

*Second Week*

*First Day*

## **A Living Prayer**

There are times when the world seems to be whirling through dark clouds and the situations in which we find ourselves from day to day are increasingly depressing. At such times I find it is necessary to rise before dawn and go up into the mountain, figuratively speaking, to pray alone. Never have the mists remained when I went into my closet for prayer and meditation, whether early or late.

But the highest art of living consists of making prayer such a natural and continual expression toward God that it works itself into the muscles, and the mind processes, then every act of our daily lives reflects the Love and Joy of Christ's presence. Each day is no longer a fast filled with fear but a feast filled with faith. There is no more monotony, for we live life as a poem or sonata in which every need harmonizes or synchronizes with its perfect fulfillment. To see in a sparrow's fall, or the closing of a door, or the change of a season a part of the rhythm of eternal things—this lifts prayer above mere words and puts it in our eyes, our ears, our sense of touch. This takes prayer out of the meeting house, and forms, and special days, and fills it with the fragrance of prairies, the tang of mountains, the freshness of the sea. This creates the music and the poem in every soul that has eyes to see and ears to hear the eternal rhythms and harmonies.

So little is accomplished by a flimsy perfunctory five- or ten-minute prayer! But ABSOLUTELY NO EVIL CAN STAND BEFORE A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR, LIVING PRAYER POURING FROM A SURRENDERED SOUL. Everything Jesus had to say about the Kingdom of Heaven can be summed up in these words: Give all that you have and all that you are to the Father.

This is prayer in its highest, most perfect expression. This is the wedding of a soul to Christ. This is the feast of thanksgiving which comes after a season of planting and tilling and gathering in the harvest.

And he said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: But whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. For what is a man advantage, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself? (Luke 9:23-25)

*Second Week*

*Second Day*

## **The Divine Instrument**

What would we think of a music dealer who locked up in a dank cell a perfect victrola upon which had been played a poor record, while he continued to sell the poor record indiscriminately?

Although in a sense we are victrolas, we may choose what we will play: the harmonious music of the spheres, or the discordant sounds of hate and fear. Nevertheless

when poor records are played upon a perfect victrola we must not discard or despise the victrola itself.

Condemn the sin but never the sinner.

Cultivate the habit of seeing the perfection beneath discord and you will discover what a divine instrument God has designed. The only way to help others to cast off their poor records is to cast off the poor records we have been playing ourselves. Like the prodigal we too must cry out, "I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight; I am no more worthy to be called thy son." Only thus can we rid ourselves of inharmonies and begin to play the celestial music of the spheres.

Father, take us up the ladders of affection for others, from that first mere tolerance to liking, from selfish attachment into friendship, deepening them into comradeship and finally into the highest spiritual Love. There, freed ourselves from judgment and condemnation toward others, may we free them also to turn within the radius of the perfect circle of Thy ever-widening Love. In Jesus' name, Amen

The light of the body is the eye; If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! (Matthew 6:22,23)

*Second Week*

*Third Day*

## **Three Levels of Worship**

There are three levels of worship. Jesus told the Samaritan woman: "Ye worship that which ye know not." Hers was ignorant worship. The Jews said, "We worship that which we know." Theirs was intelligent worship. But the highest level of worship was introduced by Jesus Christ: "The hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth."

To worship in spirit is to look Upward with love; to worship in truth is to look Upward with trust. When Peter tried to walk upon the water toward the Master and took his gaze from Jesus' face to look down at the water, he began to sink. To worship in spirit and in truth, then, is to trust God's absolute and infinite loving power.

As spirit is not bound by time or space neither should we be limited to a certain time or place for worship. Begin every day with a prayer of trust. "Acknowledge him in all thy ways and he shall direct thy paths." Then, whenever problems arise during the day direct your thoughts immediately toward God, in a silent prayer for guidance. You will discover that He was already coming toward you on the water!

So, think of God as **ALL-LOVING, ALL-POWERFUL, ABSOLUTELY PERFECT**. Think that in Him is no imperfection, no selfishness, no hate, no anger, no unworthiness of any sort. Then, with your gaze steadily fixed upon Him, walk out, innocent and pure, to meet Him face to face. You will feel petty annoyance and prejudice and selfish desire fall away from you like cheap garments you can gladly discard, to take on finer raiment. As you present yourself to your Master, Christ, God the Father will bless you.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

*Second Week*

*Fourth Day*

## **My Joy I give Unto You**

Joy is like lightning, and he who finds his center in Joy will run like lightning, for Joy is electric. It fills us with power, from the tiniest brain cell to the tip of the toes.

To enter a contest with the sole purpose or hope of winning kills joy at the start. But if you enter a contest with the purpose of enjoying every part of the competition, your efforts will seem like play, and others with whom you compete will be glad for the inspiration of your presence.

