

WEEKLY UNITY

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"

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PEOPLE who pray with agonized, heartbroken pleading for relief, release, salvation, often wonder why God seems blind to their sufferings and deaf to their miseries. Why do they not get answers to their prayers? Why does God not *prove* to be "a very present help in trouble"?

If you are one of these, or if you are one who simply is often disappointed as regards answers to prayer for current help in your enterprises, in your business, in your work, or in your home or social relationships, let us think together a few minutes about this all-important matter of "praying."

In Matthew 6:8 Jesus is quoted as saying, "For your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him." In Isaiah 65:24 the prophet relates that God says, "Before they call, I will answer."

The other day a good friend showed me an article that struck a fine note with reference to prayer and the power it is and the answers it receives. The author is a man who once was the pastor of a big church in a Western city who gave up his pastorate and its big salary to devote his life to teaching the truth about prayer; because place and money do not mean much to him compared with his consuming desire to help people to learn to ask aright so that they will not "ask amiss"; and because he felt that he could do this one thing better by doing it exclusively.

The article to which I allude was titled "God Only Knows," and the writer took this popular phrase of perplexity and

confusion and used it to call our attention once more to the great truth that God knows all about you and me and our needs and our hopes and our purposes and our desires. He knows us better than we know ourselves, knows what we want better than we do. It is a deeply moving reminder from a man of deeply earnest purpose.

Sometimes when we realize that God knows we sincerely wonder and ask ourselves why we then tell God what we want.

Well, we tell God what we want every time we think of our needs, or our hopes, or our desires for ourselves

or for others, or for this "new world" we are trying to help make. For God knows before we put it into words! We believe that the best prayer is not that which tries to put our wants into petitions but that which consists in getting still and listening for God to tell us what to do about it. For God's way is to get us to answer our own prayers.

That is why we emphasize affirmation and thanksgiving as the best forms of prayer; for the purpose of affirmation is not to tell God anything but to assure ourselves of the truth that God knows and has already answered, and thanksgiving is the best form of that affirmation.

God knows, thank God!

To realize this is, first, an enormous relief from the burden we sometimes feel of enumerating to God all the many ways in which we want His help. Who has not felt this as a burden, even a hopeless problem? But to realize this also puts us into a far better position to learn what God wants and what He has to tell us about it. We do not have to tell Him. So we assure ourselves that He knows and then give *all* our attention in the silence of our heart to His answers.

God answers oftenest through the ideas He gives us for living. Oh, yes, He answers too through the circumstances He shapes for us; through the friends He sends us, and the books, and the sudden revealing glimpses of nature and history; through the fine examples of devoted men and women who try to show us the very best way of getting close and keeping close to Him. He answers us through the

Why Tell God?



By Gardner Hunting

means He sends us to accomplish our purposes; He answers us in the new purposes He causes to grow out of our experience with Him, the new vision, the new realizations, the new desires. But oftenest He tells us what to do and how.

For this reason we sometimes do not see and hear His answers. We try so hard to see or hear what we think we want to see or hear that we do not grasp the very guidance He sends. Suppose, for instance, that I, a writer, ask Him to help me make money out of my writing. Suppose I am not conscious that I get any answer at all. I want to write a best seller; so I try to think out what it is that most readers want to read, and I strive to write that. Or I try to imitate some other writer who has written a best seller. Nothing happens, nothing but disappointment. Then one day I find myself disgusted with my efforts, and in a moment of revulsion I resolve to write the simple truth as best I know how. I do that; forgetting to try to make it "popular." All at once I find that some editor and some readers are moved and helped by what I have written. It brings me some money; and encouragement to write more of the same sort. Do I realize that God has answered my prayer?

But I haven't written a best seller! Does it occur to me that perhaps God would rather have me keep on writing something true than to give me one huge success, on which I might settle back indolently and take my ease; or I might merely try to imitate myself and do another success? Do I realize that a lifetime of writing truth is better—yes, and often more profitable—as a career for a writer, than a year or two of writing what merely hits the popular taste? Do I realize that the ultimate best sellers in the world have always been the books written with the sincerest purpose to write truth and that my own best hope of true success lies straight in that direction?

If I do, I forget popularity and turn to truth; and with all my heart I go looking for truth wherever I can find it. And when I find it, it always brings me back to the source of truth, which is God. Then my prayer to Him becomes affirmation that He knows and that He has already answered, and thankful listening to hear His answer in guidance.

