

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning in January, 2005, the *Spirit in Action* newsletter will be sent exclusively through the Internet on the Divine Science Federation International website: www.divinesciencefederation.org unless you let us know by mail or email or by phone that you wish to continue receiving it through the mail. This is another way that Your Federation is trying to conserve the resources that you share with us.

Due to the cost of mailing, the daily studies booklet *At-one-ment*, may also have to increase in price in the coming issues. We will keep you posted. (The Editor)

SPIRIT in ACTION

A Divine Science Federation International Newsletter
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Mary Eckard, Secretary

DECEMBER, 2004

WE WELCOME YOU!

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

Dr. Irwin E. Gregg

Christmas requires spiritual preparation.

The true Christmas experience is the *rebirth of the soul* from a material approach to life to that deeper perception which reveals the kingdom of God with us and within us.

Christmas is in the air.

We must spiritually prepare and not allow ourselves to be robbed of the true Christmas Spirit by the demands of outer activity. Rushing creates tension, and tension often causes discourteous conduct, physical fatigue, and confusion.

Christmas should mean the spiritual realization of that which satisfies and meets our human need from a higher level. Preparation means to fit ourselves for a particular purpose---to be ready.

We had advance notice about the birth of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament is replete with testimony announcing the coming of One who would make us aware of the greater truths of Being. Mary, the mother of Jesus, kept in her heart all the sayings that had been written of his coming, and she meditated on all that had been told her. This helped her to prepare her mind and body for the delivery.

The Christ Child came with a great mission.

It was to prepare us for our own spiritual awakening and unfoldment. As we awaken to the real meaning of Christmas, we begin to discover the kingdom of heaven, which is the name Jesus gave to the spiritual realm--the world of Reality. Heaven is the source-realm from which all our good proceeds and ultimately expresses in our human experience.

Where is heaven?

Jesus told us it is "at hand" ... "within" us. Therefore, it is important to remember that heaven *is right here*, within us and around us.

*Why do we not experience heaven then?
Why do we have all sorts of disharmony
and sickness instead?*

The answer is that by the abuse of our *free will*, we tune ourselves out of the heaven in which we really live, much as a radio set can be tuned out of one particular wave length and into another. We always experience the kind of life and surroundings to which we are attuned. All improvement consists in turning to God. This turning to God we call *prayer*.

*Through communion with God--prayer,
we prepare ourselves for the new birth,
the launching of the soul
into the realm of spiritual verities.*

When Jesus spoke of the kingdom of heaven, he was telling us of the kingdom of Life in which we live and move and have our being.

*This kingdom of Life is the design,
the perfect Plan, in the Mind of God.*

It is here that we really live--in the presence of God. We do not see this yet, but deep within we *feel* it, when we are born anew.

*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom
of God Ye must be born again. John 3:3,7*

Jesus showed us how the spiritual reality of each soul could be brought forth as the true awareness. To be born means to bring into existence or manifestation. The natural man, with his instincts and feelings, evolves to the intellectual and moral man, with his social instincts and obligations and intellectual achievements.

Then comes the new birth!

When we are spiritually prepared, truly we are born anew. The advent of this Christ side of our nature breaks down the fences of outmoded concepts and introduces us to new dimensions of life; we become new creatures in Christ.

*I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me ...
the life which I now live in the flesh
I live by the faith of the Son of God.
Galatians 2:20*

That is what Paul said when he discovered the Christ Spirit within his being. The joy of living consciously from the spiritual depth of our being integrates our threefold nature; we are whole in spirit, mind, and body. This indeed is heaven.

How do we find the heaven of God's presence within us?

We must recognize and accept it.
Daily we meditate upon God and His perfection,
His wisdom, His power, and His love.
We think of God in meditative prayer until
we become aware of the truth of His presence and
the perfection of His nature within us and all around us.
We bless and praise the Truth as we magnify it
in our minds as Lord of all,
as superior to any limitation or fear.
We declare the truth
of God's omnipresence and omnipotence,
not as wishful thinking,
but as spiritual conviction,
knowing that He wills all good.

This practice leads to realization.
It is the true preparation for Christmas.
It brings big returns.
It sweetens the disposition,
gives faith that enables one to relax,
and renews rather than depletes.
It enthrones God in human experience.

