

SIMPLICITY

By Robert Applegate

"Though the change from day to night is by a motion so gradual as scarcely to be perceived, yet when night is come we behold it very different from the day; and thus as people become wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight, customs rise up from the spirit of this world, and spread by little, and little, till a departure from the simplicity that there is in Christ becomes as distinguishable as light from darkness, to such who are crucified to the world."

- John Woolman

Simplicity is closely allied to beauty; and there can be no real beauty - physical, mental, or spiritual - without it. Every great work of art, whether in the field of music, painting, sculpture, or architecture, has had this element of simplicity. Classical Greek sculpture, which in 2400 years has never been surpassed, is conspicuous in this respect. But lack of artificiality is characteristic of all outstanding art of all ages and all cultures. Similarly, the men whom the world calls "geniuses" - great as have been the differences among them - have all had an elemental simplicity, without which they would have been ineffectual.

Simplicity is of the essence of Truth, for Truth is One. Therefore the closer we come to Truth, the simpler do our ideas (and our lives) become; while the further we depart from Truth, the more complicated does life seem to be. We find this reflected in physical science, where out of the bewildering complexity of physical phenomena, the scientists find a great simplicity emerging as they approach the true explanation of these phenomena. Of this discovery Albert Einstein wrote: "In every important advance the physicist finds that the fundamental laws are simplified more and more as experimental research advances. He is astonished to notice how sublime order emerges from what appeared to be chaos."

That which the scientists have discovered in their own discipline is a reflection of that which is true on all planes of existence and in every area of human endeavor. Simplicity, beauty, and Truth are inseparable.

Today there is a great hunger for simplicity. People are bewildered and defeated by the seeming complexity of their social surroundings and by the demands that are made upon them. Much of the physical sickness that plagues over half of the people in the world is caused by the feeling of despair in the face of this situation; while the immense popularity of books that offer "a practical philosophy of life" attests to this despair and the felt need for simplicity and harmony. Yet people do not know how to find that which they desire, nor where to start looking for it.

Our lives are governed from within, not from without. Einstein walked through the same world as the rest of us, but he was unaffected by it. He had that true simplicity which is the secret of greatness. Having it, he was unperturbed by the dissensions and violent arguments that frequently raged about him. He was calm and detached, no matter what demands were made upon him, or what ridicule was heaped upon his revolutionary ideas (which are now universally accepted). He had this simplicity and detachment, not because he sought it, but because he sought, patiently and persistently, one thing - to understand the truth of the physical universe.

Our lives are ruled by our desires. If our lives are unduly hectic, it is because we desire many things, which we want not so much for their own sakes as for the sake of approbation. We want the approval and admiration of our fellow men; and too often we feel that we have to conform to the world's standards and meet the world's demands, because of this hunger for approval. As Frank Lloyd Wright expresses it, "Success (in the eyes of the world) has become more important than integrity." It is this desire for admiration (often heavily camouflaged) that is the cause of the complexity in our lives and that is the root of most of our difficulties. "How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?"

Yet this desire for recognition can never be satisfied in the outer. The most illustrious in the eyes of men have not been content; for the desire is actually to know the Love of God, and it can be satisfied by nothing less. Man is a spiritual being; therefore his desires are spiritual and can never be satisfied except by the Spirit. This restless hunger that people feel is the unrecognized longing for the Love that is God. The attempt to find satisfaction in the world leads to the despair, disillusionment, and sickness that are apparent on every hand. Accordingly the cure lies in recognizing the desire for what it is and then seeking in the right direction for its satisfaction.

A first step is to believe that "God is Love"; for everyone wants Love and responds to It. And when we see that it is God that our hearts long for, then we will seek in His direction. We should remind ourselves often: "God is Love. God loves me and approves of what I do."

Einstein had simplicity and grandeur because he wanted one thing. So we will find simplicity, serenity, and health of mind and body when we intensely desire the one thing that will satisfy - to know the Love of God. The more we desire this, the less will we desire other things. The more we seek God, the more will we become indifferent to men and their opinions. We will become unconcerned about all the outer; and when we do, the Spirit will flow through us to bless all with whom we come in contact. We will have returned to "the simplicity that there is in Christ," and we will then be, truly, "the light of the world."

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SPIRITICITY, March 195

ROOT YOURSELF IN GOD

By Nell Truesdell

A cutting from a mature plant will grow if it is given proper care. The amateur gardener, however, does not always realize that a plant thrives in ratio to the feeding and cultivating that it receives. He may let the plant, which has just begun its individual existence, shift for itself; and when it withers and dies, he may be disappointed.

Development of a good root system is of major importance to a plant, for the entire organism depends upon vigorous root growth. When roots strike deep and become fixed, the plant is established, and its continued development is assured. The leaves, stimulated by light, cause the roots to absorb moisture and nutriment which, in turn, are distributed throughout the entire structure.

