORD'S FAST

By Robert Applegate, Jr.

SOMETIMES in the mornings I see our neighbor, Mrs. Bybee, as she waters her garden and I water ours. She bemoans the weeds on her lot and I (with more justification) bemoan the weeds on ours. One morning she said, "You just have to close your eyes." And that is often the very best thing we can do. If we close our eyes to the weeds and give that same attention to God, the next time

we look at the lot the weeds will look less fearsome. Either they will seem unobjectionable (after all, what damage are they doing?) or we will see how to deal with them easily. The same principle works for all the problems that stare us in the face and seem so endless. Sometimes you just have to close your eyes.

Socrates said that the soul (or, consciousness) comes closest to Truth when it has the least possible commerce with the physical world. And so the philosopher (we would say "metaphysician") "flees from all but the necessary use of the eyes and ears." This reminds us of the words of Second Isaiah: "Who is blind but My servant, or deaf as My messenger whom I send? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear." Both of these seers (Second Isaiah lived about 100 years before Socrates) knew that the less attention we give to the external world and the more attention we give to the Invisible God, the closer we come to Truth. For that which is seen is but a reflection of that which is unseen and eternal.

Socrates called the fleeing from all but the necessary use of the eyes and the ears "the practice of death." For the ordinary man (he said) identifies life with the senses and considers anyone who does not indulge them to the full to be as good as dead. This recalls the saying of Jesus: "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it."

To turn our attention away from the weeds of this world (poverty, sickness, violence, unhappiness) and even the flowers (health, riches, etc.) so as to give that attention to the Lord - who is always with us - is the "fast" which God has chosen. "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?" Those who give their attention steadfastly to God, instead of to the clamoring world, are the channels through which these works are done. They are the peacemakers, the healers, the "light of the world."

The abbott Allois, one of the Desert Fathers, said: "Unless a man shall say in his heart, 'I alone and God are in this world,' he shall not find quiet." St. John of the Cross said: "Live in this world as though there were none in it but God and thy soul, so that thy heart may be detained by naught that is human."

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SPIRITICITY, August 1963

APOTHEGMS

By Nell Truesdell

A SAINT is a human being with spiritual understanding.

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Life is eternal, as the number one is eternal. In mathematics, fractions cannot fracture the one; division cannot divide it; multiplication cannot increase it; subtraction cannot decrease it. So it is with Life. Nothing can affect the Immaculate Principle of Life. It neither increases with the apparent multiplicity of living things nor decreases with the continual changing and discarding of forms that make It manifest.

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Use, do not abuse, God.

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The effect of the sun's rays on plants is to grow blossoms into fruit, and fruit to maturity. However, if ripe fruit is not used, the sun's rays rot it and the fruit is useless. Long ago somebody said, "what you do not use you lose."

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The quickest way to attain satisfaction is to be at peace in mind and manner.

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O that we would tear the veil of darkness from our inward sight and accept the gifts that God so abundantly showers upon us!

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You are blessed when you are able to understand a good teacher.

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The practice of Truth is not a matter of sitting around holding the that in a do-nothing state. The practice of Truth is a matter of developing the skill of keeping the attention centered on God while you are under pressure - - especially when you are working at something you do not enjoy doing.

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Jesus Christ gave no sugarcoated message. He did not administer opiates or tranquilizers to stupefy people. He made them angry. But, humanlike, they got angry at Him, not at themselves for their own ignorance and intolerance.

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No one can conceal his dedication to God.

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Spiritual Substance cannot be molded, just as air cannot be molded. But like air, Spiritual Substance fills all molds as long as they exist.

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Distinguish your goal from your purpose. Your goal beckons you outward. When you reach it you are finished. Your purpose draws your attention inward in such a way that you become aware of the reason for which you were created; namely, to be conscious of spiritual sonship to God through Jesus Christ. You choose your goal; God has already chosen your purpose.

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Be willing to change your mind and your habits and you will have things as you wish.

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We limit our demonstration of what we want by being unwilling to search into it long enough to penetrate the secrets that will make it yield its rewards.

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Whatever we want is within reach of our attention.

