

THE NEW BIRTH

By Alden Truesdell

A process of refinement, with the view to improving the mind, morals, and tastes of man is going on constantly on all levels of social relations. However, the culture of the race in general is nothing to be proud of. It cannot compare with the Christ-culture that is possible to every man which would, if it were undertaken, establish him in his true state of well-being in this earth.

Certainly it is better to be cultured than to be uncultured. But no matter what heights are attained by any social group in this world, civilization continues to remain skin deep. Actually, the race as a whole will improve only when man transfers the attention of his mind from dependence upon world-culture as his standard of life, to a spiritual-culture which will infuse itself into every phase of his activity, to enrich and elevate him far above his present concept of what it means to be civilized.

When the attention of man's mind is centered in God, man's intellect will not be taken from him; but, his world will be transformed through an activity which will take place in his intellect by which hitherto undreamed attainments will become ordinary experiences. God will not annihilate the world. From the beginning God gave man dominion over the world; but he cannot enjoy that dominion fully until he is quickened in the Spirit. When this occurs, physical developments and mental changes will take place which are impossible to the unregenerate, or, what is called, the natural man.

"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man."

No mortal is capable of righteous judgment in all things, for he is prejudiced, intolerant, and full of personal opinions which are usually not true. Who of us would choose to place himself at the mercy of any human being's judgment? We know too well our own judgments are usually biased and unfair.

The spiritual man is he who is born into consciousness of the Spirit in him. Unfoldment takes place in much the same manner that a little babe develops from the moment of conception to actual birth. Whoever will believe on and in the tiny quickened spark of spirituality within him (though he be timid at first to acknowledge it fully), will conceive it just as surely as the physical-mental creation called man is brought into existence. Whoever will strengthen his faith in this divine spark pushing at the door of his own inner consciousness will find all nature, and all the laws of the universe, rushing to serve him; for this spiritual babe must be nourished and cared for as well as any physical child. While the spiritual babe is unfolding in consciousness, it should receive all the attention, service, supply, and protection from the individual himself that automatically takes place in the activities surrounding the natural gestation and birth of a baby in our midst. The new baby-identity carries with it its own substance; but it has to be admitted into the field of awareness and rejoiced over if it is to remain and grow into full stature.

While this spiritual Identity in man is never killed off, it can be ignored to the degree that it becomes dormant in the consciousness. This is the usual state of affairs in the natural, unawakened man. The spiritual Name-and-Nature is submerged, covered over with thick layers of mortal-carnal consciousness that keeps it shrouded in darkness. But it is there, none the less, ready to shine forth the instant any person is "done" with the world and its ways.

As each baby boy born in the United States is a potential President, so the Christ-babe conceived in the consciousness of man is marked with Princehood and Kingship. If the new birth in the consciousness of man is accepted, everything in the universe swings into action to serve him - the Christ-conscious man.

There is no joy to compare with the ecstasy of cooperation with the spiritual birth. Paul wrote to the Philippians thus: "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the High calling of God in Christ Jesus."

As this new Idea (Identity) grows in consciousness, it will be found to come as one who serves, rather than one seeking service. Its presence will be a blessing and a benediction. Its thoughts will go forth as ministers and apostles. It will reveal a new heaven and a new earth, present with man now. And he who knows this spiritual Identity can neither escape it nor can he defeat it.

To be born of the Spirit is climax for all other processes of birth. It is in this birth only that man may know the truth that makes free. With Jesus Christ he may say, "For this purpose came I into the world."

To this spiritual birth all is consecrated; for this purpose is every natural birth consummated. And it is safe to say that a conscious acceptance and delight in this spiritual birth is the only true satisfaction man will ever experience.

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SPIRITICITY January 1949

PRAISE

By Robert Applegate

In the Scriptures we are instructed to praise the Lord. The Psalms are full of this injunction. Paul reiterates it when he tells us, "With thanksgiving let your requests be made known."

Praise is the ascription of worth or excellence to some object, person, or phenomenon. It is a salutary practice, a saving, redemptive, and regenerative exercise. It redeems (or buys back) both the praiser and the recipient of the praise from one state or condition into another; and it can be said that there is no negative condition or circumstance that cannot be cured by a liberal dose of praise.

When a person spends a session in prayerful devotion to God, he is often filled with a tremendous influx of energy. Immediately, he rushes about to do something in the outer and finds after the experience he feels quite exhausted.

This is the natural outcome of trying to use the Power of God without remaining in touch with the Source of that Power. Man, in his natural state is not designed to use the potency of God to do anything whatever, and the attempt to do so always results in frustration. The wise man lets the Power of God use him for Its highest outworking of Good, rather than try to use it to fulfill his limited concept of what is desirable.

