

I picked up an acorn and examined it closely.  
This hard shell--- how could a delicate sprout break through it?  
Then I suddenly let go of it as though it were a hot coal.  
There, in that acorn, was more power, more life, more beauty  
than I could ever dream of.  
Within that little shell was the Spirit of God.  
His Law, His Spirit was manifesting into form.  
For a moment I felt overwhelmed by this tremendous power all about me.  
I felt humility.  
---Jack Faust (1981-St. Louis, MO)

# SPIRIT in ACTION

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Mary Eckard, Secretary

## JULY 2006

### THE DAY THE "SON" CAME UP Jack Faust

I had had a trying week of problems and frustrations. It was now Saturday--- a nice, warm, summer's day. Following a strong urge to get away from everything for awhile, I drove out to a little country road in an unpopulated area, parked my car, and started hiking.

At first the trees, the bushes, even the countryside, seemed to be nothing more than objects or obstacles in my path, but the more I walked the more I became aware of a silent beauty, a serene atmosphere. A thought crossed my mind that almost made me laugh. Here I was running, so to speak, from life as I saw it and winding up right in the middle of the great magnitude of life.

I walked slower now, becoming more aware of the details of my environment. I came to the top of a hill where stood a tall oak tree, as majestic an oak as I have ever seen. Sitting down to rest under its shady branches, I scanned the countryside--- what peace! what a harmonious blend of life and beauty. It held me spellbound for a few moments.

Certain thoughts came to mind from some reading that I had done in the past---thoughts regarding God, Spirit, and Creation. These subjects had been somewhat dormant in my mind, but now they seemed to be surfacing with a force. A tingle ran through my body as I gazed in wonderment across the miles of hills and valleys. There before me was a tiny sample of a great creation--- an abundance of life, of beauty, of peace. *This is truly God's creation!* As I dwelt on this thought, the creation expanded in my mind. I began to realize even more vividly that everything on, in, and above this earth is created by God.

While gazing at the ground about me, I noticed many acorns that had fallen from the oak tree that shaded me. Some that were in damp places had begun to sprout. My eyes focused on one of these delicate sprouts and I realized what a great potential it had. I looked up into the massive branches of the oak tree next to me. Its broad trunk grew straight and tall. There it stood, like a sentinel, on the hilltop; but it too, many years ago, was but a sprout from a tiny acorn. It came to me that life is forever--- is eternal. Life is always here. Like produces like. How obvious this truth! Until now, I had given little or no attention to the significance of its magnitude. It is by law, a profound law that this eternal life exists. This universal law is the Law of the Creator--- God.

Then, as if suddenly hit by a swift arrow, I became motionless for a time. A deep realization seemed to engulf me that I--- man--- am an intricate part of this creation, the Law of Life. This truth is nothing new. I had read several articles on this in the past; but somehow, it had never seemed to “take root” until now. The word *law* seemed to go round and round in my mind. Thinking for a moment about man-made laws, I was reminded that such laws are of no value unless enforced by some authority. What about the Creator’s Law? Now I began to realize that the Law of Creation is enforced by the Presence of God. Ah! God is not a person, but He is here! His Presence is Spirit, everywhere!

I picked up an acorn and examined it closely. This hard shell! How could a delicate sprout break through it? Then I suddenly let go of it as though it were a hot coal. There, in that acorn, was more power, more life, more beauty than I had ever dreamed of. Within that little shell was the Spirit of God. His Law, His Spirit was manifesting into form. For a moment I felt overwhelmed by this tremendous power all about me. I felt humility.

A wild thought occurred to me: “You are trespassing in this world of peace, of beauty, of life in harmony. There is no room here for frustrations, anger, and limitations. Go!” Then I said aloud, “This is ridiculous!” I started to get up to leave, but another thought came: “Didn’t I, just a few minutes ago, acknowledge without reservation that I, too, was a part of this supreme creation? Of course I did! Then certainly God’s Spirit is within me also. I am part of this eternal Life.” My eyes scanned the countryside. With a tear of emotion I exclaimed, “I am not trespassing! I belong here! The Spirit of God is within me too!” And I felt somewhat self-conscious for having spoken out so loudly.

