ANNOTATIONS

LESSONS IN TRUTH (Cady)

Lesson 2

"STATEMENT OF BEING"

UNITY

CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL LESSONS

UNITY SCHOOL OF CHRISTIANITY

LEE'S SUMMIT, MISSOURI
QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED
for
LESSONS IN TRUTH (Cady)
Lesson 2
"STATEMENT OF BEING"

1. What do we mean by the nature of God? Name and explain some of the other names used to define the different aspects of God.

2. What is the relation of God to man, and to all His creation?


4. What is love in Divine Mind? How does it manifest in man, and throughout all creation?

5. What do we mean when we say, "God is wisdom"? How does intelligence manifest in man, and in the rest of creation?

6. What is power in Divine Mind? How does it manifest in man, and throughout the universe?

7. What is substance in Divine Mind? How does it manifest in man and throughout all creation?

8. "God cannot be separated from His creation." Explain this statement.

9. Explain God as Principle. Explain God as personal, loving Father.

10. What is satisfaction? How may we find satisfaction for all our desires?
1. What do we mean by the nature of God? Name and explain some of the other names used to define the different aspects of God.

1. The nature of anything is its essential character, therefore the nature of God is Absolute Good, unchangeable, impersonal, eternal, standing under all creation with absolute integrity.

The elements that make up this Absolute Good are what we term ideas, attributes, qualities of God, such as life, love, substance, power, wisdom. Each person's concept (thought) of God is based on his particular degree of soul unfoldment as well as on his need at any given time. However, our particular concept (thought) of God does not change the Principle of Absolute Good; God remains forever the same unchangeable good.

Some names used to define the different aspects of God are:

God is Principle, the foundation, the everywhere-present Spirit of Absolute Good, on which everything rests. Principle is the reality, the underlying plan or framework of all creation.

"God is Spirit," (John 4:24), the life principle, conceived as the breath of God, which is God "breathing out" His Spirit as man, and the universe. Spirit, as the enlivening and enlightening essence of Mind, is the substance that permeates and envelopes all creation. Spirit as the animating force of life is the source of all energy, the prompter of exertion, the inspiring and revealing cause of life, substance, and intelligence in all created things.

God is Source, the origin of man and the universe. God is the source or beginning of all divine ideas, patterns, or laws, which supply us with all that is needed to live a more abundant life here and now, and eternally.

God is Divine Mind, in which inhere all the divine ideas on which creation is based. It is the medium through which Principle functions: "The functioning of the principles of Being; Spirit in action . . . It is that which, through orderly processes, produces things." (Page 56, The Revealing Word).

God is Creator, the creative cause of all that is real, enduring, abiding, eternal. This creation is accomplished through the power of the creative Word, also called the Logos, which moves ideas into expression and manifestation.

God is Law, the action of the principle of Absolute Good working
in and throughout all creation. "Divine law is the orderly working out of the principles of Being, or the divine ideals, into expression and manifestation throughout creation" (Page 118, The Revealing Word).

God is Truth, the steadfast fulfillment of the divine plan, intention or promise; it is the real of all things; that which is continuous and changeless.

God is omnipresence, the only presence in the universe; the Mind essence or substance which is all-inclusive; that which permeates, infolds, supports, sustains, and maintains all things, every moment.

God is omnipotence, the only power, or all-power, which is the ability of all creation, including man, to accomplish perfection and thereby fulfill itself.

God is omniscience, the only wisdom, all-knowing, all-intelligence. Throughout all creation, including man, omniscience functions as the "knowing idea."

God is Being. Being embraces all that has been referred to as God's nature or character. God as Being is the one Presence and one Power. Being is, thus it is always in the present tense, here and now.

Another name for God is Father-Mother; Jesus called Him "our Father" (Matt. 6:9) and also "the Father" (John 10:30). We think of "the Father" as that aspect of God which is the author of all life, the parent Mind, and "our Father" as the all-wise provider caring for us individually. There is also the mother aspect of God which nurtures all creation, feeding it with ideas of life, substance, intelligence. Man feels this mother-nature of God as the love that sustains and fulfills him.

