

SPIRITICITY, December 1964

## WE LEARN TO LIVE

By Nell Truesdell

IN A RECENT newspaper article a columnist wrote that a child takes years to acquire the ability of "pattern vision"; that his brain is trained in seeing by years of exploration of his environment; that no child sees "naturally." The act of seeing is a learned process. So it is with the other senses.

Thought, like seeing, is also a habit that must be cultivated from the beginning of life. The senses do not cause thought; they are simply pathways that lead (by nerves) to and from the brain.

What, then, is the source of thought? It is a faculty that man uses all the time, but that is seldom considered - the faculty of attention. From infancy, man uses his attention to respond to stimuli. Gradually, he becomes aware of what is going on around him as he gives his attention to himself and his environment through his eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and skin. As a person grows, he learns to think about whatever attracts his attention; and the sense he likes to use is the one he uses most. (Since thought is formulative, it is man's achieving power - but that is another lesson.)

I once knew a young woman who could smell odors that I did not notice. As we walked together, she would suddenly stop and ask, "Do you smell that?" Not until she called attention to an odor was I aware of it. But I could hear sounds that escaped her ears. All persons gather knowledge by means of their attention as it moves along the pathways of the senses and reports its findings to the brain centers.

Thoughts about God are determined by our early religious training. Ordinarily, a religious person prays to God "in the skies" because, from early childhood his attention is directed there. He is also taught to give attention to his secret tendencies to sin and wickedness, and to expect God's punishment. Because he learns to believe that he is "sinful" his hope of salvation is lost; he is thoroughly confused about his relation to God who is said to love him.

Think, then, what it means when a teacher of Christ Truth tries to explain to a seeker that, in God's sight, he is sinless and free from condemnation. The teacher may quote Habakkuk who wrote: "Thou (God) art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity." This is hard for one to accept when he has never learned to direct his attention inward so that he might become acquainted with God within him. Just as it takes years for a child to "see" his environment, so it takes years for an aspirant for Christ Truth to perceive the implications of paying attention to God at the center of his consciousness. It is hard for him to transfer his attention from an image of God in the sky to an indistinct concept of God at the center of his consciousness. When he tries, he may be discouraged and turn away because he does not see or feel anything.

Jesus Christ was definite in His instruction that we should watch and look and pray to God within, not outside, ourselves. He said, "The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation, neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the Kingdom of God is within you." He also said, "the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in

truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship Him." He taught that the things that we pray God to give to us are already supplied, for God knows our needs long before we do and He delights in giving His children good gifts.

There is an inner Light by which we may see God. It is not like the light that we are familiar with. This Light is spiritual. By It we "see" in a new way; for, on the inner plane of consciousness, the outer sense of sight becomes the faculty of perception. When this faculty is quickened, instead of our seeing only the outer aspect of anything, we perceive an interior or secret view that adds depth to our understanding of it. Our perception is sharpened with use.

As there is an inner perception that corresponds to the outer sense of sight, so it is with the other senses: hearing is analogous to comprehension: smelling to discrimination; tasting to Judgment; feeling (touch) to spiritual affection, or love for God only. Give your attention to these inner faculties and you will learn what they can do for you. You will be lifted to a new level of existence. You will know what it means to pray in secret to God, whom you touch with your attention in the Sanctuary of your heart - the "within."

Awakened perception enables you to catch the meaning of truth wherever you look. Instead of seeing the outer world of form and confusion you will perceive and know the Truth; and you will experience a freedom you had not thought possible. "Blessed are your eyes, for they see."

A developed comprehension gives you the power to grasp spiritual Ideas that underlie the sounds you hear. The Preacher wrote: "Be more ready to hear (God's Word) than to give the sacrifice of fools." God said through Isaiah: "Incline your ear, and come unto Me: hear, and your soul shall live." Jesus said, "Take heed what ye hear: ... unto you that hear shall more be given."

