

WHAT SEEK YE?

By A. J. Truesdell

My friend, What think ye of the Christ?
That thought your life shall rule.
A first-born Lamb, pre-sacrificed,
To found religion's school?
A beaten symbol on a cross,
With hands nailed wide, and hole in side?
Ideal and work brought now to loss
Through brutal homicide? --
A founder of philosophy?
A poet, meek and mild,
Who said, in all sincerity,
"Become thou as a child"?
A friend of labor, who advised
"Come unto me and rest"?
Constructive effort eulogized --
And diligence rewarded best?

A scientific principle
Of light, and love, and life?
A theory, mathematical,
Of time, and space, and strife?
A God, perchance? in form of man?
An elder brother -- wise?
Divinity anonymous
Effecting mortal guise?

Perhaps a king and conqueror
Of mankind's mortal foe?
A prince? A most high emperor
Whose word and glance lay low
The winds and storms of land and sea
That swirl and churn and beat the shore
But cease to hurt humanity
When he speaks, "Peace!" and blow no more

I care not what your thought may be
If toward him think you do.
That is enough to guarantee
My friendship firm for you.
For, as friends gather in his Name
Without respect to sect or creed
He surely comes, and is the same
To one and all of every breed.

His question to each one will be
Not what ye think, but, "What seek ye?"
He knows our quest, and may suggest
We are to "Come, and see."
We come, we see, we taste, and test.
We know for certainty
We shall not fail, we shall not rest

'Til we obey his, "Follow me!"

Our goal is won. Our search is o'er.

Our mission is achieved.

Our treasure-hunt has yielded more
Than any had believed.

What we have thought, and thought we sought,

-- No picture too obscure --

In him, all thought is magic wrought
And has a meaning sure.

So, set aside the thoughts of all

Until such time as we
Have been obedient to the call

Of, "Come!" and, "Follow me!"

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SPIRITICITY July 1946
THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT
By Nell Truesdell

The list of gifts of the Spirit in Paul's letter to the Corinthians is extensive enough to satisfy any seeker after special endowments. He attempts to settle a very disturbing question, that of whether one gift is superior to another. He informs his congregation that every gift has equal value since all are essential to the wholeness, or health of the group. One person need not envy another. Mastery of a gift tends to refine the whole and raise the standard of expression for all.

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. . . . For to one is given, by the Spirit, the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge, by the same Spirit; to another faith . . . to another the gifts of healing . . . to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Since interpretation of Scripture is any man's privilege, we shall attempt to present one view of the meaning of Paul's instruction.

1. Word of Wisdom: The Principle is One, indivisible. It is the Good. Within it are the laws by which it operates to get itself into manifestation. Anyone sighting toward the Principle, without wavering, sees its wholeness, its oneness, and understands that its activity is for the purpose of establishing itself, or, manifesting the Good. When a man perceives this, he is wise. He continues to keep his vision on the Source, the One, and wherever he is, with whomever he deals, he is practical, helpful, and forbearing. Actually, he is able to "see the end from the beginning." The irritating affairs of man do not disturb him for he is entrenched in Something transcendent, yet lovingly operative in the least as well as the greatest efforts and intents of man's sphere. Because he develops his gift, his ministrations are beneficial to his neighbors, for no gift that is understood is ever static.

2. Word of knowledge: The spiritually enlightened person is able to translate the Principle into terms applicable to the objective world in such a

way that others can grasp the underlying factor in all visible creation. His patience in instructing his fellow man helps him unglue his vision from the realm of phenomena, and lift it toward the Heights whence cometh new knowledge to inspire, quicken, and enliven his lot. He aids all to look above what appears so that each may school himself to accept the things already prepared for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

3 Faith: Every religious person has some concept of faith in God. We suggest that the degree of faith existent in the consciousness at this moment be appreciated, honored, and blessed so that it has a chance to expand through loving cooperation, instead of shriveled by doubt and fear. Faith is a very active ingredient in the make-up of man. Just to have faith is a great blessing; to have faith in God enables one to receive from the Almighty the fullness of Good. Faith could be described as the vessel turned upward to be filled from the never-depleting flow of Good from on High. Any man will receive as much as his vessel will hold. Anyone practicing faith in the things of the Spirit is a blessing to himself, his household, and his community.

4. Healing: This gift is becoming more and more a part of every truth student's daily life. He is realizing that healing is restoration, a re-connection with the Source of Life, that makes whole in mind, body, and estate. Love of God is a healing power. It makes health manifest everywhere. He whose heart is full of love is as essential to the life-continuity of his group as the living heart is to the whole body. So long as love is active in but one man's consciousness, it will keep alive the whole world, for he will be the connecting link to God through which healing flows toward all.