*The intrinsic Christ Spirit,
the Spirit of Life itself within me,
is guiding me, renewing me, healing me,
and prospering me in all my ways.*

Let us open our hearts to the "new birth" by knowing and affirming the above statement. With all our Christmas preparing, let us not forget to prepare for the advent of spiritual awareness. This awakening is the true "Christmas of the Soul." _____

What Is Prayer?

**Prayer is this feeling,
this conviction,
this knowing within
that these words are true:
God Is!**

---Joel S. Goldsmith

**We are blessed by a Life Membership gift from
a friend: Mr. Jerry Onyegbula of Canada.
Thank you, Jerry.**

“So have no fear of them”.... Matthew 10:26

Matthew 10 is a shocker; it is not for everyone.

Jesus calls the Apostles together and gives them power to “*Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons.*” He tells them to go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and not to the Gentiles or Samaritans. To preach, “*The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. You received without pay, give without pay. Take no gold, silver, or copper ... take nothing for your journey.*” Then he says a most interesting thing: “*Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.*”

Sheep, the least aggressive of animals do not hunt, stalk, or dominate. To some “sheepish” is an insult, yet these are Jesus’ instructions. He does not tell them to fight, or force. He says, “be wise like the serpents, and innocent as doves.”

Anyone living in Jesus’ day would have immediately recognized two Goddess symbols. The serpent was her symbol of wisdom, the mother of all knowledge; today the medical profession uses the caduceus as its symbol. The dove was the symbol of love and peace, as a bird it represented transcendence; it became the symbol of the Holy Spirit.

The message was clear---be open and willing to see your own intolerance, and fear. Use your intuitive knowing, tempered with understanding.

The lost sheep of Israel, the wolves were the ruling class in Thirty-three A. D., were determined to destroy Jesus’ ideas. They believed in material authority, force, and power. They were self-righteous and self-important. Forgetting faith in the Omnipresence, they turned to the material for protection and supply.

Often our ruling thoughts are divided. We say we believe in the Omnipresence but instead depend on material power for protection and supply. Jesus preached that there is nothing to fear. The enemy is the belief in duality, two powers. Believing there is God and human, king and queen, stranger and friend, black and white, Christian and Infidel; these are the ruling thoughts in our house that need to be expunged through faith. Differences appear but there is only One. Until we accept that “I AM that,” we miss the mark.

In Matthew 10:34 Jesus says, “*Do not think that I have come to bring peace ... I have not come to bring peace but a sword.*” This sword is to be used in our own household to eliminate our conflicting ideas of dualism. All that is ever destroyed is our *illusion of separation*. Jesus taught us that this is “the way” to heal the sick and raise the dead. **Are you being called?**

---Rev. Mary P. Rezendes, *Minister at large*

Rivers of Compassion

No matter who we meet in our lives, there is always something we have in common with that person, some point of contact and connection even if only within our own awareness. Every interaction is a Divine appointment, an opportunity to bring a little more love, a little more wisdom and light, to heighten the experience of life itself for both people. *We are encountering God in one of His infinite forms.*

Are we open? Are we ready?

Can we see the Truth behind the appearance of stranger, friend, lover, enemy, co-worker, beggar, king?

Our culture is built upon the belief that all of us, every human being in the world, no matter their age, color, sex, status, intelligence, religion or creed...is a living, walking, talking expression of God, and thereby deserving of respect and honor. Most of the time we are cloaked in our worldly identities, the roles we have taken on in life, in order to find meaning and a place for ourselves in the fabric of this awesome tapestry we call life.

Can you see beyond the appearances in both yourself and others? Let’s take a closer look.

The challenge at hand is this: When an encounter occurs which is clearly perceived by us as a less than perfect, or even unpleasant experience, how do we respond? All of us have our range and pallet of human emotions: love, hate, fear, anger, trust, mistrust, disgust, delight. We have our *beliefs* about what is appropriate behavior or not, and what is helpful and productive in furthering our current intentions. We then formulate judgments based upon our evaluations and then behave according to those judgments. This is normal human behavior, in spite of the admonishment in the Bible which says, “*Judge not, lest ye be judged.*”

But...what if we had access to deeper and more expanded levels of consciousness which would inform us of the hidden and more universal layers of the motives, conditions and cosmic reasons for the roles we all play? Would it not release from within our hearts mighty rivers of compassion and understanding, the very stuff of which *Forgiveness* is made? Could it then be possible to withhold our love and forgiveness to another in spite of their intent or behavior?

