

SPIRITICITY, October 1959

THE LORD PROTECTS US

By Alden Truesdell

GOD IS protection. This quality of God (who is over all, in all, and through all) is easily seen in children, who come through all sorts of hair-raising adventures every day - slightly soiled, but unharmed. We have been advised by Top Authority to partake of the immunity of these protected ones by turning and becoming as they are. They have not yet departed from the mantle of protection, or the care of the angels relegated to them by the Divine Department of Protection. Of them, this same Authority claims, "Their angels do always behold the face of My Father which is in heaven."

Some people are reluctant to consider or discuss angels of any persuasion, as it might make them appear to be a little on the fanatic side. One woman, who seemed to be sure of her subject, told all within hearing distance, "Anyone who gives attention to angels will soon join them." Where she got this wisdom is not known, but it did not seem to be a lesson learned by experience.

Whether it is good practice to cultivate these angels or not, we all know them, and have sensed them in times of stress, strain, or struggle. We did not know them as angels; but of a sudden there was a relief from pain or a solution of problem. Something came to us out of nowhere to make this adjustment, this restoration to spiritual normalcy. That was an angel.

We may have expressed amazement. We may have said, "This is the work of God, and it is marvelous in our sight." And so it was. And it was the work of these controversial angels. God didn't do it in person. He has finished His works, and is resting from all His labors, but He does have an efficient organization of angels.

The general conception of joining the angels is to die and go to heaven, if one is good enough. But just the reverse is true: The angels are angels of the living, ministering to the ones who are launching out into life.

The angels are the agents and workers of God. They will minister to anyone who is receptive to and dependent upon God's protection. The helpless (many of whom are helped despite themselves) are particular protégés of God and His angels.

Let me cite a case, where protection was invoked and justice declared. This was in Dallas. One of my clients asked me to help a man, who was a star witness in an insurance case. Many of the major companies had high-powered lawyers retained for the purpose of breaking down this man's testimony. This they tried to do for twenty-three days by vigorous, and sometimes vicious, cross-examination. But the witness stood steadfast, unwavering, in the complete immunity of the protection of the Lord. Ancients might have described his feat as being "upheld by the angels of the Lord." Indeed, if we did not have such designations as angels, seraphim, and cherubim, we would have to invent names to represent these evident agencies of the Lord.

Lifeguards are present at all crowded public beaches for the protection of bathers who are not as adept in the water as these professional swimmers. During a season many bathers are rescued from death by drowning and, in many

cases, are completely uncooperative during the rescue. The lifeguards sometimes have to knock out these strugglers before they can save them.

So it is that, in our early experiences in Truth, the Lord seems to take us down and sit on us for a season for our own protection. Thus some of the first spiritual experiences are downward. In Scripture this is represented by Joseph's being sold into slavery in Egypt and also by Jesus and His family fleeing to Egypt to escape the threat of Herod. The practice of dropping into the realm of materialism and spiritual ignorance is one method of protection. But it is preparatory for the time when the world, the flesh, and the devil will be faced head-on - to be overcome and confounded by pure Spiritual Principle.

We often think of protection in terms of armor plate, such as the ancient knights wore to make them immune to the weapons their opponents used, the thicker the plate, the greater the protection. The banks use armored trucks to protect their money; the gangsters use armored cars to protect their lives. Until recently we felt adequately protected by our heavily armored battleships. In the heyday of the battleship this first line of defense was considered adequate. No one would think of pitting angels of protection against these formidable battle wagons. But now all these monsters of the sea are obsolete and impotent in the face of more modern weapons. And even in former wars intangibles, such as weather changes or changes of plans, have been responsible for almost all victories and defeats. So maybe after all, these invisible angels are worth cultivation.

These angels do indeed seem to be somewhat militant; they seem to be more in evidence in great emergencies than in quiet times. But this may be because then they are more ardently invoked. They seem not to be affiliated with any unwieldy institution so much as with the prophet in the wilderness or the helpless wayfarer on the highways and byways of men.