When one is filled with an inflow of spiritual energy, the proper procedure is to let all of it move upward in praise to the Most High God. "Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

If this is done, a change takes place within the worshipper, and he finds that not only he, but also his outer circumstances change accordingly. The zeal thus generated within is not dissipated through efforts to utilize it, but it is returned to its rightful Source. Then, it uses the devotee in ways that are untiring but which are, at the same time, useful and powerful for the demonstration of good in this world.

Zeal turned God-ward tends to fill a man with quietness; he experiences a new knowing which is itself an accomplishing power. There is an effectiveness in all his works; he goes through the motions of doing whatever is at hand to be done, but he knows the Doer above and within is the working-power. "I must work the works of Him that sent me." "The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me."

When Jesus Christ was baptized of John in the Jordan, he had a compelling spiritual experience. He knew at that moment that He was the Son of God, and that he had the Power of God. The Scriptural account says, "He saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him: and there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am glorified." (Our Bible renders it, "in whom I am well pleased," but the word should be translated "glorified".) It does not matter whether we think of this as a physical event, as it is pictorially recorded, or as an inner realization. The important point is that Jesus knew His own Sonship and the authority that had been entrusted to Him.

He did not, however, start His ministry immediately. He was much too wise for that. Instead of starting out with missionary zeal on a preaching tour, he departed alone in the wilderness on the other side of the Jordan, and He remained in that vast and barren silence until He had dissolved every temptation with which the human being is assailed. He reached the point in understanding and experience where he would never be tempted to use for His own purposes the tremendous Power of God that had been given to Him.

We think of those days in the desert as days of loneliness and hunger; but they were much more days of unceasing praise to the Father. His communion with God taught Him lessons so thoroughly that he never forgot them even for an instant. And the great lesson of resistance to temptation was revealed in His final answer to Satan, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."

Worship is worth-ship, or to declare worthy, or to praise; and the lesson that Jesus learned was that God alone is praiseworthy and to know Him is the only worthwhile achievement.

Jesus learned before He began His ministry that the way of freedom consists in giving all praise to the Highest on all occasions. Thus He was

never thrown off balance by anything that happened around Him, or by any pressure that was brought to bear upon Him.

When he returned from His sojourn in the wilderness, he started about His work quietly and unobtrusively, but he maintained always His consciousness of the Father, the Source of His power. Thus He spoke and acted with authority and He did the work assigned to Him so thoroughly that He could say eventually, "It is finished." He retained His consciousness of the Supreme, not only throughout His ministry, but also through His trial, crucifixion, and burial. He never let His attention drop for an instant. He did not let Himself go to sleep, so death had no power over Him, but was "swallowed up in victory."

In every crisis of His life, Jesus always turned to the Father and acknowledged Him. "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always." "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes, even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight."

When the people thronged upon Him to make Him a King, he checked them by repeating the lesson that He had learned in the wilderness, which he converted into the injunction, "Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for Him hath God the Father sealed."

Jesus instructed His disciples to follow His practice of turning to God in praise before starting out on any undertaking. When he departed from them, He told them to abide in Jerusalem until they were endued with Power from On High. (Jerusalem means the establishing of peace: Salem is peace, and Jeru - means the establishing of.) And the substantiation of peace is the result of praise. The disciples did as they were instructed, for we read in Acts, "And they ... did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

The principle exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ and expressed in His instruction is "praise God in the face of every trial and in every temptation." The desert on the other side of the Jordan symbolized those barren places in consciousness where it seems impossible for anything to develop. Everyone has such areas of hopelessness and discouragement. The instruction is precise: at such places look to God and lift up the heart to the Most High and sing praises unto Him for His infinite and eternal goodness to mankind. Such remembrance, followed by practice builds up the individual consciousness until it can receive the gift of sonship which is the inherent right of every man created in the image and likeness of God.

We can compare praise with the irrigation flumes that are seen so abundantly in the Southwest. The soil of a dry country is usually fertile because it has never been depleted. It needs only water to make it productive. The flumes, leading from the reservoirs, provide the water, and beautiful and abundant fruit orchards are the result. Similarly, praise acts as a carrier to convey fresh life-energy to abandoned hopes and forgotten aspirations and makes them blossom and bear fruit.

Not only in the desert, however, but in the places that seem full of Good, are we to praise God. "In the day of prosperity be joyful," declared the prophet. In times when everything seems to be going all right we neglect to rejoice in the Lord. Jesus taught this when he said, "The cares of this world,

and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word." When we are riding the crest of the wave, we are to remember God, above all riches and honors, and the successes we have attracted to ourselves.

Praise heightens all the capacities in whatever and whoever is praised; but more, it increases the energies of the praiser. As in all things, it is more blessed to give than to receive; so, the person who bestows sincere praise actually receives the greater blessing. The ideal way of praise of course, is to direct the attention of the mind upward toward God above thinking and feeling and things of the world, and sing unto Him for His goodness without reference to benefits or rewards.