If you are working on a pet invention; if you are working in some great



Fear Not

By Edwin H. Andrews

WHEN doubt and fear assail us
And fill us with despair,
When worldly comforts fail us,
We turn to God in prayer.
Then love and peace infold us,
Dispelling doubt and fear;
The inner voice has told us,
"Fear not, for God is here!"

cause like that of combating race or class prejudice, intolerance, or in the cause of world peace; if you are absorbed in missions, in public or private charity; if you are doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief; preacher, teacher, publisher, printer; manufacturer, salesman, engineer, philanthropist—the same road to success is open to you; and it is the shortest and best and easiest road. For both God and man want the contribution you have to make, and when you contribute you are a success.

Money is not to be scorned; it is silly to ignore income as a means of expansion of life and opportunity. But "he profits most who serves best" is an old saying that is just as true now as when it was new; and the best service any man or woman can give, in whatever line, is "honest-to-God" service for the benefit of God's children.

If you think your line is too humble ever to produce profit, you have not read history with attention or you haven't observed with understanding. In the Reader's Digest for November, 1945, is a story entitled "The Little Professor of Piney Woods," condensed from an article by Nelson Antrim Crawford in the Rotarian. It is about a humble colored man who just wanted to help his people. He started a school with three pupils and \$1.65 in money; under the guidance and blessing of God, who blesses that kind of effort abundantly, it grew till it became an amazing success, enriched the lives of thousands of useful men and women, and accumulated the means of helping thousands more. The "Little Professor" is Laurence Clifton Jones, who is making a contribution that the world is becoming aware of and rewarding in

terms of the one thing that man wants: the means of contributing more.

Just to emphasize our point, let us not overlook the contribution Mr. Crawford has made to all of us by telling us about it, the contribution the Rotarian and the Reader's Digest make in publishing the story. Yes, if you think you are too humble and inconspicuous and insignificant to make a great contribution in the service of God and man, read and observe. Then realize that God knows what you want and just listen for His answer.

No, we shall not all be Laurence Joneses, or build schools, or found institutions, or publish magazines, or write books, or do any other thing that the world may become aware of. But God is aware of every contribution made under His guidance, and God is the great paymaster.

Are you aware of the fact the psychologists describe when they tell us that not a single one of all the tiniest impressions your subconscious mind receives is ever lost? Well, similarly, God never loses track of a single tiny effort you make to benefit a single human being, whether the world ever notices it or not. If you listen to God, He will tell you to keep on making your humble tries to help somebody; and He will bless them and you "abundantly above all that we ask or think"! It is your kind of man or woman He wants. Once we get that idea and act on it, we shall not have to complain that our prayers are not heard or that our needs are overlooked.

Trying to learn to pray and to do what God asks us to do in His answers is seeking the kingdom, and all "things" will be added. The added things will be means and opportunities to do more and to help others do more. Our "big" purposes to promote tolerance and peace will be accomplished before we know it.

God works quietly. So let us be content to work quietly too. But God keeps on working all the time. So let us keep on without ceasing. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand; for thou knowest not which shall prosper, whether this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

Emerson says that the person is great who "believes that he cannot escape from his good." That is true when he prays by listening to the God who knows and then acts on His answer.

Do People Like You?

By Cecil Irene Walker

IT IS SO easy to fall into the habit of criticizing or censuring people for what seem to be their shortcomings. This is one of the commonest of our human faults, and we often acquire the habit without realizing the course we have taken. We have a tendency to look down on other races or classes. We magnify our neighbor's flaws and try to excuse our own. Thus without thinking we are creating friction and unpleasantness for ourselves and others.

Sometimes only a severe jolt will suddenly reveal to us the existence of this habit of criticizing and the ultimate danger of persisting in it. My friend Ann had to learn the hard way.

It seems that a long time ago Ann was engrossed with the thought that she must pick worth-while companions. The first thing she did when introduced to a stranger was to find out if he had qualities she did not like. She did not realize what this would lead to until a little girl suddenly brought it to her attention.

They were walking along together talking. The name of a mutual acquaintance came into the conversation. Immediately Ann said, "I don't like her!" With that she dismissed the remark from her mind. The little friend stopped suddenly and swung around to face her with a puzzled frown. "You don't like anyone, do you? Everyone we mention," she said, "you always know something about him you don't like." It was like a slap in the face, and Ann was so abashed at the unexpected bluntness of the remark that she could not answer. She never forgot it—never!

That night, Ann told me, she sat down by herself and began thinking. For the first time she realized she was picking people to pieces, which left only picked-to-pieces people in her world. She turned the problem over

and over in her mind. Finally she formed the plan that she has tried to follow ever since. It was not easy, but soon it became a game, a treasure hunt.

