

BELIEFS

FILLMORE WINGS STUDY PROGRAM
Year Two (Lessons 7-12)

The eighteen lessons of Unity's Correspondence School Program propelled Unity's tremendous growth from 1909, when Charles Fillmore wrote the first lesson, until the mid-1970s when the concept of education by correspondence fell out of fashion. For nearly 70 years, all Unity ministers completed the lessons before entering the ministry. The principles taught in the lessons are timeless, the teaching is pristine, and the presentation is clear and direct.

The Fillmore Wings Study Program incorporates the last printing of the eighteen lessons and is supplemented with contemporary footnotes. The online version has everything in this printed volume and much more, including the notes teachers used to grade student papers and downloadable PDFs for printing.

This volume, Beliefs, is the second of three printed study guides, covering the second year lessons. Topics include The Character of God, Christ, Humanity, The Formative Power of Thought, Affirmations and Denials and The Word. They provide what Charles Fillmore believed all truth student needed to know and lay a foundation for the advanced study of Fillmore spirituality.



FILLMORE WINGS STUDY PROGRAM
<https://www.truthunity.net/wings>

FILLMORE WINGS

BELIEFS



FILLMORE WINGS STUDY PROGRAM
YEAR TWO (LESSONS 7-12)



The Fillmore Wings Study Program Schedule

Session	Materials	Topics
Sept, Oct, Nov	Lessons 1-3	The Silence, Healing, Prosperity
Jan, Feb, Mar	Lessons 4-6	Body of Christ, Overcom- ing, Demonstration
May, June, Ju- ly	Lessons 7-9	God, Christ, Man
Sept, Oct, Nov	Lessons 10-12	Thoughts, Affirmations, The Word
Jan, Feb, Mar	Lessons 13-15	Prayer, Faith, Imagina- tion
May, June, Ju- ly	Lessons 16-18	Will & Understanding, Judgment, Love

Fillmore Wings Study Program

Beliefs

Lessons 7-12 of the
Fillmore Wings Study Program
(Year Two)

TruthUnity Ministries

<https://www.truthunity.net/wings>

Fillmore Wings Study Program

Beliefs

Lessons 7-12 of the Fillmore Wings Study Program (Year Two)

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Web version for these lessons are available at:
www.truthunity.net/wings

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

What is the Vision for the Fillmore Wings Study Program? the Fillmore Wings Study Program is a series of lessons that cover Series One and Series Two of the Unity Correspondence Course over a two-year period.

The Fillmore Wings Study Program is designed so that the eighteen lessons are covered in six three-month sessions over a two-year period. Each three-month session will cover three lessons, one per month. Here is an anticipated schedule.

CONTRIBUTORS

The following people have made special contributions to The Fillmore Wings Study Program.



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WELCOME

I am often asked, What did Charles and Myrtle Fillmore believe and teach? It can be difficult to answer because Charles Fillmore wrote many books and Myrtle Fillmore wrote many letters.

There are, however, two documents in which their beliefs were laid out in a concise form and were consistently published for over six decades: *The Correspondence School Lessons*, published from 1910 into the 1970s and the *Statement of Faith*, published from 1921 until 1982. They define what the Fillmores believed—and never regretted proclaiming—and what they demanded their ministers teach.

This volume contains six of the 18 Correspondence School Lessons addressing what is known in Christianity as *theology* and in philosophy as *metaphysics*. It is supplemented by the *Statement of Faith*—given when the Fillmores needed to establish clarity about their teachings in response to criticism from both fundamentalists and liberals.

Besides learning what the Fillmores believed, students of this volume can expect increased clarity in our mental perceptions, a deeper understanding of people and everyday events, and a more focused life purpose.

—Rev. Mark Hicks, General Editor

nary or some other Fillmore resource. Some are, like the introductions, our own understanding of what the reader needs to know.

We recommend supplementing this volume with the *Fillmore Study Bible New Testament*, a Bible with notes and study helps embedded along side of the text, which provides students an easy way to understand the essential metaphysical truths that Charles Fillmore and his students found in scripture. The full text is available online and in printed format at:

<https://www.truthunity.net/web>
<https://www.truthunity.net/giftshop>

The *Fillmore Wings Study Program* and the *Fillmore Study Bible New Testament*, provide a clear and pristine guide to Fillmore spirituality. They also provide a focus for group study, which we call Fillmore Fellowships—study groups that meet independently or in churches. If you find these materials helpful, tell a friend, meet for coffee, start a group. No credentials are needed, only a curious mind and an open heart.

Thus, the Fillmore Wings Study Program is a contemporary dive into present-day understanding of the original course content. At present, we do not offer any credit, certification or credentialing, but we will proclaim that students who complete the learning program will have earned “Fillmore Wings.”

tain the faith density necessary for vibrant ministries. Our job is not to promote abstract principles. Our job is to convey the Fillmore teachings as directly as possible.

The Fillmore Wings Study Program incorporates the text of the eighteen lessons as it was last published in the 1970s and is supplemented with contemporary footnotes. At the end of each lesson were approximately 20 questions for the student to answer. Teachers graded the student's answers according to an unpublished, internal document known as the "Annotations." These three components—Lessons, Questions, and Annotations—comprised the heart of the program.

The Fillmore Wings Study Program materials retain the exact text of the last edition of each lesson but rearranges things for ease of study. The twenty questions have been moved from the end of the lesson into the text of the lesson where the lesson addresses the question. The annotations are made available to the student and placed after the text, also with the questions inserted where the annotations address the question. So this Fillmore Wings study guide retains the authentic Correspondence School material, only altering the order of material for readability.

Our program also inserts some new material into the study materials. Each lesson opens with an Introduction, explaining the relevance of the lesson from a very high level. The sections of each lesson also have small, blue icons with numbers inserted into the text, leading to footnotes that elaborate on the text itself. Most of the footnotes are from the *Revealing Word*, the *Metaphysical Bible Dictio-*

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ABOUT THE FILLMORE WINGS STUDY PROGRAM

The *The Fillmore Wings Study Program* is a TruthUnity project that is dusting off and reintroducing what was Unity's foundational study program for nearly 70 years. Charles Fillmore wrote the first lesson and preached from all 18 lessons for the remainder of his life. It is the program that Eric Butterworth, Johnnie Colemon, Catherine Ponder and Ed Rabel were required to study before entering into Unity's ministry training.

These lessons propelled Unity's tremendous growth from 1909 until the mid-1970s when the concept of “distance learning” by correspondence fell out of fashion. The principles are timeless, the teaching is pristine, and the presentation is clear and direct.

Why reintroduce these lessons today? Learning by correspondence went out of fashion, but the need for clear, direct, and pristine Fillmore based lessons are needed now more than ever. While learning by correspondence fell out fashion, many people have never learned what the Fillmores taught. What they have learned are five principles, hardly enough to establish and main-

RECOMMENDED READING

- ☑ *Christian Healing*, Charles Fillmore, The Word.
- ☑ *Unity Statement of Faith*, Greg W. Neteler, UCÜ Press, 2010, Statement 16, Statement 17, Statement 18 Statement 21.
- ☑ *Original Annotations for The Word*, Unity Correspondence School, republished by Fillmore wings.

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elements that go to make up the electrical body of the Christ man. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea.” (MBD/Bethlehem)

💡 46. In the strength center, at the small of the back, we should speak words of strength — words of courage, steadfastness of mind that cause the body to stand upright.

47. We are to think of the intelligence manifest in every organ and in every function of the body. Whether we are awake or asleep, the blood is busy, carrying on a work that requires intelligence greater than man has yet consciously understood. If man's ignorance did not interfere with these processes, they would build a perfect body and keep it in perfect order. This they will do when, by the power of the Word, the old error conditions, that are established in the subconscious are dissolved and perfect union is made between the conscious and the subconscious phases of mind with the Superconscious or Christ Mind (realm of divine ideas).

1. *when spiritual law is given unlimited expression in man's thoughts, feelings, words, actions, and reactions.* This is an invitation to follow Paul in a missionary journey through parts of our consciousness which need to be opened to Truth.

2. *the substance center* The substance center is not one of the Twelve Powers. The only other reference to the substance center is in the *Metaphysical Bible Dictionary*: "Metaphysically, Bethlehem means house of bread, symbolizing the abiding place of substance. It indicates the nerve center at the pit of the stomach, through which universal substance joins the refined or spiritualized chemical products of the body substance. Through this center are gradually generated the

INTRODUCTION TO FILLMORE WINGS BELIEFS

In 1910, twenty years after their founding of Unity, the Fillmores found themselves in midst of a great disagreement between Christian liberals and Christian Fundamentalists. Orthodox Christian beliefs were losing ground to the effects of science and rationalism. Science had challenged belief in God's revelation with scientific and historical explanations. Rationalism had challenged belief in God's active participation in human affairs with logic and principle.

The Liberals and Fundamentalists responded differently. Fundamentalists resorted to teaching the infallibility of the Bible and its authority over modern discoveries. Christian liberals embraced what modernity had to say and recognized their new understandings as simply new revelations of Truth. To truly understand this context in which Unity found its most rapid growth and the issues it addressed, I recommend William Hordern's *A Layman's Guide to Protestant Theology*, 2nd edition, chapters 1-4.

At almost the same time, around 1910, the Fillmores published the twelve chapters of their first book, *Christian Healing*, and they published the twelve lessons of the Correspondence School pro-

gram. The chapter titles of the book are identical to the lesson titles of the correspondence program. The Fillmores were not to publish another book of their own authorship (or any authorship except Emilie Cady) for another 20 years. These documents should be considered the same work, one focused on a general audience and the other on the training of teachers and ministers.

These works should also be considered the Fillmore response to their critics—Liberal and Fundamentalist alike. Their response is an extremely systematic explanation of God's active participation in human affairs that is congruent with scientific discovery and historical truth.

The Fillmore response has not been well received by traditional Christians. One reason is that we have not communicated the Fillmore message in ways traditional Christians can understand. We need to do better. We can do that as we read these lessons. Here's how.

As you read *The True Nature of God*, consider its Theology. Christian Theology is the systematic study of an all knowing, all powerful, and everywhere present God as a Trinity of three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Fillmores not only affirm the Trinity but actually provide an explanation of the Trinity that can be comprehended by modern people. More important, they also show how modern people can perceive God as an everpresent reality, active in our life, in a personal way.

As you read *Christ, the Only Begotten of God*, consider its Christology. Christology is Christian the-

? What is the result when spiritual law is given unlimited expression in man's thoughts, feelings, words, actions, and reactions?¹

- 💡 42. We must consciously free the life center from all the ignorant thoughts that have been stored there. We are to tell it that it is not limited to threescore years and ten of imperfect manifestation, but is one with universal, omnipresent, unchanging, perfect, eternal life. We must tell it that it is not carnal and evil, but pure with the purity of Spirit. It must be told that it is not material, but that it is the pure substance of Spirit in form. The Word (of life, strength, vitality) will set it free, quicken it to activity, and promote an inflow of the pure, rich, spiritual substance of life.
- 💡 43. We need to speak to the power center at the root of the tongue, to deny all inefficiency and declare, "All power is given unto me in mind and in body."
- 💡 44. We must go in consciousness to the love center near the heart and tell it the Truth. We must deny that it is filled with selfishness and affirm that it is filled with the substance of divine love, pure universal love.
- 💡 45. Then we need to quicken the substance center,² back of the pit of the stomach, with the word that there is one pure, spiritual substance, and that out of it the body is formed in perfection.

Word through the body,³ building in righteousness and order the various centers of the organism. We too must carry the Word into the uttermost parts of the earth (body).

1. *when spiritual law is given unlimited expression in man's thoughts, feelings, words, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." Appropriating the substance and life of Christ requires a higher level of consciousness.*

2. *it is no mystery. The mystery which has been hidden for ages . . . which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).*

3. *Paul represents the spiritualized will carrying the Word through the body. This is corroborated in the Metaphysical Bible Dictionary: "The entrance of Paul and his companions into Europe (Acts 16:6-15) is symbolical of opening up the word of Truth in parts of the consciousness where it has never before been realized." (MBD/Paul)*

ology relating to Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity. The Fillmores affirmed central claim of the faith – that Jesus rose from the dead – and they even go further, devoting their life and their movement to demonstrating that human beings, rooted in God, have the capacity, like Jesus, to overcome death. To the Fillmores, Jesus is not the essence of God, but God's perfect essence in humanity.

As you read *Man, the Image and Likeness of God*, consider its Pneumatology. Pneumatology is Christian theology relating to the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. The Fillmores affirm the Trinity of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and assert the existence of an inner “trinity of man” – Spirit, soul and body. Like the Holy Spirit, which is God in expression, we are also to be God in expression, through Spirit, as soul and body. They declared that we are not depraved or separated from God, but, through Spirit, are God's beloved creation in expression.

As you read *The Formative Power of Thought*, consider its Spirituality. Spirituality is the lived experience of one's faith. While the Christian church has much to say that is *descriptive* of our lived experience, the Fillmores, through their “trinity of mind,” offer an *explanation* of our lived experience. Their trinity of mind is essentially a Fillmore “theory of mind.” At last, Christianity has a framework to pursue true scientific study of faith experience.

As you read *Affirmations and Denials*, consider its Soteriology. Soteriology is Christian theology relating to how human beings find salvation. That

we are transformed by the renewal of our mind is accepted by all Christians. But the Christian church has never come to consensus on how we are saved. Rejecting vicarious atonement, the Fillmores teach salvation as unity of mind and body guided by Spirit. For them, denials and affirmations are spiritual practices that save not only the human soul from sin, but also the human body from addictions and disease, and the human race from hatred and war.

As you read *The Word*, consider its Eschatology and the goodness of all expression. Eschatology is Christian theology focused on the future and destiny of humanity. To the Fillmores, just as the Word was at the beginning, the Word is our future and destiny. Human beings, made in the image and likeness of God, are empowered to “have whatever we say.” The Fillmore understanding of Eschatology rests not in God, but in humanity.

Become conversant with Charles and Myrtle Fillmore’s beliefs and how they relate to these traditional Christian beliefs. Become an advocate for the Fillmores. Start a study group. Engage with those who are looking for a better way. Give the world Fillmore Wings.

–Rev. Mark Hicks, General Editor

Our Future and Destiny

? What does it mean to “keep my word” (John 14:23), as instructed by Jesus?

39. “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you”¹ (John 6:53) seems to the human being a hard statement, but to the one whose spiritual understanding has been quickened it is no mystery.² The “blood of Christ” is life, and His body is pure Spirit substance. Man appropriates (“eats” and “drinks”) this substance in the form of the Word. “So, he who eats me will live because of me” (John 6:57). (See Annotation 15, Lesson 4, Series I.)

40. It has been stated that man makes a new body at least once a year. This being true, it seems strange that there should be, year after year, an appearance of increasing age. The reason is found in man’s ignorance of himself as the Word of God, and his ignorant use of the Word. When he builds new cells, instead of building them in the understanding of substance and life and all that he is in Christ, he builds them in the ignorant belief of the world, after the pattern established in the race mind in its ignorance of Truth concerning the body. When he awakens to spiritual understanding he builds anew and becomes a “new creature” (2 Corinthians 5:17). “We are members of his body” (Ephesians 5:30)

41. In his preaching and missionary journeys, Paul represents the spiritualized will carrying the

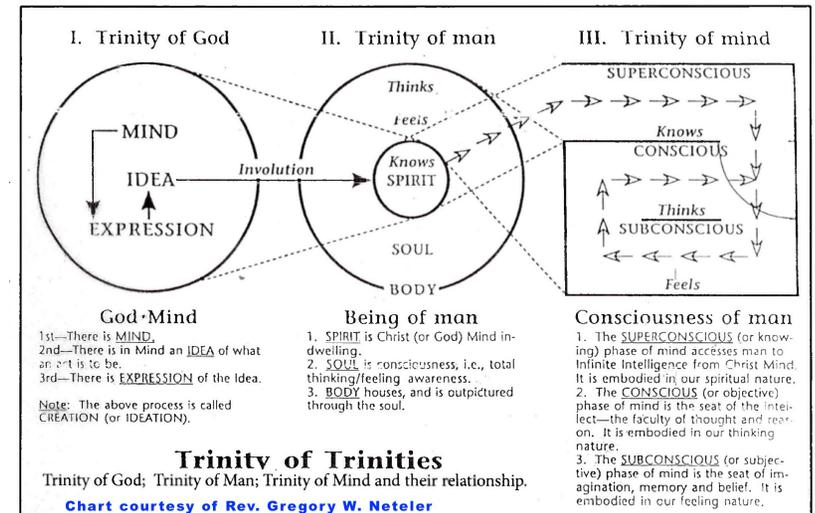
that Charles Fillmore conceived it as a “state of Being,” that is an ontological reality beyond the consciousness of one’s mind. The *Metaphysical Bible Dictionary* states, “Heaven is not confined to man’s consciousness. It is everywhere present. When man’s mind and body are in harmonious relation to divine ideas, his true thoughts flow into the realm of manifestation and bring forth the kingdom in the earth “as in heaven.”

3. *This does not mean that men are not to have bodies, nor that they come into spiritual consciousness by the separation of spirit, soul, body.* The misunderstanding that souls separated from the body have superior spiritual knowledge was a Spiritualist teaching that Charles Fillmore rejected. The Statement of Faith 21 begins, “We believe that spirit, soul, body, are a unit, and that any separation of these three is transgression of the Divine Law.”

4. *the body must become the manifestation of the Divine (Holy) Trinity or Godhead.* A profound and unique theological assertion. Nothing is more empowering and dignifying of the human race than raising the body. While our individual purpose is to express God nature, our corporate purpose and the title of this topic is "The Word and Human Empowerment."

TRINITY OF TRINITIES

The following “Trinity of Trinities” graphic shows numerous metaphysical components and how they are related.



On the left is the Trinity of God, God-Mind creating and expressing Divine Ideas. God, the principle behind these Divine Ideas, is absolute Good. Since these Ideas have no being, their creation and expression is never-ending, made new each moment according to God’s will and desire for our perfect Good. This is God’s pleasure and providence.

In the center is the Trinity of Man, the manifestation of God’s perfect Idea of humanity as Divine beings composed of Spirit, soul, and body. This is

also never-ending, a process of *involution*, God's involvement in our spiritual beingness, giving rise to human evolution, perfect harmony, and elegant solutions to every activity, event, or situation. We are one with God in Spirit.

On the right is the Trinity of Mind, the inner working of the human Spirit and soul. This inner working is also never-ending and constantly evolving through the human thinking process. The trinity of mind explains how the will and desire of God-Mind reaches the conscious and subconscious phases of our thinking through a phase of mind known in Transcendentalism as intuition and in metaphysics as the superconscious phase.

We sometime confuse the "Being of man" in the center and the "Consciousness of man" on the right. God's design for human *being* is the unity of Spirit, soul, and body. God's design for human *consciousness* is the alignment of the conscious and subconscious phases of mind toward spiritual understanding from superconscious mind.

God has given human beings freedom to accept or reject spiritual revelations from Spirit. We have the option to judge, not by Spirit, but "according to appearances." Sin is the decision to make judgements of good and evil by appearances instead of by spiritual understanding or any of our God-given powers. If we persist, the soul will eventually lose awareness of Spirit and the body will die.

has thus conceived. (See Annotation 4, Lesson 3, *Lessons In Truth*.)

38. It is the divine intention that man shall manifest God. All that is in Mind must be expressed and manifested by Mind's perfect Idea (man). In order to do this man must consciously unite his spirit, soul, body and keep them together. His physical body must be transmuted by the power of the Word and moved by the action of the Holy Spirit. The soul is no longer to give the body a "bill of divorcement," for the body must become the manifestation of the Divine (Holy) Trinity or Godhead.⁴ As perfect ideas of life and substance are realized in consciousness, they will be expressed, and the same spiritual conditions will exist in manifestation (body and affairs) that are found in mind. This is the redemption of the body, raising it beyond the three-dimensional realm where it functions under the physical laws into the "fourth dimension," namely, realization, or realm of Divine Mind.

1. *The substance idea must be formed in the mind of man and established through faith.* Recognizing the resources available for our minds to give shape, life and intelligence.

2. *there is a "fourth dimension."* A transcendent realm that Jesus called the "kingdom of the heavens." The quotation from *Keep a True Lent* is repeated in the *Revealing Word* (RW/fourth-dimension). Some Fillmore students assert that the kingdom of heaven is a only a "state of consciousness." However the statement in *Keep a True Lent* and the *Revealing Word* would indicate

pure Being. In *Atom-Smashing Power Of Mind*, by Charles Fillmore, on page 62, reference is made to this fourth dimension as the “kingdom of God.” Note also the following:

☀️ 35. “The fourth dimension is that which embraces and encompasses the other three; it is realization . . . It is the process in which forms lose their apartness and become one under divine law. The human mind, with its limited reasoning faculties, is bound by time, space, and conditions. By itself it can get no further into the spiritual realm than reason will take it; but when we invoke the aid of the Christ in us we go beyond reason into the realm of pure realization; then we have attained the consciousness of pure being, the fourth dimension of the being” (*Keep A True Lent*, 170).

36. This “realization” is knowing and feeling the Presence of God active in us. As Mind is free and unlimited, all of Mind’s creations should be free and unlimited, but the *human* consciousness, reasoning from outer appearances, allows itself to be bound by time and space.

37. This does not mean that men are not to have bodies, nor that they come into spiritual consciousness by the separation of spirit, soul, body.

③ Man, as a trinity is spirit, soul, body; in his present state of consciousness he functions in a three-dimensional world as idea, expression, and manifestation. In man’s trinity or threefold nature of spirit, soul, body, his spirit is the God-Idea of man; his soul is his expression or unfolding of the God-Idea through his consciousness; and his body is the manifestation of what his soul

FILLMORE STATEMENT OF FAITH

It was in April 1921 that Charles Fillmore made the daring decision to publish a Statement of Faith. He did so “in response to many requests for our attitude toward certain tenets of the Christian religion.” To counter misperceptions about Unity, Charles Fillmore’s 32 statements of faith declared that “we do believe all that is taught by the church” and that “we believe all the doctrines of the Christian church, spiritually interpreted.”

What is important here is that Charles Fillmore recognized the threat of being misperceived and therefore he took bold steps to address questions about Unity’s beliefs. His Statement of Faith placed Unity squarely in the Christian camp and unambiguously explained Unity’s unique interpretation of the tenants of the Christian faith.

Go to www.truthunity.net/statement-of-faith for more information about the Statement of Faith.

Go to www.truthunity.net/neteler-sof for the best commentary available today about the Statement of Faith, courtesy of Rev. Greg W. Neteler.

We now refer to this statement as the *Fillmore Statement of Faith* because Unity ceased publication of the Statement of Faith in 1982.

Fillmore Statement of Faith

Extracted from Unity Magazine, April 1921

1. We believe in God, the one and only omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent Spirit-Mind.
2. We believe in Christ, the Son of God, in whom is imaged the Ideal Creation, with perfect Man on the throne of dominion.
3. We believe in Christ Jesus, the Son of God made manifest in Jesus of Nazareth; who overcame death, and who is now with us in his perfect body as the Way-shower in regeneration for all men.
4. We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, whose law of love is perpetually establishing the Divine Plan in man and in the universe.
5. We believe in the supremacy and the eternity of the Good, as the one and only reality of man and of all things visible and invisible.
6. We believe in the twelve Disciples, the twelve Powers of Man, going forth into mind and body with authority to teach, preach, heal, and wholly save man and the world from sin, sickness, and death.
7. We believe that "God is Spirit," as taught by Jesus, and that all of his Spirit is with us at all times, supplying every need.
8. We believe that Divine Intelligence is present in every atom of man and matter, and

original substance and is again subject to the thought of man to shape it into something else. The form, or what man calls "matter," is not lasting, but the substance back of matter endures forever.

33. One can overcome belief in poverty by entering into a realization of the omnipresent substance of Spirit and man as heir to it. From this realization we speak the word of abundance. First, we are to make *conscious* union in mind with the substance idea by claiming, "I am Substance," and then become conscious of our identity as one and the same substance as God. We are each the substance of all that we can ask or think. What men call "matter" is formed substance—formed in the individual life according to each man's thought-word, thus manifesting in various forms. All belief in matter and material conditions as being the source of man's good will be eliminated from man's mind when he understands the true nature of the substance that lies back of all form and appearance.

34. Men have discerned that there is a "fourth dimension"² in which forms lose their separateness, and the primal elements become interpenetrating. This is a concept of spiritual substance and under the divine law, man's body and all things in the universe come into divine unity. Realization of oneness of Spirit substance eliminates all resistance, opposition, and friction. The bodies of all persons who enter into this consciousness will be translated into spiritual ideas; wherever the thought is, instantly there the body will be. Jesus illustrated this when He passed into a room while the doors were closed. This is the realm of

Christ consciousness follows.

7. *realizing "I AM power."* This is consenting to the guidance of our inner Christ.

8. *realizing that "I am life—abundant, limitless, eternal life."* Accepting the talents and gifts Spirit has given to us for expression.

? What kind of words must one use to build a consciousness of abundance?

32. One of the ideas in Divine Mind is substance, and its Scriptural name is "the earth." "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void" (Genesis 1:1-2). The substance idea must be formed in the mind of man and established through faith. ¹ This forming of substance is symbolized by the appearance of "dry land" as recorded in Genesis 1:9. Out of the substance idea the personal ego has conceived forms (matter) which are the structures that man has formed. The substance idea in Divine Mind is expressed in what science called at one time the "universal ether," and now refers to as space-time or energy. Man has God's creative power as his formative power of thought which he uses to make substance into form. Every thought and every word works in the universal substance and out of it man "makes" his body and his environment. The unenlightened man believes in ignorance, death, and impermanence; thus, he impresses his beliefs on all that he shapes. As a result, the forms that he molds by his thoughts carry out his concepts, change, and disappear. The substance or mind essence of which the forms were made is resolved back into its

that the "more abundant life" promised by Jesus is flooding the world and quickening the minds and bodies of men everywhere.