There used to be quite a bit of instruction about angels in the early and more effective movements of Truth. One teacher said that angels of prosperity surrounded her and cared for her and she was well cared for. The work of God is done; the work of the angels goes on forever.

Rather than discouraging the angels, we should encourage them. Those who have done so have found them helpful and have found it to be true that "He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

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SPIRITICITY, October 1959

THE TEACHING OF JESUS

Paraphrased by Nell Truesdell

JOHN, Chapters 15, 16

(DURING HIS final meal with His disciples Jesus washed their feet. He then returned to the supper table to finish His meal. Knowing that Judas Iscariot had agreed to betray Him, He gave Judas a piece of soaked bread and told him to leave. He then talked confidently to the other disciples until it was time for them to leave for the Garden of Gethsemane. We may imagine that the eleven crowded close to their Master as they walked slowly through the dark,

narrow streets of the sleeping city. Jesus talked at length, for He knew that this was His last chance to stress His teaching. The Apostle John reports that He said:)

---- I Am the loyal Agent and the Supreme One is my Director. He destroys every ramification in my consciousness that does not exhibit spiritual values. And He cleanses every ramification that does produce spiritual values, so that it may produce greater values.

---- You are now free from blemish because of the instruction that I have given. Hold me fast in your consciousness and remain true to me. As a branch cannot produce fruit unless it is attached to the main stem, so you are unable to do anything unless you remain true to me. I Am the main stem; you are the shoots. He that remains steadfast in me, and keeps me with him, will produce bountiful results; but disconnected from me, he cannot achieve anything. If a man is not connected with me, he is severed as an offshoot, and wilts. Men collect and throw these into the fire and they are destroyed.

---- If you stay true to me and my teachings remain in you, you may request anything you wish and it shall be granted. You will yield abundant results, for in this way the Supreme One is honored; and as you do this, you show that you are my followers.

---- In the same way that the Supreme One has favored me, so have I favored you. Keep on meriting my regard. If you remain true to my teachings, you shall hold my regard, just as I have continued to hold the Supreme One's regard by obeying His orders. I tell you these things so that my joy might abide in you and your joy might be complete.

---- This is my assignment: Love one another, as I have loved you. No man has greater love than that he be willing to relinquish self-existence for his friends. If you carry out my instructions you show that you are my friends. From now on I do not consider you as slaves, because the slave is never aware of what his owner plans to do. I designate you as my friends; everything that I have learned from the Supreme One I have revealed to you.

---- You did not select me as your Master. I picked you out and appointed you to produce more and more results. Your achievements shall endure because whatever you demand of the Supreme One in my Identity He will grant to you. I order you to keep my instructions and to care for one another.

---- If the realm of humankind detests you, realize it despised me before you. That realm would accept you if you belonged to it. But because I have lifted you out of that realm it detests you.

---- Recollect my teaching: The slave is not of more value than his owner. If men have tormented me, they will also torment you. On the other hand, if men accept my teaching, they will also respect yours. However, humankind will resist you because you identify with me, for they do not know the Supreme One, which has made me His Agent.

---- Men would not have known their separation from the Supreme One if I had not come and taught them. Now they cannot cover their ignorance. (He that detests me detests the Supreme One also.) They never would have known of their separation if I had not done works that no other man did. Now, however, they have seen and detested both me and the Supreme One. But then the statement in Scripture is fulfilled: They hated me without a cause.

---- I will send the Consoler to you from the Supreme One - the Spirit of truth that comes out of the Supreme One. He will give evidence of me. And you also shall be my witness because you have been with me from the beginning. ----

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JOHN, Chapter 16

---- I speak frankly to you to save you from being mentally and emotionally disturbed. You will be put out of the assemblies; yes, the time is here that whoever kills you will believe that he is serving the Supreme One. They will mistreat you because they have understood neither the Supreme One nor His Agent. I Am telling you about these things so that, when they happen, you may recollect that I warned you. I did not mention these things at the beginning because I was with you. But I leave you now to return to the Supreme One that commissioned me. And not one of you asks me, Where are you going?

