

First Week

First Day

In the Beginning God

Have you ever wondered what the world looked like when it was just a vast unfinished place--teeming and stewing, only half guessing what it was to be?

If you want to know how things looked during that first half-week of Creation, look upon the sea!

Here, on the island of my soul, I have a little dream shack by the water, and I wait for people like you to come and worship here with me. But when those people that blunder through all the beautiful places of the earth try to come and flourish about with their gold, setting up big houses and calling menservants and maidservants, I tell them this heaven is my own and it many not be bought.

I shall always keep my temple above the restless waves—for pure joys. Just a little rocky island balanced up against a dust continent, and guarded—as with a flaming sword—by the four seasons. To all who pass the sea cries out: “Except ye be as little children, ye shall not enter here!” But the ones like you and me who come to worship may have all the room we need to breathe and move and run and leap—to become pure and strong and free!

And these silent, bleak and mighty rocks, this Home of stars and snows, with winds playing in the grasses, and waters circling round it tolling....tolling at its doors—this is kept for God, and you and me. When it is time to go back to the continent we will understand the rhythms of the universe, of tide and gravity, of strength and release. We will be part of all the universal forces, moving with strange new power and ease. And men with their fortunes and men with their laws will be grasping at *little* things.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. (Matthew 6:19-20)

First Week

Second Day

Homesick?

All the men and women or boys and girls who have found their way to me seeking help suffered from exactly the same ailment. And that is Homesickness. Homesickness is merely a heartsickness that arises whenever we become conscious of separation from the source of life. All of us at some time experience this consciousness, and call it sin, misfortune or sickness. But whatever the name, the problem is the same, for we are in hell. Old Sam Johnson was right when he defined hell as “a place of separated souls.”

Jesus came as a Good Shepherd to seek and to save those who have become separated, or lost. And he leads through green pastures and beside still waters until we are safely Home.

The mother hen, one of the humblest feathered creatures of our common life, symbolizes perfect sheltering love. For she is both mother and habitation for her little ones. Christ—the perfect panacea for Homesickness—still cries out to our age: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” This yearning to take us Home was expressed again and again. “Come unto me, all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Himself a homeless wanderer, Christ came to prepare homes for us both here and in the hereafter, safe in the Kingdom of Love. The deeper we enter into the sanctuary of his Presence, and more secure we feel And with the inexpressible joy of that oneness we long to lead others where we have come.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. (John 14:2,3)

First Week

Third Day

Footprints of God

Never be ashamed of asking, seeking and knocking at the storehouse of God's omnipotence! “Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.” When we admit our helplessness to meet needs on the human level we are expressing our dependence upon God, and that is the faith that moves mountains.

One way to achieve the awareness which brings heavenly blessings into manifestation upon earth, is to look for the footprints of God in the outer realms about you. Transmute these majestic signs of God's omnipotence through meditation and contemplation into your deepest consciousness. Hold them there, as blueprints of His Creation. Then when you feel His blessing breathed upon you, turn from them with perfect faith that the impression is going to crystallize in new inspirations, selfless deeds, miraculous healings and transformed lives.

Some religious leaders find it difficult to decide where prayer for THINGS of this earth go slithering off into the realms of magic and selfishness, instead of remaining properly under God's control. “Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven and its righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you,” Jesus promised. And the things to which he referred are those which our souls sincerely desire while we are humbly waiting at the feet of God. In this transformed consciousness we are not selfish or presumptive. And when we rise, transformed and incandescent, we will give Him all of the praise and all of the glory.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth! (Isaiah 52:7)

First Week

Fourth Day

Fifteen Minutes for a New World

Would you like to discover that you live in a heavenly, new world? Give me fifteen minutes of your time every morning for about three months, and although I would hesitate to promise—as might a calisthenics instructor—that you will be “a new man,” I can say this: At the end of that time you will discover that you live in a new world.

Begin the fifteen-minute period if possible outdoors, or by a large window. Stand gazing upon the landscape and then up at the sky, stretch your mind and take in the vastness of God. Then feel, as you breathe deeply, the fragrance and beauty of God. Now let your soul beat with His Love.

You will begin to discover that you live in a friendly universe where religion is not something to put on or cast off but where it is a part of life, like blood is part of the body. You will see yourself in a new world where God dwells—not just in churches, expressing His wonders only in rituals—but where He governs every moment in every corner of His Creation. You will discover you are in a world where immortality need not be sought after for some future time because you will know you are immortal now, and God’s entire domain with all its goodness and with all its beauty belongs to you now and forever!