9. We believe that the original "authority and dominion" given to man was over his own thoughts, emotions, feelings, passions, and that in the lawful exercise of this authority he will harmonize all discords within and without, and restore the kingdom of God in the earth.
10. We believe in the creative power of thoughts and words, that they do accomplish that whereunto they are sent, and that all men are held accountable for their lightest words.
11. We believe that, through indulgence in sense consciousness, men fell into the belief in the reality of matter and material conditions. We believe that the "kingdom of God" can be attained, here and now, by overcoming the world, the flesh, and the devil, through Jesus Christ.
12. We believe in the atonement that Jesus reestablished between God and man, and that through him we can regain our original estate as Sons of God.
13. We believe that the prayer of faith shall save the sick, resurrect the body from "trespasses and sins," and finally overcome the last enemy, death.
14. We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is alive and in the world today. We believe that the "more abundant life" promised by Jesus, is poured into the race

stream as a vitalizing energy, and when accepted in faith, purifies the life-flow in our bodies and makes us immune to all diseased thoughts and germs.

15. We believe that sense consciousness may be “lifted up,” as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,” and all men be again restored to paradise through faith, understanding, and practice of the Divine Law, as taught and demonstrated by Jesus Christ. “And I, if I be raised on high from the earth, will draw All to myself.” (*Emphatic Diaglott.*)
16. We believe that the Holy Mother, the Divine Feminine, is now being restored to her righteousness, and that she will reign equal with Jehovah in the heavens and the earth.
17. We believe that we live, move, and have our being in God-Mind; also that God-Mind lives, moves, and has being in us, to the degree of our consciousness.
18. We believe that the body of man is the highest formed manifestation of Creative Mind, and that it is capable of unlimited capacity in expressing that Mind. “Know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?”
19. We believe that through conscious union with Jesus in the regeneration, man can transform his body and make it perpetually healthy, therefore immortal, and that he can attain eternal life in this way and in no other way.
20. We believe that the “blood” of Jesus repre-

31. When one wishes to speak life-giving words, one should first enter into the consciousness of omnipresent life; make his conscious union with it through realizing that “I am life—abundant, limitless, eternal life.”⁸ Whatever God is, His Son, spiritual man, the Christ must be. The aim of manifest man is to be consciously one with the Christ of God, not a separate personality. When man thinks and feels this union with the one life, he will be able to speak healing, life-giving words.

1. *Words that do not carry the realization of divine life.* In addition to having a consciousness of divine love, our words must also have a consciousness of *divine life*. Without life our words fail to bring forth the manifestation of perfect life and health.
2. *Words that do not carry the consciousness of divine power.* Divine power is added to the list of the Word in its fullness. Words without divine power produce negative conditions.
3. *Words lacking the substance of Spirit.* Are “empty words” and produce conditions of hunger, lack, and poverty.
4. *Words without wisdom.* Are idle words “that do not measure up to the standard of the Word of God.”
5. *Every word has a threefold power.* A profound insight into the effect of words on human development. This needs to be memorized, implemented, and preached.
6. *Creative, enduring words are spoken out of the Christ consciousness* A list of characteristics of

put into the word by the race use; and third, the intelligence and feeling given to it by the speaker. We must analyze our words, because every word produces a result. Jesus Christ had a consciousness of the power of words far beyond that of the average man. He proved that His words had life by healing the blind, the paralyzed, the leper, the woman who had an issue of blood. How did He generate a healing energy so great that it filled His garments? It was not done apart from the law. There must have been a cause. The cause was His realization of the infinite substance and life of God. His understanding came through His mastery of the flesh and His conscious union with Divine Mind, Spirit. Creative, enduring words are spoken out of the Christ consciousness⁶ and not out of the limitations of personal consciousness. The unenlightened personal consciousness is barren of life-giving substance. The Word is the indwelling Christ, spiritual man, the immanent or personal God of each individual. The “lost word” is but one way of saying that man has so dulled his consciousness of his spiritual nature that he has lost the power to consciously hear the “still small voice” of the indwelling Christ.

30. When one wishes to speak the word of power one should become very still and make conscious union with the Christ power within through realizing “I AM power.”⁷ Thus, the student consciously unites himself with the source of power; he has made himself consciously one with the divine *idea* of power. When through this communion with his source he is filled with the consciousness of power, he can speak the word that will have in it the very power of God.

sents the consciousness of eternal life; that the “body” of Jesus represents the consciousness of incorruptible substance. We believe that these are original elements in Being and that they can be appropriated by all who through faith and understanding attain the Christ standard of spirituality.

21. We believe that spirit, soul, body, are a unit, and that any separation of these three is transgression of the Divine Law. We believe that the death which came into the world through the Adamic man was death of the body, and that the restoration of the lost Eden is already begun, in the demonstration over the death of the body, as shown in the resurrection, by Jesus.
22. We believe that the separation of spirit, soul, body, caused by death, is overcome by rebirth of the same spirit and soul in another body here on earth. We believe the repeated incarnations of man to be a merciful provision of our loving Father for the final restoration of the whole race to a deathless estate through Christ.
23. We believe that the kingdom of heaven or harmony is within man, and that through man the law and order existing in Divine Mind are to be established in the earth—symbolized in the book of Revelation as the New Jerusalem descending out of the heavens upon the earth.
24. We believe that the “second coming” of Jesus is now being fulfilled; that his spirit is flashing from the east even unto the west, and that all men will feel its quickening.

25. We believe that the Great Commandment given by Jesus in Matthew, is the foundation of the law of life to be established in the earth between men.
26. We believe that Jehovah God is incarnate in Jesus Christ, and that all men may attain the same perfection by living the righteous life.
27. We believe that the Word of God is the thought of God expressed in creative ideas and that these ideas are the primal attributes of all enduring entities in the universe, visible and invisible. The Logos of the first chapter of the Gospel of John is the God Idea or Christ that produced Jesus, the perfect Man. We believe that the Scriptures are the testimonials of men who have apprehended the Divine Logos, but that their testimony should not be taken as final.
28. We believe that all life is sacred and that man should not kill nor be a party to the killing of animals for food; also that cruelty, war, and wanton destruction of human life will continue as long as men kill animals for food.
29. We believe that the misuse of the generative function is responsible for the majority of human ills. Therefore, we believe that purity and control of sex are essential to health and the final overcoming of death.
30. We believe in the final resurrection of the body through Christ. We believe that we do free our minds and resurrect our bodies by true thoughts and words, and that this resurrection being carried forward daily,

hunger, lack, and poverty. Much of what is called sickness and disease in the world comes from feeding on “empty words”—words that are devoid of Truth. Such words leave a vacuum in the mind, and the sensation of emptiness is expressed in the body and the affairs. The soul needs to be fed with the very substance of Spirit (in the form of divine ideas) in order to satisfy its longings and desires, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). We must realize that words of Truth have power to nourish the soul, the body, and the affairs because they are expressing divine ideas. “Thy words were found, and I ate them, and thy words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart” (Jeremiah 15:16).

28. The use of words without wisdom⁴ makes and keeps ignorance in the world. We find it literally true that “on the day of judgment men will render account for every careless word they utter” (Matthew 12:36). Idle words are words that do not measure up to the standard of the Word of God. This warning of Jesus would be better heeded if man realized that every day is a day of judgment; that every day some of the “word seeds” come to fruition as pain and suffering in some form or other, for every word of ignorance makes its mark in the body. Ignorant words cast a shadow over man’s path, and he cannot see the way. They dull his ears until he cannot hear the counsel and guidance of Spirit. He knows not what causes him to stumble, but it is his own “empty words.”

29. All of us realize to some degree the effect of words. Every word has a threefold power:⁵ first, the force of the primal idea; second what has been

the image of God, God immanent. See Wings lesson 9, paragraph 52.

3. *If he would manifest perfection, he must express the Word in its fullness.* The lesson lists five characteristics of the Word not in its fullness.

4. *Every word that has in it no consciousness of divine love.* The lesson continues, saying that unless our words are spoken in a consciousness of *divine love* they will not have “attracting, harmonizing power.”

? What kind of words must be used in restoring the soul and body to health? Show how the Word is carried to all phases of man’s soul, body, and affairs.

25. All words that man uses carelessly in regard to life, words that do not carry the realization of divine life, fail to bring forth the manifestation of perfect life and health,¹ and this “falling short” makes many of the conditions called sickness and disease. Man cannot bring into expression divine, unlimited qualities of Being until he first becomes conscious of the Christ Spirit within himself. He cannot manifest that which he does not consciously possess in some degree in his own mind.

26. Words that do not carry the consciousness of divine power,² Christ power, produce negative conditions. The result of their use is failure to manifest the Christ dominion and mastery.

27. Words lacking the substance of Spirit³ are “empty words” and produce conditions of

will ultimate in a final purification of the body from all earthly errors. Through this process, we shall be raised to the consciousness of continuous health and eternal life here and now.

31. We believe all the doctrines of the Christian church, spiritually interpreted.
32. Almighty Father-Mother, we thank thee for this vision of thy omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence, in us and in all that we think and do, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

bellling against God nor that of giving up submissively to conditions alters the situation. Harmony and rightful conditions are restored *only* by an awakening to Truth and by putting Truth into expression by the Word. When a person arrives at that state in consciousness where he knows that he is the Son of God,² the heir to all that God is; when he becomes possessed of all these qualities in his own mind, he realizes that he is here to give expression to the Word (his own divine nature, as well as God's creative power). If he would manifest perfection, he must express the Word in its fullness.³ The Word contains the very substance of God, or all that God is. Man must become familiar with the nature of each and all of the God qualities (divine ideas) that make up the Word in order to express God fully. Every word that has in it no consciousness of divine love⁴ makes discord, because love is the great attracting, harmonizing power, and the Word of God is not expressed in its fullness through man's word so long as this unifying power of Being (God) is omitted. This understanding will do away with the use of all condemnatory, critical, faultfinding, and angry words.

1. *By his word, good or not good, he makes his heaven and his earth. What he binds on earth (form) is bound in heaven (mind); what he looses on earth (form) is loosed in heaven (mind).* This answer to the question, "how shall we have what we say?", means that what we say is what needs to be said in heaven. Something occurs in heaven that affects our life on earth.

2. *he knows that he is the Son of God.* The "Son of God" is spiritual man, the Spirit, I AM, Christ,

Empowerment, Health, and Prosperity

? Explain fully how this promise is fulfilled: “He shall have whatsoever he saith.”

23. “He shall have whatsoever he saith” (Mark 11:23 A.V.) is one of the most wonderful statements in the Bible, and has summed up in it the whole understanding of man’s power and privilege in using the powers of the creative Word through *his* word. Nothing is of more practical value to man than the understanding that he “makes” his own body and all the conditions in his life by the use of his word. By his word, good or not good, he makes his heaven and his earth. What he binds on earth (form) is bound in heaven (mind); what he looses on earth (form) is loosed in heaven (mind).¹ By the power of his word he can bind his organs, or he can set them free; he can bind his muscles and his brain cells, or he can set them free.

24. When ignorant of the power of the Word each person makes many conditions in mind, body, and affairs that are not in harmony with Truth, and it is in such conditions that he often cries out against God as the cause of his troubles, or gives up negatively in what he calls meekness and submission to the will of God. Man was taught in the past that God was a supreme and arbitrary ruler who brought unhappy conditions on man to punish him for his sins. Neither the attitude of re-

THE TRUE CHARACTER OF GOD



INTRODUCTION TO THE TRUE CHARACTER OF GOD

As you read *The True Nature of God*, consider its Theology. Christian Theology is the systematic study of an everywhere present, all knowing, and all powerful God as a Trinity of three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Fillmores not only affirm the Trinity but actually provide an explanation of the Trinity that can be comprehended by modern people. More important, they also show how modern people can perceive God as an everpresent reality, active in our life, in a person-

al way.

As a people of faith, we are encouraged to seek an understanding of our faith. Faith is rooted in trust, and trust is difficult when we do not understand. It is our God-given privilege to ask questions and to seek answers. This lesson, and the five lessons which follow, are about faith seeking understanding, about faith seeking what we can trust, about our true beliefs.

The church's provision for faith seeking understanding is theology, the study of God. Recognizing that "no theology arises out of a vacuum," the church has acknowledged three sources for its doctrines: revelation (to the church and through Scripture), reason, and human experience. These sources have served their purpose. Catholics can draw from church tradition, Protestants can draw from the Bible, Scholastics and Enlightenment thinkers can draw from Reason, and existentialists and postmoderns can draw from human experience.

The Fillmores also asked questions, difficult questions. They wanted to know why people were not healthy, why they hunger, why they can't get along. They found the theological answers of the day, the answers given by the church, to be insufficient. So do we. Our questions and our life challenges deserve more than "it's a paradox" or "it's God's will."

The Fillmore's answers were found in metaphysics, a framework for understanding the cosmos in which we live, move, and have our being. The answers they found in metaphysics also pro-

to accomplish things." (RW/understanding)

2. *this can be done is to so write them in our heart (subconscious) that they become embodied in the flesh and in every area of our life.* Christians learned this most important spiritual law from Judaism: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart." – Deuteronomy 6:5-6 (NRSV)

you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7).

And again,

✍️ "If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death" (John 8:51).

Our part in "abiding" and "keeping" is to understand His words. The only way this can be done is to so write them in our heart (subconscious) that they become embodied in the flesh and in every area of our life. ② We do not "keep" His words by merely giving intellectual assent that they are true, or by just committing the words to memory. We must consciously *live* the ideas back of the words by adding feeling until they are established in consciousness. Then the words of Truth manifest in our daily life spontaneously. Clarity and efficiency in the conscious phase of mind (intellect) are produced. Love, compassion, and understanding in the heart (subconscious feelings) are experienced. Health and vitality in the body are realized. Harmony, abundance, and success in the affairs are made manifest. These changes that take place following the "new birth" are actually the restoration of man to his true estate as son and heir of God.

1. *By your word your world will be lighted with divine understanding.* Following rebirth, we have a quickening of the divine power of understanding. "That in man which comprehends is understanding; it knows and comprehends in wisdom. Its comparisons are not made in the realm of form, but in the realm of ideas. It knows how

vided a deep understanding of the providence of God, how God's attention, presence and power are the true reality. The answers in this lesson tell us how we can comprehend, and how we can trust, that a transcendent God, a god beyond time and space, can be present and active in our world, a world so filled problems and pain.

The list of terms used in this lesson can be overwhelming: science, power, presence, ideas, forms, substance, intelligence, life, and many others. A good way to begin is to place the terms in ordered sentences that show how they are related. For example,

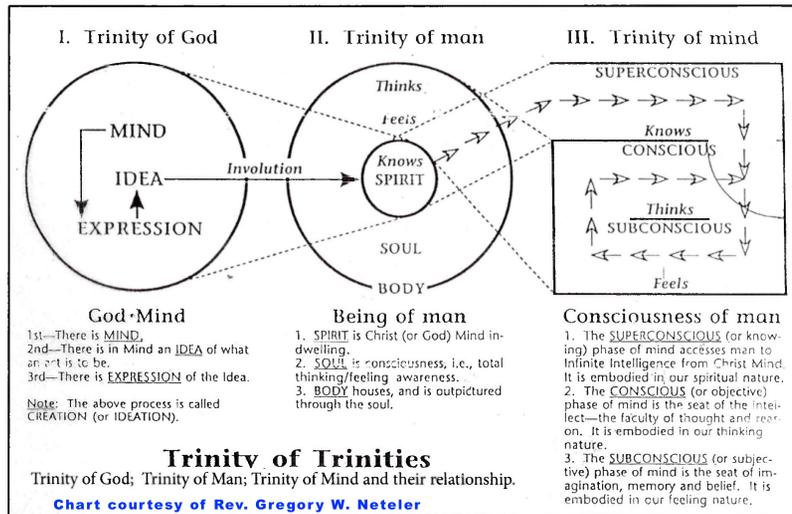
- 💡 God's omniscience can be known by the observation and study of divine Ideas. This science is the study of God's intelligence.
- 💡 God's omnipotence is the power to manifest Ideas as Substance shaped by forms. God has shared this power with humankind, God's image and likeness. This power is God's life shared with humankind.
- 💡 God's omnipresence can be felt and understood in our observations of manifestations in our world. The substance and forms of these manifestations show God's presence everywhere.

The key to understanding these terms is found in our mind and the state of our mind, our consciousness. Always remember Hypatia Hasbouck's great affirmation:

✍️ “My mind and the Mind of God are one.”

We should, as Myrtle Fillmore advised, go into the Silence, or, as Charles Fillmore referred to it, “go to headquarters.” God talks to us in our mind. If we seek and ask, God will provide spiritual understanding.

This chart is taken from Greg W. Neteler's *Unity Statement of Faith*, Senior minister and founder of Unity Church Universal, located at 9th and Tracy in Kansas City, where Charles and Myrtle Fillmore worshipped and worked from 1906 until moving to Unity Farm in the 1930s. Rev. Greg has provided permission for a reprint of his book, which should be available in 2026.



Trinity of Trinities. Courtesy of Rev. Greg Neteler.

5:19). Let us then see what the Father does that we may do likewise. As recorded in Genesis, the first fiat of creation is “Let there be light” (Genesis 1:12). “Light” means intelligence. “Darkness” is ignorance. Man’s first word in bringing forth his world should be “Let there be light.” Instead of saying, “I don’t know,” thus producing darkness, man needs to say, “I am illumined with divine intelligence,” or words to that effect. By your word your world will be lighted with divine understanding. ❶ Every true word that you speak lives, no matter what the appearance may be.

✍️ “The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63).

✍️ “So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose” (Isaiah 55:11).

Suppose we are not wholly illumined at once; suppose the darkness does not at once comprehend the light; we need to be sincere, patient, and persistent in declaring, “I am the light of the world,” and have faith that our word, being Truth, is spirit and life, and shall bring forth its fruit.

22. When Jesus said, “The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63), He knew that His words of Truth contained the life, the power, the substance of God. Understanding the power of His words, we realize the force of His counsel:

✍️ “If you abide in me, and my words abide in

The Word and the New Birth

? What is the “new birth” and how does it take place?

20. Jesus told Nicodemus that it was necessary for men to be born anew (experience the “new birth”). “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). The being “born of water and the Spirit” signifies the same sort of creation as shown in the first chapter of Genesis;¹ namely, that there has first to be an instilling of the spiritual principles in the soul of man, so that the soul would send them forth into the body instead of building a body that is perishable; for “that which is born of the flesh is flesh.” The “new birth” is a complete change in consciousness from the limited beliefs of the human consciousness to acceptance of the Truth. It is birth into the realization of oneself as the son and heir of God.

1. *signifies the same sort of creation as shown in the first chapter of Genesis.* The “new birth” is not only “a complete change in consciousness from the limited beliefs” but spiritually an entirely new creation.

? What changes follow man’s new birth?

21. “The Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever he does, that the Son does likewise” (John

LESSON FOR THE NATURE OF GOD

Aspects of the Nature of God

? Explain God as Principle.

1. The science taught in these lessons is founded on Spirit. Spiritual science is truly eternal, unlike the everchanging facts of the intellectual sciences, which often are based primarily on appearances. Spiritual science is the one true science and it does not change. All who are seeking Truth accept this premise, but before one can understand it he must be *consciously* in Spirit, for the things of God are spiritually discerned.

✍ "There is a spirit in man. And the breath of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (Job 32:8).

2. It is not necessary that one be fully aware of his spiritual nature or his spiritual identity before he begins the study of spiritual science. One's consciousness is quickened by Truth, and if these lessons are studied faithfully, the living word of Truth that is in them will enter into one's mentality, and will quicken the faculty of understanding.¹

3. The very foundation of Truth is right understanding of God.² Everyone has some idea of a

Being who is supreme. This idea is often very indefinite, and many persons would have difficulty in expressing it. Let us ask ourself definitely what God is to us – what our idea of Him is.

4. The concept of God as a large, powerful man seated on a throne far away is erased when spiritual understanding illumines the mind. Jesus said, "God is a Spirit." Divine Mind and Spirit are virtually the same. If we know about Mind, we know about Spirit or God. We perceive that the whole universe is moved by one immanent intelligence and power. Realizing that God is the omnipotent Mind, we have a principle for a philosophy that will answer every question that we ask.

5. People sometimes say: "God as Principle seems cold and abstract. Is there no personal God?" When we understand and realize that God as Spirit is individualized in man, the abstract concept gives way to an indwelling, concrete identity that *seems* personal but has none of the limitations of personality. ③ God is not a personality in the sense of being in any way apart from man's own self. Anything is personal when it is one's own possession. God is personal to us when we become aware of Him as the Father-Mind or Christ Mind within us and turn to it as our counselor, guide, and friend. God is to us whatever we conceive Him to be. When we learn the essential nature of God (Absolute Good) through becoming acquainted with Him in our mind, when we learn that God is wisdom, love, power, good, then we will produce experiences of wisdom, love, and goodness. Jesus so fully recognized and acknowledged this presence and power that He could say, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30), and "He

ly understand and use the fullness of the Word of God, all that is included in the original Greek *Logos*, and come to know himself as the very Word spoken forth by God.

1. *Only to the extent that he knows the qualities . . . of Being.* Note in the Trinity of Trinities chart (Fillmore Wings lesson 10) that the soul may *understand* qualities of Being, it is only Spirit that *knows* them.
2. *Man . . . does not actually create; he merely "forms."* Forming is giving shape and purpose to something that already exists. Creation is giving existence (Being) to something "ex nihilo," a latin phrase meaning "out of nothing" or "from nothing".
3. *is not always enduring because it is not always based on Truth.* God's creation has substance, life, and intelligence. Human "creations" may be deficient in one of these components.

tive but not all words are creative" (*Twelve Powers of Man* 29). All the substance or essence of God is in the creative Word and no element can be lacking if man would have satisfaction. If man leaves out of *his* thought-word the consciousness of divine life, of divine love, of divine wisdom, of divine substance, he "makes" or forms a perishable body and world. But when he is quickened or made alive to the Christ consciousness, he "makes" an imperishable, incorruptible body and world of pure Spirit substance.

 18. "Every idea is a seed, and will bring forth according to its character, modified somewhat by the kind of mind soil in which it is planted. There is a law of growth in mind parallel with that of earth. A thistle seed will always produce thistles, regardless of the character of the soil" (*Atom-Smashing Power Of Mind*, 139).

19. Men are begotten, quickened, and born into spiritual consciousness by the Word of Truth. "Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures" (James 1:18). "You have been born anew, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God" (1 Peter 1:23). Peter here goes on to say: "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord abides forever" (1 Peter 1:24-25). When man is begotten by and born of the Word of God, he is no longer flesh "like grass," but is enduring and abiding, not subject to death and corruption. The body becomes a member of the body of Christ, redeemed, glorified by the Word. To "make" a perfect body, man must conscious-

that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9).

6. God is individualized in each one of us as inspiration, life, strength, wisdom, power, and love, and any good we can conceive. To know God in this personal way, we need to get very still, to withdraw our attention from everything in the outer and direct it within us, centering it near our heart. Then we can repeat quietly and confidently, "Thou only," knowing that we are speaking to the Father within us – and we feel His loving, quickening presence.⁴ We come to realize that we are not alone and that God is not a cold, abstract principle too far away to have loving compassion for us. We find that He is near us, even within us, loving more than earthly parents love their offspring. "Closer is He than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet" (Tennyson, "The Higher Pantheism").

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1. *the faculty of understanding.* One of the Twelve Powers.
 2. *The very foundation of Truth is right understanding of God.* The goal of studying Truth is not knowledge, but understanding.
 3. *to an indwelling, concrete identity that seems personal but has none of the limitations of personality.* To know God is to have a personal relationship with God.
 4. *His loving, quickening presence.* God as Principle is a loving, compassionate presence.

? Explain God as Law.

7. The realization that God is Principle forms a sure foundation for faith. It is the assurance that the everlasting arms of Being are ever present to support; that perfect, unchanging law directs the whole universe. The "Father of lights" is the steadfast Spirit "with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning" (James 1:17). God as Principle is the unchangeable life, love, substance, and intelligence of Being. Principle does not occupy space nor has it any limitations of time¹ or so-called matter; it exists eternally as the one underlying source or cause out of which all proceeds.

8. Divine law is without variation. It is never changed to suit the convenience of man but is "the same yesterday and today, yea and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). When man understands this law and conforms to it, then "all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). It will be noted from the foregoing that there are two phases of Principle:

1. There is the passive phase or essence which we designate as the "Source,"² from which everything proceeds. It is the great reservoir of unexpressed good, the mind substance in which all ideas inhere.
2. There is also the active phase, the law, the "Cause,"³ which is the rule or the working power that produces the results.

9. A parallel may be found in the principle of mathematics⁴ or of music. Arithmetic is probably the simplest part of mathematics. The principle or

folding (unrolling) of this pattern in visible form as plant or tree. It is the same with man as with the rest of creation."

2. *The mission of this "man" is to evolve or unfold in the manifest world.* Words have purpose. So do human beings. We are not here to learn, but to express God nature.

? How does man "make" his world? Show how a perfect body and a perfect world may be "made" by him.

16. Everything in God is in man. The whole universe is in man. He is the Word made flesh. It should be remembered that this refers to spiritual man, the real man. Every individual "makes" his own world, and he does this through his word, the activity of ideas in his consciousness. Only to the extent that he *knows* the qualities (ideas or attributes) of Being,¹ such as life, love, wisdom, power, faith, order, and so forth, does he use them righteously to "make" his body and his world. Man, in his unfolding human consciousness only partly realizes the wisdom, substance, life, and power of God, and therefore does not actually create; he merely "forms,"² and his work is not always enduring because it is not always based on Truth.³ (See pages 93-94 *Atom-Smashing Power Of Mind*.)

17. If a builder should lay bricks without mortar, his masonry would be faulty. The same is true of man's use of words; if some of the elements that should enter into the perfect creative Word are lacking, man merely forms. "All words are forma-

mouth" (Psalms 33:6).

14. The creative process then, whether it is the breathing into the soul of man or the uttering or growing forth from spiritual man into manifest or outer form, is all accomplished through the Word, *the creative power of God*, the divine essence that is immanent in every living creation. We see then the twofold nature of the Word, first the creative power of God "speaking forth" as the divine fiat – "Let there be" – and then all the qualities or nature of God finalizing in His Word as "spiritual man."

💡 15. "In pure metaphysics there is but one word, the Word of God... it is God as creative power. . . . The perfect Word of God is spiritual man" (*Christian Healing*, Lesson 6: The Word, 61).