She began with the people around her. She studied each one until she found something nice about him. From there on it was simpler. Thinking of a person's nice traits does so much more for you than thinking of his bad ones. After a time she found she could say something nice about everyone she knew. The new discovery automatically gave her the power to do away with grudges. Like magic she found she never held a grudge against anyone.

Soon she began to notice that the number of people she liked usually determined how many people liked her. Seeking the good traits in those about her left her no other desire but to be kind and friendly. Her friendliness was always returned, for her interest in people made it easy to get along with them. She began to see more and more clearly how foolish she had been to think herself capable of judging others or the world.

Judging is God's job. We should not doubt that He will do it well. Jesus admonished us, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." Observance of His words is surely a road to friendship.

The easiest way to make friends is to be a friend. This we can do by cultivating sincerely the spirit of friendship. But it would not be true to say that once we have mastered the art or acquired the habit of liking people, the job is finished. Now and then it is necessary to call upon all our perseverance and courage to keep our principle firm under strain.

A few years ago Ann changed jobs and residence. For four or five years her scheme had worked beautifully. She was not prepared for what followed.

The new work was interesting, but to her amazement she suddenly found herself among fifteen fellow workers who were inharmonious. Ann was dismayed. In her previous employment there had been very little disagreement or trouble. Here she found such friction as she had never imagined.

True to her motto she found the good traits in everyone. Her liking for them was duly returned, but she was grieved to discover that they could not get along with one another.

The constant bickering and cattiness began to grate on Ann's nerves like sand scraping cement. More than once, before she realized what she was doing, she had passed an opinion rather warmly. Ashamed and angry with herself afterward for having said a single word, she sat down and held a parley with herself. She says there is nothing like a parley between yourself and "you" to straighten yourself out sometimes. In a short time she regained her composure. She began concentrating vigorously on the merits of her fellow employees. One day she was rewarded.

A group of her fellow workers were chatting with her at the lunch hour and an absent office worker was mentioned. One of the girls made a cutting remark and turned to Ann for support. Before Ann could put in a good word another girl laughed and shook her head, "Don't ask Ann a question like that," she said, "she never talks about anyone. I think that's why we all like her so well." The first girl smiled and agreed as did the rest of the group. Easily the conversation turned quietly to impersonal channels. Ann sensed a distinct air of harmony in the small group. She felt an inner surge of happiness.

What an important part we have in life! Our attitude toward those with whom we rub shoulders generates either harmony or antagonism. If we can make it harmony we shall profit by it, and so will our world.

The Prayer of Faith

God is my help in every need;
God does my every hunger feed;
God walks beside me, guides my way
Through every moment of the day.

I now am wise, I now am true,
Patient, kind, and loving, too.
All things I am, can do, and be,
Through Christ, the Truth that is in me.

God is my health, I can't be sick;
God is my strength, unfailing, quick;
God is my all, I know no fear,
Since God and love and Truth are here.

—Hannah More Kobaus.

Things to Be Remembered

By Lowell Fillmore

+ Uncompromising Faith

REMEMBER that the kind of faith that Jesus Christ used and that He expects us to use stills the storm, feeds the multitude, heals the sick, casts out demons, and raises the dead.

True faith, like that which Christ had, is victorious over every adverse condition, overcoming every human weakness and supplying every human need. This true faith will not stoop to strive with earthly, adverse circumstances; it simply rises above them and they become subject to its will.

Faith cannot lower its standards to conform to negative appearances or to shadowy human suspicions. Faith does not have to struggle to maintain its supremacy over evil. When faith is genuine, circumstances that appear to be evil are compelled to get into line with God's good plan.

It is possible for faith to be realized by a person for a short time while he is handling a problem and has brought his mind and affairs to a high point spiritually and then for it to fade out when he falls back into his old groove of doubtful thinking. But even a momentary realization of faith can accomplish wonders. However it should be the goal of every Truth student to remember those momentary faith periods of victory so that he can return to them and, if possible, shape them into a permanent state of mind.

To exercise perfect faith a person must focus his full attention upon God as present with him. As he does this the power and glory of God will unfold within him and go before him, filling his life so full that there will be no room in it for doubts, fears, and shadows of negative imaginings.

Victorious faith admits of no compromise, defeat, or shadow of turning. It will not permit a person's imagination to dwell upon evil. Faith is so courageous, unyielding, steadfast, and adamant that it will have nothing to do with thoughts of evil; but it steadfastly beholds the good, true, perfect creation of our all-wise Father.

