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THE GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED

THE GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED

by
BROTHER MANDUS

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INTRODUCTION

THE GOOD NEWS

THERE is no news like good news, especially if it is endowed with centuries of joyful experience.

This book is a very humble effort to share with you the good news I discovered to be true in the gospels of Jesus Christ. If I write with what seems to be authority and purpose, I pray your indulgence, because it is only the fire of my conviction which makes it appear so.

I know no personal sense of authority, and in no way do I presume to understand all the ways of God or Divine Healing. I am only too well aware of my own shortcomings, and realise that only God is good.

I offer this writing more as a testimony to the reality of Christ's Life and Teaching than anything else. I believe that He meant what He said, and that everyone can prove this to be true in practical experience when we take Him at His Word.

The emphasis throughout is on the fundamental principles of love and faith in Christian expression.

This is in no way intended to detract from nor minimise all the other aspects of Divine Teaching, the significance of redemption and atonement, or the manifold variations of dogma, creed and ritual which each denomination of the Christian Church has adopted.

I was inspired to concentrate on love and faith in prayer, because I recognise these two paramount qualities to be the central theme of the Lord's gospel, and the basic commitment of each Church.

It would seem, from both the individual and world

viewpoints, that it has become urgent to find an infinitely greater vision about the significance of these qualities for human well-being.

We are at last beginning to realise that the man or nation which departs from the *inviolable standard of LOVE* is lost. And that man without *God made real through faith* is like a child isolated from its home environment.

If these stories of Divine Healing, and the power of love and prayer in action, inspire you to extend your own experience, then I shall feel privileged indeed to have had the honour of entering the garden of your mind to "plant a grain of mustard seed".

I suggest that you will come closer to the truth if you seek to read these chapters in an attitude of prayerful receptivity. Words, at best, can but point the way. The real value lies in your own personal experience of the Power of God as you look to His Spirit for authority and verification.

The Father, He it is Who doeth the works. May He Bless you as you read.

BROTHER MANDUS

THE WORLD HEALING CRUSADE,
476, LYTHAM ROAD,
BLACKPOOL, ENGLAND.

CHAPTER ONE

THE SACRED EARTH

The Kingdom of Heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: which is indeed the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

Matt. 13:31, 32.

ON January 4th, 1959, the British Sunday newspaper *The People* had the vision to publish the greatest "scoop" in newspaper history. They declared, under a front-page banner headline, that "Superman is born today". And their readers, almost five million, representing one of the largest newspaper circulations in the world, were given two amazing stories which abundantly prove the incredible destiny of man in the New Age now dawning.

The first half of this front page reported the projection of Russia's Moon Rocket into an "eternal" orbit round the sun: "It is the first object since the world began to escape the earth's thralldom at the behest of a human being." "Russia's Rocket has opened the sky-way to the planets." "Within a short time supermen will be riding in space rockets to explore the planets and survey their wonders." "Let no man scoff at the prophets. This is the age of the superman. Remember this day of marvel—January 4th, 1959."

The second half of their front-page headlined an infinitely more significant event than the scientific exploration of outer space. Backed by a startling photograph,

the caption reads: "They blessed these seeds and suddenly they grew." The text continues:

"From a miracle in the sky to a miracle under the ground. . . . Today *The People* is able to give the first news of a series of scientific experiments which have produced results as astonishing as the Russian venture into space.

A group of scientists in America have proved that seeds for which prayers have been offered grow more quickly than those not so Blessed.

Incredible? It may be, but the picture on the left gives the proof.

In this case, lima beans are seen growing from seed in the pan on the left. Beside them is another pan in which other lima beans were sown—in exactly the same soil, at exactly the same moment and given exactly the same treatment.

Prayers were offered for the pan on the left. They grew to a height of fifteen inches. No prayers were offered for the seeds in the pan on the right. Not one broke through the soil.

Like the moon rocket, these experiments are news that may have staggering consequences for mankind. A full report of them is published in *The People* today. . . . It could be the first news of fresh discoveries that may change man's whole conception of the universe."

Pages two and three are devoted exclusively to the full report by *The People* correspondent in New York, Mr. Len Coulter. He says: "Nothing less than one of the central beliefs of the Christian and other religions is involved—the power of prayer." It is the story of years of rigorously conducted laboratory tests by a research group in Los Angeles, the Religious Research Foundation, directed by

the Rev. Franklin Loehr, minister and scientist. They have scientifically proved the power of prayer and produced measurable facts which, if we have the unprejudiced vision to grasp their significance, will "shake the scientific world to their depths".

These two breath-taking stories only serve to confirm and emphasise the truth that man has at last begun his journey of exploration into the infinite powers and potentials which belong to him. The flickering candle-flame of human consciousness, slowly evolving its light in the age-long evolutionary cycle, is rapidly becoming an arc-light fed by the cosmic power of creation as he probes deeper into the laws of mind and matter.

The twentieth century has been the most exciting and vital time in all the history of the world. It represents the beginning of man's release from bondage to the limitations of self and environment. He is now on his way not only to the stars, but into conscious union and communion with the infinite Spirit of God—the One Power which indwells and expresses all material creation and life itself.

In all the sciences we are no longer confronted by a solid material world, or even a "solid" body in living organisms in plants, insects, birds, animals and man. Wherever we probe, we find the intangible and infinitely intelligent Power which works within and all around everything that is in being. We leap from matter to mind, and observe Laws which control and direct the intricate and ever evolving universe. We find the evidence of God's Presence in the atom or in a nebula of countless millions of stars, millions of light years away in deeper space.

A tree demonstrates the Power that planned it, and the Life Force which is even within the seed ready to express it to full growth. The seed of a man and woman, an infinitesimal speck of "matter", contains the Plan of a man, and the Power to live and know to an infinite degree.

Within the initial fusion of the male and female cells is the potential power to build space ships or cities, to harness the energy of the universe, or in conscious partnership with the infinite Spirit of God to achieve ever mightier objectives.

The nuclear physicist, of all men, has revolutionised scientific beliefs about the material structure of the universe. He discovers that so-called solid matter does not even exist except in a relative way to our senses. There is no such thing as an ultimate solid particle, for beyond it is the dynamic of cosmic energy held in states of equilibrium and pattern which produce the appearance of matter in all its forms. They touch not only infinite power, but the Laws and Directing Intelligence which indwell and manifest everything.

Yet it is the "tiny" human mind which is able to understand more and more of this amazing cosmic environment, and through his own mental power direct these laws and energies to his own well-being or destruction as he chooses. In these days of incredible knowledge and experience, who can dare to deny the infinite possibilities which lie open to him in the future?

We live in this universe. The world has obviously been created as our special environment. We find ourselves endowed with minds which *must* explore, plan and create in order to live in it. The more we know about the laws of life, mind and matter, the more surely will we be able to evolve the ideal society working in harmony with the Laws which govern life and all creation.

We cannot escape the fact or the consequences of being alive. It is also painfully true that we have to learn how to live safely in the midst of this "mass" of Divine Energies and Laws. When we break laws which govern our well-being, we hurt ourselves. When we conform to them we are able to bring forth great works. And this truth operates

in every aspect of life, from everyday relationships to the most advanced scientific research. Therefore, the more we know about ourselves and everything else, the greater will be our ability to live and create successfully.

The revolution in human concepts that is imminent is the simple and self-evident truth that we live, and move, and have our being in the Spirit of God. That is the truth which will some day make all men free.

All the sciences, government, education, economics and life itself can only find its true potential, and the power to express it, when this basic factor of all being is held in constant recognition and perspective.

We no longer have even the excuse of ignorance to hold us back from this bold advance into the "Kingdom of God". In the light of modern knowledge about the nature of the universe, the human mind and the proven power of prayer, we are absolutely on the threshold of the greatest and most profitable adventure man has ever undertaken.

The moment we strip our minds of prejudice, fixed beliefs in outdated customs, and become healed of the prevailing disease in which everything from people to sunshine is relegated to the "commonplace", we shall be able to behold the Presence of God all around us, and find a startling new faith in our own place in the Divine Order.

As I write these words I am sitting in my car quietly realising the Presence of God. It is a wonderful winter day. There is a magic carpet of snow five inches deep, and from where I am parked I can see the white field glistening in the frosty sunshine as it blends with the woods a hundred yards away.

There is a small tree just beside the car. It thrusts up starkly from the snow, each bough sparkling with its winter overcoat. But on the tips of every branch new buds are already well forward, and soon the spring will release the

abundant life already preparing within the tree for this dramatic event.

Looking for God? Every tree in front of me is proclaiming the simple fact of His power. Perhaps a billion seeds of grass, flowers and shrubs lie resting in the ground below the snow, and as surely as I know I am alive, the plan, purpose and ordination of God is that in the spring everything will demonstrate the life, beauty and fulfilment of His Will.

Even a child can understand that if God stopped working there could be no fruits of the field, no life, no earth at all.

I look at the sun, which fills the landscape with light. It is more than ninety million miles away . . . yet without God there could be no sun, and without the sun, life would be extinct on the planet earth.

All around me are uncountable millions of snowflakes. When examined and photographed through a microscope, each flake reveals a pattern of symmetrical perfection. Most women are fond of beautiful patterns for their needlework, but the design God stamps on to each snowflake is wonderful to see. Even more startling, every flake is different. Surely, for every pattern, there must be the one who created it?

Scientifically stated, the seat upon which I sit, the metal and glass of the car, the clothes I wear, the body and mind which I call my own, **MUST** have the purpose and power of infinite intelligence to bring them into being.

If the earth itself is pulsing with life and power which we can witness in detail, from an atom to a field of corn, when we look into outer space we see God at work in cosmic grandeur, confirming the truth in the vast array of mighty works.

Astronomy has given the world a colossal concept to digest. We know now that we are already very experienced travellers in space. Our world spins round the sun

at about 70,000 miles an hour. The mother sun itself, with its family of circling planets, is but one member of a galaxy, or universe, of perhaps one hundred million similar suns. Our universe is like a gigantic spinning wheel of suns circling round a common centre. Our own sun and planetary system are situated towards the outside edge of the wheel, speeding through space at a million miles an hour! Yet our universe is so vast that we can only make one complete circle in two hundred million years.

Astronomers like Hoyle and Lyttleton postulate that there could be between one hundred thousand and one million other worlds suitable for life, as we know it, within our own galaxy.

Awe-inspiring though all this is, in the great observatories, through the 200-inch reflector telescope at Mount Palomar in California, and the famous Jodrell Bank electronic telescope in England, astronomers now look out *beyond* our own galaxy, and behold *a hundred million* other universes as big, or bigger, than ours.

They observe universes so far away that the LIGHT they see left those galaxies up to one thousand million years ago. And light travels at 186,325 miles per second! Scientists can measure the speed of these universes, and discover that they are all hurtling away from each other at up to two hundred million miles an hour.

The new cosmology, popularly expressed by Fred Hoyle in his book *The Expanding Universe*, produces a hypothesis of continuous creation. He writes: "Where does the created material come from? It does not come from anywhere. Material simply appears—it is created. At one time the atoms composing the material do not exist, and at a later time they do. . . . Continuous creation . . . can be represented by precise mathematical equations, whose consequences can be worked out and compared with observation."

The astronomer points to continuous creation. The botanist witnesses the life patterns and processes in all vegetation. The biologist observes the mystery of living and "self-creating" organisms in the human body from conception to old age. The psychologist probes the deeps of the mind, and glimpses the infinite and almost unexplored powers resident therein. The nuclear physicist now sees energy, not matter, and releases it in hydrogen bombs or nuclear power stations. And, inevitably, in all the sciences, the deeper we delve into the secrets of nature, the more surely do we meet the Mind which creates *everything*, without any exception.

As Eddington said: "All through the physical world runs that unknown content which must surely be of the stuff of consciousness." Or, with Sir James Jeans: "The Universe looks more like a great Thought than a great machine." Fawcett tells us: "The World system is a complex fact which has been made, and is still being made, within Divine Imagining."

A mother once overheard her little child praying. "God Bless mummy and daddy. God Bless Auntie Sue. And please God, do look after Yourself, because if anything happens to you, we're sunk!"

And that is a simple statement more profound than all the sciences put together. In fact, it is quite fantastic that anyone should ever have to argue about or try to prove the Presence of God. Although we live in a world which has largely lost the reality of spiritual vision and faith, the strangest "miracle" of all is that anyone, anywhere, could ever have been trapped into any lack of a supreme faith in God as the only existing Power of being.

Factually, it would be as foolish and blind for me to lack faith in the Divine Presence, as it would be for me to look at the sun now shining upon the snow and wish I could have faith in its reality!

The earth and all life upon it is sacred in the highest sense of the word. It is the temple of the Holy Spirit. It belongs to and is filled with God. It belongs to man, but man too is part of God. It is impossible to be separated from that which is in all creation.

The science of the future will take full notice of the supreme significance of this truth. That all things are possible with God, has long been a statement of spiritual realisation. But all things are likewise possible for man, when he allows God to work with him.

Even more important is the greater truth that, although the sciences will inevitably move into the realm of Divine Causes and Laws in their research, the Power of God is available to help, heal, and magnify the life of every man, woman and child on earth.

It is staggering to think that the greatest Power of all can be brought into practical application in the lives of the entire race, irrespective of their intellectual ability. There is the real miracle, for fundamentally, prayer is the prerogative of all people, and simplicity of faith and love are the laws which open the way into this infinite Kingdom of God.

The scientist and intellectual, would they find the supreme way to infinite power, must reconsider the Laws which operate on this dimension of experience. Man is apt to rest on his own brilliance, and miss the truth that God is Almighty Power moving in His own right, to fulfil His own purposes. And that He invades with all power the life that surrenders self to believe in the works of God. Humility, simplicity and love must pervade the intellect when prayer becomes the science of living and creating.

So the world upon which we live, and the reality of our own being, beckon us on to a simple faith, which opens the way to the freedoms for which we all instinctively yearn. The sacred earth, the sacred life, contain already

the seeds of our destiny. It is greater than our highest dreams, for we are eternal beings living in the Spirit of God.

It is indeed a sign of the times when a mighty newspaper like *The People* sees the significance of prayer as revealed in the plant experiments. Wonderful though this article is, it is still only a confirmation of something that has been operating amongst us for a number of years now.

I heard about the Religious Research Foundation experiments when I was on a mission to the United States, and saw some of their photographs at that time. But much work has been going on in the British Isles in the same direction.

The De La Warr laboratories at Oxford have also been working on this with startling results. Mr. William Higgs of Leven, Scotland, has undertaken an extensive programme of prayer research in plant and crop growth, with the same conclusions. And others are increasingly working in this field, stimulated by the far-reaching possibilities which open before them.

At Oxford, in the relatively new science of radiesthesia, amazing potentials are revealed which startle even those engaged in this research. Scientifically it is known that everything, everywhere has its own radiation. The human aura of ancient belief can now be measured. Matter is energy expressing its own wavelength of manifestation. We talk of electronic fields and measure their intensity. Thought processes in the brain can be tabulated on a graph. And, in every direction, new and wonderful possibilities emerge.

We accept today the truth of telepathy. The famous experiments of Dr. Rhine finally set the seal upon a fact which most people instinctively and through personal experience knew to be true.

Modern research in hypnosis discovers amazing powers

in the deeps of the mind, and its ability to transcend distance in perception of events taking place far from the presence of the operators. We constantly catch a glimpse of these inner powers in the reports of tribal rites, in which people actually walk over red hot fires without blemish; of skewers penetrating the flesh without wounds or blood. Yet seldom do we scientifically pause to assess the significance of these events.

In the De La Warr laboratories, for instance, they have thousands of photographs which prove the possibility of photographing "consciousness". They can diagnose a disease in someone far away from a blood spot which, when photographed with their prayerfully attuned instruments, produces a picture of the diseased organs.

In some of the seed experiments reported in *The People*, they irrigated the seeds with water that had been Blessed in prayer by each of the members of the team—with startling results.

I saw a photograph from the De La Warr Laboratories of a drop of water, taken from a goblet which had been Blessed by a priest. A normal photograph, of course, would show a drop of water. The picture they obtained was a white radiant cross on a black background! They had tuned in to the Blessing, the Prayer, which was now the power released in the water and symbolised by the cross!

The significance of all these revelations is so great that the imagination flags before the impact of it. When we add to it the fact of thousands of authenticated healings of incurable diseases by prayer, all over the world, in many modern ministries, it is certainly time we became quickened into dynamic and concentrated action to co-ordinate and express this Power of God.

The real need is for these truths to become widely known and practised. It is interesting to note that a mighty

newspaper like *The People* has the true vision of what the peoples of the world are really seeking. For years, this newspaper has been pre-eminent in publishing cases of Divine Healing and results of psychic research, and it is generally receptive to the implication of these transcendental events.

It is fitting indeed that their vision should be crowned with the greatest double story in newspaper history. May they be led to see that the world can only be saved from its dangers, disease and disasters by the widespread knowledge of the Laws whereby we live, and the incredible potentials for good which await our faith in God and our eternal destiny.

Some day every newspaper will follow this lead, for this is the path of truth which man ignores at his peril, as he has so abundantly proven in the past.

Science and religion meet at a common point of recognition and understanding now. It is the only way forward. The days of fairy-tale Christianity are almost over, for too many wondrous works are now being done by prayer to stop the progress of mankind into the now well proven ways of love and faith in the Power of God for universal well-being.

Thank You, Father, for this Sacred Earth, this Sacred Life in Thee.

*

*

*

So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him.

And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good.

While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Gen. 1:27, 31, 8:22.

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations.

Isa. 61:11.

Therefore I say unto you. Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Therefore take no thought, saying, what shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? or, wherewithal shall we be clothed?

For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Jesus: Matt. 6:25, 33.

CHAPTER TWO

BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE

And so abideth faith, hope, love; these three. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Cor. 13.

PRAYER is the most important of all human activities. It is nothing less than communicating with the Father of all creation. The results of such communion are unlimited because, potentially, all the Power of God can and will meet every need on every level—spiritually, mentally, physically and materially.

Millions of people have had experience of answered prayer. Yet, despite the vast array of evidence proving its power, this vital aspect of life has not yet been accepted as the first and fundamental need of all mankind.

Even in a Christian community, the vast majority seldom believe that prayer is the *infallible* way of healing disease or disaster, with the understanding that God cannot fail to respond to our love and faith.

With all our modern knowledge and experience of Divine Healing, confirming conclusively the teaching of Jesus Christ, it is strange indeed that we have not comprehensively brought prayer-principles into widespread operation throughout the entire range of experience. Even one healing of an incurable disease through communion with God should have stirred the imagination of Church and Governments, scientists and doctors, business men and all people. The *thousands* of testified cases, plus our knowledge of the reality of infinite Power in our midst,

have provided a situation filled with such amazing possibilities, that we should long since have made the exploration and experience of the laws governing effective prayer a national and international priority.

All over the world many people, in the Church and outside it, are pioneering this Christ Way. In spite of the "mass inertia" and general low level of faith, their experiences in the healing of broken minds, bodies and distorted circumstances by prayer, and the practice of Divine Principles, are so startling that it is almost a state of insanity to ignore the significance of these events.

When will we understand the transcendental value of these discoveries? Elsie Salmon of South Africa has published hundreds of cases of healing in her books, *God Heals Today* and *God Still Healing*. The works of the Rev. John Maillard, Dr. Christopher Woodard (*A Doctor Heals by Faith*), the Rev. William Wood of London, Dr. Price of Philadelphia, Agnes Sanford (*The Healing Light*), Dr. Rebecca Beard (*Everyman's Search*), Henry Thomas Hamblin, and the psychic healer Harry Edwards stand forth as beacon lights to all men. And this list represents only a fraction of the total experience of many more men and women with a vision of reality.

Their stories might have come from biblical times, so closely do they match the miracles reported in the Bible.

I have also found the same truth in my own ministry. Down the years, hosts of people have found prayer to be true, and that it was the Father Who silently moved in response to our united love and faith, to rectify "impossible" situations. We have published many hundreds of these healings in our free monthly magazine, *The Crusader*. Yet everyone who embarks on a prayer ministry recognises completely that it is no "gift of healing", but the action of God responding to the faith and love of those

participating. There is no personal credit involved, but rather a deep humility, awe and thankfulness before God's Love healing a broken life.

Since we were discussing the pioneering vision of *The People*, it is interesting to quote from an article by the well-known journalist, Evadne Price, which appeared in *The People* as long ago as January 30th, 1955. This is her impression of a Divine Healing service which I was conducting, as she witnessed God's response to prayer. The headline to the article reads:

Evadne Price reports on the remarkable healing work of a man who says no illness can withstand the power of Divine Love.

*I CAN STILL HEAR A BLIND WOMAN CRY,
"I CAN SEE."*

Last June a sudden shower sent me into the open doorway of a church for shelter.

A tall man was addressing the congregation on Divine Love as a healing power.

At the end of the address, those in need of healing were invited to come forward. It was the first time I had come across a faith healer at work, and I felt I must take the opportunity to test his powers.

So I joined the queue. I had a bad sore throat. Would he be able to cure me?

I watched as each person in the queue went up to the man in white. First he asked the nature of the ailment . . . and prayed. Finally he thanked God for a complete cure. . . .

I admit I was sceptical . . . but then the healer came to a blind woman. She told him she had "double cataracts".

"Father, this dear sister's eyes are beautiful eyes, created by Your Love. You made these eyes to see, not

to be disfigured. Father, let this dear sister, through Your Divine Love, see again as You intended her to see!"

He paused. You could have heard a pin drop throughout the church. Then he threw up his hands in a sudden triumphant gesture: "It is done! Thank You, Father!"

