

Fourth Week

First Day

The Drawing Power of God

The sun's rays purge, cleanse and purify the things of this world. But the Light of God's Love is the most purging and purifying power available to man. By exposing oneself to this marvelous Light, in periods of complete silence, stillness and surrender, we receive the highest blessing.

Through such experiences, faithfully accepted day after day, we are cleansed of every residue of false thinking and consequent evil-doing. For the average person it is best to begin the Quiet Time with a period of complete relaxation and stillness. It is wonderful to sit for five minutes, ten or even fifteen, without tensing a single muscle or straining to receive insight. But this experience, seemingly so simple to achieve, is actually a most difficult discipline. Except in Quaker groups, certain Catholic monastic orders and some Hindu cults, the full power and blessing of silence is rarely understood.

Jesus set the example for us by going out regularly in the early dawn to expose himself anew to the Love and Guidance of Almighty God. By this process he gained his power to transform lives. Surely we cannot be more independent than Christ, from the Source of Life!

O, Man of Galilee, take us into the Garden with you, and there let us leave our selfish desires and dreams. Show us the secret places of the most high, that we too may "abide in the shadow of the Almighty."

The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the Lord.
By the word of the Lord were the heavens made,
And all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.
He gathereth the waters of the sea together as a heap:
He layeth up the deeps in storehouses.
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.
For he spake, and it was done;
He commanded, and it stood fast....
The counsel of the Lord standeth fast for ever,
The thoughts of his heart to all generations.

(Psalm 33:5-11, A.S.V.)

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. (John 17:5)

Fourth Week

Second Day

When You and Your Prayer Become One

Flash on flash of truth burst upon him. As the lightning lightens the heavens, even so the Truth illumined his soul, until he knew no barrier of flesh or of time or of circumstance between himself and the truth as he beheld it. For he was carried on an odyssey of the soul impossible to describe. As he seemed to rise it was not Space that flitted past him, but living things and all—all were growing with the speed of light, busting from bloom to ripened fruit, the fruit in turn bearing more seeds which scattered again into new fulfillment. The vastness and the increase could not be measured. All around were heavenly colors, lights, fragrance and sound. Truth was not perceived by him, was not comprehended or caught, or wished for, or seen through a glass darkly. He had become, for the first time, the full instrument of Truth.

Then, gently, he returned to earthly consciousness, hearing the familiar purr of his clock on the mantel shelf. The hands pointed to almost the same time they recorded when he last looked. The study was still and he was alone. Suddenly he prayed, “O, splendor of God, while I yet behold that consummate triumph of truth, grant me the memory of this moment forever, for this moment is the only real time in eternity!”

He did not speak or really think those words; he *was* that prayer. And in his heart—now glowing like a flame—he had but one desire: to express in deed and thought that flash of divine revelation to the glory of God for the rest of his days.

O God, thou art my God: Earnestly will I seek thee: My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee, in a dry and weary land, where no water is. So have I looked upon thee in the sanctuary, to see thy power and thy glory. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. So will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hand in thy name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips; when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night-watches. For thou hast been my help, and in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. (Psalm 63:1-7, A.S.V.)

Fourth Week

Third Day

Where Two or Three Agree Together

Where two or three gather together in His name, a magnet is created which draws down answers from heaven. If one prong of a magnet is broken off from the other, both prongs soon lose their drawing power. So one person separated from his fellow men can draw answers to prayer for awhile, but eventually he will lose all power in prayer unless he is reunited in spirit with others. And why? Because he cannot be magnetized with Love unless he knows love through human channels.

When two persons come together and “agree as to what they shall ask” their mutuality unlocks the doors of love in their hearts. This is like unlocking the power of gravity—whose spiritual counterpart draws upward to God those sincere prayers which only God can answer. “And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me,” Christ promised.

AND WHATSOEVER YE SHALL ASK IN MY NAME, THAT WILL I DO, THAT THE FATHER MAY BE GLORIFIED IN THE SON, IF YE SHALL ASK ANY THING IN MY NAME, I WILL DO IT. (John 14:13-14) Jesus was talking to his disciples when he made this promise. He knew their love for each other and for him was great enough to insure their prayers would be answered. For God’s power cannot be misused, exploited or denied. What we ask in Christ’s name we ask in his spirit.

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you ask what-ever you will, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the father in my name, he may give it to you. This I command you, to love one another. (John 15:5-12, 16-17, R.S.V.)

Fourth Week

Fourth Day

The Great Discovery

We are told that the only way to find God is through meditation and prayer. But there is a greater discovery which, when truly understood, makes you master over *all* circumstances. And it is this: GOD IS EVERYWHERE. That means He is in the “without” just as surely as He is in the “within”.

Since I have come to a truer understanding of this revelation I give much more of my time to putting in order the apparent disorders of outer circumstances. This does not mean that I give less time to prayer; it means that I pray so as to gain spiritual insight, to see through outer appearances of evil and discord into the Heart of Things. Jesus spoke “as one having authority and not as the scribes” because he gave precedent to the essential order of the universe and thereby gave it authority to manifest, in the name of our Maker. Jesus spoke with perfect Truth because he saw to the core, or Reality, in very situation, and Reality is perfect, immutable and creative.

