

SPIRITICITY, July 1964

THE TRUE MAN

By Alden Truesdell

MAN in his true being is a representative of God. Of himself man is nothing. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" - "The son can do nothing of himself."

If a man is nothing, and does nothing, of himself, then it must be that what he does is done by God working through him. Usually, this idea is not considered seriously; but in Truth, we touch on it constantly. A primary statement in Truth-practice is: "God works in me to will and to do whatever He wishes to do through me, and He must succeed."

In allegory and in parable, the Scripture conceals God from those whose inner eye is not yet open. "To this day whenever Moses is read a veil is over their minds; but when a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed." When a man turns to Christ within him, when his inner eye is open, he sees his oneness with his Creator and he aspires to know more of this oneness.

When man discovers "what manner of spirit" he is, he rejects his mortal estate, for he perceives that he is spiritual in origin. It does not happen all at once; but the mortal man, the human personality, must grow less until it disappears; while the true man - the representative of God must increase. So Paul wrote:

"The first man, Adam was made a living soul (a natural being); the last Adam was made a quickening spirit (a spiritual Being). Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. ... As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the Image of the heavenly."

Similarly John the Baptist said: "A man can receive nothing except it be given him from heaven. ... I am not the Christ, but am sent before Him. He must increase, but I must decrease. ... He that is of the earth is earthly: He that cometh from heaven is above all."

Many men seem to be satisfied to be members of the human race. But there are those who press beyond the notion of man as a highly evolved animal, who examine themselves by an inner light. Instead of considering man as a highly developed animal, they learn that since God created man in His image and likeness, the true man does not belong to the natural order, but has dominion over it.

The Scripture describes man as a god. The Psalmist and Jesus said: "Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the Most High." The true man is a son of God. He is to be honored. Jesus Christ said: "All men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father."

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ACTION - REACTION

By Robert Applegate, Jr.

THERE IS a law that never fails, because it is a law. In its most general form it is: "To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction."

In the physical world this law appears as Newton's Third Law of Motion. According to the Dictionary of Science, the three laws discovered by Newton are "the fundamental laws on which classical dynamics is based." These laws have enabled men to understand the universe in which they live and to produce all the mechanical and engineering marvels that the past three hundred years have brought forth.

The law of action and reaction operates on all planes and in all areas of human experience. It operates in the lives of men and in the lives of nations as well as in the movements of stars and of automobiles. The study of history reveals men and nations always receiving back that which they have given out. It is literally true that "he that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword, must be killed with the sword."

Jesus Christ stated the law in the form: "With what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." If we knew the inevitability of this laws how careful we would be of our judgments and actions! Look at your own life and the lives of those you know, and see if the law is not true.

In the natural course of events, the law works with equality: to every action there is an equal reaction. But as soon as we turn to the Spirit, the Spirit gives an increase to the reaction. So we are told: "With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given." Or, as Luke has it: "Give and it shall be given unto you (not as you have given, but); good measures pressed down, and shaken together, and running over."

Whenever I mention this to anyone, he almost always thinks of giving to organized charity or to the many other organizations that all have their hands out. Giving in this direction is usually not giving at all, but responding to pressure. Jesus could not have had any such thing in mind when He said, "Give"; for there was no such thing in His day. Giving is primarily a state of mind, a disposition; and it is a state of mind that must be cultivated. (I keep returning to this subject of giving for two reasons: I find I need to be reminded of it continually, and I suspect that others do too. Human nature is naturally grabby, and it is human nature that we must overcome.)

We must practice giving, and remind ourselves to do so, until we know in our bones that it is more fun - and more profitable - to give than to get. We see this truth most clearly in Jesus Christ, who "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." But we need to prove it for ourselves. We must practice giving where we are, in every occasion and in every way that we can. We must do it as quietly and unobtrusively as possible - not to be seen and thanked by men. And we must use judgment, for we are ordered the Lord to be "wise as serpents."

Our first responsibility - or rather, privilege - is to give to God by giving to those who are doing His work. How else can you give to Him? When Jesus Christ sent His disciples out, He said: "He that receives you receives Me." This applies to every true minister of Jesus Christ. If you slight him, you slight Christ; if you honor him, you honor Christ; if you give to him, you give to Christ. He represents Christ, as an ambassador represents the country that sends him forth.

By a "true minister of Jesus Christ" I mean a person who has given himself to practicing the Teaching of Jesus Christ and to ministering to others by this means. If he is an "ambassador for Christ" (as Paul designates him), he does not seek his own profit, he seeks to extol Christ. He does not carry out his own wishes; he obeys Christ. There have never been many such persons, but they have always been the light of the world.

There are many who try to poach on the spirituality of a dedicated person. They feel the power of such a person; and without acknowledging it, they try to get the benefit of that power by rehearsing all their problems. This is like the persons who approach a doctor or a lawyer at a social gathering and try to get free medical or legal advice. A person of integrity never asks a doctor or a lawyer a professional question without expecting to pay for the answer. These professional men have put in long years of study and practice to acquire their knowledge; they deserve a recompense for their service. But a true spiritual practitioner has of necessity put in years of even more intense application, without the incentive of social prestige and financial reward that go with the learned professions. He, even more than the doctor and lawyer, deserves recognition and recompense.

