

## FAMILIAR PHRASES

By Nell Truesdell

THE BIBLE is a treasure-trove of figures of speech, which we use daily without being aware of their source. How often have we said that we escaped some fate by "the skin of the teeth," or that a personality that disturbed us was a "thorn in the flesh"?

We caution a loved one who wastes his time and substance on unappreciative persons not to "cast pearls before swine." We speak of an annoying thing or person as a "millstone about the neck," and of the willful person with a poor sense of values as a "blind guide." Those whose judgment is both harsh and false are they "which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel"; and a nagging shrew has a "backbiting tongue."

A dependable friend is "the salt of the earth," and a good workman is a "labourer worthy of his hire." A helpful person is called a "good Samaritan."

We speak of "tribute money." We say that "the love of money is the root of all evil," that "a fool and his money are soon parted."

When we are sorry for a mistake we say, "I have played the fool"; and when we want to justify ourselves in an argument we say, "You are beside yourself."

We refer to a disrupted family or business as "a house divided against itself (that) shall not stand."

As we grow in understanding, we learn to "turn the other cheek" rather than demand "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."

Parents with a wayward son wait for their boy to "come to himself" and for the wanderer to "return from a far country."

When we have reaped the reward of error we say, "the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me"; and when we withhold Judgment against an erring friend we know that our "charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

In a time of national trial, when it seemed that Hitler would destroy the freedom of the world, our president broadcast a message of encouragement based on a statement by Isaiah: "Neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid." People everywhere took heart.

So the words of Scripture by their vitality have embedded themselves in our everyday speech.

In Truth practice we learn the value of words, for we recognize that our thoughts and words formulate the conditions of our bodies and our environment. "Take heed, and be quiet," we are told; "be as still as a stone"; "every man's word shall be his burden."

"Send now prosperity," we pray for ourselves and for others, knowing that "my God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

SPIRITICITY, May 1962

MOTHER

By Alden Truesdell

THE TRIUMPH of the Resurrection was conceived in Mary before it was achieved in Jesus.

Every project and every person must be mothered into being, and must be overbrooded and protected during its infancy. This is as true in the spiritual realm as in the material.

The God-Department that over-broods all mankind, protecting, directing, and serving all humanity, is the Maternal Department of Being, or the Mothering Principle. This is symbolized in art by the Madonna and Child.

"Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."

Everyone, at some time, has a nostalgic urge to run home to mother. Brides respond to this after the honeymoon. Men exercise it and some overdo it. All give in to it when the course of life is run. The offspring is closely identified with the mother at the beginning and the end of its activity. In between, it should be independent of the mother's presence, but entirely dependent upon her precepts. Jesus realized His assignment had to be accomplished independently of His mother's influence and presence; but He knew also that, when His hour of testing should come and His work be finished, His mother would be on hand. "What have I to do with thee?" He said at the beginning of His Active ministry. At the end of His ministry on earth, when His hour had come, His mother was with Him.

"Never underestimate the power of a woman," say the advertisements. Outstanding women in the Scripture are many, and their influence was tremendous, for good and for evil.

Regarding the power of woman to influence the race, it has been said that since a woman, succumbing to temptation, started the race on its way to ruin, some other woman, through resisting temptation and subscribing to the Righteousness of God, would save it. Both of these acts, according to Scripture, have been consummated. We know these women as Eve and Mary. While Eve reveled in the sensuousness of the physical and the emotional thrills, and brought forth two sons, one of whom murdered the other; Mary aspiring to Spiritual Reality and pondering Truth in her heart, brought forth the Saviour of mankind.

The law requires reconciliation for every infraction. For every Jezebel there is a Magdalene. For every denial of Truth there must be a declaration of allegiance, as Jesus required Peter to affirm his love three times after he had denied his Lord three times.

Symbolically, Eve is the department of the soul built upon the supposition that man and woman are human, and the way to live and to enjoy life is to take the line of least resistance. Mary is the department of the same soul that ponders the Truths of Being in the heart and aspires to be obedient to the heavenly commandments. "Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to Thy word."

Woman represents soul; in her right state she is closely aligned with the Spiritual Ideal. Almost all mothers have a degree of this Ideal, and so it is difficult for them to see any less than divinity in their offspring. Mothers of criminals see them as more sinned against than sinning and are always hopeful of reformation. What a wonderful thing womanhood and motherhood can be! Just this tendency to see divinity where most see deviltry is a tonic to the race. And when some woman gives herself up to this idea of innate divinity, as did Mary, she saves herself and many others.

While any ideal is being conceived in the inner consciousness and being pondered in the heart, the individual is dominated by that ideal, possessed by what has been conceived. After an ideal is brought forth, there is more of a tendency to possess than to be possessed. Thus we find the mother of Jesus endeavoring to exercise her maternal office over Him even as He began to administer the ideal that she herself had pondered in her heart.

"The third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there. And both Jesus was called, and His disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto Him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come."