Evil is maintained and nourished by the attention it receives from those who lack faith in God's eternal good-

ness. To fight evil is to admit of its existence and to build up its power. Faith sees the true and the perfect, and it clings to these so firmly that it is absolutely unaware of any opposite power.

If a person believes that God is his help in every need then why should he worry about anything? If he worries about the outcome when he prays he

Suggestions for Daily Meditation

(Beginning Sunday, September 29)

Sunday. *No negative appearance can trouble me, because my faith is firmly established in God, who made all things good and lovely.*

Monday. *Every moment of the day perfect faith reveals to me the riches of my almighty heavenly Father.*

Tuesday. *I stand confident and unafraid upon Jesus' promise: "All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*

Wednesday. *My faith in God's forgiving love causes me to forgive everyone who has offended me. Free in the love of Christ, I condemn no one and no one condemns me.*

Thursday. *My faith in God's love helps me to love all His children.*

Friday. *I have perfect faith in God, because it is His vital life that sustains me every minute.*

Saturday. *There is nothing to fear when I have faith that God is here.*

proves that he lacks faith in God to answer his prayer.

If your thoughts should seem to slip away to the contemplation of negative possibilities while you are working to build perfect faith you will find that by giving thanks to God for His omnipresent goodness and love you will be able to keep your thoughts from straying away into these negative paths. Instead of wasting your mental power by doubting use it constructively to give thanks. Give thanks that God is everywhere present and that He is sus-

taining you and blessing you. Doing this will help build up spiritual power in your mind and will fill it so full of good thoughts that there will be no room left in it for doubts and fears.

Decree the good that you want to become manifest, but be sure that your decree conforms to God's infinite love of love and goodness and is not corrupted by any negative or destructive selfish ideas. God created only good and therefore faith in God, to be perfect, must be trained upon goodness and truth, for it will not work in connection with anything less than God's loving goodness. So if you are putting your faith in certain persons do not think so much of their muscles and brains and their human traits of character as having power to justify your faith but rather place your faith in the power of God working through them.

Do not put your faith in the material aspects of your business but rather base it upon God as the inspiring spirit back of your business. Do not try to build your faith through exercise of mere human will power, but build it on the will and power of God.

When you have said a prayer, do not watch and wait with beating heart to learn whether or not your prayer is effective. Go about your work with thanksgiving, knowing that your prayer is already answered in Spirit. When you have attained perfect faith you will realize that all good is already finished and that when you have reached into the realm made by God you will find that everything is good and perfect and that your prayer is answered, for it was answered long before you prayed.

All answers to perfect prayer are complete in the mind of God and have always been. So if your prayer is not answered in the exact way you have outlined it, know that you have not asked for the best that God has for you and that God has given you better things than you knew how to ask for. The best that God has to give us is that which will benefit us most in the long run. Remember also that the true answers to your prayer must bring good to everyone concerned, for God gives only good.

In order to have perfect faith a person must at that high point in his experience be absolutely sincere and unselfish, harboring no feeling of condemnation, suspicion, or revenge toward any person. In order to be able

to exercise perfect faith you must be so sincere that you believe in your own sincerity. You must be honest and absolutely unselfish as regards all details of the problem that is to be solved. It matters not if you have made mistakes or have fallen short in keeping God's law in the past. It is your present attitude that counts in the solution of your problem. If you forgive everyone now God will forgive you now. You dare not hold a grudge against anyone in your heart. If you have one you must get rid of it before you try to exercise perfect faith in an all-loving, forgiving Father.

Faith cannot be perfectly understood by those who have not experienced it. Merely wishing is not faith. Praying loudly or eloquently does not in itself prove that the one who prays has faith. Jesus gave an example of a religious man who because he was pompous and self-righteous was not justified in his prayers. This man gave thanks that he was not like the poor sinner at his side who was not schooled in the ritual of the church. The spiritual power of faith depends largely upon a man's humble sincerity of purpose.

"God is no respecter of persons." Those who meet its requirements will prove the efficacy of the divine law whether they be sinners or saints. So do not be discouraged when you review your past record and find infraction of the law in it. Believe in perfection now and diligently seek the kingdom of heaven today and all other things needful will be added, including forgiveness for your past sins.

Remember that God is your loving, forgiving Father. Go to Him with open heart and mind and He will reward you richly.

Bedtime

Ere thou sleepest, gently lay
Every troubled thought away:
Put off worry and distress
As thou puttest off thy dress:
Drop thy burden and thy care
In the quiet arms of prayer.
Lord, Thou knowest how I live,
All I've done amiss forgive:
All of good I've tried to do,
Strengthen, bless, and carry through:
All I love in safety keep,
While in Thee I fall asleep.

