

"A seeker of silences am I



and what treasures have I found in silences that I may dispense with confidence." ---Kahlil Gibran

SPIRIT in ACTION

A Divine Science Federation International Newsletter
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January 2007

We Welcome You!

The Marvelous Power of the Silence ---

Part I

Joseph Murphy

(Dr. Joseph Murphy an internationally known writer and lecturer, was minister of the Church of Divine Science, Laguna Hills, CA. prior to his transition.)

*True silence is the resting of the mind in God,
and as sleep nourishes and refreshes the body,
so does communion with God nourish, sustain, and revitalize man.*

I read an article some time ago about Mary Austin, who wrote a book called *Every Man's a Genius*. People said to her, "How do you do this work? What do you do when you write a book?" She replied something like this: "I just know what the idea is. I think about the idea and enjoy it; then in the silence at night, prior to sleep, I dwell upon the book, knowing that the theme, the characters, and the ideas will be given to me. When I awaken in the morning I have the whole book, and I sit down and write it."

The Silence consists of withdrawing your attention and the appearances of the senses from the external world and focusing your attention on your ideal, goal, or objective, knowing that the Infinite Intelligence within you will respond and reveal the answer.

Robert Louis Stevenson practiced the Silence regularly and systematically. Prior to sleep, with his attention withdrawn from the sense world round about him and turning inward to the Wisdom and the Power, he would request his deeper consciousness to evolve stories for him while he slept. Mind responded magnificently.

Stevenson said, "These little brownies (the intelligences and powers of his subconscious) can tell me a story piece by piece, like a serial, and keep me, its supposed creator, all the while in total ignorance of where they aim." And he added, "Part of my work which is done when I am up and about is by no means necessarily mine, since all goes to show that the brownies have a hand in it even then."

Kahlil Gibran, who wrote *The Prophet*, not only deliberated in the silences of the night, communing with the God-Self within him, but daily contemplated the inner radiance, love, truth, and beauty within him. Gibran turned frequently within to the One, the Beautiful, and the Good, and wrote, "A seeker of silences am I and what treasures have I found in silences that I may dispense with confidence?" He drew wisdom, truth, and beauty from the everlasting Fountain of living waters within and wrote majestic gems of wisdom.

To practice the Silence you do not have to lead the life of the hermit. Your destiny is to lead a full life and to enter into the glorious liberty of the sons of God. You are here to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. You are here to let your light shine, thereby glorifying God in your mind, body, and all phases of your life. You are here to overcome problems and difficulties, as well as to rise above all obstacles through the power and wisdom of God. Your great joy is in the act of overcoming, for it is in this manner that you discover the divinity within you. You are here to sharpen your mental and spiritual tools and to meet all challenges head-on, knowing that not only is the problem there, but God is there, too; and "with God all things are possible."

I have visited many places in the world where men and women retreat from life, but I look upon this attitude as a negative way of living. Self-denial in the true sense does not mean that you refuse to enjoy life or reject the good things of life. True happiness and wisdom are found in putting your hand to the wheel of life and in moving forward in expansion and accomplishment.

Following one of my lectures, I talked with a man who had been executive vice president of a huge corporation. He told me that he had suffered a nervous break-down and a cardiac attack from pressures due to internal strife in the organization. When he had fully recuperated, however, and had returned to his office, he adopted the following procedure.

Every morning he would close his office door and spend ten or fifteen minutes communing and conversing with God. He claimed that infinite Intelligence was directing all his activities for the day, that divine Love and Harmony prevailed where discord was apparent, and that his judgment, decisions, and purchases would be governed by

the wisdom of God anointing his intellect while revealing the perfect plan and showing him the way he should go. He would claim boldly that God knew all the answers to all problems and that he was one with God. When he called upon this supreme Wisdom it always answered him. His final thought in the silence was, "Divine law and order govern me, the board of directors, and the entire organization, and I radiate love, peace, and good will to all." Following this procedure he never missed a day at work, was healthier and happier in every way, and business prospered beyond his fondest dreams.

