

SPIRIT in ACTION

A Divine Science Federation International Monthly Publication

September 2008

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“God is Ever so Near”

by Rev. Andres Delorian Lucas

February 1988

The following is a sermon presented by Rev. Lucas at the Divine Science Church of Crestwood in St. Louis, Missouri. Rev. Lucas was involved with Unity before being ordained as Divine Science minister under the teachings of Dr. Irwin Gregg. He was minister at the Crestwood church until his transition in 1993.

Oscar Wilde once asked to define success said, "Success is like manure. If you spread it around, it does a lot of good, but if you pile it up in one place, it stinks like the dickens." I like that!

Do you know you were created for success? It was never intended for you to be limited. You were created to be free, to be success unlimited, to be happy and experience a rich and full life.

But, somewhere along the way, something has happened to make it seem otherwise. Man began to think for himself, independently of God. He began to limit himself by his own limited thoughts and actions of fear and doubt. Man's independent thinking of himself as something separated from God or from absolute good acts as a governor to limit him. You know what a governor on a truck is...You set the governor and it regulates or controls the speed of the truck. It keeps you from traveling over a certain speed.

Each one of us has let the world place governors upon us, limiting us in expression. Sometimes we do the placing of these governors upon ourselves through ignorance and wrong beliefs. But the fact is the governors are there, and we must individually do the removing of them, or else we are not free.

For instance, the average human being thinks of himself or the world about him, thinking of himself as inadequate and seeing the world as unable to help him in providing for his needs, he begins to feel inadequate and insecure. This brings on all sorts of troubles for him. Over the years he has been taught he is nobody and the world has pushed him around and used him. So, he first begins to feel inadequate, turns to resentment and starts to lash out at others, only hurting himself even more. But he is something of value, and was created to be more than he knows.

While I was doing my theological studies in preparation for the ministry; I was assigned to the Kansas state penitentiary as the assistant chaplain. I guess with my background as a public office holder, a judge, I was faced with a real challenge from the prison population. I taught two classes a week at the women's compound and gave three Sunday services to the entire prison population once each month.

Their first reaction to me was one of hate; then as time wore on, I gained the respect of all the people I worked with---and the challenge to me became very rewarding.

To this day, I still get letters from the friends and acquaintances I met during my ten months of internship at the prison. I received a letter recently from a young man in the prison who was very bitter and resentful.

He felt he was the victim of other people, that he was an innocent victim and shouldn't be in prison. He said other persons had treated him so badly that eventually he lashed out and did something he did not want to do, but could not help himself. As a result, he ended up in prison as a very unhappy person. He asked me, "What makes

people so evil, what makes them treat others so harshly?"

I could only say to him that they know not what they do because they do not know God or understand themselves.

The only answer for all of this is to begin thinking about ourselves and our true relationship with our source, God. God has created us from within himself and God is still active in maintaining and sustaining us by expressing himself through us. All the nature of God and his divine attributes flow through us, because we are that place in God where he appears or expresses Himself individually as us.

One thought which will remove all governors is this: since we are all made out of the nature of God, we must have our own individual nature, God nature. All that God is, is flowing or expressing out through each one of us.

At our prayer group, each Sunday and Wednesday, and at our Sunday services here with you, I use the "prayer of protection" as my benediction to you. Have you ever taken time to use this prayer as your own theme for meditation and contemplation? Have you ever used it for a healing treatment or to increase your income, to bring forth greater peace and order in your life and world, or to give yourself a greater sense of security and strength?

Its theme, like the 139th psalm, is the omnipresence of God. Wherever you are, God is. God is everywhere, equally present, expressing himself. The prayer is this: "The light of God surrounds me, the love of God enfolds me, the power of God protects me, and the presence of God watches over me. Where I am, God is."

The basic key to this prayer is left unsaid. It is this: it is effective to you only to the degree you know it and are conscious of it. If you do not realize the presence of God with you, God may just as well not be omnipresent as far as you are concerned. So this prayer works for you, to the degree you have your governor set on realizing and accepting God's presence within you. The governor is your own individual degree of awareness of this presence of God, in you and expressing through you, as your help in every need.

Now, friends, let us take this prayer step by step and think it through. You can even have a healing while doing so with me this morning. What we are really doing is to turn up the governors operating our consciousness or awareness, so we are more aware of oneness with God.

THE LIGHT OF GOD SURROUNDS ME. The light of God is omnipresent, everywhere evenly present. Where does it come from? Basically, it comes from within you, from Christ in your own spiritual self. In the gospel of John we are told, "There is a light that lighteth every man coming into the world." This light is the (I AM) Christ presence in you.