A mother less wise than Mary might have been hurt; but after this rebuke, Mary instructed the servants to do whatever Jesus told them to do. For she knew His hour had come. He was launched out into the deep to achieve the Purpose for which He had come into the world. Mothers know about these things, and wise mothers concur - as did Mary. This month we celebrate wise Motherhood that loves enough to loose the object of her affections, and surrenders that object to a greater Love, which causes all things to work together for good - for the good of all. This is the office of all women and especially all mothers. This practice makes every day Mother's Day.

All mothers have access to the things Mary pondered in her heart. Mary was the Mother of Christianity; today some woman may give birth to the announcer of a new dispensation. Some woman who has pondered the Truth of Being in her heart may bring forth a new world teacher, who will be Christ incarnate. For even the Divine Identity requires the Mothering Activity to get Itself into manifestation.

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Do you want to learn how to pray?

Read THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

By H. B. Jeffery

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SPIRITICITY, May 1962

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

By Robert Applegate, Jr.

(Continued from last month)

PAUL CONCLUDED the expository part of his letter with the words: "O the depth of the Riches and the Wisdom and the Knowledge of God! . . . For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory to eternity! Amen."

He follows this summation with three chapters of what are usually called "moral exhortations." This is an especially unfortunate expression. It would be more sensible to regard his words as good directions for living a successful life, just as the recipes in a cookbook are directions for preparing successful meals.

If you wanted to keep bees and bought a book on beekeeping, it would open with a description of a hive and its various parts, followed by a description of the different kinds of bees and their behavior. Then you would find the directions on how to care for the bees so as to get honey. This is the same general pattern that Paul follows in his letters. He describes the situation we are in as the result of Jesus Christ's Demonstration of the Good News; then he tells us what steps we must take to benefit ourselves from this situation. So in his Letter to the Romans, he has told us (1) man's helplessness without Christ; (2) Christ's free Gift of exoneration and reconciliation, which man accepts by believing in it; and (3) the results of man's acceptance of God's Gift (peace, joy, exaltation, friendship with God, Eternal Life). This is the situation. What are the steps that man must take to benefit from It? The answer is of course: Believe and accept. Everything else is a means to this end. All the spiritual practices we indulge in, all the unselfishness we try to exercise, all the steps we take, are means to our knowing and accepting the Gift of God. And as means they are necessary. The things that we do will not change God, or please Him, or impress Him; but they will change us, and that is what is required. We cannot leap into total immersion in God. We have come a long way from Him; we have to work our way back. But, as was the case with the prodigal, it is we who have separated ourselves from the Father; He is waiting for us to return. The directions that Paul, following Jesus Christ, gives are the necessary steps we must take to return. To show the dependence of this part of his letter on all that has preceded, Paul starts it with a "therefore."

THEREFORE I urge you, brothers, by the compassions of God,  
that you give yourselves - a living offering, pure, well-pleasing to God.  
This is your logical worship.

Do not conform to the practices of the present age; but rather be changed  
by the renewing of your understanding, so that you may test and prove for  
yourself what is the Desire of God - the good and pleasing and perfect  
Desire  
of God. For by authority of the gift that has been given to me, I say to  
every  
one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think;  
but  
in your thinking, think reasonably - according to the measure of faith  
that God

has given to each one. For just as we have many parts in one body - and all the parts do not have the same function - so we who are many persons are one body in Christ; we are parts one of another.

Since we have different enduements, according to the gift that has been given to us, let us use them: he that speaks the word of God, according to his faith; he that teaches, let him use his gift in teaching; he that comforts, in his comforting; he that gives, in his sincerity; he that organizes, in his earnestness; he that shows compassion, in his cheerfulness.

Let love be without pretense. Loathe what is ugly; cling to what is good. Be earnest in brotherly regard for one another. Prefer one another in honor. Do not be lacking in zeal. Be effervescent with the Spirit. Be obedient to the Lord.

Rejoice in your hope. Endure under opposition. Persevere in prayer. Provide for the needs of those who are dedicated. Bless those who harass you; bless, and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

Agree among yourselves. Do not be ambitious, but condescend to lowly jobs.

"Do not be smart in your own eyes." Return no one evil for evil.

"Take thought beforehand for what men will expect from you." As far as is possible for you, live peaceably with all men. Do not revenge yourselves, but be non-resistant to another's anger; for thus it is written: "Retribution is Mine, says the Lord; I will repay."

"If your enemy hungers, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. For in so doing you will heap coals of fire upon his head."

Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

(To be continued)

The four quotations are from Proverbs.

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SPIRITICITY, May 1962

WHY WE SHOULD WATCH

By Nell Truesdell

SHAKESPEARE WROTE: "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so"; and Jane Taylor said, "How many never think, who think they do!"

Some metaphysical schools teach their students to visualize, to hold the thought, and to "speak the word with power" in order to make the demonstrations they desire. Statements and prayers that have special bearing on conditions of mind, body, and affairs are memorized. This practice is not new; it is age-old.