Be sure of this: if anyone is doing a true spiritual work - in healing, teaching, counseling - he has labored for the power to do so (and you receive the benefit of his labors). If a ministry has no power, it is of no value. The power is a gift, but it is received only as the result of dedication. The way to it is a narrow way.

From the earliest times it has been understood that one should always give a remuneration for the slightest spiritual service. In the earliest Hebrew legal code the law is stated: "none shall appear before Me empty-handed" (this is repeated three times in the Pentateuch).

When Saul went looking for his father's donkeys, he would not think of approaching the prophet Samuel without an offering. "There is no present to bring to the man of God," he said to his servant, who had to supply the offering.

When Naaman was cured of his leprosy by the prophet Elisha, he rightly offered the prophet the most lavish gifts he could; he had brought these gifts with him when he came to see the prophet. Modern men are not always so wise. It was because of Naaman's attitude that Jesus singled him out when He said: "There were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

In Proverbs we read: "Honor the Creator from your riches, from the first of all your profits. Your storerooms will be filled with plenty; our vats will burst with new wine (my translation).

Nine hundred years after Elisha Paul said:

"Let him who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches. ... Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and in teaching. ... If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? ... The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel."

Paul not only taught this; he practiced it. When the Christians at Jerusalem were hard-pressed by a drought, Paul spent two years collecting an offering for them from his own foundations, and he carried this offering in person to Jerusalem. He lost his freedom in this mission, and he knew that he would do so. On the last leg of his trip to Palestine he said to his friends at Ephesus: "The Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may accomplish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus."

The Christians at Jerusalem had given Paul very little but a hard time. Unofficially they had opposed him, discredited his teaching, and denied his authority. Officially they had merely told him to go on doing and preaching what he had already been doing without their assistance. Nevertheless Jerusalem was the source of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Paul recognized a debt of honor to it. In his letter to Rome he stated the principle: "If the Gentiles have come to share in their (the Jewish Christians of Jerusalem) spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings."

(Though Paul lost his freedom by his mission to Jerusalem, he proved that "all things work together for good to them that love God." To his house in Rome men came from all over the Roman Empire. From there he directed his many foundations more efficiently than he could have by much traveling. Luke, Mark, Timothy, Titus, Epaphroditus, Aristarchus, Onesimus (and probably many other, we do not know of) came to him, and then went forth to carry his instructions to the four corners of the Mediterranean world. Men came to him for strength, and for teaching; he sent them out with new power and new insight. And he wrote letters that for two thousand years have enlightened men, guided them, encouraged them, and strengthened them.)

We may think that Paul was overly zealous or overly religious; but look at what his attitude of giving did for him. Quite aside from the "unspeakable joy" that he knew and the fact that he was able to say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race," two thousand years after his death his words are guiding millions, and they will continue to do so for thousands of years yet to come. His detractors and opponents are remembered only because they opposed him.

When Paul was a prisoner in Rome the Christians at Philippi sent him an offering. To them he wrote (and every spiritual minister echoes his words):

"I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. ... Not that I complain of want; for I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. ... Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ... Not that I seek the gift; but I seek the fruit which increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more; I am filled, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God."

SPIRITICITY, July 1964

APOTHEGMS

By Nell Truesdell

GOD'S ACTIVITY enlivens my consciousness;
God's Intelligence enlightens my consciousness;
God's Substance sustains my consciousness;
God's Love harmonizes my consciousness;
God's Power motivates my consciousness;
God's Peace enfolds and protects my consciousness;
My consciousness is God's instrument to use as He wills.

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Success in the world often leads to self-indulgence.

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Jesus Christ is the Agent that conducts God-Activity and enables a person who believes in Him as the Son of God to be in immediate touch with God.

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Your criticism of me is your condemnation of yourself.

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Conscience is the monitor that lets a man know when he is transgressing a law. This does not mean that the religious person is closer to God than the irreligious but it implies that every man is a keeper of a key to the Kingdom. He either locks himself out or lets himself in by his own key.

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SPIRITICITY, July 1964

PROSPERITY

By H. B. Jeffery

THE WHOLE universe and every jot and tittle of it are under the direction and power of the Divine Being-all-knowing Mind, God.

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." If you can realize that, and know that back of everything formed there is a purpose, then you will enjoy the world you live in more than you do now. You will find that you live in a world of Spirit, of Divine Ideas - not in a world of things, but in a Divine World. All therein belongs to you as a child of the Infinite.

When one is awake to his sonship to God, his eye is single. Everywhere he looks, he sees the Glory of God, the Bounty of God, the Beauty of God. All that the Kingdom of God has belongs to that one who is alive to his sonship. The possession of plenty by one does not rob others.