2. What is the relation of God to man, and to all His creation?

2. The relation of God to man is the father-son relationship; God created us, therefore we are His offspring. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Gen. 1:26).

God is related to all creation (including man) as the Father of His creation; as Creator, source or first cause of all that exists, and as Mind is related to its ideas.

To create is to bring into being, to cause to exist. God's work of creating takes place in the invisible realm of divine ideas. The whole creation is a series of harmonious ideas held in Divine Mind as a plan, and these ideas are the spiritual patterns that are back of the formed world of trees, houses, rivers, mountains, places of industry, education, religion, beauty, in reality there is never any separation between God and His creation. On page 36 of the book Jesus Christ Heals we read:

"There is no absence or separation in God. His omnipresence is your omnipresence, because there can be no absence in Mind. If God were for one instant
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separated from His creations, they would immediately fall into dissolution. ... Mind is without metes or bounds; it is within all metes and bounds; it does not exist but inheres in all that is. Hence in spirit and in truth you can never for one instant be separated from the life activity of God even though you may not externally feel or know of His presence."

Scripture reminds us, "He himself giveth to all life, and breath, and all things" (Acts 17:25).


3. God is not a person. If we attempt to personify God, we set Him apart from us. God is not a person having qualities or attributes; He is All-Good. God is Spirit, Being, the everywhere-present Mind teeming with living ideas, qualities, or attributes, such as life, love, power, wisdom, substance, joy, strength, plenty, and every other good thing.

A person is: A human being of flesh and blood, bound by beliefs in certain limits of time, place, power, and circumstances; subject to temptations; possessed of characteristics; relative, existing only in relation to something else.

God is: Being, Spirit, unlimited, changeless good; omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient Mind; not confined to any place, form, or time, yet present in every form and place at all times; the source of all qualities of good; the Absolute, free from imperfection.

This view of God does not set Him apart from us, but rather brings Him "closer ... than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet" (The Higher Pantheism, by Tennyson). We come to know Him as the loving presence within. (Annotation 9 of this lesson will deal with God as our loving Father.)

"Then let us dismiss the thought that God is a man, or even a man exalted far above human characteristics. So long as the concept of a man-God exists in consciousness, there will be lack of room for the true concept, which is that God is First Cause, the Principle from which flow all manifestations" (Page 52, The Twelve Powers of Man).

4. What is love in Divine Mind? How does it manifest in man, and throughout all creation?

4. In Divine Mind love "is the idea of universal unity" (Page 130, Christian Healing). In the first lesson of this course love is defined as the "attracting, harmonizing, unifying, equalizing, binding idea in Divine Mind." The ability to express love is part of our divine heritage as sons of God. Because love is an idea in Divine Mind, it is a spiritual power that joins and binds in perfect harmony the universe and everything in it. "God is love; and he that abideth in love abideth in God, and God abideth in him" (I John 4:16).

In the lower kingdoms we see this idea of love in manifestation
as attraction, magnetism, order, harmony, and the like. When love is expressed through man we see it as devoted service, kindness, unselfishness, tender compassion, friendly co-operation, good will. Love attains its final goal when it is expressed in the same manner that Jesus Christ expressed it throughout His ministry. He gave to us these two "love commandments" to guide our life:

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind . . .

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matt. 22:37, 39).

5. What do we mean when we say, "God is wisdom"? What is intelligence in Divine Mind? How does intelligence manifest in man, and in the rest of creation?

5. God as wisdom is the underlying Truth of all creation, from the tiniest atom to the largest visible form. As wisdom, God is the source of unlimited knowledge, and all sciences. God's wisdom is the pure knowing that causes His plan, or Truth, to come forth in perfection. As wisdom, God is the law that governs all forms of expression. As man touches the fount of wisdom, it operates in and through him as good judgment, understanding, discernment, justice. God's wisdom operates throughout the rest of creation as the intelligence that governs the species.

