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DIVINE SCIENCE

¶ "The Power of the Highest shall overshadow thee."—Luke 1:35,

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CHARLES EDGAR PRATHER, Ph. D., Editor.

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Divine Science Teachings

(These Expositions began March, 1917.)

WHAT DIVINE SCIENCE TEACHES ABOUT BAPTISM

By CHARLES EDGAR PRATHER



WHILE THE ONLY REFERENCES in the English version of our Bible concerning baptism are to be found in the New Testament, from which it is generally thought to be solely a Christian rite or ceremony, baptism was practiced as a sacrament by the Hebrews for many generations for various religious ablutions, especially for the immersion of proselytes as a rite of admission to the faith.

Baptism is a progressive step in symbolism, being a higher or more refined representation of the reconciliation, harmony and agreement of man with God than the former brutal sacrifice of animals, but which did not gain general approval and practice until adopted by the followers of the Christ.

The rite is usually celebrated by pouring or sprinkling of water upon the head of the one who is thus willing to announce to the world that he has had a change of thought and desire, a "change of heart," forsaking and renouncing "the world, the flesh, and the devil," and henceforth will live the life of truth, faith and righteousness. This is the practice of most Christian denominations, excepting such as the Baptist and Christian, which recognize immersion as the only valid form; but immersion is generally accepted by all denominations at the option of the applicant. These two excepted churches also teach that there is a certain efficacy, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, in the water itself, which cleanses the soul from all guilt of sin and again makes it one with its Creator—which is atonement.

Water is a cleansing agent. It is also a refreshing and nourishing element. But baptism is intended neither for the purification of the body nor food for the soul. It is but a sign that an inner cleansing has taken place in the attitude, thought and desire of the individual, this rite being an outward testimonial of the fact that the

soul is now partaking of spiritual food, which also rejuvenates and nourishes the body.

As a sign of repentance, a cleansing from sin, John came preaching and baptising in the wilderness, which is the mental preparation for the purification by the Truth through the "Holy Ghost and with fire." John baptised in the river Jordan, which represents the common or race belief in sense conditions; hence symbolizing the wiping out of the dual attitude of accepting good and bad, health and sickness, etc., by now accepting fully the positive, the only right attitude, of the real and true, which is God. His cry was, "Repent ye"—turn about, forsake your double-mindedness, your belief in anything adverse to the good; accept the reality, the truth, the goodness of the One Presence and Power.

This is a mental change, a cleansing of thought, which precedes any ceremony of baptism; for when the Pharisees and Sadducees came to him to be baptised, did he not emphasize that baptism was but a sign of a mental change of attitude and conduct that had already taken place, and which they had not fulfilled? He said unto them, "Bring forth fruits meet for repentance"—that is, show by words and acts, your living, that you have actually forsaken your old way of living and accepted the new in its purity and truth. "I indeed baptise you with water unto (as a sign of) repentance."

This mental change is the starting-point for all regeneration, actuated by a desire for that

which is right and good. Therefore, to endorse it, and encourage all who would follow his teachings, Jesus came unto John to be baptised of him in Jordan; thus testifying that he had likewise determined to cleanse his mentality from all race beliefs in everything adverse to the Good.

The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ gives us these words which intuitively reveal themselves as the truth:

When the time was due he (John) went down to the Jordan ford, and to the multitude he said, Reform, and in the fount of purity wash all your sins away; the kingdom is at hand.

Come unto me and in the waters of this stream be washed, symbolic of the inner cleansing of the soul.

At first few but the honest seekers came; but, by and by, the selfish and the vicious came with no contrition; came because the many came.

And when John saw the unrepentant Pharisees and Sadducees come unto him, he said, Go to, and do the things that prove repentance genuine.

Among the Jews were many who had been waiting for the Christ to come, and they regarded John as Christ.

But to their questions John replied, In water I do cleanse, symbolic of the cleansing of the soul; but when he comes who is to come, lo, he will cleanse in Holy Breath and purify in fire.

And Jesus said to John, I would be washed in water as a symbol of the cleansing of the soul.