Just then a breeze came up, and I could see the trees down the hill gently swaying back and forth. The giant oak under which I stood rustled its leaves. It all seemed like a sign of welcoming, an invitation to let the God Spirit flow through me as it does through everything in this countryside. Let the Spirit express through me. Be as the acorn! Let the God Life break through the shell of limitation that I had formed around myself. Let the God Spirit come forth to express the true purpose of this, God’s creation! Go forth in strength and faith! God’s Spirit knows no weakness. This mighty oak on this rocky hilltop testifies to that. Let the beauty of the Spirit in all its goodness show through, for that is God’s intent. The endless beauty of this country-side attests to that. Be in harmony with the Spirit within, for only then can peace, wisdom, understanding, love, joy, and life radiate to their fullest.

I felt as though a heavy burden had been lifted. My thinking was clear. I now had an awareness of the infinite abundance around me and of some of the true values of life. Oh, how I needed to devote myself more to these truths. For with God Spirit within me and about me--- in fact, everywhere present--- surely my consciousness will reveal God’s Goodness in all its glory. I realize now that I must commit myself, my thinking and my actions, to this new awareness.

As I turned to walk back to my car I looked up at the clear, blue sky. I cannot recall ever seeing the sunlight so bright! This day the “Son” really came up.

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## I PRAISE YOUR SACRED PRESENCE

I praise Your Sacred Presence in the earth;  
It flows through all of those around me, too.  
Your Holy Presence blesses all my life;  
May it shine in all I think and say and do.

As I rove the mystic kingdom of my mind;  
You dance through all my thoughts and  
bring me joy.  
I can see Your Love at work in all mankind;  
We who now serve, may Love our hearts  
employ.

I honor Your Presence in this world;  
Your Holy Presence dwells within me now.  
Your Love within restores and heals me, whole;  
All things that I must do. You show me how.

## A Priceless Treasure

James O. Whitfield (an excerpt)

... we are all made in the image of God. Since God is a creative God, that means, among other things, that we have unlimited resources of creativity. Being Creative is not some special gift reserved only for poets, artists, and musicians--- for God has planted creative intelligence in all of us. No one has been slighted. No matter who or what you are, you are still an image of the almighty Creator.

Once you recognize your God-given creative intelligence and begin to release some of its unlimited potential, you will soon discover what it means to be made "a little lower than the angels" and "to have dominion over the works of thy hands." You can then say with St. Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

One day soon after the Apollo 10 space flight, I heard a scientist on a radio program make this startling comment: "There is no place where we cannot eventually go; there is nothing that we cannot eventually do." Although he was speaking mainly in terms of scientific achievement, his statement, I believe, applies to every individual life.

After all, who knows the limits of his creative abilities? William James, the famous psychologist, estimated that the average person develops only ten percent of his latent potential. Just imagine! You could be doing ten times as much as you are doing now. The secret lies in tapping more and more of your God-given creative intelligence.

Years ago I visited Hoover Dam, that massive concrete "plug" stuck in the Black Canyon between Nevada and Arizona to hold back the Colorado River. Stretching for miles behind the dam lays peaceful Lake Mead. Water skiers, boaters, and swimmers skim its surface, oblivious to the potential energy lying below. Little by little some of that water flows through the dam, driving gigantic turbines, to create electricity for lighting and heating thousands of homes and cooking millions of meals. There is no telling how much potential energy lies behind that dam.

Who can tell how much creative energy lies unused within each of us. We see only a small portion of it as we release just a fraction of our potential. The famous explorer, Admiral Richard Byrd, once said: "Few men in their lifetime come anywhere near exhausting the resources dwelling within them. There are deep wells of strength that are never used."