And then something electric happened, which all my life I shall never forget. That blind woman cried out, "I can see! I can see!"

It was my turn to be healed. . . . I felt a current, like that of electricity, pass through my body. When I arrived home my sore throat had gone.

But my case was nothing compared with the miracle of that blind woman. I determined to investigate the work of the man in white.

So it was that I visited the headquarters of the World Healing Crusade at Blackpool when, at the Sanctuary at Lytham Road, I met the healer. . . .

"I pray to the Father to enable you to see yourself perfect. And you can only do that by filling yourself with His Love. But as soon as you succeed you are cured."

That is his theory. How does it work out in practice? To give you the answer I investigated a number of his cases at random.

There is first of all Mr. Babbs, a miner ever since he left school in 1919.

In 1948 he developed spinal trouble and was sent to Sunderland infirmary. After five weeks osteo-arthritis was diagnosed, with slight spinal curvature. Nothing could be done for his condition, except to give him a spinal support.

By now it was 1951. Unable to work in the mines, he got light work in a garage. In 1952, Brother Mandus

gave him Divine Healing. He was able to touch his toes *immediately*. That same night he discarded his spinal support—for ever.

Three months later he was medically examined and passed fit to re-enter the mine.

Next I inquired into the case of Mrs. Rothery of Morecambe. She told me that in September 1953 she had two operations at Morecambe Victoria Hospital for a growth. Seven months later a surgeon said another operation was necessary.

"I went to Brother Mandus in despair," she says. "Three weeks later there was a bed waiting for me at the hospital. I went to the surgeon instead.

"He examined me. There was no lump. It had all cleared up. No operation was necessary."

From Morecambe, too, comes the story of Mrs. Brooks. She says that she was X-rayed at Morecambe Hospital, where an arthritic condition in almost every part of her body was diagnosed. There was also high blood pressure.

She went to Brother Mandus. She can now kneel and climb stairs. Indeed, she claims she has never felt better.

Little John Beaumont was born 11 years ago with valvular heart disease. A few years ago his mother took him to Brother Mandus.

"I don't expect a hundred per cent. cure," she said.

"Why not?" said Brother Mandus.

Within three days the child began to improve. Now he runs and swims. . . .

That is the evidence about Brother Mandus. You must make up your own minds about it. For me, it only reinforces the belief I began to have in his mysterious powers when I heard that blind woman cry "I can see! I can see!"

One can only rejoice and give thanks for such Blessings. One can only praise God and spread the good news to as many as will listen and act upon it.

But we are really in a very wonderful position today. We have reached the point where we do not need authenticated cases of answered prayer to validate the truth. There is sufficient evidence already in being to excite the most critical of observers, and quicken us all to understand the laws which control this release of God's Power into such dynamic action.

What are these laws? The very first principle of prayer is Love. In modern experience of Divine Healing Ministries, everyone who seriously embarked on this journey of exploration discovered that love was the power which made prayer effective. While it is difficult to define or describe the experience of loving God and people in prayer, there is, nevertheless, an awareness of a responding peace, power and a sense of absolute Perfection.

As a basis for research, most of us studied again the teaching of Jesus. There, plain for all to see, was a decree that Love is the paramount principle of the abundant life and communion with God. We are told that God is Love, and certainly the results of practical prayer lead us to know that this is so.

Thinking scientifically if, because we concentrated on God's Presence as absolute love, a cripple walked or a blind person received sight, we must naturally begin seriously to consider the full implication of Love as the healing factor.

In other words, our entire concept of the universe and the power which motivates it will be revolutionised by our ever deepening understanding that the primary power of creation is Love. This may well be a difficult hurdle for the scientist, but when miracles happen to seeds and to

diseased cells in a human body through a love-consciousness, we must surely re-arrange our thinking to follow the lead given.

We are faced with the need to know that God as LOVE is the very "substance" of the sun, the earth and all life. It is the Spirit itself, the first Cause of subsequent universal action in the Divine Intelligence (MIND) operating through infinite laws.

Even in ordinary experience, we all know that our lives are happy and harmonious when love abounds, and disturbed when it is absent. It is the paramount power of human consciousness, and it is true to say that disaster threatens the individual, nations, and the world, when hatreds, fears, resentments and selfishness are expressed.

In the Blessed Seeds articles in *The People*, it is also shown how it is possible to retard and even wither growth by negative treatment. In our generation, we have indeed witnessed the utter disaster, on a worldwide scale, of mass hatreds in warfare.

Even as Love transcends all powers in promoting comprehensive well-being, so equally, the opposite negative force can be demonstrated to produce chaos.

Could we know the whole truth about every human being who is sick in mind, body or circumstance, we begin to realise that there is some deficiency of love somewhere in the total life span from childhood to the present moment. Or, alternatively, some lack of love in their forbears reflected as tensions into the present life, or in the love fault of others around them, or indeed in the consciousness of the world family.

We need to learn to magnify our conception of love from the limited personal relationships to an understanding that this is the Great Law of all creation. We must learn to use it in every aspect of our lives with conscious direction, and in a constant awareness that *whenever* this power

is being expressed, God Power is also operative. We must extend our recognition of this law to accept it as a Perfection Principle, which forever produces practical demonstrations of that Perfection on every level of experience.

With Jesus, we can now begin to understand the significance of the first and second commandments:

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.”

And “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”.

Never, in all the history of the world, has so vital a truth been given to man, with such emphasis, in so few words.

Jesus demonstrated this Perfection Principle as a Power so great that the instantaneous healing of every kind of incurable disease followed its use and recognition.

He taught His disciples and the people that when their lives came into harmony with this Law, backed by faith in the reality of its dynamic, mighty works were to be expected. And, in fact, those who followed His teaching found that it was so. The early Church was founded upon the effectiveness of this way of life.

Every modern Ministry of Prayer which is based on this paramount Principle proves the same truth. Love, in this total committal advocated by Jesus, releases a Perfection Principle which works comprehensively throughout the soul, mind, body and environment.

Although there is a natural tendency to marvel when Love heals blind eyes, dissolves diseased tissues to produce healthy ones, or lifts a cripple out of a wheel-chair on to his feet, that is only a relatively small aspect of the Power of Love in prayer.

It is necessary for us to be healed of our ills. It is wonderful to realise that in God's Love there is All-Power and Divine Desire to solve these problems for us. And this profound truth will eventually be recognised as the

eternal security of the race, to be used whenever needed.

But the Will of God for man is abundant life. We do not need to become diseased or distressed to prove the power of prayer or the effectiveness of love.

The supreme revelation of Jesus was that when we live in a complete Love-awareness of God, and express this Principle in our relationships with others, our lives reflect the peace and harmony of the Divine Order.

This experience of love and faith is the *only way* to prevent discord and disease. And prevention is far better than cure.

It is becoming well-known to psychologists, doctors and ministers that functional and organic disease of the body is almost always due to inner tensions and discords, worry, strain, resentments and any kind of negative conscious or subconscious emotion or mental attitude. We know that "thoughts are living things" and *must* express their equivalents outwardly in the body or environment for good or ill according to their quality and intensity.

We will deal more comprehensively with these causes in subsequent chapters. But for the moment it is sufficient to state that Love, wherever expressed, *always* produces good. It brings peace, harmony, confidence and the warm glow of spiritual, mental and physical well-being. It is the ultra-positive Principle of the soul and mind. It is man's only functional channel to God.

When Love functions in prayer we unite with the Perfection of God—according to our faith. Obviously, the implication of this transcends the more limited concept of healing our troubles by this union and communion.

We must lift our vision. This most vital of all human abilities opens the way to partnership with the Lord in every detail of living. We can at any time become attuned to the Divine Purposes of our being, and express our highest potentials under His direction.

The man and woman who find true love in their family relationships have a priceless benediction. They are glowing with an intangible power which everyone recognises and desires. "All the world loves a lover." We know, in spite of many failures to achieve the ideal, that this is the most satisfying of all experiences. It is a clue to what can happen to us when God's Love is discovered and released to magnify the *whole range of experience*.

We also know that the man or woman who loves his or her work always produces the best and most satisfying results. And when we hate our work or environment, difficulties and pains abound.

The greatest works of man have always been expressed through this principle. The scientist finds his inspiration and stimulus through love for the subject which captures his imagination. A successful business evolves through the same directing impulse, and "goodwill" represents the fulfilment of this aspiration expressing also in satisfied clients. The politician, miner, artist, housewife and minister are all bound by the same law. Fundamentally, all our lives are successful according to the degree our love can be expressed.

It can therefore be understood that love is not a subsidiary sentimental quality of the human make-up. Too often, in our superficial assessments, we think of this as something belonging only to the intimate family circle, and then to a lesser extent embracing our particular friends and acquaintances.

Seldom do we consciously relate it to our work or to our relationship with everyone in the world. We recognise *interest* in people and vocation, but fail to realise that the power motivating interest and concentration is Love.

We believe, implicitly, in will-power and our intellectual ability to achieve objectives, but miss so often the possibility of infinitely greater experience and success,

with much less effort and strain, by not being aware of the dynamic of love which motivates and magnifies all the other powers of the mind.

Nowadays, with just cause, we realise that everything man achieves stems from the unseen and incredibly potent processes of imagination and mental power. The quality of our thinking is the measure of what we are, what we have achieved so far, and what will happen to us in the future.

When our minds are centred on the motivating principle of love, comprehensively expressed, there is an inevitable outward flow of multiplying good throughout the life experience. It is a truth that can be demonstrated.

This is a fact even within the narrow limits of ordinary consciousness. But the new vision leaps to behold the incredible possibilities of becoming united with God's Love. The moment we are prepared to recognise the truth that God is Love, and that we live and have our being in Him, we can see that *whenever* we express love, in however limited a way, something of God, of good, is manifesting.

Every act of love as we know it on the everyday level is like the grain of mustard seed which, when planted and cultivated, grows (as it does in Palestine) to a tree with many branches. The creative quality of love is its infallible power to increase and return abundant fruits of its kind.

That is why Jesus Christ taught and demonstrated this Divine Law. When we understand, factually, simply and scientifically, that the entire universe is the outward projection of this supreme motivating force, our concepts of life and all our objectives will change to come into communion with it.

God is Love. Love is Life. It is the Power within all matter, within our minds and every cell of our bodies. It is Supreme Intelligence, and this God Who is Love is all knowledge, wisdom and power in everything everywhere.

This Love is Perfect Everything, and because man finds his own life through the life, the Love, of God expressing him, *he is at all times potentially able to commune with that Presence.*

It is impossible to define God, or Love. We can only experience His Power. But it has been amply demonstrated that prayer produces results which are impossible by human standards. Jesus led the way and showed the science of living within Divine Law. We take it up today and prove the same truth.

Dr. Rebecca Beard of America gave up medical practice to undertake research in Divine Healing. She reports, among many other wonderful healings, the case of a woman with abdomen bulging with internal cancer. In an overnight healing, 38½ lbs. of diseased tissue just vanished, without trace or discharge. Two doctors verified the facts.

Is this not a challenge to the integrity, imagination and aspiration of every doctor, scientist, minister and, indeed, everyone who can see the wider potentials which beckon us on?

Does it not reveal the infinite horizon of human destiny? Man can communicate with his Maker. Is there anyone alive who would not wish to have the infinite resources of God constantly directing his spiritual, mental and physical well-being? Could there be a doctor or scientist who would not like to be inspired with the infinite knowledge and guidance of God in their work and research? Would any government not like God to guide and harmonise the complexities of modern civilisation and international relationships?

Where do the possibilities end? There is no limit, and the only conclusion we can draw from our factual experiences of love and prayer, is that it is God's purpose for man that he shall evolve an ever more effective relationship with Him.

We are told: "All that I have is thine." Jesus Himself tells us that our real destiny is a spiritual one, based on Love expressed in communion with the Father by faith. "It is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." The abundant life of perfect well-being and creative achievement. He only insists that if we would experience this state of joy, we must understand and operate the one Law of universal obligation—the Perfection Principle of Love, for God is Love.

Nowadays psychologists, teachers, ministers and doctors are increasingly advocating the need to think positively. They recognise the power of thought and its constant effects for good or ill according to their quality. They know that negative thinking is destructive and that positive thoughts are constructive. "We are what we think" is a truism, and is certainly so when we also take into account the subconscious content of the mind with its undercurrents of past causes of present disturbances.

So the new focus is on how to teach people to think positively, and many books and systems have been published to that end. Generally speaking, most of them miss the true method because they continue to think in terms of mental training—strengthening the will power, imagination, good habits, memory and so forth. So often the very effort put into this kind of training defeats its purpose, because the supreme Principle of Love in relationship with God is not fully understood nor applied.

Without this "key", mental science is the most complicated and difficult of all subjects to master. In fact, it is in its true sense impossible to achieve the all-pervading positive attitude without it, because it would be contrary to the Divine Order. It is like going to all the trouble of laying paper, sticks and coal on a fire and then not striking the match to light it. Once the fire is lit we only have to replenish it—the fire itself does the work.

When we analyse most of the negative mental attitudes, both conscious and sub-conscious, we cannot fail to see that they reveal deficiencies in love. There is no hatred, bitterness, selfishness, fear or worry where love abounds in the highest sense. It is true to say that millions of people have wrecked their lives through these negative states of mind. Without love, any life is like a desert without water—nothing can grow. The seeds lie dormant in the ground waiting for the essential irrigation.

Jesus tells us that the secret of the perfect life is to love God and one another. But when He gives us the first commandment, He reveals with absolute emphasis the need to be totally committed in mind, soul and body to this surrender in love to the Father.

This then opens the way for the invasion of the Perfection Principle of Divine Love. We become lifted up in Him and, without strain, as long as we keep our minds fixed upon this truth, *all our mental attitudes are spontaneously changed for us.*

Who can be afraid if we know all the power of God is with us? Who will want to hate anybody, when the mind is stayed in God's Love? Something wonderful happens to our entire outlook when we seriously commit ourselves to the Father with realistic faith.

Words are poor things to describe Divine experience. At best they touch but the fringe of spiritual manifestations reported to be true by saints, mystics and many people down the ages. The only function of words is to help direct others into their own personal realisation of a known truth.

At the same time, so many of these facts, as revealed in these pages, are self-evident when we pause to recognise them. Our only real purpose, therefore, is to clear away some of the debris of wrong beliefs, concepts and fallacies; to stimulate a healthy advance into the Love Power that

is the secret of prayer; and to show how scientifically we must learn consciously and comprehensively to use the Great Law to achieve the infinite objectives which now challenge and invite the research of ministers, scientists and laymen everywhere.

Like the little child in prayer, we can truly say, "Without God, we're sunk! Without Love we're lost!"

But in Christ Jesus, we are redeemed and free, centred in Love, poised in peace and power—the sons and daughters of the Most High. Thank You, Father—it is so.

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Strange, indeed, that to many mighty intellectuals of these days, we should now have to recognise that the greatest science of all should lie in the mystical and factual teaching of Jesus. Strange, indeed, that we should in our greatest atomic-age crisis, have to come back to simple truths to produce the answer to wars and worry, disease and disaster.

Strange that, intellectually and realistically, we must adopt the principles of this Prayer by St. Francis of Assisi before prayer can become effective, or man achieve his true objectives.

Read it now, in God's Presence, and feel the glow and peace of His Love bringing Divine Order into every aspect of your life. Feel the surge of inspiration, the power to go forward to your highest goals. Feel the invincible Spirit of God lifting you up to behold the miracle of your own being. And know that in His Sight you and all people are equal, that you are an important part of Divine Creation, for His Love is the very life within you.

In Him, you are a man or woman with an eternal mission. You were born to become Christ-like, to become Love in the midst of God. St. Francis leads you into the Kingdom which belongs to you.

Lord, make me a channel
of Thy Peace,

That where there is hatred—
I may bring love,

That where there is wrong—
I may bring the spirit
of forgiveness,

That where there is discord—
I may bring harmony,

That where there is error—
I may bring truth,

That where there is doubt—
I may bring faith,

That where there is despair—
I may bring hope,

That where there are shadows—
I may bring Thy Light,

That where there is sadness—
I may bring joy.

Lord, grant that I may seek
Rather to comfort—
Than to be comforted;
To understand—
Than to be understood;
To love—
Than to be loved;

For it is by giving—
That one receives;
It is by self-forgetting—
that one finds;

It is by forgiving—
that one is forgiven;
It is by dying—
that one awakens
to eternal life.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

With Jesus, we can truly say:

Greater Perfection (spiritually, mentally, physically and materially) hath no man than this, that a man expend himself in God's service in his daily work, giving Blessings to all who pass his way.

CHAPTER THREE

THE SEEDS OF FAITH

For verily I say unto you, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Jesus: Matt. 17:20.

IF all the prayers of struggling humanity down the centuries had been answered, the problems of the world would have been solved long since.

Millions of people have prayed every day for help in every kind of need. Who could count the prayers that have been spoken even as you have been reading these words?

Yet in the past fifty years we have witnessed more widespread suffering, disease and disaster than in all the other decades put together. On the one hand, we have experienced the greatest intellectual expansion in this period since the world began; on the other, the greatest catastrophes.

In our modern research and experience of prayer and the principles which make it effective, we observe indisputable evidence that God is the complete answer to every human need, and that He desires to magnify our lives with His Power. We equally observe the indisputable evidence of a world-wide failure to achieve complete freedom, despite the daily prayers of countless people.

Since God cannot fail, and with our present knowledge of the laws which govern effective prayer, we can only

conclude that, in a general sense, "Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss."

On the credit side, however, almost everyone who has sincerely prayed has had at least some experience of Divine Answers, and at the same time many apparent failures. In recent years, it is also true to say that millions of people have increasingly become aware of the principles which condition God's response to their needs, and have been able to put them into practice with wonderful results.

We must recognise, too, that if there had been no prayer at all down the ages and no churches to focus the spiritual aspirations of the people, the world would have degenerated into a bleak barbarism from which it might never have survived. We would have become a race of lost souls.

The evidence of hope, faith, love and confidence for the future lies in the fact that, in spite of the disasters and potential dangers of this age, the churches in every land still stand as the citadels of truth. Their light has never gone out, and some day the world will be proud and thankful for the countless dedicated lives of ministers and congregations. They held fast to their faith in the midst of storms which have threatened to overwhelm the spiritual principles without which we would be lost indeed.

But the fact remains that, generally speaking, the people of the world are far from being totally committed to the Christ principles as the only practical way to live abundantly. We cannot truly say that everyone believes in love and faith in God as the scientific and practical means of ensuring peace, health and success. Relatively few understand the power of God to heal diseased minds and bodies, to ensure the achievement of every right objective, or to provide material opportunities and supply to meet our daily needs.

We are so intent on working out our destiny in our own strength, that we seldom recognise or accept the possibility of All-Power working with us in everyday events to promote our highest well-being and progression.

We tend to have more faith in human government than Divine Direction. We believe in the effective reality of our bank balance or business much more than in the principle of God as the source of all supply. We are more ready to have faith in the power of a cancer to kill us than in the Love of God to heal it.

Therefore, if we would experience the truth of living in communion with God, and the corresponding release of His Perfection in mind, soul, body and circumstances, we must radically change our centre of realisation. We must become focussed on the reality of God, allowing the personal mind to be the wide-open channel through which He can express.

We can only do this when we understand the vital function of faith. And we certainly need to know much more about the significance of this quality of mind than is generally believed to be necessary. Most Christians, for example, will declare, rightly, that they have faith in Christ and the entire teaching of the gospels. Yet how few, in the church and outside it, really believe in the possibility of instantaneous healing of incurable disease by prayer! How few are completely committed to the understanding that God is the *infallible* answer to *every* need!

It is far better to examine our weaknesses and seek to rectify them, than to continue along a spiritual pathway that is only partially effective, because we neglect comprehensively to embrace the Laws which are given for our use.

It is a law of mind that everything in our experience becomes *real* to *us* on recognition and acceptance. We have no hesitation in believing in the reality of our own being.

We have faith in the mind and body, because we recognise and accept them to be true. We have faith in our ability to walk, read, write, work and generally get on with the business of living. They are experiences based on fact and adopted as real beyond question.

We need no one to persuade us to have trust in the world as our environment. We believe that seeds planted will produce harvests. We know that trees exist and countless experiences have taught us to have implicit faith in the reality of the good earth and its cycle of life. It is not difficult to have faith in a love-union and the children that can be born of it.

As education and knowledge increase, so does the range of our faith correspondingly expand. A thousand years ago for example, who would have had faith in the possibility of motor cars, aeroplanes, radio and television? The man who might have envisaged hydrogen bombs and nuclear power-stations would have been laughed to scorn—and probably burnt at the stake for heresy!

It is obvious, from the life experience, that a fundamental purpose is an extension of consciousness to embrace more and more awareness of the self and creation. As the mind develops faith in the laws which govern man and matter, it gives us the ability to wield ever greater mental power in creative works.

When we consider all that man has achieved even in the past hundred years, we can only marvel at the incredible power of the mind and its even greater potentials. We should marvel the more when we recognise that every evolutionary step has been conditioned by the individual and collective faith which was a fundamental to every achievement.

Faith is the foundation upon which the mind must stand in order to experience anything at all. Therefore it is a quality which has infinite possibilities. For example,

when we consider all that has been achieved even in our lifetime through faith, what will man be doing on earth say in a thousand years hence?

There can be no turning back in the evolutionary cycle. It is man's destiny to expand consciousness, to progress and to learn to use the resources of his mind in union with the infinite resources of God in Whom he has his being.