And John replied, You do not need to wash, for you are pure in thought, and word, and deed.

And Jesus said, I come to be a pattern for the sons of men, and what I bid them do, I must do; and all men must be washed, symbolic of the cleansing of the soul.

Then John led Jesus down into the river at the ford, and he baptised him in the sacred name of Him who sent him forth to manifest the Christ to men.

As many as confessed their sins, and turned from evil ways to ways of right, the harbinger baptised, symbolic of the blotting out of sins by righteousness.—Extracts from chapters 63 and 64.

Mere conformity to ceremony, however, is not sufficient. "Except a man be born of water," which typifies a cleansing of attitude, "and of the Spirit," which is purification of all sense desires by the revelation or quickening of Truth within, "he cannot enter into the kingdom of God"—the realization of the allness of Harmony, Peace and Joy, as declared Jesus to Nicodemus.

It is this inner transformation, called the new birth, by which one is cleansed from sin, receives the gift of the Spirit, becomes at-one with God, and is conscious of divine affiliation and salvation, which is attested by the rite of baptism.

Truth alone can cleanse one from false belief;

therefore Truth is the only true baptism. It is a consumming fire, burning up all dross of personal thought, carnal desire, untrue conception, selfish motives, wrong conclusions. As in the chemist's retort, only the impurities are consumed, leaving the pure gold, so in the refining fires of Truth the soul is purified of every mental delusion. It is the work of the Holy Spirit—Truth itself—in the soul of man.

The preparation is mental—a repentance or turning from the belief in anything and everything adverse to God the Good; regeneration, the real baptism, is the cleansing work of the Spirit in the receptive soul thus made ready. Truth is ever an accompaniment—that is, you are not only willing and desirous, but responsive to the direction of Truth in proving your sincerity of having turned from evil ways by doing works of righteousness.

True baptism, then, means every thought and action being inspired by Truth—"born of God;" the personal self, with its will and desires, completely submerged, immersed or baptised in Divine Consciousness. This consumes as by fire every false sense and belief. It is a continual cleansing from all mortal conceptions, a daily dying to sin that we may be alive unto God.

Even symbols must give place to the realities which they represent. Therefore, Divine Science proclaims the essence of Reality in its fullness, which, when accepted and unified with, gives a life rich in good works, harmonious

happy and free, needing no outward sign or symbol since through right living all will know of its "inward work of grace."

The Divine Science ceremony of baptism is that of Consecration and Communion, each one making his at-one-ment with the Father. Where parents desire to consecrate their children to Truth, our baptismal service is a recognition of their divine inheritance of purity, wholeness, life, love and goodness, children of God, and heirs of heaven here upon earth and forever. This recognition of their real Self becomes and remains an ever-inspiring subconscious monitor to them in fulfilling its ideal as they grow in wisdom and in stature, and thus in favor with God and man, as did the boy Jesus.

May the overshadowing Presence of God be a constant baptism to each and every one, whose fire of Truth will purge from all sin, and whose Holy Spirit will quicken into the consciousness of wholeness and harmony.

Your words of Truth appeal so strongly to my heart that I am forced to give utterance to my overflow of happiness; happy to know that there is another intelligent, noble and brave mind added to the few who are able and possessed of the moral courage to stand aloft centuries ahead of the common world and fearlessly beckon them on. Such a man needs no encouragement save from the One Source alone—God, which courage everyone will feel when able to follow the stakes set by you in your advanced march ahead. May God speed that day.—H. C. Forrester.

YOUR CHRIST THE LORD

By REV. A. C. GRIER, Editor "The Truth."



WITHIN EACH INDIVIDUAL is a divine spark which is the Real Self. That divine spark always existed and always will exist. It had no beginning and will have no ending. It is God individualized. It is the Christ of each soul. This Christ is born in an individual whenever his consciousness is awakened to a knowledge of his real oneness with God. This Christ becomes manifest in proportion to the daily use of this knowledge of oneness with the Father.

