

SPIRITICITY February 1945

Beloved of God, greeting:

Man will give his attention to whatever he wants to know. Before that, however, he must believe there is something above and beyond his accumulation of knowledge. If a man wants to know God, he has to give his attention to God. The common deduction that leads to a clearer understanding is three-fold: (1) God, (2) the activity of God, (3) the manifestation of that activity. In Scripture this is referred to as: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Man may have every detail of this "formula" at his fingertips; he may understand all philosophy, have all knowledge. He may even speak with tongues of men and of angels. He may prophesy things to come. He may glorify himself and other men. But unless he has experienced his own right relationship to God and other men, it doesn't mean a thing.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: Art thou a master of Israel and knowest not these things? Ye must be born anew.

There are those who are so constituted that they must gather up all doctrine from every available source and investigate every other person's theory before they begin to formulate one of their own.

This is the net which is cast out and gathers all kind; when it is full, it is drawn ashore and the good is put in vessels, the bad thrown away. But why be bothered with man's selection and rejection when it is your privilege to cast your net in the place where it will do you the most good? Give your attention, (open your net,) God-ward, and come to know Him.

Sincerely yours,
A. J. Truesdell

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THE STRUGGLE

Man, in his continued progression, goes through experiences from time to time that can be likened unto fermentation. From a period of comparative quietude, the whole nature is thrown suddenly into chaos. During the seething, violent tumult within, his mind seems to wander while he gropes desperately toward some door in the tight wall of indifference that encloses him. For when emotions arise to struggle and riot within, indifference is the ironclad superstructure surrounding the boiling mass, holding it fast within.

In such a cauldron a man cooks in his own juice. No help is to be hoped for from outside. The cry within reverberates against the over-shadowing barriers, and trembles into nothingness. Weary mind and body soon become lethargic and cause the victim to sink low in restless confusion. He sobs helplessly. Where is my hope? and falls into stillness. In the prolonged, enforced silence, remembrance stirs. Out of nowhere, seemingly, he recalls that once he believed in God. Now, where was God? How can a man know

when he is engulfed in misery and cares little whether the spark of hope springs to flame or not.

Eventually, from the smoldering chaos within a flame springs, suddenly quickening every faculty to life. A new alertness is born out of which there thunders across the horizons of consciousness. Weakness is the source of misery!

Weakness? the source of misery? How did it come into being? The question grips mind and the answer arises: Weakness is born and bred in laziness, self-indulgence, refusal to assume and carry responsibility. It is the fruit of moral and mental inertia. It beats man into servitude.

But because man is what he is, by the grace of God, there lies deep within his nature an unbeatable sense of strength, the very opposite of that which now holds him fast in its clutches. As he gropes for the meaning of his experience, he senses this strength is not of himself, though it abides within himself.

Can weakness long survive this realization? No! But in it, weakness foresees defeat and tightens its grasp.

On the other hand, so does the victim tighten his hold on the gleam of light perceived, for there is a tenacity in man which, when aroused, glues him through itself to whatever attracts his attention. In this instance, it is strength born of quickened hope.

So, this is the struggle: strength, pouring into the consciousness of a man is displacing weakness: and weakness is struggling to maintain its hold on him. As soon as his vision clarifies and the attention of his mind is transferred from the overpowering negative emotional experience to the super-strength rousing from within, the man may know he has already won though, in the present violent struggle, freedom is not yet attained. Through his tenacity of purpose, patience is born, which enables him to wait for the calm that always follows disturbance, and his last state proves to be better than his first.

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FAITH

Everyone has faith in something. Everyone believes something or other to be true. Seldom do two persons agree upon all subjects, because each is different and each is interested in different aspects of the same subject.

The realist believes that things are real in their own right and exist independent of mind; that objects of sense perception are not related to mind; that universals exist outside the mind.

The idealist believes that mind is of central importance in reality, and regards reality as essentially spiritual.

Everyone's nature, character, and achievements are tempered by that in which he believes.

Continuous belief substantiates and turns to trust. One might, for example, believe a certain theory to be correct but would not trust that theory

until it had been proved. If the theory were proved to be irrevocable, trust would turn to faith, and this faith would guarantee or make sure and firm any further application of the theory. The theory would then be proved and accepted as a working principle: trust thus becomes faith, mature belief.

Belief; trust; faith. These have become synonymous in common practice. Perhaps if we attempt to discriminate between them we shall clarify our understanding and bolster our consciousness.

Belief is a habit of mind which places reliance in some person or thing as capable of coordinating with, or against, our desire for good. It comes after examination of the grounds for accepting something as true or real. Belief is an intellectual assent, or agreement that admits something as true and gives adherence to that point of view.

Trust is an assured resting on that which is its object; a reliance beyond doubt.

Faith is belief plus the element of trust, - and even more - complete confidence without question (which does not demand evidence) of divine origin.

Faith always works. Its working power is enhanced or hindered by the individual outlook and we add, inlook. Age is beside the point, for a little child often exercises and demonstrates a greater faith than adults.

If faith could be held to without thought of particular benefits it would still work, and work better in behalf of the individual good.

Many persons do not know what it is in which they have faith. Faith works in different ways apparently, for different people. Some limit the working power of their faith by coupling it with a limited concept of God and of his willingness to give them their good.

The person who has faith in a God who casts his children into eternal fires of torment has difficulty in coordinating receipt of good gifts from such a vindictive source. This God of retribution and of judgment dispenses or reserves his good according to the deserts of the individual.

