

SPIRITICITY, December 1963

BECOME AS A CHILD

By Nell Truesdell

I WISH I could get everybody who is interested in the Christ Truth to understand that, to know the Truth he has to reach inward as intensely and eagerly as a little baby reaches outward to learn about the world. Too, I wish each person would understand that he will have to spend as much time reaching in to know Truth as the child will have to spend reaching outward to gain knowledge about the world.

What brings this to my mind is the recollection of watching a seven-months-old baby lying in his crib. How alive he was. "You are God's baby," I whispered in my heart, as the child reached toward me with hands and knees and feet and toes and face and eyes and smiling mouth - reaching, reaching, with all his being - to see and hear and smell and taste and feel; reaching with such gladness that he cooed and gurgled with glee. As I watched, I thought: This is how we should reach inward toward the Presence of God.

Jesus Christ gave us the key to the way into the Kingdom when He said, "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." (Mark 10:15)

To receive the Kingdom of God as a little child does not mean that we are to be childishly foolish. Rather we are to have a childlike innocence that expects to receive good from God, because it is not suspicious of God's motives. The Truth of God is the best gift we can receive; and yet how often we question the gift and let it slip from our grasp!

How is the Spirit of God likely to present Itself?

It may reveal Itself as inspiration that comes from the deep silence in the midst of our consciousness. This inspiration is easily recognized, for it is a glorious joy - a joy that is quiet and sweet with the sweetness of purity and holy love. This inspiration makes a person humble because he intuitively realizes that, of himself, he can never be sufficiently respectful or grateful for such Divine Grace. Many students, however, fail to accept such inspiration, because they seek Truth in terms of the world rather than of the Spirit.

Students unnumbered spend years gaining knowledge from books and schools claiming to teach Truth. They learn to manipulate thought to make their desires manifest; they chant statements to fit every critical experience without understanding the principle hidden in the words. One woman who had studied "Truth" for thirty-five years said, "I do not feel that I am demonstrating as I should." She was attempting to use Truth to get things in the world.

I know students who spend time every day intently gazing at holy pictures, particularly those that represent Jesus Christ. They fix their attention on the picture until their bodies vibrate with mawkish sentiment that they believe is a spiritual quickening. Such weak emotionalism drains their energy and they are left with a feeling of emptiness. Others conjure up mental visions and hear voices. One woman said that when she was a girl

she had seen Jesus Christ in a vision and that she was certain there was nothing more for her to learn. Another woman said that in a vision she had entered the "pearly gates" and seen the streets of gold with which heaven is paved. No reasoning with her was possible.

Pride causes many persons to meddle in things that by nature they cannot understand. Whatever "light" they think they have is darkness. Jesus said: "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness." And again: "This is the condemnation, ... that men loved darkness rather than light. ... He that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth."

Many deceive themselves when they abandon God for their own false conclusions. The Christ Truth will strip any serious student of false knowledge so that he may be free to run the course of Truth without hindrance. Day by day he will be obliged to clear up difficulties that challenge his purpose and impede his progress. Temptation meets him at every point. All too many fall by the way for they are unable to look toward the stark light of Christ Truth and seek nothing besides It. For to set the inner eye on It alone is to blind the outer eyes to all enticements of the world and all desires of the sense man. This is too hard for most persons.

No man can give his attention to two things at once. Either he loves the world and its ways or he loves God and His ways. All the wondrous things of God are hid in Christ Jesus. The mysteries of the Kingdom of God are open to anybody. But they must be sought for themselves alone and not for display in the world. He that esteems the world impedes his spiritual attainment.

Remember a baby - any baby that you know. See how guileless it is and how unspoiled and holy is its presence. If, like a baby, we too were as innocent of the world! However, in the scheme of human unfoldment it appears that a person is not free to consider the things of the Spirit until he is mature enough to choose to know God. In that hour of choice he enters his new birth; he may at that point either reject or accept his spiritual destiny.