On another occasion, a certain woman told me that her children were driving her crazy. I suggested to her that every morning she set aside about fifteen minutes to read the Ninety-first and Twenty-third Psalms aloud and then close her eyes and detach herself from her surroundings. She was to *think* of God's infinite love, boundless wisdom, supreme power, and absolute harmony, and *feel* the atmosphere of love, peace, joy, and happiness surrounding and enfolding her children--- claiming at the same time that His love and His peace filled her mind and heart and that the children were growing in grace and beauty, wisdom and understanding. She followed these instructions--- recharged her "batteries" with the power and wisdom of God--- thus her whole life was transformed. Her love for her children grew by leaps and bounds. ***This is the power of the Silence.***

One time, as thunder and lightning encircled the plane on which I was traveling to the Orient, the pilot told me that he had recited the Twenty-third Psalm, saying, "God's love surrounds this plane, and I bring it down in divine order." This he did and no one was hurt. He had refused to panic, thereby releasing the healing currents of love and protection for all.

"In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." Isaiah 30:15
The greatest power is characterized by quietness. A flood may rush down a mountain, inundating a whole town, sweeping away everything before it, but engineers can channel this water through pipes and turbines and light up a city. Rawson, author of *Life Understood*, said that the greatest prayer is the contemplation of God, the only Presence and the only Power. **Be a quiet channel!**

All of our external labor, activities, achievements are representations of our mental attitude. If we worry, we are only projecting our anxiety into our work, resulting in high blood pressure, excess tension, and nervous exhaustion. When our mind is not quiet and orderly, we are poor producers. We may work very hard, but our labor will not be very productive because we are not producing mentally.

A man complained to me that he could not get a job because he did not have a union card. Furthermore, he did not have the money to join the union. He wanted to send his son to college and to purchase a home, but he said, "I'm frustrated at every step." I said to him that he should listen to the true voice within himself. He was looking at the negative aspect of things, but faith comes through hearing the eternal truths of God. He mobilized his attention at night and became still, affirming, "Infinite Intelligence opens a door of expression for me where I am divinely happy and divinely prospered. God opens up the way for my boy to go to college and God's wealth flows to me in an avalanche of abundance." In the not too distant future he met a former employer who engaged him at a good salary, and who turned over a cottage near the plant to this man and his wife. With the increase in salary he was able to send his son to college. The answer had come from the depths of himself as he meditated on God's love and beneficence in the silence of the night.

When you close the door of your senses, you are no longer distracted by sense perceptions of the world, and you can silently dwell on the Presence of God within you. You should go into this Silence in a joyful, receptive and expectant attitude, knowing that infinite Intelligence will respond when you call. When you go to the pond or fountain for water, you take a bucket or some other proper receptacle in which to receive the water. Likewise, when you tune in to the Infinite, your receptive mind (the receptacle) will be filled with the infinite Healing Presence and all the gifts of God. (to be continued)

When Prayer Draws a Blank

Fletcher A. Harding

(Dr. Fletcher Harding, lecturer and author was Minister Emeritus of the Encino Community Church, a Divine Science affiliate until his transition.)

One day, in one of our Personal Enrichment classes, a young man said to me,

"Whenever I pray I seem to draw a blank."

I remembered that in the Scriptures it is recorded that some of Jesus' students came to him and asked,

"Why is it that when *you* pray miraculous things seem to happen and when *we* pray we don't get the same kind of results?"--- or words to that effect. He said to them, "It is because you pray amiss."

From the dawn of history man began to relate to his environment on the basic assumption that there was something *out there* that was magical beyond the dimensions of his own control and his own experience. He prayed to this Something *out there*.

The only validation there is for truth is the experience of it, and prayer is the beginning of the validation of truth. In prayer you develop enough faith to take off your mask and be yourself. It is where, in your own mind, you put some things together that you can live with affirmatively and creatively. No one lives with phony values comfortably, no one lives with idealized images realistically, no one lives with fear productively. Somewhere along the line I learned that when anyone dares to put down the façade and be himself, honestly and forthrightly, he discovers that the self he is being is enough.

I attended a funeral for a relatively young man, during which the minister addressed the widow. He said to her, "I rather expect that there are questions in your mind as to why he should be taken so young; but," he continued, "don't question it. Never put a question mark where the Lord has put a period. In the Bible we are told that God created man, and He said, 'It is good.' That is the period--- remove your question marks." But this is a partial statement, for the more we learn of the nature of life, the more accurately we can say that God *is creating us all of the time*. The divine experiment!

