

TREASURE IN HEAVEN

By Alden Truesdell

PERHAPS ONE of the simplest statements we can make concerning God is that He is Good, and that the Kingdom of Heaven is our consciousness of Good, which is a consciousness of Harmony. I cannot insist that you accept my notion of Harmony nor can I force you to subscribe to my idea of the Good. I am safe, however, in directing your attention to the Source of Good and the Origin of Harmony.

Jesus Christ demanded that we seek the Kingdom of God first; and promised that if we do so, all things will be added. We are to learn to place our sense of values in the Source of Values; then all things valuable will be given by the Giver of all gifts. The secret is this: If we are rich toward God, all departments of our being will show forth the things that go to make up riches. We need not concentrate upon any definite demonstration of good, for "added unto" means we shall find ourselves experiencing good in ways we can enjoy most.

Life itself is the foremost of Heaven's treasures. Life as it is in the consciousness of the Good is limitless and unburdened.

"Let the weak say, I am strong." If a man is obedient to the command "Seek ye first the Kingdom," he feels an inner strength, such as is never experienced by the natural man.

Protection is also a treasure in Heaven. Men think of protection in terms of police organizations, of insurance, and of buildings in which they live. These protective measures prove inadequate. The protection given by God covers every contingency and meets every need, as has frequently been experienced by men in every war, when protection is given where no protection is visible.

The "deceitfulness of riches" was revealed too late to many millionaires who fell during the Crash of 1929. But provision is another treasure of the Kingdom. The rich are not excluded from the Kingdom, for the truly rich are they who know God as their provision. Those who know God as the Source of what is entrusted to them discover the secret of abiding riches.

He who has once touched the high spiritual consciousness sees the necessity of standing alone with Jesus Christ. The solution for all the problems of living can be found in the practices taught by Him. He entered that interior Kingdom which can never be of this world, and He commanded: "Follow Me."

All good is in God. All the treasures of Heaven are to be found in man's consciousness of God. If this is true, then any instruction to be of value must point direct to that Source.

Harmony can be obtained through man's love for God and in his discovery of God's Love for him.

SPIRITICITY, December 1966

JOY OF THE LORD

By H. B. Jeffery

"BLESS the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name.

"BLESS the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases."

We salute the Lord our God; we acknowledge His blessings, His benefits. There is a constant reception of benefits, and so our life should be a life of joy and thankfulness and gratitude. Ever remembering the benefits of the Divine, we should walk in opulence and bounty, in which there is no lack of any good thing. "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof"; and it is all ours. So we should have no sense of lack or need or want; we should just go on our way rejoicing. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

God says, "All that I have is yours." And so in gratitude and thanksgiving we enter this day - "the day that the Lord hath made." We give thanks and remember the blessings of the Eternal.

If we have taken a day to practice cutting off, crossing out, all reports of the senses, if we have said "No" to everything good or bad that has been reported to us, if our eye has been single to the One, if we have not accepted as true even the good as humanly reported (for what seems good today may not seem good tomorrow), then there has been uncovered to us a new power that wells up within us. The atmospheres have been cleared around us and our mind is free from all human notions and beliefs. Then we live in the pure atmosphere of the Divine.

It is at this point, when Joy wells up within, that there comes a sense of authority and power; it wells up through the heart and goes out through the hands. There drips from the fingertips, as it were, an elixir of life. The touch of the hand is healing; and when the hand is stretched forth, it can touch the angel of him who is ill and lead it forth. "These signs shall follow them that believe," Jesus said; "they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Jesus touched the angel of the leper; it came forth and showed its glory and strength. We read: "Jesus put forth His hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed."

If you feel this joy welling up in you, let it go forth. It is the Joy of the Lord, and it has an eternal power that will never leave you. No event that may happen roundabout you will thwart you, discourage you, or hurt you in any way. The power going forth from within you will meet every circumstance and condition. Wherever you go, you will shed abroad a new strength. You will do something for the whole world. "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." When we are awake to this Joy, we find that we minister to the whole world. Anyone who can be free of all the reports of the senses and all the beliefs, the negations, of the world will become a world-power. To him

the world will turn to find refreshment and inspiration. He will be a light to the world.

