

SPIRITICITY, December 1957

CHRISTMAS

By Alden Truesdell

THE NEW source of power that has been released by nuclear physics is important enough to cause this period to be called the "atomic age." The mechanical age with its thousands of horsepower has given place to an era wherein power is measured in terms of tons of TNT. And we have just started, for much more power will be obtained by not splitting the atom than by splitting it. Far greater results will be obtained by fusion when the technique is mastered than by fission. The atomic age is in its infancy.

These developments are mentioned in connection with the Christmas Story for the sake of comparison. For in the Christmas Story is the record of the revelation of power so intense as to escape the finest instruments of the scientists. This revelation was not by a huge explosion. Nothing was destroyed, but something was produced - or exposed. It was reported to shepherds, who were able to see it because of their simplicity. It was revealed to the Magi, whose wisdom enabled them to see the signs of the time. The persons involved in the Divine Drama were few, but entirely charming, simple, and wholesome.

The Story has been told so often that there is no need to repeat it, but we may take a brief comparison between the Power revealed in this Event and the new sources of power so recently discovered. For this Event changed the lives of all who were in any way concerned. Even those who endeavored to be unconcerned complained later that "those who have turned the world upside down have come here also."

We may consider, then, some of the accomplishments of Power used rightly as compared with those of power to be obtained by fission or fusion. We hope our scientists will develop ways to relieve the hungry nations. But Jesus Christ fed five thousand in a desert place, where food was unobtainable; and He taught His followers to be unconcerned about provision, for "your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." Science hopes to relieve sickness by the use of atomic radiation. This Man healed all manner of disease by remembering to speak always from the Fundamental Reality behind the atomic structure. Men hope that science will prolong the span of life. This Man, by the Power invested in Him in the beginning - before the world was - overcame death and demonstrated the Resurrection into Eternal Life.

The full import of the Advent of Jesus Christ has not yet been revealed; but enough of its vital influence has been seen to convince us that here is the Power that will redeem the race - not through fission or fusion, not through megatons of energy, but through transmutation and ultimate resurrection.

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THEY THAT MOURN

By Robert Applegate

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

THE BEATITUDES all presuppose the Fact of God, and without this presupposition, they would be the foolishness of wishful thinking that they are often thought to be. And by the Fact of God I mean not only the existence of God (which most people concede), but also the Omnipresence of God and the supreme worth of knowing that Presence.

"Fortunate are they that mourn." This is some of the "foolishness of God" that is "wiser than men." Considered from a materialistic point of view, the statement is foolishness; nevertheless it is a truth that has been confirmed by experience over and over again.

We "mourn" because of the loss of something or some person that was dear to us. The clear indication of the statement of Jesus is that the "comfort" we receive is far more precious, more valuable, and more satisfying than that which was lost. This comfort is not an opiate or a sedative that simply relieves suffering. It is the realization that there is no loss, no separation, in Spirit; and that Spirit is the only reality.

Hosea mourned because of the faithlessness of his wife. In his distress he turned to the Lord, and there was revealed to him the Love of God for all mankind. He received a message that was a comfort, not only to him, but to generations of men after him. He heard and repeated words which have become Scripture: "in that day, says the Lord, . . . I will betroth you to Me for ever; I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness; and you shall know the Lord. . . . For I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst." (RSV) To his countrymen, Hosea spoke the words that are still vital today: "let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; His going forth is sure as the dawn; He will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth." (RSV)

Several centuries after Hosea, another prophet mourned because of the captivity and the exile of his nation. "Comfort ye, comfort ye My people," he was told; and he did so with words that are the most powerful, the most beautiful, and the most true of any that are preserved in the Old Testament. "I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside Me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me. . . . I have made the earth and created man upon it. . . . Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. . . . Break forth into joy, sing together: . . . for the Lord hath comforted His people." Here we see mourning turned into joy, as it always is when the sense of loss causes one to turn to the Lord.

Paul mourned because his countrymen refused to accept their own Deliverer and His Good News. "I am speaking the truth in Christ," he said, "that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen by race." (RSV) But Paul let this anguish turn him the more steadfastly to the Christ within; and he could declare: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord

Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."
(RSV)

The person who mourns the most is he who loved the most that which seems lost. And this capacity for love is in itself a great blessing. But it must be turned toward God. It should be turned wholly to Him. If this is done, we will discover that God is not only the Source of all good, but is the good itself; and therefore there can be no separation from our good. It is ours eternally, for it is God. Our God is our Good.

A person may seem to lose the love and companionship that meant more to him than anything in his life. If his sorrow causes him to seek God, he will discover that what he loved was the manifestation of the Divine Love, and that this Love is always with him, waiting to be called upon, that It may reveal Itself. The form through which that Love formerly manifested Itself to him was not Its Source; and it was not the form that He loved, but the Love that was manifest in it. With that Love he is one to eternity; and if he discovers this, then he is "blessed" and "comforted."