Life is finding out what it is *as you* and *through you*, the way it is, *is you*. As Ernest Holmes said, "God in man as man is man." That is a statement that you can think about a long time and live with fruitfully; but if we have assumed that the celestial Power or cosmic Force is *out there*, we find ourselves in a kind of psychological trap; because if it is out there, we pray to it to do something for us. Now, however, the shift of the scene is as simple as this: we have now learned, primarily through the study of the nature of man and his behavior, that 3

each of us is an instrument of the flow of energy, and it is up to us whether we direct our life energy to some destructive end with fear and hate and doubt and self-depreciation, or to some productive and creative end. If I understand completely that I am an instrument of the flow of life force, or spirit, then I understand prayer on a different basis. I no longer pray *for* things. I discipline my mind and utilize my thinking forces to fashion a direction and completion.

We have all read the articles in our metaphysical magazines about the creative use of imagination. You are admonished to imagine yourself as being that successful person; you are taught to imagine yourself as living the abundant life; you are taught to picture yourself being vital and alive and healthy, doing all of the great things that we feel God intended for us in this life. We would not discourage this, but let me clarify a point, as I understand it. When you picture yourself as being this successful person, or as being this wise and inspired person, you project a picture. Now life does not get busy *out there* and make the picture. God does not pick up the blue print of your imagination and say, "My child, I am going to manufacture it for you and set it down in your path so that inevitably you will run into it." That is not the way it works, according to my experience. When you picture something you organize interiorly all of the energies, all of the molecules, all of the atoms, all of the electrical forces, all of the digestive juices, and all of the emotional overtones to move you in the direction of the fulfillment of your own dream. It happens from within us.

If you understand that prayer works on this kind of a creative basis, if you then are diligent in praying, you are not apt to draw a blank; but if you do, it is simply because you have not kept it up long enough, or intently enough.

I once asked Otto Preminger why so many people failed in the movie industry. He said, "The only reason that they fail is because they quit too soon." As Paul once said, "Pray without ceasing." You keep it up until you *do it*, not until it is done for you. You keep it up until you *do* it.

Pray without ceasing and behold the wonders of God in the life of man. Rejoice in them and be fulfilled. If you understand that it comes through you, and that you organize your interior forces of energy toward a given achievement and keep it up until it is done, never again will you pray amiss. It is

when you are accommodating the flow of spiritual energy in an affirmative direction that the Father within you is working to do great things.

Each person must find the reality of his being. Let there be a picture in your heart and in your mind of what your prayerful mind conceives to be good. If you do not have anything in particular that you are working on, just say to yourself, "Something wonderful is going to happen," because the sense of anticipation of the wonder organizes the creative flow of life in you toward something beautiful.

The Meditation of MY Heart

Hazel Jones

Each week at the close of our Sunday School hour, my class would repeat the petition:

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."

Throughout the week I would find myself grateful for this reminder to keep watch over my words, and especially over my thoughts. For me, it is easier to control the "words of my mouth" (the things we actually say) than it is to control the "meditation of my heart" (the things on which we think). If people around us could know our innermost thoughts as they do our words, they would have a truer concept of the kind of person we really are. We can, to a great extent, control our thoughts, our meditations, and it is to our advantage that we do so.

Several years before Jesus Christ was born, a Roman ruler, who was also a noted philosopher, said: "Our life is what our thought makes it."

In modern times, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale wrote: "We are not what we think we are; but what we think--we are."

We experience what we think about mostly.

If we think defeat, are we apt to be a success?"

If our thoughts are happy ones,
how can we be sad?"

God would like our thoughts to be more than just acceptable. Golden thoughts are found throughout the Bible:

"God is Love."

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

"God is our refuge and strength."

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it."

(The following is a very uplifting letter that I recently received from a Divine Science Minister in Australia. I am sure she won't mind my sharing it with you.