*God has given you resources far more abundant than you have ever dreamed you possessed.*

**Do you believe that?**

*Perhaps that is what Christ meant when He said, "If you have faith ... nothing will be impossible to you."*

St. Paul said that God "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." That is why he could speak of the "immeasurable riches of His grace."

Yes, we are indeed rich, for it is "God who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." This priceless treasure contains diamonds of joy, rubies of love, emeralds of peace. They do not appear on the surface, however. One must dig deeply within to find them, but once you bring them to the surface and begin to display them in your daily existence, they provide a satisfaction far greater than any jewel collection in the world.

If you have not yet discovered this priceless treasure, start searching now. If you have already begun to uncover some of its gems, keep digging. There is more to discover yet. You can never deplete it.

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There are times in everyone's life when he feels he cannot seem to find God; He seems so far away. We think that if we could only feel His presence everything would be all right again. Well, the truth is, God is never far away since He is omnipresent.

Suppose the bird should say, "I am going out to find this air they are all talking about. In all my life I have never seen it." Yet, the bird is in that air, breathes that air, and soars because of its omnipresence.

Or, suppose the fish should say, "I am going out to locate this element they call water." Whenever the fish is removed from the water it soon realizes its utter dependence upon that element for its existence.

In the same light we may know that God is right where we are now or at any time. The reason we are not continuously conscious of Him is because our five senses have become so trained and steeped in the outer effects of the creative process that we do not perceive the invisible Cause that is producing these things. We do not seem to realize that the visible universe is couched within the omnipresence of God.

(excerpt) ---Irwin E. Gregg,  
*The Big Idea in Divine Science* 3

## ***The Art of Spiritual Healing*** **Carrie F. Munz (early worker)**

The subject of healing is of general interest to the human family since almost every one is in need of healing in one or more of its many forms.

Healing includes the righting of every phase of human disharmony. Hence it includes more than mere physical illness, important as that may be. There are mental problems to meet; financial difficulties to be solved; inharmonious relationships to be adjusted; sorrow to be lifted; unhappiness to be overcome. All of these experiences of life that mankind meets from day to day are included in our understanding of healing.

Throughout countless ages mankind has grown slowly and steadily from the magic and rites of primitive methods, through medicine and surgery with its highly developed technique and many ramifications, to metaphysics with its teaching of mental and spiritual healing.

All of this shows the deep need of man, and the wide field of research and endeavor. Each method has its place in the unfoldment of the individual, and according to his belief, knowledge, and faith, does he apply his particular method.

You and I, as Divine Scientists or students of Spiritual Truth, are interested in the spiritual method of healing. This method is at once very old and also very new; the Jesus Christ method or that form of healing that is a direct result of a higher consciousness, the direct application of spiritual Law.

According to the New Testament accounts, Jesus used different methods; laying on of hands; applying clay to blind eyes; testing their faith; commanding the evil to depart; and by speaking the word of truth.

Why did Jesus use these different approaches to heal the afflicted? Perhaps he instinctively recognized the way in which he could most easily gain the attention or impress the sufferer. With his keen insight he must have sensed the mental attitude of his patient and served him according to his need.

While Jesus met an outer need, we may be certain that these acts did not accomplish the healing.

They were a means to an end; but the power awakened in the soul, his direct contact with that soul, did the work.

Some of our modern psychologists are recognizing that Jesus had a knowledge of the mental powers of man that he used constantly. "Go, sin no more," "Do good to them that hate you," "For whether is it easier, to say, Thy sins (mistakes) be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise and walk?" Again and again Jesus recognized that the mental attitude was responsible for inharmonious experiences in the body.

This is a point that needs no proving to any thinking person.

Our question is, how shall I find the way out? What shall I do to be healed?

Some one will say, "Think right."

What is right thinking? How shall I recognize right thought? Is there a basis from which I may judge my thought?

These questions will lead to real understanding. Finding a "basis" from which to think will at once give us a true understanding; this is of the utmost importance.

