

SPIRITICITY, February 1967

## ETERNITY

By Robert Applegate

"IF IN THIS LIFE only we have hope in Christ, we are the most pitiable of all men. ...

"The seed that you plant does not come to life unless it dies; and when you plant a seed, you do not plant the thing that is to be but only a bare seed. ... So is the Resurrection of the dead. ... It is planted a psychic (mental--emotional-physical) body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a psychic body, there is also a spiritual body." (I Cor.15:19f.)

"The children of this world marry and are given in marriage, but they that are counted worthy to attain That World and the Resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage." (Luke 20:35)

The "Resurrection from the dead" is not something that happens automatically at some future time; it is something that you strive for now. It is the rising up in consciousness out of the "world": the consciousness of materiality, of separation from God.

What Jesus called the "world" is the realm of time-space, of matter, of personality. This "world" has no reality; it exists only in man's consciousness, because of his sense of separation from the One God who is All.

God is eternal. Eternity is not a long stretch of time; it is that realm beyond space and time in which are the causes of all the events we see in space and time. We see events in time and space; the causes lie beyond time and space - in that timeless and spaceless Eternity. The mystics through the ages have known this. "That which is seen did not come into being from that which is visible," wrote the author of Hebrews. The atomic scientists have now discovered this same thing. Banesh Hoffman in his book on the quantum physics writes: "We find that space and time ... simply do not fit the more profound pattern of existence revealed by atomic experiment."

Eternity is our home - the "Father's House" - that for which we are homesick. "For we know," Paul says, "that when this tent we live in - our body here on earth - is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home He himself made, which will last for ever. And now we sigh, so great is our desire to have our home which is in heaven put on over us; for by being clothed with it we shall not be found without a body. While we live in this earthly tent we groan with a feeling of oppression; it is not that we want to get rid of our earthly body, but that we want to have the heavenly one put on over us, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. God is the One who has prepared us for this change, and He gave us His Spirit as the guarantee of all that He has for us." (II Cor.5:1 TEV). All our longing, all our desire, is really for this Home.

This is the "Resurrection from the dead": the putting on of "our home which is in heaven." It is the rising up in consciousness out of that realm in which death obtains - the "world," which seems so real, but is not. This is also the "salvation of your souls"; that is, the deliverance of your lives from the "world."

In scripture Eternity is called by many names: the "Beginning" (i.e., the Source), the "Father's House," the "Kingdom of Heaven," "That World," "Christ," "before the foundation of the world." All these terms designate the same thing.

Eternity is not far off. We are in It and It is in us. "The Kingdom of God is within you." In this Kingdom is all we desire: Life, Joy, Peace, Substance, etc. It is eternal and changeless. We enter into It by believing in It and giving our attention to It in every way we can. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God." To do this we turn our attention away from the "world"- i.e., all that is changeable. As Socrates said, we "flee from all but the necessary use of the eyes and the ears."

"Let me never exult," Paul said, "except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world is crucified to me, and I to the world." Jesus said to His followers, "Because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world - because of this the world hates you."

In the "world" (that is, in time and space) we are separate entities. When we pass beyond time and space to the Eternal Reality, we are all One Person. "We who are many are one body in Christ" - quite literally. "We are members one of another." It sounds abstract and unreal, but it is the Reality.

Jesus walked in this Eternal Realm continuously, and so He could say, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father." And though He was harassed and persecuted, though He had no place to lay His head, though He was deserted by His men and was tortured and disgraced, still He could say in His last talk to His men: "I have said these things to you, so that My Joy might be in you and that your joy might be made full. ... Peace I leave with you, My Peace I give unto you."

It is because Love, Joy, and Peace are eternal spiritual qualities that those who have had the least, even in the way of human companionship, have often been the most joyous and serene.

We are to be in the "world," but not of it. For the time being we have to live in the dream of time, space, matter, and personality; but we are to give our loyalty to Eternity.

Paul said, "I have, suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him; ... that I may know Him and the power of His Resurrection; ... that if possible I may attain the Resurrection from the dead." (Phil. 3:8 RSV)

(All quotations are my translations unless otherwise noted.)

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GOD IS VICTOR

By Alden Truesdell

A RECEPTIVE quietness before the Spiritual Source of Life is highly recommended for those who seek spiritual understanding. For some, this impressionable state is hard to understand - harder to attain; but all things come with practice.

"The meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." For most people the difficulty in accepting this promise lies in a reluctance to be stepped on by others. No one cares to be a doormat. But no one is required to be meek before men. The receptivity is to be exercised before God only. "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." This is the way the Creator gets Himself into expression; this is how the consciousness of man becomes the field for the Activity of God. The practice of humbly beholding - of almost incessant reception - makes of man the opposite of a doormat. For a new awareness of sufficiency emanates from this spiritual contact.