In the letter she speaks of some of the hardships, but most of all she speaks of the many joys--- and she asks for prayers, so that the doors to the metaphysical teachings of God's Word may be opened wide to all. ---the editor)



8th December 2006

Dear Mary,

Forgive my long delay in answering your September 13th letter - I have been very busy as usual. Taking Services while our Unity Minister away - arranging our Interfaith Day which was well attended and our best one yet. A great feeling of Goodwill and togetherness - the Divine Presence permeating the proceedings in a wonderful way even though we were entertaining people from groups with quite different beliefs to ours -Godself meeting Godself - a wonderful day!

Thank you Mary for your prayers - Thank you - Thank you - Thank you - Melbourne has won the bid for the staging of the World Parliament of Religions in 2009! We are all thrilled here and mobilising ourselves for the big event. Of course, the traditional churches will take centre stage but we Smaller groups (the Australian Government lumps us together as "Non - aligned Churches") are determined that we will get recognition and have a high profile in the proceedings. Much work to be done - much prayerwork to lift us into our rightful place. Please see us being included in the World Parliament. Your powerful prayers are much needed!

Thanks for the subscription to At-one-ment expanded to 2 years.

Thanks also for the Application for Membership which I am at a loss how to fill in at present. As you know I do not have a formal Divine Science Group at the moment. I am like a Minister-at-Large who keeps in touch with several people in country areas or interstate at various times. Yvonne Pellacchi has started the Practitioner training and she comes down from her Country town of Drouin on a regular basis. Happily, Joyce Copeland has moved from Rainbow to a town much nearer, Kurongvale, and she will be able to get down here on the train in 2 hours. Others ring me and come to visit me when they can or come to Unity Church for my Services.

I've decided to keep the application forms until the New Year when I hope to have started my regular group. Which was to start early this year but I had another knee mishap which delayed it all. Happily, my knees are fine now and looking to start a formal Divine Science group and start legal Incorporation proceedings as a recognized Divine Science Church. I'll send the application as soon as it is formalised.

Dear Mary thanks for your kind generosity of Spirit. We will be most grateful if you can arrange for a generous donor to cover the annual dues. Yes, it will be passed on to those most in need when we are a "LARGE AND ALL-ENCOMPASSING CHURCH" as you wrote in your letter. Thanks so much for your positive outlook and encouragement.

I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a most wonderful Christmas and a very Happy and Fulfilling New Year.

Love and all God's Blessings,

P.S. My computer has completely crashed and it is away getting a new motherboard whatever that is - it will be some weeks before I get it back.

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The Four Evangelists (continued)
New Testament History
From the *Divine Science Bible Text Book*
A.B.Fay

Part II

Events of about six months from Jesus' baptism, until the beginning of the ensuing Passover---
The Baptism of Jesus (spoken of in):

Matthew 3:13-17	Luke 12:50
Mark 1:9-11	Matthew 20:23
Luke 3:21-22	Mark 10:38

Jesus baptized not.	John 4:2
Inward baptism.	Colossians 2:11-12
Jesus the Christ sent to preach the gospel, not to baptize.	1 Corinthians 1:17
Baptism.	Romans 6:3-4

Baptism, inward illumination--- the "Day after" baptism John said, "Behold the Lamb of God." The second day Jesus calls disciples. John 1:35-36, 43

Third day after was the marriage in Cana. Three days, purifying process; Jesus was beginning in his unfoldment. Philemon 2:1-2

John the Baptist's method of baptism is to pass (as spoken of in):

Matthew 3:11	John 1:30-33
Mark 1:7-8	John 3:30
Luke 3:16-17	Acts 1:5

Acts 19:1-6 and 18-25

The Temptation of Jesus:
Matthew 4:1-11 Luke 4:1-13
Mark 1:12-13

Let no man say when he is tempted, "I am tempted of God," for God cannot be tempted with evil doing, neither tempteth he any man. But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. James 1:13
Devil: father of lies, liar from the beginning, a superstition; no reality.
Jesus did not kill Satan, (for there was) *nothing* to kill, no reality. Give no place nor power to the devil.

Personal desire tempted him. Three classes of temptation, supply, personal protection, personal dominion.

Fasting: the attitude of meditation and concentration upon Truth which frees us from personal opinions and personal beliefs. Jesus worked out the problem of personality. Jesus fasted forty days. Forty is one of the numbers in the Bible which we can take to mean a finished condition, or the completion of a certain process in development, the working out of a problem. Moses was on the Mount forty days, communing with God, getting the law.