There is plenteousness everywhere. There is no want anywhere to him whose eyes are open to see the Goodness of God that fills the heavens and the earth.

If anyone has a sense of want it shows that his vision is lowered. He is not watching that One to whom all things belong. He is watching need; he is looking at absence and poverty. Perhaps he concerns himself with these. If he does he binds himself to them. They possess his mind and then possess what little he has.

The sons of God are never in want. Remember that. If you are aware of your sonship to the Divine, no matter where you are in the world you will not know want. You will be ministered to; every need will be met. You will move through the world with ease and grace, enjoying all that the Father has. Doors will be open to you; privileges will be extended to you. You will be taught that which you have not known, which the books cannot teach you (as the churches and schools have not taught you). There is a Mind that will whisper in your ears mighty things you have not known. I have seen man and women rise out of places of poverty to walk into places of authority and plenteousness, having all things to enjoy, because they learned to let go of themselves, to let go of their wills, to become meek before the Supreme.

Jesus said, "I am meek and lowly in heart"; but He rose with all the authority and power there is. All judgment was committed unto Him. Physical injuries had no effect upon him. He rose out of them - He transcended them all because of His letting-go of His own mind and letting the Father of Life and Love have His way. He bowed before the Eternal and He rose up with power. Men and nature responded to His words.

Jesus said the way to the Father is through prayer. He gave to His disciples that prayer which we call the Lord's Prayer. When that prayer is understood it is always spoken with a positive, assertive tone. We speak as sons of the Most High to our Parent, who is all-loving, all-kind, all-knowing. He heeds our word when we speak with authority.

If you can speak the Lord's Prayer, knowing your sonship to the Divine, you will find yourself fed with a superior food that feeds the inner nature. It is that food which Jesus said He had, that His disciples did not know about. You can be fed by immaterial, spiritual food; it will quicken and energize you in mind and body. It will give you the sense of authority. That is faith - that is what faith is: the knowing that you are the son of God and that the prerogatives of sonship are yours.

If you keep your eye fixed upon the Divine and do not allow yourself to be turned away, you will find that which is called faith. That mysterious authority will grow in you. The disciples, you know, once saw Jesus perform a healing that they could not do. They asked Him why they could not do it, and He said, "Because of your unbelief." They did not know their sonship (as Jesus knew His); they had not yet bowed down completely to the Eternal One; they had not lost themselves in the Divine.

A healthy boy thinks that his father is the greatest thing on earth. He approaches his father with confidence; he commands his father and knows that he will not be refused. The father listens and is glad; he sees in his son his own nature and he says, "This is my son - he's a chip off the old block."

So when we think of our Father-God as the Supreme Being and are charged with sonship to Him, then we will have the sense of authority and power. Nothing will cause us to fear. Wherever we turn, we will find ourselves looking into the Face of Deity. We will not be looking at the face of trouble, but we will be beholding the Glory of God that fills the heavens and the earth. We will find the healing powers awakened, the divine energies quickened in us, just as they were in Christ.

Truth is Its own law. It does things in Its own way, and you never know just how It is going to work in a particular instance. Every individual in the world is different; no two are alike. No two problems are alike; but the Truth meets each one as it is and having the power and the insight, does Its work in Its own way. The thing for you to do is to abide in the Truth, to know your sonship to the Divine, to bow down to the Eternal, to let go of your own will until it is replaced by the Heavenly Will, to let God be All-in-all.

When you let God be All-in-all, He will give you the power and the understanding to do those things which are for you to do. For there is a pattern for you. You were created for a purpose.

Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
for every Week Day of the Month

JULY 1964

1. ATTEND upon the Lord without distraction.
2. BELIEVE on the Name of His Son Jesus Christ.
3. We are CHILDREN of God.
4. DO all things without murmurings and disputings.
6. Seek that ye may EXCEL.
7. Wisdom is FULL of mercy and good FRUITS.
8. Thy GENTLENESS hath made me GREAT.
9. Thy right HAND HATH HOLDEN me up.
10. IN the IMAGE of God made He man.
11. Being JUSTIFIED by His Grace, we should be made heirs.
13. HE that KEEPETH his mouth KEEPETH his life.
14. LAUNCH out into the deep.
15. MY MOUTH shall speak of Wisdom.
16. Peace ... to him that is NEAR.
17. We are OF God.
18. Wisdom Is without PARTIALITY.
20. Make him of QUICK understanding.
21. Give thanks at the REMEMBRANCE of His holiness.
22. Thou hast also given me the SHIELD of Thy SALVATION.
23. I will TRUST, and not be afraid.
24. UNITE my heart to fear Thy Name.
25. See VISIONS of peace.
27. The true WORSHIPERS shall WORSHIP in spirit.
28. Take My YOKE upon you, and learn of Me.
29. The Lord shall bless thee out of ZION (peace).
30. Of His fullness have all we received.
31. Beloved, let us love one another.

"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."

SPIRITICITY is the Working Power of the Spiritual Principle
as electricity is the working power of the electrical principle.

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