---- Instead, bitter suffering fills your hearts, because I say these things. None the less, I speak the truth: It is to your best interest that I leave you; for, if I do not go away, the Consoler will not enter your consciousness. But if I go, I will order Him to come to you. And when He arrives, He will censure men for mistakes, for lack of integrity, and for lack of discernment - for mistakes, because they reject me; for lack of integrity, because I return to the Supreme One and you will not see me again; for lack of understanding, because the ruler of humankind is proved to be a liar.

---- I have still more instructions for you, but you are not now prepared to grasp them. However, the Consoler that will come will be the Agent that will lead you into Reality. He shall not talk on His own, but shall report what He receives, and so draw away for you the veil that hides mystical secrets.

----The Consoler shall honor me, for He shall grasp the meaning of what belongs to me and shall divulge it to you. Everything that the Supreme One owns belongs to me. That is why I can say that the Consoler will possess what belongs to me and will show it to you.

---- Soon you shall not see me. A little later you shall see me, after I return from the Supreme One. ----

(The confused disciples dispersed into groups as they debated among themselves this last statement of Jesus. He, knowing this, asked them:)

---- Do you question among yourselves about what I said: Soon you shall not see me; and, on the other hand, a little later you shall see me? Truly, I declare to you, You shall shed tears and mourn, but men shall celebrate. You shall be miserable, but your bitter suffering shall be converted into great gladness.

---- When the time comes for a woman to be delivered, she suffers greatly; but after her child is born, she forgets the labor pains because she is happy to have borne a son. In a like manner, you are miserable; but I promise to see you again, and your hearts shall be glad. No person can take that gladness away from you.

---- At that time you shall not inquire about anything. The Supreme One will enlighten you about whatever you ask Him in my Identity. Up to now you

have not sought anything in my Identity. Demand; and enlightenment shall make your gladness complete.

----Formerly I talked figuratively to you. But now it is time that I stop speaking figuratively, and plainly show you the Supreme One. You will seek information in my Identity. I will not petition the Supreme One in your behalf, for the Supreme One Himself loves you because you have loved me and realized that I Am truly His Agent. I emerged from the Supreme One and Am here in the sight of men. Again I depart this realm and return to the Realm of the Supreme One. ----

(Divinely quickened by Jesus' words, the disciples said that they were sure Jesus knew all things, and that they believed He came from the Supreme One. He said:)

---- Do you really believe? The time is here when you shall be dispersed, each man to return to his old way of life and forsake me. And yet I Am not forsaken, because the Supreme One is with me. I tell you this so that, remembering me, you may have peace. Among men you shall experience severe trial. But be comforted; I have triumphed over human nature. ----

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SPIRITICITY, October 1959

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Anonymous

(Continued from last month)

THY WILL BE DONE

THE WILL of God, in its fullest sense, breaks through upon the consciousness of man by degrees at this stage of his evolution.

"I am a pilgrim here; Heaven is my home." There is no word so dear to the human heart as "home" and these lines of the old hymn bring to the attention of the listener a truth that mankind is ever destined to accept.

At each full moon we have the opportunity of remembering our Native Homeland as we witness the spectacle of full-moon illumination in the night sky. At this time the heart is filled with yearning for loved ones, yearning for home; and it is at this high tide of forces mystical and potent that the mystic soars to heights unseen.

Who knows - this might be the voiceless voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Come home! come home! Heaven is your home!" And so we pause and listen and try to remember that life is but a pilgrimage in a far country; while tenderly the Homeland ever sings sweet murmurings in our soul.

Is it not probable that the light of our sun and our moon are intended as constant messengers to draw our attention heavenward, away from the earth and its materialism? For those who study the stars, gazing skyward, find that the stars enlarge the meaning of life and prove their relation to man, revealing him to be a miniature universe within himself - moving in exact at-one-ment with the

stupendous forces of the One Universe. "What is man, that Thou art mindful of him?" Indeed he is a pilgrim here, and Heaven is his eternal abode!

