

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,
against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”
Ephesians 6:12*

Why do we wrestle against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places?
Perhaps it is because men have taken unto themselves the prerogative of deciding what God intends for the whole,
and of how individual men and women must fit into the whole.
---E. M. Hargreaves

SPIRIT in ACTION

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We Welcome You!

GOD DESIGNS for SIMPLICITY

E. M. Hargreaves

In the midst of all the pressures of belief and tradition and activity in our world, it is not always easy to accept with childlike faith that perfection is really the aim and intention of God for all His creation. It is not easy to accept that we should have perfect health and abundant supply and harmonious relations with all our fellowmen; that we should have dominion over the earth, with all things working together for good; that the Spirit of God does truly live within us.

Yet, this is the implication behind all the teachings of the Bible, of Jesus Christ, and wise men throughout the ages.

Always, whatever course we follow,
we come back to that great Truth statement of Jesus,
“The kingdom of God is within you.”

Always we come back to the realization that the true way of life is in the commandments---
Love the Lord thy God; love thy neighbour; do good to them that despitefully use you; trust in God.

We may honestly wish to obey these commands, but we approach this as a problem to be worked out only through struggle, through changing our habits and deliberately overcoming a lower part of our nature. The human belief in problems and weakness and sin is the tradition of centuries. We think we must suffer hardship to attain something better.

People are sometimes referred to as square pegs in round holes. It can be said that when taking work these misfits are governed more by a desire to make money than to express themselves. Some people *are* motivated by a desire to make money; but those who really make money usually find themselves to be square pegs in pretty square holes. The square

pegs in round holes are actually there because the tradition of belief around them dictated that they had to work at something distasteful because this is the way of the world. Many of them, I am sure, heard the “still, small voice” and ignored it because what it said to them was not compatible with what they had been led to believe was the way of life. Many of us do this from time to time. We are aware of the prompting of God within us to take a certain course, but we look at the world and fear all the difficulties that *might* follow the decision to accept it as God’s direction; and we falter. We are so surrounded by the evidence of difficulties that we cannot believe that following the guidance of God is really the easy way.

One of our greatest burdens is the belief in physical imperfection. Even though we believe we should experience perfect health, and receive healings, we still accept health as unnatural and illness as natural. We still feel that there is inevitably that in the physical side of our nature which must prevent our attaining the heights of a perfect, spiritually-guided life.

St Paul believed that the body is created to express perfect life all the time. In his Epistle to the Ephesians, he wrote: “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” This is plainly a realization that there is inherently nothing evil or weak in the body which can of itself go wrong, that it is a part of our spiritual attainment.

Why do we wrestle against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places? Perhaps it is because men have taken unto themselves the prerogative of deciding what God intends for the whole, and of how individual men and woman must fit into the whole. When we consider those troubled people of this world who have apparently no chance to step out of the quicksand of their poverty of spirit, mind, and body, we realize that, even if we were in a position to do so, we could not possibly tell them what life ought to be like for them. The Spirit within tells us this. Yet they are part of the tradition which keeps us all in bondage--- the tradition of man’s weakness; of his belief that God is far off, sometimes answering prayer and sometimes not; of the belief that all men are naturally sinful and not to be trusted with their own lives. They are all evidence of *resistance to the truth* that the Spirit of God dwells in man as an individual, with all power available to him.

Consider this body of yours, composed of trillions of individual cells, which are all part of every inch of surface skin, of every nerve and organ, of the brain and

the stomach and the heart. Every one of these organs has a different function to perform in the act of your living. “But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.”

The separate organs are necessary to each other and to the whole. Yet they do not interfere with one another, nor tell each other what to do. When you want to get up from your chair and walk, you do not consciously tell your limbs what to do. When you eat you do not direct your stomach and other organs. The individual parts of your body know what is involved, and they respond.

All these trillions of cells, each allocated to its particular part of the body, all working together, tend to simplify life. When you want to walk, they do not respond because you have made a special demand on them. They do not have to start whirring around among themselves, giving orders, one to another, to direct the force of life in the right direction. Within each cell concerned there is already the exact knowledge of what is required of it to produce the act of walking. And there is no difference whether you want to walk across the room, or go for a twenty-mile hike. Also, no one cell, nerve, or organ takes the whole burden. Throughout the body, whatever action is desired, the load is spread so that every minute cell and atom plays the part it already knows it has to play.