Just as we have the outward evidence of our faith in mighty works today, so a thousand years hence, the same expanding faith will have produced life patterns and projects as astonishing to us now, as our way of life today would be incredible to the world of a thousand years ago. The people of those days will look back to our times and think of us as little children just beginning to play with our new toys, and still learning to live the hard way!

We are, actually, on the threshold of the wondrous New Age. The faith upon which all our present knowledge and experience depended, has grown to such a degree of intensity that we are really ready to leap forward into the greatest project of all—the exploration and greater experience of Divine Laws and Powers.

We are already becoming accustomed to having faith in the reality of "unseen" power. We have learned to trust the invisible and potent powers of the mind, and increasingly know more of the laws which govern the mental processes which are, of course, fundamental to the well-being and achievement of each individual. We recognise today that our first care must be to ensure the perfect functioning of consciousness in positive creative expression.

In so many of the sciences we have extended our faith to recognise and accept the invisible laws which control the manifestation of life and matter. The nuclear physicist is deeply involved in mathematical concepts and energy mathematically expressed. Medical research is more and

more involved in the unseen life principle in cellular structures, procreative functions and the mystery of life itself. They, too, are led from matter to mind, to behold the *Inner Power* which creates and maintains the miracle of the human system.

Wherever we probe, we always meet the intangible power and the laws which make the outward manifestation possible. The botanist examines his plant, but his mind leaps into the seed to acknowledge the power resident there to ensure its growth. The astronomer, chemist, scientists in electronics, atomic energy, radiation, metallurgy, doctor and psychologist, and all others, meet the same all-pervading reality of the invisible Power.

All this places us in a remarkable position for the inevitable extension of faith which will take us into the infinite dimension of God. We already have a clear recognition of the power indwelling everything. We have already stepped beyond the boundaries of matter into mind.

It is but a short step now to recognise and embrace the reality of God's Presence in every aspect of creation. And this will inevitably lead us into an extension of faith which will allow us to co-operate with the Directive Intelligence of God, Whose purpose it is to magnify human experience.

That, indeed, is the significance of modern experience in prayer. All we need now is a complete recognition of the indisputable reality of our premise, because until we behold the truth we cannot fully use it. Faith is forever stabilised on the degree of recognition and acceptance of the principle it becomes interested in.

In a universe which is obviously governed by Law, it is quite certain that the laws will not change to suit our convenience. We are brought into being as a result of Divine Ordination, into a world which operates under Divine Government. The laws which stabilise and express creation, always manifesting as equilibrium, harmony and

good, must necessarily also apply to the human family. Whether we like it or not, we have to live in the midst of this miracle-power of creation and find out how to live safely and successfully. The Law cannot bend to us. We must conform to the Laws in which we have our being.

The most amazing fact is that we apparently have the right to please ourselves how we shall think and act. While the Father creates and indwells His creation, including our own lives, we are given a conscious freedom of choice in our experience. Although we live and move and have our being in Him, we can use this mind to decide how we shall live and evolve.

If God is everywhere present, as all evidence suggests, then we must be part of His Own Being. Our mind must be "part" of God's Mind, and every cell of our bodies must be pulsing with His Life.

Jesus said "I and the Father are One". It can no longer scientifically be true to regard this as sacrilegious when applied to our own being. It is not a question of saying "I am God"—which would be sacrilegious of course—but of declaring with truth that we have our being in Him, and that His Spirit is expressing our life at all times, giving us a latitude of free will in which to express a personal creative consciousness.

We are like little whirlpools in a great river. Every whirlpool is individual in its expression, but all are united in the waters of the stream. We are like the waves on the oceans of the world—each separate, but all part of the deeps of the seas.

The real truth begins to come into true perspective when we think like this. We begin to understand the meaning of life and to glimpse our eternal potentials. We recognise now that since we live in God, we are truly eternal and spiritual beings, with a destiny greater than we have ever dared to dream.

We understand now why God does not force us to conform to what must obviously be His Will for good. How many people unthinkingly ask: "What have I done to deserve this awful pain and disease?" "Why can children be allowed to suffer?" "What has God ever done for me? I *have* prayed—why does God not answer and lift this burden?"

Without free will we could not even be individuals. The miracle of being is the wondrous gift of life which, in God's Love, is free. The vision behind this gift is so amazing that only Love could have produced it. With all the majesty of God within us, He made us in His own image of spirit and mind. He endowed us with the right to evolve our own awareness, and gave us of His Own Power to think and create by our thinking.

To accomplish this, it was vitally necessary to be free to choose our thoughts and actions. If we have this degree of personal free will, obviously it would be a contradiction of the entire principle if God, with HIS infinite capacities, forever intervened and decreed with force what we must or must not do. Without this scope of free choice, we could not even exist as you and me. We should be unconscious robots.

To compensate, the Father enfolds us in His own eternal Spirit. He knows that, in the eternal scope of life, we shall all grow into the awareness of our true destiny. The mistakes we make through ignorance now, become transmuted into eternal good as we learn our relationship with Him, and the laws He has provided for our high well-being.

This free will is not only individual in its scope and purpose, but is also operative in the collective world-family sense. We ask, "Why do the innocent suffer from the bombs released in war, or the evil acts of others?"

But it is impossible to escape the responsibility as well

as the infinite potentials of free will. We are all members of each other in a Divine Order of beneficent Laws. The breaking of God's Laws of Good by any member of the community has an inevitable repercussion in every other member.

We can now see why "the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children". Any wrong ever released must have its cause and effect, until such time as love and faith in prayer transmute the cause. A child born with venereal disease, tragic though the experience is, reflects the wrong thinking and action of forbears within the right of their free will.

It is not GOD Who condemns the child, but man who breaks the laws. And ignorance of the law cannot change the operation of cause and effect. That is why it has become so urgently necessary to quicken widespread education and knowledge of our spiritual responsibilities and objectives. In the name of sanity and preservation we must find the Divine Answer to the intolerable problems of disease, war and hereditary miseries. We must teach these laws from infancy onwards, as a first need of successful living.

This can only become the national and international standard when we are ready to fix our faith on the fundamental principle that, because we are one with God, any separation is a self-imposed imprisonment. Our union and communion with the Lord can only be consummated by Love, and by faith which recognises the reality of the truth.

Although we are generally familiar with Christ's teaching, so much of the true vision has been dissipated in countless ways. For nearly two thousand years now, Jesus has proclaimed the infallible way to solve all the problems of life on earth. It has failed, in its comprehensive intention, simply because man has not completely adopted the

Law of Love as the inviolable standard, nor magnified his faith to match the absolute Power of God as an infallible response, at all times, to meet all needs.

In the beginning of the ministry to which I was called, following much prayer, it had to commence as a tiny seed of love and faith. I had nothing else. All my worldly wealth had disappeared and, in the midst of what appeared to be material chaos, God took that one seed which was offered, and proceeded to unfold a ministry that has certainly been filled with the works of God.

The direction and plan of the Father has produced a "tree" with widespread branches. Countless people have been healed by His Love. All our needs have been met—yet we give away vast sums of "worldly wealth" every year in about three million copies of our free magazine, which go across the earth to help others understand this wondrous way of life. We send tape recordings of prayer and principles to everyone who needs them, as free gifts from the Father.

In countless ways we have, under His Grace, discovered the reality of His Love, and the way in which He can direct and ordain events beyond human abilities, through a simple faith which believes in His Power.

Everyone, without exception, has this seed of faith. It is the seed of love which is God within, and He will bring forth the perfect life just as quickly as we dare to launch out with a complete belief in mighty works.

When we extend our vision to see the implication of free will, we can then understand that the Christ Within us is impersonal. As throughout the universe, His Spirit manifests everything through the impersonal Law of His own being.

At first glance we might even be afraid of this concept, for we have for long intended to think of the Father as an intensely personal Lord of Love, somewhere remote and

separate from ourselves. We have been taught to pray hoping that He might hear our prayers, and that if we agonised hard enough He might be prevailed upon to come down out of the high Heavens to have mercy upon us.

All this, plus the angry God of the Old Testament, has led us into so much "praying amiss".

We can only make real progress when we recognise that God is Love, and therefore never remote or angry. No matter how grievously we have sinned, or how ignorant we have been of His Laws, the moment we come to Him with love and faith, His Love is ours and all goodness is released unto us.

The living truth is just what Jesus proclaimed. "All that I have is thine!" "Lo, I am with you alway." "The Kingdom of God is within."

Although impersonal, the Great Lord is immediately the warm and loving personal Father and Saviour, the moment we lift up our hearts and minds to recognise Him.

He will not invade us with His Will, nor trespass across the threshold of our free will. He stands, as it were, with All-Love in the midst of us, waiting for *our* free-will decision to invite Him to come in. He stands at the door, but the latch is on our side, and *we* have to open it.

Hence the importance of prayer. It is like two friends with a telephone. One has said to the other, "Any time I can help you with all my wisdom, knowledge and wealth, just 'phone through and I will do whatever you ask. I will never presume to press these things upon you, but I will always be there when you call."

If the other friend never rings through, then the resources will never be given. The connecting links are the telephone wires and receivers. The desire of the friend seeking help is the motivating impulse which inspires him to use the necessary links to contact his benefactor. And

the power behind the act of ringing through is love for his friend, and faith in his promise. He believes he meant what he said.

When he establishes contact, the friend says, "Yes, of course. Just leave it to me and I will make all arrangements." And, of course, the subsequent events prove that the one who promised these things has been active in the right way to produce the right results.

That is exactly the Law Jesus revealed. In His wondrous salvation message, He teaches us the Reality of the Presence, and that God will do all things to meet every need. He tells us that if we would experience these blessings our link with God is LOVE, and that FAITH will bring forth exactly what we believe we have received through giving it into God's keeping.

In His words: "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

The grain of a seed is packed with the dynamic of God, and is already sure of its destiny. From the mustard seed in Palestine will come forth a tree of many branches eight to ten feet tall.

Jesus constantly invites us to be simple and humble in our recognition that the Father doeth the works, and that He will remove every mountain of difficulty or disaster, if only we will believe in the Power which knows how to do it. In fact, He says, with that kind of faith "nothing shall be impossible unto you".

When we examine Christ's teaching, we cannot fail to notice that He is revealing a practical way of life, in which all the Love of God is a constant presence and promise of Perfect Everything. He shows us that the life of complete love is the only way to come into union with God, and thus fulfil our spiritual destiny.

For our mental, physical and material needs, He points the way to a complete belief in the infinite Love of God ever responding to meet those needs. And He demonstrated this Principle by the *instantaneous* Perfection of God in the healing of many incurable diseases. He taught that God is ALL Power, and when our tiny minds would believe and accept this as an infallible fact and response, miracles happened.

“Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you”! Too incredible for mankind to believe! Too simple to turn inwardly to an invisible Father, believing in His Love and goodness! And, to most people, a fantasy indeed that by so doing sickness would be healed, supply guaranteed, inspiration and guidance forever leading us to a wonderful abundant life!

Yet that is a Divine Promise which anyone can demonstrate to be true, when we fulfil the laws which control such dynamic action.

Simplicity of love goes hand in hand with faith. “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye have received them and ye shall have them”! “Ask anything in My Name, and I will do it”!

If the world had really believed in those promises, surely the whole fabric of civilisation would be wonderful now beyond our highest dreams.

The mind of man fastens on his problems and dilemmas, and believes much more in their power to hurt him than in such a simple thing as turning it over to an unseen God, expecting miracles of transformation to abound.

So we must begin again, in the church and outside it, to believe that Jesus meant what He said, comprehensively and factually.

That is the great blessing of Divine Healing by prayer in our time. Thank God, we know again that this is the

truth which will some day liberate the world from all bondage.

The new seeds have been sown across the world in recent years. Too many people have reaped this rich harvest for it ever to be lost again. The time will shortly come when love and faith will be recognised as fundamental to every aspect of successful living. It is the Greatest Science of all, for life itself revolves around it.

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A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.

And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold.

Jesus: Luke 8:5, 8.

So we remember that the seed is the Word of God.
And—Thank You, Father, that it is so.

CHAPTER FOUR

GREATER THINGS THAN THESE

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Jesus: John 14:12.

THE supreme revelation of Jesus was that men and women are the sons and daughters of God, born to dwell in the House of the Lord forever. He showed us that there was a divinely ordained reason for life, and that all the Power of God was available to enable us to reach our highest objectives.

The mind, which is our fundamental asset, is already endowed with amazing powers to achieve and create. Jesus gave us the staggering concept that these human faculties and capacities were as nothing compared with what could be accomplished when we recognised our inherent divinity in the Father.

The crowds which followed Jesus marvelled at the great works of the Lord and His disciples. The vision He revealed caught the imagination of countless people, and that Light has never ceased to stimulate and quicken each succeeding generation. The churches of Christ in every city, town and hamlet, hundreds of thousands of them, bear abundant testimony to the truth that everyone instinctively recognises that spiritual principles are important to human well-being.

The greater vision which Jesus gave has often been swamped by the growing awareness of man's own powers,

but this in turn will inevitably lead to a greater vision of Divine Power than has ever been experienced before.

We are in a far better position now than the people of Palestine in those days when the seeds of love and faith were first planted. They have grown into world-wide fields of corn. The ears are well-formed and still green. Soon they will be golden and ready for the glory of harvesting. Although there are many tares to uproot, the abundant reaping is already assured, because the Life of God is in the corn.

This is the most interesting age in the history of the world. It is pregnant with infinite possibilities. Man is in possession of his worldly heritage, and will soon lift his vision to behold his true and eternal objectives in the Spirit of God.

In the olden days, progress was limited by a general illiteracy and ignorance of the real potentials of man. They had to relate divine experiences in love and faith to the limited circumstances of the times.

The people of Palestine, for example, could they have seen all that our present civilisation has achieved, would have marvelled at the appearance of such "miracles".

This incredible expansion of consciousness in the past hundred years provides us all with the ability to go on now into the infinite extension of Divine Consciousness. We can now advance on the sure foundation of knowledge. We can use a living faith as a well-proven Law which never fails to achieve its objectives. And we have the mental capacity and imagination to conceive and crystallise the objectives to which we would employ that faith.

As outlined in the preceding chapters, we are already adepts in the use of love, faith and imagination to achieve our goals. All that man has ever accomplished has come into being through these paramount qualities of the mind.

He first sees his objective, and then steadfastly thinks and acts his way to fulfilment through these laws.

Before we can accomplish anything, we must first have the vision of our goal. It is therefore imperative that we should ever more clearly understand the significance of initial vision before we can proceed to use to the full the incredible powers that lie, often like seeds, within us all.

In spite of the tremendous achievements of this age, it is still true that the majority of people have, as yet, very little understanding of these laws. We are still like a man who has discovered the excitement of using the power of a little donkey boiler and engine. He seldom knows that right beside him is a switch he can pull, which will set into motion a mighty Power Station to give him all the energy he could ever need to achieve anything his mind can conceive and desire.

Many people look upon the world scene, with its marvels on the one hand and its dangers and disasters on the other, and wish for the simpler days of old. We are often tempted to focus on the evils and troubles inherent in our evolving civilisation and condemn the entire process. But this can never be the right approach, because it is the Divinely Ordained Plan that man **MUST** evolve; he must expand consciousness through experience and creative works; it is the essential law of mind that thoughts are living things that in their creative power must produce experience and outward manifestations.

Therefore, irrespective of whether we like it or not, we are involved in this Divine and personal creativeness. It is our life-purpose to learn how to use these laws wisely, with full knowledge and vision, to achieve the eternal well-being which God has ordained for us.

The pains and problems always stem from our wrong use of the power of mind. We project our own discords, which manifest as troubles and tragedies, disease and

disaster. We get mass visions of war, and project that fire to scorch our souls and civilisation alike.

All that is good in our lives and society stems from our positive vision. All that is bad evolves from our negative vision.

Everything that happens in our experience is conditioned and expressed by our minds. Therefore, it is vital for our well-being that we know about the laws which operate. And the purpose of this chapter is to focus attention upon the need for clear objectives in life.

It has been said that a man or nation without a vision is lost. This is a profound truth which most people do not consciously realise. Everyone needs a dynamic objective in order to release the latent mental energies into satisfying motion. Even prayer is largely wasted without a blazing vision which motivates it into effectiveness.

We MUST know what we want before we can achieve it. There is nothing mysterious about this imaginative faculty. It is a natural gift which we all use in varying degrees of intensity and success.

Even the housewife who goes to town to buy groceries or a new hat is using this power. Before she ever leaves the house she has a "picture" in her mind of the route she will take, the right bus, the shops which sell groceries and hats, and what kind of food she requires. The mental vision is the stimulus, and the end product of her vision is the new hat and food which she subsequently unpacks in the home.

In all things and at all times—in politics, business, science, church or home—VISION is the first cause of subsequent results. If the vision is good and thought and action carry it through to its conclusion, the product will be good. If the first "picture" is bad, and is carried through in thought and action, the results will be correspondingly hurtful.

So we apply this gift in manifold and spasmodic ways in everyday life, with fluctuating degrees of intensity and results.

In the light of our modern knowledge about the mind and its fundamental creative power, it becomes urgently necessary to ensure that every man, woman and child knows how to use this central power of life to ensure the maximum well-being of the individual, the nation and the world.

There is a vast difference between using vision in a haphazard way, and directing it with wisdom and knowledge to a constant experience of achievement in long term, short term and immediate objectives.

Unless we understand and accept the truth that it is our MINDS that create our experience, for good or ill, we are like the master of a seaworthy ship who never bothers to use the rudder to steer it to a chosen destination. The ship drifts at the mercy of every wind and current, sometimes going onto dangerous rocks, sometimes in peril of sinking in storms.

When we know the truth we take charge of our wonderful ship, set the mighty engines going, and steer it safely and efficiently to the destination of our choice. The voyage is full of joy and anticipation of future delights, because we know we cannot fail to reach our chosen harbours.

We all have many kinds of desires and objectives in our voyage through life in this world. It is part of the Divine Pattern that everyone is unique, and is endowed with personality patterns that ensure the eternal fulfilment of goals which will ever appear and reappear to delight the soul.

Once we grasp the fact that we are going to live for ever, through this life and then on into ever unfolding states of being in many other mansions in the infinite

Kingdom of God, our entire outlook will be re-orientated to establish the greater visions which constantly beckon us on.

In so many ways, we impose our own limitations. How many people, for example, dream only of the day when they can "retire"—and how often, if vision of future exciting interest is lacking, do they retire indeed, for the flame flickers and dies away.

How many people drift into apathy and loneliness as they grow "older", simply because they no longer find the interest and incentive of a vision to lead them into activities suitable to their "age". We are, generally speaking, lost in a belief that life is finishing as we move towards the end of our time on this earth. We should, and could, during these latter days be at our best in spiritual vision of ever greater objectives, and be as a light glowing with accumulated experience, knowledge and wisdom for the benefit of the younger ones in our orbit.

In this book we can only proclaim principles. The application of these principles covers the entire range of human personality. They work on every level, in every life and in every circumstance. They can only be taken up and used by each person according to the degree of interest, and will be correspondingly employed in the life patterns as each individual desires. That is entirely a personal responsibility, and neither God nor man will trespass to persuade or coerce in what is essentially the free will right of the individual.

Because you are reading these words, it is also a Divine Law that you must have reached a point of readiness to understand and use any part of the knowledge herein conveyed. We are, in God, experiencing the right things at the right time, always with our highest good as the ultimate eternal objective. An ancient Eastern saying tells us, "When the student is ready, the Master appears".

When we are ready to know or experience a wider vision, the opportunity is given to us.

What are your objectives today? Examine your plans for the next hours. You may be housewife or businessman, carpenter or typist, a young man at university or an old lady resting in many years of knowledge. You may be sick or strong. But whoever or whatever you are, you are alive. What are you going to do with your most precious mind today?

You may be in great trouble or have the "world at your feet". But look at your life and capture a vision of all you would ideally like to happen taking place through each experience. And have faith that you are setting into motion positive forces that begin to produce good results.

Now lift your vision. What are your main interests? If you are not sure, try to clarify them. What are your present objectives—immediate and long-range? What do you want to achieve more than anything else in your life?

If you had all-power to accomplish your greatest ambitions, what would your objective be?

Find out your true motives. Discover your real desires. Be ready to scrap small visions to replace them with what you really want to achieve.

We put up with so much unnecessary limitation, frustration, sickness and misery, that one of the paramount needs of our present time is to help each other to escape from these prisons of self. We need to know that we have the power to reach every legitimate goal, without any possible exception, if we will but raise our sights to the right targets, and use the right laws.

If we subscribe to the limitations of self and environment, we slam the door to freedom in our own faces. All things are possible to those who believe in the possibility.

As in every experience, we are on the way to accomplish our objectives when we make our decision to go after

them. A new business or vocation begins when we decide to follow our dreams to bring it into being. The healing of incurable disease begins when we decide to be finished with it because there is an infallible answer to it. The seeds of love and faith in God in prayer grow into the fruits, when we decide that this is an inviolable truth that cannot fail.

Get your vision **FIRST**. Pray about it. Listen to Divine Guidance as to the real objectives you can accomplish. The secret of true vision lies in lifting your mind free from the restrictions and limitations imposed by the prevailing beliefs of ordinary human experience. For this purpose we are not interested in the decrees of society, nor in our own weaknesses and lack of power or resources.

We must, on the basis of all we know about Divine Principles—love, faith and the power of mind—break clean away from established customs and personal concepts of limitation.

What you decree, in full communion with God in love and faith, will come forth into your experience. But you **MUST** know what you want and desire it with an *intensity and perseverance* which enables the full flow of power consistently to work in its creation.

Too often we lose our vision and thus stop the work which we eagerly set into motion. Since vision necessarily postulates an objective in the future, it is obvious that we must keep on the journey if we are to reach our destination.