5. Miracles: To the man in the world, a miracle appears to break natural laws. However, no law can ever be violated: it can be transcended, but not broken. Application of a heightened activity of a law fulfills rapidly and seems to expose or outpicture contrary to the slow processes of unfoldment that prevail in the three dimensional realm. The miracle is in the quick fulfillment of prevailing or controlling laws; the effect is so rapid that the intellect, tuned to a slower tempo, is aghast. Anyone who can, or does keep his inner vision set God-ward, will not only see, but be a performer of miracles. He will so steadfastly behold perfection that his very presence will be a miracle-working influence for good among his neighbors. Time and space will be obliterated in the demonstration of good.

6. Prophecy: This gift is misunderstood in our time, for we look upon it as a form of necromancy, the art of divination by means of pretended communication with the dead, in an effort to foretell the future. Instead of searching the realm of the dead for instruction, man should look God-ward. If he does, he will have unveiled to his mind and heart new concepts of the truth about God, about himself, and about his neighbors. He will tell the truth about God, and he will report correctly what God has in store for man. Jesus spoke prophecy frequently. He began when he said to his mother, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

7. Discerning of spirits: This phrase might lead to the conclusion that sorcery is sanctioned in spiritual ministry. This is an error that must be erased. Witchery, divination, and their associates have no place in the Christ concept of judgment. The psychic realm is easy to reach. It is full of pitfalls to the unwary, for it entices the imagination and soon makes a victim of its devotee. In this realm he is led astray by every wind that bloweth; he is used unmercifully by "spirits"; and, he is prey to every necromancer who promises to give him a reading. The true office of discernment is ability to know whether the intent of another is true or false. One thus gifted, (and the gift is not difficult to acquire), is protected from marauders without ethics who think little of encroaching on another's spirituality. Jesus never let any man or woman touch his virtue, the precious essence of his being. He knew the hearts of his accusers, or pretenders to things spiritual; he also valued the

worth of friends who, like Peter, blundered along blindly and yet who had within themselves the essential qualities for true spiritual greatness.

8. Divers kinds of tongues: The effective speaker has this gift. He is able to reach all levels of society through his gift of beautiful speech. He can make himself understood by the unschooled. He touches the intellectual chords of the learned. He delights all audiences with his harmonious combinations of words, no matter what their state of unfoldment. This is because he speaks the language of the heart.

Speaking with tongues is not getting into a half-paralyzed state, mouthing and mumbling indiscernible jargon. It is straightforward, simple speech, like that Jesus used, whether he talked to the masses, or with the best educated men of his day. To Nicodemus, he spoke as simply as he would have spoken to a child, and Nicodemus was a master of Israel. To be able to talk truth with understanding to all people in any degree of unfoldment is a sure sign that you know the truth. For whatever you know, you are articulate about and tell beautifully.

9. Interpretation of tongues: This gift is his who can give illustrative representation of ideals; one who can translate the meaning of something in such simple terms that all who hear can understand. Words denote; that is, they signify, or serve as a sign of something: and, words connote; that is, they mention by implication. One who understands words and what they are signifying can convey to the intelligence in others, the sense of ideas involved in language clear and pure, when they need an intermediary to aid them. He is able to clarify meanings for students, especially those who are interested in the deep things of the Spirit.

One or more of these gifts of the Spirit would be a boon to anybody. It is good that the gifts of God are not limited to man's concept or his willingness to share them. Observe how acquaintance with just one simple idea of good develops and enlarges in the mind as you give attention to it. Think of anything at random, and as you contemplate it, newness is introduced as the primary thought enlarges. Should you continue to think truly and for the required length of time (for you) you would discover the very Source whence the thought came forth.

Everything in our experience can be resolved back into God if we keep our reasoning pure and unadulterated. The ideal issued from him and returns to him when we free it from the limitations of our senses. Our knowledge is within limits: each person knows just so much; but, God's knowing is beyond the ken of man. Yet one who knew said that man could know God, and if he did, he would have eternal life.

Knowing and living are linked. Life in this world can be expanded and enhanced through knowing. Anybody can know anything if he will permit himself the privilege. God will teach us all things if we let him, and none can teach like him.

To receive all the gifts of the Spirit you and I must abandon ourselves to that which will work in and through us to give us that which will best serve its purpose through us. If each will let Spirit have its way with him, he will be not only led by it, but will be supplied along the way to the goal of achievement. Joy, expectancy, aliveness: these are the things we need to welcome the good into our life.