Those who hearken to the Voice of the Lord send forth the eternal truths because they know them. They have caught them out of the divine ethers. When they have heard the Christ within, it is not only their privilege but their duty to write, and they have given to them the power to do so. "What thou seest, write in a book," the Christ said to John on Patmos. "And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."

When the Joy of the Spirit comes it gives an inner merriness of heart, and a merry heart is always medicinal. A merry heart gives one a healing power. It was this that caused even Peter's shadow to heal people. When you have this inner joy that comes through knowing your oneness with the Divine, you will be aware of something taking place wherever you go. It will not be anything that you do; it will be the Spirit working exoneurally through you.

The Father, who loves all, who is over all and in all, works in and through you without any action on your part, so that you move in the world and everywhere that you go, something happens.

When you have that inner joy you will have a positive executive power in your hands. David was aware of that power. He had walked with God until he was aware of the Spirit that works with fearlessness and exactness and surety. So we find him meeting the giant Goliath with perfect confidence. He said, "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts" - and his aim with his sling was exact and true.

When a person is awakened to the action of the Divine Will, something takes place everywhere he goes, although he does nothing. When you know the power of the Divine Will, you are aware of a will power in you that is in harmony with this Divine Will, and you know that this Will is also the will of him who is ill. So you can say: "It is the Will of God that you be free and strong and happy; it is your will that you be free and strong and happy; and it is my will. Therefore rise up and be strong." Your word will be heard, for you will be acting in harmony with the Divine Will. There will be response; there will be healing. Moving in the purified air, conscious of the Kingdom of God roundabout you, you will exercise executive power without doing anything.

In this consciousness, you are obedient. Gideon heard a voice saying, "Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites." But Gideon said, "Wherewith shall I save Israel? my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." But the insistent Voice within him said, "Get thee up." So Gideon arose; and when he did so and accepted the call of the Eternal in him, 32,000 men rose en masse to follow him. Gideon became the great leader of his people and they followed him as one man. So there is a Power and an Authority that must be obeyed. When your word is in accord with the Divine Will, you have the Power of the Divine behind you. When God speaks, the universe obeys.

This Joy that comes from the realization of the Presence and the Power of God in you is youth-giving and youth-saving. Although your years may be many, there will be a sense of eternal youth, a dignity, within you. Your heart will always be glad, singing songs of gladness and peace and joy and strength.

You remember the words of Emerson: "What you are stands over you, . . . and thunders so that I cannot hear what you say."

When you are joyous with that Joy that comes with the quickening of the Divine Will in you, then without any effort on your part there goes out through you a ministering of the Spirit. So wherever you go, there is a quickening and an awakening in everything that you touch.

This Joy is the Joy of the Lord. It is a dynamic power. He that has that Joy has a message, a divine medicine that does good, that restores, that makes alive.

When you have that Joy, you will consciously breathe the Breath of God. You will find the heart purified of its weaknesses and its false emotions - its fears and its apprehensions. There will come a courage and a confidence and a dauntlessness that is not fazed by anything.

When you are moving forward under the action of the Heavenly Word, the whole universe moves in harmonious relation with you. You are at one with the Heavenly Harmony; you catch the music of the spheres; you hear the Voice of the Eternal; you are sensitive to that Realm in which Christ walked - He knew that the Kingdom of God is right here. A potency, a force, goes everywhere ahead of you to move away everything that might hinder you. The Divine always says: "My Presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."

Jesus said that just as the wind blows where it wills and no one knows where it comes from or where it goes, so is everyone who is born of the Spirit. When you are strong in the Spirit you are free as the wind, unbound by anything, undominated by anything, victorious over all circumstances and conditions. You live in a timeless world, the timeless Realm of the Divine; and everywhere that you go, you are a ministering spirit.