It is very much like looking up to a mountain peak and deciding to take the pathway which we know leads right to the top. It is a path many have traversed before, so it is known to exist. So off we go along the valley road. The peak is often lost to sight as we pass through the woods, or skirt the foothills along which it winds.

Unless we remember our objective, how easy it is to be diverted into an excursion into sidetracks. How easy to

say, "Oh, it's a hot day. Let's sleep by the river." How often we lose sight of the mountain top, and allow ourselves to be persuaded that the road will never take us there. How often do we change our minds when we are half-way up!

Therefore, if you would embark on these journeys to great objectives, it is essential not only to know them, and why you want to reach them, but also to set out with the complete assurance that there is no possibility of failure, because all the infinite Powers of God are leading you to them.

You choose the goal—the Lord will take you to it. The only possibility of deviation, and it is a real one, is that as we begin to experience the reality of Divine Love leading us on, we are often given the vision of infinitely bigger and better objectives. When we open our souls and minds to the Father, we must be ready to expect visions and incentives much greater than we would expect in ordinary consciousness.

The Father is always seeking to lead us out of bondage and limitation. We can find it as quickly as we can go. What the mind can conceive it can achieve, especially when prayer is a central factor in our thoughts.

So we really plant the seeds, and steadfastly cultivate them with faith in the inevitable harvest in due season. This way of life is a constant growth, but it is as infallible as the maturing of everything else which God directs into being.

It is therefore a fair question to ask yourself before you embark on any project: "Do I really want to achieve this? Is this what God wants me to do? Do I want it so much that I am prepared to devote the whole of my attention to it until I reach the goal? Am I really prepared to *abandon completely* this sickness, worry, poverty or weakness to become established in this Law of all good? Have I

decided that I will never again deviate in my faith nor acknowledge the power of any kind of limitation? Do I now really believe that the Father is the source and centre of all supply to meet my needs now and always?"

The right answers to these and similar questions will reveal to you whether the law is going to make your dreams come true. Half measures produce half results. Complete faith brings forth complete answers in the way God knows best. There is no safe and secure way except by *total committal* to the Principles prepared for us by the Lord.

We need always to remember that, like the grain of mustard seed, our ultimate destiny is already secure. We make such heavy going through our fears, doubts and lack of love, when all the time the Spirit of God has already ordained our *eternal* objectives. It is His Life which is unfolding in us and when we know this, everything else falls into true perspective, and we enter the Peace and Perfection of the Kingdom which is our own eternal home.

Then, with Jesus, we can begin truly to contemplate the "greater works than these". There is no end to them. Our eternal nature responds to the stimulus of realisation, and we no longer look at this life, and its limited objectives, as the sole focus of personality. We behold ourselves as the sons and daughters of God, forever unfolding infinite joys in creative fellowship with Him.

In this greater vision, we look far beyond our personal interest and well-being. Inevitably, becoming free ourselves, we recognise our true place in the universe. We are here, not only to live and share the joy of creation for ourselves, but also to serve, as ambassadors of God, for the well-being of the world family.

A fundamental part of our freedom stems from a recognition that we are all equally important in God's sight. Spiritual vision heals us of the wounds inflicted by man's

ignorance in the social structure, where equality is not generally accepted as the Great Law.

In Christ we are no longer the slaves of class consciousness, nor subject to the worldly decrees of wealth, position or power. We *know* that the *only reality* is the miracle of being, in the Love that is God. We know there can be no discrimination in God between coloured people and white, for all are His children. We know the true freedom, because there is only one universal standard of love and equality in the Divine Order. We are all equally dependent upon God, and upon one another, without any exceptions.

We recognise and gladly accept the power God gives into our keeping, and in Christ become a Light unto the world. In all this we can truly rejoice, because so much limitation is imposed upon us by the false concepts of man. Indeed, we can only truly take up our rightful heritage when we fully embrace these principles, and believe in this greater life that belongs to us all.

The truth for all people is that we live and have our being in God; we were born to be Christ-like; and all Power is given unto us to achieve this supreme objective as quickly as we can learn to achieve it in His Love.

This is the supreme vision which lies like a seed in the soul of all people. As we keep it alive, day by day, the Divine Pattern unfolds as surely as millions of seeds are now germinating in the good earth.

Man, or nation, without a vision is lost. But man, or nation, which knows the truth and applies it, will lead the whole world into the glories of the New Age now dawning.

"These things, and greater things than these shall ye do, because I go to my Father."

And, thank You, Father, that it is so.

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I am the true vine. . . .

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

Jesus: John 15:1, 9.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE LAW OF CAUSE AND EFFECT

Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Phil. 4:8.

BEFORE we consider the methods and means of effective prayer, it will be useful to examine in some detail the causes of all our problems, and often the apparent failure of prayer to rectify them.

It is a truism in medical science that unless causes of disease are healed there is no permanent healing. It is even more true to say that unless we discover a way to banish all negative thinking, and release hidden sub-conscious tensions, we shall continue to project discords in mind, body and experience which are, in fact, the total causes of disease, tensions and war throughout the world-family.

If I throw a stone into a still pool, the ripples will extend across the entire surface. A simple act. Superficially, we might say that the stone falling into the water caused the disturbance. But this is only partially true. The circle of extending waves was caused by the **THOUGHT** which produced the act of stone-throwing and all subsequent events. The little water beetle clinging to a twig on the far side was washed into the pool as an effect of the thought which motivated the entire process.

This simple illustration contains the truth of the effective manifestation of every thought released in consciousness throughout the span of a human life on earth.

When we grasp the significance of this, we shall have no hesitation in believing that good thoughts project good results and that bad, or negative thinking must manifest as negative, or bad, experience. This is a simple statement of fact which everyone on earth, and in heaven, is constantly demonstrating.

The Law of cause and effect is the central function of consciousness. And mental power has a potency seldom recognised in its infinite sense, and still less seldom regulated and wisely directed into its far-reaching courses.

Yet it would be misleading and wrong to suggest that, since negative thinking produces dangerous results, all we have to do is to discipline ourselves to think positively. It is not as simple as that, because the *cause* of so much negative conscious thinking lies buried in the deeps of the sub-conscious mind.

The shocks, emotional conflicts, frustrated desires, guilt and tensions of past years, often the experiences of early childhood, repressed and forgotten, accumulate as hidden "pressure points" deep below ordinary consciousness. There they lie, either constantly emanating that pressure into conscious thought and compelling a corresponding negative outlook, or exploding spasmodically when touched off by some experience which releases the inner trigger.

We might be fully agreed that our decision is constantly to express a peaceful and positive attitude at all times. Then, for reasons quite unknown to us, comes the eruption of anger, irritation, pain, sickness or a compulsion to actions far removed from our intention. Then we begin to doubt, and wonder if all that is decreed about the value of positive thought and prayer was really true. We feel so

helpless and lost when this happens because we cannot understand or control it.

It is as though the mind were like a still and placid sea. The wind has ceased, the sun is shining and all is well. Then, unknown to the surface, a volcanic eruption takes place in the deep stratas of rock at the bottom of the sea, and a tidal wave sweeps across the calm waters.

Therefore, in considering the effective power of prayer and conscious thought processes, we must also come to terms with the inner conflicts, and ensure that these causes of trouble are also healed. But here again, there is a simple and comprehensive answer when we know our objective and apply the laws by which it can be achieved.

When we recognise our real needs we are halfway to their solution. The greatest problem of all is that we are often unaware of the *causes* which produce the troubles of the moment. We see and recognise the *effect* manifesting as disease or disaster, and usually all our worry and attention is concentrated on trying to get rid of it without even knowing the need to heal the cause. It is like cutting off the head of a thistle, and leaving the roots in the ground so that it can continue to live and produce more thistles later.

We can rejoice and give thanks for the research of many great doctors and psychologists, who have discovered so much about the deeps of the mind. We know today that a large proportion of our unhappiness, tension, worry, anger, bitterness and lack of confidence is due to these inner hidden conflicts. We also realise, increasingly, that these mental strains are the real cause of most physical disease.

It is not always easy for most people, when faced with a physical illness, to look beyond the outward pain to the inner mental pain which it reflects. The physical appearance of a cancer, arthritis, heart disease, colitis, migraine,

deafness and any other physical disorder, always seems to be more real, intense and dangerous, than some intangible mental tension.

Even doctors still mainly concentrate on removing the effect rather than treating both cause and effect. Fortunately, in the light of the new realisation, the medical profession is becoming increasingly aware of this deeper truth, and inevitably, this must some day lead them into full co-operation with both minister and psychologist in their work of healing the whole man.

We cannot truly begin to deal with mental and physical discords until we understand completely that we are not bodies, but spirit, mind and body. And that it is the basic Life of God which makes our personal life possible at all.

The Spirit expresses itself through MIND. And MIND controls the body and all experience. It is therefore futile to concentrate on healing the sick body, or rectifying outward manifestations of discord in the environment, ignoring the unconscious and conscious MIND which produces them. We must at all times seek to harmonise spirit, mind and body before effective solutions can be found.

In psycho-somatic research it is shown how all kinds of physical disease reflect the *hidden* compulsions of emotional conflicts, childhood experiences, sexual frustrations, unresolved problems of adolescence, conflicts of worry, insecurity, resentments, fear and deep desires which have not been fulfilled. They have even found that many people become accident-prone due to such causes.

Could we know the whole truth, embracing not only the mind of the individual, but the entire consciousness of mankind—including our forbears—we should find that everything in our experience, from the highest joys to the worst disasters, have their basic cause in consciousness. We are, spiritually, mentally and physically, the sum total

of our personal and collective thinking including, of course, our total mental reactions to experience.

The mind reflects its unconscious and conscious distortions in strange ways, and not always in a predictable manner. It produces an equivalent which matches the tension.

For example, there are many cases of people who become seriously ill physically as a means of ensuring love, sympathy and attention. Perhaps in a family a wife feels neglected and unloved by the husband. The resentment and yearning are repressed, and smoulder in the deeps of the mind. Months or even years later this desire is expressed in a disease or sickness which makes it impossible for her to look after the needs of the family. Husband and children are forced to be sympathetic and attend to her every need. She longs to be wanted, and the fulfilment is projected in the sickness. She did not *consciously* choose to be sick, but the "blind" sub-conscious mind projected this equivalent to balance the compulsion.

I knew a man who, when very young, hated his work and longed intensely for the day when he could retire. He retired all right, long before middle age, stricken with arthritis from head to foot, and although now in his eighties, never did any more work. Naturally, he did not consciously want to retire through sickness, but the deep negative desire produced an equivalent.

What use would it be in either spiritual healing by prayer, or by the orthodox methods of *materia medica*, to try to heal the physical arthritis? It would logically be "incurable" until the inner cause was released in a new focus of interest and creative attitude expressed in satisfying action.

I met a woman once whose hands had been rigidly clenched for years. Always seeking to sublimate causes, I talked of all the spiritual principles of love, forgiveness

and faith, and encouraged her to tell me about her past life. Gradually she brought to the surface the misery of a deep and resentful feud she had with a close relative, which had gone on in a complete estrangement for years.

I was led to suggest that this conflict was like a festering poison in her mind, and that it was probably the cause of her clenched hands. I illustrated the wondrous love of God in forgiveness and asked her if, in the light of all the spiritual truth I had revealed, she could before God honestly and completely forgive the injury which the relative had caused to her pride, and accept God's forgiveness for her own resentment. With a new light in her eyes, she said she really could do this.

We did it in prayer together, and then accepted the complete release in Christ's Love. As we progressed, I saw the fingers unlocking. When we had finished, she had complete freedom of movement. Even more important, she was glowing with that inner joy which always comes when we really release ourselves to God's Love.

It is constantly being revealed that mental and physical diseases often reflect into adult life the shocks and tensions of childhood experiences. It is almost frightening to realise how, in our ignorance, we often project upon our children anger, fear, worry and in more cases than is realised, a real love-starvation. Even more disturbing is this when we know, as we certainly do today, that these early conflicts, unless sublimated and healed, can project a festering burden right through adult life.

The whole world would be shaken with shock if it really knew the widespread repercussions of discords introduced into childhood experience. In spite of the indisputable proof produced by psychologists and ministers who spend their lives investigating the mind of man, the true significance of their research is not widely known and understood by the family men and women of the world. Yet the

entire subject of spiritual and mental hygiene for children is so vital that it should become the central theme of government direction in educating parents, so that they can consciously guard against dangers of which they are largely ignorant.

The only real wealth of a nation is its people. The people grow from the first seed, and the subsequent growth of the young shoots in the environment of the family. How vital it is to concentrate all our attention on their spiritual and mental well-being.

Tremendous progress has been made in protecting the physical health of our children today. Clinics abound for this purpose. It becomes our next urgent need to produce a comprehensive spiritual and psychological teaching for the benefit of parents, and a priority system whereby sick and troubled children can be treated for the sublimation and release of the inner and environmental causes of mental or physical disorders.

We are greatly disturbed in these days about the increasing evidence of child and adolescent delinquency. We see the constant evidence of crime in all its forms expressed by men, women and children.

All leading psychologists, ministers and people concerned about this problem are increasingly understanding that the act of crime is not so much governed by the conscious choice of the individual, but that it is the product of deep-laid inner compulsions.

Punishment, as such, far from healing the cause, often introduces new patterns of resentment or pressures which erupt later in other discords of mind and behaviour. Our present methods, in the main, are as futile as trying to heal the clenched hands of the woman mentioned earlier without healing the cause.

Crime, worry, fear and failure are all states of sickness which are more real than physical disorders. They can

only be dealt with when we recognise them for what they are, and then work to produce the spiritual and mental equilibrium by which the personality can evolve to fulfil itself.

Even prayer can apparently fail, if we do not consciously seek to embrace the whole personality of mind, soul and body. We should be astounded if we really realised that millions of prayers which are offered every day could be comprehensively answered, but are frustrated because we remain locked in our prison of ignorance of the laws of cause and effect.

When trouble comes, our minds generally see nothing but the pain that is hurting us. The "real thing" darkening our horizon is the physical disease, the pain of an intolerable situation, the loss of our money or business, the threatened failure of our marriage, or the troubles and sickness of a loved one.

So, if we pray at all—and millions of people never even get this far to the real solution—our whole purpose is to ask God to remove the outwardly manifesting trouble.

Quite apart from the right methods of prayer, which we will consider in detail later, we are confining our requests to the healing of something which cannot be adjusted unless we also spiritually embrace the causes.

That is why Divine Healing is not physical healing at all. Prayer is only successful when it embraces the whole man; when, in fact, its aim is to release the Peace, Harmony and Love of God into every aspect of soul, mind, body and circumstance. Unless we do this, we simply shut God out of the many private dark rooms in the deeps of the sub-conscious mind and memory where the real trouble is.

There *MUST* be a *cause* for everything that ever happens to us throughout every moment of our eternal life. The entire web, weft and weave of our unfolding personality is based on that fact.

Our constant mission is to know the truth about ourselves and our relationship with God and the environment in which we live. Until we know the truth about our troubles, we cannot fully use the laws whereby they can be healed.

Therefore, whenever you are experiencing any sign of pain or problem, disease or disturbance, fear or worry, anger or irritation, misery or frustration, failure or lack of any kind whatsoever, it is time to sit up and take notice with the light of wisdom and knowledge in your eyes.

Most of these experiences are like warning lights telling us we are walking in dangerous swamps instead of on the highway where we belong. They are like the beckoning finger of God inviting us to be completely honest with ourselves and then to come to Him for guidance and salvation.

The signs also point inwardly to the fact that somewhere in the mind is a cause for the outward trouble. It then becomes our spiritual purpose to uproot these weeds, and ensure that our garden of mind is filled with Holy Seed.

Our present purpose is to help you understand the fundamental powers of the mind, and especially to recognise how negative tensions and negative conscious thinking can and do produce most of our miseries of mind, body and environment. We will later show how to deal with them.

There was never darkness without light. There is always a sublime answer to every human need. But we must know the measure of our true need, and relate it to the Divine intention. Knowledge is power, but knowledge without wisdom and spiritual vision can destroy as well as expand our well-being.

It takes clever men and intricate organisation to make hydrogen bombs and harness the resources of a nation for war, but since wisdom and spiritual vision are absent, the

results merely demonstrate the destructive power of wrong thinking. The mind is truly endowed with mighty power to produce good or ill as we choose. And the responsibility of learning how to choose well rests with us all, individually and collectively.

What is your own assessment right now of your personality and way of life? Are you comprehensively happy, content and satisfied with your work and prospects? Are you ever afraid of any situation or the prospective shape of things to come? Are you ever angry, bitter, remorseful or resentful about people or circumstances?

Is there any situation which is disturbing your peace of mind? Is your general outlook positive or negative? Are you achieving all you desire in your work or home? Are you shy, diffident, deceitful or lazy? Do you honestly love people, and those around you? Is there anyone anywhere against whom you harbour any hatred or resentment?

Look back over your life from childhood. Try to remember all pains, problems and disturbances which upset you at any time. Feel deeply, as you bring them to mind, that you are "getting them out of your system". And know that, as this book unfolds, you will be disposing of them forever.

At the moment, we are seeking honestly to look for all hidden and open causes of anything that represents discord to your general attitude and way of life.

Go comprehensively into as much of the deep content of your life as you can recall, and also into every present experience that is troublesome. It will probably help you to write down all these usually unpleasant experiences. The real purpose is to expose them to the light where they can do no more harm, as we release them in God's love now and later.

The mind goes to great trouble to bury every kind of unpleasant emotional tension. Above all, do not be afraid

to bring them forth. Be honest in looking for them. These hidden memories of sins, miseries, shocks, griefs and emotional upsets are the weeds we are looking for, and as we uproot them in love, repentance, faith and prayer, they will cease to project equivalents of pain and misery into present and future experience.

When you have examined all these things of the past, please don't wallow in them. You must be an impartial observer or, if you like, a gardener quietly and efficiently weeding a lovely bed of flowers. Remember, for every weed you discover in the garden of your mind, there are a thousand lovely blooms to rejoice your soul.

Then examine critically your present position. What is wrong with it? We know that many past causes are now going to be put right. What kind of positive thought and action are required to adjust, as far as you can see, any entanglements and difficulties which face you today, or loom before you in the future?

Now forget, for the moment, all the weaknesses we can all discover in our make-up, and concentrate on all the good aspects of your mind, body, relationships and environment. There is infinitely more good in human nature than bad. Have a look at everything you can discover which represents your best qualities, achievements, aspirations and love. See your generosity for what it is. Look at beauty and believe in it. Be thankful for good deeds and your happy fellowship with others. Count your many blessings, from eternal life right down to the shelter and food you have enjoyed today.

Who are you? What are you? What do you really want to become?

Think on these things—for you are an infinitely more wonderful being than you have ever dared to dream. To acknowledge it is not egoism, for we are truly trying to be honest in our humble purpose to become what God wants

us to be. To acknowledge the beauty, goodness and truth in human nature is truly to recognise God.

And He is beckoning you on into the wondrous way of life in Christ—through this life, and for ever.

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Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Love never faileth . . . when I was a child I spake as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. . . .

And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is LOVE.

1 Cor. 13.

Think on these things! It is the truth that sets you free. It is the secret of prayer, the secret of life, and the sacred way to heal all causes of every human ill.

And thank You, Father, that through Jesus Christ our Lord, it is so.

CHAPTER SIX

DIVINE HEALING BY PRAYER

Whatsoever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them.

Jesus: Mark 11:24.

THE most awe-inspiring fact about prayer, when it is effective, is the simplicity with which we can enter God's Presence and the magnitude of His response.

I remember the lady, Miss Kathleen Sykes, who was sent to me by that good Methodist Minister, the Rev. Cummings of Blackburn. The story of this instantaneous healing was fully reported in the *Blackburn Times*.

She had a growth in the throat. Medically it was "incurable". "A death sentence" was how she put it. We talked about the promises of Jesus Christ, and our need in prayer to commit ourselves completely to Him, believing in an immediate release of His Love in spiritual, mental and physical Perfection.

We became still in Him and prayed "believing ye receive". In a few minutes the growth had disappeared! One moment the diseased cells, and the "lump" which was the appearance of disorder, was there as "solid" flesh; the next there was no trace of the "lump" and a perfect throat was all that was left!

She immediately went to a café and had a good meal, after weeks of liquid food. The doctors, on re-examining her case history, could scarcely believe she was the person on the record. We prayed—God expressed His Presence as Wholeness.

That, in all its basic simplicity, is Divine Healing. Perhaps it is too simple for us to believe, for both in the church and elsewhere, we go to great lengths to make it complicated. In many ways, we almost dig pits into which to fall, rather than go straight through to the Father to leave it all in His care.

In the preceding chapters we have given abundant knowledge and proof as to why we can and must find a living faith in this Kingdom of Love. We have pointed to the reality of God, the faith that moves mountains and the Love in which Perfection is the only truth. In the last chapter we exposed some of the hidden causes of human tribulation, and some of the obstacles to effective prayer.

It remains, therefore, henceforth to experience His Presence in action. Words that do not lead to personal communion with God and a Divine expression in daily living, are as useless to us as the "man in the moon"—although it looks as though we may soon be dropping in on "him"!

But essentially, prayer is founded upon simplicity—the total committal, the absolute certainty that God's Love now transcends both cause and effect and all is well.

"Not by might, nor by power, *but by My Spirit*, saith the Lord."

And God's Spirit is already Perfect Everything, for each of us, now and for ever.

Our problem, then, is how to leap from limitation, distorted causes and effects, into this Being of God which transcends all these states of mind or body.