Mourning, like an adversity, is potentially our greatest good. But it is good only as a means to an end. Mourning per se is not good, for it is joy that reveals and glorifies God, not sadness. All those who parade their grief and their misery before men are denying the Truth of God. Those who hug their grief to themselves are refusing God's gift of Love and are denying Christ. Thus Paul wrote, "Godly grief produces a repentance (turning to God) that leads to salvation (deliverance from every negation) and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death." (RSV)

We will not be so foolish as to seek mourning for the blessing that follows. But we should know that every seeming loss is potentially a far greater gain, and is a call to us to turn back to the Father, who is waiting to give us our heart's desire.

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SPIRITICITY, December 1957

WHAT JESUS CHRIST TAUGHT

By Nell Truesdell

(Continued from last month)

Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: but I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: nor by the earth; for it is His footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

IN JESUS' day, trade by exchange was customary, and since no fixed prices were set on what was offered for sale, buyer and seller haggled. If the value of articles being bartered could not be settled, men resorted to oaths in their effort to play up or down the worth of whatever they offered for exchange. Jesus had witnessed many transactions that drew from the participants far-fetched oaths that bordered on untruth. He saw that haggling led to disputes,

disputes to argument, argument to hostile feelings; and that in the ultimate, energy and goodwill were needlessly wasted. Instead of crossplay, He urged honest and direct dealing in which men would not magnify values beyond the limits of truth, nor would they speak fruitless words.

Oaths are empty words. They envelop us and spew over us their emptiness. Too, not only when we deal with others, but when we pray to God, we swear oaths that we can never keep. By trying to bargain with God for blessings, we reap the nothingness of our ineffective declarations. We may take warning from Jeremiah who stated: "Every man's word shall be his burden: for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the Lord of hosts our God."

Any oath binds us with unseen tentacles. The light of blasphemous use of the name of God or of anything held sacred, the profane expression or curse, even the exaggerated promise on which expectation of fulfillment may be based - all are as wind that may eventually "blow our house down."

Jesus Christ was careful in His use of words and He taught that a direct "yes" or "no" would save men much heartache and disappointment.

He declared to the people who swarmed about Him (as He declares to us today): "The word which ye hearts not mine, but the Father's which sent me." And He prayed: "I have given them (the disciples) the words which Thou gavest Me. . . . I have given them Thy word. . . . Thy word is truth."

With the Psalmist we may pray:

"Let the words of my mouth . . . be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."

(To be continued) Please read Matthew 5:21-48

SPIRITICITY, December 1957

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

By H. B. Jeffery

(Continued from last month)

PEACE

PEACE is not a form of thought or a manner of thinking. It is of the Spirit. It is spiritually discerned and spiritually comprehended. It is felt within the soul, and it goes forth as an emanation from the soul.

Peace is a force - positive, purposeful, possessed of a definite and sure dynamic; there is no mistaking its presence and action. It touches the jangling thoughts of the human mind, and immediately they are quieted and calmed. Even the word "peace," spoken by one who is possessed of peace, releases a force, whose movement tends to establish a rhythmic harmony and restfulness.

When Jesus spoke into the storm, and His words of peace went forth over the waters, there was a stilling of the winds and quieting of the waves: a sure evidence of the forthright action of a consciousness impregnated with spiritual power. And when He spoke the word "peace" for those who were perturbed in mind,

they felt the force of His word, and immediately the pain ceased; while in its stead, there came ease and comfort. Those who came to Him sore and weeping went away smiling the smile of health.

The consciousness of peace is a medicinal agent. To the weak, it imparts a tonic quality; to the overactive and excited, it brings steadiness and calm; to the wastrel and prodigal, it serves as a check that comes with an integration and conservation of energy; to the sorrowful, it lends consolation; and to the discouraged, it gives inspiration, quickened hope, and fresh determination. In all ways, peace is good and does good. It comes forth from "the tree of life" - "and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

One who is possessed of peace is a steadying factor in a community; his presence acts as a balancing medium to all within the area of his influence. Individually and collectively, his neighbors come under the spell of his stability; and because of it, they feel a constant impulsion toward bettering their life and circumstance. The man of peace is a valuable integral of a town and a unifying element of safety in the community life. Peace, then, has an economic value, being conservational and protective.

The consciousness of peace is a foretoken of success, for it is magnetic and attractile. All living things instinctively move into its presence to enjoy its benign influence and to profit by its impulsion to high endeavor.

As Isaiah perceived it, peace is extended to the soul "like a river," and its glory "like a flowing stream." It is like a stream of silent, invisible, energizing essence that finds its way into every department of man's nature, instilling a sense of well-being - with consequent generosity.

People delight to shop in a place pervaded by a sense of peace; there they linger to enjoy and purchase. Clients are attracted to a professional office or an institute which is filled with the spirit of peace. Indeed, the delights and advantages of peace are many, far outnumbering and outweighing the false glories and thrills of competition and strife.

