

THE FATHER

By A. J. Truesdell

A father is one who is supposed to be in charge of the executive department of his household. It is his responsibility to provide what is necessary or required for the welfare of his group, and he should carry out by action, effort, or skill the course of events that best suit his purpose in promoting the good of his family, as well as regulate his business or outside affairs successfully. His office deals with standards, weights and measures, policies and practices. When he handles his office with dignity and efficiency he is oft times rewarded with honor and riches.

The father is answerable legally or morally for the discharge of duties, trusts, or debts. He must have the capacity to perceive the distinctions of right and wrong. He must be able to meet all obligations incurred by himself or his family. His office is to choose the right way, the way of wisdom.

A father accepts and executes responsibilities the mother would find difficult. Contrary to the general opinion that the male parent is a beast of burden, the office of executive is that of an observer. Someone has described an executive as one who can successfully organize, deputize, and supervise.

Since we are particularly interested in the adoring reverence of the human spirit for the divine, seeking outward expression, we shall consider the term father in the light of faith. In our Scriptures the father-principle is that quality of faith through which man is conscious of the divine, invisible but all-present God. When faith is concentrated in God, an awareness of him develops to the degree that the devotee becomes God-conscious. He knows he is in touch with the Living Source of all that exists, and he calls that his Father.

Jesus knew this Source as Father and gave the definite instruction that no man of flesh and blood should be called father. "Call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven."

All ideas inherent in Mind enter man's mind through his faculty of faith. When he selects any for special attention he soon sees the results which appear in outer manifestation. It is through faith in what cannot be seen that concretes or becomes evident as all that we see and handle in this world. For every manifest thing is a witness to faith exercised by some person, or many persons. Faith lets the ideas through from the invisible, so that they can be formulated through man's ability to think. It acts much like a prism which lets the colors in colorless light be revealed.

To faith can be added the quality of wisdom, for we know our heavenly Father as all-wise. All men must aspire to and be imbued with increased wisdom that transcends their limited concepts of this virtue. They must turn to God to reap the true and full benefits of wisdom. For the wisdom of the world is foolishness unto God, and the foolishness of God is wiser than men.

As we exalt the qualities of God we do not condemn man but rather expand the area of his contemplation and expression. We enhance the creature when we magnify the Creator, in whose image and likeness the creature is made. Man

forever remains God's masterpiece for he is his own Self-portrait. God not only created man in his image and likeness, but he put his nature and Name upon him - I Am. Every virtue of God considered and utilized by man becomes a subtle compliment in him.

There are wise and good fathers who are idolized by their off-spring. Children are prone to imitate the behavior of the father they adore. But even the good father, the wisest of all fathers on earth could never be the supreme example of fatherhood. Only one, we must remember, is our Father.

As we give attention to the one Father, we invoke his aid, protection, and plenty, and touch a reservoir filled with strength, wisdom, and peace which enable us to achieve easily whatever it is we want to do.

As we look upon and honor our earthly fathers, we benefit by their examples of persistent integrity and upright honesty, and we are quickened to go on beyond their limited performance, circumscribed behavior, and sometimes blind faith, until we touch and are imbued with transcendent insight and celestial instruction which exposes the full reason for their and our faith in God. Such practice will not detract from, but will add charm to our earthly parents.

We can be as loyal to our newly considered metaphysical Principle in all its brilliance, as were our parents and their parents, and all earlier religious adherents to their more personal concept of the personal God, lest they by their works, discount our vaunted understanding.

We describe the mother as the representative of the divine quality of Love. It should be in order to designate the father as the Faith-er. The father and the Faith-er are really the same.

As a secretary takes dictation in shorthand and transcribes the message into objective form, so may man receive of God who knows what to say, and carry out his wise plans and commands through faith. Whoever has faith shall know; and the knower understands that the entire universe was caused to be by the Faith of the Father.

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SPIRITICITY June 1948

FRIENDSHIP

By R. A. Applegate, Jr.