In Divine Mind intelligence is the idea of light, of knowing. "Light represents intelligence" (Page 14, Mysteries of Genesis). Everything has intelligence. In God's plan every expression of life has the ability to move in complete knowingness (intelligence) of its own sphere so that each may fulfill itself according to the specific plan within it.

Intelligence as used here is the right directional movement of life in the mineral, vegetable, and animal kingdoms. The intelligence operating in a seed knows how to stimulate the life principle within to send down roots into earth or water, and to send shoots upward toward the light, and it continues to sustain the plant or tree in its growth. In us it is that which causes the blood cells and organs to take the nourishment from the food we eat and distribute it to form bone, marrow, tissue, or whatever is necessary to sustain the body temple. Intelligence operates in every species of animal, bird, insect, reptile, and marine life, according to its own level of "knowing." In the animal kingdom we term this intelligence instinct.

In man, however, intelligence moves on a definitely higher level, so we find it expressing through his mind (conscious and subconscious phases) as shrewdness, keenness, alertness, foresight, discernment, judgment. In primitive man, this intelligence is more like the animal instinct, but as man unfolds in spiritual awareness, intelligence expresses through him in an orderly way according to the state of his soul unfoldment. This expression we know to be intuition.

Intelligence, as an idea or quality of Divine Mind, is one of the many ideas that make up our divine inheritance about which we learned in Lesson one.
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6. What is power in Divine Mind? How does it manifest in man, and throughout the universe?

6. In Divine Mind power is the idea of dominion and authority. The original Latin root of the word power means "to be able" so we say that the character and nature of power is the ability to do, to perform, to accomplish, to produce an effect, to make a change, to master a situation.

"There is no power but of God and the powers that be are ordained of God" (Rom. 13:1). As we have already said, God is omnipotence, All-Power, or the only power. Every expression of power with which we are familiar originates in and proceeds from the power idea in Divine Mind. Power is the moving force of the universe expressed as vitality, energy, mastery, in a degree that accords with the capacity of the channel through which it acts. The highest expression of God's power on earth is the dynamic action of the creative word expressed by man as his formative power of thought.

The power idea motivates the birds to fly thousands of miles without rest; it is the same power that enables the ant to carry loads much larger and heavier than itself. This power idea also acts as the reserve strength (second wind) of the athlete, the energy in each of us which makes us capable of doing ordinary things as well as to exert superhuman effort.

God-power is the only power that is back of all our thoughts, feelings, words, actions, and reactions. We may say to ourselves, "If God is All-Power and God is All-Good, why do we have war, suffering, lack?" We must remember that God has given us freedom of choice in the use of our divine inheritance, which means freedom to choose how we shall incorporate divine ideas in our thinking and feeling.

Because power is an idea, a quality of Divine Mind, it is one of the many ideas, attributes, that make up our divine inheritance about which we studied in Lesson one.

7. What is substance in Divine Mind? How does it manifest in man, and throughout all creation?

7. In Divine Mind substance is the idea of perfect form; it is the unformed Mind essence in which ideas live and move and have being, out of which every form is produced. Substance is free, and unlimited, for its character embraces the entire nature of God. It is the presence of God which fills all the universe and permeates all manifest forms.

The word substance comes from a Latin word substantia, sub, meaning "under" and stare, meaning "to stand." Knowing God as the one presence and the one power, we can say that He "stands under" all creation. "Do I not fill heaven and earth? saith Jehovah" (Jer. 23:24).

Substance, or the idea of perfect form, manifests as air, light, sound, earth, water, rocks, mountains, trees, animals—all the multitudinous things that make up our physical world, such as homes, schools, churches, libraries, and other buildings. Substance manifests as the food that is grown and eaten, as the clothes that are
manufactured and worn; it makes up the very body of man himself.