Plant life on our planet keeps our atmosphere supplied with the moisture necessary for comfort, which is but one of the services that the members of the vegetable realm provide. Twenty per cent of the moisture that a plant takes from the earth is retained in its tissues to sustain and nourish it and the other eighty per cent is dissipated into the atmosphere. Unless a plant is furnished with sufficient water to enable it to maintain a balance between its own needs and the surrender of moisture into the air, it will wilt and eventually burn out.

The upper branch and leaf growth of a plant may represent a person's development in his business affairs, his family life, and his social relations. If a person is not cautious, a flourishing condition in these areas of human existence may provide a point of departure from THAT which supplies the essentials necessary to continued growth and unfoldment. Often, the person in good health, with happy relationships, and with assured material prosperity may neglect to pray or to give thanks to God. Too, he may forget that the law of life is growth; and that the law of growth is giving and receiving.

The demands of daily affairs always draw on the energies of a person more than he realizes. If an additional influx of vitality is not sought, he will find himself in a state of wilt. Exhaustion in any degree is the result of spiritual starvation. In fact, any outward failure is always evidence that a person has cut himself off from his spiritual supply of life-giving energies. The fault is never in the appearances, as such, for they will flourish in ratio to a man's willingness to keep rooted in God.

Every man should remember God. No one can afford to leave God out of his calculations.

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." "Know the love of Christ, . . . be filled with all the fulness of God."

SPIRITICITY, March 195

MAN IS CAREFREE

By Alden Truesdell

Because man is cared for, man may be carefree.

A poster for the Community Chest pictures an appealing and bedraggled youngster with the caption:

"What if nobody cared?" This feeling of not being cared for is the focus of most of the psychological approaches to security. The supposition is that any disruption in the family relations, or any sense of not being wanted, gives the child a feeling of insecurity which develops into a complex. This is true; but the cause lies further back than any act of the parents, back in a racial misconception of man's place in the economy of creation. Consequently every adjustment should be made to the Principle that is responsible for maintaining harmony, rather than to the parents (or other persons), who are unstable in

their ways, because they have not known the spiritual facts of Life and their relation to Life.

In the Spiritual Truth about Life, man is cared for, sustained, supported, overbrooded, and protected by an all-creating, all-competent Principle we call "the Father."

We can easily understand how a child would feel secure and comfortable in a home with loving parents and seemingly unfailing care and provision. As such a one goes about the important business of living, growing, and learning, he has a sense of well-being, security, and stability. He has a place of shelter and comfort when his day of school and play is done. Anything disrupting this ideal condition is unfortunate; but such disruption is a racial characteristic and is not entirely the fault of current parents, except as they have neglected their fundamental reconciliation with their original and logical Field of Function. For the race - man, woman, and child - must return to first principles to regain the sense of well-being wherein there is no need, no want, no lack, and nothing to fear.

Just as the normal child lives, moves, and has his being in a sense of security in the home of his earthly parents; so the race could, if it would, function under the auspices of the Omnipresent "Thinking Substance" known as God and called "the Father." In fact, God is so much the race's area of operation that it must function in Him - by choice or by law.

The child is little concerned with the state of the exchequer, the keeping of the budget, or the condition of the larder. He is a special guest, a house guest who comes home for meals and to sleep - and does some chores, rather condescendingly. He is foot-loose and carefree.

Man's adjustment to his Spiritual Parent in his Spiritual Home should be equally satisfactory and considerably more permanent, with greater depth of advantage and resource. Earthly parents and earthly estates are perishable; Spirit endures. And in Spirit one demonstration will last forever.

Although man is adept in passing the buck and fashioning alibis, as he grows in grace and wisdom, he comes to know that he has his own decision and his own direction of attention only to blame for his mistakes. When he learns this he should rejoice, for it means he can also regulate his own success and permanent progress.

If a man could actually and consciously know God as the one and only Substance of Being, he would never lack for any good thing and never need to be concerned about social security. God cares for man. Man could, if he would, be as the thoughtless, carefree boy. But man is vainglorious. He likes to pretend he is a big wheel, a big shot in the mortal muddle; and his cares are increased by his claims of importance.

But if Christ is All in all, man need not be burdened or harassed. He need only return to his spiritual Base and then go forward, upward, and onward in the Way of Truth. But he must remember - he must never forget - that God is his Habitation.

"Blessed are they that dwell in Thy House."

"Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust and respecteth not the proud."

And to be blessed by God is to be truly blessed; for "the blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it."

Those becoming aware of their spirituality are often like children maturing and going through the period of adolescence. For a season they try to look to Spirit and walk by the world. Just as children are reluctant to grow up to their adult privileges, most spiritual aspirants are reluctant to both live and walk by the Spirit. Seeing in part and knowing in part, they find it difficult to surrender themselves to the Whole of which they are organic members.