In order for this light to surround you, it must first penetrate out through you. As it does so, it must penetrate out through every particle of your being, every

nerve, cell, organ; it must flow out through every phase of your consciousness. Now take a moment to realize this light is constantly flowing out through you as a cleansing process, illumining you, healing; you, freeing you, and guiding you. It is constantly revealing to you the truth about yourself and your fellowman. Once you fully realize this, you are completely healed, and your body is pure spirit.

THE LOVE OF GOD ENFOLDS ME. God is love, omnipresent all around you, flowing out from within you. Love is the power that equalizes and harmonizes. It is the great adjusting power flowing through you, your life and affairs, adjusting and restoring order and harmony, in spite of you or what you think or do.

As you realize and feel this love, you let it express out through you and then it enfolds you with itself. So, at this moment, you are enfolded in love, everything in you and your world has been created so it must respond to the adjusting, harmonizing power of God. Even the animals and plants respond to the love you let flow out from you.

THE POWER OF GOD PROTECTS ME. The power of God flows out through you, protecting you. In spite of you and what you do, the power of God protects you. It even protects you from yourself and your own thoughts and feelings of negation. It also protects you beyond the level you have your governor set at. This is grace.

Somehow, someway, you do not destroy yourself, you can't. Even your Body is made so you only feel a certain degree of pain, then you become unconscious so you will not feel pain anymore. This is the love and power of God active in you protecting you.

As far as you are concerned, your own awareness or consciousness of omnipresence is your protection. Nothing else can protect you, not even a gun, a flu shot, money in the bank. You are protected only to the degree of your own consciousness.

It is the same with supply or income. We are working on this in our Wednesday night series. The activity of God operative in and through you is supply. It appears as your supply up to the degree of your consciousness of supply. It then appears outwardly manifest as your supply, whether it be peace, health, companionship, friends.

Take income, for instance. No matter how many jobs you have, how much overtime you work, or if your wife or husband is working also, you can only make up to the level of your own consciousness of supply. Somehow or other, your own consciousness determines your income or supply. So the way to remove the governor that determines your supply is to increase your own consciousness of omnipresence active and appearing as your supply.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD WATCHES OVER ME. God appears to be watching over you, because wherever you are God is there, active in and through and as you.

It is impossible for you to ever separate yourself from God or for God to separate from you, because you are one. You are the outer expression of God, at your level of consciousness. So you can just sit back and feel within yourself an animation, a flowing out through you as the activity of God all that God is, and it is appearing as you, to the degree that you participate and know it.

WHEREVER I AM, GOD IS. Yes, wherever you are, God is active in you, appearing as your life, your peace, your love, your health, your supply, and the very essence of your being. So go in peace, love, order and success. Go forth in Christ which you inwardly and spiritually are.

The wonderful thing is, there is no you as something separate and apart from God. There never can be; that was only a belief you once had. It has nothing to do with today. There is only God appearing as you, up to the degree of your consciousness of omnipresence appearing individually as you.

Once we remove the governors in our individual consciousness, we are free in God. God is then the only life, presence and power for us. In this sense, you have no life of your own to lose or gain; there is only God appearing as the life of the individual you. God life is perfect, whole, free and eternal.

So then we go a step further. You have no health of your own to lose or gain. In omnipresence there is only God-health appearing as yours. You have nothing to do with it, except turn up your governor and let God life flow as yours. The only thing that can limit your health is the degree you have your governor set at—the governor of your belief concerning your relationship with God.

Remove the governors you have placed upon yourself. Remove the governors you have placed upon God, by your limited beliefs and actions. Let God be God as he is. Let God operate in and through you as God, not at the low level you have been permitting Divine action in your life.

My friends, God cannot operate today and not tomorrow. God is always operating and functioning as God, in and through you, and through all of mankind. But you must know this.

Remove the governor from your mind and dwell in omnipresence. This is the only price you must pay. Dwell in omnipresence. Pay the price and, oh, the benefits you receive, in the health of your body, in the supply of your finances, in the order and harmony of home and business, and in the protection you receive.

In this dwelling, you no longer reach out to God according to a limited human belief. There is just a relaxing in God and the accepting of omnipresence as active in and through you, supply the fulfillment of all your needs.