Within you, though it may be buried deep under the dross and rubble of belief in disease and weakness, there is God’s knowledge that you are destined for perfect health. It may not always be easy to hear the “still small voice” that tells you this, for it is easier to conform to the common standards around you. But, again, God has spread the load. Every one of these trillions of cells knows what part it has to play to produce that perfect health--- in your body right now--- so that you can do that which you are created and destined to do.

Every one of those cells is created to maintain perfection all the time. Not one of them really knows anything about disease (dis-ease) or illness or death. They seem to be subject to only two influences--- God and conscious mind. They listen to both. Only these two influences can cause them to deviate from the high standard of perfection---and God does not wish them to. They are, however, affected by our thoughts and beliefs. If we look at the world and decide that illness and death are inevitable, they will oblige us. If we set any standard which is below that for which they are created--- and 2

any *conscious* attempt to set a standard must have this result, for their inspiration comes directly from God-- they will oblige.

It is not always easy to think in terms of pure Spirit-- to accept the indwelling Presence and Power as complete and absolute. Realization that within every cell of the body is knowledge of its own perfect purpose to create vital and permanent health helps us to understand how God has designed all life to be simple and harmonious. We can realize that it really is possible to let go and let God, by stopping all worrisome effort to decide standards and by letting that greater Life, which is already created within us, come forth.

This is not just a matter of physical healing and greater health. It applies to any condition in life. Scientists are now describing the cells of the body as energy, as Spirit. They are not material entities at all. This assists our understanding of God's direct guidance. God evidently has made the communication of His good intention easier for us to receive than we had thought. If so-called material cells have their basis in Spirit, then there are spiritual and mental equivalents which are concerned with guidance in every aspect of life. There must be cells through which God communicates to us knowledge of himself; cells which hold direct divine knowledge of individual purpose and of how to contact the power which will bring it into expression; cells through which, if we will but believe in them, He even tells us all we need to know about the meaning of life.

In the search for the reality of life man has investigated many avenues. They all lead to the same conclusion:

**God is alive in every man,
and God has so designed the whole of life,
both collectively and individually,
that the right path is the simplest path.**

More and more in our civic, political, economic, and social affairs, we are told that life is becoming more complex. Life cannot be more complex than the human body, with all its cells and nerves and ganglions and factories and communication systems and storage areas. Yet each minute part knows just what it must do to provide a perfect whole. From a closer study of this system, seeing how it works in our individual lives without conscious management, we learn to apply it to life in general, to let God direct our lives, to trust our fellowmen, and play a more vital part in the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth.

**We are members of the one Body of God.
We are here to express God, All-good, throughout
life, and the whole of creation has been so devised
that this is a simple, natural process. *******

The Very Present Help **Edna S. Bunt**

Have you ever stopped to wonder how important a part resistance has played in your life?
Take for instance a certain day.

*It began wrong in the first place.
The alarm did not go off.
You actually leaped into the new day.
The toast burned.*

*The traffic on the way to work
was unusually heavy and erratic.
The day went from bad to worse.
Everyone and every situation
became more and more irritating.
Words were spoken that
you would have given anything to recall.
You went home with a splitting headache.*

We could multiply endlessly the situations and people who are the cause of our resentments. What is important to understand is that it was not *what happened* to you, but the *resistance with which you met it*. If, at the first indication you had stopped short in order to regain your calmness, all probably would have been well, but you did not. You short-circuited your direct line to the loving Father. You did not ruin the line; no one can do that. It is always there in all its power and availability, but it always needs our cooperation to operate with efficiency.

A fine time to understand this is when you first awaken in the morning, as you lie there relaxed and refreshed. Quietly and serenely give yourself over to the leadership of the Father. Recognize the purity of His intentions in your day ahead. Affirm your trust and sincerity. ...A few simple words from the heart: "Father, thank you for the day ahead. Guide me today. Give me courage and wisdom to see the Christ in everyone. I will try to act as you want me to act."

If others have annoyed you, forgive them. You cannot dislike and forgive at the same time. You won't have to rush. You are operating in God's time now. The plan for the day is all good. All you need to do is carry it out with grace and good will. You and the Father are embarked on a conspiracy of Love. "Behold the shining self of your neighbor. To love is to see God in all."

As the day unfolds, the peace you felt when you first awakened will sustain you. Hold fast to it with all your courage and strength.

NOT TO YAWN AT THE COMING DAWN –

This is a single article

*(Part 2 of a Series of articles written for Advent) by
Rev. Stan Ousley Jr. E-ministry - nmstashu@earthlink.net*

“I believe in the Father of Christmas; I believe in the Israelite;

And I won't yawn at the coming of the dawn,

Halleluiah, Peace on Earth, Be the Light.”