Friendship is perhaps the one thing which has been realized by the philosophers of all the schools to be one of the supreme desiderata of human life. It was a saying among the Pythagoreans that among friends all things are in common and their society was a brotherhood of this sort. Plato's political ideal was a state in which those in authority should be in this relation of friendship one with another. Epicurus, the materialist, said, "Friendship dances around the world calling unto all of us to awake to our blessedness"; and Aristotle, another materialist, declared, "Without friends no one would choose to live, though he had all other goods." Three centuries later, Cicero, the lawyer, orator and student of philosophy, affirmed, "Of all the bonds of fellowship, there is none more noble, none more powerful than when good men of congenial character are joined in intimate friendship." A student of Cicero, a Christian saint and a great man with a gift for friendship, Augustine, has left

us an attractive picture of a congenial gathering of students. "What charmed me in their intercourse was the talk, the laughter, the courteous mutual deference, the common study of the masters of eloquence, the comradeship now grave now gay, and differences that left no sting, as of a man differing from himself, the spice of disagreement which seasoned the monotony of consent. Each by turns would instruct or listen; the absent were always missed, the present always welcome. Such tokens springing from the hearts of mutual friends, and displayed by a word, a glance, an expression, by a thousand pretty complaisances, supply the heat which welds souls together, and makes one of many."

The quotations could easily be multiplied because it seems that those who have been accounted great have never thought it commonplace to sing the praises of this simple quality. And it will easily be seen, I think, that the greatest men have always had the gift of friendship in an exceptional degree. Abraham Lincoln was noted for this gentleness and kindness on all occasions. Benjamin Franklin would take time out to print poems and tributes to his friends. Sir William Osler, the doctor of doctors, once told a widow troubled with insomnia to call him at any hour of the night when she could not sleep. He knew that the assurance of that friendship always available would soothe her more than any medicine. She slept peacefully thereafter and never had to call him.

Arnold J. Toynbee has distinguished between a growing civilization and a disintegrating one solely on the basis of whether those in authority can command the respect, admiration, and willing imitation - in other words, friendly emulation - of those under them or whether they must resort to force. The same analysis would apply, of course, to any institution, religious or secular.

We do not, however, need a philosopher to tell us of the value of friendship, because every one of us knows it in his heart. Our only trouble is, perhaps, that we do not obey our heart often enough. It is only natural, after all, that friendship should be such an inspiring, ennobling, and empowering quality, since it is generally admitted that selfishness, which is the antithesis of friendship, is the cause of all the infelicity in the world.

Friendship is a free gift to any who will accept it. It is one thing which wealth cannot buy, nor poverty be deprived of. It is commonly thought that riches and power attract "troops of friends," but that is far from being true. They do draw sycophants, hangers-on, and flatterers; but, no one in his right mind would call such friends.

"Boot-licking" is a common practice in all walks of life. It is usually considered to be the path to advancement, preferment, prestige; but, in following this path a man forfeits his self-respect and hence the respect of others. He often moreover, fails to obtain that for which he has sold his soul and, if he does obtain it, he discovers that it is an unsatisfying delusion. Such a procedure is a double lie because it is an attempt to win friendship by insincerity and an attempt to use friendship for selfish purposes. It is, therefore, foredoomed to failure.

Friendship is not the giving of empty compliments, nor is it the seeking to win admiration and esteem. All such is travesty of friendship. A friend does not try to win another's respect or affection. He helps another and in helping him, in adding warmth, comfort, and joy to his life, the friend finds his greatest reward.

Friendship brings out the best in us. We always do our utmost for our friends. We play over our heads, as they say in sports, and we aspire to be the

most that we can for the sake of those who are dear to us. On this principle, a Theban army once became a supremely efficient fighting force and defeated the invincible Spartans, because in it sworn friends fought side by side. Thus, in every undertaking in the presence of a friend, or even the memory of one, we surpass ourselves.