One does not have to read all the daily newspapers in order to find the “news of the week”; he may see it condensed in a newsreel theater or read it on a few pages of a weekly magazine. And it is not only in daily meditation and prayer that one discovers God’s unfolding Plan; the “prayer of the week” is cast upon the vital events unfolding continually about us.

SO, FIND GOD IN THE ROUTINE OF LIFE. Greet each new day with expectancy and wonder, like a little child. Move courageously into the main streams of life, appreciate all the earnest efforts of other persons, lend them your support to establish God's purposes, and believe in the *real love* which motivates even their crudest attempts to give aid and comfort. See every other human being as a divine instrument and *accept all of the events of your life* with the radiant certainty that God is in them!

If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me. (Psalm 139:8-10)

Fourth Week

Fifth Day

There Is a Rightful Place for Everyone

Have you found your right place in life?

Are you lonely, frustrated or confused?

Then enter the Secret Place of the Most High and absorb and be absorbed by the Infinite Love of God. Forgive your enemies, take those who are near and dear to you deeply into your heart, and become very still. Then listen to the still small Voice.

There is a perfect law of supply and demand, the Voice will tell you. When a man is completely surrendered to God if he needs anything, he knows exactly where to get it. When he wishes to pass on an idea he knows exactly where to pass it. Love is the power that brings these ideas into perfectly harmonious activity, and Love is omnipotent, for Love is God.

There is not a negative-poled atom in the universe unless there is a positive-poled atom somewhere to match it. There is no one with capacity to serve unless there is somewhere a need for that service; and when one yields himself utterly to the Love of God the need and supply will find each other out. Love is the perfect medium of exchange, for Love is the power that brings all God's ideas into perfectly adjusted and harmonious activity.

There is no separation; there is only one Mind—God, and one consciousness—man. Therefore man is instantly in touch with any person he needs, for all are one body in Christ. Each member is God's image and likeness, and we together realize the perfect unity of the body of Christ.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ....That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. (Ephesians 4:4-7, 14-15)

Fourth Week

Sixth Day

Each Day a New Adventure

The simplest and surest way to rid ourselves of sin, sickness or other betraying evils is to melt our Selves down—as an old coin is melted at the mint—and be re-created, fresh and new. We may do this by turning and becoming as nearly as possible like little children. A gnarled old tree bears brand-new leaves each spring that are as fresh and new as the original sprout which pushed through the ground. Why don't we investigate and discover whether we too may possess within ourselves somewhere a fountain of ever-renewing life?

If our bodies seem too “solid” to change immediately into healthy new embodiments for our souls, let us see what we can do with our imaginations. Let us try to think like children—full of daydreams, looking at life with continual expectancy and an ever-renewed sense of wonder. Children expect each day will provide a new adventure

But old persons' thoughts get into frames. Of course anything which is held tight in a frame is brittle and can be broken. Therefore the “frames” of bad habits, prejudices and meaningless traditions should be cast off to allow pure, flowing, vital new ideas to flow through our souls.

Learn new hobbies, read new books, travel to strange new places. Ask God to give you beautiful dreams and greater visions. And above all EXPECT LIFE TO BE BEAUTIFUL. With eyes of childlike trust and love, look toward your Father, God, as toward a perfect, ideal and devoted Parent.

My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye. Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart. Say unto wisdom, thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman. (Proverbs 7:1-4)

Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. (Mark 10:15)

Fourth Week

Seventh Day

Forgiveness of Christ

The only way to receive perfect cleansing from sin and sickness is through repentance. The publican in the temple who said, “God be merciful to me a sinner,” received the blessing of Christ's promised redemption. Whenever a prodigal returns saying, “I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight,” we know he is coming Home to the Love of an all-forgiving heavenly Father.

One of the most difficult blessings to accept, however, is this cleansing through the Forgiveness of Christ. Many persons who suffer physical sickness remain uncured simply because they cannot believe in the healing power of repentance. And so we must try to recognize this purging, drawing power of God's Love, so that we can yield ourselves trustingly to Him for complete cleansing.

Suppose we think of it this way: God has celestial vacuum cleaners which his angels can use to draw out all poisons, toxins and infections in our souls and bodies. So let us invite the Lord to send down a corps of Angel Cleaners, and put them to work right now. As they are invisible, they can penetrate into any pocket or hidden area of our lives, and turn on their celestial vacuums. Since these angels neither slumber nor sleep, let them keep on the job all day and all night—for a week, if necessary, or a month. Let them go clear through the corridors of time, even into our babyhood, and open hidden closets which may conceal that terrible fright in infancy, those frustrations of youth and resentments of middle age.

Pray to the Father that they will not work too fast, as you do not want them to cause any pain. And then tell Him you are waiting for His healing Love to flow in, until the heavenly transfusions of the blood of Christ heal all the sores and fill all the empty places. Thank Him now, in Jesus' Name, and rise up—a new creation!

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide thy face from sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:7-10)