Man is created with the capacity to think, but he needs to reevaluate this prerogative of mind if he would use it to the fullest advantage. His error in practice lies in his stress on the use of his will power to force demonstrations of so-called "good," either for himself or for others. The human being is fallible, and often his stubborn persistence in determining what is best may turn out to be a tragic mistake. Many practitioners "treat" by using their will power; but no permanent healing or prosperity is established by this method. Effects are momentary; benefits questionable.

Jesus Christ never used His will power to make a demonstration. He did not teach His followers to hold the thought; but He did instruct them to watch. "Watch ye therefore. . . . And what I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch." Watch what? Watch God, of course.

Jesus' instruction echoes that of the Psalmist who wrote: "Trust in the Lord"; "Delight thyself also in the Lord"; "Commit, thy way unto the Lord."

To watch toward God we must still the tumult of our thoughts, quiet our emotions, silence our desires. As we practice looking God-ward, the attention of our mind transfers from our front brain (where we do conscious thinking), and comes to rest at the center of consciousness - our heart-center. As we learn to wait before God in this Sanctuary in our midst, we are surprised and dumbfounded by the sense of peace, security, and love that wells up from within. No words can describe the rewards of conscious communion with God.

"Why take ye thought?" asked Jesus. "When ye pray, use not vain repetitions. . . . Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask Him," He said.

Thinking is an active use of the mind, especially the area called intellect, which is governed by the human will. Since human will is based in self-interest, it responds to good and bad traits of man with, perhaps, more emphasis upon the latter. It appears, then, that "holding the thought" is secondary to watching toward God. One may argue that watching involves thought, but we shall leave that point to discuss what takes place in our mind (consciousness) when we think so that we may understand more fully why we should choose to watch toward God.

When we think persistently about something we want, we make a mold of it in our mind. In this way, we possess what we think about even before there is a sign of it in the realm of appearances. Our thought-mold is the initial formulation of a thing or a condition that will eventually materialize - or demonstrate (as we say in metaphysics). The tone, quality, and degree of permanence of a demonstration is determined at the thought-stage; too, at this stage we may most easily eradicate a negative thought, or change to a thought that may be more promising.

In the history of man, we see that the formulations of his thoughts have proved to be impermanent. For example: The pyramids of Egypt were built to last forever, but they are gradually falling into decay. At different periods in history, war lords have thought to establish permanent kingdoms; however,

their willful indulgence has not only cost countless lives, but their governments have always fallen into other hands.

"Thinking is but an idle waste of thought," wrote Horace Smith.

A thought by itself is nebulous, cloudlike. Before it can objectify it must be strengthened and supported by what we call spiritual Substance. Spiritual Substance is everywhere present, just as our atmosphere is everywhere present. And, like the air that fills and takes the shape of a building, spiritual Substance fills with its living force any thought-mold (bad or good) that man may conceive.

Spiritual Substance will not purify a "bad" thought, nor make a "good" thought better. It is will-less, and lends Itself to man's will. But man's will is often erroneously aggressive and frequently overpowers his better judgment. This is the main reason why man should not fall under the spell of his own capacity to think, but should follow the example of Jesus Christ who said, "Why take ye thought?" Watch toward, or "seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

When we watch toward anything we give our undivided attention to it. That is the manner in which we should watch toward God in our midst. As we watch toward God, we believe - we have faith; and belief - or faith (as the Scripture puts it) - is the Substance of things. The following passage from Isaiah may renew our faith in the Almighty:

"FOR MY thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow, from heaven, and returneth not thither, . . . so shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void; but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

"And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive," said Jesus.

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Alphabet Of  
DAILY MEDITATIONS  
For Every Week Day of the Month

MAY 1962

1. If we live in the Spirit, let us ALSO walk in the Spirit.
2. BECAUSE He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
3. CLING to what is good.
4. The DAY of the Lord will come.
5. ENDURE under opposition.

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7. Love is the FULFILLING of the Law.
8. It is He that GIVETH thee power to GET wealth.
9. Peace be to thine HOUSE.
10. To them that have no might He INCREASETH strength.
11. JOY cometh in the morning.
12. KNOW that I, the Lord, . . . am God.

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14. LEAD me in a plain path.
15. He is MIGHTY in strength and wisdom.
16. We look for NEW heavens and a NEW earth.
17. Be OBEDIENT To the Lord.
18. PERSEVERE in PRAYER.
19. In QUIETNESS . . . shall be your strength.

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21. REMEMBER the Lord thy God.
22. Go from STRENGTH to STRENGTH.
23. The TABERNACLE of God is with men.
24. My lips shall UTTER knowledge clearly.
25. See VISIONS of peace.
26. WHOSO WALKETH WISELY, he shall be delivered.

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28. Agree among YOURSELVES.
29. Do not be lacking in ZEAL.
30. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad.
31. Fear not: for I have redeemed thee.

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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.