Instead of smelling odors that are either grossly offensive or delightfully stimulative, you will discern redolent fragrances that are elusive to others. You may, in time, be able to smell the cool, sweet scent of Spirit - the Holy Spirit - the clear, weightless fragrance that, of Itself, will move in and out of your nostrils and fill your lungs with the pure, refreshing Breath of God. Jesus Christ, after His resurrection, stood among His disciples and said, "Peace be unto you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." In Genesis we read: "The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (consciousness)." When the breath of the natural man is transmuted into the Breath of Spirit, man will experience resurrection into eternal life. The choice demands self-discipline; by it doors will open to a Realm that will be plainly visible to him who discriminates and appropriates the things of God.

With spiritual awakening, you will taste in a new way all that enters your mouth. You may taste the Word of God and find It more wholesome than your carefully selected food and drink. Your capacity for good judgment will increase; you will taste and eat not only with your mouth, but with your mind and heart. "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven (the within), and thou upon earth (the without); therefore let thy words be few," wrote the Preacher in Ecclesiastes. Jeremiah warned: "Every man's word (judgment) shall be his burden: for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the Lord of hosts our God."

The Word of God is Substance. With Job we may say: "Thou esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." And Jesus, when He was tempted in the wilderness said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Jeremiah wrote: "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy Name, O Lord God of hosts."

The name of man is "I am"; the Name of God is "I AM." When a person comprehends this, he hears his true name.

Good judgment, how rewarding it is! How necessary that we learn of a deliverance into a new Life in Christ that is ours whenever we make ourselves ready for It. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom ... and whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him."

Actually there is only one sense - the sense of touch. We touch our world by means of our attention moving outward over the paths of our senses. All the senses are turned outward; their doors swing out toward the realm of appearances which Jesus warned us to ignore. We touch God by means of our attention moving inward, toward our heart-center, the Sanctuary of God in our midst, and we learn to look, watch, and wait on God in the Name of Jesus Christ.

With Paul we may pray that we "be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God."

SPIRITICITY, December 1964

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

By H. B. Jeffery

THERE IS a World roundabout us different from the world we see with our outer eyes. It is the World of the Redeemed, the World of them that have come out of the telluric sleep and now walk consciously with Christ in God.

We who have called upon the Name of Jesus Christ, who have dwelt in It, we who have walked with Christ in God, are aware of that World and what is going on in that World. We are aware of the Divinity Self of them that also have acknowledged the Christ. And so we become members of that one innumerable heavenly host.

We describe the Glory of the Kingdom of God, for we behold Him and are partakers of Him. We live in a Realm of Light and Glory, of Peace and Power. There goes out of us all sense of anxiety or of fear concerning anything. Jesus Christ said, "Fear not."

We more and more comprehend the words of Jesus Christ; we find the truth of them. They are spirit and they are life. We speak the language which He spoke; we think in the terms in which He thought; and we walk in the Realm in which He walked. We find ourselves at one with the Father. We find that there is "one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Feeling our oneness with that One we realize the truth of the words of Jesus Christ that He might be in us and we in Him.

We are all one in God. This is our home. We are the prodigals returning to the Father's House, there finding everything waiting for us.

As we see deeper and deeper into the mysteries of the Spirit there are revealed to us things hidden from those who walk with downward vision. The Father is handing to us the richness of the Kingdom of Heaven - the "treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Life becomes richer and more peaceful. We are glad and happy as we walk, right here and now, in the Kingdom of God, seeing our oneness with God and being aware of it.

In our speech we are backed up, as it were, by the Universe. God becomes our aide-de-camp. He is back of us, holding us up; and His Spirit goes before us to make the way straight for us. So we live in the World of the Spirit, ever feeling the baptism of the Spirit. The word baptism comes from the Greek word baptizo which means to saturate, or soak. We become saturated with the Nature of the Divine. We put on Christ. As Paul says, Christ is formed in us. Christ becomes a definite form within us.