We who have already set our attention toward God in our midst and have to some degree purged our consciousness of the world's taint should be continually praising God for having given us the strength to turn and face Him in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end of our search. "I have chosen you out of the world," He said. Only He can take us safely across the chasm between our consciousness and the Kingdom of God, our Father.

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CHRIST BIRTH

By Alden Truesdell

THE CHRISTMAS celebration of the birth of the Christ is an annual reminder of a process of rebirth, through which every aspirant to spiritual riches must pass.

The birth of Christ in the soul is the acceptance of the saving, redeeming Christ Principle. Here and now, today, a child is born - a pure, clear conception of man's present relation to his Creating Principle. There must be no dependence upon the advent of some future savior and no nostalgic looking to the past. For Christ is Immanuel - "God with us."

Mary was not looking to the past or to the future. She pondered the divine revelations in her heart of hearts, and she brought forth Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Her meekness before the Author of her being enabled her to be an instrument in the Divine Plan to save men from their own foolishness. She said:

"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. ... For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His Name."

Mary spoke in terms of the present, and we find the same emphasis in the words of her Son. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, ... This day is salvation come to this house." All the prophecies were fulfilled in Him. To one who voiced the hope of some great one coming in the future, He said: "I that speak unto thee am He." To those who were fearful and in mental turmoil, He said: "It is I; be not afraid." To those bound by law and doctrine, He said: "Is it not written in your Law, I said, Ye are gods?" To the disciples He said: "as ye go, preach, saying, The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

The Christmas Season, with its contagion of joy, is an opportunity for us to turn to the omnipresent Light of the Father and the Son, which we can find within our own being. Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ into the world, and it should witness the rebirth of Christ in each of us, which is our awakening to the Universal Light. When the angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, then "the glory of the Lord shown round about them." Similarly, the birth of Christ in each consciousness is attended by a great enlightenment. "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Christmas is the season when the hopes, longings, and aspirations should cease to be anticipations and become present realities. We may use Christmas as a reminder of the Christ Light in ourselves and thus give to the Season a greater and deeper joy. We may rededicate ourselves to following and seeking Christ, until every day is Christmas: the day of the Christ-birth, the day of the coming of Light.

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THE GOOD NEWS

By Robert Applegate, Jr.

THE NEW TESTAMENT rings with a note of joy. Throughout Acts and the letters (as well as in the Gospels) we are struck by the continual expression of joy.

Paul wrote to his friends at Thessalonica: "Rejoice evermore."

Peter wrote: "Without seeing Him (Jesus Christ) you believe, and rejoice with unspeakable and glorious joy."

John wrote: "We declare to you what we have seen and heard, so that you may have communion with us. And our communion is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. We write these things so that our joy (your joy and mine) may be complete."

Luke writes that when Paul and Barnabas left Pisidian Antioch, they left behind them students who were "full of joy and of the Holy Spirit."

Several years later, Paul and Silas were in prison in Philippi. They had just been beaten by the Roman lictors "with many blows" and had been thrown into the "inner prison." But at midnight they were singing hymns to God. There could not be a clearer demonstration that joy does not come from external circumstances; that it is not dependent upon what men do to us or think of us.

"In all the pressure that is upon me," Paul wrote, "I overflow with joy. We work with you for your joy."

It seems that the joy we all seek comes from accepting, believing, and following the Teaching of Jesus Christ, rather than from having the things, or doing the things, we think we want. The value of the Scripture is partly in that it shows that this is not just words; it shows us the Truth working in the lives of men.

In this country today we are all wealthy compared to the majority of mankind; we have much leisure. We have plenty of time to pursue pleasure and as a nation we are pretty good at this. We are all having a good time. But if you look at people when they are off guard, you see little evidence of real joy.

Perhaps we need to go back to reconsider what these men - Peter and Paul and John and the rest had that gave them such joy when there seemed to be nothing (by our standards) to rejoice about.

The promise of Jesus Christ to His followers was: "I will see you again, and your hearts shall rejoice, and your joy no man will take from you." The second half of the New Testament (the letters and Acts) shows us the fulfilling of this promise. It shows us what the Resurrection of Jesus Christ meant to those men who first bore witness to it. It should mean the same thing to us today.

