

12A PURPOSE:

Purpose gives joy and zest to living. When our eye is on the goal we are not so easily perturbed. Purpose awakens new trains of thought; purpose directs these trains of thought into new fields of achievement. Really to succeed we must have some great purpose in mind, some goal toward which we are to work" (TP/45).

Our purpose is to express our divine potential. Through prayer and meditation we have the opportunity to become aware of our own special work which we are to accomplish. It is most important to keep in mind, that God has provided us with all that we need in order to fulfill our divine purpose.

12B MEDITATION:

"By meditation man lights up the inner mind, and he receives more than he can put into words. Only those who have strengthened their interior faculties can appreciate the wonderful undeveloped possibilities in man" (CH/86).

"We get our most vivid revelations when in a meditative state of mind. This proves that when we make the mind trustful and confident, we put it in harmony with creative Mind; then its force flows to us in accordance with the law of like attracting like" (JC/82).

Meditation becomes more enjoyable and beneficial as we continue to practice it. Things can happen in our mind as a result of meditation which may not happen through any other means. Illuminations, expanded viewpoints—all these and many other important insights can be experienced in the minds of those who meditate.

12C PRAYER:

"Do not supplicate or beg God to give you what you need, but get still and think about the iliexhaustj_ble resources of infinite Mind, its presence in all its fullness, and its constant readiness to manifest itself when its laws are complied with. This is what Jesus meant when He said, 'Seek ye first His kingdom, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you'" (JC/77).

"Prayer is a state of consciousness in which man gives thanks and is filled with gratitude for life and the wonderful opportunity of living" (LA/10).

Jesus taught that God is always more willing to give than we are willing to receive. This is one meaning of the statement that God's will is greater than ours. When we realize this, prayer becomes a joyous experience.

12D SEE THE GOOD:

"If you will start right now with the idea of universal and eternal goodness uppermost in your mind, talk only about the good, and see with the mind's eye everything and everybody as good, then you will soon be demonstrating all kinds of good. Good thoughts will become a habit, and good will manifest itself to you. YOu will see it everywhere" (P/60).

"Pronounce every experience good and of God, and by that mental attitude you will call forth only the good. What seemed error will disappear, and only the good will remain. This is the law, and no one can break it. The adversary always flees before the mind that is fixed upon the pure, the just, and the upright. There is no error in all the universe that can stand for one moment in the presence of the innocent mind. Innocence is its own defense, and he who invokes the Father with pure motive and upright heart need not fear any experience" (TT/107).

There is a universal Principle of good that is omnipresent. We are connected to that Principle through our minds and may use our minds to affirm the presence of the Principle at all times and under all circumstances. This does not mean that every thing is good or that every event is good or that every personality is always good. It does mean that the Principle of good is always present. Even if one cannot see any trace of it, the potential for good is somehow, someway, there.

12E PRAISE AND BLESSING:

"Let your words of praise and blessing be to Spirit and the increase will be even greater than it has ever been when addressed to man. The resources of Spirit are beyond our highest flights of imagination. You can praise a weak body info strength, a fearful heart into peace and trust; shattered nerves into poise and power; a failing business into prosperity and success; want and insufficiency into supply and support" (TP/92).

It is true: "The resources of Spirit are BEYOND OUR HIGHEST FLIGHTS OF IMAGINATION." If we can remember this we will learn to trust Spirit more than ever. We will rise above all doubt or mistrust and enter joyously into a consciousness of praise and thanksgiving.

12F LOVE:

"Love is good will in action. It holds the universe together by its constructive, dynamic, unifying power. It is the great solvent of every limitation and every problem ... " (SOH/133).

"When love, the universal magnet, is brought into action in the consciousness of our race, it will change all our methods of supplying human wants. It will harmonize all the forces of nature and will dissolve the discords that now infest earth and air. It will control the elements until they obey man and bring forth that which will supply all needs without the labor that is called the sweat of his face. The earth shall be made paradise by the power of love. That condition will begin to set in for each one just as soon as he develops the love of nature in himself"(TT/61).

The kingdom of love on earth is something everyone really wants above all else. Even those who appear to disrupt the earth actually want this kingdom of love in the deeper levels of their souls. But love, like peace, can only be established by individuals. As we become more loving, we are fulfilling our responsibility of INDIVIDUALITY. Only in this way can we ever become a part of the kingdom of love on earth.