Go forth this day in lightsome joy and gladness, letting the god-shine in you go out to bless, to heal, to restore, to energize all with whom you come into contact.

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SPIRITICITY, December 1966

YE ARE OF GOD, LITTLE CHILDREN

By Nell Truesdell

IN HIGH SCHOOL, in 1913, I had to pass two terms in Physics because I had chosen to prepare myself for higher education. In the first meeting of the class, one of the girls antagonized the young teacher, and from that instant the girl was persecuted. She had to repeat experiments that nobody in class did expertly; she had to stand before us to explain the laws involved in all experiments; she had to turn in papers that none of us had to write. All of us cringed with fear for Elise, and the two terms were a nightmare. Along with the others, I passed. Elise passed also, but with a grade so low that every girl in class suffered.

Fifty-three years later I sit at my typewriter to write something that may help readers who are harassed by strong personalities: parents, spouses, in-

laws, brothers, sisters, foremen, or bosses. Through years in ministry I have observed persons who permitted themselves to be scapegoats and who tortured themselves with their needless fears.

Under the bluster and threats of the domineering person is an emptiness that forces him to victimize whoever will yield to his tyranny. The next time that you feel afraid of a person, look to God, not at the person; you will perceive that the tyrant is scared and to protect his ego he wants to make you afraid of him. Know that he is in great fear where no fear is. "According to thy fear, so is thy wrath." (Psm. 90:11b)

Stand in your own integrity. Realize the truth that "he that is slow to anger is better than the mighty." (Prv.16:32) You must also be careful to deal with your own hidden despotism and so save members of your family, your business associates, or your friends needless suffering.

Through the darkness of your own trembling faith you may see God and rise up with Him in the Power of His might. The Apostle John, who suffered mistreatment at the hands of misbelievers, wrote: "Ye are of God, little children . . . because greater is He that is in you, than he (another personality) that is in the world." (1Jn.4:4)

We who are familiarizing ourselves with the Christ Truth, may read with new understanding Paul's admonition to the young Timothy who faced persecution in a strange environment: "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2Tim.1:7)

Our faith in God delivers us, not our faith in ourselves. We may walk our course through the world confident in Christ Jesus, for He is our Peace and the Guarantor of our security.

"Thus saith the Lord that created thee, 'Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. . . . Fear not: for I Am with thee.'" (Isa.43:1,5)

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SPIRITICITY, December 1966

I PETER: TRANSLATION AND NOTES

By Robert Applegate
(Continued from last month)

TEXT: I PETER 1:13-ff.

1:13 THEREFORE gird up the loins of your mind; be serious; without reservation, hope in the kindness of God which is being given to you in the uncovering of Jesus

14 Christ. Be obedient; (Literally, "As children of obedience": i.e., partaking of obedience, belonging to it. Obedience is practically regarded as a concrete entity of which we partake. The Greek words here and in the following statements may be either commands or promises: either "be obedient" or "you will be obedient," etc. Perhaps the words were meant to be both commands and promises. This applies also to many other statements in Scripture. In both

Greek and Hebrew there is often no difference in form between a statement and a command.) do not follow the desires of your former
15 ignorance; but as He who has called you is pure, so do you become pure in all your conduct.

16 For it is written: "You shall be pure (dedicated), because I am Pure."
(Lev. 19:2)

17 If you call "Father" Him who with no respect of persons recompenses everyone according to his works, then conduct yourselves with reverence (for God) during the time of your visiting here. You know that you were ransomed
18 from the profitless way of life that you inherited from your fathers not by perishable silver or gold, but by the precious, ransoming
19 life of Christ, as of a flawless and perfect sacrificial lamb (We must remember that the idea of animal sacrifice was as familiar and as accepted to the men of the first Century as the idea of automobiles is to us. While the conception of the sacrificial lamb may be strange and even repellent to us, the idea behind it is still valid: Jesus did lay down His life and by so doing He did ransom us from the results of our mistakes {which come from our major mistake of turning away from God in our heart}; that is, from death.) as God appointed Him before

20 the origin of the world, but He appeared at this time of transition (Literally, "the end of the times." The expression "the end of the times" or "the last days" refers, I believe, to any time of transition; that is, to the completion of one cycle and the beginning of another. So the Coming of Jesus Christ into the world was "the end of times." In our own unfoldment we go through many "ends of times," many periods of transition - the major one being when we lay down our bodies.) for the sake of you who

21 through Him believe in the God that raised Him from the dead, so that your faith and your hope are in God.

