

Sixth Week

First Day

O Lift Up Your Heads

There are three levels of truth: the sky level, the street level and the sewer level. If you want “the facts of life” you must admit that all are there. But we can choose what facts we want to dwell upon, and what level of truth we want to live with. I for one do not choose to live in the sewer.

“But that is escape,” the cynic shouts. “You are running from reality.”

Of course it is escape. Who would not escape from the sewer level as fast as he could? Let the researchers do their investigating there, let the plumbers mend the pipes there; but unless your business requires your presence, leave that level of truth to those whose duty is there.

But up on the street level where you belong, plant your feet firmly and get the work done which God gave you to do—as accurately, thoroughly and effectively as possible. Only do not think that that is the only level where truth can be found!

Spend a part of each day on the sky level. In the early dawn before the work of the day begins, pause and look with eyes of wonder into the sky, and listen with Job to the Voice of the Lord saying: “Where was thou when I laid the foundations of earth?...Or who laid the cornerstone thereof, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?...Who can number the clouds in wisdom?”

O Lord, my God, open my eyes that I may see visions of Truth Thou hast for me!

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6:21)

Sixth Week

Second Day

Let God Do the Creating

We are on the verge of a great discovery, the discovery that GREAT RICHES, LOVELY IDEAS, AND MASTERPIECES ARE ALREADY CREATED IN THE MIND OF GOD.

There is an inmost centre in us all,
Where truth abides in fullness; and around,
Wall upon wall, the gross flesh hems it in,
This perfect, clear perception—which is truth.
A baffling and perverting carnal mesh
Binds it, and makes all error: and, to KNOW,
Rather consists in opening out a way
Whence the imprisoned splendour may escape,
Than in effecting entry for a light
Supposed to be without.

ROBERT BROWNING

Nothing so tires a creative person, or a scholar, so much as the feeling that he must do the creating and thinking himself. Vital currents of Truth are constantly flowing as perfect, pure inspiration. But to receive them we must be responsive first to the needs in the hearts

of men and then think of our minds and imaginations as the vortex through which God may draw a response to meet those needs.

Work with ease and joy! And know that only God can give you true inspiration; this relieves you from the tensions of effort and frustration. The greatest genius of all has said, "I do not do these works, but the Father in me doeth them." Does a miner claim to have created coal when he sinks his shaft into the earth to that point where God placed it one billion years ago?

When Jesus went up into the mountain to pray, he left behind the limited carpenter consciousness and entered into Permanent Identity with God. We too can step out of our little Tom, Dick and Harry lives. A wire lying twisted in the alley is rubbish; the same wire connected to a powerhouse can light every lamp in a city. Through prayer we make contact with the Powerhouse of God and become channels of blessing.

As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine: no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (John 15:4)

Sixth Week

Third Day

I Am a Child of God

I am a child, a child of Father-God,
And live forever in His Blessed Home.
The earth is His, the seas, the clod,
The very grass His rug, the sky His dome.

I meet sweet children, smiling as I pass,
And everywhere the Light of Love is bright
In flower and face and on the dew-pearl'd grass—
A heaven of sound and fragrance and of sight.

A child is yet a grown-up, though he's seen
As at a distance, and the grown-ups hear
His babble from afar because he's been
In the Kingdom Doorway now and here.

.

So though we scorn the babe and praise the man,
And though we change all innocence to art,
And use our Reason proudly as we can,
We'll find that children choose the better part.

Come join me on the playground God has planned.
We'll work for Him, but it will seem like play.
When I'm afraid I'll take my Father's hand
And trust His new-born world is on its way.

And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea....Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 18:5-6, 10)

Sixth Week

Fourth Day

God Has a Divine Plan for Me

I believe that the plan God has for me is wrapped in the folds of my being, even as the oak is wrapped in the acorn, and the rose in the bud. I believe that this Plan is permanent, indestructible and perfect—free from all that is essentially evil. Any negative experience has no part in my God-created Plan; it is simply a distortion caused by my own willfulness and blindness. When I relax and yield trustingly to His leading, I lose all sense of personal responsibility for seeing that His will is done. And in that attitude of peaceful assurance His Plan works out perfectly for me and through me.

I may know when I am following His guidance, because only at those times do I have peace. And with it comes a creative urge, propelling me into joyous expression and activity; or it gives me patience and a willingness to sit back when others must unfold the Plan for me.

I believe that this Plan is a perfect part of the larger Plan for the good of all men, and that my good can never be separated from theirs. I believe I may accept with radiant acquiescence all the persons and events that come into my life, knowing that they have been sent to provide me with God-given opportunities for spiritual growth and service.

