

SPIRITICITY November 1945

A LETTER

Dear Friend:

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." So said Jesus Christ. As we look into his experiences we discover he announced that he had kept his Father's commandments. "I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

It appears that obedience is the keynote to success with God and Jesus Christ. Since God is the highest authority in the universe, certainly compliance with that which is required by him will bear a rich reward. "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

The obedient mind is that which is willingly attentive. When the attention of anyone is given fully to God's desire, he is instantly ready to be moved or governed by God's will. Since the Divine will is the only will a man can trust implicitly, and he is assured that it is good, he has a confidence in it that becomes the substance of things hoped for.

We are told that a person has first to learn how to take commands before he can issue them. In all history Jesus Christ is the only one who was able to take God's commands fully and without side-stepping; therefore, he is the only one who is granted the privilege to issue commands. He was most considerate of us because he issued only one: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

This commandment fulfills the ten that Moses gave. It transforms the commandments given by him into promises of fulfillment instead of demands for obedience to Law. "The Law made nothing perfect," said Paul. But something better perfects the effects of the Law in the life of man. Love for God swiftly fruits into manifest good.

Lovingly yours,
Nell Truesdell

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SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

By A. J. Truesdell

Mark reports Jesus as saying: So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground, and should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear; after that, the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

In likening the principle of growth in the kingdom of God to that of seed time, progressive development, and harvest in the earth, a note of normalcy in

the outworking of existent laws is implied. The first requirement to a good harvest is to get good seed. In the world, the wise farmer always seeks better seed for more profitable crops. He may select the first fruits of his own crops so that the future yield will be not only rich, but rapid; or, if he is obliged to buy seed, he gets his supply from a reliable source.

The homesteaders in O. E. Rolvaag's novel, *Giants in the Earth*, coddled, fondled, and admired each kernel of wheat which, when placed in the furrows of the upturned soil, would carry their hopes of harvest, happiness, sustenance, and support, even life itself for the pioneers, their wives, children, animals, and on to include the growth of the community at large.

In growing crops in the earth, selection and planting good seed in the proper way is important. To those who aspire to the things of God, the most reliable source for spiritual seed is God. The Word of God, which is his seed, is much smaller than a mustard seed that can be seen by the eye of man.

The spiritual seed, or Word, is so fine that it cannot be seen, nor can the thoughts of the mind handle it. The spiritual seed, described sometimes as the Dayspring from On High, or the Sprinkling Alkahest, is sown lavishly, for it is distributed under a law which scattereth yet tendeth to increase. Wise indeed is the cultivator who lets his whole being become saturated with this rare and rich crop-producer. Its yield will increase thirty, sixty, and a hundred fold in every and any sort of ground upon which it is allowed to fall.

Some of the seeds of earth germinate over night. Others take weeks, months, and many take a year or more before beginning to grow. Sometimes a seeker after God endeavors to plant his Word in consciousness through affirmations and, though he is diligent in his effort, nothing seems to happen. After waiting a short period, he might become discouraged and decide the whole proposition is a gigantic hoax. He knows that he followed directions, but he sees no results.

One day, however, in the fullness of time for him, the infinitesimal word-seed begin to germinate. His awareness quickens. As he gradually awakes to what is going on in him he observes the mystical spiritual sproutings grow in size and stability until, like the corn developing in the ear, an appearance testifies that his spiritual harvest is ripe. The maturing fruits of the Spirit bear witness to his former spiritual seeking and steadfastness.

We know that as man grew up from the primitive state his development and knowledge were influenced by many factors. Everything he experienced in his world of affairs: his mental reactions and processes, his emotional responses, even his spiritual aspirations, tended to work in such ways as to guide as well as affect his unfoldment; too, he affected others as he himself developed.

We can cite an instance from the field of literature. A writer of one country is often described as having influenced writers of other countries. The views of Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-78) extended over the writings of men, not only in France, but in other countries and affected the standards of several generations of literary lights.

In our general study of literature we note that once in awhile some strong character pulled away from the run of the mill writers of his day and produced something original and vital. Such men became, in turn, the guiding lights for others. As the Rousseau-seed brought forth fruit in his own and surrounding countries, so also did Dante, Shakespeare, Goethe, and other leaders in the

field of literature. Many poets were influenced by Byron. To cite an instance of his far-reaching sway we name the Russian poets Pushkin and Lermontov.

These sketchy references will illustrate how any writer can become exposed to and actuated by other writers. But, if a man is a genius, he will immunize himself to every influence but his own talent and originality. If he is to make a real contribution to literature, or to any other branch of endeavor, he must pour out from his own genius something that is individual, spontaneous, inexplicable, even unanalyzable, and as it were inspired, over and against what has been produced in the main by rule and line. He will acknowledge all good works that have gone before, but he knows a new ingredient must be added and he cannot escape his responsibility.