In the Law of Moses it is said of the wicked man that he must be given forty stripes, no more. It means complete redemption from that condition. The Israelites wandered forty years in the wilderness, until all the generations that had done evil in the sight of the Lord had been consumed, until that condition had been finished. Exodus 24:18

Saul and David and Solomon each reigned forty years.

Paul says, "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one." II Corinthians 11:24

Jesus was seen forty days after his resurrection before his ascension. Acts 1:3

In these instances, and many more, we plainly see the significance of the number.

Jesus had a problem to work out in the forty days. Angels ministered to him, waited upon him, during his fast of forty days. Mark 1:13

Jesus gained the realization, I am the son of God. "Thou shalt not *Tempt* the Lord thy God."

Deuteronomy 6:16

Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God.
Deuteronomy 6:13, 10:20
Joshua 24:14
1 Samuel 7:3

Jesus had not conquered every *sense* of separation, but he did not yield to it when he commanded Satan to go behind him. Personality tempts us to believe that we can do all things, and promises us all the kingdoms of the world (showing that these belong to the personal belief), if we will but acknowledge personal power. To be nothing apart from God is not so easy after the high vision of man's sonship.

Part III

Some of the events that took place during the twelve months from the beginning of the *first* Passover:

Jesus visits Capernaum. John 2:12

Jesus goes to Jerusalem at the Passover, and casts the traders out of the temple. John 2:13-25

"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." John 2:19

Moses erected the tabernacle, the temple of the Israelites in their journeyings.

Solomon reproduced it in an edifice of wood and stone upon its rocky foundation.

Jesus raised his body, the temple of the living God, in three days through his consciousness of its perfection. By resurrection he proved that "death" has no power over the body.

By his ascension, when that body disappeared from human gaze, he proved that here and now this mortal is to put on immortality. Hebrews 2:14-15

Mortality is "swallowed up of life" when consciousness of Life fills our vision. 2 Corinthians 5:4

Transformation of the body is not a change in the real nature of the body, but a change in our thought of the body. Soul and body are one; "what God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

In the parable of the marriage feast, we find the lesson of the necessity of the perfect body accompanying the right understanding of the unity of individual soul with Spirit. Matthew 22:2-14

The invitation to the wedding is the appeal of Truth to each individual to come into recognition of its oneness with Universal Spirit. A guest appears without a "wedding garment," and he is ejected from the banquet. Clothing is the external and symbolizes the body. The wedding garment is the perfect body.

As the guest not having on this garment shames the master of the feast, so does the soul that

professes conscious unity with Spirit dishonor Spirit if it is not "clothed" with perfect body.

We may claim this unity, but "by their fruits ye shall know them." If the visible does not manifest Divine likeness, it simply proves that our souls are wedded to some thought besides that of Spirit. If our soul is consciously wedded to Spirit, all outward conditions will be perfect.

In the barren fig tree we find the same suggestion. The tree was incomplete; beautiful in appearance, yet it was cursed (rejected) because it bore no fruit, brought forth no proof of its source.

Matthew 21:19

"For He is our peace, who hath made both one" (Spirit and flesh--- inner and outer), "and hath broken down the middle wall of partition" (rent the veil of ignorance). "Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, for to make in himself of twain" (that which had been supposed to be two, differing in kind and substance) "one new man, so making peace."

Ephesians 2:14-15

"By me (by my understanding) "if any man enter in" (realizes unity) "he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture." John 10:9

Such consciousness shall find eternal substance (pasture) in both inner and outer, in both soul and body; no belief in separation; for all things are seen in oneness with Spirit.

Reconciliation, or the reconciling of our thoughts to the consciousness of agreement everywhere between all things, is at-one-ment.

Colossians 1:20

Jesus did not make the atonement or at-one-ment, *He revealed* it. At-one-ment is an eternal verity. Truth is not man-made, but *man-discovered*.

Ephesians 1:10

In the light of the At-one-ment, that which was supposed to be "twain" is seen as one; the veil of separation is "done away" between God and God's expression and manifestation, between the universal man as Spirit, and the individual man as living soul and body. The inner and outer are now *known* as one; the Spirit and the body are now known as one and the sacredness of the body begins to be realized.