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All most persons ask is escape from trials. They would willingly turn back from Truth and again be submerged in dullness, futility, uselessness, rather than be hurt.

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Have you made yourself ready for the abundance you pray for?

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Most persons age; they do not mature.

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"Ten thousand angels 'round His Throne rejoicing, rewarding some with gold and some with glory." -- Hesiod

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O God, I pray; reward me with glory, though I know that it is the heavier burden.

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Most of our demands on God are couched in terms of need.

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Neither the camera nor the film in it determine what pictures will be reproduced. They will reveal whatever objects they are pointed toward.

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When left alone, the faculty of attention moves in one direction only - toward God.

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Watch God's Program (in the TV of your heart) and you will be instructed (and entertained) with Transcendent Truths.

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Undisciplined thoughts, like undisciplined children, force us to give our attention to their antics.

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Blessed hands - unite them in prayer, and give God the glory that can pass from your hands to Him.

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A piece of machinery does not have power. Power expresses itself through machinery that is in good working order.

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Your physical body does not have Life. It is alive by means of Life: the Activity of God in you.

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All Christians are taught to pray to God in Heaven. But when I pray, I look to God beyond God. I do not see Him; but I know that I look toward Him and that He looks toward me.

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Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day of the Month

AUGUST, 1963

1. ABSTAIN from ALL APPEARANCE.
2. Let the BEAUTY of the Lord our God BE upon us.
3. He shall give His angels CHARGE over thee.
5. Seek Me DAILY, and DELIGHT to know My ways.
6. ENTER ye in at the strait gate.
7. Verily, thou shalt be FED.
8. Thou shalt GUIDE me with Thy counsel.
9. In the shadow of HIS HAND HATH HE HID me.
10. Do not INTERPRETATIONS belong to God?
12. Many nations shall be JOINED to the Lord.
13. KEEP Yourselves in the Love of God.
14. The LORD is LONGSUFFERING, and of great mercy.
15. Let no man deceive you by any MEANS.
16. Help every one his NEIGHBOR.
17. O that Thou wouldest bless me indeed!
19. In your PATIENCE POSSESS ye your souls.
20. Unlearned QUESTIONS avoid.
21. REST in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.
22. SING unto the Lord a new SONG.
23. What THINK ye of Christ?
24. How UNSEARCHABLE are His judgments.
26. The Lord wrought a great VICTORY.
27. WHOSO WALKETH WISELY, he shall be delivered.
28. Our land shall YIELD her increase.
29. I am returned to ZION (peace).
30. As for God, His way is perfect.
31. O God, Thou hast taught me!

"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."

Alphabet Of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day Of The Month

DECEMBER 1955

1. If ye shall ASK ANYTHING in My name, I will do it.
2. BLESS the Lord, O my soul.
3. For this CAUSE CAME I unto this hour.
5. Let us love . . . in DEED and in truth.
6. Walk with Me in peace and EQUITY.
7. The Lord make his FACE to shine upon thee.
8. The Father may be GLORIFIED in the Son.

9. I Am the Lord that HEALETH thee.
10. The Spirit maketh INTERCESSION for us.
12. The God of hope fill you with all JOY.
13. As the Father KNOWETH Me, even so KNOW I the Father.
14. He that LOVETH Me, shall be LOVED of my Father.
15. I will MANIFEST MYSELF to him.
16. Walk in NEWNESS of life.
17. Ye are all ONE in Christ Jesus.
19. I go to PREPARE a PLACE for you.
20. Make (me) of QUICK understanding.
21. Put Me in REMEMBRANCE.
22. SEEK ye first the Kingdom of God.
23. Where I am, THERE ye may be also.
24. When I was a child, I UNDERSTOOD as a child.
26. VERILY, VERILY, . . . your sorrow shall be turned into joy.
27. It shall be WELL with thee.
28. Whither I go YE know, and the way YE know.
29. Where is thy ZEAL and strength?
30. Keep yourselves in the love of God.
31. Where is your faith?

"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."

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As electricity is the working power of the electrical principle,
SPIRITICITY is the working power of the Spiritual Principle.