Jesus had his basis in the realization that the "Father and I are one." He realized that there is but One Reality, visible and invisible, in this Universe; the I Am--- that I am of Moses, the all inclusive Presence of God.

One of the most helpful injunctions given by Jesus is: "Judge not according to the appearance but judge righteous judgment."

The *appearance* with its varied experiences, disharmonies, and temporary conditions is too often our *basis* for thinking. Since these experiences have no permanent foundation, they can not be "the foundation that standeth sure;" and this untrue thinking is too often the reason for our unhappy conditions.

What is righteous judgment? The answer is of the utmost importance to you and to me, for as we really answer correctly, we find our "Firm Foundation" for living--- for healing, for right thinking and joyful, powerful living.

Right judgment must be built upon a right premise. A right premise must be that which is eternal, true, and perfect. There is only One that answers this definition--- the Presence of God. Judging rightly

then is to judge from The One Perfect Presence, the Creative Intelligence and It's Perfect Law. "I do not see this," you may say. No! *but you may*. You may lift your vision above the "appearances" that seem so real but are constantly changing. You may, if you will, "Lift up your eyes unto the hills" of truth until the Reality of Life becomes so clear to you that you are aware that here and now you, as a manifestation of this One, are free and whole. Then you will find that *you are healed*.

The way to freedom lies in right thought control and right emotional control. These two personal forces must work together in positive, constructive action. It is sometimes difficult to realize the tremendous power of the individual; he finds within himself the power that he uses or misuses. He may spend hours in grief, remorse, regret; he may use the same force to forgive, restore, or to do something helpful for some one who needs it. He may waste this power in anger, in unkind words, in destructive acts, through the whole gamut of misused, uncontrolled force that must result in physical disharmony and unhappy living.

Right thinking and right use of emotional power are the direct steps that lead to spiritual living. Spiritual living means right use of Spiritual Law--- this must result in Spiritual Healing. Spiritual Healing includes the body as well as circumstances.

No one can make "brick without straw," solve a mathematical problem without the application of a rule or principle; neither can one heal physical disharmony, financial problems, or any other difficulties unless he *changes the reasons for these disharmonies*. He is in all of these conditions reaping that which he has sown; now he must *sow the kind of seed he desires to reap*. He now must sow to the Spirit, and he will reap the harvest of Spirit. It is quite a simple process if one is in earnest. Tell yourself what you believe to be Real and True in this world of ours.

Do you believe that an Intelligent Power is active in the universe?

Do you see all things brought forth under Law?

Do you see that this Activity and Law never changes, even if you have unpleasant experiences? The sun still shines. Something still makes plants grow. Something still produces, even if men come and go.

Try to cultivate the attitude of the eternal and turn away at times from the changing impermanency of life. As you do this, there will dawn upon you an awareness of Something greater than your "little self." It is your Real Self. This awareness we name realization, consciousness.

(to be continued in the August 2006 issue)

God believed in new beginnings  
that is why he gave us each new dawn.

The Pueblo Divine Science Church  
has proceeded on a "new beginning" path.  
It has changed its name to  
Church of the Living Christ  
Divine Science

The Divine Science Federation wishes you  
all the best on your new Spiritual journey.

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**Preparedness**  
**by W. John Murray**  
(continued--- part 2)  
from **The Gleaner** July 1916

(shared by The Northwoods Divine Science  
Resource Center, [www.angelfire.com/wi2/ULCds](http://www.angelfire.com/wi2/ULCds))

**(The lead paragraph from part 1 explains the  
essence of the first part of this article.)**

“The subject of preparedness is one that is occupying the human mind very much at the present time. We listen to orations on both sides of this very important question and we come away with a feeling that back of each speaker there is much that is true, much that is commendable and much that is worthy of adoption. We are almost distressed over the situation, because there is so much in favor of militarism and so much in favor of anti-militarism. The logic of both parties is almost unassailable, we are going to be thrashed if we are not prepared, and we are going to invite a thrashing if we do prepare.”