The Good News is that "unto you is born this day a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

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THE FINISHED KINGDOM

By H. B. Jeffery

THOSE WHO acknowledge the complete and finished work of Jesus of Nazareth enter into a world of light and life. Whoever will, may come and enter into the benefits of the vicarious work of Jesus of Nazareth.

Some people do not believe in vicariousness, but they are practicing it every day, unknowingly. They take to themselves the attitudes and feelings of the persons with whom they associate. If they are not positive and alive to their oneness with the Divine and aware of the Self within; they are always picking up things (low spirits, depression, poor health) that way.

If we become aware of the inborn Self, the Christhood within, then we are christed spirits. We walk through the world unhurt and unharmed by it. It makes no difference if there is an epidemic in the world; it doesn't affect us. "In Thy Presence is fulness of joy." Being conscious of that One Presence, we are conscious of an inward joy. There is a welling up of joy, an inward singing and rejoicing that goes on while we move through a world of seeming trouble and sickness and poverty. We go through it rejoicing. While people talk of famine, we rejoice in the midst of famine.

If we can keep that joy in the midst of negation, we will change negation. If, instead of being sorry for a man who is hungry, we can realize that abundance is roundabout him, that the needful good is close at hand, that God is closer to him than his breathing, that he is moving through a Kingdom where there is no want - if we can realize that and feel it and know it, then he will rise up and find his good facing him; he will partake of it and be glad. This is much better for him than for us to give him something material, which is only temporary in its relief and has to be given again. If we can walk, as Jesus walked, conscious of sonship to the Author of all being, the Maker of heaven and earth, then we may feed people with the Word of God and wake them to a knowledge of their true nature, of the nearness of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus Christ has opened the way to us, and His Name is the password, you might say, into that Realm. If we abide in that Name, acknowledge that Name, glorify that Name, we shall find that more and more the secrets of the Kingdom of God are revealed to us. We become sensitive to that Realm; our eyes are lighted from within to behold hidden things of the Spirit. And so as we walk like natural beings in a natural world, we are alive to the fact that we're spiritual beings; that we're sons of God; that we live, move, have our being, in God; that we walk in the Kingdom of God. Wherever we turn, there we see the Presence of the Divine.

Being aware of the Presence, we call upon that One who has said: "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee. ... Son, thou art ever with Me, and all that I have is thine."

The whole Kingdom of the Heavens is for men, for the sons of God. It is here; it is close at hand. We rejoice in knowing it. We are not like those who walk in darkness, who go stumbling along the material way, thinking that they

are governed by material laws. We walk with Christ in God, in a living world, a world of light and life, of peace and joy.

Jesus Christ gave us His Name. We rejoice in His Name; we glory in His Name; we find that there is power in His Name (as there is power in all names). So we sing: "All hail the power of Jesus' Name!" The repetition of the Name is a wakening of power; and if we call in that Name upon the Father we will find that there is open to us the things of the Kingdom of God.

The Father is more willing to give to us than we are to receive from Him. To the natural man that seems impossible. We are always wanting something. Most people think that the Divine is withholding things, but they are withhold from us only because our eyes are not open to see. All roundabout us is the glory of God and the plenteousness of God - the outgiving of God, the bountifulness of God. There is no lack of any good in the Kingdom of God; and so we do not want; we have no sense of lack, of need, of desire. These all fade away in the realization of our oneness with the Author of all Being, with Him who holds the Universe in the hollow of His hand and governs that Universe by Divine Principle and Law - the Law of life, of peace, of purity.

He whose eye is single and whose thought is pure will find that his word has a tone and a power with the Infinite. When he calls upon the One, there is a quickening of the Spirit.

And so we rejoice and are glad to look up to the Eternal, the Creator of heaven and earth, the God and Father of Jesus Christ. We know who we are; we know our right relation with the Source of our being; we have a sense of oneness with the Divine. We have the sense of security.