Jesus was born about two thousand years ago, and was the word of God made flesh. His body and mind were manifestations of the God-spark within. His mind, pure and undefiled, made a conscious union with his Father; his body, untainted by seeming disease, magnificent in its beauty, manifested God's life in every cell.

The Christ has always existed, but was born in Jesus when he became conscious of his oneness with his Father. The name "Jesus" represents perfect mind and perfect body, the most complete manifestation of God in thought and flesh that has ever been known. The name "Christ" is spoken in the "holy of holies," for it is the Divine Spirit, the great Reality of God in man.

Let us keep the Christmas season by holding this consciousness for everyone:

I see in you the holy Christ. I picture your inmost being as one with that of the Father—All Knowledge, All Health, All Power, All Love.

I see you standing before me, every seeming lack disappearing from mind and body. I see Jesus Christ, who represents the perfect manifestation of God, standing where you stand, his body filling your body, his mind filling your mind and his Christ-consciousness being your Christ-consciousness. I see you demonstrating, as Jesus Christ demonstrated once and for all of us, that man and God are one in spirit and in flesh. Spirit permeates and fills all. As you realize this for yourself you are born again.

THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST IDEA A STUDY IN IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

By HENRY VICTOR MORGAN

Minister of Park Universalist Church, the Home of New Thought
and Divine Science, Tacoma, Wash., and Editor of
"The Master Christian."



CHRIST IN YOU, the hope of glory, is the message of the New Testament. No scripture is of private interpretation or application, and every event in history must find its correspondence in individual experience.

The literal history of the man Jesus is of little consequence to us until we see in it a revelation of our own soul possibilities. When Jesus is immaculately conceived and held before our mind as a Pattern on the Mount of Consciousness, then all the forces of our nature will build toward the complete materialization of the concept thus held.

The theological doctrine of the immaculate conception is of little value until we also conceive of the real Self in every man as the immaculate Son of God, forever in the bosom of the Father, and cease identifying ourselves with the finite that has suffered but rather with the Infinite that lies stretched in smiling repose.

The Bible is but the history of individual man. In its pages we study our own nature and see the heights to which we may attain. We have no

quarrel with those who insist that Jesus was more than man on account of his miraculous conception and birth, save to point out that the natural order is equally divine, and to pray for the time when every woman will conceive of her child as the Son of God.

Then will the deserts bloom anew
And heaven and earth be one indeed,
The reign of love o'er all proclaimed
And man from every sorrow freed.

We never can tell how much the attitude of Mary's mind influenced the mind of Jesus, but this we do know—it was not until Jesus realized the immaculate conception in his own consciousness and heard the voice of God in his own soul that he was imbued with power from this high concept. So must it ever be. It is not our parents' thought but our own thought that clothes us with power. No thought held for us avails until it has been conceived by us from within.

The truth in regard to man is stated plainly in the Bible. He is the Child of God, created in the divine image. In the story of The Prodigal Son, Jesus beautifully illustrates this concept. The prodigal away from his father's house was just as much the son of the father, though in different relation to him, as the son who remained at home. To bring all men to conceive of themselves as Sons of God was the mission of Jesus, and it was because his conception of man

as the Son of God was made flesh in his own person that he was enabled to heal the sick, cast out devils and raise the dead.

It is the reconception and rebirth of this spiritual idea in our day that is ushering in a religion of power. The old order perisheth. The religion bearing the name of Christ, but foreign in thought and purpose to his spiritual idea, is disappearing from the earth. Its own child, the red dragon of war, is destroying it. But not so with the religion of Jesus. The spiritual idea can never perish. It is as eternal as God. Jesus declared his kingdom was not according to the standards of this world, and it has been well said that when he took away Peter's sword he disarmed every soldier. He demonstrated the power of love over force, and thus became the Way Shower for all who would live the life of the Spirit.

Jesus knew that what was true of himself was equally true of all his brothers and sisters. He was a universalist in the sense that he knew that any man who lived in the same idea could do the same works. He plainly told his disciples that the reason they could not cast out the demon of epilepsy was because of their unbelief. Unbelief in what? Surely not unbelief in God, for they were Jews. Nor was it unbelief in Jesus, for they had left all to follow him. He knew the cause of their failure was their misconception in regard to their own relation to that Indwelling Power which he called the Father; he knew that they

never could do the works he did until they lived in the thought in which he lived.