In the third chapter of the second book of Kings there is another wonderful incident related. The king of Israel had gone out to seize upon the king of Moab because the king of Moab had refused to pay his tribute money. With him he had taken two other kings, the object being to vanquish the king of Moab and seize upon his treasures as just payment for bills long rendered and long due.

For seven days the king of Israel and his two allies traveled across the wilderness and then camped; only to discover that in the place where they camped there was water for neither man nor beast; and over there was the fortress of the king of Moab. Men who have nothing to drink and horses who have nothing to drink can neither travel nor fight, and so the king of Israel became depressed and dejected. To go back was impossible. He was seven days away from his base of supplies. He was just one day from the fortress of the king of Moab. If the king of Moab should know that the king of Israel and his armies were starving for water, it would be a very easy matter to swoop down upon them and demolish them, great and powerful as they were; and in his despair the king of Israel cried out for some relief.

It was a cloudless sky and a hot day and there was no evidence of water anywhere on the great desert. In this moment of distress, one of the men

of the army came forward and said, “Elisha the prophet is in this vicinity.” Someone always seems to come along and tell us in the hour of our extremity that near us is a man of God; and the king of Israel with the king of Judah and the other king, went off in search of Elisha. Presently they found him. They poured out their tale of woe. The first thing that Elisha did to the king of Israel was to rebuke him for his apostasy, for his having turned his back upon his God in his days of prosperity, for having left God until the very last thing--- a rebuke which we all merit, really. The prophets did not spare kings any more than they spared peasants.

The king of Israel accepted the rebuke, and then Elisha said to him, “Make ditches in this valley. Make ditches.” Now in those days they made ditches in valleys for the purpose of being filled with water during the rainy season. From these ditches men and horses and cattle generally were refreshed and invigorated. Make ditches in a valley that is as dry as the desert of Sahara! Make ditches on a red-hot day with the sun shining in the heavens and not a cloud to indicate the approach of rain! Get ready! You know something about the law of preparedness, so far as your horses and your military are concerned, so far as your ammunition is concerned, but you don’t understand the law of preparedness on its higher plane.

There must have been some questioning in the minds of the kings. There must have been some argument going on mentally. “Why should we make ditches in Death Valley, a place where rain is rarely ever known to fall?” But obedience was the divine requirement, and so we find the Israelites to a man turning out into the valley and digging ditches all day long under a broiling sun; and in the sweat of their brows they dug ditches, and when night came they retired to their tents to sleep the sleep of weary men. In the morning, we are told, the ditches were filled with water.

Now this may sound like a fairy tale to those who do not believe in miracles, to those who do not believe in the operation of a higher law than we common people understand. But it is the illustration of what always takes place, always must take place, when men will actually prepare for the things they are praying for.

How many of us prepare for the thing we are praying for? We pray for health and we are honest in our prayer for it, but do we always prepare for its fulfillment in our physical economy? We pray for health but we are afraid of the consequences of our present malady. We pray for health but we resort to everything but the spiritual means to procure it. 6

The spiritual means of procuring health are so intangible, so incomprehensible. It is like expecting rain from a cloudless sky on a red-hot day, to believe a man should be healed by the power of thought alone without drugs and medication. That is so out of the ordinary that when a patient goes to a practitioner or a modern prophet, as we might speak of him, and is told to dispense with his drugs and rely absolutely upon the intangible and invisible power of the Holy spirit to heal him, I can imagine there is just as much questioning going on in his mind as there was in the days of the king of Israel. "How shall these ditches be filled since there is no evidence of approaching rain?" How are we to be healed unless this man rubs us or gives us something or does something to us that is physical and material and tangible? How is this healing going to take place unless we can watch the operation of the healing with our physical eye?"

These are the questions. A man or woman may be in the valley of financial difficulty, praying for relief from the pressure of finance, and like the widow who hugged her last vessel of oil, that man or woman may be clinging to the last few remaining dollars in the bank with the tenacity that is born of absolute despair.

