

SPIRITICITY February 1955

HOW IDEAS AFFECT US

By Nell Truesdell

"There is only one way to do anything and that is the right way," Papa would say to me when I was a child. Papa was extremely capable with his hands, and I always watched him intently whenever he worked at any job about the house. In fact, I would try my best to help by handing him his hammer or saw or screwdriver; but I always got in the way. However, even now I can hear his words, "The one way to do anything is the right way." Though by the measurement of time I am now well passed middle age, I still find his instruction to be true no matter where I happen to be working. In the small tasks as well as in the large, there is a right way to do everything. In making a bed, washing dishes, setting a room in order - the right way is the quick way to get the job done. In writing, cutting a stencil, running off copy on the mimeograph machine for a paper like this one, the right way saves time and energy.

How may you know the right way to do something that you have never done before? "Ask, and it shall be given you."

"Ask whom?" you question. The answer comes, "Ask whatever it is that you are working with, whether animate or inanimate. Because divine Intelligence pervades everybody and everything, IT will reveal Itself when you ask."

Surely you have had the experience of having done something that you had never done before. With a measure of satisfaction you know that you did very well. Perhaps you cannot recall the steps that led to success, but you do remember that you wanted very much to be successful.

Whenever we want to accomplish something, we apply ourselves to the demands of the task at hand. We are generous with our time, our patience, our substance. Fine points in whatever it is that we are doing suddenly are revealed and we say joyfully, "The thing worked itself out."

Everything starts as an idea. When the intellect feels the touch of an idea upon it, it becomes active, and we call that activity "thinking." Thoughts formulate an idea. They shape it up and bring it into manifestation. Thoughts do not create; they work upon the plastic substance of the idea that causes them, and when we do not rush them too fast, they will work out in an orderly manner. They will mold the unformed idea into visibility without a hitch.

No matter in what field we find ourselves, no matter what the demands upon us, we have within us the tools with which to do a good job. Our tools are our thoughts and the ideas that prompt them. Any idea that touches our intellect (mind) starts a train of thoughts. Our main job is to choose and respond to the right idea; for all thoughts are of the substance and automatically follow the pattern of the idea in which they inhere. Thoughts of themselves have no power; they are moved by the power of the idea which prompts them.

We read a lot about the need to control our thoughts. Our thoughts are not entirely to be blamed for our condition, whether good or bad. It is our choice of ideas that affects us; and it is within our province to select and respond to the most beneficial ideas.

How may we choose the right ideas when we do not know what type of ideas will strike our intellect and affect our consciousness? The answer is simple. The quality of ideas that enter our consciousness is determined by the direction of our inner vision. We are always secretly looking in some one direction and if we are looking in the wrong direction (down or out) we will entertain ideas that will cause us to be down and out. If we are looking in an upward direction - maintaining an expectant, constructive attitude of mind - our dominant ideas will be of a high quality and our life experiences will be favorable.

It is much easier to entertain a negative attitude than it is to supplant it with a constructive view. The man of the world is keyed to a low tone. He must raise his tone - his view - if he wishes to live a freer life, a life full of the good that he craves. "My kingdom is not of this world," said Jesus Christ. His view was toward God. Our persistent view must be set in the same direction if we would get where He is. First the view, then the idea, then the thoughts that outwork the idea.

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PROSPERITY (A Treatment)

By H. B. Jeffery

All the power there is, is devoted to my prosperity; I am not afraid.

All the presence there is, is devoted to my welfare; I do not doubt.

All the mind there is, is devoted to my success; God is my provider.

I perceive what it means to "take no thought." I do not fear poverty; I do not practice economy; I am not timid.

There is no truth in the idea of having to work for a living.  
Life is. I am free from the curse of work. I labor not for the meat that dies.

I am not influenced by money considerations; I am master of money. There is no fear of money in me; there is no love of money in me.

I do not perceive any power in money at all; all power is God.

I understand the truth of universal prosperity: Joy, joy, the glad news!

I arouse my mind from the sleep of incapacity and incompetence.  
I rejoice in my prosperity, for joy speeds the perception of Truth. I do not doubt the Truth.

I am in perfect peace. I perceive that there are no obstacles.

There is no reality in the poverty of the poor; there are no poor. There is no fate of ill luck hanging over me or anyone.

I perceive that all my wants have been foreseen and provided for.

I realize that my Father knows that I "have need of all these things."

The Truth is that infinite abundance is mine eternally.

I am conscious of limitless abundance; all power brings mine to me.

I know the golden rule of prosperity of the Christian system, and I perceive its spirit: All things are mine.

By these true words I perceive the complete extinction of the notions of having to earn a living, of having to save up, of any lack.

I am permanently conscious of unescapable prosperity.

"Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Not to perceive this truth is to be a thief.

The error of stealing is of two sorts: (a) stealing from others and (b) stealing from one's own self. Both are overcome by the perception that "all things are yours."

There are no thieves about me or within me; no thieves at all exist.

Patanjula taught: "abstinence from theft being confirmed, all jewels approach (him who has the perception). When one has given up self-love and thereby the desire for misappropriation, he stumbles at every step on wealth without actually seeking it."