He who would become a Master Christian must begin the new life by conceiving of himself as the Son of God rather than the son of man. On this point in spiritual science Jesus is imperative. "Call no man father upon the earth, for one is your Father which is in heaven."

This conception will clothe with power from on high the soul that grasps its significance. So long as we identify ourselves with our human parents, just so long will we be subject to their limitations and inheritors of their diseases. The way of escape from the tyranny of human heredity was pointed out by Jesus when they came to him saying, "Thy mother and thy brothers are without," and he answered, "Who is my mother and who are my brothers?" And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples and said, "Behold my mother and my brothers."

In these men who were living in his spiritual thought Jesus perceived his spiritual relatives. He who desires to become an adept in the Christ science must take his stand with Jesus. He must see that back of father and grandfather is the great Eternal Will, the Over Soul, the God and father of us all, and claim his inheritance there. When he says Our Father he must realize that every power that man has attributed to God is also his inheritance. It is said in the gospel of John that "The Word (or the Thought) was made flesh." It is ever thus. Every thought

produces after its kind. Our body is but our crystalized thought and reflects every concept held before our mind. When we realize this truth and see its glorious implication, then will we begin intelligently to build the "more stately mansions" spoken of by the poet.

Only immaculate self-conception will produce the Superman spoken of by Jesus when he said, "They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." And the Superman of whom Jesus speaks is not a man who is to succeed you, but a man who is within you. Yea, he is the Real man who is within every man; and when you know this and can no longer be deceived by appearances, when through your contemplation of the Eternal you can pierce "every time shadow," then, and then only, can you speak the healing word and become in deed and in truth a practitioner of the Christ Science, one of whom Jesus said:

"The works that I do shall ye do also."

Constructive thinking is the kind which upbuilds instead of destroying. It is thinking only of the Good in all people, all creatures, all things and conditions, all circumstances. No matter what the seeming, no difference what the appearance—to think of the God-ness in all and the God-laws working in and through and for all—this is constructive thought.—Henrietta Peet.

A copy of Power just handed me—a new leaf from the Tree of Life, a new acquaintance, and yet the thought in it is an old friend. I am glad of your work, glad of any truth, any effort that leans to virtue's side.—Mrs. Lucy Linn.

Divine Science Daily Study

STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTALS

God is all there is, both invisible and visible.

One Presence, Knowledge and Power, is ALL.

This ONE that is ALL is Perfect Life, Perfect Intelligence, and Perfect Substance.

Man is the Expression of God, and is ever One with this Perfect Life, Intelligence, and Substance.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(In the original form and present tense, since Jesus spoke the Palestinian Aramaic tongue, which had neither past nor future tenses.)

Our Father, which art in heaven,

Hallowed is thy name,

Thy kingdom is come; thy will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

Thou givest us each day our daily bread.

Thou forgivest our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Thou leadest us not into temptation; but dost deliver us from all evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE LIVING CHRIST

By CHARLES EDGAR PRATHER

There are churches which have embalmed a dead Christ in their creeds; buried a dead Christ beneath their imposing ceremonials, instead of making a Living Reigning Christ the one subject of their faith and worship. In many churches abundant proof is furnished of the In-dwelling Christ. They are manifesting His life, and doing His works. They possess some measure of His healing, saving power.—James M. Campbell.

THE DAILY MEDITATION

(Begin the day with a silent prayer, and take the verse for the day with the thought for affirmation, and let the mind return to it many times during the day. At night offer a prayer of thanks for the help received.)

CHRIST THE LIGHT OF TRUTH

1. But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things.—1 Cor. 8:6.

The acceptance of the Omnipresence, with-

out any reserve, is the only true basis for a real Christian experience—an experience of unfolding consciousness.

2. Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.—1 Cor. 1:24.