The lyrics are from a contemporary seasonal song well-performed by an obscure group. I think I've only heard it once on the radio this Christmas Season. The artistry of the male vocalist and the instrumentation are totally top-notch. The music has a slightly “distant,” haunting quality, and there's a hint of an echo in the acoustics. The apostle James wrote about the Father (Sacred Source) of Light: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (KJV, James 1:17). Jesus stated: I [in the Christed or anointed consciousness] am the light [wisdom and enlightenment] of the world: he [she] that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (KJV, John 8:12).

In her 1898 article describing Divine Science, Nona Brooks emphasized the Invisible Reality behind the visible. Light as energy comes into visible particles-forms from invisible waves. Energy is eternal and invisible. Consciousness and Intelligence are like-wise invisible aspects behind Creation. We cannot really define that intangible quality called “Love,” but we are taught that “God is love” (I. John 4:8). We remember that the invisible is expressed in and through the visible, and that we are individual souls in physical bodies. In Divine Science, the soul is the seat of God-consciousness within each of us. In short, we are “the hands and feet of God.”

The song lyrics are actually a contemporary creed. To believe in the Father of Christmas is to affirm the Source behind The Christ, the Divine Idea of Perfect Humanity. To believe in “the Israelite” is to acknowledge God's Presence within Jesus as the Way-shower, the spiritual teacher and healer who expressed Emmanuel, God with us. Alive in Spirit, we celebrate the Miracle of Life, cherishing our times together on Mother Earth. We can be alive, awake, aware, and alert to the ongoing dawning of the Light in each of us, all of us. We don't take it for granted -- this Miracle we each are in expression. We don't yawn at the dawn. And we become thankful; give praise, for the Peace that “passes our understanding,” as we choose, minute by minute, to BE the Light!

The Challenge of Change

Irwin Gregg

The great law of Life is change.
There are times when change is most welcome.
It often indicates the movement of Life
leading us in the right direction.
It evidences growth.

Today we are living through momentous changes.

So many changes are taking place at once in the collective experience of mankind that we may feel bewildered. Yet, if we believe in the eternal progress of Life, we find these changes are the inevitable outworking of our evolving consciousness.

When major changes are seemingly thrust upon us let us affirm that divine order is quickly established in our minds, bodies, and affairs. Let us say, “I know I shall grow through this experience. I shall know better, do better, and be a better person in every way with God's help. All mankind shall know, do, and be better through these adjustments.

Through daily meditation we give ourselves to God in prayer. We feel the quickening power of God's perfect Life within us, mastering every limitation and making us aware of health and strength, wisdom, and joy. One with God's own consciousness, we realize good for all.

(Article written by Dr. Gregg in 1971 as he ministered to the First Divine Science Church of Denver.)

“If you wish to realize supply,
withdraw thought from the contemplation of lack
and its accompanying inconveniences.
Give full attention to ever present abundance.

Live as if you believed in abundance.
Pay every debt --- no matter how great the sacrifice.
Be true in every business transaction.
Be generous in attitude.”

---Nona L. Brooks

Short Lessons in Divine Science

(Remember, too, that abundance comes in many more ways than just money. Abundance is God's all-good, surrounding and enfolding us each and every day.)

We do not come to God for loaves and fishes.
We come to God for God, and when we have God,
the loaves and fishes are added unto us.

---Joel S. Goldsmith

The Word is Love

---Jim Darr

God sees and acknowledges only the perfection in each of us, in all mankind. He has such a great love and affection for us that He only sees our good qualities. God can help us only if we return this love. The love between God and man is a bridge over which we can communicate with God; but if there is to be this communication, we have to build our part of the bridge and open ourselves to God.

There are many ways of communicating with God, a thousand ways we can show our love and affection for God. The most direct way is to show our love for others. Each man is a part of God. If we turn away, ignore, or hurt people, we are doing it to God. God extends His love to each of us and hopes that we respond by extending this same love and affection to our fellowman.

Have you ever noticed how people react to a friendly gesture? Their faces light up with happiness. With this friendly gesture you have established a bridge between you and the other person. For this short time you both understand and appreciate each other.

He drew a circle that shut me out,
heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win,
we drew a circle that took him in.

Picture a twelve-foot wall. One man cannot scale that wall by himself, but with the help of just one other person, he can. Life is very much like that wall. No one can go through life without help. If we take the time to help others, we give God the chance to work through us and others. Each person is the proof of God on earth. This is why we are here---
to help raise mankind's aspirations to something better.