—T.Y.D.G

THE WAY OF RECONCILIATION

BY MALINDA E. CRAMER

TAKEN FROM HARMONY MAGAZINE

JANUARY 1889

"If so be that ye have heard him and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus, that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore, putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.—*Ephesians iv, 21-26*

THE OLD AND THE NEW

1. The great lost secret was the knowledge of God, and his relation to Nature and Man, The loss of this knowledge was due to the deception of sense. To be controlled by the senses is to be under their dominion; and whatever we yield ourselves servants to obey, their servants we are. To obey the senses is to disobey the Spirit; to be guided by the senses is to be un-guided by the understanding; and to be unguided by understanding is to be in confusion or outer darkness. To fall from a consciousness of truth is to lose knowledge of God and of the soul's union with him. The science of Divine Spirit reveals to us that the old truth is the new, for truth never changes; that which was, is, and ever will be.

Our intention in this lesson is to present Truth, and a method whereby you may cease to partake of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and partake of the tree of life, or gain a consciousness of the first and final truth of Being.

2. As God always was, is, and always will be omnipresent—perfect good always was, is, and always will be omnipresent. That which always was, is, and always will be omnipresent, should be recognized and acknowledged now. To acknowledge and live in the presence of God is to live in an undivided consciousness of good.

Now is the time to reap, that both he that soweth and he; that reapeth may rejoice together. If we do not acknowledge the omnipresent good now, we shall not rejoice with him that soweth; and he that soweth is eternal joy. We do not receive wages of joy until we reap. We cannot find rest unto our souls by recognizing or reaping that which is continually changing and passing from us. That which is continually being made is corruptible; and those who place their affections upon the corruptible reap disappointment. That which is made but once (the Soul) is eternal; that which is unchangeable (the Spirit) is eternal. It is Spirit which says in the Soul—I am, because I am, thou art; for thou art my very self manifest; and thou shalt ever be what thou art. By penetrating to the depths and centre of the soul in consciousness we come to know that Spirit or God is, and that He is the *I AM*, or life of the soul. Then no longer is God concealed to a remote future, but is to us the living, present good; and no longer is our path dark and dreary, shadowed by the delusions of sense. If we find not God within ourselves, we may seek in vain elsewhere. First seek and find

him there, and you will find him everywhere. Seek the Spirit in truth and you shall find that you possess the Kingdom. Meditate dear students and children of Spirit, and read between the lines; and you will know—that to speak the truth is to worship in spirit and in truth.

THE FALSE AND THE TRUE

3. Dear pupils, if it be, that we are taught by the Christ as the truth was in Jesus; and, if we speak the truth as he spoke it, we shall cease conversation about the body, and cease identifying ourselves with sensation and all effect of thought, for thought spoken is the letter, and the letter is a mere symbol or appearance of a preconceived, hence past, idea. To be conscious of the letter is a memory of thought, which has passed, hence is dead. Life is present goodness. Therefore, to identify ourselves with the letter or effect is to identify ourselves with that which is dead. And to identify ourselves with the dead is a cause for pain and separation from the physical body. So, if it be, that we speak the truth as Jesus spoke it, we shall refuse to let the senses speak in opposition to the Spirit; and through faith we shall assume the truthful position as a Divine Soul created in true holiness, a temple of God; we shall hold ourselves in truth by thinking of ourselves as being what true being is, and by ceasing to make excuses for our shortcomings and errors, because Adam partook of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and fell into doubt. They who are guided by sense are partaking of the forbidden fruit, and are dead to spiritual truth; all who are separated in consciousness from the ever present first and final truth, seek out many inventions and come into a multiplicity of beliefs. While thoughts are fluctuating between two or more opposite beliefs they constitute a state of doubt. To doubt is to stand still; and to stand still is mental stagnation, which is the fall.

4. Through speaking the truth with love we may grow into a consciousness of the Father, even of the fountain-head of all good. Through daring to bear witness of our divine self-hood, and that God is our Father and that we have no other, and that he is our life and that we have no other; and through daring to declare the unalterable truth, that it is not the soul that lives but the Father—which is the life—in it, and that there can be no separation of the soul from its source, we shall arise and go to the Father. To acknowledge these truths with love is to fulfill our duty to God, and do his will. This true relationship must be recognized by the children of God before they can become conscious of working with him. To be renewed in the Spirit of your mind is to be awakened from the dream of sense. Until the senses are enlightened they alienate us from an understanding of these truths. When the senses are enlightened they serve the mind, and we see with understanding; and to see with understanding is to destroy the cause of inharmonious expression. To speak the truth as it is in Jesus enables us to grow up in truth in all things, even Christ. When once the consciousness is elevated above sense, and we realize true being, we shall cease to say *impossible* to anything, or claim weakness or limitation for ourselves. To know things as they are, and to live the truth, is to be spiritually minded, which is life and peace. To be in truth is to be in heaven, to be out of truth is to be out of heaven. To live the truth is to bring heaven upon earth, or make it manifest. The thought and deed can never be as great as the thinker or actor; if we think the thought

and do the will of the Father, it is necessary that we be one with the Father, and speak and act from the Spirit. When we think the thoughts of the Father, when our purpose has become his purpose, and our will his will, Christ has arisen in us—we are born again. Freed by the truth there is no more strife.