1. *creation by involution.* Metaphysically, involution is the counterpart to evolution. See the Revealing Word (RW/involution). The annotations for this lessons offer a clearer explanation: "Webster's dictionary uses one word to define involution that is very enlightening, namely the word infolding. The dictionary gives two words for evolution that make this clear for our purpose, namely the words unrolling and unfolding. John I, then, is the unrolling or the unfolding into visibility of the ideal plan involved or ideated in God-Mind. There is really nothing mysterious about this. In every seed is involved or infolded the pattern of the species, with the intelligence to come forth under right growing conditions. The evolution of the seed is the un-

foundation of arithmetic is the unit. All numbers proceed from the unit and are related to it and to one another according to the value of each. The value of a number remains forever the same, and three never can be the same value as six nor can six ever be the same value as nine. A simple illustration of principle, looked at as rule or law, is that two times three are six. If we know the value of numbers, then wherever we use this rule or law we know that the result will be the same regardless of whether it applies to apples, horses, stars, or dollars. As an outer symbol of the numbers, we use figures. The figures themselves have no value; they are simply a *form* we use to symbolize values.

1. *does not occupy space nor has it any limitations of time.* Do not confuse God as Principle with principles of space and time. An example of a metaphysical Principle not conditioned by time or space is "There is a perfect and elegant solution to every problem."
2. *the "Source."* One Presence.
3. *the law, the "Cause."* One Power.
4. *A parallel may be found in the principle of mathematics.* A principle of mathematics is like God in two ways: (1) it is not conditioned by time or space, and (2) mathematical mistakes are not punishments; math can only promise perfection. God as law is always beneficent.

🔍 Explain God as Divine Mind.

10. God as Principle is the one infinite Mind in

which all ideas inhere, the unit, the essence, the substance that is the beginning, the origin, the foundation of all this is. As used in the first chapter of Genesis, "In the beginning God" (Gen. 1:1), *beginning* has nothing to do with time but has reference to the primordial substance from which everything proceeds. Just as we study the principle of mathematics and learn the value of the numbers, so must we study the attributes of God,¹ those ideas that inhere in the primordial substance, and become acquainted with their character.

11. All things in the universe function according to law and order. The same is true in the spiritual realm. God as Principle is that fundamental Truth or law from which all other laws or principles proceed and which from the beginning is of God's very nature – Absolute Good. God as Principle is impersonal in His action, in producing an effect for every cause. Man may study the principle of mathematics until, like Einstein and others, he becomes a wizard at unfolding and solving its intricacies. The principle of mathematics then becomes such a personal thing to him that it reveals to him the answer to any mathematical problem.

12. Through meditation, concentration, prayer, and the silence, we associate with ideas that inhere in the mind substance that we call God. By becoming familiar with the character and value of these ideas, in our own consciousness, we make ourselves open and receptive channels through which God as Principle may express. When we know spiritual values and spiritual laws, we will know just how to relate, interrelate, apportion, and make righteous use of divine ideas.² Then

of God, the epitome of Being, termed also spiritual man, the Christ. God "spoke" His word which came forth as spiritual man when He said, "Let us make man in our image [the active and passive phases of God's nature], after our likeness." The mission of this "man" is to evolve or unfold in the manifest world² all of the nature or image of God before creation can be said to be complete. This fulfills the "evolutionary" side of creation.

11. In the first chapter of Genesis it is related that God created by His word. When the power of the Word is understood, there is no mystery concerning the work of creation.

- ✍ "God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light" (Genesis 1:3).
- ✍ "God said, 'Let there be a firmament' . . . And it was so" (Genesis 1:6-7).
- ✍ "God said, Let the earth bring forth' . . . And it was so" (Genesis 1:24).

12. These commands were spoken into expression by the creative power of His Word (the Word of life, power, love, faith, *et cetera*), for when God "speaks" it is done in the realm of the ideal.

- ✍ 13. "By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear" (Hebrews 11:3).
- ✍ "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his

The Word's Creative Power

? How was the universe created?

8. People are curious to know how the manifest universe was created. From ignorant man who merely wonders to the man of science who seeks to inquire into the mysteries of creation, there is a reaching out after knowledge concerning the creative process. There is both an “involutionary” and an “evolutionary” creation. The first chapter of Genesis relates the creation by involution. ① It shows how the divine qualities (ideas) are spoken forth by God's Word “let there be.” Then on the sixth day of creation God's Idea, in which is wrapped all the God nature, comes forth as spiritual man or God's Word. This man, the image-likeness of God, the Son, the Christ, has “all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Colossians 2:9), therefore has all the essence or nature of all that is God. The next step will be the “evolutionary” phase of creation when *manifest* man makes his advent upon the visible plane.

9. We might liken the “involutionary” and “evolutionary” aspects of creation to the process through which the oak tree passes. There is enwrapped (or folded into) the acorn—its expression or fruit—all the nature and characteristics of the oak tree. The acorn is right there all through the process and participating in it. In the acorn is embodied all that the oak tree is, even to the image of the parent tree.

10. The man we are referring to here is the *Word*

we are able to work wonders in handling any situation that arises in life. Since God is Principle, in this capacity He moves as law or the governing power in all creation. Not until we have consciously woven divine principles into our human consciousness can we be sure of our results. The unfolding of the knowledge of divine principles is an individual matter.

13. We shall study the One Almighty God as Principle, as Mind. Different nations and religions have different names for this One, whom they recognize as supreme. The Christian and Jew call Him God; the Hindu, Brahma; the Muhammedan, Allah. Metaphysical students call Him First Cause. This sounds abstract and may be unsatisfying to some unless they know also that this Cause is Absolute Good and that it is manifest in the least as well as in the greatest of its creations.

1. *so must we study the attributes of God.* We can know God only by studying God's attributes, which are divine ideas.
2. *righteous use of divine ideas.* Righteousness is a personal, trusting relationship with God and God's ideas.

The God Within

? What is meant by "God immanent in the universe"?

14. God is all-pervading Spirit, the life and intelligence permeating the whole universe. Immanent means "indwelling." When we say that God is immanent in the universe we mean that God dwells in and reveals Himself through forms. ① We mean that God pervades every atom of the realm of manifestation, the realm known to the five senses. God "transcendent" is absolute, unbounded Spirit; but God "immanent" is Spirit dwelling within the form. Every form of manifestation owes its existence to this indwelling God, and any human form can achieve immortality only as it is lifted up and transmuted by this saving and redeeming God that dwells in and operates through it. Paul clearly sets forth the revelation of God both transcendent and immanent in these words: "Over all, and through all, and in all" (Eph. 4:6). "In him we live, and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

1. *God dwells in and reveals Himself through forms. Forms shape the attributes of all things, manifesting that which is perceived by the senses.*

? How does God dwell in man?

15. We should seek earnestly to know the all-pervading, omnipresent One. When we clearly discern the science of God-Mind, we shall under-

7. "This Word is a generative center with all the possibilities of God . . . It is the idea of God, the image and likeness . . . So the 'seed,' that is, 'the word of God,' is man; not the external thinking personality that has a consciousness of separation, but the internal spiritual germ" (*Atom-Smashing Power Of Mind, "The Seed is the Word" 135*).

1. *Since the things of Spirit are eternal and omnipresent. The spiritual realm is without time or space.*

2. *"without him is not anything made that is made." Without time, all things occur in the present.*

3. *"I am the Word of God spoken forth in perfection." A precise statement of human beings as expressions of the perfect spiritual human being created in Genesis 1:26.*

the Lord is the mediator between man and God, or between the human consciousness and the universal God consciousness (Divine Mind) which Jesus always spoke of as the Father, the Origin and Source of all ideas.

4. The divine Logos, which is God in His capacity of creative power, includes all the essential characteristics of Being, with the potential power to express them; it is the thought-word; the power to produce itself out of what is inhering within it. The Word, inhering in God, is the urge or desire for a full, free expression of All-Good." Perhaps one of the simplest and clearest definitions of the Word is to be found in *Talks On Truth*, by Charles Fillmore, page 68:

💡 5 "To produce works, there must be a working power. This is exactly what the Word is—the working power of God." [This talk is also in *Keep a True Lent*, Chapter 2, "The Holy Trinity" 15]

6. Thus we come to realize that as the second aspect of the Holy Trinity or the Godhead (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit), the Word is also the creative Idea of God Mind or Divine Mind, the Son of God, spiritual man, termed also the Christ, the I AM. So each human being may say of his spiritual nature: "I am the Word of God spoken forth in perfection."³

stand the mysteries of creation.¹ If we understand that Spirit and Mind are synonymous, we can readily see that there is no mystery about spiritual things, for they are not far removed from our daily thoughts and experiences. The text, "Know ye not that ye are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Corinthians 3:16), simply means that God dwells in us as our mind dwells in the body. God creates and moves creation through the power of His Mind, and the highest manifestation of God-Mind on this planet has built for itself "a temple of the living God" (II Corinthians 6:16). This creative idea immanent in man has built from universal substance a form through which this individualization of God is manifesting itself.² Through our minds we shall find God and do His will, for God dwells in man as I AM, Jehovah God, and expresses in man's soul as the superconscious or Christ Mind – as the cause and ruler over the body, its earthly temple.

1. *we shall understand the mysteries of creation.* By understanding the attributes of God, we can understand the true attributes of all things manifested.

2. *this individualization of God is manifesting itself.* The soul of human beings (conscious and subconscious mind) is a manifestation of Divine Mind.

Our Understanding of God

? Is man capable of understanding God?

16. To know God as Principle helps us to understand many things about Him that we cannot conceive when we think of Him as "personality." For instance, if we know Him as Principle, we can readily understand how He can be omnipresent.¹ The principle of mathematics is everywhere present. Anyone anywhere can use it, and even if millions of people are using it at the same time, there is no lack of it, no friction, no discord because of the many who are using it to solve problems. All receive its full benefit as wholly and as freely as one individual would if he were the only one using it.

17. To know God as Mind helps us to understand omniscience.² Science implies orderly knowledge, knowledge that is systematic and arranged with reference to general principles that are interrelated and interactive. Omniscience is all orderly knowledge. God, Divine Mind, embraces all knowledge and understanding, and is the origin of all ideas, the source of every expression of true intelligence. Mind is the essence, the substance, in which ideas live and move and have being, just as fish live and move and have being in water. Mind is wholly immaterial and is all-pervading. God-Mind cannot be separated or divided; hence it is not strictly correct to say that man's mind is a "part" of Divine Mind because this implies separation. Man has consciousness in Divine Mind. The expressions of mind that have consciousness

dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God" (Revelation 19:11, 13)

? What is the Word of God, or the Logos?

1. All Unity students are familiar with the expression "The Word of God" and should understand that it means not the Bible, as we have been taught in the past, but the *living* Word which in the beginning was with God and was God. The Bible is the outer testimony of men who have discerned to a degree this eternal Word of God.

2. John's Gospel explains that all things were made by the Logos—the Word of God—and "without him was not anything made that was made", (John 1:3). Since the things of Spirit are eternal and omnipresent,¹ they belong always in present time; thus it is proper to say, "without him is not anything made that is made."² This brings directly to man's understanding the formative power of the Word as a present active agent in the world.

3. The word *Logos* comes to us from the Greek language, and in that language means "the word or form which expresses a thought; also the thought." The early Greek philosophers regarded the Logos as the rational principle of the universe. When this term was introduced into the principles of the Christian religion it had reference to the second person of the Holy Trinity, considered as the expression or incarnation of divine reason. Divine reasoning, or reasoning from the premise "in the beginning God" (Genesis 1:1), puts man's mind in an orderly way of working. Therefore,

LESSON FOR THE WORD

What is the Word?

- ☑ “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:1-4).
- ☑ “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father” (John 1:14).
- ☑ “But the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it” (Deuteronomy 30:14).
- ☑ “The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever” (Isaiah 40:8).
- ☑ “So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ” (Romans 10:17).
- ☑ “Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse.’ He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True. . . . He is clad in a robe

in Divine Mind manifest only bits of its knowledge so that there seems to be a myriad of minds, each with its own knowledge. Intelligence in individuals is Mind expressing itself as consciousness. All knowledge, wisdom, and understanding are expressions of ideas in the one Mind, pressing forth through different channels according to the capacity of each channel. When man thinks that he has a mind separate from God-Mind, he builds a state of consciousness that is adverse to Truth. The Scriptures call this adverse state the "adversary" or "Satan."

18. Mental laws are being discovered and studied as never before in the world's history, but those who are investigating nature and her laws simply from the intellectual and physical viewpoints must fall short of complete understanding because they fail to trace all things back to the causing Mind. The objects we see in nature are but symbols of ideas. There is an idea back of everything that appears.

💡 "The material forms that we see about us are the chalk marks of a mighty problem being outworked by the one Mind. To comprehend that problem and to catch a slight glimpse of its meaning, we must grasp the ideas that the chalk marks represent; this is what we mean by studying Mind back of nature" (Charles Fillmore *Christian Healing* 12-13).

19. To deal with nature effectively one has to discover what particular idea is manifesting itself, and deal with that idea.

Studying nature alone, one finds apparently con-

tradictory laws in operation. Studying ideas, learning their character and the right relation between them, one finds harmony and gains true knowledge. He is able to comprehend the creation of the Almighty³ by grasping the ideas in Divine Mind. In this way we are "studying Mind back of nature."

1. *we can readily understand how He can be omnipresent.* How we know God as omnipresent.
2. *helps us to understand omniscience.* How we know God as omniscient.
3. *He is able to comprehend the creation of the Almighty.* How we know God as omnipotent.

THE WORD



INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

As you read *The Word*, consider its Eschatology and the goodness of all expression. Eschatology is Christian theology focused on the future and destiny of humanity. To the Fillmores, just as the Word was at the beginning, the Word is future and destiny. Human beings, made in the image and likeness of God, have been empowered to "have whatever we say." The Fillmore understanding of Eschatology rests not in God, but in humanity.

RECOMMENDED READING

- ✔ *Christian Healing* How To Control Thought, Charles Fillmore.
- ✔ *Unity Statement of Faith*, Greg W. Neteler, UCU Press, 2010, Statement 5, Statement 9, Statement 10, Statement 11, Statement 12, Statement 13 Statement 14, Statement 15
- ✔ *Original Annotations for Denials and Affirmations*, Unity Correspondence School, republished by Fillmore wings.

Divine Ideas and Consciousness

? What is man's inheritance from God? How is it brought into manifestation?

20. Man is the offspring of God, Divine Mind. He is God's idea of Himself and as such is capable of comprehending the one Mind from which he springs; he is never for an instant separated from the ideas of Divine Mind. He has only to open his consciousness to receive whatever understanding he requires. Man is created in the image and after the likeness of God. In the book *Christian Healing*, page 13, Charles Fillmore states quite clearly the importance of ideas:

💡 "Divine ideas are man's inheritance; they are pregnant with all possibility, because ideas are the foundation and cause of all that man desires. With this understanding as a foundation, we easily perceive how 'all . . . mine are thine.' All the ideas contained in the one Father-Mind are at the mental command of its offspring. Get behind a thing into the mental realm where it exists as an inexhaustible idea, and you can draw upon it perpetually and never deplete the Source."

21. Many of us do not appreciate the word *idea*. An idea is a live thing, and it will express itself in some way. In order to express divine ideas it is our part to study God-Mind, learn the right relation and order of the realm that produces the manifest world. Divine ideas are truly expressed when limited thoughts of self are put aside; when

we are ready to acknowledge God as all, the only Presence and the only Power.

22. The "kingdom of heaven" so often referred to by Jesus, the kingdom that He prayed might be brought into reality on earth, is the realm of harmony within that results from laying hold of the ideas of the kingdom of God, or Divine Mind. "Thy kingdom come . . . on earth" (Matthew 6:10) is a prayer that the emanation of spiritual ideas from the kingdom of God within, into the thoughts of men, will set up right states of consciousness¹ followed by harmonious conditions. Through the development of the "kingdom of God . . . within you" (Luke 17:21) will be fulfilled the prayer,

✍ "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth" (Matthew 6:10).

23. In order to express God's kingdom on earth, man must first comprehend and establish it in his own consciousness.² He enters into conscious unity with Divine Mind (or the kingdom of God "within you") through coming to the realization that "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). In other words, he eliminates from his consciousness all thoughts that do not accord with Absolute Good, thus producing a state of harmony (heaven) within his own mind. This elimination of untrue concepts and the establishment of true ideas within man cause him naturally and without effort to come into right relations with his fellow man. Thus he has allowed the kingdom of God to come through him and enabled heaven or harmony to be established "on earth."

under the delusion that they were worshipping God.

✍ 47. Man must continually recognize and work in harmony with Divine Mind through the Christ consciousness within himself. The man of spiritual understanding says to the Tempter: "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:10).

🔍 **Advancement.**

💡 Life is a constant learning,
 Never the lessons end;
 And the more we learn, the further
 The bounds of our life extend.
 Life is a constant journey.
 Never we reach the goal;
 But the higher we go the greater
 Is the reach of the living soul.
 Life is a constant growing
 Up from the nourishing sod
 Into the better living,
 Nearer the fullness of God!
 — Claude Weimer

💡 “As soon as a person attains a certain degree of intellectual understanding of Truth he becomes self-righteous ... he is inclined to think that he has all of the fullness of the kingdom in his outer life. However, he must learn to use aright the beginning of Truth that has been revealed to him, that he may become worthy of a place in the kingdom” (*Metaphysical Bible Dictionary*, p. 523).

45. When unenlightened by Truth, the personality says that we can trust to angels, or to forces *outside* ourself, to guard us and protect us from the results of our ignorance. Spiritual man (Christ, I AM, Lord) says that it is not wise to attempt to do marvelous things before understanding the law; when we understand, then the ideas of God (angels) will minister to us and become our servants. “Thou shalt not make trial of the Lord thy God” (Matthew 4:7).

46. The “high mountain” referred to in this lesson is the exaltation of the outer man or personality, in the belief that through such exaltation dominion can be attained. A person with a strong desire to rule the minds of men can take advantage of the power that lies in spiritual thought (in the basic desire of all men to worship) and by exploiting it gradually build up a system of beliefs not based on spiritual principles. This state of mind might find expression through governments, educational systems, religious organizations. It is through this misapplication of spiritual power that dictators and tyrants are produced. History proves that attempts have been made to exalt personality in the name of God, and rulers and their people have been made to pay homage to personality

24. Scripture asserts that “the kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:21), but that “the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2). The deeper meaning of the word *heaven*, from the word *auranos* which Jesus probably used, is “expanding.” As man’s human consciousness is developed spiritually and he becomes conscious of the kingdom of God and its inhering ideas, his consciousness expands³ so that the ideas of the kingdom of God may be expressed. The true expression of these divine ideas produces order, peace, and harmony in the outer world.

1. *will set up right states of consciousness.* Thoughts that appropriate Divine Ideas lead to right states of soul (conscious and subconscious mind), metaphysically known as the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is the orderly adjustment of divine ideas in man’s mind and body (MBD/Kingdom of Heaven).

2. *establish it in his own consciousness.* Consciousness is conscious and subconscious mind.

3. *his consciousness expands.* The Kingdom of Heaven is an expansion of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus, Substance, and Life

? From what source did Jesus feed the multitude?

25. Jesus understood the realm of ideas or, as he termed it, "the kingdom of God . . . within you" (Luke 17:21), and He drew upon it continually.

26. All that goes to make up the visible universe is held in the Mind of Being as ideas of life, love, substance, and so forth. These ideas, like the tones in music, may be combined in many ways and thus produce infinite variety in expression. There is a right combination that constitutes the divine order,¹ the kingdom of heaven on earth. Jesus Christ admonished His hearers to "seek . . . first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness"² (Matthew 6:33 A.V.). We often use the quotation, "Seek . . . first the kingdom," but do we not sometimes overlook the part of the quotation that has to do with the right use, or knowing the law of the right relation, of all ideas? Our real power lies in knowing how to use these powers of mind. The right relation of ideas and the science of right thought will form an important part of the subsequent lessons of this course.

27. It was from the inexhaustible idea of substance that Jesus increased the loaves and the fishes and fed the multitude. He had faith in the omnipresence of God,³ the all-providing essence that is in us all, through us all, and around us all – "In him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Jesus had made Himself conscious-

ture of the error thought that is to be met and overcome. We are not very familiar with this "wilderness" or undeveloped realm into which Spirit drives us. The untried powers of this realm await our directive hand. In the visible world we see all about us opportunities to make profit, and the adverse state of mind, the devil, suggests that we use the divine law for material gain - "Command that these stones become bread" (Matthew 4:2). The higher understanding declares the necessity of affirming the Word as the real life-giving substance—"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). We must speak words of Truth every day about the wonderful possibilities of God as our supply and power, and we will prove the law of abundant supply in our affairs.

44. An exalted consciousness lifts us up to the very pinnacle of the "temple" in the "holy city" (Matthew 4:5). Unillumined personality says that we are so high in our spiritual perception of divine law that we are not subject to natural law; that we can—right now, without further experience with our untried forces—do marvelous things to astonish men. The possibility of using divine power in sense ways is the temptation. This is tempting the Lord (the Christ or I AM) or seeking to bring into manifestation the divine law before we know how to handle it.

? Explain how one overcomes wrong beliefs of “the world,” “the flesh,” and “the devil” as mentioned in the temptation of Jesus recorded in Matthew 4:1-11.

42. All efforts at social cooperation, such as have been tried in colonies of various kinds, will prove a failure until the law of Jesus Christ is put into operation and selfishness is eliminated. Many times, as is proved by history, men or groups of men have come to the realization that more good can come into the lives of individuals and nations through social unity and cooperation. This is very good. Every step in progress has begun with the nucleus of someone's thought of service. Sometimes, however, the outer organization of such social reform has not lasted or has not been as effective as it should have been, for the reason that no true unity is possible until God's laws, as taught by Jesus Christ, are made the foundation of any such organization. This means, of course, that love must be predominant for love precludes selfishness. “Love . . . is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:10). Jesus Himself emphasized love as the basis of universal unity when He gave as the first commandment our love for God, and as the second commandment our love for our neighbor.

43. Jesus went into the “wilderness” of His own mind, and there met and overcame the Adversary. So must each evolving soul meet within himself this “wilderness” or undeveloped state of mind. The answers which Jesus gave to the “adversary” or adverse state of mind indicate the na-

ly one with this omnipresent substance through His faith, His love, and His devotion. He knew the one Presence and the one Power so completely that He was identified with substance. He had faith that His thought was one with the Mind of God and could, therefore, materialize out of this substance⁴ that which was needed to meet the need of those who hungered. It was an opportunity for Him to help His fellow men and also to glorify God, by putting into operation the spiritual law with which he had made Himself so familiar. His recognition, faith, and love acted as a magnet that drew into manifestation what was needed at the time.

1. *These ideas, like the tones in music, may be combined in many ways and thus produce infinite variety in expression. There is a right combination that constitutes the divine order.* This is similar to the Jewish sense of the mystical quality of Hebrew letters, which are numbered and combined to form the language of God.
2. *“seek . . . first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness”* What human beings *must* do.
3. *the omnipresence of God.* Substance.
4. *materialize out of this substance.* What humans *can* do.

? What idea was back of Jesus' work in healing the sick and raising the dead?

28. As Jesus had familiarized Himself with the idea of substance, so also had He become acquainted with the life idea.¹ He understood what

it is to live abundantly, to have abundant life – life without beginning and without end. Because of this consciousness, He could make use of the life idea in healing the sick and raising the dead, and His familiarity with the idea enabled Him to overcome death in His own organism. He undoubtedly knew that a divine idea never passes away, that life is always present in all its purity, and that what man needs is to become conscious of the presence and power of life.

Jesus' mighty works were done in the consciousness of oneness with the Father. "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30) was His manner of demonstration, and it must be ours. We must follow Him, keep His sayings, do as He did, if we expect to obtain the same results that He obtained. We must definitely acknowledge our oneness with God as Jesus did.

1. *the life idea.* Jesus is our God-given intelligence that shapes substance and the life idea. "Intelligence, substance, and life" is a theme recurring throughout all Fillmore writings.

Advancing Universal Unity and Cooperation

? What is the basis of universal unity and cooperation?

40. Since man has shown that he can be a producer of conditions that he terms evil, it is time for him to realize this fact; time to recognize what his freedom of will means; time to recognize his power to determine to produce only good instead of appearances of evil.¹ On man, created in the image and after the likeness of God, has been conferred the power of choice, and he must choose to be selfless and universal instead of selfish and personal; must choose to live by knowledge of wisdom and love instead of by undisciplined sensations.

41. There is no personal devil any more than there is a personal God, in the sense of a personality separate and apart from one's self. Just as "Lord God" means an embodiment of law, order, and justice in man, so "the devil" represents an embodiment of anarchy, evil, and injustice in man.

1. *time to recognize his power to determine to produce only good instead of appearances of evil. It is time to get off the cross.*

in God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Spirit is also in human beings, as Spirit, soul and body. These are the same Spirit. The Fillmores were “semi-Pelagian,” believing that soul and body were partially responsible for but not completely capable of achieving their own salvation. They affirmed the grace that Spirit provides. See the Revealing Word entry for Grace: “‘Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ’ (John 1:17); that is, the real saving, redeeming, transforming power came to man through the work that Jesus did in establishing for the race a new and higher consciousness in the earth. We can enter into this consciousness by faith in Him and by means of the inner spirit of the law that He taught and practiced.” Ed Rabel corroborates this: “Jesus taught a new understanding of divine law. He acknowledged mechanical cause and effect, but he knew it was possible to “fulfill the law” by transcending its strictly mechanical repetition. This can be done only by certain changes of consciousness. One of these changes is to let go of the insistence of “even-exchanges” in life all the time. Another change is to be willing to forgive sin instead of insisting on punishment for sin. Grace is the name given to the aspect of divine law which does not deal in ‘even-exchanging,’ but in the increase of good through greater giving.”

How We Do the “Greater Works”

? How shall we do the works that Jesus did?

29. We may do the works that Jesus did by coming into the consciousness of Divine Mind (Spirit, the Father within) which Jesus recognized as the One who did the work, and by bringing its ideas into expression and eventual manifestation.