We must be willing to become involved in helping others, otherwise, as with the billions of stars flung through the universe, there is a vacuum between us.

Each lives alone in a world of dark,
crossing the skies in a lonely arc
save when love leaps out, like a leaping spark---
over thousands and thousands of miles.

We must reach out and cross that vacuum to establish a common understanding. Then we shall be like one brilliantly bright sun, illuminating all the earth with joy of people working together.

People need people.

(Written as a teenager in 1971 at the Crestwood Divine Science Church - St. Louis MO)

Excerpts from Help Yourself to Happiness

Ann L. Lamp

We live our days
looking in the wrong places for happiness.

There are many possibilities for happiness in every day.
We see only a few of them with true perspective.

A happiness possibility can never be less than that.
It can never be *more* unless we decide to unfold it,
to see in-depth, to develop it with love and thanksgiving.

Look deeper, think in a new light - allow it to take time.

Begin to see that
disappointment, tragedy, and unpleasantness
cover up something very worthwhile
and important to unfoldment.

Seek happiness, but in seeking, learn to cherish happiness for the right reasons. Appreciate and understand its value toward constructive living. God has so fashioned us that we are happiest when we share our happiness with others and give them our love.

Happiness does not lay in wait for us in some certain person, place, thing, or ideal condition. It lies within the self of each of us. We must open our spiritual eyes to the possibilities for happiness.

Many persons would have us believe that happiness lies in the "big promotion" in our business lives, the day our first child is born, the day we move into our new home, the day we retire.

These can be wonderful events, but happiness, the state of being happy, is not an event. It is growth. It comes with a spirit that is creatively unfolding.

The opportunity is there to grow each day toward deeper realization of our reason for being--- to see with greater spiritual understanding and depth.

This kind of growing demands a liking and respect for ourselves and our fellowmen.

Search within for the truth of your own being.
Begin to develop the capacity to see the "happiness possibilities" waiting in each and every day.

There will be days when a friend deals us a hurt, when the project we worked so hard to complete has been coldly rejected, when the property we desire has already been sold, when the trip we planned has to be cancelled-- then is when you look the hardest for the "happiness possibility." You will find them limitless.

Help yourself to that which is your good--- the
underlying life-expression of God.

**GOD,
from a beautiful necessity, is LOVE!
---Martin Farquhar Tupper**

God Is Not Interested In:

the kind of car you drive---

He cares about how many people you drive who don't have transportation.

"And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee ..."

Matthew 6:41,42

the neighborhood you live in---

the square footage of your house---

He cares about how many people you welcome into your home.

"Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Hebrews 13:1,2

the designer clothes you have in your closet---

He does care about how many less fortunate you help to clothe.

"... I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me ..."

Matthew 26:36

your social status---

He cares about what kind of class you display.

"Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king."

1 Peter 2:17

how many material possessions you have---

He does wonder if they dictate your life.

"Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? ... Thou knowest the commandments. ... He said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. ... Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor," ... And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions." Mark 10:17-22

what your highest salary was---

He wonders if you compromised your character to obtain it.

"The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them."

Proverbs 11:3

how much overtime you work---

He wonders if your overtime work was for yourself or for your family.

"For all that is in the world, ... the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:16

how many promotions you received---

He cares about how you promote others.

"They helped every one his neighbour, and everyone said to his brother, Be of good courage."

Isaiah 41:6

what your job title is---

He is interested in knowing whether you perform your job to the best of your ability.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15

what you did to help yourself---

He is interested in what you do to help others.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men. ..."

Galatians 6:10

how many friends you have---

He cares about how many people you were a friend to.

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:12,13

what you do to protect your rights---

He cares about what you do to protect the rights of others.

"Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him."

Ezekiel 21:26,27

the color of your skin---

He cares about the content of your character.

"Judge not, that ye be not judged."

Matthew 7:1

how many times your deeds matched your words---

He is interested in how many times you followed through in your actions.

"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

Romans 4:20,21

God has given you every good thing. God wants you to share that which you have and know with others--- thus sharing God as well.

"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

James 1:22-25

Before they call I will answer, and while they are yet speaking I will hear.

Isaiah 65:24

Prayer:

Father, I know that whatever seems to need healing or correcting in my mind, body, and affairs, is an opportunity for me to prove your presence and power. I now release all problems, be they fear, worry, or condemnation. I fill my mind with thoughts of health, happiness, and prosperity. I accept the truth that the father fills every need abundantly.

I give thanks ... and it is so.