Well, we can and do have access to those deeper and more expanded levels of consciousness. It takes a consistent commitment to rigorous truth as a way of life. It requires willingness to come out of the cowardly corners of self-denial, and tell ourselves the whole truth about what we think and feel as humans, backed up and decompressed by the *reality* that this whole appearance of “human” is simply a game of hide and seek we have been playing among ourselves.

Each and every one of us is a facet of the light of God glimmering in some unique and solitary way. That light, which is all there is, is everywhere, all the time, for all of us.

Blessings & Love,
Reverend Roma Carlisle, Minister
First Divine Science Church
St. Louis, MO

Studies in Divine Science

Mrs. C. L. Baum
(a continuation)

VIII.

THE WORD.

The Bible abounds in many statements concerning the Word, both in the law of God as given before the Christian era and in the record of Jesus' teaching and works.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

"But the Word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it."

"Speak the Word only and my servant shall be healed."

"The sower soweth the Word."

"And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

Again, concerning speech, we read, "Every idle word that men shall speak they shall give an account of in the day of judgment."

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

"Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away."

"Thou hast the words of eternal life."

"If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you."

We cannot read and ponder these statements without being impressed by the enormous importance of the spoken word, which is one manifestation of that great silent Word which was with God in the Beginning. For be it known that the power has been given to each of us to speak the word of truth to bless and heal; in the same manner, the choice rests with us to neglect our opportunity for this service. The marvelous potency of speech has been delineated by Carlyle in the following selection from his works, entitled *Speech and silence*:

"He who speaks honestly cares not, needs not care, though his words be preserved to remotest time. The dishonest speaker, not he only who purposely utters falsehoods, but he who does not purposely and with sincere heart, utter truth and truth alone; who babbles he knows not what, and has clapped no bridle on his tongue, but lets it run racket, ejecting chatter and futility,---is among the most indisputable malefactors omitted or inserted in the criminal calendar."

To him that will well consider it, idle speaking is precisely the beginning of all hollowness, halfness, infidelity (want of faithfulness); the genial atmosphere in which rank weeds of every kind attain the mastery over noble fruits in man's life, and utterly choke them out; one of the most crying maladies of these days, and to be testified against, and in all ways to the uttermost, withstood.

Wise of a wisdom far beyond our shallow depth, was that old precept: *Watch thy tongue; out of it are the issues of Life!* *Man is properly an INCARNATED WORD: the WORD that he speaks is the man himself.*

Were eyes put into our head that we might see, or that we

might fancy and plausibly pretend that we had seen?

Was the tongue suspended there, that it might tell freely what we have seen, and make man the soul's brother of man; or only that it might utter vain sounds, jargon, soul-confusing, and so divide man, as by enchanted walls of darkness, from union with man?

Thou who wearest that cunning, heaven-made organ, a tongue, think well of this. Speak not, I passionately entreat thee, till thy thought has silently matured itself, till thou hast other than mad and mad-making noises to emit; hold thy tongue till some meaning lie behind to set it wagging.

Consider the significance of silence; it is boundless, never by meditating to be exhausted, unspeakably profitable to thee! Cease that chaotic hubbub, wherein thy own soul runs to waste, to confused suicidal dislocation and stupor; out of silence comes thy strength. *Speech is silver, Silence is golden; Speech is human, Silence is divine.*

Fool! Thinkest thou that because no one stands near with parchment and black lead to note thy jargon, it therefore dies and is harmless? Nothing dies---nothing can die. No idlest word thou speakest but is a seed cast into Time, and grows through all Eternity! The Recording Angel, consider it well, is no fable, but the truest of truths; the paper tablets thou canst burn; of the "iron leaf" there is no burning.

A great truth is contained in that statement "Man is an Incarnated Word." Man is indeed the Word of God, the pure and perfect idea of God made manifest. Every individual is a Word or Idea brought into form by the eternal activity and has a pure and perfect spiritual body which never can be affected by negation, save in feeling and mentality. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." Being the Word made flesh, we are divine and immortal, for this statement refers to each of us as it did to Jesus. Each of us is God's Word in the flesh. Hence we should never belittle or depreciate ourselves. The activity of the Divine Mind is perfect and the manifested form is perfect.