The person whose God withholds good gifts until another incarnation has little hope of getting results right now.

So, until a man has a clearer concept of God's willingness and God's ability to provide all-good right now, he might be wise just to have faith that something works to bring good to him. Many are limited by their old concept of God which they need to change to equal the quality of faith they now entertain. They really need to renew their acquaintance with the Most High and consider the meaning of some of the descriptives of him; such as, Omnipresence, Omniscience, Omnipotence.

If a choice has to be made, it would be wiser to have a small faith in a large God instead of a large faith in a small God. The grain of mustard seed is small; but its inherent faith in its divine destiny enlarges it to gigantic proportions.

Faith in spiritual healing is more generally accepted among men than faith in spiritual prosperity. Results on the healing ledger appear larger because, when man's body sickens he stops all activity until the Good Presence can fix

him up. He thereby cooperates with Intelligence: being himself powerless, he gives God a chance to bless him.

In financial affairs, however, the worse off a man is, the harder he works, and the less chance he gives the Intelligent Presence, which is all-competent, to adjust the problem in a twinkling of an eye, if he has faith.

Have you ever thought of putting your sick affairs to bed like you would your sick body? realizing that prosperity comes to the affairs and estate like healing comes to the body? from within and above?

Belief, trust, faith in God not only guarantees healing and prosperings, but do away with the need for such.

Paul wrote: I know whom I have believed.

James wrote: Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Paul wrote: We walk by faith.

James wrote: Faith without works is dead.

Most people attempt to build, through affirmation, a consciousness of some thing, some demonstration they wish to make; as, health, happiness, success, or increased estate. We believe the practice of affirmation should be used to build a consciousness of God, for, if that consciousness is attained, any needful thing will be added.

Some people attempt to get rid of the things they have erroneously demonstrated by applying the pressure of their will and word upon the Unimpressed, but wholly cooperative God the worship, through the system of denial. They forget they could be as a king that sitteth in the throne of judgment who scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

If we acknowledge unquestioningly the existence and power of a Supreme Being, and the reality of His Divine Order, we shall witness our faith manifesting as evidence of His Presence in our life and affairs according to the measure of His grace. Our small faith will flourish as the vine planted by the brook of sweet waters, whose shade will be a blessing to all whom we contact.

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Dear Friend:

Now that the New Year is one month old, it would be good practice to ascertain what you are reaching out for. You want your good, to be sure, but what form do you think that good ought to assume for your greatest benefit?

Do you want health, such as your foot to heal, your heart to steady, your eyes to see better? Remember that health is a manifestation of Life. So long as you are alive you will show forth health in some form or other, depending on your understanding of Life.

Life is an eternal activity, everywhere present. The activity of God in you is your Life. You are lived by Life. So, you don't want health, you want only an understanding of Life that will automatically demonstrate as perfect health.

Do you want wealth? What do you think wealth is? Does it mean only money to you? Suppose ALL YOU HAD was money? would it save you from thirst, starvation, the elements? Only if you spent it. Only if you let it flow through your hands would it be of any possible benefit to you.

This flow is a living action, going on all the time. You can't stop it at one point and expect good results. It would be like stopping the flow of blood at a point in the body: that point would putrefy.

Become a part of the flow, and you will have what it is: the plenty that fulfills all need, physical or material. Lift your vision and pray: I shall not want, for Thou art with me. Jesus promised that if we should reach out after the things of God, we would have all things added.

THE CHRIST TRUTH LEAGUE blesses you.

Lovingly yours,
Nell Truesdell

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The CHRIST TRUTH LEAGUE of Fort Worth, Texas, is a fellowship of sincere students seeking practical application of the Law of Life, as lived and taught by the Master of Life, JESUS CHRIST.

We aspire to that saving grace which heals the sick, teaches, preaches, and quickens with life the dormant hopes and unfulfilled ideals in the individual and race mind. Spiritual ministry is available at any time. Free will offerings are accepted.

Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day of the Month

February 1945

1. O sleeper, ARISE, and call upon thy God.
2. BLESSED BE the Lord God.
3. The King of glory shall COME.
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5. DECLARE His praise.
6. The ENTRANCE of Thy words giveth Light.
7. Seek His FACE evermore.
8. Before Him shall be GATHERED all nations.
9. The ears of them that HEAR shall HEARKEN.
10. Christ ... maketh INTERCESSION for us.
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12. Thy word was unto me the JOY ... of mine heart.
13. Be KINDLY affectioned one to another in brotherly love.
14. Be ye LIFTED up.
15. The Lord your God is gracious and MERCIFUL
16. The Lord is NIGH unto all them that call upon Him.
17. OPEN Thou mine eyes.
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19. Let every man PROVE his own work.
20. The Word of God is QUICK and powerful.
21. Search out a RESTING place.
22. His glory SHALL be SEEN upon thee.
23. Lead me in THY TRUTH and TEACH me.
24. Good and UPRIGHT is the Lord.
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26. This day ... I paid my VOWS.
27. My WORDS shall not pass away.
28. (Be) YE YOURSELVES like unto men that wait for their Lord.

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Your word is your working power. Your inner vision is your achieving power. The two go hand in hand. If your vision is On High and your word is good, beautiful, and true, you have a combination that will aid you in every conceivable way.

Please keep the DAILY MEDITATIONS for we shall be remembering you.