The revelation of that which really is—God, Truth—is the Christ; and Christ is both Omniscience and Omnipotence—the only Wisdom and Power.

3. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.—John 1:9.

As the Truth illumined Jesus, so is it your light and my light, the intuition and inspiration of everyone.

4. I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.—John 8:12.

This Divinity of humanity is the real Self, and as you follow its leading the darkness of sense belief is dispelled by its light, and then you truly live.

5. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved.—John 10:9.

Knowledge of Truth, the Christ, is the only way to salvation. Through this door I walk into a realization of harmonious and eternal life.

6. I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.—John 14:6.

Conscious unity with the Good can be attained in no other way but by the acceptance of

that "still small voice" within, which reveals that Truth.

7. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.—Isa. 40:5.

As "flesh" represents the personal thought of man, all sense beliefs and opinions must some time give way to the realization that God the Good is all there is; and when man is thus prepared, the glory of the Lord will be revealed.

8. Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.—Eph. 5:14.

Our part is to arouse from the false beliefs of the race, through which comes death, when we will be quickened into joyous life through the transforming power of the Christ-light.

ONENESS WITH GOD THROUGH CHRIST

9. Ye are Christ's and Christ is God's.—1 Cor. 3:23. Christ is all, and in all.—Col. 3:11.

The wisdom of God is your intelligence, and you are its expression. Through this Light you see only God in all and as all.

10. Of his fullness have all we received.—John 1:16.

Of His substance are you made, of His life do you partake; and God has given you all the qualities of true Being.

11. I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.—Gal. 2:20.

Your life is not your own, nor of your making. It is the active Presence of God within you,

the Christ, which causes you to be a conscious living being.

12. Thou art no more a servant, but a son: and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.—Gal. 4:7.

As a direct thought or product of Mind, you are now aware of your relationship—the child or son of God. As such, you inherit—as the very essence of your being—all that God is. What a glorious realization!

13. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.—Rom. 8:14.

You are receptive to this Christ-light, and you are responsive and obedient to its leading. Thereby you know—“the Spirit bearing witness with your spirit”—that you are verily the offspring of the Most High.

14. To fulfill the word of God; even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but is now made manifest unto his saints: . . . which is, Christ in you, the hope of glory.—Col. 1:25-27.

This is your mission: to reveal unto the world the Indwelling Christ, through which alone salvation comes.

15. Born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.—John 1:13.

Were it not for the inherent life-force in the manifest world, “matter” would be dead—unreal. Things of themselves, as things, do not give life; but the life of all things is God, who is the only creator. You are literally born of God.

THE LAW OF CHRIST

16. Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us.—Eph. 5:2.

Law is the right rule of action. It is conscious unity (love) which adjusts and harmonizes, and never resists or antagonizes; therefore practice your oneness with all.

17. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another.—Col. 3:13.

Not only is it necessary to think love, but to practice and live it—actually “letting go” of the faults and mistakes of others as well as your own.

18. As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.—1 Peter 1:15.

Recognizing your Source, and therefore what you are as its product, so should you endeavor to show forth “out of a good conversation” that which you really are. This is wholeness, holiness.

19. My judgment is just: because I seek not mine own will, but the will of my Father.—John 5:30.

Personality is the only barrier to the realization of the fullness of Good. So long as you mentally form your own opinions about this, that and the other, your conclusion is apt to be biased and incorrect. Right judgment comes through beholding all things from the Godward side, through the eyes of impersonal Truth.

20. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.—Gal. 6:2.

Be the avenue of light, inspiration and strength to others in showing them their own inherent powers—God in them, and their burdens will be lifted. Thus the Christ works in and through both you and them.

21. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.—Gal. 5:14.

All life is one, all intelligence is one, all substance (and therefore all expression) is one. Know this oneness, and you will be one with all. This is love—conscious unity.

22. For as many of you as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ.—Gal. 3:27.

You are now Christed, having been cleansed (baptised) from all sense thought and inclination by spiritual illumination, and are henceforth consciously one with the Father.