Friendship gives joy to life and joy brings with it strength and the power to be and to do. We all need friends. Jesus Christ was probably the only man who could say, "Ye ... shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me." He could say it, because he was so alive to the Friendship of the Father that he was completely impervious to and uninfluenced by what appeared in the outer. Anyone else, however, would be desolate indeed if deserted by all his friends, although he would, in truth, be no more alone than was Jesus.

As with all desirable qualities, so with friendship, Jesus Christ is the supreme exemplar. He was the perfect friend, because he was the embodiment of infinite Love. Thus he never condemned any one. He reproved many, even the disciples upon occasion, but every one knows that a stern reproof is often a real blessing and that the greatest kindness is often seemingly the greatest harshness. On every occasion, Jesus spoke the kindest word that could be spoken and did the kindest act that could be done. He knew that Peter would deny him, yet he prayed for Peter. This is true friendship.

Jesus Christ was the perfect friend because he knew the friendship of God. We, too, have the privilege of enjoying this Friendship and it will be to us a joy and strength and comfort which no outer friend can ever be; but, to receive it, we must be willing to give this same quality unto all because it can not possibly be measured unto us in any greater measure than we are willing to measure it unto others.

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SPIRITICITY June 1948

WHY I STUDY TRUTH

By Nell Truesdell

When metaphysical studies were first presented to me, I was steeped in orthodoxy to such an extent that I hated with all my soul the very books which were brought into the house. I despised the people who took up that "fool religion." My mother had eventually contacted a practitioner because no physician had helped her, though she had spent great sums trying to get well. The lady called and I, a little girl then, loathed her very presence. Today I am amazed and ashamed that a child could have such a furious reaction toward something that was not understood. Yet, I find in later life, the same animosity and rancor greet me as I attempt to minister to some member of a household which shudders at the very thought of a change in attitude toward things of God.

Mother received great comfort from the ministrations and instructions of the healer, and for that I was truly glad. But we never talked about this "new religion." I now know why. It is foolish to antagonize those close to you, especially if you know in your heart you have found what will aid you and make you happy. Hostility toward anything different from the familiar daily experiences is a common human trait and must be met by anyone spreading wings to

enter a realm untried and unexperienced. As he pushes back the margins of his own mind, the limited boundaries of his immediate environment are strained to the breaking point; they reveal how brittle they actually are.

But change make for progress and those who are marked for advancement take a terrible beating from the people they love most. The immediate family group is dear to any heart and rupture and severance never eradicate that inborn love.

As we look over the life of Jesus we find that even this remarkable man had the same human experiences as we. After a short period of trying his wings, he returned home and to his consternation, brothers, sister, relatives, and friends turned on him to destroy him; then, they remembered he was a "home-town" boy. They tried to hurt him, but they could not. No doubt he was humiliated and embarrassed by the treatment received. He left; and, perhaps when he was being badly used at Calvary his "Father, forgive them," included all who had opposed him at any time in his life. He knew, actually, they were not against him: they were against the newness and freshness of his teaching, against what they could not understand; they were wroth about what threatened their complaisance.

Did you ever happen upon a wasp-nest? Wings are fluttered, uneasy little movements are made, anger fills the air, and you know retreat is your protection. This occurs in a social group when a member suddenly shows signs of being different. For him, retreat is his best protection.

But retreat need not be removal. Retreat is inward and upward toward the Most High God who offers the safest escape; there is none in running away from people or things. What you flee, you take with you, for it primarily exists in your own consciousness. What is in your consciousness objectifies wherever you are.

So the student learns immediately to make his ascent in consciousness. His first practice is to deny sensations and appearances. He literally escapes first from his own herd of thoughts and delusions which are based in sensation and appearance. Denials cleanse the consciousness like a bath washes the body. Sweeping statements are made quietly, confidently: "There is no evil - nothing for me to fear - no separation in Spirit" and so forth. Denials are never used to get rid of people or conditions. They are used to purge and flush the heart of misconceptions and make room for new and better realizations of the truth that makes man free.

Before truth can make free, however, a man must KNOW the truth. The only thing a man can KNOW is the truth about anything. He may believe all degrees of untruth; but he can KNOW only truth.