Jesus tells us of Love and Faith. He also gives profound teaching about the need to abide in Him, to observe these Laws in daily living. He insists that we must break free from the intolerable burden of living selfishly, and points the way to the blessed state of humility, devotion, prayer

and good works. He indicates clearly the principle of forgiveness—human and divine. He teaches the value of confession and the need to pray for one another.

In other words, in His definition of Love, and the assurance of answered prayer, He equally emphasises the need to *live the life* of spiritual realisation, for only in that way can we continue in a state of spiritual, mental and physical harmony in tune with the infinite purposes of God. Only in that way can causes be healed and remain healed. "Go and sin no more!"

Therefore, if we would pray for release, we must give the whole man to God, in the knowledge and complete faith that HE instantly proceeds to harmonise the soul, mind, body and every outward circumstance. We must become poised and centred in the midst of what we accept to be Absolute Perfection, knowing that this is the *infallible* manifestation of all that we desire.

When we take our burdens to the Lord in prayer, we pass beyond human assessments of the bigness of the problem. It is as easy for God to make a growth disappear as it is for Him to swing universes in their orbits. It is as easy for God to inspire an artist to paint a great picture as it is for Him to produce the landscape the artist desires to portray. His Spirit is All Power, and we only begin our true prayer-life as we comprehensively realise this truth, and expect mighty works to follow our faith.

Although, especially in cases of physical disease, we often witness instantaneous healings, there are often other factors of personality which decree that answered prayer can only come forth over a period of time.

The spiritual life is essentially a growth of awareness. It is not an isolated momentary experience. If we have become sick in mind or body, the need is to become re-established in harmony with God's Love, and to embark on a way of faith which allows the Father to lead us

through the darkness of the moment towards the greater objectives in the Light.

Divine Healing, in this sense, is a progressive one. In fact, is it not true to say that there is no person anywhere who is perfect? Only God is good, only God is Perfect. We all, without exception, need healing of all kinds of limitations and weaknesses. It is the Divine Plan that we are enabled progressively to experience more and more of the Divine Nature as we lift our vision, love and faith to accept it. It is an eternal process, but our real joy begins when we seriously and consciously embark on this journey.

So much prayer is negated because we do not take this "living the life" factor into consideration. When we are prepared to accept this we can proceed to pray, and to pray for one another, with joyful confidence that the Almighty Power of God is now bringing forth Divine Order, progressively, in the right way and at the right time.

Even when an instantaneous physical healing takes place, which is always the true possibility, it is still only part of a Divine Process that seeks continuously to express through love and faith, in works, every day of our lives.

Many an amazing physical healing has become fulfilled months after the motivating prayer. But God never neglected the willing soul who sought help. In fact, a process of complete spiritual re-orientation was the first sign of His work in the person who was willing to follow the Principles. The subsequent physical healing was the outward result of an inward change of mind and healing of deep-rooted causes.

Some people, too, are slower than others in becoming established in this spiritual-mental attitude. Others have already reached a "point of readiness", and can leap into an immediate total surrender and committal which results in what the world would call a miracle. But all are equally

under God's care. He leads us each one back home to Him as quickly as we can go.

We know also that, on our general low level of faith, spiritual progression is often very spasmodic. We turn the Power on, and then turn it off again. One minute we are releasing love and faith with fervour; and the next we shut off the "engine" and try to push it along in our own strength. When we are tired of that we switch on, open the throttle, and try again. Somewhere along the line we learn that God Power is infinitely better than man-power!

There is the problem of why some people are healed and some are not. While no man can presume to know all the answers to the complex ramifications of human life, its purposes and eternal relationships, it is clear that we all have so much to learn about the absolute Law of Love and the true reality and significance of faith, that we often easily fail to allow God to release the Perfection that He is.

We must admit that it is not easy for a crippled or diseased person, perhaps tortured with pain, to reach a point of no further concern about his problem, through a *total* surrender of it all to God. That is why we must make a very careful study, as we shall do in a later chapter, of the tremendous contribution we can make when we learn how to pray effectively *for one another*.

We often meet the critical remark, "Yes—but will it last"? In our analysis of causes lies at least part of the answer. Assuming that an instantaneous healing has taken place, this means that *at that moment* there has been a complete healing of cause and effect in the Love which spiritualised mind, soul and body.

But if that person then recaptures the vision of disease, or reverts to negative fears, frustrations etc., then of course he or she is well on the way to re-projecting the discord once more. If this happens, then equally surely, if prayer healed in the first instance, is it not commonsense to come

back quickly into the same state of consciousness which proved to be effective?

We tend to be so apathetic in our realisation that, times without number, such people just shrug their shoulders and go wallowing back into the old habits, without considering the significance of their first experience.

But always with us is the encouragement of thousands of people who have found permanent healing and an ever-growing spiritual joy, as they go from strength to strength in the Christ Way of living. When anyone truly finds the peace and power of Love and faith, they seldom revert to the futilities of personal strain and struggle.

We must recognise as a basic truth that we are NOT bodies, but spirits. In prayer, we worship God in SPIRIT and in TRUTH. The sooner we all break free from this incessant bondage to "matter" and flesh, the sooner will we come into our true relationship with the invisible realities.

Many people, in seeking prayer help for those who are sick, also forget that life is eternal. We must ALL leave this plane some day, to embark on a fuller life on a higher range of vibration and environment. Could we see the full truth, we would understand that, when someone was grievously sick (especially elderly people) the greatest healing of all was the transition of the soul and mind to its higher estate. In fact, every minister has had the experience of pain ceasing and peace coming to those who subsequently "died" following real prayer.

It is therefore imperative that we lift our vision to behold the fullness of life and its infinite and infallible possibilities in the Life of God. We can only truly pray when we recognise these wider truths, and are prepared to stabilise ourselves, for all time, on a total acceptance of the all-pervading Perfection Principle indwelling our own being.

All through the New Testament, Jesus teaches us how

to live and how to pray, and what to expect from our prayers. "Thy Will be done" to Jesus meant, "Father, let Thy Perfection be released". In our weak faith and uncertainty, how often do we dither and despair because we are not sure that it is God's Will to heal us. I, for one, will follow Jesus for ever, because He revealed the Father of Love, Compassion, Forgiveness and All-Good. Why, even an earthly father, in his very limited love, would not withhold healing, help, guidance or any good thing from his own child! Jesus demonstrated the truth of God's Love in action. Wherever He saw human misery, disease or discord, He manifested the Love of God, and these things ceased to be. Wonderful!

And He told us to do likewise! "These things and greater things than these shall ye do"! "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them".

The triumphant victory of Love over all the things that oppress the family of God! The abundant life of spiritual, mental, physical and material well-being! Peace of mind, the lifting of burdens, joy, friendship and the fulfilment of every goal! What else could He mean? We have no need to fabricate a new truth—it is there for all to read. Our only sin, in a general sense, is that we have failed completely to take Christ at His Word.

So let us follow Jesus and expect mighty things to happen to us.

Before we go on to consider the actual formula of prayer, it is important to be sure that we are truly releasing for ever the causes which can continue to enslave us even when we pray, if we are not careful.

One of the most significant features of spiritual healing is forgiveness. It has an amazing power to throw the soul and mind open to God's healing love. It is worthy of your most serious consideration.

We have all sinned. We have all made many mistakes, often in our ignorance of Divine Laws, and continue to suffer for them. With awakening illumination, we recognise many of these past faults and would certainly not commit them again. On the other hand, many of these weaknesses may get such a hold that we intensify discords in our experience by continuing to succumb to these temptations. And so often also suffer from the pangs of remorse and shame, even though we feel too weak to banish the weakness.

That is why we need help. That is our opportunity to give it all to the Loving Lord Who understands, sympathises and longs to give us His strength. You will never find judgment or condemnation in the Father. In Him there is only absolute Love, ever extended to Bless even the most hardened sinner when we turn to Him.

Before we take it all to the Father, let us first see if we need to forgive anyone else. Is there anyone, anywhere, against whom you have any hatred, bitterness or resentment? Think carefully! Has anyone ever hurt your pride or done you an injury—anyone to whom you could not gladly go with a mind full of tolerance, love, forgiveness and understanding?

Real forgiveness is best accomplished in prayer. We share the experience in Christ. We become lifted up in His Spirit into that wondrous consciousness which made it possible for Jesus, as He hung crucified with physical pain and weakness on the Cross, to say "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"!

It is the supreme example and contains a profound truth.

In ordinary consciousness, it is difficult indeed to forgive someone who has done us a serious injury. It is ridiculous to pretend that it is *humanly* simple to be free from resentment and hurt if someone cheats us of our life savings, or

blemishes our reputation with malicious slanders. It is not easy to forgive a friend whose love turns to hate expressed in vicious thought and action. And perhaps most difficult of all to feel goodwill towards someone who is breaking the life of a beloved one in the family or in friendships.

So many lives become wrecked through the wrong-doing of others, both in thoughts and deeds, and our corresponding reaction of resentment, bitterness and often active revenge. So often we "want to get our own back", and go to extreme lengths to accomplish it. It is in this field of negative reaction that we find one of the great dangers to human well-being.

It is certainly too important to ignore in any approach to God in prayer and Divine Healing. It again touches the deepest roots of CAUSE, and therefore invites our closest attention, if we honestly desire to free ourselves from poisonous influences.

Forgiveness, then, is not a superficial attempt in words to force ourselves into something against which all our *personal* feelings rebel. It is a sublimation and transmutation on the highest level, which can only become comprehensively effective in the Love of God. Jesus identified His desire to forgive the "unforgivable" with the Father, and was thus liberated from the impact of His own personal pains and feelings.

With Christ in *Divine Love*, we commit the situation and the people concerned to HIM. We are intent now on loving God with the whole of our being, knowing that then we become lifted up to behold all mankind through His Vision. We enter the Christ dimension, leaving the confines of self-thinking behind.

We can have this experience at any time we choose. Do it now if you wish. Become still, and know you are immediately poised in everything that is perfect—in God's Love. You will *feel* this indefinable change, this peace, this

sense of being able to rise to achieve any objective. You will feel your eager readiness to be done with all futilities and weak human assessments. In the Silence with the Father, *He* opens the way you should, and can, take in His strength.

With Jesus, you will understand that we all live in the Life of God. He loves you just as much as He loves the one who injured you. In fact "There, but for the Grace of Go, go I"; and, indeed, in the higher realisation, the other person is part of your own being in the spirit of God.

If he or she has sinned against you, can you honestly say you have never hurt anyone in *your* life by thought, word or deed? We have ALL been guilty of this in varying degrees, so we were never really in a position to judge anyone else—not in honesty—even when the hurt came our way.

As you wait upon the Lord with real love and faith, these are the Divine thoughts that come crowding into the mind—when you listen for them.

We are all like children at school. Some are in the babies' class, others just learning how to read and write. In each class the children learn and use more of the knowledge they have gained. Some know enough to pass the School Certificate, others the Higher School Certificate, and yet others are in Universities ready to take degrees. But all are going to grow to the experience of adult life—and who, having grown up, would condemn the faults and failings of a child of ten?

Because you are "grown up" in the sense that you are reading these words, and therefore obviously interested in living according to Divine Laws, you can also behold the inner truth about everyone else. With Jesus, you can understand that others often act unjustly in ignorance of these laws. "They know not what they do." If they knew the full spiritual truth they would not wish to hurt others,

nor hurt themselves by causing evil to be released.

As always, with knowledge comes the responsibility of using it. It is a greater sin for the one who is illumined with spiritual truth not to forgive, than it is for the one who commits evil in ignorance of spiritual obligations.

It is in this "thinking with God" that we can reach the pure atmosphere of comprehensive forgiveness. We can join the Lord in releasing His Good into the "sick" one, and thus take our part in the Divine Redemptive process.

You see, the purpose and point of forgiveness is two-fold. It is *first* an act of Love in God to seek healing and blessing for the one who has done the injury. It is the highest form of loving, the Christ-Loving, for it is following Christ in "loving the enemy". As Jesus says—both saint and sinner find it easy to love those who love us. Real love comes when we can express this supreme quality to those who often try to crucify us.

Secondly, it is an act of Love in God which brings multiplying blessing into our own lives. It releases us from a bitter and dangerous poison. It is often the key to the healing of a vicious physical disease. And, above all, it brings a peace that can never be ours as long as we have any feelings of hatred, resentment and unforgiveness towards anyone, anywhere, for whatever reason.

Therefore, in true prayer, it is "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do". And "Thank You, Father, through the Love and Grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I now join You in total forgiveness of all that has been, or is being done, by this beloved one. I look through all outward disturbance with love, tolerance, compassion and understanding. I behold only the Living Christ, immaculate and perfect within this, Thy child, and pray that wondrous blessings of peace, harmony and love may be released to lead this, my friend, onwards now to fulfil the perfect destiny".

Make it final and complete. And if in any way, free from criticism or judgment, you can also express your love, forgiveness and help, do so as a loving ambassador of God.

Having cleared the way by forgiving others, we really earn the right to take our own shortcomings to the Lord for absolution. It is one of the most wonderful of all experiences to be completely purged of all the often hidden and accumulated debris in our sub-conscious and conscious mind.

Any minister or psychologist knows that most people carry these burdens, and that very often the weight of them cause nervous breakdowns, sickness and a mass of human tribulation.

Therefore, it is important to achieve a comprehensive release. And the real secret lies in this word "release".

Many people repent their sins and pray for forgiveness. But it is astonishing how many will do so, and then keep on praying for God to forgive the same sins. Indeed, many who walk the spiritual pathway become so conscious of their sinful nature, that the sins of the past become an obsession, and they defeat the very purpose of forgiveness in Divine Love.

The whole Ministry of Jesus was devoted to spiritual healing and sublimation of the human weaknesses. It was not a concentration upon sin, but the means of releasing these causes of pain.

It is psychologically known today that concentration upon sin, weakness, disease or troubles in personality only aggravate them. The mind is so constituted that it magnifies everything upon which it dwells. The only way to change anything is to change the focus and intensity of concentration to the good, the perfect, the freedom or whatever it is we desire.

It is frightening to wonder how much real harm has

been done to countless people, in many sincere and earnest ministries in Christian churches, by concentrating on the sins of man. The "big stick" held over suffering humanity will never solve any problem. The teaching "Get rid of your sins or you will be banished to hell for ever" neither solves the problem of sin nor brings people nearer to the God of Love. It merely introduces a new and very real fear of eternal consequences, and trying to overcome in fear is certainly not the Christ Way.

In fact, the very laws of mind insist that we must change our thinking if we would change our experience. It is terrible to realise how many suffering souls continue to magnify the burdens they are struggling to overcome, simply because they do not know how the mind works.

The more we fight a weakness the stronger it becomes. The more we strain and use will-power to overcome it, the more power we give to the difficulty. This method invokes what is psychologically called "the Law of reversed effort". It is certainly vital to guard against this temptation as we seek the freedoms for which we yearn. We must learn to "stay our minds upon God"—upon the Good, the Perfect, at all times and in every circumstance.

That is the real value of Divine Forgiveness. It is the gathering up of all our past sins and mistakes, the weakness of character and personality, and all the causes—known and unknown—in a complete repentance and release to God.

It can be done in one complete and final operation. There is no need to go on petitioning a Father Who is Perfect Love, and in Whom we have our being. He knows all about us. He has listened to our thoughts and watched over our lives from the moment we were born. And He waits only for us to give our past burdens to Him for ever, and new burdens if and when they come.

Forgiveness becomes real, comprehensive and final when we accept with complete faith the truth that we are

really releasing these problems to Him as factually as we would give a telegram to the post office for delivery. The operation is finished when we pass either the sin to the Father or the telegram to the girl at the counter.

In one prayerful period, tell the Father about all these troubles of the past. Be honest and comprehensive. There are also many things hidden deep within us, long forgotten—so tell Him you are giving everything to Him, known and unknown, for His final absolution. You are releasing them all for ever. Then, simply thank Him for absolute forgiveness. Take Him at His Word, and know that all the past is now finished and forgotten—it is healed in the love of God.

If you do this with final conviction, you must then accept the truth that at this moment you are free from all past influences, and the causes of every kind of present disturbance. You are truly as pure as a newborn child.

A new day begins on an uncontaminated basis for future expression. New causes of future experience will naturally continue to operate through the constant expression of your thought and prayer day by day. God's purpose is to help you now to introduce more and more of His Love into every aspect of your mental attitudes, and corresponding action.

Therefore, since past weaknesses and sins are finished here are only the events of each day to consider. It is a supremely valuable function of prayer, each night before sleep, to forgive others and be forgiven for whatever new sins or weaknesses we may have met or introduced in the preceding hours.

It will be seen that the verbal confession of our faults and troubles to God is the most important way of all to banish the hidden emotional stresses, sinful influences, and all manner of complex causes of present discords of mind, body and circumstance.

Forgiveness implies release from our sinful nature and its past projections. But there is a lesser known factor to be considered. There are many equally disastrous causes in human thinking and behaviour which are not "sinful" in the accepted sense of the word.

As discussed in previous chapters, there are the tensions of childhood experiences, love starvation, unfulfilled ambitions, shocks, grief and a "mass" of emotional conflicts of many kinds.

As already revealed, but sufficiently important to emphasise again, we need to bring these buried troubles to the surface. But the real way is to talk to the Father about them in a prayer consciousness.

Go through your life from your earliest memories. Speak aloud to God anything that comes to your mind. No matter how unpleasant the memory may be, let it come into words. Go on and on, and if you tire in one session, continue in another. The objective is to *release* these past memories into the attentive and loving care of the Father.

It is not a question of wallowing in the misery of these experiences as you recapture them, but of taking them to the Father in prayer knowing that, inevitably, there is a corresponding release of these inner causes. We are, in fact, allowing the Light and Love of God's Perfection to enter many dark rooms to fill the mind with new power to get on with the business of successful living.

The psychologist has long since found the value of this approach. His method is called "psycho-analysis". Unfortunately, he seldom goes far enough, for he is still generally only working in the realm of the sub-conscious and conscious human mind. True sublimation comes when we take it all through to the Mind of God within us, in Whom are ALL harmonising and healing influences which transcend every human technique.

The great field of research now open to the psychologist—and all of us for that matter—is in the Kingdom of God within. In the midst of, and beyond the deeps of human consciousness, lies the Infinite Perfection of God. The entire future of the psychological progression depends entirely on the degree these spiritual realisations and principles are introduced. It is an inevitable advance. It is time we speeded it up.

It is good additionally to keep in mind the value of sharing one another's burdens. In the Bible we are told to "Confess your faults one to the other". The psychologist is only doing, in a more scientific way, what we already do in our ordinary relationships. We all know the relief we get when we can go to a loved one or friend and unload our troubles. Talking things over with others is a wonderful way of fellowship and release.

With spiritual principles in mind, however, we should always do this with a conscious purpose. Too often, when we talk about our troubles to others, we are merely going round and round in circles, looking at them from every angle and so fixing our minds on them that they become worse than before.

Whenever we have felt release from talking to friends, it has always come when we have received sympathetic strength, confidence and encouragement as we discussed the matter. We should, therefore, be very careful to take these troubles only to those who themselves have a positive and prayerful approach to life. And to do so with the knowledge that we are only intent on *releasing* them, not to wallow deeper in the situation.

It also gives us the key to so much we can do personally to help others out of their dilemmas. It has been profoundly proved that "If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me".

If we ourselves are lifted up in Christ with love and faith,

inevitably God will send people to us whom we can liberate from the darkness of troubles that oppress them.

One of the most vital factors of my Ministry has proved to be the help we can give to people through correspondence and prayer. Friends, all over the world, believing in our love for them and the reality of our prayer and teaching, pour out their troubles and needs in their letters. Every day, down the years, hundreds of these wonderful letters come in.

We read them, pray over them, and reply with love, encouragement and faith, and suggest the spiritual principles by which their needs can be met.

The results speak for themselves, for thousands of people have testified to healing and a new way of life through this fellowship of love, prayer and a sharing of burdens.

In a later chapter, we will consider the power and responsibility of everyone in this connection and their ability to heal one another through prayer. It is everyone's right and inherent function to do this.

As we now comprehend, Divine Healing is not just a physical approach to a physical disorder. And in so much already written we can see many reasons why prayer, as we usually use it, so often apparently fails. If we really want to find God as the answer to our needs, it is only simple commonsense to realise that we must do it in the way He has ordained for us.

If this involves new adventures of faith, a change of habitual direction or devoted attention, then we can only say that this is logically to be expected in such a vital experience as going into the Secret Place of the Most High.

If we are prepared to spend eight hours a day at our work to earn our livelihood, it is only to be expected that we must be at least equally dedicated to communing with the Father Who makes our life possible at all.

In fact, generally speaking, so lost are we in our vision of true realities, that we spend far more time watching television, reading books, eating and preparing meals, and "enjoying" ourselves, than ever we do practising the Presence of God.

Like everything else in life, we get out of it the equivalent of what we put into it. We cannot even read a book without spending several hours with our minds intent upon the written words. We can certainly not receive Divine illumination and healing unless we keep our minds stayed upon Him, as outlined in this book.

So this is Divine Healing. It remains only to consider the healing of the effects, the disease or disaster, now we know how to let God look after the causes.

Naturally enough, the greatest fear of mankind is usually the threat to our lives when disease, breakdown or sickness appear. We are so dependent upon the well-being of mind and body that when either cease to function, a wide range of new problems emerge.

Apart from the pain, weakness and misery of the sickness itself, there is the attendant worry to loved ones and often enough, the threatened loss of work or business.

The imperative urge by all concerned is to get well as quickly as possible.

In this book is to be found the real way to do it. In fact, if you have been sick or troubled, and have followed this instruction closely, you will already have been actually experiencing the Presence of God. You will either have been healed already, or certainly feel wonderfully better.