It has been customary to speak of a lower and a higher self, and we have used these terms when we knew not the truth. The practice has resulted in confusion for it is wrong to speak of a lower self. And while it may have been a step upward even to recognize a higher self, it is still better to know that there is but one self, which is eternal and changeless. The lower self is only what we have believed about ourselves. In recognizing two selves we have claimed a spiritual body and a material body, a perfect and an imperfect body. But in truth, what we have believed was our imperfect body, is only our false conception of our eternally changeless and perfect body. The world is slowly rising into a consciousness of the inherent perfection and divine origin of man, but we must know now that we are perfect spirit substance, the Word of God made flesh.

Consider the statement "The Word of God that shall heal the sick." What is its real meaning? What or who is the Word of God that shall heal the sick? It is yourself! You are the healing word, for it is your consciousness of truth that goes forth

to help one who has not that consciousness. The self, the indwelling Spirit, is the Word of God and when you realize this you will know truly that the Word of God shall heal the sick. The one you endeavor to help is also the Word of God manifest in the flesh, and as you know this in your consciousness, the Spirit in that one responds to your Spirit, the truth is recognized and healing results. In this way, then, the true Word of God heals the sick. The Word is the same always, but the human mentality from time to time becomes filled with false concepts, which must be displaced with the Word of Truth. The truth of the body is its health and this consciousness heals all belief of disease. Through the thoughts we think and the words we speak, we are continually bringing forth into evidence either the Word of God or our false beliefs. One or the other must illumine or darken our mental atmosphere.

We find three Words in the universe by which all visible creation has been brought forth. These are:

- The Silent Word, or the Invisible Idea;
- The Active Word, or the Process of Thought,
- and
- The Manifested Word, or the Visible Result.

These three comprise the Law of Expression and represent the process through which all creation has been accomplished. The silent, invisible Idea of creation, put into action through thought, was finally manifested as visible creation. The same process is true of man's devices; he first has the mental image or conception, which is put into activity through thought, resulting in the finished product. Everything of which we have knowledge has come into expression through this process. A clear conception of this fact will show that Mind is the only Cause, either in God's creation or working in and through man. The law is operative even on the negative plane, and all negative conditions in the world today have gone through this cycle of expression and have come into our experience in this way. Thus, all disease has had its origin in our thought and mentality, and the right way to overcome it permanently is to set to work this Law of Expression on a positive idea of truth and health, knowing that it will ultimately be manifested and overcome error by replacing it with consciousness of truth.

It should be plain from the foregoing that the body is a manifested Word and has no creative power---a result, and cannot be a cause of anything. Apparently then, the conception of physical causation is erroneous and cannot stand in the light of the truth that Mind is the only cause, while form and environment are but results.

Now, this body which is the manifested Word of Divine Mind, is a pure spiritual form, perfect and eternal. It is invisible to our sense of vision, because being spiritual it is spiritually discerned, and our lack of discernment of the truth has been the reason why we are in partial bondage to negative things. "Not discerning the Lord's body, many are weak and sickly among you and many sleep." What great blessing would attend spiritual discernment and how greatly it is to be striven for is apparent from this statement: Full and complete knowledge of Truth would give us spiritual discernment of all things and we would know that---

God is Perfect as Creator---the Silent Mind;
God is Perfect as Creative Action---the Active thought;
God is Perfect as Creation---the manifestation.
Body, therefore, being the manifestation, is Perfect.

For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. The words of our mouths represent the expression of our thoughts just as much as our actions do, and by our words and actions we are justified or condemned before the world. We cannot justify the spoken or professed truth except by a Life of Truth, and our own unfoldment demands that we so live the truth that it will bring conviction to others.

There is but one Word that man is responsible for and that is the inner Word of his own consciousness. He has it in his own power to unfold that consciousness as steadfastly as he pleases, and he will find that accordingly as he works within, he will manifest externally. If the consciousness is one of peace, joy, and harmony, the environment will be the same and that individual will enjoy heaven here and now. On the other hand, if the mentality is mixed, life will have some discord, sickness and unrest in it. Heaven and hell are but mental experiences. The man, who is filled with the ideas of love, peace, and trust, is in heaven, just as the one who is filled with the beliefs of injustice, selfishness, and hatred, is in hell.