I believe that when I look out upon the world with trust and love I shall see the shining threads in the over-all Pattern which God has designed. And I shall discover that my own life is woven permanently into His eternal tapestries.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: For the former things are passed away. (Revelation 21:3-4)

Sixth Week

Fifth Day

Seek Him With Your Whole Heart

What does it mean to seek God with one's **WHOLE** heart? Did you ever have an experience in which you poured out every ounce of your energy, every atom of your desire, every resource of mind and soul and body—all at once?

At the age of twenty-two, in 1912, Clarence DeMar won the American Marathon. Ten years later he attempted to make a comeback, although other great winners had failed in the effort. As he ran that race he prayed with every fiber of his being, giving all his strength to the race and all his trust to God. Ten miles from the finish his strength began to give out and

each step was anguish. Then suddenly a power from behind him seemed to push him on, his steps were lighter, and with comparative ease he ran through—a winner. Since then he has won other Marathons, and is the greatest American Marathoner of modern times.

Whether you are a mountain climber, singer, doctor, businessman or housewife, you may have experienced at some time the zest of doing something with all your heart. But one does not know the full joy of wholehearted effort until he has experienced it in relation to other persons, and not as an independent achievement. When a man falls in love he suddenly comes into powers, courage and perseverance, which he did not know he could possess. He goes about his tasks with a song on his lips, a psalm on his heart, and apparently moves upon wings. For once, he is seeking someone with his whole heart.

Today let us fall in Love with God; let us seek Him morning, noon and night with all our heart, mind and soul, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (Matthew 22:37-39)

Sixth Week

Sixth Day

From Under the Sheltering Wings

When I was a boy raising chickens I would place thirteen eggs under our hen and, twenty-one days later, about twelve of them would be transformed into lively, happy chirping chicks. I didn't have to do anything to help the hen; I just turned the whole job over to her. Since then it has come to me that we should be able to put at least as much trust in God as I put in that biddie-hen! And when we do let me tell you what can happen.

Suppose you take a piece of paper and draw thirteen eggs. Write on each one the name of a person you want to pray for, or a problem you want to pray about. Then open your old family Bible to Psalm 91 and lay the entire "setting" of prayer-eggs between its pages. Place the Bible back upon the shelf, and mark on the calendar the date three weeks ahead when you can look for the hatched brood. But until that day do not peek for answers to your prayers! Just look forward expectantly and happily. And when the three weeks have passed take out the "shells" and see what they contained. Of course you may find one or two have not hatched. There are two reasons for failures in prayer-answers and egg-hatchings. If there is even a little rottenness—vanity, jealousy, greed, or desire to escape from reality—or if you pulled them out from the sheltering warmth of the Wings of the Almighty, in the Secret Place of the Most High, they will have missed some of the warm love they needed to come to birth.

But even those lively, downy little answers to your prayers will have to be gently nourished. They cannot crow and cackle and lay eggs the very first day! Place them now into the incubator of Luke 13, and let Jesus brood over the little fledglings in His loving way. Then see how they grow and spread their wings!

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem....how often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! (Luke 13:34, R.S.V.)

Sixth Week

Seventh Day

Prayer, the Mightiest Force

When in all history has there been amassed so much knowledging as in the past fifty years? Through psychiatry nearly all the mysteries of the subconscious realm have been brought to light. And yet what have we learned about man's soul which was not brought to light by Christ? For years we have been flying through the air, and now with television we send pictures through space. For years we were harnessing waterfalls to turn great turbines, and now we harness the split atoms to fight battles for us. We are setting in motion forces which our forefathers could not even dream of! But how many of us have learned that the power of prayer is greater than the radio or television, and the power of love is greater than bombs?

Fifty years ago Steinmetz, electrical wizard and author of more than three hundred inventions, said: "For the past fifty years we have been working with the laws of matter. Fifty years from now we shall be making a study of the laws of spirit. When that time comes we shall take Love into the laboratory and find more power in Love than there is in electricity. When prayer is used with the same confidence that we now use the forces of matter, we shall achieve more in one generation than the world has achieved in the last four hundred years."

The fifty years are up now. Let us actually take Love and Prayer into the laboratory of the spirit and expect to witness miracles as great as the miracles of the radio and atomic bomb—and greater.

Our beloved Heavenly Father, may Thy Love flowing into us create in us a new love, a new understanding, a new life. May we step deep into the quiet of the Upper Room—the laboratory of Love—and there discover thy precious Truths so that we may build for thee Thy Kingdom according to the Plan and Purpose laid out in the beginning by Jesus Christ, thy Son. Amen.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10)