I can well remember the first realization I had of having contact with a Creative Principle within myself. The experience was overwhelming. A great sense of gratification came to me that I had access to God within my own self; that I could have my own priest, my own sanctuary; that I could commune with my own Lord within the secrecy of my inner being.

Such a realization does not cause timidity; it does promote humility - a willingness to be receptive to the Inner Activity. It promotes a new kind of courage, a freedom from fear, a divine audacity that cannot be known in any other way.

In following this spiritual discovery, in the willingness to go along with it, a man finds that his own unfoldment is helpful to others. In this way he becomes an unconscious healer. He may notice also that he has become aware of things he has never been taught. He experiences the "knowing that comes not by learning." He may also find himself expressing talents he did not know he had.

Great confidence and assurance are set up through this release of formerly pent-up energies. We understand how Paul could say: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"; and how Jesus could say: "all power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth."

When Spirit is functioning at its free-flowing best, there is nothing to contain It. It will do what should be done, because It has the authority, the capacity, to do it. It is the power; It is the glory. Nothing can resist It.

This Activity unfolds from within the soul of man.

SPIRITICITY, February 1967

FIND YOUR OWN WORD

By H. B. Jeffery

IF YOU ABIDE in the Word of Truth, as It has been revealed to you through some particular text that has always meant a great deal to you, you will find that the text has been given to you as a working power by which to minister to your fellows. Just hold to that text; be true to that word, whatever It is. To one has been given one word; to another, some other word. We each have our place and purpose in the Divine Economy, the Great Universe of God.

The Scripture says we are "a peculiar people" - a particular people. We are "peculiar." Those who have been caught up by the Light and walk in the Light are a peculiar people. They are in the world but not of the world. Their presence in the world is a great leavening force; it goes out to leaven the whole lump, and eventually all people will know of the Glory of God. Men will know their sonship to God; they will know their true Being and live in harmony, peace, and joy. There will be no wars or rumors of war; there will be no sighing or crying or sickness or suffering or pain. All these things shall be done away through the ministry of them who have caught the Light. They are the leaven that shall leaven the world and make the whole world a place of rejoicing.

You are called with a high calling. Everyone of you has a high calling and purpose. The Divine has spoken to you. Perhaps you didn't hear It; but if you are quiet, you will catch some word out of the Infinite, and it will be a working word of Truth. That word of Truth going out will break down the formulations of untruth and will raise men out of this prison house of materiality and all that obtains here in the way of discord, inharmony, pain, and sickness.

Keep your vision steadfast on the One and let your word of Truth do its work. That word of Truth is charged with dynamic and power, with inspiration and quickening. You will see a rebirth, a rehabilitation, taking on of new life in your neighbor or in the one who has looked to you for help. He will arise to walk in newness of life - a new creature - all the batteries of his being recharged with the dynamic of the Spirit, the Energy of God. He will have a new power within him for doing things; he will be a different being.

There will come to you a great joy, a great gladness, as you see the word of Truth working in and through you. It gives you a sense of quickness; you feel a Power working in you and making of you a ministering angel of His Presence.

We are all to perform some ministry, some service, in the world; that service may go on out to the outermost parts of the world. For your word may go out and you may not know what it has done, but somehow someone has been touched and quickened and lifted out of a false condition. He has been given a new direction in life. You may hear of it, or you may never hear of it. Your word going out acts impersonally. You do not do it; it does itself. And so you take no credit.

Your life is the Life of Christ. The mind that is in you is the same Mind that was in Christ Jesus; and therefore the same Power, the same Intelligence,

the same Spirit works in and through you to will and to do. Sometimes it stirs up conditions of unrighteousness. Sometimes people will feel uneasy in your presence. It is evidence that there is something on their minds that is disturbing them. Then they think you are disturbing them, but it is the wiggling of something before it comes forth and lets go. There are many beliefs in the world that men just accept. Their parents and grandparents believed them, and so they accept them without question. When the word of Truth begins to work, it disturbs these and they begin to wiggle. The patient sometimes has an uneasy time because the body becomes the battleground between the Truth and the untruth. The untruth, having no reality and no real base, is always the loser.

When you meet these conditions, stand fast, be glad, know that the word of Truth has gone out from you. You will see a new birth. You will see the Angel of the Presence in man coming out, possessing the outer mind, controlling him completely, so that the man outwardly seems another being. He is only showing forth what he has always been.