In the field of spiritual practice, we find that Jesus Christ acknowledged the Law as taught by Moses, the Psalms as sung by those who put their spiritual inspirations in verse, and the prophesies of all the great Prophets; but, he did not limit his expression to what had gone before. Rather, he went on to present a doctrine greater than the Law, more beautiful than the Psalms, and fulfillment of all the prophesies. His doctrine, so alive and completely original, has endured for twenty centuries.

The spiritual seeds of the Christ doctrine so vitally and vigorously expounded by Jesus and published by the inspired and illumined over the centuries, have brought forth many individual crops in countless minds and hearts. We may observe an occasional sprout, which develops into a kernel of truth, enrich the world by its contribution. But we must admit the general reaping in no large way resembles the concept of the Original Planter whose harvest was perceived on the Mount. Most growers prefer the standardized planting and reaping of cotton, coffee, and cowpeas to Christ.

Now let us consider a great mystery. The earth, which is the field of growth, is a negative thing. It is subject to the manipulation of nature's laws and man's selectivity. Man may plant, cultivate, fertilize, irrigate, and harvest. But man of himself cannot produce a single seed, grow a single sprout, or develop a single plant, except by cooperation with the laws of growth.

Contained within each seed produced under natural law, is the potentiality of a harvest. No amount of coercion on the part of man can induce seed to act like anything but seed. All he can do is plant that seed in the earth. Then he must wait for it to grow. When the crop is ripe, he may reap the harvest. All the steps involved take place by progression. Man stands helpless before the mysterious process of growth involved. He is privileged to cooperate with it but never permitted to interfere. What takes place at certain stages of progress may be closely tabulated and reported by man. But man's ingenuity cannot duplicate in any manner a single step. The seed will take its own time to bring forth its harvest in its own way.

Harvest is a time of joyous work and celebration. A festive spirit goes hand in hand with a gathering of neighbors and hired hands to conserve the fruits of the field. Figuratively the word harvest means the product of any toil, or effort, whether physical, mental, or spiritual. The churchman speaks of a revival as a harvest of souls. Lax law enforcements reap a harvest of crime. The word is now identified with all the wealth produced in the world.

The miracle of increase has always contained an element of magic in the minds of planters and reapers. It is possible that Halloween preceding, as it does, our season of Thanksgiving, is an admission of man's belief in

supernatural powers which are released from their underground activities after they had caused rich and prodigious harvests to spring forth from infinitesimal seed.

Whatever man's beliefs, the "I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of the earth" of the Original Planter, must have its own obstinate way. As the world is the realm of soil in which seed germinate, grow, and produce, so the consciousness of man is the realm where the law of growth, for him, can have its perfect way. If he will plant God's Word, which is truth, in his consciousness and allow it to grow without interference from his will, he can partake of and benefit by the mysterious prerogatives revealed by Jesus when he said, "Consider the lilies, how they grow; they toil not, they spin not: and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

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SCRIPTURE LESSON,

SUNDAY, November 4, 1945

Behold, I come quickly; hold fast that which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the Name of my God, and the Name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my New Name.

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Surely, I come quickly. Amen.

MY REWARD IS WITH ME.

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SCRIPTURE LESSON,

SUNDAY, November 11, 1945

What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written: Behold, send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare the way before you.

Take heed that no man deceive you, for many shall come in my Name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be; if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.

I AM LED IN A PLAIN PATH.

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SCRIPTURE LESSON,

SUNDAY, November 18, 1945

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the Most High.

I will praise the Name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs.

Learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice. Offer up spiritual sacrifice, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Remember me, O Lord, with the favor that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; that I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance.

I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.

O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD.

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SCRIPTURE LESSON,

SUNDAY, November 25, 1945

Now these are the commandments, . . . which the Lord your God commanded to teach you:

Thou shalt have none other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make thee any graven image.

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.

Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

Thou shalt not kill.

Neither shalt thou commit adultery.

Neither shalt thou steal.

Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Neither shalt thou covet thy neighbor's house, . . . or anything that is thy neighbor's.

Master, which is the great commandment in the Law?

Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD.

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SPIRITICITY November 1945

THE LORD IS MY REFUGE

By Nell Truesdell

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; in him will I trust.

When we practice looking upward toward the Supreme, we come into a new understanding of his Presence. We begin to realize that God is always in our immediate vicinity. Our consciousness of his close proximity becomes our firm rock of help and defense. Eventually we come to know that our awareness of God is the only substantial ground upon which we stand. It is the undivided rock of real worth or value in which we can take refuge. No matter what is happening to or around us, our steadfast dependence on him overbalances any fears that might disturb us.