---Rev. Laura Kemp Anderson

* * * * * **IN MEMORIAM** * * * * *

These things have I told you, remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you. But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? ... Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

John 16:4, 5, 7

A Shepherd is a blessed thing to have. To know that you are cared for and protected and led along the safe path is a wonderfully comforting feeling. But to have a Teacher is a greater blessing.

A good teacher opens worlds that have never before been experienced; gives you insight into the outer experience, but more importantly to the inward experience; and sets you on your path of discovery. A good teacher teaches you how to care for your self so that you will feel protected and safe under the wing of the Omnipresence.

I had such a teacher. **Mary Patricia Rezentes** was my minister, my mentor, my teacher, and my friend. You may remember the name from columns that she wrote monthly for *Spirit in Action*, for the past year. She made her transition sometime after 5:00am on Tuesday, January 3, 2006.

I learned more about God and about myself under the tutelage of this amazing lady than in all my years of seeking prior to meeting her in 1988.

My first thoughts after her passing were, "she taught us well, now it is time to prove in our own lives that we were listening intently." A good teacher always passes her/his knowledge on so that it may be shared again and again. Thank you, Mary, for your life, your love, your sharing of God's Word. We will miss you! Job well done! ---Editor

The Divine Science Federation
is pleased to extend a Lifetime Membership
to Mr. Lawrence W. Forlenza.

This donation was to honor
"a great and wonderful dog,"
BRAVEHEART.

For every creature of God is good ...
1 Timothy 4:4

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We Learn by Doing

by **Adeline W. Nelson**

The tendency to hear and not to heed lies at the root of our failure to live lives that are full of power and accomplishment.

We read books that thrill and inspire us at the moment; we listen to talks that strike a responsive chord in our innermost souls and stir within us impulses to action. And what do we do about it? In most instances, we do practically nothing. We suddenly remember that there are many reasons why we must wait for a more convenient season.

We could all learn a lesson from the wise woman who, as she was leaving the church, was stopped by a passer-by who asked, "I see you are leaving. Is the sermon done?" "No, indeed," replied the good lady. "The sermon was preached and we are going home to do it."

There are no shortcuts when we are seeking heavenly treasure. The spiritual harvest will come only to those who have received the word with gladness, provided the good soil of understanding and appreciation, and translated their hopes into deeds by their faithful, persistent efforts.

If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.
John 13:17

The discovery of that which is true,
and the practice of that which is good,
are the two most important objects of philosophy.

---Voltaire

We are born to success; success is our birthright. That which is Success brought us forth; it is for everyone. We are included in the universal Spirit and its great Power surges through us.

What is the method of success? "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Some interpret this to mean, "Serene, I fold my hands and wait." Not so. God has given us everything in the universe, but we have to accept our good and use it. We cannot sit still and accomplish. The kingdom of God means alertness, energy, the very highest activity possible. The kingdom of God includes law and order, system and accuracy. So the moment we realize that we are in this kingdom we begin to be active, systematic, and powerful.

The task that seems hard at a certain time is exactly what we need for the development of character. This leads to the greatest happiness. The sense of having accomplished always brings happiness.

Have faith in the experience of the day. Do not resist. Put your best into your work and get the best from it. Be reliable in your work whether you like it or not. Work as if each task were your chosen work. The Spirit knows what you can and should do. Trust the Spirit and be willing to do whatever work it gives you.

---Nona L. Brooks

Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
Matthew 6:32

We should like to hear how the Spirit of God is working, and has worked, in your life and in the lives around you.

The One Power in the universe is Good.

Why not write to us of the evidence you have seen?

As expressed by Nona L. Brooks,

"The world, as never before, needs you and me.

It needs our unwavering faith in Good.

**It needs our positive certainty of God-in-Man ---
the Christ.**

It needs our steadfast love.

**It needs the power that comes to one --- who
through faith and love attains the Christ-
Consciousness.**

**Let us radiate this consciousness throughout the year
--- and thus help to bring greater light to the world."**

We won't use your name if you prefer.

**We will only use your initials
and the state in which you reside, or the country. 8**

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February 2006

A Divine Science Federation International Newsletter

L ove
I ntegrity
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We Welcome You!

It will do no good to take thought for your life, your health, or your supply.

It will do no good to go to God with a request, a petition, or a desire.

Why?

Because God possesses nothing that God is withholding

---and

God is withholding nothing that God possesses.

God is infinite active being.

All that God *is* and all that God *has* is flowing constantly into manifestation, into expression, into form.

To think that prayer will influence God to speed it up, or to deliver it to your doorstep--- is foolishness.

---Joel S. Goldsmith

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