The primary truth is: God is good, and God is All; and, Jesus Christ is the way to God. "Learn of me," he said. Study him and his teaching (not the stories about him) and he will lead you straight to the Father. Get acquainted with him and stay with him until you KNOW him.

Truth is the only freeing agency. Right where you are is your opportunity to be free, regardless of appearances. Truth is of God, who is above thoughts and things. We can liken God to radio waves. They are everywhere all the time. Tune in, through a radio, and get any program you wish. Within you is a radio, an instrument, whereby you can tune in on God. It is your inner visional faculty. Look up: the sight with which you look God-ward is the sight with which he looks

you-ward.

We tune in on God because he offers the best program; a program of deliverance, freedom, peace, understanding, good health, happiness, and security. As we cannot get two clear programs at the same instant on one radio, so we are forced to be single-eyed toward the Father to get clear reception of his thoughts and instructions.

It seems ridiculous to me now that I have been in truth for a quarter of a century to see people vexed and enraged against the very thing they are so desperately seeking. They think they are looking for plenty, peace, and health; but these outer blessings never come in their entirety to anyone who keeps looking in the world for them. Frequently a man will stumble upon certain blessings, and think he of himself attained them. But this is never so. "It is God that giveth thee power to get wealth," or health or any good thing.

We do not teach anything a child cannot understand. We do not teach anything that is in opposition to the truth you already know. Our teaching does lift the veil a little so that students see a clearer way, and a more direct, to the Father's house, here and now.

You already have heard these things: Look up toward God, for his ways and his thoughts are above your way and your thoughts. Get to know him as the loving Father. He is interested in your well-being for you, in truth, are his beloved son in whom he is well pleased. Remember that God is all-in-all -- there is no other presence or reality but God. If this is so, then appearances are not what they seem to be. Actually, they are figments of man's imagination.

Such instruction should not antagonize the simplest mind or the most erudite. Our Master said, "To know God aright is life eternal." To come to know him, of course, would require some time spent with him daily, even hourly in communion, developing an acquaintance that ripens into intimacy and eventual understanding of the Deity himself. Knowledge of the principles involved, and of laws which operate to reveal those principles, would be adhered to, because they always work for the highest good and most profit for the devotee. And that is where the most opposition sets in. No one seems to want to go through the trouble (and it is that) of changing his "mind." No one ever enters the Kingdom unprepared.

If you are the one in your environment who is changing his mind, let not the resentment around you deter or interfere. To keep the attention glued to people and things will bind you to their limitations, and them to yours. The fuller life is not in them, but in God. Open your door toward the heavenly estate, and you will be delivered; you will also receive an hundred fold more of all you had before. "Look unto me, all the ends of the earth." "I am God, and beside me there is none else." "Do not I fill heaven and earth?"

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Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day of the Month

June 1948

1. The Lord ANSWERED me, and set me in a large place.
2. BE enriched in everything to all BOUNTIFULNESS.
3. CONTINUE following the Lord.
4. The soul of the DILIGENT shall be made fat.
5. Believe on Him to life EVERLASTING.

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7. Seek and ye shall FIND.
8. Better it is to GET wisdom.
9. My HELP cometh from the Lord.
10. Hear INSTRUCTION and be wise.
11. My soul shall be JOYFUL in my God.
12. I KNEW a man in Christ.

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14. I have LONGED for Thy salvation.
15. God is gracious and MERCIFUL.
16. NARROW is the way, which leadeth unto life.
17. Be not OVERCOME OF evil.
18. The law of the Lord is PERFECT.
19. Take heed and be QUIET.

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21. The Lord will REJOICE over you.
22. This is Christ the SAVIOR of the world.
23. Love ... THINKETH no evil.
24. How UNSEARCHABLE are His judgments, and His ways!
25. Thine, O Lord, is the VICTORY.
26. Thus will I bless thee WHILE I live.

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28. YE are all children of light.
29. Sing us one of the songs of ZION.
30. If God be for us, who can be against us?

Please join us in DAILY MEDITATION.