Mind has ideas, and ideas have the power of expression. These steps in mental development should be well fixed in the understanding, for all manifestation is the outer expression of ideas held in mind. In order to do the “greater works”¹ (John 14:12) that Jesus said we should do, we must make conscious contact with the inspiration and the power² that enabled our Elder Brother to express God-Mind perfectly. For a musician to make music three things are needed: (1) the idea that he is seeking to express; (2) the ability or power to perform; (3) and the instrument on which to make the music audible. If man would play the harmonies of heaven, he must first establish contact with ideas in God-Mind; then he must hold to the needed idea through all difficulties.³ He must have faith that the idea needed can be manifested through him because he is a vehicle for divine grace. His body and affairs are the instruments through which he expresses thoughts in the personal realms of consciousness, so these must be responsive to the keynote of love,⁴ otherwise there will be discord.

30. Jesus Christ said, according to the Authorized Version, "wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:40 A.V.). Man is "in training"⁵ to enable him to carry on the "Father's business." In the business world a boy may begin as a messenger and learn a business from the ground up. He must study and engage in all phases of the work. So it is with man in his spiritual progress; he must know what God is, what the aim and purpose or the will of God is, and then he must seek to accomplish that purpose. The best way to broaden our concept of God is to study Him from the standpoint of His attributes or ideas; i.e., study Him as life, power, love, substance, as everything that we can conceive as belonging to His nature. If we study God as power, the one supreme force of the universe, we will come to understand what is meant by "the omnipotence of God."

31. Not only must we study the one Mind as the source of all ideas, but we must let these ideas unfold⁶ so that they may be brought into manifestation in our life. We must make conscious union with Divine Mind. The point of contact is a willingness and a seeking on our part – "Seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7). The term *consciousness* (as has been very evident throughout this study) has a twofold meaning: It is direct knowledge or perception of the presence of an object, state or sensation, and it also refers to our mind or our soul. We frequently refer to the "human consciousness."

ness, lawlessness. In Matthew, "the devil" is designated as Beelzebub, meaning lord of the flies. We find the word Satan, another word used for "the devil," occurring in both the Old and the New Testaments, meaning adversary.

39. In Genesis the "adversary" is described as a serpent, representing a subtle state of consciousness that uses the life force without wisdom and through ignorance refuses to obey God's laws. This adverse state of consciousness in man stands aloof from God, desiring to be independent, believing in its own sufficiency. Even after Spirit begins its quickening work in the consciousness, the adverse state of mind or "the devil" is in evidence. As a matter of fact, it often seems more active than it was before, seeming to rise in rebellion against Truth. It has its own ways and does not want to be disturbed. This state of mind comprises all forms of fear, selfishness, ignorance, and must be denied, while the Christ love is affirmed. When a "housecleaning" takes place there is to all appearances an upset until the house is cleansed, and everything put in order. When Spirit begins its redemptive work² in our consciousness there seems an upset while the cleansing (denial) goes on, but when this is accomplished the consciousness is put in order by affirmation which replaces limited beliefs with eternal truths.

1. *The forces personified as "the devil" . . . are man's own formations of wrong beliefs.* The devil may be real, but the power of devil is our own formation.

2. *When Spirit begins its redemptive work.* Spirit is

the living God. This state of mind is built because a person is ignorant of the true use of divine laws (ideas), and when he reaps the unhappy result of misapplied law, he thinks there is something outside of himself causing him unhappiness. The state of consciousness that is "the devil" functions contrary to divine good; thus, it has accepted belief in separation, belief in the power of the outer world to harm him, and so it ignorantly rejects God. When man is lost in this "wilderness" of his own thoughts he is tempted to bow down to this seemingly powerful "devil," giving it control over his faculties.

37. The forces personified as "the devil" are not real or reality, for they are man's own formations of wrong beliefs. ❶ Our Father-Mother God gave to each of us freedom of will, so that we may use our God-powers as we choose. When we are guilty of unrighteous use of the will faculty, we bring into our life by the mental law of cause and effect results that cause pain and distress. The many perverse and degrading practices that have grown up with mankind in the childhood of the race have all come through the ignorance that has been carried on from generation to generation. When the light dawns and parents begin to educate children to spiritual truths, all of the accumulated error beliefs that make up "the devil" will be erased from the world consciousness (race consciousness).

38. In both the Old Testament and the New Testament we find the Hebrew word *Abaddon*, the Greek form for which is *Apollyon*. Both of these words mean destroyer. In II Corinthians 6:15 we find "the devil" called Belial, meaning worthless-

💡 "Man's consciousness is the totality of his conscious states . . . The word *conscious* applies primarily to that which is felt as within one's self. . . it is made up of desires, sensations, emotions, thoughts, feelings, perceptions, any soul quality. . . man thinks and man feels, and the result is consciousness" (Series 1 Lesson 6 Annotation 5).

1. *the "greater works"*. An excellent euphemism for *miracles*.
2. *we must make conscious contact with the inspiration and the power*. Step 1.
3. *be responsive to the keynote of love*. Step 2.
4. *then he must hold to the needed idea through all difficulties*. Step 3.
5. *Man is "in training."* We refer to ourselves as "Truth Students."
6. *we must let these ideas unfold*. Live with ambiguity while "in training."

Awareness, Consciousness, and Oneness

? Why are we not always conscious of our oneness with God?

32. Very often we find the words *aware* and *conscious* being used synonymously, but in the strictest sense this is not accurate. The following quotation is very clear on this point:

💡 "Aware pertains to that which is external to oneself, to outer impressions driven inward; conscious, to that which is internal, to the inner feeling that may be held within or be forced out to manifest itself in reaction of some sort." (The above quotation is taken from a book, now out of print, by John Opdycke.)

33. Consciousness is related to what a person has actually experienced, either mentally, emotionally, or physically. Then the question may arise, "If we are the offspring of Divine Mind, why are we not naturally conscious of its presence and of our oneness with it?" The answer is that while we may be aware of being sons of God through intellectual study or our religious beliefs, we do not actually feel this to be true.¹ Thus our belief in separation has produced states of mind that have formed a "consciousness of separation."

34. We are not always conscious of our oneness with God because of the states of mind that have

Even insatiable desire for intellectual knowledge can be a type of "mental appetite"³ that is indicative of the soul's desire for the spiritual food that alone can satisfy. Any imbalance in the body can be traced to imbalance in the mind. So, the overcoming of "the flesh" must be recognized from its metaphysical symbolism, and the true overcoming thus takes place in the mind with the raising of the consciousness to the Truth that we are spiritual beings.

1. *substance that clothes the soul.* The body is substance that clothes the soul. Both soul and body have intelligence, life, and substance.

2. *appetite is not really physical but spiritual.* Charles Fillmore affirmed: "My appetite is spiritual, and it now finds its perfect expression in the purity and righteousness of the Christ mind." As To Meat-Eating.

3. *Even insatiable desire for intellectual knowledge can be a type of "mental appetite."* "Do not read too many books"—Emilie Cady.

? What is "the devil"?

36. The third temptation is "the devil." What is "the devil" which Jesus overcame, and which all men must overcome? The Greek and the Latin words from which the word devil came into our language meant the slanderer, the original or root significance of which is "to throw or let fall across," indicating delusion, a veiling. As with "the world" and "the flesh," we find that "the devil" is also a state of consciousness built by man when he has forgotten that he is a child of

must be this same substance.

34. However, when we connect “the flesh” with the thought of temptation we know that it is not the flesh as we see it, but the error beliefs *about* it that we are dealing with. When a person suffers imperfection, disease, illness in his flesh body, he feels bound and he may think that he desires release from the body itself. With understanding he finds that it is not release from the body he desires, but release from the limitations he has imposed on the flesh. It seems to man, in unenlightened consciousness, that the appetites of the body are his master; but once illumined to the truth that his body is “the temple of the Holy Spirit” (I Cor. 6:19), or as we often term it “the temple of God,” he realizes that appetite is not really physical but spiritual.² The desire for physical food has back of it the urge of God to give man spiritual food, the “bread of life.” When first tempted, Jesus said, “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4)

35. If a man seems to be in subjection to wrong appetites or habits of the body, it is because he has not been spiritually educated to understand and control these appetites. When the soul is not given opportunity for legitimate expression, then the body finds wrong ways of expressing the misunderstood appetites. Medical science has found evidence that a child or an adult who has an uncontrollable desire for food actually feels rejected, unhappy, or frustrated. There can, therefore, be no condemnation of one who seems not to be able to control appetite for food, but rather a prayer for enlightenment so that balance may be restored.

accepted belief in God as a Being apart from us,² and of our self as merely a flesh-and-blood being. Part of our divine inheritance is free will, and this means freedom to think, feel, speak, and act as we choose. If we believe in separation from our Creator, then our thinking, feeling, speaking, and acting build a consciousness of separation, and we are not conscious of our oneness with God.

1. *We do not actually feel this to be true.* Feeling is of the subconscious mind. When the conscious mind and the subconscious mind are in conflict, we do not feel *whole with ourself*.
2. *belief in God as a Being apart from us.* When we forget, we do not feel *one with God*.

? How are we awakened to the knowledge of God?

35. No one can impart Truth to another. It must be individually experienced, and it is experienced only as we become conscious of it. Meditation and prayer are the processes by which we first become aware of the truth of our relationship to God,¹ but it is only as we enter into the silence that we are actually awakened to His Presence and are then conscious of our oneness with Him. The quickening of our soul² to the knowledge of God involves definite action on our part; our positive, Truth-filled words (affirmations) become the invitation to the God-Presence to reveal itself to our soul.

36. The third chapter of the Gospel of John is very enlightening with regard to the development of

divine consciousness or the awakening to the knowledge of God (John 3). The following quotation sums up the "True Character of God" and our relation to Him.

💡 "The truth is then:

1. That God is Principle, Law, Being, Mind, Spirit, All-Good, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, unchangeable, Creator, Father, Cause, and Source of all that is;
2. That God is individually formed in consciousness in each of us, and is known as 'Father' when we recognize Him within as our Creator, as our mind, as our life, as our very being;
3. That mind has ideas and that ideas have expression; that all manifestation in our world is the result of the ideas that we are holding in mind and are expressing;
4. That to bring forth or to manifest the harmony of Divine Mind, or the 'kingdom of heaven,' all our ideas must be one with divine ideas, and must be expressed in the divine order of Divine Mind"

—Charles Fillmore *Christian Healing* 16

1. *the truth of our relationship to God.* When we experience *oneness with God.*
2. *The quickening of our soul.* When the conscious mind and the subconscious mind are quickened we experience *wholeness within ourself.*

1. *"the world."* A state of consciousness formed through the belief in the reality of things external. It leads one to follow standards of living based on man's opinions rather than on Truth. (RW/world)

2. *the limiting traditions of men.* Race consciousness. "The human race has formed laws of physical birth and death, laws of sickness and physical inability, laws making food the source of bodily existence, laws of mind that recognize no other source of existence except the physical. The sum total of these laws forms a race consciousness separate from and independent of creative Mind. When creative Mind sought to help men spiritually, the mind of the flesh opposed it and made every effort to solve its problems in its own way. The great need of the human family is mind control. Jesus showed us that mastery is attained through realization of the power of Spirit." (RW/race)

3. *there is no condemnation of the world in which we live.* See Fillmore Wings lesson 17, Judgement and Justice.

❓ What is "the flesh"?

33. The next temptation all of us must meet is termed "the flesh." This is symbolized by Jesus' temptation to turn stones into bread. As with "the world" we must come to see that this is a state of consciousness formed by man's wrong concept of substance that clothes the soul,¹ that forms the outer visible structure of man we call the "body." If there is but one substance out of which all creation is formed, then what we term "the flesh"

great people in government, education, religion. When we come into an understanding of what lies back of all life, then the freedom we seek for ourselves we desire for all men. This is freedom from the foolish, ignorant, limiting standards of living that have been set up in “the world” through lack of understanding. Because we desire this freedom for our self, we may need to make a sweeping denial on this order:

- ✍ I am no longer in bondage to limited beliefs.
- ✍ I am free to think, to speak, to dress, to eat, and to live in all ways according to my highest spiritual understanding.

31. By such a denial, there is no condemnation of the world in which we live,³ but rather a clearing of our own consciousness about the world, so that we become more worthy to be citizens of God’s world.

32. When a person speaks of “the world” in a disparaging way we may be sure that he refers not to the world we see about us, which shows evidence of being the handiwork of God, but to the errors that spring from the unenlightened consciousness of man. In *The Revealing Word*, page 214, we find this consciousness referred to:

💡 “The world—A state of consciousness formed through the belief in the reality of things external. It leads one to follow standards of living based on man’s opinions rather than on Truth. The world is overcome by our denying that it has any power over us and affirming freedom in Christ.”

RECOMMENDED READING

- ✍ *Christian Healing*, True Character of Being, Charles Fillmore.
- ✍ *Unity Statement of Faith*, Greg W. Neteler, UCU Press, 2010, Statement 1, Statement 5, Statement 23, Statement 26.
- ✍ *Original Annotations for The True Character of God*, Unity Correspondence School, republished by Fillmore wings.
- ✍ “Benevolent and Engaged or Distant and Belligerent?”, Mark Hicks, *Credo of A Metaphysical Christian*, URL: /credo-10, accessed 12/12/2025.

1:12, 13, and Luke 4:1-13.

The “world” that God created is a good world for,

✍ “We are cited to the trees, flowers, suns, and stars, as the work of God; we are told that it is God who sustains and governs, controls and directs them in every minutia” (*Metaphysical Bible Dictionary*, p. 563).

29. There must, then, be some inner meaning to the belief that one is to “overcome the world.”¹ When we look more deeply into the subject, we find that “the world” thus viewed is the state of consciousness in us that has been built upon a wrong concept of God’s creation. When one has such a state of consciousness, he has not come to know the reality back of all creation; so he looks to the *forms* he sees as being the real, rather than seeing them as the visible expression of the real, or divine ideas.

30. By consciously or unconsciously ignoring the Truth (idea) back of all things, a person becomes bound by the limiting traditions of men;² too much emphasis is given to custom so that a person is bound by custom rather than finding through it an avenue of expression for the real, or some divine idea or principle. By this we do not mean to imply that either tradition or custom have no part in our life, for they have, but they are symbolic of the Truth back of them. The days in the year that are honored (many called “holy days”) bring to our remembrance the ideals that lie back of them—i.e., Christmas Day, New Year’s Day, days honoring the freedom of a nation, important events in a city or state, days that honor

Scriptural References

? Explain the Scripture, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Matthew 16:24).¹

27. Jesus Christ thoroughly understood the law of thought back of affirmation and denial. He said, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). The “self” which is to be denied is the aggregation of false, limiting beliefs that we have had about ourselves, resulting in a thought-structure or self-lineage that does not measure up to the God standard of man as a spiritual being. The “me” that is to be followed is the Christ, the I AM, the real Self of each of us. We must deny reality to all false beliefs and wrong feelings if we would come into the Christ consciousness.

1. *“take up his cross, and follow me”* When reading the following paragraphs about the world, the flesh, and the devil, consider that to “take up the cross” it may be necessary to “get off the cross.” The Fillmore’s did not adhere to the Calvinist notion of the depravity of human beings.

? What is “the world”?

28. Jesus overcame “the world, the flesh, and the devil,” as mentioned in Matthew 4:1-11. We also find reference to the temptations of Jesus in Mark

CHRIST, THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER



INTRODUCTION TO CHRIST, THE ONLY BEGOTTEN

In this lesson, we shift our focus from the providence of God the Father to the presence of Christ the Son. Here, the Fillmores share their understanding of how Jesus Christ is understood to be an everpresent reality, active in our life. The lessons that follow will explain how the Jesus Christ presence restores our wholeness of soul and body, leading to fullness of life. If this sounds

like mainline Christianity, that is because it is. The Fillmores never rejected orthodox Christianity. In fact, the 1921 Statement of Faith concludes by asserting “We believe all the doctrines of the Christian church, spiritually interpreted.”

A most clear and concise explanation of Christian orthodoxy is in the first chapter of William Holdern’s *A Layman’s Guide to Protestant Theology*, 2nd edition. Holdern opens by defining orthodoxy:

It is almost impossible to use the term “orthodoxy” without stirring emotions. . . By orthodox Christianity, I mean something purely descriptive. Orthodox Christianity is that form of Christianity which won the support of the overwhelming majority of Christians and which is expressed by most of the official proclamations or creeds of Christian groups.

Holdern says that orthodoxy is no more than the consensus of theologians over time. History shows that theology changes over time. Theology has and will continue to evolve. Finding one’s beliefs outside of the consensus can be confusing, but it does not make one a heretic. What is the consensus? For Holdern, it was initially the resurrection of Jesus. He writes,

We cannot overemphasize the importance of the Resurrection for the early Christians. Paul says, “If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain” (I Corinthians 15:17) . . . The Resurrection was the one thing the early Christian could not deny and still

11. *the wrong beliefs held in race consciousness.* The Fillmores believed that addressing social injustice must begin with overcoming wrong beliefs held in race consciousness. Without addressing our individually held race beliefs we are prone to make unfair judgements. See paragraph 31.

12. *Where the “no” phase of mind is too much in evidence, the consciousness becomes negative.* See Lesson 17, Judgement and Justice. Judgement may be necessary, but it can become obsessive. See paragraph 7.

1. *the Jesus Christ standard.* Charles Fillmore repeatedly used this phrase to distance his teachings from New Thought efforts to achieve health and wealth apart from unity with God.
2. *The ability to make and to unmake thought-forms.* Do not confuse thought-forms with divine Ideas as eternal forms. Both shape thinking, but eternal forms convey the underlying Truth.
3. *the effect of denial is only temporary.* Temporary because it cleanses consciousness but does not raise it up. Affirmations raise consciousness.
4. *raises both soul (mind) and body to the Christ standard.* To a place that is not relative and where there is only good.
5. *it must be emptied before it can take in anymore.* See "The Vacuum Law of Prosperity" in Catherine Ponder, *The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity*, pp.41-55.
6. *a consciousness of faith is the accumulation of many affirmations.* Affirmations are also temporary, like denials, but, unlike denials, they are never obsolete.
7. *a habit of mind, a producing mental law for us.* Some laws are eternal; habits of mental law are temporary.
8. *the Absolute.* Union with God (RW/absolute)
9. *We should not wait to declare Truth.* Realizations need foundations. Affirming Truth places a "firmament" under each new realization.
10. *their mental attitudes [affirm] their belief.* Watch out for silent affirmation of things that are not true. These are "false positives."

consider himself a Christian. It was the rock of his faith.

It is fair to say that few, perhaps no one, affirmed the resurrection of Jesus more than Charles Fillmore. His affirmation was not only in his doctrine, but also in his life. His entire life was devoted to proving the possibility of regeneration of the body and eternal life. Scroll down to paragraph 7 of this lesson, and read what the Fillmores say about the historical man we know as Jesus of Nazareth: "The man born in Bethlehem of Judea of the virgin Mary . . . who performed all manner of miracles . . . who was crucified in Jerusalem, was resurrected from the dead, and ascended into heaven."

This lesson affirms more than Christian doctrine. It teaches that, as Christians, we are "first-born" children of God (paragraphs 1-5), that Jesus of Nazareth demonstrated Christ-like qualities that led to his resurrection and ascension, and that we, too, are so endowed and are welcomed to abide in God and live in fullness of life (paragraphs 21-33).

Admittedly, this lesson differs from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and from the Five Points of Calvinism. Holdern's accounting of the evolution of Christian theology describes how the consensus of the Christian church evolved from the resurrection of Jesus to the deification of Jesus.

What the Resurrection meant, therefore, was that Jesus was after all the Messiah or agent of God. . . . As time passed, the early term "Messiah," or "Christ," as it was translated into Greek, no longer seemed

adequate to express this faith. This was particularly true as Christians went out to the Greek and Roman world where people had never heard of the Jewish Messiah. And so they began to call Jesus the “Lord,” “Savior,” “only begotten Son.” All of these were terms by which Christians tried to express their belief that in Jesus God had made a unique revelation of himself to man. . . . Finally, they came to say with Doubting Thomas, “My Lord and my God.” Jesus had not been simply sent by God; he was God. God at work in the life of man.

A close reading of paragraph 7 in this lesson will affirm many things about Jesus. But it does not affirm that he was sent by God nor that he was God uniquely incarnated as a human being. It is at this point where the Fillmore theology may be considered unorthodox, that is, apart from the consensus of theologians.

However, *failure to affirm is not the same as denial*. The Fillmores explicitly denied many things, such as the depravity of humanity, but they never denied the possibility that God sent Jesus, nor that God assigned to Jesus a unique role or mission to quicken the Christ nature endowed in human beings at the creation. In fact, Charles Fillmore in his later years devoted much time in exploring theological understandings of the role of Jesus in salvation. To learn more, search TruthUnity for “Unpublished Fillmore.” The Fillmore’s were simply silent about this; but, as the unpublished writings indicate, they were not indifferent.

my body to be merely flesh and blood,” but the general trend of their thought, their mental attitudes, affirms their belief.¹⁰ Continued thinking on the lines of such an affirmation of error fixes the thought of limitation or error in the subconscious, the thought then becomes a state of mind or mental picture and crystallizes into cells, which eventually merge into the body form. In this way the appearance of imperfection manifests in the body, even though it is primarily the temple of the Holy Spirit. The first step in doing away with this appearance of error is to deny the belief in its reality. This denial, made in the understanding of the truth that the body is essentially spiritual, will reach the subconscious, break up the error states of mind, and make way for the new state of consciousness which is to be built by affirming that the entire man—spirit, soul, body—is spiritual.

25. The process of denial and affirmation is vital if we are to overcome the wrong beliefs held in race consciousness.¹¹ In many instances we may find that each error belief needs to be taken up specifically. Among these race beliefs are belief in the reality and power of evil, belief in sickness and disease, belief in old age.

26. A dominating personal will (i.e., use of the will faculty in a limited way) is a form of negative affirmation, producing in mind and body a tense, rigid condition. Where the “no” phase of mind is too much in evidence, the consciousness becomes negative¹² and relaxes to such an extent that weakness and ills of a “letting go” and wasting character result.

ness of faith is the accumulation of many affirmations.⁶ Not until an idea is firmly fixed in the subconscious does it become a habit of mind, a producing mental law for us.⁷ Only by repeated affirmations of it, by persistence in thinking about it, does the idea become so firmly fixed as to become an activity of faith. Error race thoughts are not displaced immediately when the conscious phase of mind accepts a new thought of Truth, even though the new thought seems to be fully accepted by the reasoning mind. However, any negative belief in the subconscious can be changed through steadfast denial and affirmation.

23. It would be a fine thing if one could instantly enter into a full realization of the Absolute,⁸ but as yet no one has done it. Only a few have ever known what it is to take even some of their steps in sudden flashes of inspiration and demonstration. Probably these steps were the result of faithful affirmations of Truth, perceived and declared with such wholehearted conviction that instantaneously the living word of Truth shed its blaze of glory throughout the consciousness. Undoubtedly this had been preceded by much building of Truth into the consciousness, which was then released by the affirmation. We should not wait to declare Truth⁹ until it comes to us in sudden inspiration. It would never come to one thus waiting, because the mind is constantly expressing itself in denials or in affirmations of some kind—if not of Truth, then of error—and the manifestations will be of like nature.

24. Affirmations do not have to be made in set terms. For instance, men seldom say, "I affirm

Theological evolution continues. The most profound shift in the past 50 years of New Testament theology is not the "historical Jesus." It is the "New Perspectives on Paul" begun by E.P. Sanders. Sanders' research has challenged 500 years of (mostly German) reform theology regarding salvation by one's faith. Sanders' research asserts that Paul believed we are saved by the faith of Christ, not our faith in Christ. This is immensely significant for any theology, like Fillmore, that claims human beings "participate," like Jesus, in the Christ life.

"Participation," in the above sentence, is from Sanders but "like Jesus, in the Christ life" is from Emilie Cady, author of *Finding the Christ in Ourselves*, a short essay that Charles Fillmore declared to be the most "simple and direct entry into the core of Unity teaching." The Fillmores loved and learned much from Cady's writing. The final 12 paragraphs of this Fillmore Wings lesson is about "abiding" in Christ. For Emilie Cady, that was not living a *Christian* life; instead it was about living a *Christ* life.

LESSON FOR CHRIST, THE ONLY BEGOTTEN

The Trinity, Understood Metaphysically

? Give both the religious and the metaphysical terms for the Holy Trinity.

1. In our first lesson we learned that there is One Mind. This Mind teems with ideas and these ideas have expression. Mind, idea, and expression form a trinity which is the metaphysical interpretation of the religious terms known as the "Holy Trinity": Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are one, and if we study them as Mind, Idea, and Expression we can better understand how they are one. ¹

2. Man is created in the image and after the likeness of God, the One Mind. Man forms states of consciousness in this One Mind by his thinking and feeling. By studying the activity of his own mind (his consciousness) he can find out how the One Mind creates.

1. *how they are one.* Charles Fillmore was "Arian," asserting that the Son, while begotten of the Father and of the same essence of the Father, is

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Denials wash away or cleanse the mind of erroneous beliefs so that there may be a place in which to plant Truth. The thinking phase of the mind cannot hold or consider two thoughts at the same time; one must make way for the other. Man cannot expect to establish a consciousness of Truth in his mind when he believes in evil as having reality. Denial is the cleansing, freeing process which we may use to purify our thinking faculty and to cleanse the subconscious or feeling nature of untrue beliefs that have been allowed to become established there. Limited or error beliefs must be uprooted if man would put on the consciousness of immortality or eternal life. So, we let go, by denial, of what we consider to be error; then by affirmation we may lay hold of that which we perceive to be true. A simple denial will remove mountains of limited thought.

✍ "Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou taken up and cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that what he saith cometh to pass; he shall have it" (Mark 11:23 WEB).

21. Denials become obsolete, so far as actual statements are concerned, as the soul goes forward to perfection. When we have attained the Christ Consciousness, we shall joyously realize that "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).

22. To say, "I believe in the power of Jesus Christ," because we have truly accepted the Truth, will produce a substantial state of mind that will lead to a great unfoldment of faith. Faith is primarily a spiritual principle, but a *conscious-*

18. Denial is the cleansing of the human consciousness of belief in evil, but the effect of denial is only temporary.³

✍ “But the unclean spirit, when he is gone out of the man, passeth through waterless places, seeking rest, and findeth it not. Then he saith, I will return into my house whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more evil than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man becometh worse than the first” (Matthew 12:43-45).