Each morning will become for you the beginning of an adventure, full of thrilling opportunities and breath-taking surprises. On any door which seems to be closing you will find a sign which points to another that will open upon vistas beyond all your former imagining. Your Father will be with you everywhere you are, sharing with you, His child, the wealth of the Kingdom of Heaven.

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. (Revelation 21:1)

First Week

Fifth Day

Growth Is a Continual Process

We often have the mistaken idea that education should provide external stimulus that will make inner growth possible. Actually, growth is constant, and the true purpose of education should be to open wider and wider the channels of impression and expression so that the inevitable process of growth may proceed in an orderly and normal fashion.

Great geniuses are not men who received “adequate” formal educations. Edison, Lincoln, Socrates and Shakespeare were fortunate enough to have found freedom to grow great from their own inner Light. The purpose today in our educational systems seems to be “learning for earning,” as though the mere acquisition of factual knowledge is the key to success in life.

Undoubtedly Christ’s disciples were uncouth and unlettered at the time he chose them to follow him. Yet how many of us are worthy to be called the “light of the world” and fishers of men”? How many of us have been educated to be the “Sons of God”?

When we return to a study of the beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount we discover that eternal verities are not to be measured with mental reasonings. If our whole educational system could be geared to teach us to live as sons of God, debate and rationalizations would be replaced with faith that moves mountains of fear and hate. Then indeed would peace reign in the hearts of men. So, why do we wait while men destroy each other with the implements of Mind?

O Master, we would hear they call, “Come follow,” and drop the little, idle efforts for so-called civilization to go along the Way which thou hast trod before us. Though it lead us into shows of death, or into green pastures, we are they servants, prepared to live for Thine eternal purposes. In Jesus’ name. Amen

My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: But he that seeketh His glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.
(John 7:16-18)

First Week

Sixth Day

You Become What You Adore

Experts on handwriting claim they can read personality in handwriting. Physiognomists claim that character is revealed in the finer points of skin texture, shape of the nose and set of the jaw. Phrenologists ponder the bumps on the skull. Psychologists claim that personality traits, emotional tendencies and vocational aptitudes can be determined by charts and test.

But I can show you a simpler way. Tell me what you adore and I will tell you what you are. If you adore gossip your face will wear the mask of a gossip. If you adore money, the dollar sign will darken your brow and shape your handclasp. If you adore landscapes and sunsets, tranquility will be expressed in your gaze and your voice. If you adore Jesus and look up to him long and often, you will take on the aspects of divinity. Everyone should read a book about Jesus each year.

Better yet, read each day from the gospel records, and come to know the Carpenter of Nazareth. As he becomes real to you through the words he spoke and the report of his deeds on earth, his Presence and Power will be transforming you. You will walk with a new dignity, according to the stature of a child of God. Your motions will be graceful and relaxed because you have yielded to the controlling guidance of that inner Light. Your countenance will radiate Love, and your features will be softened in that radiance until you appear as you really ARE. For the first time you will have become what you *sincerely* adored all the years before.

To whom then will ye liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare unto him? (Isaiah 40:18) Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (Isaiah 40:28-31)

First Week

Seventh Day

Be Still and Know

ALMIGHTY FATHER, there is no power on earth but Thine. All our human efforts are vain; what we make today is gone tomorrow. Only Thy creations live forever. So help us to be still so that Thy Voice may speak to our needs.

Breathe through us, O Blessed Spirit of the Most High, as we try to drink from the wellsprings of eternal. Truth and not from the swamps and fens of the world's dark knowledge. Write Thy statutes on our hearts, plant Thy commandments in our minds. As we lay hold on Thy promises, make us more truly aware of Thy Love for us, and give us an ever-increasing capacity to radiate that Love to all mankind.

We thank Thee, Our Heavenly Father, that we live in a world where Light controls life, and where darkness is but a seeming absence of light. Help us to keep our eyes upon the sunshine and not upon the shadows, upon the realities of the Kingdom and not upon the counterfeits of the Wilderness. Oh, that men would praise Thee more for Thy goodness and for Thy wonderful works! Now let us dream Thy dreams and vision Thy visions, in Jesus' name, Amen.

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. (Psalm 91:1-7)