Some time ago such a case occurred. Things looked black and gloomy in this particular valley of finance. Prayers had gone up without ceasing, but every day the man went to his office and expected nothing but bills. He dreaded to open his mail, knowing just what would fall out of each envelope. It meant a picture of more bills and a reminder of other bills that had been sent long ago. He clung to these few dollars which he knew were not sufficient to pay the big bills or even to provide a roof to shelter his family.

Such a man, like the king of Israel, turns to a modern prophet and asks what he shall do. He is told to dig ditches; dig ditches--- to prepare for the grandest things that he could ever experience in his life; to get ready for a more profitable business than he has ever done in his life. It sounds strange, unusual, absurd. What does the prophet say? "Take those few remaining dollars you have in the bank and advertise."

How many men have feared to advertise and yet have expected, through their prayers, that it would be known to the public that they were on earth and had goods on their shelves? They have prayed for success but they have feared poverty. (underlining by your Editor) The thing that God answers is the thing that is in the heart, not the thing that is on the lips of a man. If a man has a prayer for success on his

lips and a terrible fear and dread of failure in his heart, that is the thing that is going to come to him by the law of attraction. The prophet knew that the only way to correct that fear is to get the man to dig ditches, to do something, to reach out after the thing that he is praying for, literally reach out for it, to do something out of the ordinary, something unusual.

Years ago, one of the largest concerns in this country--- at least I have had it from a very good authority--- a concern that you are acquainted with because you have seen their advertisements everywhere--- Enoch Morgan Sons' Sapolio--- got to the place where it seemed as if the few thousand dollars they had in the bank would have to be paid to their creditors and they disorganize and disband and go out completely. There was a meeting of the board one day and the majority were in favor of doing this very thing, but one intrepid soul must have had a prophetic vision, for he said, "We ought to do one more thing before we give up." They listened to him, and this was his plan: To take every dollar that was in the bank and to put it into an advertising campaign. They were filled with fear, but he finally won. By the very strength of his character and by the very poise and power of his personality, he moved the others in his direction. The thing was done, and from that day to this Sapolio has been a paying proposition.

There is such a thing as hiding one's light under a bushel. There is such a thing as concealing one's best qualities. There is such a thing as being hyper-modest. I do not advocate immodesty in business or in anything else, but I believe that whatever is good or worth while is worth bringing to the attention of the people.

Jesus did not advertise in the daily papers, some of the churches tell us. But he advertised his goods by going up and down the villages and cities of the world of that day. He advertised not only by preaching about his goods, but actually delivering them. He advertised by performances in the market places. He let the world know that he was upon the earth. He had no mock modesty; howbeit, he had some sense of the fact that the Father was greater than he. On the other hand, he recognized the fact that he and the Father were one.

You remember when the people followed him out into the wilderness and were hungry and his disciples came to him, saying, "We have a great number here and they are hungry. Shall we send them back to their homes?" "No," he said, "feed them. Take care of them. They have come out here for a good purpose and now we will feed them," 7

not only spiritually, but in the way that they can best understand." "But," they said, "we have only five loaves and a few small fishes." He said, "Make them sit down in groups of five, ten and a hundred."

Now here we see preparedness with a vengeance--- nothing in sight but five small loaves and two small fishes, and making this great multitude sit down in groups of five, ten and a hundred, in order that they might be more expeditiously served. Remember that he made them sit down first. They must get ready for the thing that is going to come their way. They must get ready with all their heart and soul and mind and body, and then the thing will gravitate in their direction, just as responsibility gravitates in the direction of any man who is willing to assume it.

They sat down and they were fed, but they wouldn't have been fed if they hadn't sat down. Their very mental attitude would have offset the thing they craved, the thing they desired. If they had stood there and argued and questioned and worried about the situation, as to how the thing was going to be met, they would have defrauded themselves; and this is just what so many people do today. So many of our own people in Divine Science, who ought to know better, sit down and just wonder and marvel how this particular experience of theirs is going to be overcome, how the finance to meet this peculiarly pressing situation is going to come. They are thinking of this person and that person and the other person and a group of persons, and they can't see how it can humanly come; and then perhaps in their desperation the king of Israel is driven to the prophet within them. The reasoning intellect is driven to the divine intuition. The human inclinations of thought are silenced in those quiet moments when the soul finds its comfort and its solace and its vision in the realization of the presence of God.