19. A denial should always be followed by an affirmation so that the mind will be filled with Truth and not be subject to the return of the error beliefs that were denied. The quick way is to deny reality to the false belief, leaving the mind cleared for a realization of Truth to be received through affirmation. Right affirmation heals the mind because it is the right use of the creative process of Being (God). God said, “Let there be light” (Genesis 1:3). This creative law at the center of man’s being, when allowed free rein, raises both soul (mind) and body to the Christ standard.⁴ This “lifting up” is accomplished by the process of affirmation bringing one to the realization of Truth.

20. Some persons have said that they do not believe in denials—that affirmations are sufficient. It is true that every affirmation contains an implied denial, but usually we can get better results if we make specific denials to prepare the way. If the mind is full, it must be emptied before it can take in anymore.⁵ We read in the Scriptures that

not co-equal with the Father. There was a time when “he was not.”

? Explain how mind, idea, and expression are in all that appears (manifestation).

3. Everything that we see with our physical eyes was first an idea, and back of the idea is Mind. No house is built, no garment made, that was not first an idea in someone’s mind. After the idea is expressed—acted upon in mind, worked out in consciousness we have the manifestation, that which is cognized by one or more of the five senses.

4. Ideas are begotten or generated in the One Mind, eternal Omniscience, becoming causes¹ from which all that is, is produced. Mind is the matrix of all wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Out of the One Mind, ideas arise and are born in consciousness, asking for expression, asking to be recognized and accepted. When an idea comes into consciousness it is filled with creative power,² and is on its way into manifestation, which it attains if given consent by the will of the individual.

1. *becoming causes*. Philosophically known as “first cause.” The actions of their manifestations are “second causes.”

2. *consciousness . . . filled with creative power*. The power of second cause.

? What is meant by the term "the first-born of *all* creation"?

5. Before there could be a man, there had to be an *idea* of man. God, the Father, Divine Mind, created the idea of man, and this idea is His Son, the offspring of His Mind, the perfect-man idea. The Son is the I AM, Christ, the Word, Jehovah, the only begotten of the Father; the name "Son of God" was given to this idea because it proceeded from the Father, God, and was God-created. The Son, being the expressed image-likeness of the Father, is perfect, even as the Father is perfect. All that we find in Divine Mind, we find in the idea, in the offspring, in the Son, "who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation"¹ (Colossians 1:15). "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9).

1. *the first born of all creation.* Referred to first born because it is the "first cause" of the Christ within.

"affirmation." Because high spiritual consciousness has nothing to deny.

? What is the one true standard of thinking?

16. There is a standard of thinking to which all the thoughts of man should conform. This standard is Truth, the Absolute—the Jesus Christ standard.¹ In the first three lessons of this series [Fillmore Wings lessons 7-9] we learned the truth about Divine Mind, about the Son, the Idea or offspring of Divine Mind, and about manifest man, the expression and manifestation of that Idea. All thinking must harmonize with this Truth, or the thought-structure in manifest man will not be perfect, and what he builds (mind, body, affairs) will also be imperfect.

17. Students sometimes listen to remarks about right thinking and accept them because they appeal to their reason, but they go no further. They do not use the law to change thought-structures that have been built into the organism through ignorance. The ability to make and to unmake thought-forms² is within every individual, and all those who desire to follow Jesus in the regeneration must begin the work and complete it as He did. The mind should set right every function of the body, and not allow error thoughts to rule in circulation, in digestion, in assimilation, or in any other process or organ of the body. Every error should be cast out of both the conscious and subconscious phases of mind.

self:

✍ “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30).

✍ “All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18).

15. He uttered other statements equally strong and positive, and we know that during His ministry His silent “spoken word” must have been just as strong and positive for “he went out into the mountain to pray; and he continued all night in prayer to God.” When we analyze our mental states, we see that every upward step in spiritual consciousness is an “affirmation,”⁵ whether or not it is expressed in audible words, whether it comes to our recognition in a flash, or dawns on us gradually.

1. *The mind has the ability to reject what it does not desire.* Controlling our thoughts begins by recognizing our true desires.

2. *understanding.* That in man which comprehends is understanding; it knows and comprehends in wisdom. Its comparisons are not made in the realm of form, but in the realm of ideas. (RW/understanding)

3. *yet it is a “spoken word” from a metaphysical standpoint.* Silence is one way to speak Truth.

4. *Entering the Jesus Christ consciousness is in itself an affirmation.* The Silence is an affirmation because it occurs in a realm that is not relative and therefore has no evil.

5. *every upward step in spiritual consciousness is an*

Christ, Jesus, and Jesus Christ

? Explain the meaning of the names Christ, Jesus, and Jesus Christ, from the historical and the metaphysical standpoint

6. All that Divine Mind, the Father, ever begets or impregnates in consciousness is the idea, and this idea is the *cosmic creative power* that is active in Omnipresence. It is the image or seed-idea that is hidden in all forms of life and which causes the expression in the invisible and the manifestation in the visible realms. In its various forms of activity *in man* it is known as Christ, Jesus, and Jesus Christ.

7. From the historical standpoint¹ the terms, *Christ, Jesus, and Jesus Christ*, are names or titles that are applied to the man of Nazareth who was the fulfillment of the Jewish prophecy of a Messiah (Isa. 9:6-7). The man born in Bethlehem of Judea of the virgin Mary (Matthew 1:18-25, Matthew 2:1), who grew up in the city of Nazareth (Matthew 2:23); who performed all manner of miracles (Matthew 11:1-5); who taught a relationship between God and man as Father and Son (John 10:30, John 17:1, 21); who is our Elder Brother (Matthew 6:9, Matthew 23:9); who was the Great Physician (Matthew 12:15, Matthew 14:14); who was our Friend (John 15:14; our Way-Shower (John 14:6, Luke 9:59); the Great Overcomer (John 16:33); who was crucified in Jerusalem (John 19:16); was resurrected from the

dead (John 20:1-31), and ascended into heaven (Mark 16:19); was the inspiration of and the chief character in the Four Gospels of the New Testament (Matt., Mark, Luke and John); the guiding Light to Paul in his great missionary journeys (Acts 9:10, 20, Romans 1:1, I Corinthians 1:1, Eph. 1:1); and the voice of revelation heard by John, the writer of the Book of Revelation.

8. From the metaphysical or the spiritual standpoint,² the terms *Christ*, *Jesus*, and *Jesus Christ*, represent spiritual principles and laws that are eternal and omnipresent. They were active and they found fulfillment in the man, Jesus of Nazareth. They are in *every* human being³ and will find fulfillment in everyone, when the same spirit of devotion and obedience is cultivated in the mind and heart of each individual.

9. *Christ* is the image of God, the Word, the Son, the Law, the pattern of perfection in each person.

10. *Christ* is the composite idea that contains all the divine ideas that are necessary in the unfoldment, development, evolution and expression of a self-conscious spiritual man. *Christ* is the "seed of God" that is able to reproduce itself out of the substance inhering within it. *Christ* is spiritual man, I AM, Jehovah God, the Lord God.

11. *Jesus* is the understanding *use* of the Christ principle, the understanding *use* of the pattern of perfection.

12. *Jesus* is the energy and the understanding to bring forth in the visible realm all that is in the "seed," the Christ. *Jesus* is the *growth* of the seed.

manifestation; the error beliefs must be removed, by denial, if the manifestations are undesirable.

💡 12. "Denials may be made in many ways. It is not always necessary to say specifically, 'I deny so and so.' The conscious acknowledgment that you have been incorrect in your conclusion is denial." (*Keep a True Lent*, 64).

13. Denials and affirmations, therefore, are a necessary factor in the spiritual growth of man. Mind must have expression through thinking, feeling, speaking, in either denial or affirmation. Every thought denies or affirms something. Through ignorance, man has fallen into the habit of denying Truth and affirming error. His mind must be trained on new lines, and the process of denial and affirmation is vital in this training. Through understanding,² man can take advantage of the love of mental action and turn it to good account, instead of allowing it to work out on the error side.

14. We do need to remember that denials and affirmations are *primarily* attitudes of mind. The spoken word may be silent or audible. There are times when our silent denial (or affirmation) is more an attitude than actual words, yet it is a "spoken word" from a metaphysical standpoint³ in that it conveys some idea and is therefore more than random thinking. (See annotation one of Lesson Nine, *How I Used Truth*.) Entering the Jesus Christ consciousness is in itself an affirmation,⁴ the mightiest one that we could make. Jesus lifted Himself into the high consciousness of divinity by His use of the spoken word. He continually made the highest affirmations for Him-

vine plan.

1. *Through ignorance.* Ignorance is dissolved by the Word, the topic of the following lesson.
2. *error states of consciousness.* “The good news is that error thinking is temporary; it changes the moment that we see with insight instead of with the physical eyes” (Greg W. Neteler, SoF 11)

? Describe in your own words how the body is reconstructed by affirmation and by denial.

11. All this work is carried on under a law of mind. The mind has the ability to reject what it does not desire¹—this is “denial.” The mind also has power to receive or accept what it desires—this activity we call “affirmation.” Every time we say “yes,” we accept; when we say “no,” we reject. In this ability to accept or reject lies the power to thought control, and it is necessary that we assume and exercise this control before we can build in accordance with Truth principles. (See Annotations for Lesson 5, *Lessons in Truth*.) In substance, or Mind essence, “we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28). This substance fills all space and is free to all. By our thoughts we produce mental patterns, and it is the nature of substance to pour in, to fulfill (or till full) the pattern offered. It is, however, very necessary that we release the old pattern and produce a new one in mind before there can be any change in the outer manifestation, in the appearance. As this lesson has already brought out, the beliefs that one entertains are the thought-structures that sustain

Jesus is the unfolding and the developing of all the qualities or ideas of Christ. One might have the pattern and all the necessary substance to make something, but unless there were an understanding and use of both, nothing would be produced. There could be a perfect seed, but unless that seed was planted and given an opportunity to grow, it would never produce fruit. *Jesus* is the name of the principle in man that ever works to bring forth the perfection of man that is contained in the spiritual principle as a Son of God, the Christ. *Jesus* is the perfect response and obedience to the law of life, the law of growth and unfoldment. *Jesus* is the individual unfoldment and evolution of the Christ, the “seed of God.”

13. *Jesus Christ* is “the Word [which] became flesh” (John 1:14). *Jesus Christ* is the perfect *manifestation* of the “seed of God,” or the seed bearing fruit.

14. *Jesus Christ* is the perfect fulfillment in man that is manifested as the result of the conscious union of the Christ idea and the Jesus principle in the human consciousness. In other words, it is the manifestation of the Christ idea that has been understood and intelligently used by the thinking and feeling phases of man’s being. *Jesus Christ* is the ideal man in God-Mind who is expressed and manifested in the flesh. This *Jesus Christ* principle in its activity unfolds all that has been infolded as God’s idea of Himself. It evolves all that has been involved as perfect man. *Jesus Christ* is the Omnipresent Principle, present with us as the fulfillment of the promise, “Lo, I am with you alway” (Matthew 28:20).

15. God is Eternal, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Omnipotent, and so also is His Son, Jesus Christ. We do not always readily grasp this because we have been accustomed to think of the ministry of the Son as limited to the few years during which the Christ was manifested in the physical form of the man that walked by Galilee. As an idea of God, or as the creative power in the Father-Mind, the Son, or Christ, has *always* existed. We think of the birth and the crucifixion of Jesus as the beginning and the end of the life of Jesus Christ on earth, notwithstanding He stated, "Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58); "Lo, I am with you alway" (Matthew 28:20); "And now, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was" (John 17:5). The Son has *always* existed in the Father-Mind as the universal principle of God individualized, and so He always will.

16. From John's Gospel, we learn that "In the beginning was the Word [Logos—thought expressed], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him [thought]; and without him [thought] was not anything made that hath been made" (John 1:1-3).

17. Divine Mind creates by thought. "Logos means thought expressed, either as an idea in mind, or as vocal speech" (Eadie's Biblical Encyclopedia). *Logos* is the Christ, the Son, the living Word, the creative or working power of God. By Him were all things made. Ideas are the cause, the beginning of everything—all states of mind, all conditions, all beliefs, all things. The law of creation is the law of thought, of mind activity (ex-

How to Transform Thought and Thinking

? Explain in detail the process of denial and affirmation.

9. The function of denial is to disintegrate materiality and wash it away. We must be willing to deny that our sins and shortcomings have reality. Truth is not substance for us until we make room for it in the very character of our mind and body. The first step is to unload, to let go, to give up—this is termed "denial." If we were just beginning to build a new body, had new material, and understood how to build, the construction of a perfect body would be easy. However, we have erected our body without understanding and so we find that it is faulty in appearance. The plan for the body is held in Divine Mind as a perfect body-idea. Through ignorance¹ we have failed to build according to the divine plan, so it becomes necessary to reconstruct. By denials we remove our faulty mental and physical construction, and by affirmations we build anew so that the outer appearance of the body is like the new mental picture we are holding. (See annotations for Lesson 4, *Lessons in Truth*.)

10. Though we might desire to do so, we could not erase all error states of consciousness² at once without putting a heavy burden on the body. Little by little under the guidance of Spirit, we can tear down (deny) and build (affirm) again until the whole structure is in accord with the di-

that whereto they are sent, and that all men are held accountable for even their lightest word. (SoF 10)

8. *one thought is allowed to take possession of the mind, and thus to gain control. We believe that, through indulgence in sense consciousness, men fell into the belief in the reality of matter and material conditions.* (SoF 11)

9. *the ease with which it is cast off Atonement is casting off of obsessions. See SoF 12: "We believe in the at-one-ment that Jesus reestablished between God and man, and that through Jesus we can regain our original estate as sons of God."*

10. *it will manifest health, vitality, strength if our thinking and feeling are based on Truth. See SoF 19: "We believe that through union with Jesus in the regeneration, man can transform his body and make it perpetually healthy..."*

11. *Where is there room for the entry of spiritual thoughts? Atonement casts off obsessions, makes way for the Prayer of Faith (SoF 13), and resurrects the body.*

pression), and the words and forms in the physical world are the product of the idea, the manifestation.

18 "In the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1). Instead of using the word *beginning* we might truly say, "At the source is the Word." The "beginning" is always now, for it has to do with things eternal, and not with time.⁴ As ideas inhere in Mind and Mind is one with its ideas, so the Father and the Son are coeval and there are continual interaction and intercommunion in will and purpose. This Word, this Son, this Christ of God is eternally associated with the Father in the glory of creating, "that all may honor the Son even as they honor the Father" (John 5:23), for Father and Son are one, as Jesus taught. "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30), "I am in the Father, and the Father in me"⁵ (John 14:10). The Father-Mind is in its Son-idea, and the idea is always in the Parent Mind. These are one, and yet the Father is greater than the Son, as that which begets is greater than that which is begotten.

19. Jesus continually identified Himself with and as the Son, and not with the limitations of personality. "For he said, I am the Son of God" (Matthew 27:43). This constant identification with the Father was the secret of His power and of His success in overcoming all adverse conditions, including death, for He thus appropriated in His own consciousness, the Presence, Power, and Light of the Father-Mind. He demonstrated the highest type of embodiment. He is the normal standard for every individual to follow.⁶ If one's life does not show forth harmony and wholeness he can, by appropriating the Christ ideas in his thoughts

and feelings, build a new consciousness that will produce desirable results according to the high standard of Jesus Christ.

20. For ages, the Hebrew prophets had predicted the coming of the Messiah, yet when He came they knew Him not, because they lacked understanding of His real nature. In their opinion, the Messiah was to be a king and ruler of David's house, who should come to reform and restore the Jewish nation, and as High Priest purify the church. The lineage of David suggested to the mind of the people the pomp and glory of Solomon's reign restored in a temporal kingdom on earth. Although the great majority of the Hebrews did not recognize Him as the Messiah, there were some who did. They became the founders of the Christian religion.

1. *From the historical standpoint.* Charles Fillmore's Christology accepts most assertions of orthodox Christianity except an explicit statement that Jesus of Nazareth was God. This is known as "low Christology."

2. *From the metaphysical or the spiritual standpoint.* Fillmore may be "low Christology" but he rises above all other expressions of the Christian faith in his anthropology. What makes Charles Fillmore a refreshing theologian is not his Christology rather his high anthropology.

3. *They are in every human being.* Charles Fillmore effectively shifts the 2nd person of the Trinity from exclusively Jesus of Nazareth to every human being.

ample of negative thought action and its results, we only need to observe those who constantly dwell in an atmosphere of material thought. Their souls are as heavy as their bodies with earthliness. Where is there room for the entry of spiritual thoughts?¹¹ They need to have the excess of materiality washed away.

1. *becomes a center.* Referred to as "thought structure" in this lesson.

2. *"secondary power of thinking."* Known in philosophy as "second cause."

3. *this "wilderness" of mind must be made.* See *Statement of Faith* #9 (Authority) and #10 (Power).

4. *a belief in two powers, "good and evil."* "We believe in the supremacy and the eternity of the good" (SoF #5)

5. *[Sense consciousness] is not to be condemned but lifted up to its rightful place.* The ego is man, and by reason of his divinity he makes and remakes as he wills. In this lie his greatest strength and his greatest weakness. The ego of itself is possessed of nothing. It is a mere ignorant child of innocence floating in the Mind of Being, but through the door of its consciousness must pass all the treasures of God. (RW/ego)

6. *Every bodily act should be under divine guidance.* We believe that the original authority and dominion given to man... (SoF 9)

7. *the belief becomes "fixed" in the subconscious as an obsession.* We believe in the creative power of thoughts and words; that they do accomplish

the mind “sits before” some belief to the exclusion of other thoughts. A yielding to uncontrolled appetites, desires, or emotions produces a slackening of the functions of the mind so that one thought is allowed to take possession of the mind, and thus to gain control.⁸

7. Obsession must be “unreality” because only what God created can have reality. That an “obsession” is unreal may be observed by the ease with which it is cast off⁹ when the mind really wants to let go, or gets so clear a realization of its unreality that it can release the thought that some evil spirit or “demon” could gain possession of a person. Now we are coming to the understanding that the “demons” that have so obsessed the minds of men are the unbalanced thoughts produced in their own minds. Ill-health, the distress of poverty, unhappy human relations, a guilt complex, tyranny, theft, perversion, can all become “obsessions” so that our mind is closed to the truth of our spiritual nature and our divine heritage.

8. The thoughts that we are thinking constantly fill our mind with some type of belief—pure or impure. In both the conscious and subconscious phases of mind we are continually building thought-structures and our body and affairs will show forth the projection of these thought-structures. The body is the burden bearer for it is influenced by our thoughts and it will manifest imperfection, disease, if the thoughts are not true. On the other hand, it will manifest health, vitality, strength if our thinking and feeling are based on Truth.¹⁰ Our affairs, too, will show forth results of our negative or our positive thoughts. As an ex-

4. *The “beginning” is always now, for it has to do with things eternal, and not with time.* God's activity in our life is continuous creation. Continuous begetting is an example of Theism—the theological assertion that God is active in our life at all times.

5. *“I am in the Father, and the Father in me.”* Statements made by Jesus about himself in the Gospel of John seem to be sometimes expressions of Jesus as Christ and at other times expressions of Jesus as human.

6. *He is the normal standard for every individual to follow.* Jesus was more than someone to follow. His life and ministry prepared humanity for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit quickened the consciousness of human beings to their divine nature.

Abiding in Christ

? When one is quickened to spiritual understanding and knows the Father, or Christ (Son, I AM) within, what will be the result?

21. When quickened in spiritual understanding, we know both the Father and the Son, not only as abstract principles but as our own indwelling life, substance, and intelligence. We know that since we are the off-spring of God, made in His image and after His likeness, we are the sons of God, and that Jesus is our Elder Brother. He came and taught us of the Father and of our true relation to Him as sons of God. He came and by His living words and example made it possible for us to be quickened to a consciousness of the Christ in us, the hope of glory. This Christ in us, or the spiritual consciousness in us, is “even the light which lighteth every man, coming into the world” (John 1:9). Jesus came to open the minds that are blind with ignorance and in bondage to the belief in materiality, that we might behold the glory of our own indwelling Christ. The statement “Now ye are the body of Christ”¹ (I Corinthians 12:27), promises the possibility of a universal incarnation of the Christ in every individual. This manifestation of perfection is not limited to Jesus. Paul’s words to the Corinthians, “Glorify God therefore in your body” (I Corinthians 6:20), proclaim the fact that the God-nature may become manifest in every person.

Spirit, then Adam, the intellect or thinking faculty, is represented as listening to the serpent (sensation). He eats “of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden” (Genesis 3:3); that is, he takes into his unfolding consciousness a belief in two powers, “good and evil”⁴ (Genesis 2:9).

5. We read these words in *Mysteries of Genesis*, page 24:

💡 “Underlying all these ideas related to sensation, which in their original purity are simply ideas of life functioning in substance, is the divine idea of life. When life is expressed in divine order it is pronounced good. What is termed ‘sense consciousness’ in man is not to be condemned but lifted up to its rightful place.”⁵

6. Every bodily act should be under divine guidance.⁶ A yielding to uncontrolled appetites and emotions will produce a slackness of mind which permits some false thought-habit to take control of the consciousness to the exclusion of every other thought. This results in “obsession.” Obsession is giving undue attention to certain beliefs, usually of a negative nature. This means that there is an imbalance in the mind. If the conscious phase of mind (intellect) has accepted some belief that has taken the whole attention and passed this on to the realm of feeling (the subconscious), then the belief becomes “fixed” in the subconscious as an obsession.⁷ Because the subconscious is endowed with “secondary power of thinking,” the obsession or error belief can influence a person’s whole life. The word obsess comes from a root word meaning “to sit before”; thus, in a sense

💡 “There is, however, a difference between the original thinking and the secondary thought. One has its animating center in Spirit; the other, in thought.”

3. First, we think *consciously* through the thinking faculty or the conscious phase of our mind (also termed the “intellect”). This thinking then is taken up by the subconscious phase of mind or the feeling nature (often termed “the heart”) and becomes a “secondary power of thinking” in that thoughts carry out according to their own character. The body and affairs are both influenced by whatever predominant thoughts are held in the mind, for they can only express at their own level of activity. If we do not rightly use the power of our I AM (Son of God) dominion and allow discordant thoughts in the subconscious to rule us, a multitude of discords in mind, body, and affairs will result. Then an appeal to a higher understanding to set right this “wilderness” of mind must be made. ③ “Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil” (Matthew 4:1). The “devil” here would refer to any false states of mind that we are holding which can tempt us to believe that we are separated from God, or that the only way we can have the good we desire is by our own human power.

💡 “It is possible for man to take I AM power and apply it in external ways and leave out the true spiritual law” (*Jesus Christ Heals*, p. 123-4).

4. The joy of living is manifest in the body as sensation, which is experienced through our senses. If, however, the senses are allowed free rein without spiritual education, without the guidance of

1. *ye are the body of Christ*. What the mainstream church views as a social collective is seen by Charles Fillmore as individual expressions of Christ.

❓ How do we “abide” in Christ and manifest the Christ nature?

22. The *Word* is the seed which is planted in the consciousness of man and here it germinates and takes root. ① The Word, the Christ, the divine idea of perfect man, is received into consciousness by faith and there it begets a new creature. Just as the rain waters the little seed planted in the earth, so does the act of thinking upon an idea nourish it and cause it to grow, and if, like the seed in the earth, the Word is kept in the mind long enough to become established, then does it grow and produce “after its kind.” We know that if we remove a seed from the earth after it has begun to germinate it will wither; so a young idea, an immature thought, will wither if it be dropped from or abandoned in mind before it has become strongly established in consciousness. “Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature” (II Corinthians 5:17). He is begotten by the Word, and since every seed brings forth “after its kind,” the perfect idea of man will bring forth the perfect expression of man and the manifestation of perfect man. ②

23. The result of this perfect expression and manifestation of man will be felt in every phase of his being. His mind will become more alert and more efficient; his body will become healthier and more radiant; his human relationships happier; his af-

fairs will become more harmonious and prosperous. Everything that concerns him will be perfected. "Jehovah will perfect that which concerneth me" (Psalms 138:8).

1. *The Word is the seed which is planted in the consciousness of man and here it germinates and takes root.* Abiding in Christ is a passive practice. We are not saved by our own faith but by the faith of the one who "germinates and takes root." Search "New Perspectives on Paul" for recent New Testament research that explores this idea.

2. *the perfect idea of man will bring forth the perfect expression of man and the manifestation of perfect man.* Georgiana Tree West, a Unity minister who engaged Charles Fillmore on many occasions, believed that expression is the unfolding of a divine idea in consciousness (the mental image or concept), while manifestation is the physical, sensory result or fulfillment of that expressed idea in the outer world, forming a tangible reality from the spiritual blueprint. The process involves Mind conceiving an Idea, then the "manifest man" using prayer and understanding to bring it through "expression" (forming the mental picture) into "manifestation" (the formed, tangible good).

? Through whom are the divine attributes, or ideas, brought into expression *and* manifestation?

24. God's idea of man is that man shall express the life, love, substance, intelligence, power, and strength of Divine Mind. Jesus realized this when

LESSON FOR DENIALS AND AFFIRMATIONS

A Theology of Thought and Thinking

? How is thought controlled and why must man be in conscious control of his thinking faculty?

1. Every thought of the mind becomes a center¹ around which a state of consciousness or *state* of mind is built. If a right thought has been dwelt on regarding, say, life, the individual has a right outlook on life; a right state of mind or consciousness concerning life. On the other hand, if a limited thought of life has been held in mind, the individual has a limited state of mind or consciousness.

2. Our power to "think" is a gift of God, but how we use this power is determined by our understanding and use of it. Once we have thought about any subject, we have, in a sense, put ourselves into it and endowed it with power. There is, therefore, a "secondary power of thinking"² given to our thoughts in that they have to express "after their kind." Charles Fillmore states in *Christian Healing*, page 50:

from sin, but also the human body from addictions and disease, and the human race from hatred and war.