Christianity is a way of life. It is an attitude of gratitude that God IS, and a walking in that thankfulness until all activities partake of it and the whole being is saturated or baptized with the awareness of God's Presence.

Psalms 100 has the double recommendation of being short as well as a beautiful example of praise:

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
Serve the LORD with gladness:
come before His presence with singing.
Know ye that the LORD he is God:
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
and into His courts with praise:
and be thankful unto Him, and bless His name,
for the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting;
and His truth endureth to all generations."

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SPIRITICITY January 1949

THE CHOICE

By Mabel L. Watts

The intentions of men are largely good. Most people think in a kindly manner. Most of us regard each other generously. We look upon the bright side more often than not because we better enjoy the benefits of pleasant thinking.

How many of us look within?

This is the place of true judgment and when we select our approach to God it must needs be from the inner and secret place of the spirit. It is interesting to note that instinctively we finally do this in moments of great stress. But there is always a choice for every act, always the opportunity to handle ourselves intelligently. Experience need not be haphazard; we only make it so when we fail to think things through from the standpoint of principle.

A just person is one who regards others interiorly. He never judges from appearance but always seeks an inner value, and therefore he discovers treasures others pass by; for underneath every action can be found its spiritual counterpart. Yes, it is many times deeply within, but it is there.

The New Year is beginning. It can consciously be a year of Our Lord, a time wherein we never fail to make right choice, to dedicate ourselves to the

purpose of our indwelling reality. This Self is the true Lordship within us, the eternal. When we commence our daily tasks in the realization of this, our spiritual source, we find that we are prepared for harmonious execution of each act. It is when we do this that a pattern emerges and events fall into place and time without confusion.

The inward choice is found through meditation when the thinking is controlled and heart and mind are brought into attention of the I Am, the spiritual identity of The One. Love of God rules out any interference and allows us consciously to think of the I Am as alone Spirit, with all the qualities of our true nature freely expressed.

The very purpose of experience is that we may know our Sonship. We are privileged to understand an established plan ever existing in Divine Mind, and to partake of the spiritual experience. The essential goodness and beauty is ours through election. By choosing the way of truth, and God is Truth, our consciousness deepens until we fully know what we mean when we say, I am Spirit. Hence, we see that as our conscious thinking becomes allied with high viewing, that which we choose manifests according to the Divine original. In other words, our experience will reflect in true form, it will be perfected in the light of our understanding which is gathered within, dependent from Wisdom.

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SPIRITICITY January 1949

GIVE FREEDOM

By Nell Truesdell

You attain freedom in your own consciousness. When you do, you have freedom anywhere, under any circumstances, and in any relationships. It is gained by looking God-ward instead of looking at or into the present experience. At the same instant you "see evil" you can choose to look God-ward. This is what is called being one-pointed. The ability to make right choice comes with practice. "Choose ye this day (instant) whom ye will serve."

While you must attain freedom within your own consciousness to have it at all, you can give freedom to everybody around you. In fact, all you can give a man, woman, or child is freedom. Just as all you can give to God is your attention.

How give others freedom? By lifting the weight of your judgments from them. Often the burden of human judgment drives a fellow creature in the wrong direction. It becomes a force in his life that whips him along a way he would not choose for himself if he knew how to be free in his own consciousness. He attempts to find freedom (escape) in the easiest direction for him; and it always appears to be sin to the onlooker.

Give your judgments (attention) to God, and take them away from man. Thus you will obey two laws at the same time. You will be doing what you ought (looking to God) and you will be giving what you ought (freedom to another). And your reward will be FREEDOM!

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Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day of the Month

JANUARY 1949

1. Proclaim the ACCEPTABLE year of the LORD.
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3. This is my BELOVED Son.
4. The COMMUNION of the Holy Ghost, be with you.
5. The Word was made flesh, and DWELT among us.
6. My yoke is EASY.
7. Do not I FILL heaven and earth?
8. Thy GENTLENESS hath made me GREAT.
*
10. My HELP cometh from the Lord.
11. Be strengthened ... by His Spirit IN the INNER man.
12. Receive the instruction of JUSTICE.
13. Be KIND one to another.
14. Narrow is the way that LEADETH to LIFE.
15. He MAKETH ME to lie down in green pastures.
*
17. Preach the Gospel to every NATION.
18. There is ONE God.
19. The day we PERCEIVE the Lord.
20. He giveth QUIETNESS.
21. In RETURNING and REST shall ye be saved.
22. Be SURETY for Thy SERVANT for Good.
*
24. Be THANKFUL unto Him.
25. UNDERNEATH are the everlasting arms.
26. Thy Word is VERY pure.
27. God giveth thee power to get WEALTH.
28. Rest YOURSELVES.
29. Where is thy ZEAL?
*
31. The fruit of the Spirit is Love.

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