

SPIRITICITY November 1943

Beloved of God, greeting:

Every year at the Thanksgiving Season the practice of giving thanks to God for blessings received has been the fashion in this country. This custom originated in a time when food and other necessities of life were scarce, even hard to get.

To continue to give thanks for such things as food, shelter, clothing, and so forth, at a time when even the so-called needy seem to have received bountifully, appears to be an extraneous practice; but, it is good practice.

Above the practice of giving thanks for the essential things of daily life there is a higher practice. It is the practice of giving thanks to God for being God, to Truth for being Truth, not for the purpose of attaining particular and specific benefits, but for the privilege of paying homage to the Universal Giver of Gifts. Added to this privilege is the almost unexplainable return of benefits that flow in countless ways to the devotee.

Simply giving thanks to God for the Omnipotence of His Spirit will draw substance and treasures from the hidden and secret places and establish what all the world is seeking; namely, happiness, peace, abundant life, security.

So, as we offer thanks at this Season, let us be grateful for a Loving, a Living, and a Kindly - wise God who knows our needs before we ask and who supplies us bountifully, without measure, heaped up, pressed down, and running over, simply because it is His good pleasure to GIVE.

Sincerely yours,  
A. J. Truesdell

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#### LEARN TO GIVE THANKS

Why should we be thankful? Thankfulness indicates a feeling of appreciation for and toward the source whence some favor or blessing was received and the attempt, the willingness to make acknowledgment. Thankfulness reveals an attitude.

It has long been the custom for spiritually minded and religiously inclined people to count their blessings and render thanks to their All-Provident God. Such practice, when conducted in the true spirit of gratitude and appreciation is highly profitable, for this art, like virtue, is its own reward. Benighted indeed are people who lack ability to give thanks.

If the act of thanksgiving were a sentimental indulgence only, if it were just a studied adherence to acceptable manners, it would still have merit, though such an attitude could hardly be considered as having scientific value.

Praise, thanksgiving, appreciation, gratitude, - all signify an effort to repay for something received; all are normal reactions toward the benevolent

action of the Giver of Gifts, who in a direct or indirect way has showed Himself to be the Provider, the Tender Care-taker, the Loving Father.

It is well to remember that scriptural declarations and practice of thanksgiving are actual expositions of a spiritual science; they are a method of applying a spiritual principle by which practical results are achieved. Let us examine how the science of thanksgiving can be practiced. In Psalm 50: 14-15, we read:

"Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the  
Most High: and call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will  
deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me."

The attitude of gratitude is to be directed toward God. Still, we find record in John 1:18, "No man hath seen God at any time." Evidently then, we are to direct our expression of thanksgiving toward the Invisible God and make acknowledgment that the things which appear are received from Him who sees all but is Himself unseen.

All who have given attention to the things of the Spirit acknowledge that any worthwhile help that has ever been received came from God. Gratitude toward this Invisible but very real Presence enables us to keep our vows. And our vows are but the determinations by which we are urged to seek the true solution to our life.

In a certain extremity we might say, "I should give anything I possess if I could be healed;" or, "I am willing to sell all I have for peace of mind." These are serious declarations and we must stand ready to keep such vows. Not that God requires sacrifice; He requires obedience. We must be obedient to any law to benefit therefrom. If we ourselves set up a law in our effort to compromise for some desired result, that law will require obedience. Willing obedience absolves from the necessity to "pay", paradox though this seems. But willful disobedience exacts the last jot and tittle.

You recall that Abraham believed in sacrifice. To him the Law - the Lord - seemed to require sacrifice to the point of ordering Abraham to offer up his son Isaac. Abraham's unflinching obedience imbued him with his own God-hood to the degree that he met this method of testing with such willingness to serve God without reservation that he lost not his son in sacrifice but through him, gained multitudes. Abraham represents the sincere exponent of faith in God, even the faith of God.

Never has any blessing of any magnitude, never has any work of any import been accomplished except through and by absolute obedience to the governing factor involved. When the search extends far enough, this factor is revealed as God.

So, if we make any promise, if we purpose in our heart, determine in our mind, to find God, to know God, to keep His ways, His laws, His will, wise indeed shall we be never to consider any compromise. A house divided against itself cannot stand and God seems to be a very jealous God in this respect.

The only insurance required for greater blessings is complete dependence upon and willingness to receive from God as a little child. Transcendent gifts outpicturing concretely are the reward for complete obedience.

The instructive Psalmist continues on this subject in 95:2, "Let us come before His Presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms."

Many people are reluctant to approach God in a joyful mood. They believe in a God of retribution, of judgment, and their attitude toward Him is pious, sanctimonious. They consider an entrance into His Presence with all the enthusiasm of a small boy who has to keep a rendezvous with an irate father in the well-known woodshed. There is little of the spirit of thanksgiving in either his entrance or his exit, and surely the noises he makes are far from joyful.

But let us suppose that something should happen to break up this unpleasant association of ideas. Suppose a boy was summoned to meet his father in the woodshed and there he was presented with a shiny, new bicycle. This might sound fanciful but the example offers a lesson.