He said to Pilate, "To this end have I been born, and to this end am I come into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth"¹ (John 18:37). Divine Mind seeks to interact and intercommune with man's mind through the perfect idea, the Christ, to the end that man shall be *consciously* one with God in actuality as well as in ideality. It is through *manifest man* or human beings that the attributes or ideas of Being (God) are brought into manifestation, and in order to manifest Christ (man's innate perfection), man must consciously identify himself with that perfection (the Father in him) in the same way that Jesus did. "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30). Man identifies himself with the Father as Jesus did, by recognizing his spiritual nature as the Son of God, the image of God, and by knowing that he has within him as potentialities all the qualities of God. Through the wise and loving use of these God qualities or ideas, he brings forth the likeness of God in the flesh; he *proves* his oneness with God in every thought, feeling, word, action and reaction.

1. "I come into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth." Jesus' claim is not to have come for the atonement for sin, but to bear witness to Truth. Charles Fillmore will call this wayshowing.

The Experience of Abiding in Christ

? What was Jesus' realization of oneness with the Father, and what was His custom in the matter of self-identification?

25. Man is to abide or dwell continuously in the same spiritual consciousness in which Jesus dwelt and to let His teachings abide in him. "Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). Jesus was always conscious of the omnipresent life, the enduring strength, the unfailing love, the eternal substance, the perfect wisdom, and the omnipotence of God. He realized His oneness with the Father in this way. His words were expressions of living ideas and these ideas must abide in man's consciousness, where, as seed, they shall spring up and bear much fruit. **1** When we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, we ask in the nature of His divine Presence and in the name or nature of the image-likeness within each one of us, and in a spirit of willingness to submit our unfolding consciousness to the guidance, direction, and teaching of the Holy Spirit. In this phase of spiritual attainment. "Ask whatsoever ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7), because to ask in this consciousness is to ask in His nature or name, which is I AM.

26. When we seek and find and enter into and abide in this Son-of-God consciousness, we shall experience the more abundant life. "And the witness is this, that God gave unto us eternal life, and

DENIALS AND AFFIRMATIONS



INTRODUCTION TO DENIALS AND AFFIRMATIONS

As you read *Affirmations and Denials*, consider its Soteriology. Soteriology is Christian theology relating to how human beings find salvation. That we are transformed by the renewal of our mind is accepted by all Christians. But the Christian church has never come to consensus on how we are saved. Rejecting vicarious atonement, the Fillmores teach salvation as unity of the mind and body. For them, denials and affirmations are spiritual practices that save not only the human soul

RECOMMENDED READING

- ✔ *Christian Healing The Formative Power of Thought*, Charles Fillmore.
- ✔ *Unity Statement of Faith*, Greg W. Neteler, UCU Press, 2010, Statement 10, Statement 11, Statement 12.
- ✔ *Original Annotations for Denials and Affirmations*, Unity Correspondence School, republished by Fillmore wings.

this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath the life; he that hath not the Son of God hath not the life" (I John 5:11-12). Abiding in this consciousness we are free from sin and the effects of sin.² "In him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not" (I John 3:5-6). In the Jesus Christ consciousness is all power. "All authority hath been given unto me in heaven (mind) and on earth [body]" (Matthew 28:18).

27. In this Jesus Christ consciousness, we find that perfect love fulfills the law. "God is love; and he that abideth in love abideth in God, and God abideth in him" (I John 4:16).

28. Jesus Christ is our wisdom. "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who was made unto us wisdom from God" (I Corinthians 1:30).

29. In Jesus Christ we lay hold of and become *consciously* one with the very life, substance, and intelligence of Spirit. Man is in Truth the Son of God, the expresser of divine ideas, and his business is to establish God activity on this planet.³ Until he *consciously* recognizes his relationship and establishes his *conscious* connection with the Father, he is not a free channel through which God (Good) may flow. This God-activity in man begins with the celebration of a holy communion with Divine Mind in man's consciousness. Man must take his attention from outer, temporary things and through aspiration open his mind toward the divine, and consciously claim and assimilate living, radiant substance. "I am the living bread which came down out of heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: yea and the bread which I will give is my flesh, for the

life of the world" (John 6:51). This is the "bread" which Jesus meant when He said later, "Take ye: this is my body" (Mark 14:22). The body which Jesus bids us appropriate in consciousness, is a body of spiritual ideas. "He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood abideth in me, and I in him" (John 6:56). "Blood" is a symbol of life; "body" is a symbol of substance. "Eating and drinking" symbolize an appropriation in consciousness. Just as we breathe air substance so that the blood or life stream of the physical body may be purified and may carry to the several parts of that organism the elements necessary to strengthen it and give it more physical life, so do we also appropriate Spirit substance through the breath of the Almighty. "But there is a spirit in man and the breath of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (Job 32:8). This is done in order that the living Word may carry divine ideas into our consciousness, letting them circulate freely and purify the thought current, thus giving our body of ideas more abundant life.

30. It is not sufficient to train the conscious phase of mind (thinking) only; we must take Truth into the body by the power of the Word. The subconscious phase of mind (feeling) is that phase of mind which works in, or operates the body in its subliminal functioning,⁴ and this must be deeply impressed with divine ideas. We have so long left our body out of the plan of salvation that we shall find it well to say to it, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). At the close of the passover feast, Jesus "took a cup, and gave thanks, and gave to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of

5. *Thought initiates the action, and the action in turn establishes the thought.* The action of conscious thought will eventually establish another action of subconscious thought.

Thoughts of Truth, enduring still,
 Thoughts of light set on a hill inspiration's
 height,
 Thoughts of peace both day and night,
 Thoughts of love that cast out fear,
 Thoughts of life right now and here,
 Thoughts of strength and thoughts of
 health,
 Thoughts of plenty and of wealth—
 May Such thoughts fill all my mind—
 Thought for self and all mankind.

—Frank B. Whitney

1. *The heart is the storehouse of all that man has ever experienced.* Our subconscious phase of mind has unlimited capacity to store information. But our conscious phase has only a limited capacity to store and process ideas.

2. *the clamoring of the five senses.* Stilling the five senses frees up some capacity in our conscious phase of mind.

3. *divine ideas of the Superconscious are then transmitted by the conscious or thinking phase of mind to the subconscious or "habit mind."* In stillness, the conscious phase becomes an open channel from Superconsciousness to the subconsciousness phase.

4. *"O God, I am thinking Thy thoughts [ideas] after Thee".* In stillness, the conscious phase "think God thoughts." At that point, we have moved from metaphysics to mysticism. Emilie Cady, *Lessons in Truth*, Original Edition, Bondage or Liberty—Which?

the covenant, which is poured out for many unto the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:27-28). What is the "cup"? The "cup" is the consciousness of eternal life; it is the chalice that holds the wine of life; it is the body that must bring forth the fruit of the living Word, and that must thrill with the joy and harmony of living. To drink of the cup means to take in faith the ideas of life, substance and intelligence, knowing they are the Truth or Reality of the body temple. By affirming Truth in faith the conscious phase of mind "eats," or appropriates from the Superconscious or Christ Mind,⁵ and then passes its consciousness of Truth on to the subconscious phase of mind, for there must be complete assimilation. We must become *consciously* one with these ideas. They must be woven into the flesh, must be felt in every fiber of being, poured into the body consciousness for the remission of sins against the body. So man should affirm;

✍ Christ in me is my eternal life. Christ in me is the substance of my body. Christ in me is the intelligence of my being. Christ in me is my wisdom. All power is given to me through Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ I express and manifest eternal life here and now.

31. This appropriation of divine ideas renews the mind and transforms the body so that it shows forth the pure, immortal, incorruptible body of Jesus Christ. "This is the bread which cometh down out of heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die" (John 6:50).

32. Jesus also said, "This do in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). Have we grasped the true

meaning of these words? He meant that this spiritual appropriation was to be done by everyone, in order that the "body of Christ," the body of divine ideas, might be remembered and every cell and organ made alive with the life, substance and intelligence of Christ, the image of God.

33. Through the appropriation and the assimilation (thinking and feeling) of living, radiant life, substance, and intelligence in our consciousness, we blend our consciousness with the Father-Mind and our heart with the Mother-heart of God and there is a harmonizing of every part of our being—spirit, soul, body—with the *Jesus Christ principle*. As our mind (conscious phase or intellect) and our heart (subconscious phase or feeling nature) are cleansed of untrue thoughts and feelings, our body will take on the life and light of our innate divinity and show forth or manifest the living light, as was shown in the body of Jesus at the time of the transfiguration.⁶ "And as he was praying, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment became white and dazzling" (Luke 9:29).

1. *His words . . . must abide in man's consciousness, where, as seed, they shall spring up and bear much fruit.* There is no mention here of having faith nor of doing works. Charles Fillmore taught salvation by works of consciousness.

2. *we are free from sin and the effects of sin.* This is not justification; it is sanctification. We are not saved by confession, but by transformation.

3. *[Our] business is to establish God activity on this planet.* As fellow sons and daughters of God, we

the one pure Mind and drawing on its ideas for all our conscious thinking. These right thoughts then become subconscious, and the whole mentality is established in righteousness.

35. In prayer, in silence, we write upon the tablet of our heart the divine law. That is, we give to the subconscious phase of mind the word of Truth, and since it carries out with unflinching certainty whatever ideas or concepts are given to it, its cooperation in the demonstration of Truth is assured. This is what the prophet Jeremiah foretold when he said, "I will put my law in their inward parts, and in their heart will I write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jeremiah 31:33). In Proverbs 16:3 we see the injunction given as, "Commit thy works unto Jehovah, and thy purposes shall be established." Thought initiates the action, and the action in turn establishes the thought.⁵ This we have seen in the illustration of the child learning to play the piano. The right thought is first given to the fingers, and by right action this thought is fixed in the subconscious. So if we commit our works to the Lord (law of our being); if we persistently do the right thing, carry out the right thought, the thoughts will by actual doing become established in the subconscious, and we shall do easily and naturally what we know is right. In this way we may be assured that we are "bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (II Corinthians 10:5).

36. THOUGHTS

Thoughts of God, so splendid, high!
Thoughts of good that satisfy,

33. The "objective mind" is a name used for the conscious phase of mind or thinking faculty. It is the medium of expression, giving forth that which it receives either from the interior (Superconscious) or the exterior (world of form). It is only by stilling this phase of mind to the outer world, bringing it into submission, that we are able to hear the "voice" from within, able to establish contact with the Superconscious or Christ Mind. The divine ideas of the Superconscious are then transmitted by the conscious or thinking phase of mind to the subconscious or "habit mind";³ in this way, divine ideas become a definite conscious part of our mind or consciousness and ultimately are manifested in the outer world.

34. All constructive thought takes place in the silence, when we lay aside the confusion, the conflict, the distractions of life and listen to the "still small voice" (I Kings 19:12) that guides us into the true way of living. By putting aside the noisy, persistent objectives of persons and things, and in the silence coming into the very presence of God (Truth), we can get a true realization of what Truth is. In this place of stillness or communion with God, we can say with the astronomer Kepler, "O God, I am thinking Thy thoughts [ideas] after Thee";⁴ and with the Psalmist, "In the multitude of my thoughts within me Thy comforts delight my soul" (Psalms 94:19). "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me" (Psalms 139:17). When we think from the standard of divine ideas, we think the "thoughts" of God, and vain, ignorant thoughts no longer lodge within us. "Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts" (Isaiah 55:7). We accomplish this by being still, and consciously entering into

share the same purpose as Jesus of Nazareth.

4. *The subconscious . . . works in, or operates the body in its subliminal functioning.* The soul is united with the body by the subconscious mind. This is affirmed and explained by the *Statement of Faith* #21, which says, "We believe that spirit, soul, body, are a unit, and that any separation of these three is a transgression of the Divine Law."

5. *the conscious phase of mind "eats," or appropriates from the Superconscious or Christ Mind* The elements of bread and wine are not consecrated by the celebrant. They are consecrated by the consciousness of the person who appropriated them.

6. *as was shown in the body of Jesus at the time of the transfiguration.* While there are no eye-witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus, we do have three disciples as witnesses to the transfiguration. The transfiguration may have affected the three disciples who witnessed it more than we know.

RECOMMENDED READING

- ✔ *Christian Healing*, Charles Fillmore, Being's Perfect Idea.
- ✔ *Unity Statement of Faith*, Greg W. Neteler, UCU Press, 2010, Statement 2, Statement 3, Statement 4.
- ✔ *Original Annotations for Christ, The Only Begotten of the Father*, Unity Correspondence School, republished by Fillmore wings.
- ✔ "Knowing Our Christ Within", Mark Hicks, *Credo of A Metaphysical Christian*, URL: /credo-13, accessed 12/07/2025.
- ✔ *A Layman's Guide to Protestant Theology*, William Holdern. New York: Macmillan. 1968
- ✔ *From Jesus to Christ* (PBS Video). More information about this series: <https://www.truthunity.net/courses/mark-hicks/overview-of-christian-scriptures>
- ✔ *Finding the Christ In Ourselves*, Emilie Cady. Unity Tract published 1917. Ed Rabel said this essay by Emilie Cady was Charles Fillmore favorite writing by a non-Unity author. Quoting Fillmore, "a simple and direct entry into the core of Unity teaching."

10. *Order... adjusts all things in harmony.* Christian Science and Unity are "harmonial religion . . . [a form of] piety and belief in which spiritual composure, physical health, and even economic well-being are understood to flow from a person's rapport with the cosmos." Sydney Ahlstrom, *A Religious History of the American People* 1019.

11. *When order has its rightful place in our consciousness.* As we establish harmony in conscious and subconscious phases of mind with Superconsciousness.

12. *our mind, our body, and our affairs come into the divine harmony which prevails throughout God's universe.* We become "in tune with the infinite."

❓ Why is it necessary to "be still" in order to come into a realization of Truth?

✔ "Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me, and know my thoughts" (Psalms 139:23).

32. The heart is the storehouse of all that man has ever experienced;¹ it is his subconscious. "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalms 46:10). When we are still, we have power to plant the ideas from the Superconscious or Christ Mind in the conscious phase of our mind and then into the subconscious phase of mind. Only in the silence can we still the clamoring of the five senses² and connect the phases of our mind (conscious and subconscious) with the Superconscious, the source of all God-ideas.

sion—is the active or Father side. Mother is God's expression of divine ideas. Father is the manifestation of God within each human being, known as the Christ Mind, the Superconsciousness, and as Spirit. Metaphysically, Mother (an Idea) is a higher order of being than Father (a manifestation).

6. *there is no absence anywhere of life, substance, and intelligence.* The fundamental difference between Mary Baker Eddy's Christian Science and the Fillmore teachings. Emilie Cady originally agreed with Mary Baker Eddy that "There is no reality, life or intelligence in matter." (Lessons in Truth, Original Edition, Denials, denial #2). At some point the Fillmore editions reversed this to state that all things have life, substance and intelligence.

7. *All men and all women are the offspring of the one Mind and are intelligent with the intelligence of Spirit.* The first of four paragraphs focusing on divine powers in human beings (intelligence, love, power, and order). This paragraph, dealing with intelligence of Spirit, is notable because it is an early sign of feminism in the Unity Correspondence Course. It is the only reference expressing "all men *and all women.*" Vera Dawson Tait was the last Unity editor of the course lessons.

8. *The idea of love . . . makes us divine beings and brings our thoughts into divine order.* Love precedes both power and order, which are discussed in the next two paragraphs.

9. *When we realize our birthright through the Christ Spirit.* Spirit empowers the soul and strengthens the body.

MAN, THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD



INTRODUCTION TO MAN, THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD

The Introduction to Fillmore Wings lesson 7, *The True Character of God*, discussed the Fillmore beliefs about Theology, the systematic study of God. This lesson, *Man, The Image and Likeness of God*, discusses the Fillmore beliefs about Cosmology, the study of the origin, operation and fate of the universe, and Ontology, the study of the structure and components of the universe. It's likely that the Fillmores placed this discussion here because it was necessary to explain where humanity fits

into these origins, operations, structures and fate of the world we inhabit.

As was we saw in lesson 7, the variety of terms Fillmore teaching can be overwhelming. So, again, I offer a way to begin our study: by placing them in ordered sentences that show how they are related.

💡 *God Mind.* Human beings cannot fully know God any more than a dog can fully know a human being. But we (and dogs) can know something of the Mind of God, the nature and will of God, through God's actions and creations. The realm of God's actions and creation are the cosmos. A study of the cosmos reveals God's providence.

💡 *Cosmos.* We live, move and have our being in a two-tiered cosmos consisting of the spiritual realm of divine Ideas and a physical realm of formed, physical objects. We talk about the realm of divine Ideas as heaven and the realm of physical objects as earth.

💡 *Being.* Heaven has no time or space. As such, divine Ideas have no "being" or "existence." They are eternal and changeless, free of time and space. Earth has both time and space. As such, physical objects "exist" or "have being." Physical objects change and are not eternal.

take our stand as the master of our fate.

31. Order, which begins as an idea in Divine Mind, adjusts all things in harmony.¹⁰ One definition of order is "system; a plan or method by which things or ideas are interrelated." Order is that faculty of mind which relates ideas to one another, putting them in their proper place and in right relation, so that the operation of all ideas is governed by the law of the good of the whole. When order has its rightful place in our consciousness,¹¹ our mind, our body, and our affairs come into the divine harmony which prevails throughout God's universe.¹²

1. *Jesus, [an]expression of . . . all the ideas existing in the Father-Mind.* Jesus is an "expression," the second phase of the metaphysical meta-narrative: Mind, Idea, and Manifestation.
2. *Man "builds" his manifest body.* Human beings are a "manifestation," the third phase of the metaphysical meta-narrative.
3. *Not discerning the one pure, spiritual substance that penetrates and permeates all things.* Substance is the spiritual essence of divine ideas. When divine ideas are manifested, all things are imbued with spiritual essence.
4. *are to appropriate through our own mind and on which we are to "feed" in thought.* We can appropriate divine ideas by feeding on the substance of things manifested in the material realm.
5. *Substance is the passive or Mother side of Principle, the very essence of Being, while the "God said"—the movement of substance into expres-*

fail in this recognition, and think of our self or of others as ignorant, separate beings, we are using our subconscious thought power to bring ignorance on the earth. We must stop believing in and thinking about ignorance, and instead put into all our thoughts the idea of intelligence. All men and all women are the offspring of the one Mind and are intelligent with the intelligence of Spirit.⁷

29. The idea of love, when introduced into consciousness and established there by persistent thought, will overcome all tendencies of an opposite character. It will also free us from the selfishness and bondage of a limited, personal expression of love. The love that is so mighty in its transforming power is the universal Christ love, which extends beyond the limitations of human relationship and recognizes the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. The idea of love toward all beings, love of the Lord or law, of the universe, Jehovah of the divine order of things that protect us, makes us divine beings and brings our thoughts into divine order.⁸ When we look on the law as something to be obeyed, something that is to *make* us do something that we do not want to do—something that takes away all our pleasure—we are “missing the mark” and thinking error thoughts. When we look on the law as our divine opportunity, our privilege, our freedom, our entrance into all that is good, we are thinking in harmony with Truth.

30. Thoughts of power and of strength build us up in the consciousness of might, mastery, authority, and dominion. When we realize our birthright through the Christ Spirit,⁹ we no longer feel helpless, a victim of circumstance, but

 *Expression and Manifestation.* Because divine Ideas have no being, they are continuously “expressed” by God. More specifically, they are “emanations” of the Mind of God. As such, they reflect the desire and nature of God. Physical objects have being, they are “manifestations” of divine Ideas. More specifically, they are “formations” of the mind of divine Ideas. As such, they reflect the essential nature of the divine Idea.

 *Essence and Form.* Divine Ideas are spiritual patterns or essences given by God in expression. When a divine Idea is manifested on earth, its essence in heaven gives form to the physical object. When the Christian church declares Christ to be “of one being with the Father,” it is declaring that the form of Jesus on earth reflects the essence of Christ in heaven and that the essence of Christ in heaven is one with God.

 *Christ.* The ultimate divine Idea, continuously expressed by God, is the spiritual human being, the Christ. It is the ultimate divine Idea because the spiritual human being is created in the image and likeness of God. The Christ, or spiritual human being, is the image and likeness of God because the mind of the spiritual human being is one with the Mind of God.

-  *Spirit.* God also expresses the Holy Spirit, declared by the church to “proceed” from God (and declared by the western church from the Father and the Son). Spirit is manifested as God’s presence in all creation. The Trinity of God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The role, or office, of the Holy Spirit is “quicken” the mind and heart of manifested human beings.
-  *Creation.* Creation of the cosmos is described in the first two chapters of Genesis – the realm of divine Ideas in chapter one and the realm of physical objects in chapter two. Heaven is expressed by the transcendent God; earth is manifested by “the Word” of Christ.
-  *Human Beings and Nature.* Physical human beings are manifestations of the Christ divine Idea. As such we share the essence of Christ and the essence of the Spirit, which proceeds from the Christ. The “good news” of the Gospel is the revelation that the essence of Christ carries into our form as the “inner Christ.” We are, by nature, a Trinity of Human Beings – Spirit, soul and body. When theologians speak of the “law of nature,” they are not speaking about a cruel, Darwinian “survival of the fittest.” Instead, they are speaking about the nature of our spiritual essence as manifestations of Christ – the law written on the “human heart”, the law of love.
-  *Oneness.* God is inseparable from God’s divine Ideas and the spiritual human is inseparable from its manifestations. We are one with Christ as Christ is one with God.

is the spiritual medium or Mind essence through which all the ideas of Divine Mind are expressed and brought into visible form; it has been termed “the body of God” which we, as individualizations, of God or Mind, are to appropriate through our own mind and on which we are to “feed” in thought⁴ in order to satisfy our every need, regardless of what the need may be.

27. Substance is the passive or Mother side of Principle, the very essence of Being, while the “God said” – the movement of substance into expression – is the active or Father side.⁵ In us, substance is still passive while the movement of our consciousness through thinking and feeling is the active phase which handles substance. When substance is viewed by the five-sense man as “matter,” it has been differentiated and made into specialized forms through concepts that have been projected into it by man. Through meditation and prayer on what we term the attributes (ideas) or qualities of God, the ideas of Divine Mind are breathed into our human consciousness. We train our individual mind to recognize the omnipresence of substance and are thus purged of a concept of “matter” as being something apart from substance. To further overcome the wrong belief in what is called “materiality,” all our thinking should conform to the truth that there is no absence anywhere of life, substance, and intelligence.⁶ The belief in poverty is overcome by the understanding of omnipresent, spiritual substance as available to all.

28. God is omnipresent, therefore intelligence is omnipresent. In all our thinking, the one all-knowing Mind should be recognized. When we

as we are conscious of, and the extent of our consciousness depends on the ideas, thoughts, and beliefs we hold about life. Since we manifest according to the character of our thoughts, it is very important that we think only Truth about life.

25. The substance idea should be well established in our consciousness by true thoughts *about* substance. From the wrong or limited concept of substance arises the mistaken belief concerning the material universe. It would seem that one of the hardest things for us to grasp is the idea of God as the one substance of all creation. Because of our limited thoughts we have drawn a sharp line between so-called “matter” and Spirit. Not discerning the one pure, spiritual substance that penetrates and permeates all things,³ we think we see lack of intelligence and life in many things — the things we call “matter.” We think of our body as only material, because we do not really understand the one substance out of which all things are created. The human mind conceives that substance is something that can be seen only with the physical eyes, touched by human hands, cognized by the five senses, and terms this substance “material.” From this belief of substance as being something solid and tangible to the senses—from this limited concept of the nature of substance—has arisen the belief in materiality, form, as being the “real.”

26. Spirit is invisible to physical eyes, and intangible to the senses; substance is the underlying essence of Spirit or Truth; it is the great, undifferentiated whole, the “principle of good” which is lasting and enduring, and in which “we live, and move and have our being” (Acts 17:23). Substance

💡 *Wholeness.* The following lesson, *The Formative Power of Thought*, will explain that the soul is comprised of conscious mind and subconscious mind. When conscious and subconscious mind are in harmony (perfectly aligned) and when the soul and body are in harmony with God Mind, the human being is said to be whole.

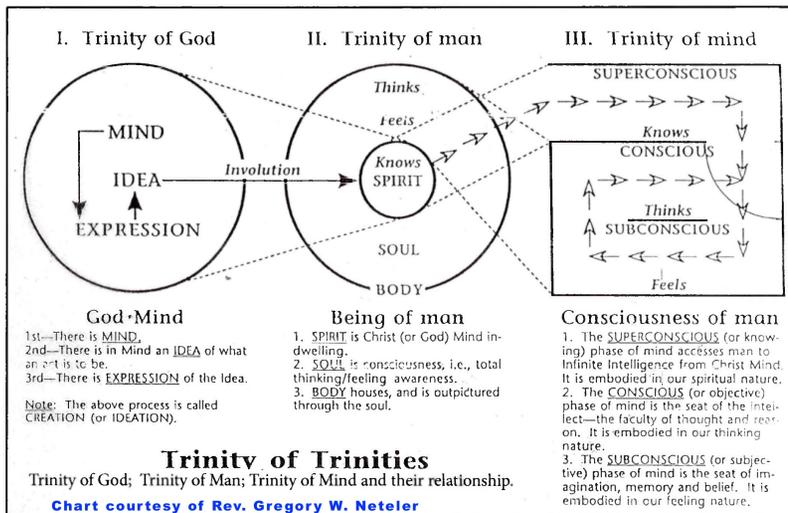
💡 *Thoughts and Words.* Expressions of divine Ideas by God occur by the Word spoken by Mind of God. Manifestations of physical objects, including the human soul and body, occur by the thoughts and words of the Christ, the spiritual human being. God has empowered the nature of all human beings with the ability to transform human experience and conditions by means of our thinking and speaking.

💡 *The Fall of Human Beings and Evil.* The fall of human beings occurs when the soul and body has lost conscious awareness of the Spirit. The trinity of human beings is broken and the ability to transform experience and conditions into a greater good is disrupted. Human beings then do not perceive the will of God. Evil is the frustration of will of God by the thoughts, words, and actions of fallen human beings.

As you read *Man, the Image and Likeness of God*, consider its Pneumatology. Pneumatology is Christian theology relating to the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. The Fillmores affirm the Trinity of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and assert the existence of an inner “trinity of

man” – Spirit, soul and body. Like the Holy Spirit, which is God in expression, we are also to be God in expression, through Spirit, as soul and body. They declared that we are not depraved or separated from God, but, through Spirit, are God’s beloved creation in expression.