THE KINGDOM AND POWER OF CHRIST

23. My kingdom is not of this world.—John 18:36. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world.—John 16:28.

You are in the world, but not of it. Your thought, your life, your being, are above the seeming of things and conditions—a light shining in the darkness.

24. All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.—Matt. 28:18.

Knowledge is power. You can know only that which is real, and that which is real is the only power. Heaven is the conscious realization

of the Good, which expresses through you in effectiveness. As is the inner so is the outer.

25. Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2:11.

Behold the Christ, the only begotten Son of God, in you, in everyone. Rejoice and be exceeding glad on this day of days, for unto you, within you, is born the Christ your Savior.

26. Who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature.—Col. 1:15.

Born of God, you are wholly Spirit. You are the image of God, made of His pure, perfect and harmonious substance. See the wholeness and likeness in your body as well as in your spirit and soul. It is the primary (first born) essence of your being.

27. Put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.—Col. 3:10.

Today you renounce all carnal or personal thought and desires, and are open, receptive, to the Christ of God, through which you are renewed and enlarged in conscious realization of the Truth.

28. The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of the Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever.—Rev. 11:15.

“Let men say among the nations, The Lord reigneth.” Affirm it so constantly that all peoples will be awakened to this One Presence and Power through the Christ-light, and then shall wars forever cease upon earth.

29. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.—Isa. 9:7.

Nations that do not accept the Truth and become true worshippers of God shall be wiped out, for Truth is the only enduring reality. Righteousness shall increase among all people, the result of which is peace forevermore.

30. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him.—Rev. 13:8.

Nothing can resist the onward march of civilization, which is the knowledge and practice of the Presence of God. All will become quickened and regenerated by this Christ illumination of Truth, and all peoples be one in worshipping Him.

31. And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness.—Ps. 45:4.

Know, then, that only in conformity to righteousness and truth, in the attitude of selflessness or meekness, comes prosperity, harmony and well-being, fulfilling and expressing the Living Christ.

"SPIRITUAL HEALING," by Charles Edgar Prather, Ph. D. Published by The Power Publishing Company, Denver, Colorado, U. S. A. Paper, 30 cents; cloth, 75 cents. A delightful little booklet on Healing by the Power of the Spirit of Truth and the Spoken Word. This is a complete course of practical instruction, showing how one may unfold to the Consciousness wherein is Peace of Mind and Health of Body. Several of the headings are most interesting, and the matter of the little book is such that it can be placed in the hands of all with the conviction that the truths it teaches will heal, uplift and renew body, mind and soul. Among the chapters we might mention as especially helpful are: "Healing, a Bible Doctrine," "Instantaneous Healing," "Necessary Steps to Healing," "Absent Healing," and "Formulas for Self-Healing." This is a little manual which you can carry about with you and cull at any time and also share its jewels of truth with those whom you meet needing healthful suggestions. Briefly, we may add that all from the pen of the editor of "Power" Magazine is of a high spiritual quality. Blessings.—Sister Veni Cooper-Mathieson, in "The Truth-Seeker," Sydney, Australia.

LOVE IS CONSCIOUS UNITY

By LLOYD L. COOPER



ALL IS INCLUDED in Divine Love. Love is not only the essence or substance of God, but likewise a force; a force that operates to unity or make one, such as solar attraction, gravity, cohesion, adhesion, chemical affinity, human affection, etc. This unity or love is manifested in many ways: Mother-love, conjugal-love, love of beauty, harmony, etc., all of which are but phases of the one Divine or Universal Love.

Love grows, or unfolds, as we practice it, and through the practice of true love we will come to know that all is love; for God is love, and God is all there is.

Love is the very nature of Being, and underlies all hope and faith. It is the non-recognition of love which excites one to anger, jealousy, and selfishness.

I must have the discernment and appreciation of the nature and qualities of Being within myself in order to see the lovable thing in others. I see only what I am capable of seeing, but that capacity may be increased through exercise. If I look for the lovable thing, my capacity for that thing will be increased, and through it I will be enabled to see and appreciate other lovable qualities in every living creature, for they are there.