The prophet is only a man who knows a little more of the divine law than we, that is all. The prophet is one who knows that there are operations of divine law on higher planes of consciousness than the ordinary rude man of the world understands. He doesn't create anything; he simply brings already existing things into manifestation. He simply proves that things never grow by standing still, but circulation is a divine law. You all know that in the money world, but if you are cherishing your last dollar, if you are hugging it, you don't know anything about circulation. You are afraid. Yea, though you pray for abundance and still keep that fear in your hearts, your last dollar will presently be taken away from you. Some unexpected

*Something* arises out of the blue and calls and demands that dollar and you have to give it up, and yet you were reserving it for something else. How often it has happened to us.

Dig ditches. If you are not satisfied with your lot in life, if it is not what you feel you are entitled to as the sons and daughters of God, don't content yourselves with merely praying about the situation. Go into the silence often and feel and know your unity with that Divine Opulence which is God, and then get ready. Do something. Reach out; take another room. Of course, it all sounds foolish, but no more foolish than digging ditches or getting empty vessels. And if you will see this, you will see that all through the Old and New Testaments, every prayer that was really answered was answered because of a certain amount of mental preparedness on the part of him who prayed. It would have been folly for the man stricken with palsy to pray and pray for physical healing without preparing to get it, so he urged the man who was carrying his bed to carry him up to the roof and break through the roof and lower him into the presence of Jesus. You know that is preparedness with a certain amount of vigor to it.

Here is a woman who for eighteen years has been praying for physical healing. She has been having constant hemorrhages. She has tried all the physicians of all the schools of her day and she has been gradually growing worse. Then one day she forces her way through a crowd, pushing perhaps rudely, because people do have to push rudely in order to get through a crowd that is pressing upon some individual. Perhaps she rudely elbowed her way in until she touched the hem of the garment of the Man who she believed could cure her. That was preparedness. In her heart she was saying to herself, "If I may but touch his garment, I will be whole." It was not enough for her to pray by the roadside or in the quiet of her home. She must reach out for this thing.

And so it is with us. Preparedness is that quality of the mind that reaches out to better one's situation in life by purely legitimate means; to rise above the limitations of every kind and character; to overcome the things that make for limitation and to seize upon the great, tremendous possibilities of the human mind, to bring out the things which you desire, and which are real and necessary to your progress, to your piety, to your power.

Have you only one pot of oil in the house? Go borrow three vessels and not a few. Have you only a few miserable dollars in the bank? Be ready to get more dollars. There is a lesson in this pouring out 8

of oil. How many times in life we have justified ourselves in shutting up the pores of our compassion when someone more needy than ourselves has applied and appealed to us and we have said, "I have only got just so much left. If I give to you, I shall have nothing for myself." Perhaps that is the lesson that the widow needed to learn: that if she got ready to pour the little oil she had in other vessels which contained none, she might discover that the very fount from which all oil proceeds is inexhaustible and omnipresent in its abundance. All she had to do was to distribute, to circulate the little she had; because it is true that through healthy circulation everything grows, not only in pots of oil but in pots of dollars. Keep them, hug them, cherish them--- will they grow? Not at all! They are like seeds in the garden which, scattered, fill the earth with grain. It is not the thing we keep that makes for prosperity; it is the thing we invest.

How many more men and women would invest if they could only overcome their sense of stupefying, paralyzing fear? How many men would broaden out into larger fields of opportunity; how many men would leave and quit their positions and go into business for themselves, and how many men would increase their business operations who are already in business if it were not for a certain sense of fear? They want to expand, they crave to expand, but inwardly they contract, through this repressing, suppressing sense of fear and dread. But the prophet says, "Dig ditches." "Get more vessels." Don't be contracting your outlay to the thing you have. Reach out; expand. That is what you are here for.