Whatever is done or said rightly is of the Father and not of the personal self. Whenever anyone praises me personally, I always think of the incident in the life of Jesus when a man said to Him, "Good Master"; and He said, "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but One, that is, God."

There is Only One Good. If any good has come to you, it has come from that One. When anyone praises me personally, I pass it up.

Let us now turn in gratitude and praise to Him that gives thoughts to us, who has breathed into us the Breath of Life, whose Spirit is within, whose Name has been placed upon us: I AM That I AM. I am no one else but that which God has created. I Am That I Am.

We give thanks to the One who has written His Law in our inward parts, that of His Substance in us He has made us one with Him.

Glory be unto Thee, Father of Light: Holy is Thy Name. Thine is the Rule, the Force, the Radiance throughout all the ongoings, from everlasting to everlasting. And we are Thy sons.

We raise our hearts and minds in gratitude and thanksgiving for our creation and preservation. We rejoice and are glad that Thou hast called us Thine own.

We rejoice and give our thanks in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, our Redeemer.

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I PETER: TRANSLATION AND NOTES

By Robert Applegate

(Continued from last month)

TEXT: I PETER 2:11-25

2:11 FRIENDS, I urge you, since you are visitors and expatriates (in material realm): Keep away from your natural desires which are at war with your consciousness. (The order to abstain from the three major "gentile" mistakes - concupiscence, covetousness, and anger - is common to all Jewish and all Christian instruction. The reason for it is that these mistakes separate God's people from Him.)

12 Conduct yourselves well among outsiders so that after they have maligned you as being wrong, they may, by seeing your honest works, turn and praise God - when they finally wake up.

13 Be subject to every human authority for the sake of the Lord: to the king (because he is the

14 ruler), and to the governors who are commissioned by him to punish those who do wrong and reward to

15 those who do right. (This starts what some have called the Code of Subordination. Jesus, Paul, Peter, and James - all repeat it in different words. Two reasons are given for it: (1) Be subject to the authorities for the sake of peace, for you cannot worship God when you are full of resistance. (2) Be examples of manly conduct, because the only advertisement Christianity has is the conduct of those who profess it.) It is the Desire of God that by doing right you should silence the ignorance

16 of foolish men. You are free; do not use your freedom as a covering for malice, but be worshipers of God.

17 Respect all men, cherish the Brotherhood, revere God, honor the king.

18 You who are slaves, be subject to your masters, in reverence for God - not only to the decent and

19 fair, but also to the harsh. For it is to your credit if for the sake of your consciousness of

20 God you suffer pain unjustly. What virtue is it if you endure when you do wrong and are beaten for it? But if you endure when you do right and still suffer, this will mean grace to you from God. You

21 have been called to this very thing; for Christ suffered for you and left you an example, so that you may follow in His footsteps.

22 He did no wrong; no pretense was found in His mouth. When He was

23 reviled, He did not revile back; and when He suffered, He did not threaten. He entrusted everything to Him who administers all things justly. He took our errors in His

24 consciousness up to the Cross, so that we may cease from error and live our lives for the sake of a right relation with God. "By His hurt you have been healed." For

25 you were as sheep wandering away, but now you have returned to the shepherd and Overseer of your life.

(To be Continued)

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AS I SEE IT

By Nell Truesdell

Happiness is not in association with people or in possession of things; happiness is carried deep in the heart. It can be found nowhere else on earth. The greatest happiness is in our love for God.

\*

Far more clearly than a person sees what is before his eyes, God sees what is in the heart.

\*

As a ray of sunlight is never pollute by the dust-motes through which it passes so the Spirit that penetrates our foul consciousness remains untouched by all that It touches.

\*

Until you make the effort to get out of a rut you will remain fixed in a well-worn course of your own making.

\*

Your difficulties have been your greatest blessings, for whatever appeared to be holding you down was actually holding you up while you were trying out your wings.

\*

Be grateful for the help that you have thus far received along the path of life.

\*

Let not your personal ambitions exceed your equipment.

\*

God will help you get what you demand, but He will not demand that you accept the gifts that He can give to you.

\*

If we follow after the things of the world we are enslaved by them. If we follow after God He becomes our Slave.

\*

If you cannot be loyal to the teacher or to the ministry that represents God on earth, you will never be loyal to yourself, to others, or to God.

\*

Each person buys his reward at his own price.

\*

Concentrated hate is poison to the soul.

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To save His highest creation (man), God had to appear among men.

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Our words have a way of fulfilling themselves. They have a formulative power.

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Consciousness is God's instrument through which He reveals Himself - if you keep it clean.

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God loves you.

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FEBRUARY, 1967

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