5. We shall put away the false by ceasing our efforts to make this physical plane a plane of cause; and by ceasing to express in thought, word or act, as if we were mortal. Do not, then, think and talk of physical strength and physical weakness, or as if the body were life, intelligence and power; or as if it had sensation or feeling. Reckon as if the body were dead, or as profiting nothing; and reckon as if you were life eternal, as did Christ; and the mists of illusion will roll away, and you will discover that the body does not limit, trouble, or environ you in any way. Put off the false conversation, that you are something that can die—that can be dead at one time, and alive at another, or can be sick at one time and well another, and clothe yourselves with the facts of true: being, and your whole body will be full of light—radiant with truth. Then put off the false conversation about changeable weather affecting you, and about it being good and bad; and about the wind being agreeable and disagreeable; and about food being digestible and indigestible; the belief that we can be affected by these things is an admission that we believe ourselves mortal, and that we can thereby be made miserable, sick or well, dead or alive, by the climate, the weather, or material food. All conversation of this nature belongs to the old man, and is according to the deceit of sense; it is based upon mortal appearances, and is therefore false. Such thoughts produce appearances in the body which we name disease or pain. This and all like conversation is not based upon principle; hence is not true. Then all false conversation about self is the expression of the one race belief, that we are mortal now, but will be immortal when we die; and that as we are mortal now we are subject to physical things, and are dependent upon them for life, power and happiness; but when we die we shall have eternal life. To be in truthful thought is to think that you are yourself the life, power and happiness you want to manifest or show forth; that you are forever at one with the Infinite, for there is but one all.

The body is not you, but your spoken word; it is a symbol which you retain in your consciousness by partaking of material food or like symbols; otherwise you could not express yourselves (which are invisible) in this world of symbol. It is an error to believe that food gives life, or that external things produce health or happiness. The giver is God, and there is no other; all life is God, and there is no other; Effect cannot become the cause; the mortal cannot give life, matter cannot evolve mind or spirit.

The law of expression is from Spirit to Soul, then to Matter; or from the Thinker to Thought, to Word; and never is it otherwise. It works not from Matter to Spirit—from the Word to the Thinker; hence it is absolutely false to believe, that effects or external things can re-act and affect Being.

This false belief is the only inlet for outside error; which is spoken of as taking on conditions and being affected by others' thoughts. This false belief is the only means by which we can relate our bodies to what is called miasmatic or poisonous atmospheres.

6. Unchanging truth, dear students, is eternal freedom. All that it; bound will be freed by it. All who live and know the truth are free. To gain the truth is to break the bonds of sense. To accept the truth of the presence of God, is to accept the truth of the presence of all goodness; and this it is to gather fruit unto everlasting life. Acknowledgement of The One is acknowledgement of all.

St. Paul says—"give no place to the Devil." We should not; for God fills heaven and earth. Hence it is an offense against God to believe in the opposite of his being. His words to his children are—represent me in all your thoughts, and I will guide you into all wisdom; believe in nothing but me, and you will find the Kingdom of Heaven.

To put away error by speaking the truth is to overcome evil with good; "that we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro, carried about by every wind of doctrine." That is, we are no more acted upon by the weather, or by the opinion or sleight of friends; but by speaking the truth to them in love we hold the reins of freedom in our grasp, which shields from all harm. Error cannot disturb the truth; it is forever above and beyond disturbance; and all who hold themselves in truth, are not acted upon by mortal conditions. As Christ led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men, so when we awaken to truth we lead the senses captive, and ascend in understanding to the Spirit. The Spirit sees and bears witness through us; and we express the power of Spirit, which is the gift of Spirit.