As we walk in the Realm of the Spirit, something wells up within us like a spring of living water: refreshing streams from the holy heights of being - the quickening, healing waters of life. We have a sense of life, of vitality, of health, of healing. We know an inner strength, a finer strength, which is not the strength of the flesh but of Another Power. It is a subtle energy, a quickening force. We have the use of it, and it works in and through us to will and to do. So we work with less and less effort to do the Will of the Divine, and to work the works of the Spirit. When we are at one with the Divine, alive

to the Divine - propped up as it were by the Divine - we work without effort. God is omnipotent and omniscient; and so we, seeing the Allness of God and living in Him constantly, find ourselves living an effortless life.

When we speak silently to our neighbor, describing his real nature and the World in which he lives, he is quickened to be the being that he really is. He is awakened to his own possibilities. So like John, we say: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." We see the soul untouched, free, unhurt. Speaking in terms of the soul, we quicken man to a realization of His own Self, and so he enters into freedom. We speak the Truth to our neighbor and nothing else. We behold only the angel, the Divinity Self, the Christ, of our neighbor. We behold Jesus the Christ in all. Then our word has healing in it.

Whenever a man or a woman comes into our presence, we see that there walks beside him the Christ. There is always accompanying man the Christ -sometimes spoken of as "Christ in you," sometimes referred to as your guardian angel. The Divine accompanies you, takes form beside you, and is forever guiding you and leading you in the ways of righteousness and of peace.

Many students wish they had the healing power. Well, if you keep your eye single to the Divine, you will speak the Truth. Keep on speaking Truth and thinking Truth and dwelling consciously in the Word of Truth. You will find that the time will come when the all-quickening Power moves in you and gives power to your word. It will charge your presence with life and love. It will give you freedom so that wherever you go among men you will do good without effort and without trying. Christ will be working in you to will and to do, and you will be living the life of assurance and gladness. You will become one of the companions of Light in the Realm of Light. It is a different World than that which we see with our outer eyes.

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God."

BE STILL for a moment, turning the attention to the Within, to the Divine. Let Christ be formed in you.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, Father of Jesus Christ our Lord, Thy hand has fashioned us, and we are Thine. We salute Thee in gladness. We acknowledge the realization that is ours through the one Perfect Work of Jesus of Nazareth, who has uncovered to us our Spiritual Self and made us to know ourselves as we are - to know our oneness with Thee. We salute Thee in His Name, in His honor. Amen.

SPIRITICITY, December 1964

## SANTA CHRIST

By Alden Truesdell

A WHITE Christmas and a red-cheeked Santa Claus were normal in the cold country where we as children looked forward to this event. We lived some distance from post offices or even mailboxes; so we would mail our letters to Santa Claus by putting them in the stove or fireplace. When the paper on which the letters were written was burned in the fires, the messages would be transmitted by a magical Christmas wireless directly to Santa Claus.

Some people then, even as now, didn't believe in Santa Claus and of course they did not have the merry Christmas and happy holidays the Santa believers enjoyed. What these people did not know about Santa Claus was that he did not care whether they believed in him or not. He came anyhow and he could come because he was a magician who could get in anywhere at any time and deliver anything he wanted to deliver. Or he could be everywhere at the same time.

As we grew older we learned of another man in whom some believed and some did not believe. And we learned too that the people who believed in Jesus Christ had more useful lives and far better times than those who did not believe. Just as they who believe in Santa Claus receive the full benefit of the service he has to offer, so those who accept Jesus Christ receive great benefit, simply because they believe. Belief must be a powerful thing, for this Man Jesus told His followers: "Only believe."

Those who do believe in Jesus Christ find themselves becoming interested in what He taught, how He lived, the kind of work He did and what the work and teaching mean to them. They find that, as Santa Claus requires a special method of communication, so Jesus recommended prayer and told how to get the message through to the proper Authority. The instruction for prayer is to enter into the inner chamber, close the door, and pray to the Father which sees in secret - and the reward will come openly. This seems almost as magical as the Santa method, but the way of Jesus Christ is called mystical rather than magical.

The mystical Messiah that the Christ-believers find within does much more than just bring good gifts at Christmas time. For He is a part of each one who prays to Him. He knows what is best for each one at all times. He is always with the believers - not only on special days, but on ordinary, everyday days.