We should therefore practice loving much, and there is only one way: Look for God in everybody and every thing. Moreover, Love is non-resistant. It lets come and lets go freely, without selfishness or pride.

Love is God manifesting his nature—consciousness of unity or oneness. Therefore there is but one degree of Love—Perfect; the mental attitude and degree of its comprehension in the channel through which it expresses alone varies or changes.

Appreciation is one of the first steps to the proper recognition of the nature of Being. Since God is Love,

that which he created is of his own perfect substance, and must partake of the same nature; therefore the nature of all is Love.

Love broadly, love intensely; love whether it be seemingly returned or not. Each day include more and more in your love; this is growth. But have your motive pure, and love for Love's sake; knowing this, there can be no unrequited love, since true love draws its own. Love gives spontaneously, and its compensation is sure; hence Love is the only road to permanent success. "Love never faileth."

THE ROYAL LAW OF LOVE

By ALICE V. DAVIS



THE ROYAL LAW OF LOVE fulfills the Scripture, for Love is the fulfilling (or filling full) of the law. Inspiration comes only through the gates of Love. When we realize our unity with all creation then the "King of Glory"—the Spirit of Love—fills our consciousness with the joys of Being.

How shall this spirit of Love be made manifest? By consecration and service. When we express Faith, and know that we are God-protected and God-directed, we fear not, pain and death lose their sting, and the grave its victory. For the only death there is, is really the death of false beliefs.

Then the true Self (the Christ) is born, and we are filled with knowledge, power and love; and we know that His will is done in earth (in our bodies) as it is in heaven (our consciousness), for then "all power is given unto us in heaven and in earth."

Through Love all things are made possible. "Love one another" is one of the greatest commandments given unto man, for upon this rest all the others. When my highest ideal is to express Love, then I can love my

neighbor as myself, because the Self of everyone is God—and God is Love.

Love is the eternal principle within us, guiding us in all our ways when we recognize the Omnipresence in our bodies—the “temple of the Living God.” Then we partake of the fruit of the Tree of Life, and live in peace, power and plenty, health and joy, for “in His presence there is joy forevermore.”

There is but one law—which is Infinite Love. In the omnipresence of Life the Royal Law of Love is active everywhere; so we give up all criticism and embrace the fuller consciousness, for Love is no respecter of persons.

We recognize in every soul the Divine One; and see as God sees, hear as God hears—with the all-seeing eye and the all-hearing ear of Love. A living thought precedes an act of love. Let Love become a habit of the soul, for love thinketh no evil. Gentleness, forgiveness and mercy are the wings of Love.

When our hearts are filled with Love, we are never critical or irritable, but always divinely irresistible. Divine Love is our Shepherd, and we shall never want, for we know that “all that the Father hath” is ours now. Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need.

Love is the All-inclusive. It is the Life of all, the Power in all; it is the Light that lighteth every man. “God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him.” Our daily prayer should be, “Enlarge thou me in Love, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

May we all sing a new song of praise and love into the world: “Behold, let us love one another.” Then the Royal Law of Love will be fulfilled. To love abundantly is to live abundantly, and to love forever is to live forever. Life, Law and Love are one.

Love suffereth long and is kind, envieth not, vaunteth not itself, seeketh not its own, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, rejoiceth not in iniquity but re-

joiceth in the Truth. What is Truth? Truth is That Which Is; not what may be so, not what may seem so—but what really is!

Truth is absolute: Truth is Love, Life, Law. Truth is all there can be. Eternal universal Truth is neither cause nor effect—it is Being or God. Truth is freedom, and when you know the Truth you are free. In reality we are free now, but we must become conscious of our freedom through understanding.

There is no evolution or change in Love. The only evolution there is, is in our own degree of consciousness. All the Presence there is, all the Power there is, all the Consciousness there is, and the only Law there is, is LOVE—Living Spirit Almighty. When we realize this Truth, we can say, I am the Truth and a law unto myself, and I walk forever in the Royal Path of Law and Love.

OUR CHRISTMAS TREE

By MAY B. SHAWHAN HOAR.