WHAT TO DENY AND WHAT TO AFFIRM,
THAT TRUTH MAY BE MADE MANIFEST

- God is infinite, indivisible and unalterable goodness. Goodness includes life, truth, love, power, understanding, and strength, knowledge, faith, presence, justice, mercy, harmony and charity.
- As God is infinite and unalterable goodness, then all goodness must be eternal; and the opposite must be false appearance.
- As life, truth and understanding are eternal, death, falsehood and ignorance must be false appearance.
- As love, strength, knowledge and faith are eternal, hate, weakness, fear and doubt must be false appearance.
- As God is love, and everywhere at all times, and no respecter of persons, then prejudice and aversion are false appearances.
- As justice, mercy, harmony and charity are eternal, then revenge, cruelty, disease and envy are false appearances.
- As that which is eternal is truth, temporary appearances are false.
- As that which is eternal is real, temporary appearances must be unreal. As that which is eternal is substance, temporary appearances must be shadow.
- Then the new man is the man of truth; the old man is the man of falsehood.
- The new man is the real man; the old man is the unreal. The new man is the man of substance; the old man is the man of shadow.

- To put off the old man is to cease thinking that you are that which is temporary; to put on the new man is to think that you are that which is eternal.
- To put off the old man is to cease thinking death, falsehood, ignorance, hate, or weakness; to put on the new man is to think life, truth and understanding, love and strength.
- To put off the old man is to cease thinking fear, doubt, and prejudice and aversion; to put on the new man is thinking knowledge, faith and universal love-without respect to person.
- To put off the old man is to cease thinking revenge or cruelty, disease or evil; to put on the new man is thinking justice, mercy, harmony and charity.
- To put off the old man is to refrain from judging according to the senses; to put on the new man is to judge according to the Spirit.
- To put away lying is to put away all conversation about being temporary.
- To speak the truth with each other is to converse about being that which is eternal.
- To be in error is to believe, that we are mortal.
- To be in truth is to know that we are the immortal.
- The Infinite and Unalterable Good says—believe in nothing but the Infinite and unalterable, and you will find the truth, that frees, and the peace, that passes mortal understanding.
- The deceitful senses say—believe in all appearances, promising you shall become as gods, which ends in unconsciousness, ignorance and desolation.

8. Put off this primitive condition or the old man, and let your childhood pass by; and assume the true position of a Child of God, and express the truth in wholeness. All perfection, that has been, and that ever will be, is now. To recognize it, is to receive it; or to acknowledge it, is to awaken to a realization of Being, which will enable you to speak the truth as it was in Jesus. Truth is the daily baptism for the awakened. So the scientist renders thanks hourly for good received, for knowledge gained, for health expressed, for truth perceived, for love manifest, for God revealed, for the ever present goodness.

9. If it be, that we have had ears to hear what the Spirit saith, and have heard, we have put off all conversation concerning the old man, and we have taken on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness; we have reckoned temporary things as dead, and ourselves as alive with Christ unto God; we have identified ourselves with the One, which is Creator and life of all things, and are renewed in the spirit of our mind in understanding. According to the measure of your truth have you expressed Christ as it was in Jesus. To express the truth is to express immortality; and truth it is, which is the permanent remedy for all disease.

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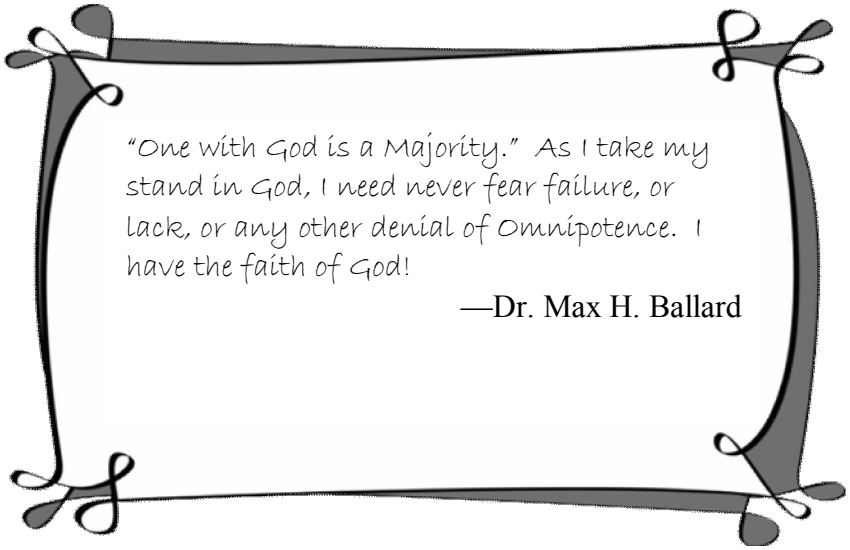
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*"One with God is a Majority." As I take my
stand in God, I need never fear failure, or
lack, or any other denial of Omnipotence. I
have the faith of God!*

—Dr. Max H. Ballard