"There is but one temple in the universe, and that is the body of man. Nothing is holier than that high form." 1 John 4:2

Oneness with God is the At-one-ment that redeems each living soul and body, by revealing the Truth that living soul and body are one in the Spirit that begot them. Realization of unity is At-one-ment that each must make as Jesus did, by seeing and knowing man's oneness with God.

Jesus' (has) discourse with Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. John 3:1-21

The great teacher shows very plainly the necessity of man's birth into the consciousness of his divinity and his divine possibilities; into the understanding that that which is born of Spirit is Spirit, like begets like. Man cannot enter the kingdom of God consciously until he realizes the truth of his unity with God, the omnipresence of God.

Jesus was the "first born among many brethren," the first to know the truth of himself as the son of God.

The Christ principle (the individual soul) is *the* Son and not a Son. Mark 12:35-37

Jesus tarries in Judaea where his disciples baptized. John the Baptist asserts the greater spiritual unfoldment of Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:22-36
John 4:1-3

Passing through Samaria, Jesus meets the woman and did not prevent her carrying the deep teaching he gave her to her people.

John 4:1-42

To worship is to acknowledge the Truth that God is Spirit.

True worship is to acknowledge in Truth.

John 4:20, 21, 23, 24

After John the Baptist's imprisonment, Jesus retires into Galilee and exercises his public ministry.

Matthew 4:12

Mark 1:14-15

Luke 4:14

John 4:43-45

He heals the son of King Herod's officer, who lay sick at Capernaum. John 4:46-54

Jesus goes to Nazareth, where he preserves his own life by his consciousness of the presence of God. Later he fixes his dwelling at Capernaum.

Matthew 4:13-16

Luke 4:15-31

The call (comes from Jesus) to Simon, Andrew and James and John.

Matthew 4:18-22

Mark 1:16-20

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus attended by some of his disciples teaches and heals throughout Galilee.

Matthew 8:14-17

Matthew 4:23-25

Mark 1:29-39

Luke 4:38-44

Part IV

(These are) some of the events that took place during the twelve months, from the beginning of the second Passover:

(Read) Matthew 5th, 6th, 7th chapters.

The Sermon on the Mount.

Read Matthew 4:23-25--- Jesus' Philosophy of Life.

"Seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain, and when he was set (settled, established in consciousness) his disciples came unto him."

We can lead others to truth only as we ourselves are fully convinced, and are faithful to what we know.

"He opened his mouth and taught"--- and the first words are benedictions. Jesus says first of all that conditions that men usually pity are blessed! They that are poor in spirit, that mourn, that are meek, that hunger and thirst after righteousness, all of these conditions are called happy. Why? Because they that have riches of intellect, of externals, of abundance in the outer, are likely to feel satisfied with that which is temporary. While those who feel empty will seek. Those who have little to boast of in the personal, will turn to the eternal and greater things of Truth.

Then Jesus says, Those who are merciful shall be treated with mercy, or as he said later--- The measure we give forth shall return to us--- The judgment we pass on others shall be passed on us. Jesus simply speaks of a law--- the measure we mete, the judgment we make is in accord with the development of our thoughts, it proves the level of belief upon which we are living and no better than this can be given out or received by us.

"The pure in heart shall see God," because that is the God-like consciousness.

The peace-makers are called happy. While they are exercised in bringing peace to others, they are, by the law we have spoken of, making their own peace, for they are in the realization of peace.

Two more strange "Blesseds" fall from his lips. They that are persecuted for righteousness' sake, and they that are reviled and spoken evil against falsely--- not the attitude of a martyr, but the love of Truth for Truth's sake is encouraged here.

"Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven," harmony or consciousness. It is the inward and not the outward that counts

Matthew 5:20

It is such souls that give to living its positiveness that preserve its interest; such souls are a light to the world, because free from personality. They can shine and let their light be seen since all the glory of it will be ascribed to God.

Truth comes not to destroy anything real, but to fill our recognition to the full of that which eternally is.
Matthew 5:17

Men of old spoke according to their light. Jesus speaks from the fuller light. "Be ye perfect."
Matthew 5:21-48 Matthew 5:38-39, 42
Matthew 5:23-25 Matthew 5:43-48

(to be continued)

What is the Fundamental Teaching of Divine Science?