Substance is Mind essence and the creative Word expressing through man as the formative power of thought moves substance into manifest form. God, then as substance, is the one source of abundance always ready to transform His unformed essence into the forms required to meet the needs of all creation.

8. "God cannot be separated from His creation." Explain this statement.

8. God cannot be separated from His creation because, as these lessons have already emphasized, He is the cause of all creation, the source from which it comes forth. He is the life, substance, and intelligence that maintains and sustains man and the universe. "One God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all" (Eph. 4:6).

Creation,—being composed of divine ideas, can never be separated from God Mind. While there are times in human experience when we may think that God is separated from us because of an appearance in our life that seems to lack some good, we come to see that in reality there can be no absence of Good, because God is the only presence and power. Further study of spiritual principles reveals to us that what seems to be an absence of good, or separation from God, is a condition that has resulted from a belief in separation in our own mind, due to lack of understanding concerning the nature of God and His relation to us and to the world about us.

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38, 39).

9. Explain God as Principle. Explain God as personal, loving Father.

9. God as Principle is the creative Cause underlying all creation, the everywhere-present Spirit of Absolute Good, the source of all that is, the Fountainhead of all unexpressed good. It is the foundation upon which all creation rests. In Principle is found the plan of all creation.

The word principle comes to our language from the Latin principium which means: beginning; foundation; source; origin; fundamental truth; essential character; ultimate basis or cause; that from which anything proceeds.

"It is the underlying plan by which Spirit (God) moves in expressing itself" (page 156, The Revealing Word).

God is the personal, loving Father within each one of us, and we feel His presence as we turn to Him for guidance, for love, for protection. As God expresses in each individual, He lives and moves through him as life, breath, power, understanding, love, all else that is good.
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Anything is personal when it is one's very own; does not belong in any way to another. God as Principle becomes individuated in each of us as "my Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 18:10, 19). Just as impersonal Principle creates, sustains, and governs all the universe, so does the Principle within us (our indwelling Lord) govern our life in everything pertaining to us individually. Just as universal Principle is the one presence and one power, so is our indwelling Lord, our Father in heaven, all of this for each of us in a specific, personal way. While any principle is primarily impersonal, it becomes personal to the channel through which it operates. We are channels through which God operates as Principle, thus He is to each of us a personal, loving Father.

"There is a relationship with God into which we can enter where He seems 'closer . . . than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet.' When we enter into this relationship, we become acutely aware of God as a living Presence and we are lifted up by His love. In this consciousness we are able to say as Jesus did, 'Father.'" (page 2, Addenda to Metaphysical Bible Dictionary).

10. What is satisfaction? How may we find satisfaction for all our desires?

10. Satisfaction is the feeling of contentment that results from the accomplishment or attainment of that which we desire. To satisfy means to supply to the fullest extent. Satisfaction is a feeling of well-being, of fulfillment.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17).

For complete satisfaction, therefore, we turn to Divine Mind, the Presence within, and seek its perfect ideas.

Desire, which will be dealt with more extensively in the future lesson, is a longing, a craving for something that we would like to have. Through our study of Truth we come to realize that desire is actually the stirring of one or more of God's ideas seeking expression and manifestation through us.

Desire, or the longing for some good, is often misinterpreted, and then we begin to seek for satisfaction in ways and places that do not accord with God's laws of good. Such action can never bring us true satisfaction. Satisfaction is only possible as we keep consciously in touch with God through prayer.

We always have direct access to God through our own divine nature. We call this inner divinity by various names, such as the Christ, the I AM, and it is God's very presence within us. In moments of silent prayer we experience the inspiration of God that reveals divine ideas to us. These divine ideas are not only the spiritual patterns for everything we can ever desire, but also the starting point of action toward manifesting and satisfying our desires. Only in this manner can we ever find the satisfaction that brings us the "peace of God, which passeth all understanding" (Phil. 4:7).

"Thou openest thy hand, And satisfiest the desire of every living thing" (Psalms 145:16).