The Prodigal Son, the most famous of all allegories, illustrates for man this journey of the soul out from the Father's House, which is the Spiritual Home, down into this drama we call earth-life. Through a process of "involving," the soul is gradually lowered by vibration into the more dense spheres of this planet, which it is destined to overcome.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me."

In this strange and little understood journey from the Realm of True Being, it is the Will of God that man should remain conscious of his Identity, walking voluntarily under the illumination and guidance of his Inner Light, the Silent One within. "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake."

But, clothing himself in the clumsiness of an earthly vehicle, which we know as the human form, man has become body-conscious, instead of being soul-conscious or Self-conscious. It is in this stage of his travels that the "prodigal" wastes his inheritance in riotous living. When the Inner Light becomes dimmed, the prodigal loses his way and no longer recalls his Heavenly Home. His inheritance, the forces of Life, are spent by giving the outward man full command of the fortune that has been entrusted. Finding a new and temporary pleasure and satisfaction in surface attractions, he lives very well for a while on the "husks," while the Silent One within is ignored and no longer is remembered.

This is called the "Cycle of Necessity," a mysterious "involving" and "evolving" of the soul, which requires many, many incarnations - because the Will of God is disregarded over and over again, as the individual man in his free choice chooses to follow the appetites of sense, rather than to walk in the Truth of his Spiritual Nature. Thus choosing sensation, he chooses death, which results in the destruction of the form, or physical body. And hence this world is referred to as "the valley of the shadow of death." That which does not endure but is ever fleeting is but a shadow.

To complete the cycle man must face the temptations of sensation over and over, wearing out many bodies, until he learns that by selfishness and ease he does not progress beyond the state of personal greed. And so he eventually tires of the husks! Reincarnation here presents a profound evidence of indispensable Truth.

Coming to himself, his "Self," or true state of Being, man begins to remember his Father's Home; and, as he ceases to squander his life forces in worthless sensations, his Inner Light, that had grown dim, begins to flicker and glow. It is "the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Becoming light-conscious, receiving understanding from the inspiration of the Almighty, man awakens from his ignorance, and turns his attention Godward - Home!

At this point, the process of "evolution" begins. Evolution is simply the process of overcoming. It is the road back to the Father's House, which completes the Cycle of Necessity.

When a man has awakened, or has come to himself, the journey back should be swift and easy; for, walking under the guidance of Spirit, he receives the promise: "There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling." Remembering the Truth of his Being, that he is a radiant son of the Father, man moves rapidly through the periods of earth-existence, no longer held captive by the illusions that side-track and detract.

"And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him."

(to be continued)

Alphabet Of
DAILY MEDITATIONS
For Every Week Day Of The Month

OCTOBER 1959

1. Hear My voice: let thine ears be ATTENTIVE.
2. It is BETTER to trust in the Lord.
3. Thou, O God, art a God full of COMPASSION.

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5. DRAW nigh unto God.
6. The ETERNAL God is thy refuge.
7. Be ye therefore FOLLOWERS of God.
8. GROW in GRACE and in the knowledge of GOD.
9. In the shadow of HIS HAND HATH HE HID me.
10. I will INSTRUCT thee and teach thee.

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12. In Thy Presence is fulness of JOY.
13. Wise men lay up KNOWLEDGE.
14. To me to LIVE is Christ.
15. Let the Lord be MAGNIFIED.
16. But one thing is NEEDFUL.
17. OBEY My voice.

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19. Live in PEACE.
20. Many waters cannot QUENCH Love.
21. His RIGHTEOUSNESS endureth for ever.
22. His glory SHALL be SEEN upon thee.
23. He will guide thee into all TRUTH.
24. In UNDERSTANDING be men.

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26. The VOICE of the Lord is powerful.
27. Ye also shall bear WITNESS.
28. He shall lift YOU up.
29. Be ZEALOUS.
30. What think ye of the Christ?
31. Love Him, and rejoice.

"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.