This chart is taken from Greg W. Neteler's *Unity Statement of Faith*, Senior minister and founder of Unity Church Universal, located at 9th and Tracy in Kansas City, where Charles and Myrtle Fillmore worshipped and worked from 1906 until moving to Unity Farm in the 1930s. Rev. Greg has provided permission for a reprint of his book, which should be available in 2026.



Orderly Thinking

? What place has order in Divine Mind and in man’s thinking?

23. Ideas in Divine Mind must be brought out in the consciousness of each individual through the power of his thought. The “image” or Christ man is the perfect-man idea, the composite of all divine ideas such as life, substance, intelligence, faith, love, power, strength, and order. Jesus, the expression of that perfect-man idea, is an organized entity in which are brought forth in mind and in form, all the ideas existing in the Father-Mind.¹ Then man, created in the image of God, shows forth the nature of God, and thus God’s likeness appears in actuality as well as in the ideal or reality.

24. Man “builds” his manifest body² by thinking about life in all its essentials. If we think about life from a limited point of view our body will express the limitations. The subconscious controls the body manifestations, and this “subjective mind” is very sensitive and very fertile. Every thought that is accepted and believed takes root like a seed and brings forth “after its kind.” If true thoughts of life are the seeds sown in its fertile soil, the results will accord with Truth; but if thoughts of death or lack of life are held, the latter will be brought into manifestation. We must know that life is omnipresent; that It does not “come and go.” There is no such thing as life’s passing, or its growing less. Life is here in all its fullness, but we can manifest only as much of it

2. *Then we can readily reach and mold with our conscious thinking all the conditions which have hitherto seemed beyond our power.* Conscious thinking, in harmony with subconscious feeling, now has new capabilities.

3. *The subconscious phase of mind, working deductively.* "Intuition is a spiritual faculty and does not explain, but simply points the way." Florence Scovel Shin, *The Game of Life and How to Play It*, chapter 8, Intuition or Guidance.

4. *When the conscious phase of mind . . . feeds the subconscious phase divine ideas in right relation.* Wisdom (capacity to see and understand divine ideas) and Order (capacity to place divine ideas in a structure) are the key to a harmonious life.

LESSON FOR MAN, THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD

I AM PERFECT

1. By Alva Romanes

At the dawn of the world's foundation
I was wrought for Your purpose, O Lord;
And perfection was mine in that morning di-
vine
When I woke by the power of Your word.
With the ages my stature has risen,
As through forms without number I've
ranged;
And though countless the creeds I have made
for my needs,
I am perfect, and ever unchanged.

In the fires of a thousand aeons
I was tempered with woe and weal,
As the ore dull and crude, by the furnace sub-
dued,
Grows at last to the burnished steel.
And today, through the mist of my senses,
I can vision the truth sublime:
With a faith sure and calm stands the man that
I am,
As I was in the morning of time.
Through the indwelling Christ I am perfect;
For the years cannot change or mar
The immaculate man who was shaped in the
plan

That makes perfect all things that are.
 From the fetters of time's limitations,
 From the seeming and false made free,
 I go on unafraid, in perfection arrayed,
 To the tasks of eternity.

liefs—the average, commonly accepted thoughts of our fellow men. Things that most persons take for granted, that are commonly accepted without question, the subconscious acts upon, thus causing, them to become manifest and increasing our belief that they are true.

21. The belief in flesh inheritance, accented by the “objective mind,” becomes impressed on the “subjective mind” and becomes a fact of our outer life. The subconscious phase of mind, working deductively,³ draws conclusions that the “objective mind” (conscious phase) may have failed to deduce from the acceptance of the idea, and thus effects are produced. In like manner, other inferences are drawn and effects produced from accepted beliefs which are perfectly logical, but which we are not conscious of because we have not reasoned out logically the result or deduction from the belief.

22. The conscious phase of mind acts, the subconscious phase reacts; the conscious phase makes the impression on the subconscious which in turn produces the manifestation; the conscious phase of mind decides what is to be done, and the subconscious does it. When the conscious phase of mind learns to listen to the Superconscious and then feeds the subconscious phase divine ideas in right relation,⁴ the subconscious reproduces them and a harmonious life results.

1. *the quickening power of Spirit . . . sets free the energies which were bound in error thought. Conscious thinking of the Christ principle permits Spirit to reach subconscious thinking.*

will be perfect.⁵

1. *Jesus Christ is the Savior of the race.* If any incarnation were less than divine we were still without reasonable basis of hope. But unless at least one incarnation were transcendently divine, there were no assurance of a transcendental attainment. (Imelda Shanklin, Selected Studies, 15)
2. *the principle He represents.* Jesus Christ is far more than a highly evolved human being. He is a divine principle, sent by God.
3. *unfolds the whole consciousness as perfectly united.* Aligning with Jesus unifies our soul and restores its wholeness.
4. *He showed the way into the realm of perfect ideas.* Jesus is a divine pattern for our thinking.
5. *when man thinks in this realm, all the results of his shaping and forming of substance will be perfect.* Demonstration, covered in the next paragraph.

? How does man demonstrate mastery and dominion (referred to in Genesis 1:26) in his soul, body, and affairs?

20. When the quickening power of Spirit comes upon us, it reaches to the depths of our subconscious and sets free the energies which were bound in error thought.¹ Then we can readily reach and mold with our conscious thinking all the conditions which have hitherto seemed beyond our power.² Many of the subconscious thought currents have come from race be-

What We Learn from Genesis

? What phase of creation is described in the first chapter of Genesis?

2. All religions have their scriptures or sacred writings. In the Christian religion we call these sacred writings the "Bible." The Bible came out of religion, not religion out of the Bible; it is the product of religion, not the beginning of it.
3. Man has ever been searching for the origin of himself; seeking to know why he is here and how he came to be here. In this search some men have gone beyond the field of human knowledge and have sought information in the realm of ideas. All that is known as religion is the work of the imaging faculty of man working in the realm of ideas.¹ No man has ever seen God with his physical eyes, nor has he ever seen a soul or a spirit. The imaging faculty reads the symbols which are everywhere evident and interprets them as the outpicturing of ideas.
4. Our Scriptures came out of the East and reflect the literary customs and habits of Eastern people who are accustomed to parables and allegory. Men have gone into this unlimited realm of ideas and have brought back with them wonderful revelations,² mysterious thoughts; and in the expression of these thoughts they have found it more convenient to use the symbology by means of which these ideas were communicated to them. From this it is evident that it is not the *words* that are inspired but the men who received the ideas

and put them into words.

5. In transmitting these messages to the world it was necessary to use symbology. The intellect or reasoning mind (conscious phase of mind) in an unenlightened state can comprehend only the relative.³ So when the men who received the revelations undertook to interpret them, they couched them in a language that would show to what they might be likened, to what they might relate. The transmitters of the message knew that those who were seers would catch the idea that was back of the symbol, while those who were not so enlightened might get another meaning — a meaning that would fit in with their degree of knowledge; but Truth would remain undefiled.

6. Our Scriptures contain in symbols a most wonderful description of the creative action of Divine Mind. One who studies the Bible merely as an historical record or as an ethical guide fails to sound the depths of these ancient writings.

7. Paul was a Hebrew and a scholar, learned in the Scriptures, and he understood their allegorical character and value. Speaking of Abraham and his two sons, one born of a bondmaid and the other of a freewoman, Paul says, "Which things contain an allegory" (Galatians 4:24 A.V.). He explains that these two sons are symbolical of two covenants. Then he opens up a teaching rich in spiritual import,⁴ which is entirely lost on one who reads the story of Abraham merely as an historical narrative. Read carefully the 4th chapter of Galatians and see the spiritual import or idea that is back of the story as told in the Old Testament.

perconsciousness as the first in the Human Trinity, which is Spirit, soul and body.

3. *the conscious thinking and the subconscious feeling.* Conscious and subconscious phase is second in the Human Trinity: soul.

4. *functioning in harmony with the Superconscious.* Atonement is perfect harmony of Spirit and soul.

? Why should the thoughts about ourselves and others be held in the one, all-knowing Mind?

19. Jesus Christ is the Savior of the race¹ because the principle He represents² unfolds the whole consciousness as perfectly united,³ and as perfectly attuned to the Universal Mind, the Father-Mind. Jesus Christ restored to mankind the awareness of God's perfect ideas which man had forgotten. His teaching shows how to transform, or redeem, man's thoughts from belief in sin, evil, and death as realities and direct them toward righteousness and life. This positive doctrine causes men to think for themselves, and in right thought lies saving power. Jesus was the greatest teacher because He proved His teachings; He made them more than theory. As ignorance was the cause of the "fall of man," the obvious remedy is knowledge of Truth and the practical application of this knowledge which alone can set man free. What is impossible to man in the gross darkness of ignorance becomes a possibility in the light of the understanding that Jesus brought to men. He showed the way into the realm of perfect ideas,⁴ and when man thinks in this realm, all the results of his shaping and forming of substance

sciousness of the indwelling Father as an ever present reality, has reversed the process and impresses the subconscious." (*Keep a True Lent*, 87).

2. *Jesus came and introduced into the race consciousness an intelligence and a power.* Being set free from the grip of error thinking is not to satisfy God, but to enable human beings to change.

3. *If man had always kept the connection between his consciousness and the Superconscious or Christ Mind.* By breaking ignorant currents in subconscious thought, our power to shape and form substance is set free.

? What is the atonement?

18. Jesus came,¹ a light in the world, to reveal the way back to the Father through the Son, or the indwelling Christ, which is the Superconscious² in every man—"Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). For the true atonement (at-one-ment), the conscious thinking and subconscious feeling must be consciously one with the Superconscious or the divine ideas that make up the Superconscious; this is the only true salvation for man. When the conscious thinking and the subconscious feeling³ are functioning in harmony with the Superconscious,⁴ all ideas are used in right relation and the results are always good.

1. *Jesus came.* Jesus, in this paragraph and in the next paragraph, refers to Jesus of Nazareth.

2. *the indwelling Christ, which is the Superconscious.* From the previous lesson, we know Su-

8. All Christians recognize, in a measure, that Bible history is something more than just history. They may see in the journey of the Israelites to the Promised Land a picture of man's progress from sense consciousness to spiritual consciousness or, as sometimes expressed, from earth to heaven.⁵ (It must, however, be kept in mind that "the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21 A.V.).

9. We should seek to get back of the letter⁶ of the Scriptures and to discern the spiritual meaning of every passage we consider. In symbology, in allegory, in parable was the word transmitted, and in like manner must it be translated. The visions of the prophets were plainly allegorical. Jesus throughout His ministry taught in parables and allegories, reserving for His immediate followers the inner ideas or "spirit" of the teaching instead of just the "letter" of it.

10. If we study the 1st chapter of Genesis in the light of Spirit, we find that it describes in symbol the creative action of universal Mind in the realm of ideas, and does not pertain to the manifest world any more than the inventor's idea pertains to the machine which he afterwards builds. Keeping in mind the trinity of mind, idea, and expression we know that creation takes place in the realm of mind and that we can understand the story of creation given in Genesis only by applying it to the realm in which it belongs.⁷

11. All creation starts first with an idea. The idea is in Divine Mind. The idea begins to "press out" or "express" itself in mind;⁸ that is, it begins its development by drawing to itself from the mind substance thoughts that assist it in its growth to-

ward its own completion or fulfillment in mind. The final step will be manifestation as mentioned in the second paragraph below.

12. The six days of creation described in the 1st chapter of Genesis represent six great, ideal projections from Divine Mind, six steps that are necessary in the working out in mind of any ideal. The starting point is like a seed, and this seed idea must unfold in all its details in mind, in much the same way as the details of his plan unfold in the inventor's or the architect's mind before he makes the drawing or blueprint. The assembling together of these ideal projections is climaxed in the creation of "ideal man."⁹ This ideal man is created in the image and after the likeness of God, and he is the lord of creation. To him is given dominion over every created thing. Dominion belongs to every man, but only he exercises it properly who understands himself to be essentially this "ideal man." So man is to take dominion and have authority over all the ideas that are included in his own divine nature, "ideal man," the image of God — God's idea of Himself. Man's dominion begins in the realm of ideas, and through inspiration from his source, Divine Mind, he is to familiarize himself with and learn the character and nature of all the ideas that make up the nature of God (which is his own true nature).

1. *All that is known as religion is the work of the imaging faculty of man working in the realm of ideas.* Addressing Fundamentalists, Charles Fillmore states that religion is a product of human study, not of divine revelation.

consciousness an intelligence and a power² that were sufficient to change the thought currents of man so that righteousness and Truth might be established in place of error and ignorance.

17. If man had always kept the connection between his consciousness and the Superconscious or Christ Mind,³ he would never have been lost in ignorance. He always had had the formative power of thought to shape and form substance. If all his thinking and feeling had been based on the perfect ideas in Divine Mind, he would have kept his first estate of perfection. It would have been impossible for him to fall into sin. "Sin" is missing the mark of perfection, falling short of the standard of the perfect idea of man as imaged by God. "As he thinketh within himself, so is he," and if man had always thought Truth, his expression would have been perfect.

1. *the subconscious has not yet received the new impulse from the thinking faculty (conscious).* According to Charles Fillmore, this may be because conscious mind has preempted subconscious mind in receiving divine ideas from Superconscious mind. He writes, "The subconscious mind is the vast, silent realm that lies back of the conscious mind and between it and the superconscious. To one who does not understand its nature and its office, it is the 'great gulf fixed' between his present state and the attainment of his highest desire, his good. The subconscious may be called the sensitive plate of mind. Its true office is to receive impressions from the superconscious and to reproduce them upon the canvas of the conscious mind. Man, however, having lost the con-

The Healing of Thinking

? Why do we sometimes think one thing and manifest another?

15. If we have been following a certain line of thought and action until it has become a strong current flowing deep in the subconscious, we should not be discouraged if we are not able to change it at once. Some of these deep thought currents have entered the consciousness from the general race thought; some have come in directly through the belief in flesh inheritance. The statement with which this lesson opened, "As he thinketh within himself, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7) means that as a person thinks down in the very depth of his subconscious, so will he experience or manifest in his life. This is the reason why we do not always seem to manifest what our thoughts seem to be. We consciously think one thing and manifest another because the subconscious has not yet received the new impulse from the thinking faculty (conscious) ① but is carrying out the old impulse, the new one not yet being strong enough to change the present thought currently working within.

16. This is where the life work of Jesus Christ for the human race proves its worth. Man had believed in error, given much attention to it, built the belief of it into his subconscious, until he had set going adversely the force of his subconscious thought with such power that he was unable to change the direction of this force and to right himself. Jesus came and introduced into the race

2. *Men have gone into this unlimited realm of ideas and have brought back with them wonderful revelations.* Addressing Liberals, Charles Fillmore states that the human study is of the spiritual world, not of human philosophy.

3. *in an unenlightened state [the reasoning mind] can comprehend only the relative.* The realm of ideas is whole, free from both time and space.

4. *Then he opens up a teaching rich in spiritual import.* Free from time and space, the Biblical story of Abraham becomes significant to modern people.

5. *man's progress from sense consciousness to spiritual consciousness or, as sometimes expressed, from earth to heaven.* An excellent summary of metaphysical Eschatology.

6. *get back of the letter.* Back of the letter, not back to the letter.

7. *applying it to the realm in which it belongs.* The message, free of time and space, may then be applied "to which it belongs."

8. *to "press out" or "express" itself in mind.* Expression occurs in mind. Manifestation occurs in the relative world.

9. *these ideal projections is climaxed in the creation of "ideal man."* This lesson shifts from Scripture to Anthropology.

? What evidence does the Bible give that this is an ideal and not a manifest creation?

13. That the creation outlined in the 1st chapter of Genesis is in the realm of ideas is shown in the 5th verse of the 2d chapter, where it is written that “no plant . . . was yet in the earth and no herb of the field . . . for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no man to till the ground” (Genesis 2:5). This statement is made *after* creation is described as complete. “Manifestation” is the result of the expression of ideas in mind.¹ We may say that the inventor’s machine that appears in physical form, or the house of brick and stone that the builder sets up, is the “manifestation” of ideas *first* expressed in the mind of these persons.

1. “Manifestation” is the result of the expression of ideas in mind. Humanity is expressed in Genesis, chapter one. Humanity is *manifested* in chapter two.

? What is Jehovah, the Lord God of the Scriptures?

14. In the 1st chapter it is God Elohim who creates. God is the one source from which the character of everything proceeds; He is inwrapped in every living creature¹ as its life and primal idea. In the 2d chapter, after the work of God is said to be finished, it is the Lord God (or Jehovah) who is named as Creator. This Lord God (or Jehovah) is the Christ, spiritual man; God immanent as the

4. *we have only to change the character of the conscious thought.* Note there is no mention of cleansing. Healing requires change, but it can proceed without conscious understanding of the error thoughts residing in the subconscious phase of mind.

of mind for all its impulses. It carries out only what is suggested to it by the conscious phase of mind, but these suggestions it carries out faithfully.² The conscious phase of mind could not exist without the help of the subconscious; although the former might be sound asleep, deranged, or hypnotized, the subconscious can and does carry on the bodily functions. The subconscious also readily takes suggestions from other sources than its own conscious phase of mind when the conscious phase surrenders to another mind or is not on guard. It is the close relation between the conscious and the subconscious³ which makes right thinking so important.

14. Man's organism is controlled mainly by the subconscious. Circulation, breathing, digestion, assimilation, heartbeat are all involuntary activities controlled by the subconscious. However, these are not out of reach of the conscious phase of mind, as is commonly supposed. The subconscious continually receives new impulses from the conscious phase, thus we have only to change the character of the conscious thought⁴ to effect a corresponding change in the subconscious feeling.

1. *The subconscious . . . never sleeps.* Do not confuse the subconscious phase with sleep.

2. *it carries out faithfully.* The principal task of the subconscious mind is expression.

3. *the close relation between the conscious and the subconscious.* When conscious and subconscious mind are aligned, we are whole.

law of one's being; the divine idea as the creative power in all living forms.

15. Ideal man is I AM; manifest man is "I will."² I AM is the Lord God (Jehovah) of the Scriptures, and "I will" is the Adam man. One represents the inner man, and the other the outer, or formed man. It is the I AM that forms and breathes into the "I will" man "the breath of life" (Genesis 2:7). In the realm of the ideal, we are I AM; when we are expressing and interpreting the ideas of Divine Mind in our thoughts and in our acts, we are "I will." The I AM is the archetype, the perfect pattern, the reproduction of God. It is that Spirit which is implanted in each human being and which is to unfold into the likeness of all that is God's nature. I AM is pure Being. (Charles Fillmore *Christian Healing* 33-34). Manifest man is in a state of becoming;³ he is unfolding according to his stage of enlightenment. Just to the extent that he awakens, or to the extent that he wills to receive these divine ideas, they are revealed or "breathed" into him. Man's part is to form them, or make them manifest in the physical realm.

16. I AM is the pre-existent spiritual idea of God in man; it is that which holds man together as an entity. The body is held together as an aggregation of ideas and forces⁴ by the power of the central I AM. I AM in expression is the will of man, and everything centers about the will. I AM moves itself forth into the "I will" through its innate power to express itself. Thoughts of life vitalize and energize both mind and body.⁵ Thoughts of power give mastery and dominion. Thoughts of intelligence impart the knowing quality. Thoughts of abundant substance give the con-

sciousness of plenty. Thoughts of love and peace unify and harmonize all the forces of man and his relations to his fellows.

17. Thought is a magnet working in accordance with the law of attraction, so that each idea, desire, or feeling exerts its attractive power to draw to itself everything of its own nature or character in order to develop itself. All thoughts of strength are attracted to one another, and make in consciousness a strength center which builds cells of like character in the body, and we say the man is strong and muscular.

18. An aggregation of ideas in mind is metaphysically termed a "thought center." The center of anything is the point in the middle or at the core of it. A "thought center" is the nucleus or central idea around which revolve or cluster other thoughts, which cause desires and feelings and make states of mind corresponding to the central idea. As the thought centers group ideas of a kindred nature, they build up cells in the body by which the ideas may become manifest; the cells in turn group themselves together and thus organs are formed in the body for the purpose of bringing into manifestation the particular idea that is at the center. We think of love as expressing itself through a center in the body that we call "the heart." The head is symbolic of the intelligence center, the back represents the strength center, and the throat is thought of as the center of the expression of power. We manifest in our body and affairs all the dominant states of mind that we have built up in consciousness through acceptance, consciously or unconsciously. ⁶ Should we at any time manifest a lack of any of the qualities

The subconscious phase of mind is a channel for the activity of the creative power of God. Our bodies and our environment are built according to the thoughts, suggestions, and impressions given to the subconscious, whether these patterns are perfect or imperfect, according to Truth or based on error.

12. The subconscious phase of mind is like a treat army of well-trained soldiers; the conscious phase of mind is like the general in command who gives to the army the plans to be carried out. We can also understand to some extent the actions of the conscious and subconscious phases of mind by observing the process by which a child learns to play the piano. He is taught how to hold his hands and how to strike the keys, but at first, he finds it somewhat difficult to control the movements of his fingers. He must practice daily. What is the reason for this practice? Simply that he learns to concentrate his thoughts on his fingers, consciously making right movements. These thoughts in time become subconscious, and in playing, the fingers come to be directed and controlled by the subconscious. In his first months, and possibly in his first years of practice, the pupil can perform only by keeping his conscious phase of mind centered on the work; but later he can play with ease and at the same time carry on a conversation with those about him. This is possible because the subconscious has become so thoroughly imbued with the idea of right movements that it can direct them without demanding the whole attention of the conscious phase of mind.

13. The subconscious phase of mind cannot take the initiative; it depends on the conscious phase

tical, habitual.

1. *we may receive into this conscious phase of mind the inspirations (ideas) and revelations of Spirit.* Intuitions and revelations of Spirit may appear directly to the conscious phase of mind, as they do in the subconscious phase. Dreamwork is also not necessarily limited to the subconscious phase of mind.
2. *the choice lies with us.* The principal task of the conscious phase of mind is to make decisions.

? What is the subconscious phase of mind? What other names are given to the subconscious phase of mind?

11. The subconscious phase of mind is often termed the "subjective mind," because it functions as instinctive desire, as habit, and is the storehouse of memory; it is the feeling faculty often referred to as "the heart." The subconscious controls the vital physical functions; never sleeps¹ or rests; never tires. It reaches infallible conclusions from given premises, but since it works deductively, it is incapable of testing the validity of these premises. It has no power of choice. All our past conscious thoughts are stored up in this great submerged mind, and are organized into faculties, habits, states of mind, dispositions, kindred thoughts clustering together and forming moods and temperaments. Its functioning is not confined to the brain but extends to every cell of the body. It stores not only the total of each individual's thought, but the inherited race thoughts and beliefs that the individual soul has accepted.

of Divine Mind in our body, we can build them into our consciousness through our affirmations until they come into manifestation in the physical body. I AM is the creative power and "I will" is the executive power that brings these divine qualities into manifestation.

1. *Elohim . . . is inwrapped in every living creature.* God, the Father, has two names—Elohim, transcendent God and Jehovah, immanent God. Elohim creates ideas, Jehovah creates our world.
2. *Ideal man is I AM; manifest man is "I will."* The I AM is our Christ within; the I will is our manifested self. This concept is affirmed in Christian theology as "one person, two natures."
3. *Manifest man is in a state of becoming;* In the relative state of time and space.
4. *The body is held together as an aggregation of ideas and forces.* The lesson shifts from Anthropology to spiritual anatomy—thinking and the Twelve Powers.
5. *both mind and body.* Note the emphasis on mind and body. *See Statements of Faith 18, 19, 20.*
6. *We manifest in our body and affairs all the dominant states of mind that we have built up in consciousness through acceptance, consciously or unconsciously.* A summary of the following metaphysical topic, The Fall and Restoration.

The Fall and Restoration

? How does man lose his consciousness of divine harmony?¹

19. When the will gets so absorbed in the realm of manifestation (or the effect side of life) that it loses sight of the ideal and centers its attention wholly upon the external, it is Adam (unenlightened) listening to the voice of the serpent and hiding from the Lord God. This breaks, in consciousness, the connection between Spirit and manifestation, and thus man fails to experience the harmony which is his under divine law.

20. To maintain conscious contact with the physical (the manifest), man has developed the organs of sense, so that he may be able to function in the realm of manifestation. When not functioning consciously under the direction of the I AM, the "will" may be led away from a consciousness of the spiritual. In this state of mind, man is no longer consciously in touch with the source of wisdom and power, the Lord God. In *Mysteries of Genesis* 57, Charles Fillmore interprets Genesis 3:22-24 as follows: "Will became independent of wisdom, and an unbalanced condition² in both mind and body was set up." We find man in this adverse state of mind being temporarily cut off in his thoughts and feelings from the real source of his supply, the life principle, the "tree of life." Man is thus described as being driven from the Garden of Eden, or paradise.

21. This is what man has termed the "fall of man."

capacity that distinguishes human beings from animals.

3. *through the Superconscious . . . able to respond to the ideals in God consciousness.* Superconsciousness is not God consciousness. God consciousness is transcendent, accesible to human beings through the Christ Mind.

4. *Through meditation and prayer.* "True prayer is conscious communion with God, or a common union of the human consciousness with the Father within, the principle of Absolute Good. *Unity's method of prayer is the Silence* and it is reached through orderly steps in thinking and feeling." (UCS/Series 1, Lesson 1—*Prayer*, "What is true prayer?").

? What is the conscious phase of mind? What other names are given to the conscious phase of mind?

10. Through the conscious, phase of mind (intellect or thinking faculty) we know ourselves as individuals and take cognizance of the world about us. Through this phase of mind we keep in contact with physical manifestations. The conscious phase of mind absorbs the life of the senses, works both inductively and deductively; reasons and analyzes on the mental plane (intellect); wills or chooses what it will make a part of the individual consciousness. It is called the "objective mind" because it is largely concerned with the outer world, the world of objects, but we may receive into this conscious phase of mind the inspirations (ideas) and revelations of Spirit,¹ and the choice lies with us² to make this knowledge prac-

Three Phases of Mind

? What is the Superconscious phase of mind?

8. There is only the one Mind,¹ but we find three distinct ways in which this Mind functions in man. For convenience, we may speak of them as

- (a) the Superconscious or Christ Mind.
- (b) the conscious phase of mind
- (c) the subconscious phase of mind.