There is but one Substance in the universe, although it has many manifested forms. Whether we call that form the body, food, shelter, or means of support, it is a manifestation of the same Substance. The whole universe is filled with the very substance of God, and that Substance in various forms is for our good. It is the abundance of the one Presence and the one Power---the one substance made manifest, of which there is no lack. To the individual it may be suggested that if you are not getting your share of that Substance, or feel a lack of it in any form, hold the thought that the Spirit knows and will manifest to you in the form you most need or desire. Speak the world that the one perfect Substance is made manifest to you in the form you need. Be definite about it. *But rather seek ye the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you.* The silent word within you speaks itself forth into manifestation. Whatever you are thinking will come forth and you can not experience the abundance of supply in any form if you are holding the thought of lack. You cannot be well or happy if you are holding the thought of hatred or jealousy.

The Word of God, which is the Divine Spirit within you, can manifest nothing which is not a likeness of itself. That we have not known this truth of our Perfection and have not progressed in the spiritual life argues nothing against our being just what the Divine Presence is. We have hitherto manifested nothing higher than our consciousness of the Truth, which perhaps was not very great, but now we perceive the enlargement of consciousness, which we are to experience. How shall we accomplish this change?, according to the simple rule that "Truth embodied displaces or disembodies error." Wherefore, if you are thinking error, or are not thinking positively and earnestly on the side of truth, change your methods and displace the error in your thought with truth. 5

This will be the Word of God healing and changing all that is external to you by first being realized in your thought.

STATEMENTS FOR MEDITATION

In the beginning was the Word.
I am the Word of God.
The Word comes to bear witness to the truth.
The Word that I am shall not pass away,
 but shall accomplish that whereunto it is sent.
I come to do the work of Him who sent me.
Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?
My Word is Spirit and it is Life.
The Word is made into visible form and dwells among us.
Let the words of my mouth be acceptable in Thy sight.

THE LOVING WORD

A living, loving, lasting word,
My listening ear believing heard,
 While bending down in prayer:
Like a sweet breeze that none can stay,
It passed my soul upon its way
 And left a blessing there.

Then joyful thoughts that come and go
By paths the holy angels know,
 Encamped around my soul:
As in a dream of blest repose,
'Mid withered reeds a river rose,
 And through the desert stole.

I lifted up my eyes to see---
The wilderness was glad for me,
 My heart within was strong.
And sweeter, nearer, clearer heard,
It came, that everlasting word
 Of promise and of song?

---Anna L. Waring.

The Visible Invisible *Dr. F. Bernadette Turner*

To see only what we see with the physical eye is partial vision. The stars are invisible by day, but they are there. And behold the barren tree---Invisible Life!

We are immersed in the visible-invisibility of God. Even in the market place, in fulfilling our material needs, God is visibly manifest and we are drawing upon God's unlimited supply.

The Invisible, imperceptible by sight, becomes visible through insight and intuition. All things, when considered in depth, lead back to God. The invisibility is experienced through productive prayer, on a level of consciousness beyond sense perception. To be sensitive to the presence of a loving father, wherever we are, establishes within us a profound feeling of the everywhere-ness of God.

Through the application of Divine Science principles we recognize more and more the visible Invisible.

A Bit of Divine Science History:

Dr. Alice R. Ritchie, an early Divine Science minister, and her husband, Frank G. Ritchie, were born and reared in Saratoga Springs, New York, of traditionally staunchly orthodox religious backgrounds. During their early years of marriage, they happened upon some book, which opened up new avenues of thought for which they were evidently ready. They determined then that their children, Betty and David, would not be brought up in a church with teachings which they felt were not in harmony with a God of Love. Consequently, in 1906 the Ritchies broke with tradition and left the security of family, friends, and business opportunities to "seek the Truth."

In 1911, after short stays in three different locations, the Ritchies arrived in Denver, where Mrs. Ritchie studied with Dr. Nona Brooks, Mrs. Fannie B. James, Mrs. Baum, and others.

Convinced of the need for a Divine Science work in Chicago, the Ritchies moved there in 1916. After two years of spreading the word and travelling about the big city by train or streetcar to visit the ill or to conduct meetings, Mrs. Ritchie formally began the Divine Science work, with the opening of offices in the Hartford Building at 8 South Dearborn---in the heart of Chicago's business district. Mr. Ritchie, a talented artist, had a room for his commercial art work and two rooms were the Divine Science Center, where Alice held conferences and taught small groups.