Moses: "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day."

Job: "Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defense, and thou shalt have plenty of silver."

Psalms 23: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Think of all your mental affairs as being out in a warm spring rain.

Psalms 37: "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."

Proverbs 8: "I (will) cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures."

Proverbs 10: "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it (or, toil addeth nothing to it)."

SPIRITICITY February 1955

PEACE

By Alden Truesdell

"Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."

There will be "wars and rumours of wars"; for the world is a battlefield of conflicting ideologies and there can be no reconciliation as long as the solution is sought in the world. Statism, nationalism, internationalism, even universalism will not supply the answer, except there be a consideration of that which has caused the universe and the nations to be. No altruistic nation will be able to establish peace on earth. No United Nations will achieve that end. Churches with their vaunted power and influence have failed in this respect.

Man, like a parent with a spoiled child, has given the world its head. Man has given the world power; power must be taken from the world and relegated to the Creator of worlds and all contained therein. It is safe to say that the average person fears the Russians more than he fears God, and to him the Russians are more real than God. Thus he has given the Russians power. So must he take power from them by knowing that, in reality, God is the only Power. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." Does God fear the Russians? the hydrogen bomb? He who made the atom, created hydrogen, who uses all things to His own purpose, is He impressed by tyrant or by Man's puny inventions? "Behold the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance. All nations before Him are as nothing; and they are counted to Him less than nothing and vanity."

We need a different perspective, a new sense of values, a dependence upon seemingly new but actually age-old resources. We must learn that God the Invisible is greater than any visibility He has caused to be. We could cite many cases of men being saved by God from the ravages of war, men like Eddie Rickenbacker, to mention one of the best known of thousands of examples. We could cite the case of the Christ Truth League and the boys who were under its wing - not a casualty, not a gold-star mother in the group.

It may be protested that many sincere persons prayed to God for protection for loved ones, and those for whom the prayers were offered were destroyed. We still say that the right kind of prayer to the right kind of God will protect and heal. It may be that the God to whom the prayers were directed was a God who exacts sacrifice. Always "according to your faith" will it be unto you. The real God, the true God, is a God who is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." He is the God who is "closer than breathing, nearer than hands and feet"; and yet so comprehensive that it is impossible for our loved ones to be separated from Him, because He is over all and in all and through all; and "in Him we live, and move, and have our being."

Although Jesus Christ advised that His Kingdom is "not of this world," He gave explicit instructions as to what to do about enemies - love them - not in the manner of inviting them to enter in and pilfer your treasures, but use love as a weapon, for love is Christianity's secret weapon. All Christians should be inducted into an army of militant lovers. They should learn the military discipline required of God who is Love. They should be so indoctrinated with the government of Love that when they turn to the adjustment of things of the world, even hostile nations would react - violently perhaps, but assuredly in

ways that would yield general benefit; for "love never fails." But before the recruit goes to work on the nations, he must practice on himself and his buddies; for he is to become a soldier in a body of secret agents, who must be so dependable that they can be trusted to use God's greatest weapon impersonally, for the good of all persons. If this is done, peace will be established and will be effective.

In spiritual ministry, we are not to take sides in any of the world controversies; we are not appointed to be judges. If some unusual decision is to be made, the right answer will be given at the right time. As spiritual ministers we are to administer spiritual medicines - love, joy, and peace.

Peace is a reliable healing agency, but peace is so powerful that some preparation must be made for its reception if it is to abide. When Jesus Christ instructed His disciples in the art of ministry, He told them: "When ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you." Peace, like some childhood medicines, is not always welcome. Like a rare plant, requiring rich soil, the "peace that passeth all understanding" will flourish only under suitable circumstances. We must, therefore, aspire to, and hospitably receive, this product known as peace. If we have it and keep it, we will help to heal the nations.

We have all experienced peace at times. There have been occasions in our meditations when the silence was so intense as to be almost unbearable and certainly unspeakable, for there could be no words adequate to describe the experience. Healings and miracles transpire in these breathless periods of attunement with spiritual symphonies. It is during these times of wonder and transcending ecstasy that bodies are healed, minds are restored, lives are changed, careers are launched.

Jesus Christ promised, "Peace I leave with you."

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SPIRITICITY February 1955

MAKE FRIENDS WITH GOD

By Robert Applegate

There is a great vagueness in the minds of people as to what Christianity is. They think it is the recondite and baffling theology of the churches; or they identify it with ecclesiastic rituals or with a code of ethics that derives its authority from the Bible. Christianity is none of these things. Christianity is a way of life that is based on the desire to know God - not as a theory, but as you know a close friend or a dearly loved one. Christianity presupposes that it is possible for any individual to know God in this way and that it is to his great advantage to do so.