You are, in fact, already on the way to your high destiny, for God is in control of every aspect of your being. You are healed of many causes; you are pulsing with Divine Life; you are inspired to behold yourself as a spiritual being in whom only eternal Good is now

manifesting. In God, you know only good, and are claiming it as His gift to you.

Jesus tells us that prayer is effective when we release everything, cause and effect, to Him, believing in the infallible response of the perfect answer. We are to believe we have received it, and then it becomes ours.

This means, quite simply, that the moment we have committed *anything* to God, in Him the answer is already established. We are one with Him in our committal, and now we throw soul, mind and body open to Him in love to *accept* the answer. We know that His Spirit is now projecting the Perfect Result into our spiritual, mental, physical and material experience, in the right way and at the right time, under His INFALLIBLE direction.

What a relief this is! What joy is ours when we KNOW that this is so! Now we can sleep again. Now we are healed of worry, fear or pain. Now we can rejoice that with God in control all is well, a thousand times well. Now, in every aspect of being, we go forward into a mighty experience of Perfect Everything.

We behold only God in everything. We no longer shrink before the arthritis or colitis. Neither cancer nor cardiac troubles are powers to fear. From head to foot we know that God indwells every cell and every organ, and are content to allow Him to rearrange the structures to conform to His Will for Perfection.

We are no longer feeling for the pain, but feeling and loving our way into a continuous realisation of all energy, glowing health, and the joy of communion with Him. We no longer focus upon sickness, sin, fear, worry or lack of any kind. We are one with Christ in the Father, and look beyond all these things to the Holiness, the wholeness, of His Being in us.

We are established by love and faith in His Spirit, a Presence, in the realm of Perfection. We know that the

body reflects that Power now and constantly, as we keep faith in what God is and what He can do.

You live and move and have your being in Him, now, and for ever. You are the Temple of the Holy Spirit, now, and unto all eternity.

This is the truth that makes all men free. It is the Father Who doeth the works.

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I remember praying for a lady in a Divine Healing service who was crippled with arthritis. The disease appeared to be in all her joints, and her dilemma was pitiful indeed.

After praying, there seemed to be no trace of any healing or alleviation whatsoever.

Five weeks later a vital and vigorous lady turned up, unexpectedly, at the Sanctuary. I did not recognise her. She told me a profound and stirring story.

But first she insisted on jumping, running, touching her toes to demonstrate, as she said, how completely well she was. She said she was the crippled lady at the Divine Healing service. The transformation was so amazing that I could scarcely believe my eyes. This is what happened to her:

She said that throughout the service her whole mind was inspired by all I was saying about love, faith, forgiveness and practising the Presence of God. Far from being dismayed when there was no sign of the instantaneous physical healing which others had received there, she went home with a new vision for her life.

I tell this story now because she did exactly what I have written in this chapter. She realised the causes of her disease. Back in her life was all the tension, lack of love and resentment which had ultimately outcropped in the present miserable sickness of the body.

She began to systematically to forgive and be forgiven. She gave her life to Christ, and asked that His Will for Perfect Everything should now be done. She offered her life to be used by Him to bless others.

Almost immediately the improvement set in. A new attitude of love shone through her to the ones close to her. She found peace of mind and the desire to do things in the home as an offering of service to the Father. She began talking to others about God, seeking to help them.

And she practised being with the Lord in the Silence—in the way described in a later chapter.

The pains fled. Every day new movement came to fingers, arms, legs and spine. She knew she was on the most exciting adventure of her life.

In five weeks, many years of arthritis had all gone. And here before me was this now vital woman of about sixty demonstrating the health of God.

She had come, she said, to give thanks and to ask if we might thank the Father together.

Wonderful? Of course it is wonderful! What else should we expect when we go to the Father?

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Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

She is more precious than rubies; and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

Her ways are of pleasantness; and all her paths are peace.

She is the tree of life to them that lay hold upon her; and happy is everyone that retaineth her.

The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath He established the heavens.

By His knowledge the depths are broken up; and the clouds drop down the dew.

My son, let them not depart from thine eyes; keep sound wisdom and discretion.

So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid; yea, thou shalt lie down and thy sleep shall be sweet.

Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked when it cometh.

For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Proverbs 3:13, 26.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THY WILL BE DONE

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matt. 6:33.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. . . . For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, for ever.

Matt. 6:9-10, 13.

HOWEVER much we concentrate on trying to use Love and Faith in prayer and daily experience, we will not achieve our highest objective until we know the *real* purpose of prayer.

We could write volumes about the causes of man's troubles, and millions of words have certainly been written to describe every aspect of the sins and sicknesses which abound. But until we recognise our divinity and destiny, we remain in bondage to all these limitations.

Even when we begin to understand something of the power of love and prayer, if we are not careful, the *whole of our concentration* will be upon using these mighty powers exclusively to obtain release from whatever is the problem of mind, body or environment which is disturbing us at the moment.

We have considered in considerable detail, and with much emphasis, the reasons why we can have complete faith in God. We have realised the paramount importance of Love, and what we ourselves can do to release many of the causes of our troubles. The evidence of Divine Healing, and the infinite possibilities of prayer, quicken the

imagination and inspire us to use this power to secure our own highest well-being.

The most natural impulse of all is to seek health, happiness and success. When we are failing to secure them, we strain with all the knowledge and power available to fight and banish the obstacles to our well-being. And often use prayer, when we believe in it, as another means of dispersing these difficulties, without a clear understanding of the ultimate goals.

It is, therefore, important to lift our vision to comprehend the highest teaching of Jesus, and its significance. Our journey so far has been along the pathway leading to the top of the mountain. Now let us stand on the peak itself and see the whole horizon without any obstructions.

No matter what **WE** think we want, the eternal truth is that our *only real need* is to allow the Will of God to be done in us.

What does **GOD** want for us? Jesus tells us it is His fellowship with us, in everything, for ever. Every other aspect of being is subservient to that supreme plan and purpose. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit, in which Perfect Everything already is.

We need only God. And prayer brings us into communion with Him.

Faith and love can be expressed on many levels of consciousness and in countless experiences. They are the vital patterns of spiritual growth, but should inevitably lead to an ever more comprehensive committal to the Father, Who knows all our present and eternal needs, and Whose Will is our highest good.

We are only limited by our beliefs. Faith touches its true heights when it embraces the fact that God is already a living Presence, Whose pattern for our lives is the un-deviating unfolding of everything that is God-like.

If we abide in that Kingdom, all that God is flows into

free expression in soul, mind, body and experience. All the things we need are added unto us, because it is God's purpose to expand our whole being into an ever-growing awareness of the infinite Good.

In ordinary prayer, we ask for the answer to specific needs. We learn to use faith to believe in the healing of causes and painful effects—and often find a Divine response which seems like a miracle. And then, excited by these results, go on into the ever wider practice of praying about every other trouble as it comes into our orbit.

At some point we must all arise to behold the reality of God's Presence, and embrace the infinitely greater truths which become obvious once we accept the fact of His indwelling spirit, and that He has a supreme plan and purpose for every soul on earth.

Instead of trying to direct His Power into specific pains and problems, we learn to abide in the midst of His Perfection, knowing that we are experiencing our total Good according to His knowledge and wisdom.

We lift the level of our love and faith to the infinite extension of God. We are one with Him, and therefore accept and expect all that He is to manifest in love, peace, power and harmony in every aspect of our being.

Then bondage disappears in freedom. Hidden tensions, resentments, and all sub-conscious and conscious discords become healed and harmonised. Physical disorders now dissolve in the wholeness of God. Poverty is replaced with new channels of material supply. Business prospers, or abundant vocational opportunities appear. Discordant domestic or environmental difficulties become healed. New interests come into focus with enthusiasm, vision and love to express them. We are guided into inspired thought and action, and become aware of a definite plan and directive purpose at work.

The pains of yesterday are dissolved in the Divine

objectives of today and tomorrow. We *know* both the power and purpose of our lives, and eagerly extend our faith to embrace the ever greater works which invite us to go forward.

In this total surrender, we are really *fulfilling* the first and second commandments. This Love which Jesus taught is the only way we can die to self, and be resurrected in the image and likeness of Christ. The miracle is always that the act of "dying" is not "death," but re-birth into our true and infinite nature in God.

It is our supreme objective, because it is God's Will for us. It is fulfilled in us when we dare to release the whole of our being to Him—when we recognise the truth that God is the only Reality and are prepared, by faith, to believe in that infinite truth.

We are so accustomed to consider spiritual experience from the human point of view, that we have seldom found the faith to trust God with our lives through this comprehensive committal of everything to Him. We are prepared to pray for the healing of this or the solution of that, but relatively few have discovered the greater truth that abiding in God is the answer to every need, and the achievement of every spiritual, mental, physical or material objective.

Perhaps we have never been too sure that God's Will could be trusted to heal our bodies or take us through some difficult situation. Perhaps we have been afraid that He might want to deny us some particular pleasure, or lead us into a "sackcloth and ashes" existence. Even when we pray about sickness, there is considerable doubt in the minds of most people as to whether it is God's Will to heal it.

We can only go back to the teaching of Jesus, and realise that He demonstrated the Goodness of God in every kind of human turmoil. He taught the abundant life both here and hereafter. His emphasis was always

upon the Father, Whose perfect Love is wholeness, limited in expression only by our lack of love and faith.

Our real joy today is that we know His Way to be the true purpose of God for us all. In this twentieth century, our faith is quickening once more to demonstrate this reality in the life patterns of countless people. In fellowship with Christ, consciously accepting His Presence as Perfect Everything, all these things, on every level, are indeed added unto us.

Prayer, therefore, in its highest concept takes us into union with God. And its most perfect expression is "Thy Will be done, now, this day, in me". There is no real need to pray for anything else, if our faith embraces the truth that this releases comprehensive answers to *all* our needs. The essence of the Lord's Prayer is this central truth that if God's Will is being done, His Kingdom has come unto our lives, and all is well.

We are lifted above and beyond human definitions and assessments. God's Will is being done, so we are healed of worry and our own limitations. In Him we know only Divine Order, infallible in manifestation.

Our greatest freedom comes through Grace. We understand that in God all things now express His Will, and we no longer rebel against any experience, no matter how painful it may appear to be. We are given, through Grace, the strength patiently to bear the burdens until they fulfil their purpose and become ultimately sublimated and released in the inevitable harmonies of God.

There is a far-reaching significance in this truth. We spend a good deal of our time rejoicing in what we call happy events, and bemoaning our fate when difficulties appear. We have yet to understand, in the evolutionary process, that we are in the right place, at the right time, experiencing the right things—irrespective of the "good" or "bad" experience.

What we call "bad" is something our soul is needing to pass through to discover the sublimating "good" to be found only in God. It is a responsibility which none can escape, because being endowed with the supreme gift of life in God, with an eternal destiny which must evolve Christ-like qualities, our inner nature must learn to use God-Power in every aspect of being.

The very act of creation is to take the "unformed" substance and externalise it in outward manifestation. God imagines His plans and purpose for the world and life upon it, and they proceed to come forth into progressive evolution. The sculptor sees a vision of an angel imprisoned in a block of marble, and proceeds to remove the unwanted stone until the angel alone appears to delight the eyes of all who behold it.

As we have already discussed, the mind of man is incessantly creating his own experience. Thoughts are living things, which inevitably produce everything we know throughout our time here, and hereafter. We project an immense amount of "good" works, and much that is "bad". Since the supreme objective of all creative effort, Divine and human, is to manifest comprehensive "good", all that appears to be lacking in peace, beauty, health, success and perfection, is inviting us to use the right kind of Power to harmonise it.

The so-called pains and problems are really our greatest opportunities to use the gift of Divine Power to sublimate them and bring into being the beauty and achievement which reflect the Divine Pattern. We so often temporarily frustrate the true purpose of creation by our fears and worries and rejection of the situations which confront us. In fact, we often even think there is a conspiracy in life to harm us, and adopt the attitude of "Nothing good ever happens to me. What have I done to deserve this"?

Every experience, without any possible exception, is

good in its eternal sense and purpose. It may appear, and is indeed "bad" at the present moment, but within it, like the mustard seed, is the true power of growth into the perfect fruitage.

Of course sickness of mind or body is presently bad, but wholeness is the Divine Idea which infallibly invites our attention. The diabolical repercussions of war contain the seeds of peace. The intolerable racial conflicts between coloured and white people only invite our realisation of God's Love to produce the Divine Idea of the world family.

In other words, we take a tremendous leap forward in the evolutionary scale when we realise the potential good in every discord or difficulty. We immediately move forward towards victory when we are ready to stop hating or rebelling against the pinpricks and problems, and seek the Divine vision of Perfection. We are halfway to true sublimation when we become willing to accept the situation.

It all becomes possible when we understand the full significance of the prayer "Thy Will be Done". Then He gives us the Grace and Strength to endure the pains, while the seeds of Good germinate and grow into the tree of abundant fruit.

This higher way of love and faith transmutes the total span of life. Now we know and accept the truth that God's Will is comprehensively operative, we are equally sure that we have entered into partnership with Him. We are no longer struggling along alone. We have entered our highest heritage, and have the privilege of taking our part in the universal creative plans and purposes of God. We can then indeed welcome every challenge, knowing that every situation is sent to us by the Father to release the highest good in it with Him.

We are therefore eternally invited to extend our love

and faith to surrender our all to God. As Jesus so persistently tells us, our only need is to abide in the Father, to seek Him above all things, and to know the all-pervading Good which then illumines soul, mind, body and our environment.

Inevitably, it leads us to true discipleship. We become Christ's Ambassadors. We know that it is the Father's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom and "all that I have is thine". But we also know the love which gives us the faith and courage to give all that we have back to God.

The real secret lies in this total surrender, this total committal. Only then can we be resurrected as the sons and daughters of God, who have come back Home into the Kingdom of Perfect Everything. Only then can we truly be dedicated to the supreme principle of "Thy Will be done", for only when self is prepared to follow God's Way can His Love transcend all our own weaknesses of cause and effect, and lead us into the greater works He has prepared for us. And those works inevitably lie in the Christ-like unfolding of our own lives, and the release of Divine Good through us to everyone whose lives touch ours.

In so many ways we are like the prodigal son. He went to his father and asked for his share of the estate, which was willingly given. And off he went to far places on his own. In the midst of stresses, weaknesses and temptations, he squandered his inheritance and was indeed lost.

Hungry enough to eat the husks given to the swine, he remembered the happy abundance of his home and the love of his father. Humble and repentant, he decided to go back, unworthy any more to be a son of his father, and quite ready to ask to be treated as a servant.

But when he came home, the father took him in his arms and welcomed him with all that he had. His love did not remember the sins and riotous living.

"For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found".

Here then is the true secret of answered prayer. We simply embrace the infinite truth, and come Home to the Father, trusting HIM to do all that is necessary to satisfy our real needs on every level.

With this supreme vision constantly before us, we can realistically proceed to keep our hearts and minds centred in Him. It leads to the practice of the Presence of God, and abiding in the Kingdom. Now we can truly begin to appreciate and experience "waiting upon the Lord"—being still in the midst of God.

The Sacred Silence

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.

Isa. 40:31.

When accepted with clear vision that we can instantly come into communion with the Father, it is the simplest and most natural of all methods of prayer.

Our sole purpose is to abide in the midst of God, silently worshipping Him, and knowing that His Will is being released into every aspect of our lives.

The imagination should leap to behold the magnitude of the experience. We become still, but unlike any other kind of quietness, we are electrified with the knowledge that we are truly poised in all the Perfection of our Heavenly Father.

Yet it is as simple as sitting in a deck-chair to sunbathe. The sun does its own shining without any prompting or activity on our part. We but abide in its light and warmth. In meditation there is only God, and He is doing

everything that is necessary—we only know and believe it. “Thank You, Father—Thy Will is being done in me now and constantly”.

Do not depart from this simplicity, or the whole experience will be limited by your own thoughts and efforts. It is sufficient to know you are with your Lord *immediately*, as surely as you are immersed in the air you breathe.

The constant and most usual awareness of God is a deep feeling of Peace—“the Peace which passeth all human understanding”. Your only need is to interpret this Peace as Perfect Everything. It is the Harmony of God now extending throughout your life experience. You should know and expect mighty works, on every plane, subsequently to manifest your highest good. God’s Will is now releasing it because you are abiding in that Kingdom where all good is already established.

The more you practise these quiet times with the Lord, the more surely will you find your life-patterns unfolding the Divine Purpose. But only you can experience it.

Words can attempt to describe or point the way, but unless they lead to personal awareness and dedication to the Principle they are wasted. God can and will reveal to you all you need to know, and bestow upon you His Love to meet every need, in ways infinitely more wonderful than we could ever imagine ourselves. But let Him do it according to His Will—for He knows best in all things.

Lift your vision to realise that everything in all creation was born out of this Sacred Silence in the Spirit of God. It is the hidden Power in your own life, in every seed and every stone. You have the sacred privilege of being able to abide in the Secret Place of the Most High as often as you desire to enter it. In one second you can come out of the world and enter your eternal Home in the Spirit of God.

In the midst of busy days, why not pause for a few moments to be still, knowing that instantly all that is God

fills your being? You can do this even while shopping, working or travelling on a 'bus. You can pause in the middle of a television programme and be with God. In church or home, wherever you are, the Lord is with you and you can wait on or abide in Him.

Discords, disease, troubles and trials are all states of *tension*. Dis-ease. Is not Peace the opposite quality to discord, disharmony, disease? Therefore the healing of all the tensions of man lies potentially in the Great Peace, when we understand that the Peace of God is the all-embracing Perfection of soul, mind, body and events.

With that understanding, who would not wish to enter into communion with God? Could there be anyone alive who would not desire to spend time in the midst of Perfect Everything?

With that knowledge, there would be no need for teachers or preachers to persuade us to adopt spiritual principles. Everyone on earth would simply go to the Father as the most natural and logical way of achieving every objective in life.

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Be still and rest in the Lord. Go deeply into the Great Peace. . . . You are meeting Christ in the Silence.

Be still now . . . breathe deeply, slowly, and know you are immediately poised in the Peace of God.

Go deeply into the Peace. All tensions slip away. . . . Peace . . . Peace . . . Peace—the deep, deep Peace of God.

You are completely relaxed . . . and can feel only Peace . . . breathe deeply . . . feel that you are in harmony with the deep rhythm of God. . . . Peace, Harmony and Love.

Only God now . . . only God. . . . Peace and Perfection. Only God, the living Christ. . . . I love You, Father. . . . I love You, love You. . . . I love You. . . . Peace, joy and all good. Only God . . . only Good.

The deep Peace of God enfolds you. His Spirit lifts you up into the health, strength, power and Perfect Everything . . . you are feeling His Energy, Power and Perfection.

Only God. . . . Peace. Mind and body are poised in Peace and all Power. The health and vitality of God are released in you. . . . Feel the influx of that health and strength. . . .

Breathe slowly, deeply, and drift into the deep Peace where wholeness is. In Him all your needs are met. . . . In this Peace there is a comprehensive adjustment in every aspect of your life. . . . Peace.

You are one with Christ now . . . and all good is released unto you. . . . As you abide in the Kingdom all discords and physical disturbances come into Peace and Harmony. . . . God is now in charge of you, and you are experiencing His harmony, and all is well.

In this deep Peace the patterns of future unfolding are released into action. He has gone before you to prepare the way.

Only believe and know. . . . Thank You, Father. . . . In His Strength arise, invincible and free, and know He is with you now, and always, through Jesus Christ.

Peace, Harmony and Love. . . . Thy Will be done now, Lord, and for ever. Thank You, Father.

Serene I fold my hands and wait,
Nor care for wind, nor tide, nor sea;
I rave no more 'gainst time nor fate,
For lo! my own shall come to me.

I stay my haste, I make delays,
For what avails this eager pace?
I stand amid the eternal ways,
And what is mine shall know my face.

Asleep, awake, by night or day
 The friends I seek are seeking me;
 No wind can drive my barque astray,
 Nor change the tide of destiny.

What matter if I stand alone?
 I wait with joy the coming years;
 My heart shall reap where it has sown,
 And gather up its fruit of tears.

The waters know their own and draw
 The brook that springs in yonder heights;
 So flows the good with equal law
 Unto the soul of pure delights.

The stars come nightly to the sky;
 The tidal wave comes to the sea;
 Nor time nor space, nor deep, nor high,
 Can keep my own away from me.

John Burroughs.

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE BLESSED SACRAMENTS

And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave unto them, saying, this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise also the cup after supper, saying: this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Jesus: Luke 22:19, 20.

THERE is only God. Nothing exists, in heaven or earth, which is outside the orbit of His Presence and influence.

With our minds centred in this paramount truth, and open to the comprehensive Principle of "Thy Will be done", the entire horizon of spiritual truth and potential is open to us.

In this supreme dedication, we can go confidently forward to experience prayer and the works of God in all the manifold ways which appear on every hand. We are no longer limited by human concepts, because we recognise Reality, the Good, in every aspect of life and seek only to bring it forth into outward manifestation.

We can use prayer on every level without being confused, because it is released to the Father for the final "Thy Will be done". It makes it possible for us to pray, if we feel the need, for specific circumstances and things, knowing that as in this we are only seeking God and His Will, the corresponding answers to our need will come into being in the way He knows best. We are ready to allow Him to do mightier works in mightier ways than we, with

our limited imagination and intelligence, could dare to conceive.