9. In man are all the ideas of Divine Mind, and this realm of divine ideas functioning in man is called the Superconscious or Christ Mind.² It is the realm from which man draws the ideas that enable him to do abstract thinking, and as the realm of perfect God ideas it remains unaffected by the mental activities directed toward external objects. It is through the Superconscious or Christ consciousness that man is able to respond to the ideals in God consciousness,³ as ideas of Divine Mind. Through meditation and prayer⁴ divine ideas are transmitted from the Superconscious to the conscious phase of mind and thus man becomes aware of them.

1. *There is only the one Mind.* "My mind is one with the Mind of God", Hypatia Hasbrouck, *Handbook of Positive Prayer*.

2. *Superconscious or Christ Mind.* The human ca-

It means that man has separated himself in his own consciousness from the "tree of life,"³ from I AM, Lord God, the divine in man. This leaves man with only a knowledge of the manifest realm. Because man believes that he is separated from the unlimited source of divine ideas, he may misinterpret the evidence of his senses. When man lets his senses rule him and indulges their demands, he is misusing his powers, thus limiting the expression of his life substance. This reacts on his consciousness in the form of pain, fear infests his mind, and inharmony results in all phases of his existence. When man leaves God out of his calculation, when he feels that he is quite sufficient in himself and does not need any divine help or guidance, he naturally loses his conscious connection with infinite and eternal life and depends on what he thinks is his own power. Man must draw from Divine Mind day by day, through prayer, the ideas that will enable him to live abundantly.

22. Adam is the name we give to the "type man." "Adam is perfectly legitimate in his right place, and that place is the consciousness of the omnipresence of the Father; here he is back again in the Garden of Eden"⁴ (*Talks on Truth* 15).

1. *divine harmony.* As you read this topic and its questions, note the repeated reference to *divine harmony*. Sydney Ahlstrom's *A Religious History of the American People* has a chapter on "Harmonial Religion Since the Later Nineteenth Century." He writes, "Harmonial religion encompasses those forms of piety and belief in which spiritual composure, physical health, and even eco-

conomic well-being are understood to flow from a person's rapport with the cosmos. Human beatitude and immortality are believed to depend to a great degree on one's being 'in tune with the infinite.'" (p. 1019)

2. *unbalanced condition.* A state of disharmony.

3. *man has separated himself in his own consciousness from the "tree of life."* The Fall is not separation from God, neither transcendent Elohim nor immanent Jehovah or Christ. The separation is that the soul can no longer sense Elohim or Christ.

4. *in the Garden of Eden.* Metaphysically, Eden is a pleasant, harmonious, productive state of consciousness in which are all possibilities of growth. When we are expressing in harmony with Divine Mind, bringing forth the qualities of Being in divine order, we dwell in Eden, or in-state of bliss in a harmonious body. That Eden is a "garden" symbolizes the spiritual body in which man dwells when he brings forth his thoughts after the original divine ideas. This garden is the substance of God (Eden) or state of perfect relation of ideas to Being. The Garden of Eden is the divine consciousness. Having developed a consciousness apart from his divine nature, man must "till the ground from whence he was taken," that is, he must come into a realization of God as the source of his Being and must express ideas in harmony with Divine Mind. Wisdom and love are joined in God, and a perfect balance is struck in consciousness between knowing and feeling when man spiritualizes his thoughts. (MBD/Eden)

moral, it would be "desire *in the heart*," metaphysically interpreted by Emily Cady as "God tapping at the door of your consciousness with His infinite supply" (Lessons in Truth [original edition], Lesson 5—Faith).

7. *in preparation for the reception of the coming fulfillment of the desire.* Denials, metaphysically interpreted. Also, a scientific explanation of Catherine Ponder's *Vacuum Law of Prosperity*.

8. *Spirit—Divine Mind—builds the structures.* The main point of this lesson is: *Our thoughts are formative, but they only have power within a structure provided by God.*

anced on a horizontal board. When the student was told to imagine that he was running a foot race, the board sank down at the feet, and when a problem in mathematics was being worked, the balanced board sank down at his head. This proved that the thought force greatly influenced the flow of blood.

7. All these facts prove not only that thought flashes between mind and mind, but also that Spirit—Divine Mind—builds the structures through which it operates. ⁸

1. *so is he.* Ralph Waldo Emerson's teaching of correspondence—that the higher and lower realities affect one another according to the activity of our mind—is a foundational metaphysical doctrine that predates what we now know as mental science.

2. *there is a mental force moving from one consciousness to another.* Our thoughts are not private. They affect not only our body, but also other people.

3. Spirit defined as God's power to create.

4. Thinking defined as the human ability to move ideas created by God.

5. Human beings direct God's power, shaping and forming our world.

6. *Fishes desired to fly . . . and they developed wings and became birds.* The lesson shifts from thinking to desire. All sentient life has desire and all desire, good and bad, is formative. But that does not necessarily make it moral. For desire to be

? What and where is the "tree of life" as spoken of in the Scriptures?

23. Man's real problem is to become aware that he belongs in the "Garden of Eden" (Genesis 2:8). The "garden" represents mind substance, which man is to cultivate as he would a garden. It has in it infinite possibilities, and it is the true sphere of man. Through this "Garden of Eden" (harmony) man is to live in the consciousness of universal Spirit or Mind, in which there are unlimited ideas. He is to carefully plant and care for these ideas in his consciousness, so that he may eternally progress to greater and greater satisfaction. The "way back" in consciousness is through the knowledge of Truth.

✍ 24. "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth . . . He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you" (John 16:13, 14).

25. Man must know the truth about himself and not rest in the false belief that he is only what he appears to be. He must *consciously* know himself as he is in Divine Mind. As he discovers the truth of his being, he will in like degree throw off the limitations that he has accumulated through turning his attention away from his true source.

? How is man restored to divine harmony?

26. There is but one man, one divine Idea: the only begotten, the Christ; the real of every man which is to come forth through "manifest man"

in his thinking, feeling, speaking, acting, and reacting. When we understand this truth and conform all our thinking to it, order and harmony will characterize all our manifestations in mind, body, and affairs. Through man God is bringing into outward manifestation that which exists in the ideal. To measure up to his possibilities, man must understand divine law and his relation to it.

27. Jesus Christ understood God and man.¹ He not only recognized man's relation to God as son but He knew what man's true work is in expressing that sonship. When "manifest man" looks at the universe in which he lives, he often discounts his own value to the Creator. He thinks he is only here for a brief span in which time he must strive for material possessions, must "make a living." When enlightenment comes, man sees that life is eternal; that he need not strive for material possessions and position for they are the "added things" that come from seeking God's kingdom (realm of divine ideas) and His righteousness (right use of the ideas). He realizes that he is not here to "make a living"; as Charles Fillmore once expressed it, "Man is here to live his making and his making will make his living."

28. Having established the truth that divine ideas are his inheritance, man comes to appreciate material things as the manifest forms of those ideas. Only as he takes hold of the ideas that are the spiritual patterns for all form will man find the satisfaction he sought in the search for things of themselves.

29. With the new viewpoint of his own purpose in life, man sees other people in a new light. Es-

called attention to the constructive power of desire. The protoplasmic cell desires the light and it sends forth its impulse. This impulse gradually builds an eye. A species of deer feeds in a country where the leaves it likes grow on the high branches of the trees and the constant reaching for its favorite food builds cell by cell the neck of the giraffe. Fishes desired to fly in the air above the water and they developed wings and became birds.

⁶ 5. That the brain cells are directly affected by mental pictures was proved by Professor Elmer Gates in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, DC. Guinea pigs were kept for a time in enclosures where certain colors predominated; later, dissection of their brains showed a large increase in the size of the color area of the brain compared with that of the same class of guinea pigs kept in other enclosures. When desire attaches to man or animal to a sufficient extent, the impulses, emotions, and thoughts attendant on such desire are mighty and constructive enough to rearrange and rebuild brain cells in preparation for the reception of the coming fulfillment of the desire.⁷ Bodily construction is brought in this way, cell by cell, into a state of manifestation. At the Smithsonian Institution the perspiration of men in various mental moods was analyzed and experiments were made with the resultant salts. The perspiration of a man in an angry state was analyzed, and the salts were of an unusual color. A small portion was put on the tongue of a dog; rigors and other evidence of poisoning resulted.

6. At Harvard University experiments were made with a student who was stretched perfectly bal-

The Nature of Thinking

? What is thinking? What is a structure? What builds all structures?

1. The revelation, “As he thinketh within himself, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7),¹ was given to Solomon long ago, but even now men only realize its truth when they open their minds to the Spirit of wisdom which inspired the statement.

2. That there is a force called “thought power”—consciousness—is universally admitted. Hypnotism, mesmerism, thought transference, mental suggestion, and various other well-known evidences of this invisible force prove it. Years ago, Franz Mesmer demonstrated that under certain conditions one mentality could control another. In all living forms there is a mental force moving from one consciousness to another consciousness, and from mind to body.²

3. Advanced scientists have demonstrated that this mental force, which is really the action of Spirit (Divine Mind) working as the creative power of God,³ builds organic structures in animals and in men. In men, this movement of ideas in mind is known as “thinking.”⁴ While Divine Mind provides the power and substance that builds, man as a self-conscious being uses his thought to direct the power to shape and form substance.⁵

4. Biologists (including Lamarck and Darwin)

pecially does he see children as belonging to God, and not personal possessions. He no longer makes idols of his children or of his possessions.

1. *Jesus Christ understood God and man.* Other than this brief statement and paragraph 7 in this lesson, the lesson does not explicitly explain how the life and ministry of Jesus restored Divine Harmony. What happened 2,000 years ago that restored consciousness of the Christ within and brought salvation? It may be the coming of the Holy Spirit. But metaphysical Christianity, rejecting blood atonement theories, needs a clear theory of its own. Charles Fillmore struggled with this question in his later years (see Unpublished Fillmore). This is an important topic that needs further research and reflection.

The Trinity of Human Beings

? What is the object of man's existence?

30. Jesus taught that man is here to express God.¹ The spiritual conception, then, is regeneration, which is the reproduction of God's perfect ideas, the making of God manifest. Regeneration also includes the restoration of the earth to the glory that it has as a creation of the one perfect Mind, that God may be known in the manifest as well as in the ideal realm.² All men should be about the Father's business even as was Jesus, and they will be when they realize Truth. All work for personal gain alone becomes meaningless beside the great universal work of bringing about the restoration of all things "that God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old" (Acts 3:21).

1. *Jesus taught that man is here to express God.* New Thought often teaches that the purpose of life is to learn something. However this statement affirms that our purpose is to express our divine nature.

2. *that God may be known in the manifest as well as in the ideal realm.* The Trinity of God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit – is linked with the Trinity of Man – Spirit, Soul, Body. The Spirit in humanity is the expression of the Spirit in God. This is Fillmore Pneumatology.

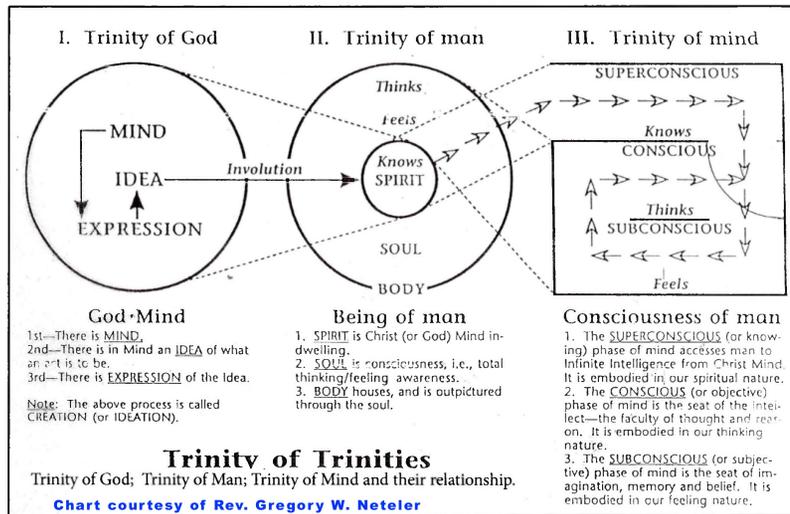
LESSON FOR THE FORMATIVE POWER OF THOUGHT

As He Thinketh

Think good and goodness shall belong
 Within the temple of your heart;
 Think joy and every robin's song
 Shall be your spirit's counterpart;
 Think peace and the exquisite swing
 Of ordered stars shall steady you;
 Think love and every living thing
 In beauty shall be born anew.
 Think Truth and the eternal law
 Your never failing guide shall be;
 Think life and every breath you draw
 Shall add a prayer of ecstasy;
 Think hope and buried seeds shall lift
 Rich harvests from the willing sod;
 Think praise and it shall be your gift
 To share with men the grace of God.

—Vivian Yeiser Laramore

This chart is taken from Greg W. Neteler's *Unity Statement of Faith*, Senior minister and founder of Unity Church Universal, located at 9th and Tracy in Kansas City, where Charles and Myrtle Fillmore worshipped and worked from 1906 until moving to Unity Farm in the 1930s. Rev. Greg has provided permission for a reprint of his book, which should be available in 2026.



Trinity of Trinities. Courtesy of Rev. Greg Neteler. Note the flow proceeds from the Superconscious phase to the conscious phase *through subconscious phase of mind*.

? Give the phases of man as a threefold being

31. This work of restoration must be done by each individual,¹ that is, each one must first awaken to the knowledge that he is a spiritual being. Studying the complete, perfect man that is the real of each individual we find that man is a trinity, a triune being: spirit, soul, body (*Lessons In Truth Lesson 3 Annotation 4*).

32. Man's spirit is God immanent in him; the Seed of God, the Word (Logos) of God, the image of God, Christ, the Son of God, Lord God (Jehovah), law of God, I AM, spiritual man. Man's spirit is Divine Mind individuated as spiritual man, unchangeable, eternal, infinite, without limitation of any kind. It is the composite Idea of Divine Mind awaiting conscious recognition and use by each person. It is the Superconscious or Christ Mind.

33. Man's soul is his self-consciousness, that phase of his being in which he thinks and feels and knows himself to be I am I or I will, the individual, thus producing a consciousness of himself as a spiritual being. Man's soul is the second emanation of the creative law of God, the second movement toward expression and manifestation of the life, substance, and intelligence of Divine Mind. In man's soul are the conscious phase of mind, where thinking and reasoning are done, and the subconscious phase of mind, or realm of feeling.

34. Man's body is primarily the "temple of God"

(I Corinthians 3:16). It is life, substance, and intelligence in form and shape. It is formed spiritual substance, but in its appearance it manifests or shows forth in the visible realm as a physical body according to the stage of consciousness that the soul has reached.

1. *This work of restoration must be done by each individual.* In traditional Christian thought, salvation (restoration) is often understood as both individual and corporate: individuals must personally repent and believe in Jesus for salvation, but this personal act occurs within the context of the community (the Church, or Body of Christ), where believers support each other and live out their faith together as a collective body, making it a personal decision within a communal framework. Fillmore theology places much more emphasis on individual salvation, as is indicated in this passage. One reason for the difference may be that traditional Christian theology is more concerned about healing of sinful nature, whereas Fillmore theology concerns itself with emotional healing as much as sinful nature. What needs to be healed? For Christian theology it is sinful nature that needs healing; for Fillmore theology it is all that deprives human beings from their spiritual birthright.

? Explain the result if he fails to recognize this unity of his being.

35. As the soul of man develops a consciousness of the powers and abilities that are within it, and unfolds in the understanding and use of them, his body or physical organism shows forth this

THE FORMATIVE POWER OF THOUGHT



INTRODUCTION TO THE FORMATIVE POWER OF THOUGHT

As you read *The Formative Power of Thought*, consider its Spirituality. Spirituality is the lived experience of one's faith. While the Christian church has much to say that is *descriptive* of our lived experience, the Fillmores, through their "trinity of mind," offer an *explanation* of our lived experience. It is essentially a Fillmore "theory of mind." At last, Christianity has a framework to pursue true scientific study of faith experience.

development in health and wholeness. If man in his soul nature (i.e., his mind) fails to recognize and accept the Truth about himself as a spiritual being and lets his thinking (conscious phase of mind) and feeling (subconscious phase of mind) be governed by appearances of lack and limitation, then his physical organism will fail to show forth the health and wholeness that are really his by divine right as a son of God. The body of man is the obedient servant of the soul and it takes the form or appearance that the soul images for it. It shows forth in manifestation whatever state of consciousness the soul forms through thinking, feeling, speaking, and acting.

36. The consciousness of this trinity of man's being should never be broken in his thinking, feeling, word, action or reaction. Man should *consciously* hold fast to the spiritual ideal of himself. By recognizing the spirit within as the Real, the unchanging, eternal Self, he will live in a constant and continuous realization of the Source of his good and of his oneness with it. By recognizing the soul as an integral phase of his threefold nature (life, substance, and intelligence in expression) he grows more refined in his thinking and feeling, thus bringing forth the "likeness" of the perfect image within. By recognizing the body as the "temple of God" as life, substance, and intelligence in *manifestation*, or form, he no longer thinks of the body as separate from its source. He consciously identifies it with Spirit, by which it is sustained with spiritual food (divine ideas) in a condition of health and wholeness in the manifest realm.

? What is the way to build a consciousness of life eternal?

37. Salvation¹ (the innate divinity within each of us) makes us safe and sound in both soul and body when we believe ourself to be the son of God and respond to the activity of the Spirit within us. (*Lessons in Truth* Lesson 9 Annotation 10 and *How I Used Truth* Lesson 1 Annotation 10 on "salvation.") We must believe in God's indwelling Presence and Power and in our oneness (sameness) with Him; that is, we must understand that the real and eternal Self of each of us is the Christ, the Son, the I AM, the image-likeness of God, and we must continually identify ourself with this eternal Self, our only salvation. To "identify" is to make to be the same, to coalesce or grow together in interest, purpose, use, effect. We consciously identify ourself with the I AM, our own spiritual nature, as we use the power of I AM to direct our thoughts, feelings, words, based on the divine ideas inhering in Christ (I AM).

38. When the human consciousness is unenlightened we take on limited beliefs of what we really are. There is a great truth in the scriptural statement of Jesus: "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:37). We condemn ourself to sickness, weakness, and poverty when we speak such words as "I am sick," "I am weak," "I am poor," because we identify ourself with the beliefs that produce these adverse conditions. What we believe acts as a mental law for us, a law that we make for ourself only. The law is that whatever the belief may be with which we identify ourself, we will manifest in mind, body, and af-

RECOMMENDED READING

- ✓ *Christian Healing, Manifestation*, Charles Fillmore.
- ✓ *Jesus Christ's Atonement*, Unity Tract, Charles Fillmore.
- ✓ *Unity Statement of Faith*, Greg W. Neteler, UCÜ Press, 2010, Statement 5, Statement 6, Statement 7, Statement 8, Statement 9.
- ✓ *Original Annotations for Man, The Image and Likeness of God*, Unity Correspondence School, republished by Fillmore wings.

Nettie Cole King.

1. *The "Son of God is spiritual man, the Spirit, I AM, Christ, the image of God, God immanent.* This statement makes clear the Fillmore belief that the Spirit in the Trinity of God is the same Spirit in the Trinity of Man.

2. *even though each individual may not always be aware of it.* Ed Rabel has commented, "Individuality is a word that has sometimes been misunderstood in our Unity terminology. Originally it simply meant each person's individual uniqueness. You are you, and you will always be you. You will change, day after day, but it will still be you. You may even reincarnate in many more lifetimes, but it will be you who reincarnates. This you who will always be you is your individuality. Christ is something even greater than individuality, but Christ has generated individuality. Christ is whole, complete, changeless, perfect, divine. Individuality is unfinished, constantly evolving toward perfection and divinity" (RW/individuality).

fairs a like condition either "condemned" or "justified." This is the mental law of cause and effect at work.

39. The privilege and responsibility of consciously establishing this at-one-ment and right identification rests with each of us. If we would manifest divine perfection, we must affirm and accept the Truth embodied in the following statements:

- ☑ I am the offspring of God.
- ☑ I am the Son of God.
- ☑ I am perfect even as my Father in heaven is perfect.
- ☑ I have the Christ Mind.
- ☑ I am one with the Father.
- ☑ I am life.
- ☑ I am intelligence.
- ☑ I am power.
- ☑ I am substance.
- ☑ I am love.
- ☑ I am strength.

1. *Salvation.* Christian theology often defines salvation as a combination of justification and

sanctification. Justification is God's act of declaring sinful people righteous, not by their own merit, but through faith in Jesus Christ's atoning work. Sanctification is the process of being made holy, set apart for God's purposes, starting at salvation and continuing throughout a believer's life. Salvation, in Fillmore theology, is "the restitution of man to his spiritual birthright; regaining conscious possession of his God-given attributes. It comes as the result of redemption; the change from sin to righteousness. Salvation comes to man as a free gift from God. It embodies a knowledge of God that frees one from all limitations and points the way by which mind and body may be lifted up to the spiritual place of consciousness" (RW/salvation). This is not accomplished by the sacrifice of Jesus, but by an "awareness of God's indwelling Presence and Power and in our oneness (sameness) with Him; that is, we must understand that the real and eternal Self of each of us is the Christ, the Son, the I AM, the image-likeness of God, and we must continually identify ourself with this eternal Self."

each individual may not always be aware of it,² it is the aim and purpose of the son of man to be awakened to Truth; Paul knew this when he said "Awake, O sleeper"; when awakened the son of man (the soul or human mind) begins to learn and live the Truth and in the unfolding becomes the Son of man, seeking to express consciously the divine ideal or Son of God so that He may come forth in manifestation – "the Word made flesh."

56. "HIS LIKENESS"

How does God look?" said my little lass.
At her questions I often smiled;
But this time I offered a prayer, instead,
For guidance to help my child.

"God's face is seen in the heart of a rose,
In the bud of a lily white,
In the brightness of sunshine after rain,
And the charm of a moonlight night;
In the beauty of everlasting hills,
The trees with their leafy shade,
In the sky above and the earth beneath,
And all things He has made.
But the dearest picture I ever saw,
The clearest and finest too.
Is His likeness in hearts that hallow His name
And seek His works to do."

"Now I know how God looks," said my little
lass —
Her sweet words dropped like dew,
And left a song in my weary heart — "I think
God looks like you."

the New Testament we find the same expression used in connection with Jesus some eighty times. In some instances the Old Testament, in writing the phrase “son of man,” used a small “s”. In the New Testament we find it written “Son of man,” the capital letter being used invariably in the word “Son”. “The son of man” indicates that which is essentially human in man’s character or consciousness.

? To whom do we refer when we say: “Son of God”; “Son of man”; “son of man”?

52. The “Son of God” is spiritual man, the Spirit, I AM, Christ, the image of God, God immanent. ¹

53. The “Son of man” is the soul of man as a human being awakened and illumined to the divine nature and character of man, *consciously* showing forth the “likeness” of God, by seeking to conform his thinking, feeling, speaking, and acting to the divine standard. It is the highest concept of the human or moral man blending into the divine by expressing the divine nature in thought, word, deed.

54. The “son of man” is also the soul or the human being, but one who is not awakened and illumined to his innate divinity and is not yet *conscious* of the powers and abilities within him. It is to such a soul that Paul said, “Awake O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light” (Ephesians 5:14).

55. We need to bear in mind that even though

The Christ Within

? What is Christ? Explain fully how Christ is man’s salvation.

40. This is recognizing the Son, the perfect-man ideal, Christ “the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). We further acknowledge this Son of God by acting on the faith that these affirmations are true; by manifesting our divine nature in all departments of our being. There is no purpose in affirming our strength and then being weak and fearful when a seemingly hard task confronts us; no use in declaring that we are substance, and then feeling limited in our consciousness. Whoever really acknowledges the Son will be acknowledged by the Father. Man will come into his divine inheritance only by laying hold of his heritage (divine ideas) in thought, in word, and in deed.

41. In the Scriptures the word *man* is used sometimes to refer to him in his true state as a spiritual being, the “Son of God,” and sometimes it refers to him as the “son of man,” the unfolding and growing man that is known as a human being. Paul charged Timothy in this wise: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15). When we read such passages as “Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward” (Job 5:7) and “As for man, his days are like grass” (Psalms 103:15), we need to follow Paul’s counsel and “divide” and apply Scripture texts aright, thus avoiding the confusion that arises from apparent

contradictions in the Bible.

42. This “rightly handling” is important, because many read passages about man as a sinner condemned to die for his sin, and overlook the passages that call man righteous and heir to eternal life through the indwelling Christ. Their way of “rightly handling” (or “rightly dividing” as the Authorized Version reads) the word of Truth is to see man helplessly and hopelessly a sinner until he dies, and then perfect and eternal after death.

43. This “division” will not hold good, as we shall find when we follow the revelations of the spirit of Truth. Here and now is salvation, but we must believe in it, accept it, lay hold of it. Death is the wages of sin, the result of sin, and cannot open the way to glory and to eternal life.

✍ 44. “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

✍ 45. “For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes him should have eternal life” (John 6:40).

✍ 46. “He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life” (I John 5:12).

✍ 47. “For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself” (John 5:26).

48. Man must consciously abide in the knowledge that he is a spiritual being, that there is but one

life, and that through his Christ self he is that eternal life. This consciousness can only be attained by the practice of withdrawing oneself from externalities and by frequent periods of meditation and prayer in which one fixes one’s attention on this divine Indweller until the Christ becomes an actuality as well as an ideal.

49. Ability to discern the Son, the indwelling Christ, comes from God, Spirit. When Peter confessed, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16), Jesus answered “Blessed are you Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 16:17).

50. In seeking to bring forth the perfect man, “the Christ of God” (Luke 9:20), we must keep before us the true standard, the one ideal man, the image of God, the Divine Indweller that was created “In the beginning” (Genesis 1:1). We are not to look to anything outside of ourself as our guide but to take the same image that Jesus took. By constantly beholding this indwelling pattern, God’s idea of Himself, we identify ourself with it until we become in manifestation that which God is. We will grow in consciousness until, like Jesus, we can say, “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9); “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30). It is this Christ within us that is to be brought forth into the flesh, and nothing outside our own consciousness can do this.

51. In reading the Scriptures we find the expression “Son of man.” In the Old Testament it occurs in the prophecies of Ezekiel some eighty-nine times; it also appears in the Book of Daniel. In