Any activity whose reward seems to lie at the end must be drudgery. For when a thing is ended it is dead; it belongs to the past. So, give yourself to life, not death! Start all of life's races with the intention of enjoying thoroughly all of the thrills, from that first crack of the gun to the last burst of effort when you break through the tape. It is exhilarating to move arms and legs, to rise into the air at the jumps, to curve around the track in perfect co-ordination. Oh, run for the love of it! Jump for the joy of it! And no matter how far ahead the other fellow gets, keep this love and joy, carry on at a good swinging pace, **AND YOU WILL GET THERE.**

To pray effectively we need joy, which means that we have to drop all fear and cringing at the start. God chose the umpire, gave us the power, set all the goals, and watches over us constantly. So, lift up your head and be glad!

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty.  
( 1 Chronicles 29:11)

*Second Week*

*Fifth Day*

## **Enlarge Your Vision**

The telescope enlarges our vision upward. The microscope (or magnifying glass) enlarges our vision downward. Religion enlarges our vision inward. Christ enlarges our vision everywhere.

Christ never used the word "religion". He came to teach Life. And that word he used constantly. He came so that we "might have life and have it more abundantly".

Spiritual vision is the searchlight that guides us through life. Prayer wipes away the mist of our unknowing so we see face to face the perfection that God created and which He never mars.

Christ used the parable method to teach the depth, breadth and height of Reality. To him the dead were not dead, but only sleeping. To him the sick were born to be whole, and the blind were ready for sight. He taught that the ugly, evil and distorted appearance of things is temporal and hence must pass away. When we see through the eyes of Christ the imagination is heightened to its spiritual level of insight. And then, recognizing the divine perfection of God's Plan, we may help Him to transform what He will because of our belief.

The abundant life is the unfolding, growing life which never ceases to progress toward its divine potential.

Our heavenly Father, make us instruments to help bring Thy Kingdom of Heaven in its full beauty, love and harmony, from invisibility into visibility, out of the hearts of men.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: For the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Revelation 21:1,2)

*Second Week*

*Sixth Day*

## **Immerse “Self” in Living Waters**

Use your imagination to witness the healing of Naaman in the Jordan. See him slowly wade out into the water, feel the coolness creep higher and higher, healing the aching sores, cleansing and soothing all his flesh. Now he turns and walks toward the land again. Bright hot sunrays bathe his head and neck, shoulders and chest, until finally he emerges completely from the water and thus is completely submerged in sunlight.

Naaman was healed of leprosy through the miracle of water and sunlight. Years later John the Baptist lifted the process into a spiritual sacrament of “baptism by water and by fire”.

Now think of yourself receiving this same baptism. Entering the waters, feel their cleansing and healing coolness cover you completely. Now turn, in imagination, and walk out into the sunlight. You are fresh, transparent, incandescent—sinless as the day you were born! Know that you are beautiful, perfect—reflecting the Light of God in your body, mind and soul. Incandescent, divine light illumines your face and form, revealing the rising sun of righteousness. So, emerge, Body Electric! Arise, shine! Your light has come! The Body Electric is here! It is yours! Your body is an emanation of pure water and sun. Your glorious Being uncovers its beauty and splendor with such effulgence as mortal eyes cannot behold. For you show forth the glorious beams of God’s transcendent Love, melting infection and illness as dew before the sun.

When Jesus stepped into this realization on Mt. Hermon his garments shone as a fuller’s cloth and even his disciples could not see him for the Light.

Our Father, as the drop of water yields itself to the sun, teach us now to yield to the drawing power of The Son of Righteousness that we, like drops of water, may be drawn upward, perfected and translated in the higher realms of glory. On earth may we reflect the Light of Heaven. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (Matthew 5:48)

*Second Week*

*Seventh Day*

## Unfailing Warmth of God's Love

I look out upon the clean white snow. Inside my home I am warm and comfortable. Oil heats each room, and I do not even need to go down to fix the furnace any more. For twenty-five years I shoveled coal and dumped the ashes; now this home automatically heats itself. Now a thermostat takes care of the adjustments which keep our temperature constant. And all because I substituted a fluid, floating form of heating material for the solid chunks of coal.

Were these automatic servants available twenty-five years ago? Oh, yes, and long before that. Oil has been cached for millenniums in recesses beneath the soil. The method of discovery, withdrawal and refinement has been inherent in the intelligence, co-ordination and correlation of human mind, muscle and nerve. It was waiting for us to use all this while.

Resting back now in my armchair by this window I see a beautiful white world. I know it is cold outside, and I know that pain and sorrow and ugliness is there. But forces are available to meet every human need, when man is **AWARE** of them.

My thermostat was invented because someone was sensitive to the needs of man and had faith in the resources of God.

O, Father in heaven, let *me* be one of your thermostats! I long to direct the flow of that **MIGHTIEST FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE**—prayer! I long to draw, by faith, from the abundance of your storehouse, that the Kingdom may come upon earth as it is in heaven.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation. (Psalm 91:14-16)