The whole picture for the boy is changed. The father becomes a loving, rewarding, providing father. The son is no longer a culprit, but a joyful son and heir in good standing. The woodshed attains glamour, dignity, and might even become a place of reverence and secret worship. The bicycle becomes the complete evidence of good fortune, a symbol of more and better gifts to follow. Here the son has solved the father's system for demanding obedience and has tapped an endless source of manifest treasure.

The truth student feels somewhat like the boy of our story when he emerges from the cloud of crystallized gods of dogma and ritual. He finds there is ample reason to rejoice, to be grateful, to give thanks, to make a joyful noise unto a God who is always the Giver, never the punisher.

When man learns the manner of Spirit he is, and the manner of God God is, he no longer expects the axe to fall on him at every turn, but rather, he stands in readiness to catch the countless blessings poured out upon him every moment.

God loves the praises of men. He loves their joyful noises directed toward Him. He loves to have them enter into His Presence with joyous thanksgiving. How do we know this? We know, because by whatever attitude we approach God, that attitude becomes concrete evidence in some form or other. We know, because whatever we describe God to be, that we see demonstrated all about us. We know, because whatever we name God, that He is to us.

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name."

Our God is a God who draws to himself His own, and all are "His own", acceptable unto Him. "For every creature of God is good and nothing to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving." What a marvelous thing thanksgiving must be if it has power to transform things formerly considered unholy, untouchable, into acceptable gifts to and from God.

But there are higher and deeper reasons for the universal expression of thanksgiving. Beneath and above appreciation for good treatment and exchange of gifts there is something more lasting than an exposition of a working agreement only.

This appears to be the discovery that the gifts so lavishly bestowed are not given as the world gives, or even as a good friend might plan a temporary

pleasure or give a temporal present; these gifts are permanent, enduring, eternal, and cover every requirement, meet every contingency. These greater gifts have to do with well-being itself, not simply welfare, or wealth.

Some of the ancients perceived this fact, declared it, and proved it in many ways. Jesus Christ, in a simple testimony said, "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me."

To know this as He knew it would bring forth a joyous expression that would sound mighty like praise, gratitude, thanksgiving, even the making of a joyful noise. And such thanks would make themselves seen as the fulfillment of all desires, right here and now, in this present time.  
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Dear Friend:

Have you longed with all your heart to be able to help others, to give a service that was truly spiritual, truly helpful?

First: You cannot make a realization of peace for another if in your own heart you harbor unrest, disturbance, agitation. You cannot help another to a consciousness of plenty when you yourself feel limitation and lack. You cannot help another to a sense of abiding health if you believe in sickness as real.

Second: If you decide to take on the responsibility of helping others, you must, within your own consciousness, also assume the responsibility of full realization of the perfection you wish them to enjoy. You must get the sense of peace yourself, acknowledge abundance everywhere present, see that health is untouched by appearance.

Third: Treat your own consciousness, first, last, and always. Get a clear understanding of the truth about whatever you wish for another. Enter into and maintain a steady realization of the FACT of Omnipresent GOOD, here and now manifest. Since there is no separation in Spirit, your loved-one is sharing in the benefits of your understanding whenever you think of him.

The CHRIST TRUTH LEAGUE serves in this manner and shares with you realizations of Omnipresent Good, available to all. Our blessings are with you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lovingly yours,  
Nell Truesdell

The CHRIST TRUTH LEAGUE of Fort Worth, Texas, is a fellowship of sincere students seeking practical application of the Law of Life, as lived and taught by the Master of Life, JESUS CHRIST.

Alphabet of  
DAILY MEDITATIONS  
For Every Week Day of the Month

November 1943

1. Our God whom we serve is ABLE to deliver us.
2. BEHOLD, I have put my words in thy mouth.
3. I, the Lord, have CALLED thee.
4. He that DOETH truth cometh to the light.
5. His truth ENDURETH to all generations.
6. The FOOLISHNESS of God is wiser than men.  
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8. He that GLORIETH, let him GLORY in the Lord.
9. Teach me, and I will HOLD my tongue.
10. Endure, as seeing Him who is INVISIBLE.
11. JUSTICE and JUDGMENT are the habitation of thy throne.
12. KNOW ye that the KINGDOM of God is nigh.
13. God is the LORD, which hath showed us LIGHT.  
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15. Thou, O Lord, art in the MIDST of us.
16. His NAME is called the Word of God.
17. This ONE thing I do.
18. Thou art my PORTION, O Lord.
19. QUICKEN me in Thy righteousness.
20. In RETURNING and REST shall ye be saved.  
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22. I have SET the Lord always before me.
23. THY TESTIMONIES are wonderful.
24. The Lord UPHOLDETH all that fall.
25. Today ... hear His VOICE.
26. The eyes of all WAIT upon Thee.
27. Sow the fields ... which may YIELD fruits of increase.  
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29. Be ZEALOUS, therefore, and repent.
30. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart.  
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DAILY MEDITATION is a tonic to the mind. When practiced regularly the thoughts are made bright and clear. When the thinking processes are in good working order, results are pleasing, and satisfying. We invite you to join us in the daily practice of looking toward God, the Source of blessings, peace, and plenty.