—Henry van Dyke.

The High Watch

The Gospel of Peace

Peace, which everyone greatly desires and on which the thoughts of the world are fixed especially at present, is possible for us. This is because we make our world through the medium of our thinking. We each have a duty in connection with the coming of peace to the world. Our duty is to prepare for it by keeping our thoughts in line with Truth. In a radio address over the National Broadcasting Company a year ago Dr. Frederick K. Stamm outlined the conditions under which we can have peace. We quote Doctor Stamm:

"We've been talking about a just and lasting peace, and we can have it if we want it. We can have it on a few conditions. First of all, when we believe that words mean something, and that peace can be a reality now and not only an ideal which we hope to achieve sometime. I was talking one day over the radio with two other clergymen about a just and lasting peace. We talked for fifteen minutes and when we came down from the studio the two with whom I was speaking remarked almost simultaneously: 'Of course we know there will not be peace ever, all we can hope to do is lengthen the period of no wars.' I wondered why we had bothered speaking and whether words that we roll glibly under our tongues mean something or nothing. If we are going to talk with our tongues in our cheeks after that fashion, we'll be sure to have war. I wonder too how many times I have heard people talk about 'the next war.' . . . By now the world has had enough war, and it is just too bad when people in a democracy talk about the future in terms of war. How many times too have we heard people

say that we'll have to fight Russia next? . . . If we want a just and lasting peace we'll have to stop talking about the next war.

"Then too if we want peace we'll have to stop belittling human nature. We say, 'Human nature can't be changed,' or 'Human nature being what it is, there will always be war.' . . . If human nature can't be changed why do we have churches, why do we pray, and why bother about a good heredity or a wholesome environment? Have you never come across a person whose outlook has changed, whose life has been set in another direction, whose whole being has taken on a radiance which it never had before? . . . Man wasn't made to grovel in the dust and to live by his lowest nature. He was made to be a child of God, and where there is no vision of the family of men living under the rule of God, the people perish, as an ancient prophet declared.

"Then too if we are going to ever rebuild our broken world on right lines, we Christians must get closer together and we must work together, not as the guardians of a sect, but as vital followers of Christ. . . . Never in the midst of darkness and the virus of hate must Christianity lose the triumphant note of faith. We need to recover that spell of eternity, under which the early followers of Jesus lived and wrought and suffered. That's the thing that brings a nobler expansion of life and an amplitude of being. May we let go of outworn formulations, pattern our lives after the needs of a new day, and find the dynamic which will bring in a new epoch for religion."

Prayer for Permanent Peace

By S. Dan Gunderson

Dear Father, help us to see Thy purpose. In our thinking toward a permanent peace teach us to pace our thoughts with the progress of science, to see the modern world problem as a problem common to all, to hear the cry of the people everywhere for justice and peace.

Three Unity Books for Advanced Study

CHRISTIAN HEALING by Charles Fillmore—A comprehensive book on metaphysics that explains how the power of thought brings one into harmony with God's laws. Presented in the form of lessons, this advanced textbook by the cofounder of Unity contains study helps and questions.

HOW I USED TRUTH by H. Emilie Cady—By means of clear, simple illustrations taken from personal experiences Doctor Cady explains how Truth can be used in everyday life. Among the chapters included in this book are "Finding the Christ in Ourselves" and "God's Hand."

TALKS ON TRUTH by Charles Fillmore—This book contains fourteen inspiring chapters, each based on a Truth principle. **TALKS ON TRUTH** covers subjects many students are interested in. Some of the chapter titles are "The Church of Christ," "Attaining Eternal Life," and "Obedience."

These books are priced at \$1 each

Unity School of Christianity, 917 Tracy Avenue, Kansas City 6, Missouri

THE SOCIETY OF SILENT UNITY

THE HEALING DEPARTMENT OF UNITY SCHOOL

+ A Message to You: Spiritual Healing

Dear Friend:

We reach perfection by steadily working out our daily life and affairs in conformity with the pattern God has given us. What is this pattern? It is the Spirit of God in us, the divine Spirit of perfection that enables us to become perfect.

Perfection is the prize of our calling in Christ Jesus. The world says, "It can't be done." Jesus said, "Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

The thought, the demand, the decree for perfection did not originate with Jesus. Moses taught the people hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, and his teaching contains these words: "Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God."

To Abraham when he was ninety-nine years old God said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be thou perfect."