The human race today is scrambling for refuge and defense. Undefinable fears and misgivings creeping into heart and mind warn us that somehow we have allowed ourselves to become sensitive to this general frantic scramble for security. If in such times we rush off to seek promises in signs and predictions we proclaim that we do not trust in God but are relying on what is ungodly.

O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things. Such should be our prayer, especially in those times when we feel the need for protection.

God is the complete, the unimpaired One. God does not change. Whenever we cast aside all dependence upon persons or things around us and go straight, by way of our inner vision, to God, we find the only safe remedy in any trial, regardless of its appearance. When we cast about for help, reaching this way and that, we waver, are unstable, and storm-tossed. Let not such as this expect anything from the Lord.

Dependence on God eradicates all sense of subjection to the direction or disposition of others. If we attempt to rely on signs and at the same time declare our faith in God, our dreams are brought low. Fear is quickened. Fear breeds self-accusation, the most indulged of all vices. All of us have been merciless in accusations against ourselves and we continue to reap the terrible results of our unjust descriptions. Every description comes to fruition sometime or other and the consequences of self-criticism are not very savory. We really need defense from our self-imposed limitations.

Thou shalt have delight in the Almighty and shall lift up thy face unto God.

Whenever you seek defense and protection try to remember that it is God to whom you should turn. When you attempt to seek spiritual help and at the same time endeavor to trust in signs and wonders, your energies are scattered and, when no help is forthcoming, you loudly proclaim that truth has failed. Trust in the Almighty is the only defense; your awareness of him is your refuge. Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defense.

If we gaze toward the shadows for protection we draw shadows around us and find to our amazement that we are not preserved from harm. There is no substance in shadows. We discover ourselves judging everything and everybody according to the mists shrouding us. And with what judgments we judge, so are we judged.

On the other hand, if we let our judgments come from association with Universal Protection we quicken all who look toward us with new emotions, new discriminations concerning God. By our example we teach them to see as we see.

We always describe what we know. If we are familiar with negation, (sorrow, ill-health, unhappiness, and sin,) we have at the tip of our tongues appropriate vocabularies to get it into manifestation. Our common speech betrays where we are looking. But no matter what the quality of our judgments, they fade into nothing when the Jesus Christ judgment comes to view. "My judgment is right," he said.

Appearances are nothing. We must train ourselves to look through them to see the unchanged worth which will hold our attention without diversion. For

man is immortal, no matter what the appearance. Whoever watches the God-self of himself is inwardly secure.

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee.

Let us refuse to turn to signs in order to know how to solve the problems that seem so substantial. What is happening around us can never really happen to us. We remain untouched, unscathed always. If we look above appearances, and above our own conclusions, we are free to watch what is going on above thinking and above being.

Our hearts truly yearn for the courts of the Lord. If we are bold in looking toward him we shall experience a strange, new confidence that ushers us into victory. No matter what we undertake, it will be successful.

The Lord is my defense.

My defense is of God which saveth the upright in heart.

O God, my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge.

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Alphabet of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day of the Month

NOVEMBER 1945

1. The Wisdom that is from ABOVE is . . . gentle.
2. BLESSED is the man whose strength is in Thee.
3. The Lord . . . hath given me COUNSEL.
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5. The Spirit searcheth . . . the DEEP things of God.
6. Thy EXPECTATION shall not be cut off.
7. He . . . will come FORTH and serve them.
8. He GIVETH power to the faint.
9. Take HEED, watch and pray.
10. What I say unto you I say unto all, watch!
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12. Have a prosperous JOURNEY.
13. He that KEEPETH thy soul, doth not he KNOW it?
14. If ye are LED of the Spirit ye are not under the LAW.
15. Behold, God is MIGHTY.
16. I will write upon him My NEW NAME.
17. We will give OURSELVES continually to prayer.
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19. He that is PERFECT in knowledge is with thee.
20. Make him of QUICK understanding.
21. If thou wilt RETURN . . . RETURN unto Me.
22. The Lord is my STRENGTH.
23. Where your TREASURE is, THERE will your heart be also.
24. The Lord . . . is longsuffering to US-WARD.
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26. His word runneth VERY swiftly.
27. A WISE man is strong.
28. He shall lift YOU up.
29. Be ZEALOUS therefore, and repent.
30. Receive good things.
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A person who is diligent in filling his consciousness with constructive thoughts experiences life in the world that is of a different tone and color from that of others who do not. Constructive thinking has its place in the spiritual development of the individual consciousness; its practice should not be overlooked. Please join us in the DAILY MEDITATIONS.

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