In strife and in war there is no glory, in the true sense of that word; for there is no radiance, no luster, no effulgence of the Divine Presence. When General Sherman, a seasoned warrior, declared, "War is hell!" he knew whereof he spoke.

"Love worketh no ill to his neighbor," declared Paul, "therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." Where love is, there can be no war; for love does away with even a belief in conflict; and in the place of such belief, love establishes harmony, cooperation, understanding, agreement, and peace.

Love is glorious. The glory of its presence is like an illuminating flame, in the light of which all men are seen to be loving spirits, delighting in the exercise of love, good will, and peace. For man is the son of God, and God is Love. God is also "the Lord of Peace," and man - made in the image and likeness of God - is a peaceful and peace-loving being.

When man is seen as he really is, his life is known as a life of peace. For man's true activity is ever the expression of peace; his being is ever the being of peace; and he dwells in God the eternal Home of Peace. "The peace of God which passeth all understanding" - deep, eternal, and unchanging - belongs to man.

"There is a spirit in man; and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." It is the Spirit of the "Lord of Peace" that renders gentle and tranquil man's mind, making it a perfect mirror for the reflection of God's ideas.

Because the Mind of God is the only true Mind, the activity of man's consciousness must be the expression of that One Mind which is forever peaceful and harmonious. Also since God is All-in-all and His Kingdom from everlasting to everlasting, and since man lives, moves, and has his being in God's Kingdom, man must be eternally conscious of absolute Peace. When man turns to the innermost of his own being, he beholds this to be true and thereby he finds rest and refreshment.

The man of God's creating, the son of God, knows God the Father as the Author and Bestower of peace. "Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee."

Peace negatives or renders nil the non-good, and makes of non-effect many so-called "evils." For the seeming forces of evil are found to be but impotent nothingness in the presence of the quiet, steadfast, pervasive action of peace.

As peace inheres in God, Divine Principle, it is of the nature of Principle, and can rightfully be considered as a principle. Being such, peace is eternal, infinite, inexhaustible, and omnipresent - always near at hand, to be turned to, relied upon, and enjoyed.

Right in the midst of seeming discord and inharmony, man can turn to the ever-available principle of peace and find its presence as a living, active, vital force, ready to serve him and to bring him contentment and happiness. Thus, like love and like joy, peace is a healing potency, a harmonizing power, and an essential factor to the consciousness of him who, by the agency of the Spirit of God, would heal the sick.

The word dis-ease signifies a lack of ease, which is to say an absence of peace; and the healing of disease is the overcoming of this seeming lack. Since the presence of peace is the remedy, it is obviously the part of wisdom to seek that remedy at its Source.

Peace, being good, is of God, the Lord of Peace, and is bestowed as a gift to them that seek its true Source. "Return unto Me, and I will return unto you," says the Lord of Peace. And to the city of men He says, "Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth."

The cure for inharmony, discord, and disease, in mind, body, or estate is the reestablishing of a sense of peace in consciousness. This cure comes through the realization (or living understanding in man's heart and mind) of the truth that man is the offspring of God, the image and likeness of God; and that, therefore he is ever in the presence of peace.

Whosoever abides in that consciousness rests wholly in the activity of peace and experiences the peace of the Divine Activity. He is thus made aware of what has been termed "action in inaction and inaction in action." And so, to his delight, there is revealed to him, and found to be consonant with his own nature, the very nature of "The Great Peace."

Next topic: Longsuffering (Patience)

Alphabet Of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day Of The Month

DECEMBER 1957

2. Call unto Me, and I will ANSWER thee.
3. He hath dealt BOUNTIFULLY with me.
4. I have learned in whatever state I am, to be CONTENT.
5. DECLARE His glory.
6. Do EVERYTHING in the Name of the Lord Jesus.
7. Make the Word of God FULLY known.
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9. The body GROWS with a GROWTH that is from GOD.
10. Whatever your task, work HEARTILY, as serving God.
11. He IS the IMAGE of the INVISIBLE God.
12. Make a JOYFUL noise unto the Lord, all the earth.
13. CONCERNING the work of My hands, COMMAND ye Me.
14. LEAD a LIFE worthy of the LORD.
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16. Stand MATURE and fully assured in all the Will of God.
17. It is good to draw NEAR to God.
18. Whoso findeth Me shall OBTAIN favour of the Lord.
19. Let the PEACE of Christ rule in your hearts.
20. The effect of righteousness (is) QUIETNESS.
21. The salvation of the RIGHTEOUS is of the Lord.
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23. May you be STRENGTHENED with all power.
24. Be THANKFUL.
25. UNDERSTAND what the Will of the Lord is.
26. The Lord doeth VALIANTLY.
27. Conduct yourselves WISELY.
28. Sow the fields which may YIELD fruits of increase.
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30. God is ZEALOUS.
31. Let your speech always be gracious.

"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.