"Behold, we are the sons of God." "God created us to have dominion," says the psalm. A man is not having dominion so long as he is contracting his outlook, and so the admonition of the prophet to the king of Israel and to the woman of Israel was: to the one, "Dig ditches," and to the other, "Get vessels;" and of Jesus to the assembled multitude: "Sit down."

Get ready--- that is the great thing, *get ready*. We have prayed for the best. We have prayed for the best, and prepared by a strange instinct of the uneducated mind for the worst, haven't we? Haven't you? Of course you have. We have prayed for the best in life and prepared for death; prayed for health and prepared for the days of sickness; prayed for sunshine and prepared for the rainy day.

We pray for prosperity but we don't make any effort to contain it when we get it, and that is why so much of it spills over into riotous living. We don't prepare anything into which to put our increasing abundance. We don't see a place to put it where it

is going to do the most good. We pray for prosperity and we get it, legitimately or illegitimately, and it slops over into the Great White Way or any other way that comes along.

But this does not change the fact that there is preparedness and the necessity of it. If you are praying for expansion, reach out. Advertise more. Don't be too modest about your goods, if they are worth while. If they are not worth while, get rid of them. Above all things, remember that it is only in the degree that you are prepared to receive the blessings of God that you will receive them; not in the degree that you are prepared to pray and petition and supplicate for them, but in the degree that you are prepared to dig ditches; provide vessels; and sit down, in order that Christ may feed you upon the increased abundance which is always at hand and which belongs to you as the sons and the daughters of God.

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Do you want your life changed for the better?  
Then get your hopes and ideals  
out of the dream stage by positive action.  
It is so easy to refuse to act,  
to make excuses  
concerning a better time in some tomorrow.  
Yet Life reminds us that the only time we really live  
is "NOW."  
Our Scripture states: "Now is the Accepted Time."  
Yes, now is the time to know that  
because God is with you as  
Intelligence, Harmony, and Love,  
you can change your life for the better.  
Through right thinking and right living you can,  
successfully, and you will, beginning right now.

The purpose of the soil  
is to grow whatever seed is given it.  
The soil will grow peppers or petunias,  
carrots or cauliflower.  
The soil will reproduce  
what the individual places there as seed.  
Thoughts are mental seeds.  
The mind has a way of reproducing outwardly  
whatever seed-thought  
becomes a belief or conviction.

Therefore, today, I will express thoughts of  
Harmony, Health, Stability, Success.  
Today, I will Live and Love and Work  
with an expectant heart.  
For this I know: What I think upon, grows.

---Max H. Ballard – *Meditations* 9

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## **JULY 2006**

**A Divine Science Federation International  
Newsletter**

**L** ove  
**I** ntegrity  
**F** reedom  
**E** xcellence

**We Welcome You!**

To BELIEVE is one thing; to KNOW is another.

To believe in the omnipresence of God is one thing; to know it is quite, another matter. The Outstanding difference between the old teaching and the new, lies right here: the old teaching said, 'Believe in God;' the new teaching says, 'Know God.' Know, realize, become aware that God is here, at hand, and within; His perfect love, wisdom, and power which created all--- are forever supporting and sustaining that creation in perfection. This is what is meant by knowing the Divine Omnipresence.

It is this 'knowing' that is the basis of all spiritual healing, of all demonstrating of good, as practiced in the advanced thought movements today. It is by

an inner perception, quite apart from and often contrary to the outer appearance, that the presence of God as the answer to every prayer, as the supply for every need, is realized and eventually brought forth as the desired good. Knowing that one lives and moves and has his being in a presence that is Infinite Love and Wisdom, removes all fear and brings a sense of being surrounded by never failing love and protection. It is this awareness which breathes through the Twenty-third Psalm: 'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.'

---Gladys C. Grier