At Christmastide I shall have a Christmas tree; it will be but a sprig, only eighteen or twenty inches high, perhaps, but it would not be Christmas without it, and it will be for you and me.

It will stand in the center of some sort of table, wherever I may be; about it will be that delicious fragrance endowed by dear old Mother Nature, whose family is all living things.

Upon the tree there will be a few wisps of tinsel, for we are but humans, you and I; we like a little tinsel, and just a bit of it will do us no harm. Hanging amidst the green will be a few little glass balls that will catch and reflect any light there may be, and surely all light should be caught and reflected. Festooned about will be a short string of popped corn to symbolize the breadstuff upon the Earth, and with its hanging will be the earnest wish that all God's creatures may have their rightful share of sustenance.

Then scattered about upon the tips of my sprig of tree will be tiny candles, and on Christmas Eve I will light them, one by one, for you and me; light them with just that touch of the Pagan that is really necessary to make us real Christians.

One will be lighted, of course, to our Happiness—but I pray we be saved from the lethargy of Content. One will be lighted to the Spirit of Enthusiasm—balanced by Wisdom. At the next I will ask that we be kind in the troubles of others and brave in our own. Another shall be lighted to thorough Wholesomeness in every thought; the next to perfect Altruism in every motive. Need I say that three of our candles will burn to Faith and Love and Peace? Then one to Vigor, one to Calmness, one to Perseverance and one to the Smiles of Children.

Ah! our candles are all lighted so quickly, and as the little flames of light flare upward they will point to the top of our Christmas sprig where, nestling in the fragrant green, will be a miniature of that starry banner whose bars show the white purity of nobility of purpose and the red blood of courage and on whose field of constant blue gleam the white stars of hope, while above that flag of yours and mine, at the very tip-top of our Christmas tree, will glisten a star in memory of Him whose love surpassed all humility and all grandeur, and who said—"Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

—The Van Leuven Browne Magazine.

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As the season so full of beautiful memories, pregnant with the spirit of Him in whose name it is consecrated, approaches, let us pause in contemplation of the hallowed occasion and inquire, "Of what does the spirit of Christmas consist?" Is it an occasion for bare exchange of gifts, and meeting of friend with friend, or has it a deeper meaning? Is it for fuller realization of, and a devout outpouring of heartfelt gratitude to the Father for the first great Christmas gift? If so, attitude of mind and heart; a recognition of the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God, become more determining factors in its realization than position and environment. Let us so strive to interpret it. The intrinsic value of any gift, symbolical of the First Great Gift, lies not in its pecuniary worth, but in the spirit that prompted it. A nod, a pleasant word, a letter, may mean much.

That each and every one of you may, in a measure, catch this spirit of Christmas and that the coming year may hold something of hope brighter than the one that has passed, is the sincere wish of The Mirror.

—Prison Paper, Stillwater, Minn.

HOW TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

The Christ is the Son of God. It is God in man; man at once human and Divine.

Wherever the unity of the human and of the Divine is expressed, there is the Christ.

The man Jesus was born on earth filled with the Christ, a true Son of God.

The Eternal Christ is in all.

The birth, the coming forth of the Eternal Christ into fullness, is a process of silent fulfillment.

To properly celebrate Christmas we must accomplish this birth of the Eternal Christ into conscious Recognition.

Let us praise the Christ Jesus.

Let us recognize the Christ Indwelling in all men.

Let us seek to give It, the Indwelling Christ, expression.

Let us celebrate Christmas by the acceptance and the expression of the Christ in us.

Let us celebrate it today and every day.

Let all life be a Christmas Carol.

Let us praise the Lord, the Christ, the Master, that we may eternally abide with Him—God in flesh made manifest.—W. Frederic Keeler, in "The Constructive Thinker."

There are three ways of apprehending Truth: 1. The earthly way,—by means of the five senses; 2. The way of argument and reasoning—and all philosophers have taught that it is possible to reach the knowledge of all truth by this method; 3. The spiritual way,—by which man receives knowledge from the inner light or inspiration.—Abdul-Baha.

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