22 Purify your consciousnesses by hearing and obeying the Truth, so that you may attain to an honest love of the Fellowship. (Peter {or Silvanus} wrote "Brotherhood"; but that word has become insipid today because of overuse. For Peter, however, as for Paul and all the others, all Christians were emphatically and seriously brothers, because they acknowledged One Father. So our true family is not those to whom we are related by blood, but those who are going in the same way that we are. What in the Scriptures is called "brotherly love" is not indiscriminate love; it is love of the Brotherhood: that is of those who honestly acknowledge that God is their Father and that therefore they are sons of God. In both Greek and Hebrew the word for "obey" derives from the word for "hear." Unsophisticated man realized that unless you obey you have not really heard.) From your hearts, without reservation,

23 cherish one another. For you have been born again not of perishable seed, but of that seed which does not decay - the Living, Eternal Word of God. For

24 "All flesh is grass,
all its beauty, like a flower.
The grass withers,
the flower falls,

25 but the Word of the Lord
endures forever."

(Isaiah 40:6-8)

That is, the Word that was proclaimed to you in the Good News.

Chapter 2

2:1 Therefore put away all malice, all deceit, all pretense, all envy, all detraction.

2 Like newborn babies, yearn for the pure spiritual nourishment, so that by it you may grow up to your deliverance, since you have tasted that

3 "the Lord is good and pleasant." (A free quotation from Psalm 34:8 "O taste and see that the Lord is good." The whole Psalm may have been used as a hymn by the early Christians. We know that they did sing hymns, and what, was more natural than for them to use and to adapt the songs contained in the Psalter? Peter quotes this Psalm again further on in his letter, so he was evidently very familiar with it. We know that after his time the Psalm was used as a regular part of Christian meetings, and the practice may go back to the beginning. The "spiritual nourishment" is both the words of instruction about Christ and Christ Himself, as He said, "I am the bread of life." The two cannot be separated. The Didache {also called The Teaching the Twelve Apostles} is an early Christian manual of conduct and worship; it contains the instruction: "You shall remember day and night him who speaks to you the word of God; you shall honor him as the Lord. For where the Lord's Nature is spoken of, there is the Lord.")

(To be continued)

Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For every week day of the month

DECEMBER, 1966

1. Offer up spiritual sacrifice, ACCEPTABLE to God.
2. He gave them BREAD to eat.
3. He hath CLOTHED me.
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5. He shall DIRECT thy paths.
6. His mercy ENDURETH forever.
7. FORGIVE if ye have ought against others.
8. GOOD shall come unto thee.
9. My HEART is glad.
10. Thou upholdest me IN mine INTEGRITY.
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12. Your JOY no man taketh from you.
13. My KINDNESS shall not depart from thee.
14. The Father LOVETH the son.
15. MOUNT up with Wings of Eagles.
16. There is NONE holy as the Lord.
17. Nothing shall OFFEND them.
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19. Thou wilt keep him in PERFECT PEACE.
20. QUIETLY wait for the salvation of the Lord.
21. REMEMBER me, O my God, for good.
22. Ye SERVE the Lord Christ.
23. Why are ye TROUBLED?
24. Good and UPRIGHT is the Lord.
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26. Use not VAIN repetitions.
27. Praise the Lord . . . for His WONDERFUL WORKS.
28. We know what we worship.
29. YE are the temple of God.
30. He was ZEALOUS for My sake.
31. I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker.

"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."

As electricity is the working power of the electrical principle,
So Spiriticity is the working Power of the Spiritual Principle.

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