Santa Claus does not fill his orders as fast as he gets them, but makes delivery once a year. So, those who pray receive their answers "in the fullness of time" - usually when they least expect.

Santa Claus bears no grudge toward those who do not believe in him, and Jesus comes not to judge but to save.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

SPIRITICITY, December 1964

PHILIPPIANS 2:19 - 3:16

By Robert Applegate, Jr.

(Continued from last month)

2:

1 19 I HOPE in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be  
revived by knowing how you  
20 are, I have no one else of his  
21 character. ... They all look out for their own advantage, not that  
22 of Jesus Christ. But Timothy's character you know - how as a son  
with a father he has slaved with me for the Good News. ...

3:

1 AND NOW, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To keep writing the same thing to  
you is not boring to me and it is safe for you.  
2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the ugly do-gooders, look out  
3 for the ritualists. For we are the Chosen People - we who worship God in  
spirit and exult in Jesus Christ and put no confidence in the outer.  
4 For I also have had grounds for  
5 confidence in the outer. If any other person seems to have had grounds for  
confidence in the outer I have had more. I was circumcised on the  
eighth day; I was of the people of Israel, of the Tribe of Benjamin, a  
Hebrew born  
6 of Hebrews. In religion I was a Pharisee; in zeal I was a persecutor of  
those who acknowledged Jesus Christ; in the "goodness"  
7 of religion I was perfect. But all those things that were advantageous to me  
these because of Jesus Christ I have considered  
8 detriments. What is more, I consider all things to be detriments because of  
the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him and  
for Him I have been stripped of all things, I consider them to be rubbish  
- if only I may gain Christ and be  
9 found in Him, not having my own goodness from religion, but that goodness  
which is through faith - the goodness of God received by faith: that is  
that I may know  
10 Him and the Power of His Resurrection and the participation in His  
experiences; that I may share in His death so that I may reach  
11 the resurrection from the dead. Not that I now have received It  
12 or am now perfect. But I pursue it, so that I may take hold of that for  
which I was taken hold of by Christ Jesus. (Jesus Christ took hold of  
Paul forcibly on the road to Damascus.)  
13 Brothers, I do not imagine that I have yet taken hold of it. But one thing:  
I forget the things that are past; I race toward the things that are  
ahead. With my  
14 eye on the finish line I run the race for the prize of the High Calling of  
God in Christ Jesus. (Paul had watched athletic contests and often  
compares himself to a runner in a race. The Olympic crown was coveted  
then as much as now - but the "prize" for which Paul raced was the  
Upward Call of God.) As many as are mature must have  
15 this purpose. And if you have any other purpose God will uncover this to  
you. Only what you have  
16 attained to - walk with it as your guide.

(To be Continued)

Alphabet of  
DAILY MEDITATIONS  
For Every Week Day of the Month

DECEMBER 1964

1. ASK, and it shall be given unto you.
2. Study to do your own BUSINESS.
2. CERTAINLY, I (God) will be with thee.
3. DEAL kindly and truly with me.
4. The EARTH shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.
  
7. Thine hands have made me and FASHIONED me.
8. The Lord shall GIVE that which is GOOD.
9. O my strength, HASTE thee to HELP me.
10. The Lord shall INCREASE you more and more.
11. JOY cometh in the Morning.
12. Be KINDLY affectioned one to another.
  
14. If ye be LED of the Spirit, ye are not under the LAW.
15. Wilt thou be MADE whole?
16. Ask of the Father in My NAME.
17. By the OBEDIENCE of ONE many shall be made righteous.
18. Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS.
19. Take heed and be QUIET; fear not.
  
21. I have hid Thy RIGHTEOUSNESS within my heart.
22. He that is greatest ... SHALL be your SERVANT.
23. I have walked in THY TRUTH.
24. The Lord UPHOLDETH all.
25. Today ... hear His VOICE.
26. I have WAITED for Thy salvation, O Lord.
  
28. Take My YOKE upon you, and learn of Me.
29. He hath a ZEAL for God.
30. Know ye that the Lord He is God.
31. Watch ye therefore, and pray always.

"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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