To the limited judgment of the human man neither Abraham nor Moses nor any other person became perfect, but they listened to Spirit, they listened to the voice of God within, and we find the power of Spirit stepped up through the generations. David, our beloved Psalmist, learned from the lessons of Abraham and Moses and the others to look unto God, the God of the Israelites, the same God that we worship, the same Father that created us every one. David patterned his life, his faith, his love, his courage, on the Spirit of God. He knew God. He knew the Spirit of God within himself, and by the wisdom and alertness of Spirit David conquered Goliath.

All His life Jesus studied the Scriptures. From them, from His parents, His teachers He was directed toward perfection. There could be but one standard established by God for His people, the standard of wholeness and perfection.

"As for God, his way is perfect." To follow in His way, which is the way of divine good, righteousness, and Truth, is to aim toward perfection, and to let nothing stand between our-

selves and the attainment of our goal.

For centuries the Israelites were directed toward perfection by prophets, teachers, leaders. Let come what might the people were not permitted to lose the vision of perfection. Then came Jesus Christ. He reached the goal. He became the living way for all who

Daily at 11 a. m. join us in this thought for spiritual illumination:

My understanding is aflame with the light of Spirit.

At high noon each day concentrate your attention on this thought for prosperity:

I rest in the consciousness of God's superabundance, and my prosperity is assured.

At nine each night let us acknowledge the healing power of Spirit with this prayer:

I realize the perfection of the Spirit within me, and health is made manifest in my body.

should come after Him. His Spirit abides in us, the way and the Way-Shower of every single soul.

Paul, the first foreign missionary to release the teachings of Jesus to the world—often downcast because of his own shortcomings—held ever before those whom he taught the necessity of seeking perfection. "Let us press on unto perfection," he urged, "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." How? "Put on love, which is the bond of perfectness."

The perfection of Spirit, the Spirit of God the Father, the Spirit of Christ the perfect Son, redeemer, healer, counselor, teacher within each of us, is the foundation upon which rests all spiritual healing. It is an enduring and eternal foundation upon which eternal life, wholeness, and perfection rest.

When we realize the perfection of Spirit within us, health is made manifest. It may be but a flicker of faith that directs us toward spiritual healing, and a dim little flicker at that. But like a magnet Spirit, the glorious Christ Spirit of light and life within us, draws that flicker of faith to itself and lo, it becomes one with the faith of the Almighty.

Side lights may direct us to the clear shining light of life and wholeness, the perfection of Spirit within. Then as we are able to bear it, the side lights are absorbed into the clear bright shining of the perfect light from which all light springs. This perfect light reveals but one thing, divine perfection and our part and place in it.

To each person there comes a time when the side lights, the side paths, the imperfections that torment mind, body, and soul, no matter how earnestly and sincerely they may be excused and condoned, must yield to the ringing call to perfection of Spirit within.

When man wearies sufficiently of being sick, imperfect, downtrodden, fearful he turns to God. He reaches upward within his own soul to something that can heal him, give him hope, free him from his state of imperfection. He may not even realize at the time that He is crying out to God, but Spirit within him knows and answers the cry. The answer may come in the form of printed words that open man's heart to the inspiration of Truth. It may come in the form of a friend or neighbor, someone with a message of hope, someone who believes in spiritual healing. However the light comes its purpose is to direct man to the perfection of Spirit, to his perfection in Spirit.

Would you be made whole?

You realize the perfection of Spirit within you, and health is made manifest in your body.

Beholding the perfection of Spirit within is the practice of spiritual healing in its very highest and most powerful form. The vision, may we call it the "seeing faith," the "knowing faith" of the one who would heal or be healed must ever be lifted to the perfection of Spirit within himself and as well the perfection of Spirit within the friend whom he would see healed.

"Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God."

Bless you.

Silent Unity.

By Grace A. Thompson

After kissing the baby good night, turning out the light and giving a few parting words to their daughter Patty, who was doing her home work in the living room, Mr. and Mrs. B—— left the house.

Finding the baby sleeping peacefully, Mrs. F—— lost no time in going off to dreamland herself. But a few hours later, as the first faint rays of morning light came through the windows, she was suddenly awakened by terrified screams coming from the nursery. Rushing to David's crib she found him convulsed with fright and too terror-stricken to be able to give her any clue to the cause of his fright.

In a flash the mother realized that seeing her fur coat in the dim light of early morning, the child had mistaken it for a bear. Then she did a most wise thing. Instead of taking the child away from the unreal bear that seemed so very real to him, she stood still and called to Daddy to turn on the light. Then she said, "See, David, Mummy's new fur coat, the one Santa brought her. Remember, David, how you patted it and said 'nice kitty'?" And as she continued to stand beside the object of his fright, she continued also to talk about the fur coat, never once reminding him of a bear by saying:

Gradually the screaming ceased and the child grew calm enough to take a look at the thing he had feared and soon with Mother was laughing and stroking the fur of "Mummy's nice kitty."