If we have pursued one gift to the exclusion of all others, and have come to the end of its proficient expression through us -- reached the saturation

point as we often say -- that is not the time to give up, despondent of success, feeling we have wasted our lives altogether. If the experience that pursuit of the gift provided had been unimportant in our on-going, we should not have had it, for there is no waste in God.

It is never too late to begin a new tack in life. Many times persons have floundered until well into middle-age before they hit upon the course to their success. If they had given up with every failure, they should never have attained. If they had looked to and depended upon others for help, they should have failed in a real sense.

If you seem to be failing in all your undertakings, this is the time to rejoice, to encourage yourself to look God-ward. It is your time to be alert for the prosperity or health or happiness that you feel should be your measure of good in this world.

The quickest way to come to a happy turn in affairs is by using the present moment to prepare yourself for the expected good. When preparation is complete and opportunity presents itself, it can be grasped readily. The unprepared person finds opportunity knocking and trying to enter his sphere, but taking leave almost in the same instant because he is unable to acquiesce to it through lack of preparation.

This does not mean that the good is limited to certain heights in preparation: it means that one who demands of himself is able to perceive and accept opportunities that otherwise would have been missed because he could not "see" them. The person who insists that his attention be turned God-ward every waking moment is sure to be blessed. With his attention set in the direction whence cometh every good, from the tiniest blessing to the greatest benefit, his mind is alert to favorable occasions; he is awake to the conjunction of circumstances which makes action possible and the probability of success is unlimited.

Preparation for reception of good is simple, so much so that it is overlooked most of the time. Just begin and continue to train the inner vision toward God. Keep the powers within the self by closing the senses toward the outer. Keep from listening to evil and limitation by denying it even while you hear it clearly announced. For example, if the radio is on and you cannot turn it off because someone else is controlling it, and symptoms of disease are described, -- while you hear with your ears, deny in your thoughts by saying, "It is not true: only God is present, and all is well with me." It will take a bit of practice to do this successfully, but the time will come when you will cease to hear negation so, for you, it will not exist.

Keep from seeing, and especially, from investigating unhappiness, error, calamity, or lack, by refusing to acknowledge any of it as real. God is real. Always remember that and the unreal will be forgotten, not only by you, but wherever you are those around you will begin to forget also. So, in this way you will help others.

Refrain from tasting and smelling unsavory phases of the world-life by announcing the presence of the good everywhere. Keep from feeling hurt, abused, and beset upon by turning the sensitive nature within you toward the Most High, and feel after him to find him.

We can choose to look God-ward, you know. Discouragement, unhappiness in any form -- these have no place in our life. We can decide neither to give up

nor to lean on others. We can now avail ourselves of the opportunities confronting us. One decision in the right direction will give sufficient strength and support to carry us on until success is reached.

Paul's list of the gifts of the Spirit is a wonderful heritage to us. We can study it; or, we can create a list of our own. The point is that all of us should give our attention to God, accept his gifts, use them properly, and be glad that others have the same privilege as we.

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SPIRITICITY July 1946

DO YOU ALSO TITHE?

Tithing is scientific practice for production of prosperity. The tithe is a tenth part of some specific income or thing paid as a voluntary contribution for religious uses. If you have tried all other methods for stabilizing your affairs and estate and still have a sense of futility and dissatisfaction, tithing is recommended.

A worthy comparison to tithing is the practice of every wise farmer who sets aside the first fruits of his crop as seed to insure another and better crop the coming season.

The miracles attributed to tithing are almost fantastic in outpicturing as free outlook and amplitude of opportunity. Many vital business houses credit their financial stability to the practice. A modern church that claims the distinction of being the richest per capita of all religious movements incorporates the law of tithing in its constitution and bylaws.

The levying of tithes in kind was practiced by the Hebrews and other races in the remotest antiquity. The Hebrew people were phenomenally successful in ancient times. They are today successful and prosperous as a race.

Tithing guarantees stability and strength to endure because it is a tacit agreement with and acknowledgment of the Unchanging, Eternal Giver of gifts, the Super-abundant Substance of Spirit. Very few tithers try to utilize spiritual ministry to make a demonstration or to get things. They don't have to. The very act of tithing places them under the protection and provision of the all-supplying law and they always have at hand what is needed for sustenance and support, as well as added health in body and things.