Many of Jesus' parables and much of His instruction are concerned with urging the surpassing worth of knowing God - for two reasons: first, to know Him is the only thing that will give man genuine satisfaction; and second, to know Him is the only permanent good that man can attain. It is not necessary to give up everything that one has to know God; it is not necessary to join an organization; it is not necessary to be a perfect example of accepted behavior; it is

only necessary to desire to know Him. This is the message of repentance: Turn to God, seek Him, set your desire in His direction. The promise is "Seek, and ye shall find," - not "Be good, and ye shall find" or "join an organization, and ye shall find," but "Seek." Want to know God. This good alone will last. This good alone will satisfy. Seek to know Him - not as a means to a pleasant life in the world, but as an end in Himself. A more pleasant life than any you can now imagine will be one result of this seeking, but the satisfaction of knowing Him is a far greater reward.

If you moved into a new neighborhood and you wanted to become acquainted with your next-door neighbor, you would not go around town talking with everyone who knew him and reading everything you could find about him. This would be a tedious and pointless procedure. You would, rather, go directly to the neighbor. You would either call on him and introduce yourself, or else you would invite him to your house for dinner. If he turned out to be an exceptionally agreeable person, so that you wanted to become friends with him, you would renew your acquaintance at regular intervals, and you would look for favors that you could do for him. Similarly, if you want to know God, the sensible thing to do is to go directly to Him, to introduce yourself to Him, to invite Him into your house. You will find Him an agreeable acquaintance and a delightful friend.

Make friends with God. It is easy to do this. The less ceremony you use with Him, the more quickly He will respond. Invite Him to join you in every undertaking; take Him with you on every trip; speak to Him the first thing in the morning and the last thing at night, as well as frequently during the day. You will find that, like any true friend, He does not want to use you or reform you, but simply to help you. Therefore ask Him to help you in every undertaking, large or small. Simply say, "Father, help me," just as you would ask your earthly father or an earthly friend to lend you a hand. If you want to know what to do, ask Him. He knows. The answer will come to you. If you want to find your way in a strange town, ask Him to lead you; and you will be led directly to your destination without loss of time. If you stop to ask direction (after first having asked God), you will ask the right person and the direction will be correct. Then thank God for having guided you, just as you would thank any other friend.

It is said that we should not bother God with trifles; that we should not ask Him for help in those things that we can do for ourselves. That is nonsense. As long as our desire is to know God, rather than to see what we can get from Him, we should lose no opportunity to turn to Him. His one desire is to help us, to give us all good. In return, we will not use our wills on Him to get what we want, which is a sure way to stifle any friendship. But we all have certain things that we have to do in our present condition. In turning to God for help in the perplexities, the tasks, and the frictions of day-to-day life, we are not seeking to "use" God. We are simply letting these everyday occurrences turn us back to Him, so that we may become better acquainted with Him. In Proverbs, the instruction is given succinctly: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

People frequently say that they wish they had more faith. But faith is developed by practice and only by practice. If you asked a man to do a certain job, and he did it well, you would have a certain amount of faith that he would do a good job the next time you asked him. And if you asked him many times to do that particular job, and every time the work was satisfactory, your faith would be increased. You might even have faith enough to ask him to undertake a

more difficult assignment. Likewise, as we exercise our faith in God in small matters, it is increased until we can exercise it in larger concerns. Therefore we should lose no opportunity to turn to Him, to ask Him for guidance, to acknowledge His help and to thank Him for that help. Only thus will we have a larger measure of faith.

If we make a friend of God, we will find that it is actually a pleasure to be alone; for then we are more conscious of His presence. We will find that our most delightful moments are when we are most aware of His help, His care, His knowledge of all our needs. In the year ahead, therefore, we will make God our friend. We will follow the advice given to Job, "Acquaint now thyself with Him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee." The good that comes from this acquaintance is both eternal and satisfying.

Alphabet Of  
DAILY MEDITATIONS  
For Every Week Day Of The Month

FEBRUARY 1955

1. We know that He ABIDETH in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.
2. Thou art My son; this day have I BEGOTTEN thee.
3. Repent ye therefore, and be CONVERTED.
4. Hearken DILIGENTLY unto Me.
5. The things that are not seen are ETERNAL.
  
7. Your Heavenly Father will also FORGIVE you.
8. The Son of Man shall come in the GLORY of His Father.
9. HEAR, and your soul shall live.
10. INCLINE your ear, and come unto Me.
11. He is faithful and JUST to forgive us.
12. With everlasting KINDNESS, will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord.
  
14. LOVE be with you all in Christ Jesus.
15. Thou MAYEST prosper and be in health.
16. Speak ye every man the truth to his NEIGHBOR.
17. Let all things be done decently and in ORDER.
18. The times of refreshing shall come from the PRESENCE of the Lord.
19. QUIT you like men, be strong.
  
21. In RIGHTEOUSNESS shalt thou be established.
22. SEEK ye the Lord while He may be found.
23. The TONGUE of the wise is health.
24. Thanks be to God for His UNSPEAKABLE gift.
25. God hath VISITED His people.
26. WATCH ye therefore, and pray always.
  
28. Repent, and turn YOURSELVES from all YOUR transgressions.

"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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As electricity is the working power of the electrical principle,  
SPIRITICITY is the working power of the Spiritual Principle.