Have you in the dim light of your present understanding seen a "bear" in your pathway? Are you in terror, trying to run away from it? Why not turn on more light? Then you too may discover there is nothing to fear. The thing that looks like a "bear" may be a blessing in disguise.

BOZEMAN, MONT.—Unity Truth Center, Baxter Hotel, announces the following activities: Sunday, 8 p. m., devotional service. Thursday, 2 p. m., prayer service; 2:30 p. m., class in *Mysteries of John*. Mary E. Wessel, leader.

BILLINGS, MONT.—Unity Truth Center, Northern Hotel, also under the direction of Mrs. Wessel, announces the following activities: Sunday, 11 a. m., Sunday school. Tuesday, 2 p. m., prayer service; 2:30 p. m., class in *Mysteries of John*; 8 p. m., devotional service. Wednesday, 7 p. m., prayer service. Thursday, 8 p. m., class in *Lessons in Truth*. Friday, 3 p. m., prayer service.

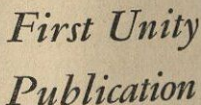
BUTTE, MONT.—Mrs. Wessel is in charge of the following activities in the Y. M. C. A. Bldg.: Monday, 8 p. m., and Tuesday, 2 p. m., prayer service. Friday, 2 p. m., prayer service; 2:30 p. m., class in *Mysteries of John*; 8 p. m., devotional service.

LIVINGSTON, MONT.—Mrs. Wessel is also in charge of the following activities at Elks Hall: Monday, 2 p. m., prayer service; 2:30 p. m., class in *Mysteries of John*; 8 p. m., devotional service. Friday, 10 a. m., prayer service.

FRANCIS J. GABLE, Unity teacher, lecturer, and writer will speak as follows:

MEMPHIS, TENN.—September 29 and 30, and October 1 and 2, at 8 p. m., at the Unity Church of Christianity, Hotel Chisca; and September 29, at 4 p. m., at T. H. Hayes and Sons, 680 S. Lauderdale, under the auspices of the Unity Church of Christianity, for colored students.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.—October 3 and 4, at 7:30 p. m., at the Birmingham Unity Center, 406 N. 22d St.



Did you know that *Unity* magazine is the oldest Unity publication? First printed in April, 1889, its purpose then, as now, was to make Truth available to everyone. Thousands of persons have been healed in mind and body by reading and practicing the Truth principles expressed in the articles found in *Unity*. If you are in need of spiritual guidance and assurance, send for *Unity* magazine. Published monthly, a year's subscription is only \$1.

My Dear Friend: Winter before last we had much bombardment by airplanes. There were evacuated people here, and for a time we had nine grownups and two children in our group. They went to the cellar night and day, but as for me, I liked to stay outside. Every evening I used to repeat with all my soul the 91st Psalm that you advised us to learn by heart. It was wonderful. I could sleep as well as in normal times. Sometimes the noise awakened me, but a few minutes later I was asleep again.

There were many houses broken down in this vicinity—three hundred in D—the nearest town, and many windows broken, but we had only one window broken in the attic, and about a dozen little holes in the zinc roof. I am grateful that we did not have more damage. How glad we were on April 12, 1945, when the Canadians entered our village. Now all is going better steadily. —A. (*The Netherlands*).

Dear Friends: May I take a few minutes to tell you of a demonstration? My fiancé was temporarily out of work due to strikes. Yesterday he had a bill of thirty-five dollars that had to be paid on that date. Counting on last week's salary to pay it but being laid off for that week put him in a bad situation. Up until Sunday night he tried everywhere to borrow the money for the time being, but in vain. I still had faith that the money would turn up. I placed it in God's hands and did not worry about it.

Monday morning (the day the bill was due) he met a friend who needed a rush job done on his car. My friend did it and received thirty-two dollars. While working on the car another friend asked him to do some work on his car. He did that too and made a total of fifty-five dollars for the one day. I was greatly pleased, not because of the money alone but because it strengthens my faith.—*M. L. W.*

Dear Silent Unity: I must thank Silent Unity for help in successfully meeting a business difficulty.

We have a chicken ranch and had a profitable retail trade in eggs. Then some six weeks ago, California was glutted with eggs. Dealers were sending trucks loaded with eggs prepared to sell them wherever they could. We being in an out of the way section at once found our sales decreasing, while eggs were daily accumulating.