The gift of a tithe witnesses recognition of God as the Source of All-good. It is an act of gratitude for his Spirit of provision pervading all. To be most effective, the tithe should be given joyously and expectantly into the ministry from which the tither receives his greatest inspiration and uplift. Acknowledgment of such spiritual service magnifies the Source of supply until the treasures laid up in consciousness reflect in the environment.

Shall the tithe be given to help the poor? Charity is definitely an act of rendering assistance gratuitously to the needy for temporal relief. The effect is transitory. Gifts of charity and tithing are not to be confused for they are distinct practices and each brings forth or produces according to its kind. If a person gives his tithe in the direction of lack, he will reap from that direction and experience lack. If the tither gives his offering in the

direction of Spirit he will reap of the limitless, opulent, abundant Spirit, and will have plenty besides to share with others.

The Christ Truth League has prepared this article to satisfy requests from friends who have received help through its ministry. Their love of what is right prompts them to make public their knowledge of something which has been done for them. Because they have received spiritual service that manifests in their lives and affairs as an improved state of well-being in mind, body, and estate, they desire to do their part. Thus the instructions are detailed.

Those persons in or near Fort Worth who can attend Sunday morning devotional service, or any weekly class, usually adopt the practice of dividing their tithe between the several meetings attended and as offerings for private consultations.

Those persons residing in distant parts of the country give their offerings for individual instruction, and for ministry received through our personal letter service. Some persons prefer to send, or bring in, the whole tithe monthly. Others divide it into several offerings. It is our observation that all tithers are especially blessed in all ways, for God is Omniscient and knows the intent and purpose of every heart. No one has anything except the Father gives it.

At one of our meetings the subject of tithing came up and a member objected on the ground that tithing belonged to the Old Dispensation while we now are supposed to be living in the New Dispensation. The teacher asked if the objector really wanted to practice the method involved in the New Dispensation by being willing to bring all he possessed into the commonwealth and depend on God entirely for his daily supply.

Acts 4:32. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things in common.

34. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold,

35. And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according to his need.

If a student is able to see the Allness of God and the oneness of goods and is willing to practice from that premise, his reward will be great. But when he accepts this Dispensation he must withhold nothing from God and His works, or he may find his lot to be that of Ananias and Sapphira who attempted to deceive the apostles in regard to the value obtained for their property, by giving the partial gift; yet, who desired to participate fully in the rewards of the Spirit.

Often in his experience a person feels outraged because of hardships and enforced bondage in the world. But so many, many stories have come down to us through the ages, and are even now being told in such plain language that every one may understand, that, when we think about it at all, we wonder why the simple law guaranteeing unlimited provision is ignored.

Here, in part, is the law as recorded in Malachi, Chapter three:

Ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground.

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If you want a better consciousness of health, happiness, and prosperity, we can help you through prayer. Please write to us and we shall cooperate with you. Through this ministry, you will become more fully aware of the Omnipresent Good. All requests are held in confidence. No charge is made, but we accept the free will offerings of those who ask and receive help.

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Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day of the Month

JULY 1946

1. The kindness and love of God our Savior toward man APPEARED.
2. BELIEVE on the Name of the Son of God.
3. Love one another, as He gave us COMMANDMENT.
4. Let the word of Christ DWELL in you richly.
5. The EVERLASTING God . . . fainteth not.
6. The FORMER things are passed away.
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8. Praise the Lord for His GOODNESS.
9. Rejoice in HOPE of the glory of God.
10. Open unto him IMMEDIATELY.
11. We are JOINT-HEIRS with Christ.
12. We receive a KINGDOM which cannot be moved.
13. Stand fast therefore in . . . LIBERTY.
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15. It is God that . . . MAKETH MY way perfect.
16. I will NEVER forget Thy precepts.
17. I will OPEN you the windows of heaven.
18. The Lord will be the hope of His PEOPLE.
19. QUICKEN us, and we will call upon Thy Name.
20. Be READY to every good work.
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22. Give STRENGTH unto Thy SERVANT.
23. Lie not against THE TRUTH.
24. You (are) holy and UNBLAMABLE . . . in His sight.
25. Wisdom . . . cannot be VALUED with gold.
26. Show . . . WORKS with meekness and WISDOM.
27. Our land shall YIELD her increase.
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29. Come with me, and see my ZEAL for the Lord.
30. The glory of the Lord shall endure forever.
31. Know ye that the Lord He is God.
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Thinking is the special endowment of man by which he sets up his world. Thought formulates. To think on the statements chosen for DAILY MEDITATION adds light and life to the manifesting world we live in. Please join us in this practice.