We are back with the Principle that God's Spirit, in all His Glory, is to be found expressing His Will in every situation, every breath we inhale; the power in a seed, the truth in the fruit, the beauty in a daffodil, the energy in the atom and the light in the sun. It becomes for us the simple truth that we have our being in God, live on a Holy Earth, eat Holy food, and behold His Spirit in everyone and in everything.

With these thoughts in mind, it is interesting to note that the spiritual awakening of mankind has taken place through the revelations of Christ and the prophets of other religions. And that the Churches, Temples and Holy places of worship have consistently kept the Sacred Teachings alive, and provided facilities for people to congregate together for the purpose of learning spiritual truth and worshipping God.

For countless centuries, ritual and sacramental symbols have been a common denominator of all worship in all religions. They provide, as it were, a doorway through which we can more easily enter the Presence. And it is certainly true, when we are alive to spiritual realities, that any church, made sacred by the love, faith and prayer of all who have ever worshipped therein, is the simplest way of all to become truly immersed in Divine Perfection—according to our faith.

We have no need to speculate about this. The moment *anyone* enters a Sanctuary there is an immediate awareness of an "atmosphere" which is quite distinct and different to any other kind of "atmosphere" or emanation in most other environments. And we feel, intensely, that it is good.

Perhaps as at no time before in the history of the world, we now are able to understand why this should be so. In

this scientific age, we know much about radiation, and the essential "energy-base" of all material things. We are realising the powers of the mind and their effects upon matter and all experience. And we cannot fail to appreciate the significance of this ALL-POWER which indwells and is the *cause* of all created things in the world—including, of course, the very fabric of a church and all it contains.

Therefore it is no illusion that a church is Sacred, in the highest sense of the word. Every stone, the pews, altar, decorations and even the air is radiant with Divine Love released through devotion.

It is startlingly true that could we have the vision, love and faith to believe and accept this Perfection, we could certainly go to church sick and leave it whole—simply by abiding in the midst of the Presence.

It is our own sense of limitation which so often only gives us a limited experience of God when we attend church. We have not been taught the full truth or what comprehensively to expect from our attendance in worship. And in this we exclude ourselves from the full Glory that is constantly inviting our faith and committal to the Will of God to heal and bless.

Therefore, the act of going to church is pregnant with infinite possibilities for the entire range of our lives, if we can stir our imagination and faith to embrace these potentials.

It has nothing to do with the kind of service, the personality of the minister or anything of this world. The *only* reason for going to church at all is to meet the Lord in loving fellowship with others, and to allow Him to release to us the full measure of His Will, so that we can find increasing fulfilment in becoming Christ-like ourselves.

Then there are sacramental forms of worship. Take, for example, Holy Communion. What incredible possibilities

lie in this one simple act of remembrance and devotion! Here is the prayer of *communion with Christ* which millions of Christians share every week!

While it is certainly true that countless people have found tremendous blessing through the Communion Service, it is still also true that we seldom expect Divine Healing and Adjustment to follow as the logical result of being poised in the midst of God.

Think back to the drop of Blessed Water which was photographed as a radiant cross. Remember the Blessed Water which speeded the growth of plants. Then behold the significance of the Blessed Bread and Wine at the Communion Rail.

God was already the inner reality of both bread and wine. Following prayer, His Spirit blazes forth in Divine Light—the Power to Heal and Bless in a thousand ways. Why limit His Will by imposing our own will, expressed in limited faith and expectancy?

Surely, with present knowledge, we should embrace the ALL-GOOD of God, and know completely that Healing and Blessings now flow to harmonise soul, mind, body and circumstance. We should expect God's Love, and Will, to be infinitely greater than the disease and disaster. We should know, like children, that to be in communion with God is the equivalent of Perfect Everything now released into effective action.

What an amazing transformation will take place in church life when all ministers realise and teach this truth! What astonishing things we shall see when congregations assemble to be poised in God's Spirit, eager to embrace and accept all that He desires to express in healing, forgiveness, redemption and wondrous well-being!

We have all heard about the sacramental anointing with Holy Oil. And many healings have followed this method. The oil is truly filled with Divine Power and the

combination of prayer, the Blessing released in the oil, the love and faith of those participating, provide the potentials of infinite benedictions.

In most Ministries of Divine Healing, it is customary to pray with the sacramental "Laying on of Hands". Here again, the Spirit liberates Power in whatever way asked or adopted. There can be no possible doubt about the efficacy of this Healing Blessing.

Most modern Ministers, myself included, who have been inspired to believe that Christ meant what He said about prayer and healing, began to minister to the sick in this way. Some would place their hands on the heads of those in need; others would touch that part of the body where the pain or disease appeared to be. Yet others, notably in Psychic Healing, discovered that Healing Power apparently manifested through the hands, and amazing results appeared. In the experience of Harry Edwards, the well-known "Healer", many thousands of healings have taken place through this means.

In the ministry of most people who used the "laying on of hands" there has always been this "feeling" of the Presence, and a tingling, glowing, electrical sensation or vibration in the hands while praying. The patients, too, often feel the same extraordinary manifestation. Pain often disappears immediately, and countless people have experienced instantaneous healing or alleviation.

The facts cannot be ignored, and it is only our own foolishness which prevents the widespread adoption of Divine Healing services in every church, as a natural fulfilment of Christ's commands and promises.

I have seen blind eyes open, cripples walking, tumours dissolving, and all kinds of disease clearing before this Prayer with "Laying on of Hands".

I was led to conduct hundreds of Divine Healing services in the early years following this method. So I can

humbly speak with the authority of knowing God's Works through this sacrament.

In recent times, my guidance has been generally to lead people into the simple prayer of faith and love, and equally wonderful healings follow this method. Although I personally do not usually use the "Laying on of Hands" now, it in no way detracts from this most Blessed Sacrament, and it should come into ever-increasing use wherever ministers and others pray for one another.

My mission, essentially one of teaching the truth of the Christ Way of love and faith, is focused on helping others to practise the Presence themselves.

At this time, Divine Healing services in churches are the exception rather than the rule. It is therefore imperative to help people to find the truth in their own realisation of God's Presence and Power.

Our real need, at all times, is to find God, and to experience Him in our own right, through our own love and faith. Therefore, as indicated, even the act of going to church into that Presence is the healing of all needs—if we can be helped to recognise the truth.

It is *potentially possible* for a church to be filled with a thousand sick people, and for them all to be completely healed either instantaneously or progressively, if they are abiding in the Father with the love, faith and committal we advocate herein.

It is strange how many ancient teachings and practices, many of them long since discarded as mere superstition or fallacies, are now known to be true in the light of modern knowledge about God, mind and matter.

Yet even today we have not fully grasped the significance of all that has been discovered in nuclear physics. We have demonstrated scientifically that the whole universe, including life, is energy (not "solid" matter) expressed under Law in harmonies of vibration.

We are confronted at all points by the indwelling and all-pervading God. This concept and realisation changes the entire focus of attention, and quickens the mind with the vision of infinite possibilities in every branch of research and everyday experience.

God is in the Church, the sacramental Bread and Wine, Holy Water and in the very hands of those who pray that His Love shall be released. Seeds grow more quickly when Blessed in faith and love, or when irrigated with Blessed Water.

In the early days of my ministry, I was guided into a dramatic use of this truth to help others.

At the time I was helping a young lady by teaching and prayer. She was a confirmed sufferer from severe colitis, which had been a burden of pain for many years. She came to the Sanctuary every week. Each time we prayed the pain disappeared and the trouble cleared, and she was well for several days. Then it came back again—until the next opportunity for prayer.

Somehow she could not retain the constant state of consciousness achieved during our prayer period, and the pressure of domestic events gradually reasserted their power, and back came the trouble.

It almost seemed as though we would go on like this indefinitely. But one day, while praying, the well-known, though little believed, text in the Acts, Chapter 19:11, 12, flashed like a light into my mind:

“And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them”.

I KNEW exactly what to do. I pointed out how God never once failed to heal her in response to our prayers. I said that equally obviously, could it be possible for us to pray together *at the first sign of any recurrence*, the

situation would be so controlled that it could never again appear.

She agreed. So I illustrated how God was always Present with her, and also in everything else. I quoted the text about the Blessed Handkerchiefs and Aprons, and said that if we prayed over a pamphlet, then it would immediately be radiant with all God's Power for the purpose to which it was dedicated.

I took a pamphlet in my hands and, in the Name of Jesus Christ, prayed that it would be radiant with His Love for the spiritual, mental and physical healing of this sister. I asked her to wear it night and day over her solar plexus, knowing she was constantly filled with Divine Love.

And that was the end of her sickness. It was immediately and comprehensively effective.

Even then I did not altogether see the real significance with a wider vision. As though to emphasise it, shortly afterwards I began to suffer with a very sore throat. For a whole week it steadily grew worse, and I could not quite understand why my prayers were apparently ineffective in healing it.

Then one night, as I was going to bed, I saw the truth, and its infinite scope. The trouble was merely waiting for me to experience personally the Power of a Blessed Paper. I prayed over a pamphlet and fastened it round my neck, and went to sleep in the Kingdom. Next morning the throat was perfect.

I saw how this could help countless people to realise the power of prayer, and had Prayer Cards printed, and from that day they have all been Blessed in love and faith.

Down the years there has been a daily stream of written testimonies to the healings and blessings released in this Sacramental way. For your interest, I quote below extracts from just a few of many hundreds of similar

testimonies. They serve, as in no other way, to emphasise a truth which we cannot afford to ignore:

Your letter received the day before our American Thanksgiving was a source of great joy—an added cause for giving thanks. And then for double measure the postman delivered another letter on the day after Thanksgiving. Thank you and Bless you for both messages. Immediately I applied the Blessed card to my chest, wearing it throughout the day. And the shrinkage of the nodules is noticeable. I rejoice that Divine Love dissolves anything not of itself, and I am truly grateful. Thank you and Bless you. (Miss D. B., Washington.)

Today I have read over your prayer card. I did just what the card says—held it in my hand, prayed with you, then placed it on my bare chest. I was in pain for about a quarter of an hour, but when I had finished asking the Father to treat my chest and throat I noticed that the moment I placed your prayer card on the painful part, all the trouble ceased. I have been free of pain ever since. This is another proof of the great power of faith, and how right you are when you say we can hand over ANY trouble to God. (Mr. C. D., Rotherham, Yorks.)

When I wrote I was in pain, though I did not mention it in my letter. I prayed for help to strengthen my belief, then put the prayer card under my pillow near my neck where the pain was. In a day or two it had quite gone; for the first time for years I can move my head and arms about without pain. I give thanks to God. My mother, who has heart trouble, wishes me to thank you. She is so happy. She was a different person last Thursday when I saw her. I left her a *Crusader* the

week before with little hope that she would give it much thought, but now her faith is such that she knows her heart will get strong again. (Mrs. —, Solihull, Warwicks.)

I find words inadequate to express to you my thanks for the great improvement in the condition of my heart. Although it is only a matter of days since your letter and the Blessed healing prayer card arrived, I have had no heart pain at all. My doctor is at a loss to understand what has caused this wonderful improvement. How can I thank you and my dear neighbour who so kindly let me have your *Crusader* and suggested she wrote to you for Divine Healing Intercession. My heartfelt thanks to my Heavenly Father and you, Brother Mandus, and all those at the Sanctuary for their prayers, love and the help they give to suffering humanity. I thank Thee, Father (Mrs. A. S., London).

I received healing in October through laying your prayer card on my leg with varicose veins. The doctor wanted me to go to hospital and have an operation for them, but I could not go and leave my Auntie very well. So I prayed earnestly about it and prayer was answered, and I have had no pain since. I have much to thank my Heavenly Father for and thank you, too, Brother Mandus, for enclosing the prayer card in your letter (Mrs. E. J., Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire).

I am sure you will be surprised to receive this letter. I was very ill. I did not know what was wrong with me. My friend, Mrs. C., who has great faith in the World Healing Crusade, gave me your healing card and also the *Crusader*. She asked me to place the card where I get the pain. I placed the card on my chest and the pain disappeared. I am sure it was a miracle (Mrs. S. de S., Kuala Lumpur, Malaya).

It is some months since I wrote asking for a prayer card. I had an awful pain, and could not take one step without a terrible stabbing pain in my hip and right down my right leg. Since getting a few prayer cards and wearing one night and day, I can cheerfully say I am better than I have been for 7 years. It has been wonderful (Mrs. H., Blackburn, Lancs).

Thank You, God, and you, dear Brother Mandus, for the help you gave to one of my daughters (who was hospitalised some time ago) and an old friend of mine. When I wrote you concerning my daughter she was prostrated on her back and could not move. Just when I believe you received my letter she suddenly got up, and was able to move around with the help of a wheel chair. Then she got better steadily. . . . The old lady I mentioned previously was supposed to be suffering from a growth. The doctors said they could not do anything for her, and everybody said it was only a matter of days left for her to live. After you sent her your magazine and the healing card her condition changed for the better. In a few weeks she was walking about and travelling and not long afterwards she paid me a visit. Her recovery was a miracle. Thank You, Father (Mrs. E. S., St. Joseph, Trinidad, B.W. Indies).

Last night I woke up in excruciating agony with cramp. I had suffered in this way for several nights, but this time seemed to be the climax. I nearly screamed out loud. Then an inward voice seemed to say, "Why not try the medicine you are always giving to other people who suffer pain?" I took one of the little prayer cards and put it on the leg that was tortured with pain. I remember no more, but woke up next morning about 5 o'clock feeling like a giant refreshed. I was visiting the friend who gave me my first copy of the *Crusader*, and

she told me a similar happening to herself over headaches, and also a friend in the same household was freed in the same way. It is not only the physical healing that is so wonderful. My whole life has been transformed. . . . I feel I am indeed on the sacred threshold, and stand in awe at the ever open door (Mrs. M. H., Walton-on-Thames, Surrey).

I would like to tell you about the healing cards you sent me. I gave one to a lady next door who said she had a bad discharge. I told her to put it there, and when I went to see her again she told me it had all cleared up. My sister was taken very ill and had a lot of heart pain, so I told her to put the card on her heart, and within an hour all her pain had gone, and she is feeling very much better. Mrs. P. had been in hospital, and after she came home she started to be ill again. I sent her a healing card and she wrote to tell me she was feeling better. My other sister was ill and the doctor said she had sugar, so I gave her a healing card. When she had to see the doctor again he was surprised. There was a big change, and he said at that rate she would soon be all right again. I gave one to a lady who had asthma very badly. She had to use a pump. I have heard that she is much better. . . . I know that all who received the cards will be thanking you with all their hearts (M——s M. P., Heywood, Lancs).

One night I woke up with a terrible pain in my ankle. I got up and put one of your cards round my ankle, and by the time I got into bed again it had gone. Wonderful, wasn't it? (Mrs. N. A., Beverley, Yorks).

Some weeks ago I received your letter and prayer card, and placed the latter over the pain I had had for some weeks, and in a few days it was gone, and I have not had it since (Mrs. W. S., Bletchley, Bucks).

We told you in our last letter that our little girl had gone to stay with my sister and uncle for a week's holiday. Today she has returned home safely, and was telling us about her uncle having a severe headache, so she had the little healing card with her, and she gave it to him and told him to put it on his forehead, and the pain went (Mrs. R. W. O., Caernarvon).

Turning to the more practical manifestation of His works, I find the truth of your Blessed healing cards. My aches and pains disappear, sometimes instantaneously, on applying the card and sitting in the Silence (Mr. J. S., Blackburn).

After two years of taking sleeping pills, my blind widow friend has slept well for two weeks with your healing card under her pillow, and no pills. So she gives many thanks to you and to our loving Father (Mrs. E. F. M., Birmingham).

Facts speak for themselves, and far from this being a superstitious belief, it is a scientific truth, in harmony with man's own discoveries about the true nature of matter and the universe. There is only God anywhere, and in everything—even in the paper, handkerchief, apron, oil, water or wine—which is released into action according to our request in faith. In many instances, for example, children have been healed in this way, and *they* could know nothing of these laws.

Furthermore, in the experience of thousands of people, far from the use of Blessed Prayer Cards diverting their attention from Christ, they invariably report a tremendous quickening of spiritual aspirations, thoughts and deeds.

We agree that faith in the effectiveness of the Blessing in the Card is necessary, preferably by both the minister and the patient, even as it is in every other aspect of

prayer. But the basic realisation is that GOD's Blessing is the reality, and that the card is a radiating "point" of His Perfection as requested in prayer.

It is, for example, particularly effective when someone is too ill, or in too great pain, to pray.

More and more do we see the need *never* to limit the activity of God by human standards and definitions.

Even Jesus prayed and spat on clay to place over the blind man's eyes. The *only* important thing to the Christ of Love and Compassion was that human misery should be dispersed. We are only wandering in a wilderness of human fabrication when we lose sight of that vital factor in love, and especially God's Love.

We are often so blind and prejudiced in our spiritual beliefs that we literally barricade our doors from the Christ, Who yearns to take us all—the saint and the sinner, the sick and the scientist, the layman and the minister—to lift us up in His Spirit to behold the infinite GOOD which transcends every limitation of concept, method, dogma or means.

Christ used the clay and it became a Blessed instrument resulting in a blind man regaining his sight. We do not even need to be blind ourselves to marvel and say, "Thank God that Christ used the Blessed Clay to help the process."

Yet if a modern minister, a disciple of Christ, attempted to do such a thing at a Divine Healing service, there would probably be an uproar by both church authorities and congregation. It would be derisive headline news in all the newspapers. And it might well be the last Healing Service he could take in that church.

With Christ, we must recognise that the important thing is the well-being of each child of God. However this is accomplished, every healed soul, mind or body is obviously a benediction to the person, the family, the

state and the world. It is only hypocrisy, prejudice and spiritual blindness to suggest otherwise.

There is no fundamental difference between praying for God's Blessing in the Silence, being ministered to by the "Laying on of Hands", anointing with Blessed oil or Holy Water, the Baptism of children, the Bread and Wine of a Communion Service, Blessed Candles, a Blessed handkerchief or a Prayer Card. There is only GOD—only GOOD.

You can prove the truth for yourself. We will gladly let you have as many Blessed Prayer Cards for yourself or friends as you require. They are quite free—a loving and consecrated gift, radiant with God's Healing Love, because we have prayed that it shall be so.

Thank You, Father. Thy Will be done.

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For she said, If I may but touch His clothes, I shall be whole. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up. . . . And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself *that virtue had gone out of Him* . . . said, Who touched my clothes?

Mark 5:28, 30.

CHAPTER NINE

THE WORD OF GOD

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . All things were made by Him. . . . In Him was life: and the life was the light of men.

John 1:1, 4.

THE supreme mission of Jesus Christ was to save and redeem mankind from the consequences of sin and ignorance of Divine Law.

He inspires us with a vision of the "abundant life" both on this earth and hereafter. The entire focus of His Word was on the practical achievement of all we could ever need to ensure our highest well-being. In the fundamental concept of spiritual union and communion with Him in love, He revealed that it is *the Father* Who lifts us into the fulfilment of His promises.

He constantly refers to the Word, the teaching, as the way to achieve this goal. In fact, He says that prayer, and all "abundant" states of soul, mind, body and affairs, are conditioned by the degree to which we follow it.

If ye abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:7.

When the Christ Word is analysed in conjunction with all the new knowledge revealed through psychological research, it becomes clear that the Divine teaching is not only helpful, but vital to the spiritual, mental and physical well-being of everyone on earth.

The Gospel is good news indeed! The ancient teaching,

after many deviations and denials by the world society, must now be recognised intellectually, and practised simply, as the greatest science of all.

Therefore, there is great power in the written or spoken spiritual word. According to the degree the mind believes and embraces the truth, it becomes open and receptive to the immediate and subsequent action of God.

When we grasp this potential, the Word can become the central Sacrament, to be constantly observed and reverently practised every day. It not only leads us into union and communion with the Lord, but keeps our minds stayed upon Him, so that all our thoughts, words and deeds reflect His Power.

As we have realised throughout this book, thoughts live, and create our experience according to their quality and intensity. And it is true to say that if at all times our mental attitudes were Christ-like in purity and positive power, we should indeed be unfolding the "abundant life" in all its manifold phases of expression.

It is not a question of disciplining ourselves to think positively, but one of keeping our minds constantly aware of and receptive to the Power of the Spirit, so that personal weaknesses may be "covered with His strength". We are one with the Father, and the unlimited expression of God in us is our supreme inheritance and objective.

The Christ teaching, whenever observed and applied, brings our minds back to this all-important truth.

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One of the special qualities of the mind is its ability to change its focus of attention from subject to subject with great speed. We can be thinking of Divine truth one minute, and abruptly take up a thought sequence about dinner in danger as the smell of burning potatoes wafts through the kitchen door.

A man on the brink of financial catastrophe might well be depressed and in despair. But if a friend comes along with a complete solution he will immediately be excited, happy and rejoicing at the good news.

In fact, all day long we are changing our minds, as we dwell upon all the events which interest us. The mind must rest upon "something" and it is usually concentrated, with varying degrees of intensity, upon "thoughts or things" which demand or inspire our attention.

The more we become aware of our objectives in life, and of our power to direct the course of our experiences into positive and practical channels of expression, the less will we be the slaves of circumstance or mental-emotional disturbances.

It is the constantly recurring experience of most people that troubles, in all their manifold forms, appear to have great power to claim our worried attention. We are easily tempted to believe that the danger of looming disaster has power to hurt us.

And it is precisely at this point that we are often least inclined to claim the spiritual truth as the infallible way of meeting the difficulty. In other words, it is easier to pray when all is well than when things are apparently going wrong.

Therefore, we often need help at such times to re-establish the positive prayer consciousness through which the situation may be controlled and adjusted.