In the daughter's own words, "I recall the vitality of the work and hearing of healings, classes, etc., but the greatest miracle, as I look back, was the amount that this little woman accomplished, for she was not robust. But her spirit was indomitable." Her work flourished, requiring that Sunday services be moved to the ballroom of the Blackstone Hotel; then to larger quarters, attractively furnished, in the Strauss Building, Michigan Avenue; and then to even larger quarters. Her time was filled with day and evening services, classes, meetings, and private counseling appointments. The Divine Science College of Illinois was established in 1921.

"At the height of her career," writes Mrs. McClellan, "Mother was able to fulfill the stringent demands made upon her only because of her high consciousness. Her sermons were magnificent and given without lengthy preparation. The enormous bills for maintaining a center in that location were always met---sometimes after she had retired to the little meditation room to give the situation to God. Through her, marvelous things were accomplished in the lives of hundreds of people, some of whom were publicly well known. She also helped train ministers and practitioners."

Dr. Ritchie retired in 1933, but taught classes and wrote intermittently until her passing in 1960.

The daughter concludes, "As the years go by, I appreciate more and more the great contribution which my parents made. It was something I just took for granted as I was growing up, but the things I learned seeing the Truth work are valuable beyond measure."

Today we have much Truth literature and scientific findings to bolster our faith; back then they had only a few affirmations with which to work, but *what faith!*

(Taken from ASPIRE, the voice of Divine Science, the Christmas, 1977 issue.)

(Even with the world in confusion and chaos, let us remember that we are God's instruments of **PEACE**.

---Editor)

AGAIN, THIS YEAR

**Look,
the Star
still shines!**

**Listen,
the carols
of angels
still echo!**

**The Child
is still safe
in Mary's arms
with Joseph
nearby.**

**Behold,
the radiance
of God's Love
still enfolds them,
still enfolds us
and can never
be put out!**

—Elizabeth Searle Lamb

Omnipresence teaches us that in the depths of each man's (human's) heart, no matter how frivolous he may be, or how material and degraded he may seem, there is a consciousness of God.

--- Nona L. Brooks

Short Lessons in Divine Science

Divine Science Federation International

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I go forth this day . . .

Within my own soul is the intelligent capacity to express myself as a child of God.

I go forth this day unmoved by things as they appear to be. I am not governed by my feelings nor led by what others say or do. I am not influenced by anything in the external. I am loyal to the Truth. I am patient, loving, kind.

As an individualized expression of God, I am pure Spirit, a center of God activity, God intelligence, power, life, and love.

I am one with the infinite Presence.

"Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

What a glorious thought and magnificent realization—that whenever one wishes one can start anew. One can be fresh, one can remove all the scars, the aches, the distress, the animosities that have made him feel old, unloved, and unrewarded. When we truly accept the basic truths that Jesus brought to man, we are reborn.

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DECEMBER, 2004

A Divine Science Federation International Newsletter

Love
Integrity
Freedom
Excellence

WE WELCOME YOU!

Excerpts by Fletcher A. Harding

Science tells us that the constant of all knowledge is the absoluteness of change. People make New Year Resolutions, supposedly, to bring about change; yet, the vast majority of people are very resistant to the ideas incumbent in the processes of change. . .

There is no way for us to maintain a status quo, no matter how sweet we might think this moment to be. Nature has made no provisions for a status quo. Life is change; but if we can somehow bring ourselves to a point of acceptance of this basic of all life, we are then in commerce with the very nature of life and the possibilities that it offers for us. If we can bring ourselves to a place where we can say and understand and accept that change is the absolute, and look forward to this year governed by an absolute and uncompromising law of change, we have, at least, put ourselves in a position to participate in the ongoing of life, rather than setting our heels against it and resisting the life forces that flow through us. . .

I look ahead to next year. I look ahead to it with joyful, but I think realistic, anticipation. All of the problems of the world are not going to instantly disappear within the framework of the year ahead---nor are all the individual problems. Each of us is in for a lot of changes, as we have been in the last year and previous years. Life will go on with its changes, some of them pleasant, some of them unpleasant. The problems are not going to go away, but hopefully, they might be handled better, so that one relates to them in a sense more victoriously, more affirmatively, more in charge, without being defeated by them. . .

At the outset of his ministry, Jesus spent forty days and forty nights in the wilderness, finding that within himself with which he would comeback and begin his ministry, that the world might be changed through his efforts. Again, it was a retreat into the silent place of one's own depths to let affirmatives gestate, to come forth in a rebirth of direction, or a new giving forth of self. . .