(taken from *Short Lessons in Divine Science*
by Nona L. Brooks)

Purpose: To give the student a simple and definite statement of the Principle upon which all Divine Science reasoning and every conclusion is based.

This (writing) deals with Omnipresence, our basic teaching in Divine Science, and gives our reasons for believing in this supreme Truth of the Universe. Divine Science lays its greatest emphasis upon Omnipresence. It is vital that the student should have this fundamental truth thoroughly grounded in thought before he proceeds to consider the further unfoldment of this system of teaching.

Knowledge of Omnipresence is necessary if one is to realize his God-given power.

Omnipresence! I hope that you will get a great deal of meaning out of this word, and that you will come to love it as I do. Moreover, I hope that what it suggests will come to be the very Guiding Power of your life.

Omnipresence! The many in the One and the One in the many; the All-Knowing, All-Powerful One.

All forms and forces are the expressions of Omnipresent, Intelligent substance. There is just one Creation.

He who is religiously inclined, clothes this Supreme Truth in religious phraseology, and speaks of the All-Inclusive One as God. The scientifically inclined thinker will speak of the Infinite and Eternal Energy, the Cosmic Intelligence, from which all things proceed; while the philosopher will delight in the transcendent and immanent One.

Be certain that the idea--- there is One and only One in all the universe--- is clear to you, whatever form in language the thought may take.

"All are but parts of one stupendous whole,
whose body nature is, and God the Soul."

Spirit, Living substance, God, is everywhere, and there is no other substance. Mind, the Infinite Intelligence of God, is everywhere, and there is no other intelligence.

Hence, we live in a Universe of God-Substance and God-Thought. To one who sees this, there comes the fulfillment of the prophecy of the new heaven and the new earth.

Divine Science did not accept lightly its doctrine of Omnipresence; and the years of teaching and demonstrating this Principle have proved its certainty.

Here are some of the reasons that have led us to accept Omnipresence as Truth:

The great spiritual seers of every age have believed it.

The Bible gives the same thought in many different ways.

Poets have sung it, and philosophers have used it as the basis of their philosophical systems.

Nature in her infinite variety of expressions proves Omnipresent Intelligence and Activity.

Jesus teaches it at every point.

It is interesting to see that even the natural scientists have discovered the same truth, and while some of them might reject the thought, when given in terms other than their own, nevertheless they are expressing the same idea very definitely. They affirm one substance in place of the many once proclaimed; they find one intelligence working everywhere, with one purpose, to one end. Therefore, unity has become a principle of natural science.

Again, the concept of Omnipresence is satisfying to the one who goes back of externals, and grasps the reality of things. It gives a principle of interpretation. It opens up new fields of research. It is a continuous delight mentally and spiritually.

When we accept Omnipresence as a working hypothesis; that is, when we assume Omnipresence to be Truth and live as if it were Truth, we find that our Principle works. It is applicable to all of our experiences and problems. We find healing, happiness, power, and success for ourselves and others, through the application of this Truth, that is, through the practice of the Presence of God.

The highest reason for the acceptance of Omnipresence is that when one has truly laid
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hold of the God-Consciousness, he *knows* that the One Presence is All.

First, then, in the attainment of power is the acceptance of this Basis, the Omnipresence, as the Truth of the Universe.

Or, if we cannot do this honestly, let us assume it as a working basis, in order that we may have the opportunity of proving for ourselves its truth, We who accept fully shall get easier and quicker results. We who assume this hypothesis shall, in time, discover for ourselves. We shall grow and shall finally be assured.

The reader is urged to make the contents of this chapter his own through study and practice that he may be prepared to understand the next ("How Shall We Apply the Truth of Omnipresence to Our Daily Problems?") and to get full benefit from it. The following suggestions are given for daily practice for a week.

Think on the great Truth of Omnipresence in some such way as this---

Omnipresence is Truth.

This means that:

God includes me now.

God-Love is caring for me now.

God-Wisdom is guiding me now, in this problem.

God-Abundance is supplying my present need.

I can trust this Power and must not fear.

I am thankful for the Truth that makes me free.

These affirmations may be applied to others whom you wish to help.

Live faithfully by these truths, and you will find yourself unfolding into the realization of Power.