12G NONRESISTANCE:

In nonresistance there is no misuse of power through combativeness or through defensive tactics. The strength of all your gifts can be turned to the creation of harmonies" (WAY/147).

"Stand fast, and don't be overwhelmed by the many things that lie in your path. Keep your mind on the one great truth--that nothing comes to you in life until you are ready to meet it. Our assignments are really ours and do not come by chance. What comes to us belongs to us, and all that comes can be met, for all power has been given to us to meet life" (LA/61).

The attitude of nonresistance is a most important key to demonstration. Spiritual unfoldment is a process and there is much in the human consciousness that requires healing and transforming along the way. Through the practice of nonresistance we have the opportunity to realize that all situations in life can teach us something which will result in our greater awareness of the presence and power of God. Through nonresistance we come to understand that we are not here to attack life but to learn from it and grow from it. This realization helps us meet all of life's challenges with inner peace and spiritual poise.

12H THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN:

"The kingdom of heaven is within, and it is only through bringing its unfailing law of love to act upon every situation that we shall establish its peace in our surroundings" (HLG/162).

"The secret of happiness is in the finding of the kingdom of heaven within" (EP/123).

Metaphysically, the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven are not exactly the same things. The Kingdom of God is the Absolute. It is Omnipresent, Limitless, Changeless, Pure Being. The kingdom of heaven is relative to us. It encompasses the very highest levels of our being. Also, it is a process within us. It is our growing and unfolding consciousness of Truth and oneness with God. It is within, but it is in different stages of realization for each person and is not a fixed absolute, as is the Kingdom of God. In Unity, there is a tendency to speak of both kingdoms without any distinction of meaning. This usually causes no problem, for they are so closely interrelated that it seems unnecessary to separate them.

12I KINGDOM OF HEAVEN ON EARTH:

"The real of the universe is held in the mind of Being as ideas of life, love, substance, intelligence, Truth, and so forth. These ideas may be combined in a multitude of ways, producing infinite variety in the realm of forms. There is a right combination, which constitutes divine order the kingdom of heaven and earth. This right relation of ideas and the science of right thought is Practical Christianity" (CH/14).

Divine ideas constitute the kingdom of heaven. But they are formless and intangible as long as they remain just ideas in the higher levels of being. As our minds appropriate these divine ideas, we give them form and location in time and space. Under the law of mind action these ideas are able to penetrate the realm where they take on form and character. They are able to express their energies "after their kind," and they also are able to transform their energies directly into us as OUR OWN EXPERIENCE!

12J THE DIVINE PLAN:

"In order to get at the very heart of Being, it is necessary to realize that it is manifesting in the least as well as in the greatest, and that, in the bringing forth of a universe, not one idea could be taken away without unbalancing the whole. This brings us to fuller realization of our importance in the universe and to the necessity of finding our right place" (CH/10).

It causes a good feeling in a human soul when one realizes that we are all part of a divine plan. The very fact that we have been created means that we are necessary, somehow, even if we cannot as yet begin to see how. The divine plan is not the same thing as predestination, because in God's plan there is always the divine idea of free will, or freedom of choice. This keeps the divine plan creative and Organic. It is not a fixed, static "thing." Does the plan ever change? Not really. But numerous changes constantly take place WITHIN THE PLAN. That's what keeps our participation in the plan exciting and beautiful. It is with joy and gratitude that we must dedicate and consecrate our lives to the unfoldment of our divine potential and fully participate in this joyous process of fulfillment.

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

- ✤ WHEN WE ARE AWARE OF OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE WE FIND A JOY AND ZEAL FOR LIVING.
- MEDITATION ILLUMINES OUR MIND AND EXPANDS OUR CONSCIOUSNESS, PRAYER IS CONTINUAL PROCESS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING.
- SEEING THE GOOD REMINDS US OF THE VALIDITY AND MEANING INHERENT IN EVERY SITUATION AND HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF NONRESISTANCE.
- ✤ LOVE IS THE HARMONIZING, UNIFYING POWER THAT HEALS AND TRANSFORMS ALL SITUATIONS.
- ✤ THE DIVINE PLAN IS THAT EACH OF US DISCOVER AND EXPRESS OUR GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL.



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