The worldly are scheming and shopping all the time for various schemes that will provide for the days ahead. People are looking to the state and the nation for their security. If they would look up they would face what they want: the God who created the heavens and the earth, who rules the Universe by His Word. They would be secure; they would not want for any needful good; they would walk confident, with assurance and positiveness. They would be unafraid at all times. "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." The man who makes acknowledgment of this will swing into the Divine Order and become part of It. He will be given to know of his sonship to the Divine.

If anyone sees his oneness with the Divine and walks with Christ in God, making acknowledgment of the complete and perfect work of Jesus Christ, his own work will open to him. For everyone there is a purpose of being. There is a secret within you, waiting to be uncovered. Great possibilities are there. There is a divinity in your lordship - though many of you sleep. There are capabilities and powers waiting for action, waiting to be called on. Called, they will come forth and there will be a rising of the divinity Self, waking you with the possibility of your doing what you never dreamed of before. You will find that the Christ in you is the same Christ that was in Jesus of Nazareth, for there is only one Christ. As there is one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all," so there is one Christ - it is that Christ in you. The Universal Christ makes it possible for you to walk on the heights with God and to be a beneficiary of privileges that are withheld from them that walk with downward vision.

So we salute the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth, Savior of the world: the One who became "the fulness of the Godhead bodily," who could say: "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." We salute Him and we salute the Father, who

said: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him." His words are Spirit and His words are Life. Heaven and earth may pass away; the words of Jesus of Nazareth will never pass away.

If we enter into His world by acknowledgment of His works, we shall be directed in ways to go, and we shall have companionship with the Invisible. We shall walk with the Divine Being! We shall know of a world right here round-about us, invisible to the downward gazer, but visible to him who looks up and is not faltering but steadfast in his vision to the Divine. To him there is uncovered the realization of the words of Jesus of Nazareth. When he has that realization, he has the secret of the mystery of the Kingdom of God.

We may turn to the Divine; we may be quiet for a time, that we may have the realization of the Presence and the Power and the Peace and the Joy and the Love of God, as it was in Christ.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: heaven and earth are full of Thy Glory. In Thee we live, move, and have our being. Thou art the Author of our lives. Thy hands fashioned us. Thou hast put Thy Spirit in us - "the Spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind." All that Thou hast, Thou hast given us; for Thou hast made us Thine own. We are Thine; Thou art our Father. We give thanks unto Thee that through the Work of Jesus of Nazareth, we are able to understand that oneness with Thee that is ours.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, we give our lightsome thanks this day. We go through the hours glad and rejoicing, as we walk in Thy Presence and know that in It is glory and joy and lightsomeness and peace and inspiration -new life, new strength, new power, new insight, new realization of our oneness with Thee. Thine is the Kingdom; Thine is the Power; Thine is the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day of the Month

DECEMBER, 1963

2. AWAKE to righteousness.
3. Cast thy BURDEN upon the Lord.
4. Wait on the Lord; be of good COURAGE.
5. DESIRE spiritual gifts.
6. The glory of the Lord shall ENDURE forever.
7. FIRST cast out the beam out of thine own eye.
9. The GOODNESS of GOD leadeth thee to repentance.
10. Let not thine HEART be HASTY to utter anything.
11. God gives the INCREASE.
12. JUDGMENT and JUSTICE take hold on thee.
13. The KINGDOM of God is within you.
14. Thou, God, maintainest my LOT.
16. MANY, O Lord my God, are Thy wonderful works.
17. Ye are an Holy NATION.
18. OBSERVE and hear all His Words.
19. Wisdom from above is without PARTIALITY.
20. Watch ye, ... QUIT ye like men; be strong.
21. Let the RIGHTEOUS be glad.
23. Who is that SHEPHERD that will STAND.
24. Whosoever will, let him TAKE the water of life.
25. Keep UNSPOTTED from the world.
26. Be sober, be VIGILANT.
27. Every man's WORD shall be his burden.
28. I live; YET not I, but Christ liveth in me.
30. YOURS is the Kingdom of God.
31. Bear him record, that he hath a great ZEAL.

"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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