I requested the help of Silent Unity and steadfastly held the thought that in divine order we could and would dispose of all this good food to the best advantage. I am thankful to tell you it proved so! We have made many unexpected sales, and a local dealer has taken all the surplus.—C. W. P.

Responsive Service

Sunday, September 29, 1946

Unity Subject—*The Love of the Christ*

INTERNATIONAL SUBJECT—*Jesus and the Law of Love.*—Psalms 119:33-38; Matt. 5:43-48.

Unless otherwise specified, the Bible text used in this lesson is taken from the American Standard Version of the Bible, copyright, 1929, by the International Council of Religious Education, and is used by permission.

33. Teach me, O Jehovah, the way of thy statutes;
And I shall keep it unto the end.
34. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law;
Yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
35. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments;
For therein do I delight.
36. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies,
And not to covetousness.
37. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity,
And quicken me in thy ways.
38. Confirm unto thy servant thy word,
Which is in order unto the fear of thee.
43. Ye have heard that it was said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy;
44. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you;
45. That ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.
46. For if ye love them that love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?
47. And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the Gentiles the same?
48. Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Lesson Interpretation

Is it possible for us to love God without having first learned to love other people?

No. Love is the first of the divine laws, and we have no other way of learning to keep the law except as we keep it in relation to others like ourselves. The thought of God divorced from life is an abstraction difficult to realize, but the Godlike life is definite and understandable. We express it better in our relations with others than in the solitude of our own soul.

How can we love our enemies?

By keeping our thoughts stayed on divine love and holding the same con-

sciousness with respect to all who are the objects of our thought, we can love friend and foe alike.

How can we cause love of our enemies to become genuine or actual instead of assumed?

By praying for them. The sincerest motives of the soul are expressed in prayer, and a sense of communion with God is the most genuine feeling we can know. Therefore we learn to love our enemies by praying for them.

What is proved by our ability to love friends and enemies alike?

That we have developed the impersonal consciousness and are manifesting a certain measure of divine love.

Is it any gain for us to love those who love us?

Yes. In so far as we love those who love us we promote harmony and good will.

In what realm should we seek to realize perfection?

In the realm of love first, since love is more easily learned than the impersonal and impartial exercise of other faculties. Later we should strive for perfection in other fields.

What is our responsibility to life?

Individually each of us is responsible for making his life full, rich, and satisfying, a life under law. Individually and collectively we are responsible for raising the level of the race consciousness until it reaches the universal and rests there permanently.

Appreciation for Silent-70

From the director of a children's club comes this letter of appreciation: "For a number of years we have been very fortunate in receiving copies of *Wise Wisdom, Progress, and Unity*. These publications have found a most useful place not only among our children and in the libraries but also our staff have used them as a source of inspiration in their work. I wish to express my gratefulness to Silent-70 for making them available."

Through its free-literature department, Silent-70, Unity School sends its publications to prisons, orphanages, homes for the aged, hospitals, and similar organizations. The work of Silent-70 is supported by the love offerings of those interested in furthering this work.

UNITY SCHOOL OF CHRISTIANITY
917 TRACY, KANSAS CITY 6, MO.

How can the aspirants after Truth and righteousness become a dominant factor in the ushering in of universal peace on earth and permanent well-being?

By holding in mind persistently a vision of universal understanding, universal harmony, and universal peace by declaring it to be now realized, and by working faithfully toward the realization of it.

To Be Held in the Silence

The Christ Spirit in me is expressed in love to others.

(The lesson for next Sunday is from Acts 21:39; 22:3, 27, 28; 26:4, 5; Phil. 3:5, 6.)

The Purpose of Unity

The purpose of Unity School is not to found another sect, but to show all men their common aim and their common brotherhood; not to separate them or to emphasize their differences, but to bind them together more closely. Through helping churchgoers to apply to their daily living the principles taught by Jesus Christ, Unity makes any church affiliation even more practical.

Unity School spreads its teachings largely by means of its literature, which interprets the Scriptures metaphysically and explains the action of the mind—the connecting link between God and man. How the mind affects the body, producing discord or harmony, sickness or health, here and now, is made clear in the Unity publications.

Unity centers and study classes are places of religious research for all people, regardless of creed; and places where helpful instruction in Christian living may be received.

Laughter

By Olive Lair Smith

Laughter is release, and so
Let laughter have its way;
We grown folk need our laughter
As children need their play.

Laughter is as precious as
The gold we ever seek;
It clears the brain of misty clouds,
It is tonic to the weak.

Laughter is a beauty aid,
It smooths out lines of care.
Add laughter to your daily "must"
Of work and food and prayer.