"The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." For they serve the world completely and enjoy all the worldly privileges; while the spiritual people, the "children of light," fluctuate between the Spirit and the world. Part of the time they swear allegiance to God, "from whom all blessings flow"; and part of the time they look out with envy upon the accumulations of the children of the world.

But if a man lives by the Spirit and walks by the Spirit, that man is carefree. Wherever he is led by Spirit, there will Spirit care for him. Children of the world cannot know this carefree existence, until they turn to Spirit. But all children of God may know it, if they will turn and accept the Reality of their own being, or the Truth about themselves.

Man need not be a bearer of burdens. Man is not a caretaker of the Lord's estate in the sense that great mental and physical effort are requisite to his keeping his position. Man is steward of an estate and may, but need not, make its conduct an irksome responsibility.

This estate of man, inherited from the Father, is for the most part self-sustaining. And man is himself perfectly organized, supervised, and cared for. Therefore man may be free from care. And the care that he receives is free - "without money and without price."

Paul speaks of putting on "the whole armour of God"; for in the immunity of that coverage, one is protected from all external assaults. This covering is proof against every idle word and all vain imaginings. Its ultimate in protection is attained when "the prince of this world cometh, and findeth nothing in me."

God cares for man, and only in God is man free and carefree; for "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

"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."

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SPIRITICITY, March 195

THE LORD'S PRAYER

By H. B. Jeffery

(Continued from last month)

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOR EVER

"For Thine is the realm." Here again we have "the realm of the skies," the seat of control, where perfect order is established and harmony reigns.

Only in and with the Supreme, and only within those who are possessed of the God-consciousness, can this state obtain.

The "power," or force, is the ultimate force of the universe, that from which all forms of force or power emanate, and into which they can be, and are, resolved. This is the One Supreme Power, "the infinite and eternal energy from which all things proceed."

The "glory" is the radiance or shining, and, in a psychic sense, refers to the aural body of the Self-born. In the higher or spiritual sense, it refers to that "true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world," the supreme intelligence or active manifestation of Divine Mind in man, which lights his path and guides him into all Truth.

"For ever" signifies eternally; "throughout the ongoings."

AMEN

It has been thought that the final word of the Prayer means "So be it," or "So let it be," or "Verily." But the word has no such meaning. The Greek word from which it comes is an exact equivalent of the Sanskrit Aum or om, the mystic name of the Christos, the word used in evoking the Spirit. In Revelation 3:14 we read: "These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God."

So, finally, by this profound and perfect prayer that Jesus gave us, we are guided into the mystic way which every true disciple finds to be the Way of Life. At last, we are lifted above the earth-consciousness and above the needs of our human nature.

Here we gaze into the depths of Infinitude and behold the face of Him, the One, the Thrice Holy - the Father, our Source and Origin, wherein our life and energy are begun; the Son, the eternal Word, by whose power all things came forth in eternity before they were created in time; and the Holy Spirit, the outflowing Life and outgrowing Energy that springs from the Father and Son.

Gone is all thought of self, gone all the limitations of personality. The Supreme alone remains - the Perfect, the Changeless, the Abiding.

And to Him be glory and dominion through all the ages; for thus the antithesis of Being and becoming is transcended. This is the Eternal Now, wherein time is lost, and wherein the soul of man finds its rest in the bosom of God.

(To be continued)

Alphabet Of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day Of The Month

MARCH 1957

1. Let us offer to God ACCEPTABLE worship, with reverence and AWE.
2. Let BROTHERLY love continue.

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4. We are more than CONQUERORS through Him that loved us.
5. Thy comforts DELIGHT my soul.
6. EARNESTLY desire the spiritual gifts.
7. FOLLOW the pattern of sound words.
8. GIVE unto the Lord the GLORY due His Name.
9. Thy mercy, O Lord, HELD me up.

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11. I delight IN the Law of God, IN my INMOST self.
12. We are JUSTIFIED by faith.
13. KNOW ye that the Lord He is God.
14. LEAD a LIFE worthy of the LORD.
15. Jesus (is the) MEDIATOR of a new covenant.
16. We brought NOTHING into the world.

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18. It is He that made us, and not we OURSELVES.
19. Strive for PEACE with all men.
20. The Word of God is QUICK and powerful.
21. Aim at RIGHTEOUSNESS.
22. STRENGTH and beauty are in His SANCTUARY.
23. Let us come before His Presence with THANKSGIVING.

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25. All the UPRIGHT in heart shall follow judgment.
26. Glorify God in the day of VISITATION.
27. The WORD of God is not fettered.
28. Be at peace among YOURSELVES.
29. See my ZEAL for the Lord.
30. God is able to make all grace abound in you.

"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.