And one of the simplest ways is to begin reading the Divine Word, either in the Bible or in a book which is dedicated to the positive powers of love and faith.

For example, we may be in sickness or sorrow, difficulty or even disaster, and the mind clouded with the pain of it all. If we could quickly take up the Divine Word, and concentrate on that, it is wonderful how the Father releases His healing love, strength and an assurance that all is well.

In times of need, if we would commit ourselves to the Lord, and read John, Chapter 15—"I am the True Vine"; the twenty-third psalm, "The Lord is my Shepherd"; the Sermon on the Mount, or any of the Christ Words of truth, the mind is changed as it dwells upon this teaching of positive power. Divine Love shines through the clouds, and we know that He is attending to our needs.

Remember always, and fix it in your mind, that "thoughts are living things", and that you have the gift of God's power to open the perfect way through every experience. When you read His Word with faith, His Thoughts are reflected through your mind to make His Way effective.

You have been reading this positive truth throughout this book. If you have been receptive to its message, it is inevitable that you felt the love, the power, the upliftment as you absorbed the words. Whatever your negative state of mind when you began reading, it would be *changed for you* into new vision, hope, faith, love, understanding and courage.

Throughout any day, you will find that the mental attitudes tend to fluctuate between the negative and positive, according to your consideration and reaction to the events of work, people and leisure. You will agree that it would be wonderful if you could be poised in peace and confidence in the midst of *every* situation, thereby ensuring your highest good day by day.

The power of the written word gives you that opportunity without straining to achieve it, by leading your mind to observe positive thinking. In this book, for instance, it is already done for you. The positive expression is already yours at any moment you care to read it, absorb it and thus allow the Father to fill the mind with His Power which is, of course, the highest objective.

It is something you can prove for yourself. And, when

you realise that the real value of the Christ Way lies in *personal experience*, it is truly a benediction that we can so simply help one another into this practical expression of the power of God.

Naturally, these principles are not to be reserved only for those times when trouble comes. The ideal is to become habitually established in a directive awareness of infinite good constantly manifesting through each day and night.

Therefore, dedicate yourself with enthusiasm and love to the practice of the Presence of God for one month. The time factor is merely to ensure a period of supreme committal long enough for you to observe the results. Thereafter you will be only too eager to continue into an ever deeper dedication and corresponding progression.

Now take one day at a time. Never mind the events of yesterday or the past, and be free from any fear or worry about tomorrow, next week or next month. Whatever planning may be necessary concerning future events which appear to be on the way, take the action required today, and then leave future unfolding to the Father.

One of the real secrets of answered prayer and the "abundant life" is to concentrate all your attention upon being with God TODAY. One day at a time is all you can deal with, and that one day is best considered one hour at a time.

Although you are going to live forever, it is equally true that the only life you can experience is the present moment. What is happening in your mind now is valid and powerful in its creative action. What your mind is thinking now is already conditioning the experiences you will meet throughout this day and tomorrow.

This is the day, therefore, that needs super-charging with Divine Love. To the degree that this Perfection Principle is released in prayer, thought, word and deed today, your experience of God's Power will be intensified

tomorrow, and each succeeding day, as you continue to keep your mind "stayed upon Him".

In addition to your quiet times in the Silence, and prayer, keep the Word of God in constant focus. During this month, each day, carry with you the New Testament and this book. At odd moments, many times during the day, read a few paragraphs in the Bible and in these pages.

Just read. It is so simple, and yet so profoundly realistic and effective. In the midst of your work or leisure, you need *never* be too crowded to crowd God out. Pause, and open this book at random, and just read, knowing God is with you.

If you see the importance of this practice, it will become your happy habit to "tune in" dozens of times during the day and evening. It can be done while traveling to town in a bus or tram; you can pause for a few moments during your work, or even while shopping. Once this becomes a paramount objective, based on a recognition that it takes you into God's Presence, you will have no difficulty in making opportunities to allow God's Word to clear your mind and take you to Him.

The effect will become immediately and consistently apparent. The entire focus of your life will be quickened to realise spiritual truth *in action*. You will discover a new vision, energy, and eagerness to share your blessings with others. You will become increasingly aware that your own life and affairs are in God's good care, and that the desire to radiate love, help, tolerance and strength to everyone you meet is intensified.

It is truly the practice of the presence of LOVE, and the discovery that this is the all-potent Power bestowed upon you by the Father. Inevitably, it leads you to an ever greater self-surrender and a corresponding resurrection of the Christ-self in true discipleship wherever you may be each day.

With knowledge comes the responsibility of sharing it with those in need. The love you seek for yourself can only be given in so far as you release that love in prayer, thought, word and action to everyone else. The more eagerly you adopt and practise this Christ Way, the more surely do you enter the Kingdom of Good yourself. It is the Law that you find your REAL self as you give the "old" self away to the Lord and in loving service.

Many people find initial difficulty in extending spiritual help to others. There is a prevailing diffidence about proclaiming spiritual truths. We are almost afraid to mention "religion", and relatively few people, when visiting a sick friend, would dare to be a disciple of Christ and declare that spiritual principles and prayer would be the most practical way of helping the one in need.

This prevailing reticence is one of the big obstacles to the widespread spiritual awakening that has become so urgently necessary. And Christ is certainly looking for people like you, who can and will take their stand in the truth that is so vital to the well-being of all.

If you have been helped and inspired by reading the Bible, this book or other similar spiritual literature, surely again one of the simplest ways of helping others is to do your part by ensuring that the Word is made available to them? You may, or may not, as yet be able to speak and explain all these aspects of the Christ teaching with authority, but you can certainly make sure that the Word written by others becomes your way of serving the Divine Cause.

Millions of God's children, all over the world, are at this moment sick in mind and body. In every village, town and city, we all know people who are ill or in trouble. The hospitals are crowded with patients, and countless others struggle through each day patiently bearing often unnecessary burdens of sin, sickness, pain and

misery. In fact, disease has become the most serious problem on earth today.

It is a profound and challenging thought that millions of these sick and troubled friends could be liberated from their bondage, if they could be inspired to observe and practise the Christ Way as revealed by Jesus and described in this book, as well as in many other inspired works.

Think of all the people lying in hospitals right now! They are all there through breakdowns of some kind in mind and body. The great majority are certainly not happy about this state of disease which threatens the well-being of themselves and their loved ones. And many of them are desperately afraid, and caught in a net of pain and negative worry.

What a transformation there would be if each patient could be inspired and guided to read the Bible, this or any other book of positive prayer, love and faith! Their minds would begin to respond to the truth revealed to them. They, too, would discover the effortless way of God's Word changing their limited mental concepts and attitudes for them.

A wave of positive prayer, thought and feeling would sweep through the hospital, as the Father responded to the channels made open to Him in this way.

If, in addition, the concept of hospital ministers, doctors, psychiatrists and nurses would expand to embrace this truth and its significance, the entire system would be concentrated on teaching and encouraging the total adoption of these principles as a first need in all treatment.

Then the knowledge and skill of man would be linked with the Divine Idea, and the true function of the hospital would be fulfilled. It would be a Power-House of Prayer.

It is the Law that when we seek opportunities to serve,

and are willing to embrace them without personal conditions, they come knocking at our door.

Today—if you listen to the Lord—He will show you immediately something you can do to serve Him by helping someone else. Within your orbit NOW there is a loved one, friend or acquaintance, upon whom you can bestow a supreme Blessing by the simple act of passing on your love, and a book like this.

Since these are matters of Divine Ordinance, there is no point in minimising either the invitation or the challenge to our integrity and sincere intentions. Spiritual truth only becomes operative for us when we observe the principles of giving and serving in our relationship with everyone whose lives touch ours.

All that you have read in this book fails in its Divine purpose to help you, unless it lifts your vision to this true expression of the Law of Love in action—a giving in love without any conditions whatsoever.

The Word of God is the teaching of the Divine Way of Life. And LOVE is that life.

It remains only to be mentioned that so many sincere and sacrificial acts of love in service are marred, because we often impose a condition or obligation to our giving.

When we give ourselves to Christ, the act is sublime when we do so unconditionally. It is true to God when we do so without thought of personal reward or favour. “Here is my life, Lord—take it all, and use it as You will”.

The act of love in prayer, thought, word or deed for others is ideal when not even a “thank you” is demanded or expected in return. The Law is fulfilled when we do our part, without any consideration whatsoever about repercussions or results.

When our service for others is rendered like that we are free, because we are loving as God loves—without condition or price. It so happens that, when observed to the full

like this, the Law fulfils itself by the release of multiplying Blessings, in the infinite ways of God, both to the one we serve and to ourselves.

That is why Christ asks you to take His Word to those in need. He gives His Word to you, so that you can lead others back Home to Him.

It is the highest privilege He can give to any son or daughter in this world or in heaven.

And Thank You, Father, that it is so.

* * *

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends: for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

Ye have not chosen me, *but I have chosen you*, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

These things I command you, that ye love one another. . . .

And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

Jesus: John 15:11, 27.

CHAPTER TEN

THE DIVINE SLEEP

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Jesus: John 14:27.

IN a lifetime on earth of say seventy-five years, we spend about twenty-five years of it asleep!

Like so many of God's gifts, we tend to accept sleep as a commonplace event, and seldom pause to consider the spiritual significance of this need to be "unconscious" for about one-third of our days. Yet these eight hours each night, these twenty-five years, must be as vital to our total experience as the time we spend awake.

Everything in God's universe emerges from the deep stillness of His Being into rhythmic cycles of expression. New worlds are born to spin their life cycle and then to ebb, after countless ages, back to the still Spirit where "nothing" exists except God. The ebb and flow of continuous creation.

We see the same principle in night and day, the pause and quickening of plants in their seasons, rain and sunshine, wind and calm, and the tides of the ocean. The seed, fruitage and "death" of vegetation, animals, insects, birds and man—the "death" which is but sleep before resurrection into new life in another phase of the infinite Kingdoms of God.

The act of creation itself, in God and in man, is projected through the negative and positive range of consciousness. The "unformed" substance worked on by

Mind, comes forth in the "form" held first in the Imagination of the Creator of it. The chair upon which you sit was a negative "unformed" tree in relation to the man who conceived the vision of a chair. He took the tree "into his mind" and worked it into his vision of the seat upon which you now rest.

The *Power* of Creation is in the still deep realms of the "intangible" MIND—of God, and man. The Power beyond the atom and, for man, the Power beyond the chair. It is this Power to which we must conform—spiritually, mentally and physically—in the pulsations and pauses in the eternal life sequences.

Sleep, therefore, is obviously the time ordained for man and beast to rest from the expenditure of energy in creation, and to be re-charged in the stillness where All-Power exists.

Irrespective of the degree of our spiritual awareness, this imperative Divine Rhythm is ordained as the means whereby we can continue to live. We are absolutely dependent on this Law, and it largely transcends, for our own safety, the free-will which gives us the ability to function as self-conscious entities within very wide limits. Our only "bondage" is to the environment of the moment, the laws which govern the manifestation of mind, body and the world, and the rhythmic pause of sleep and "death" for replenishment, before awakening to new pulsations of experience and creation.

This state of sleep must equally obviously be an aspect of consciousness. We retire from conscious activity in the environment, but are still alive, and when morning comes the continuous nature of the self is quite evident.

It is also clear that in this "unconscious" state, tremendous activity is taking place. Indeed, "miracles" of restoration work are put into operation with dramatic intensity and purpose.

Millions of cells surge up and down the physical system, like an army spring-cleaning a city. Burnt-out muscle tissue is strengthened and replenished. Tensions are dispersed, and all the organs are re-charged with energy. Every part of the brain, bloodstream and physical tissues receive this wondrously directed attention.

It has long been recognised, for instance, by all doctors, that sleep is the imperative foundation of good healing. If for reasons of pain, shock or distress the patient cannot sleep, he prescribes a drug to ensure that this primary need is met.

We have certainly all had the experience of going to bed utterly depleted or exhausted mentally and physically, and awakened in the morning throbbing with new power, joy and enthusiasm for the adventures of the day.

The restorative action is too dramatic and important just to be dismissed as an "ordinary" everyday occurrence. We begin to realise, perhaps as never before, that in sleep we can embrace and release infinite potentials into the practical experience of the waking hours.

There is abundant evidence of extraordinary mental powers working upon our problems while we sleep. Confronted by some big decision, are we not so often advised to "sleep on it"? And it is true that most people have had the right answers presented to them on awakening.

Artists, poets and musicians have often awakened from sleep, sometimes in the midnight hours, inspired with the vision of a complete picture, poem or symphony. Many of them have immediately proceeded to project the vision on to canvas or paper, and the world has marked the result as a masterpiece.

There is also the knowledge of consciousness in dreams. And, in the midst of much imagery reflecting incidents deeply impressed during past or recent experience, there is evidence of precognition, the forecasting of events in the

future, and an extra-sensory perception which gives the dreamer a picture of people or events actually taking place at some distant place.

Another aspect of this state is found in the sleep-walker. With eyes closed, fast asleep, he can walk about the house, efficiently execute sundry tasks, and return to bed. One man, for example, in deep sleep went downstairs, followed by his wife, and went into his study. There he proceeded to write business letters, with his eyes closed, addressed and sealed them, and returned to bed.

In the morning he knew nothing at all about his nocturnal adventure. On opening the letters, he found that each one was as correctly written and addressed as they would have been in his waking state.

Spiritually quickened people quite often have a sleep-awareness that they are praying for and helping some friend in need. And frequently such friends have awakened in the night to see a vision of that person praying near them.

Certain it is that deep within us lie powers which we have scarcely begun to conceive, understand or explore. But the ever-widening experience in Ministries of Prayer takes us across these unknown frontiers of the mind to the indwelling Spirit of God to which Jesus referred.

Our entire concept of sleep becomes revolutionised when we recognise the reality of living and having our being in God. It leads us straight to all the potentials and possibilities inherent in communion with Him.

The psychologist rightly points to, and demonstrates, the amazing powers of the sub-conscious mind. Inevitably, this must ultimately inspire him to extend his faith and recognition to accept the infinitely greater truth that "beyond" or "within" the sub-conscious is the "Hidden Splendour" of God.

When we sleep, therefore, we subside into these inner

deeps. Processes ordained and set into motion by the Father take over the entire system and restore it as much as possible within any dominating limits deeply inscribed by the "free-will" consciousness.

Although, as stated, the "free-will" is, generally speaking, transcended in sleep to allow replenishment, deeply implanted fixations, like intolerable burdens of worry, "incurable" disease, or locked up repressions and inhibitions, can and do "block" the healing process. Sleep will often alleviate and help the patient mentally, but until the conscious and sub-conscious mind become liberated from this bondage, it is probable that the distressing condition may continue to manifest itself.

Therefore, we can immeasurably help the Divine Purpose if we become consciously identified with Him in faith and love. And the sleep state is an easy and natural way of accomplishing it.

Granted that you have accepted the Christ Principles and the explanations herein, it is but a short step indeed to believe that when you retire to sleep, you are going to abide in the midst of Divine Perfection.

The real you, mind and spirit, is about to enter the Divine Resting Place.

When you go to bed, relax and let your love lead you into the Presence. Feel the deep peace flowing over you. Know, with all simplicity, that as you go to sleep in His Glory, *every* aspect of your soul, mind, body and circumstances is being perfectly healed and adjusted by the Lord.

You need the trust of a child for this. Take it to its highest potential, and believe only in the All-Good supercharging the whole of your being while you sleep.

Night by night, go to the Father like this. As you drift into the deep stillness, dream your dreams with Him, and know all your dreams are coming true in the right way and at the right time.

It will help you if, before you actually prepare to sleep, you read the Word of God as described in the last chapter. It will help you to put aside the events of the day, and turn your thoughts to the Lord. Then, when you go into the Divine Sleep, your mind is already centred in Him.

The Great Peace will enfold you. Silently you will drift away into the deep, deep Peace, in which there is total harmony in the rhythm of Love.

Go deeply to sleep . . . the deep, deep Peace of God enfolds you in His Love.

Sleep . . . sleep . . . sleep. Peace . . . Peace . . . Peace. Love . . . Love . . . Love.

In this Peace is the Perfection of God for you. You are abiding in the Sacred Place of the Most High.

In this Peace which passeth all human understanding, you are resting in the midst of the "Hidden Splendour"—in the Shrine of the Holy Spirit.

Sleep, then, in His Peace. . . . And, as you sleep, the health and strength, guidance and wisdom, power and glory of your Heavenly Father are manifesting Divine Order in everything.

Go to sleep now—for He awaits your coming. Peace—Harmony—Love. You are with your Lord, in Paradise, now.

Thank You, Father.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE CHURCH MINISTRY

Confess your faults [troubles] one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Jas. 5:16.

IN spite of the clear teaching of Jesus Christ about prayer and its unlimited possibilities, one of the greatest obstacles to the universal adoption of prayer for healing the sick has been the prevailing belief that only certain few people have the "gift of healing".

For some mysterious reason, both in the church and outside it, Divine Healing has been isolated into a special category of its own, and is not generally accepted to be a fundamental aspect of the Church's ministry of prayer. Yet, when we think carefully about Christ's teaching and example, we must surely become committed to the truth that Prayer is the very basis of Divine Healing.

Perhaps both minister and layman alike can make a great leap forward when we understand this. There is a tremendous difference between the concept of "gift of healing", and "prayer", and a clear assessment of this difference should quicken the vision of all to the infinite possibilities which shine like a new dawn on the horizon.

A "gift of healing" is an awesome thought, and anyone even feeling the faintest stirrings of such a gift would always be conscious of his personal capacity, limitation or weakness, in trying to express it. The very use of a gift like this brings the weight of personality to condition it. Any minister, for example, feeling his way into the Christ

Ministry of healing, in all his natural humility, could not help feeling the personal responsibility attaching to a "gift of healing".

It is a different vision indeed when we relate healing to answered prayer! In this we are only instructed to have love and the simple faith of a child, *believing that the Father is doing the works*. Our only responsibility is to ensure our total committal, and thereafter to leave all the results of our prayers entirely to the Lord.

In this we are freed from the onus of our personal capacity, or the measure of our own gifts. It is only God Who can heal, and we commit it all to Him.

I remember a minister in whom the Light of Christ shone with wondrous intensity. He was an inspiration to all who listened to his words. He began talking about Divine Healing, and how Blessed they were who had this supreme "gift". He said, "If I had this gift, I would count myself amongst the most Blessed of men to have the privilege of serving the Lord like this."

Yet all he needed was a switch of consciousness from "gifts of healing" to the true functions of prayer. He, of all men, could have been like one of the early Disciples of Christ. And there are hundreds of thousands of dedicated and consecrated ministers who could re-vitalise the Christian Church, and lead the world to the truth, could they extend their love and faith to embrace the full significance of Christ's Message.

Just because we have neglected to use the full measure of prayer, or temporarily lost the vision of the early church, it does not mean that we are free from the responsibility and challenge of resurrecting it. It is the next big step forward which we all must take if we wish to find the true answer to the human dilemma.

The profound truth is that *everyone* has the inherent ability and capacity to pray, and witness God's response

to prayer. Both ministers and laymen are constantly invited by Christ to use this supreme gift, and He goes to great lengths to explain and demonstrate how to use it.

We must again assert, with all emphasis, that too many dramatic examples of Christ-Healing have been manifested, in many ministries, for us to dare ignore the reality and significance of these experiences.

In quoting some examples of Divine Healing by prayer, I do so with supreme humility, and only as a means of emphasising the power God has already given to all His people.

Here is a letter from a lady in Liverpool, dated December 1st, 1958:

In 1944, whilst lying in hospital and suffering agony from a hip destroyed by arthritis, I was told that I could never get better, but only worse, and that an operation was necessary, to which I would not consent. I did indeed get worse, as my hands also became crippled and in 1948 another hospital advised the operation as my only hope, and again I refused to have it.

In August, 1953, to please a doctor friend, I attended your meeting in Liverpool, and when you asked what my trouble was I said, "Arthritis, but I've had it for years."

You said, "In the Name of Jesus Christ you shall be healed," and I was, from that very hour.

My twelve-roomed house, being of the older type, has rather high ceilings, all of which I have painted or distempered since my miraculous healing. Truly the age of miracles is not past. I am now sixty-one, and daily thanking God, and you.

To all human sense, there was an "impossible" situation. Yet, in the midst of true prayer together, the Lord instantly healed it. Years of tribulation and physical

disease vanished, and permanent health has been hers now for the five years following that moment of prayer.

Even one such healing takes us far beyond all the interminable arguments, speculations, differences in dogma, church commissions, and denominations. It lifts us out of human decrees and assessments straight into the Spirit of God, into the very fulfilment of Christ's mission.

We believe, implicitly, that the best "place" to pray is in church. As already discussed, the church is Hallowed Ground, and therefore a "doorway" through which we can all readily enter into the Presence.

There is no need to create new churches, or "isms", or movements. We are already endowed with a rich and goodly heritage of ordained ministers in every denomination, and with a vast system of beautiful places of worship.

It is only spiritual commonsense to declare that our sole need is to quicken our faith to make full use of the facilities so lovingly provided. It is to this end that all our Sanctuary work, our literature and this book are dedicated.

We are told to pray for one another. We are instructed to call for the Elders of the church for prayer, in order to find the Christ-Healing of soul, mind, body and burdens. We must surely, if we are to follow Christ, take Him at His own Word.

Therefore, a revolutionary approach is indicated to the churches of every denomination. There is no time now for apathy and compromise. The days of rivalry between churches, and arguments about the details of doctrine and theology, should surely dissolve in the love, tolerance and understanding which is the central theme of Christianity.

The churches of the world, could they see the human scene through Christ's Vision, would surely unite with a supreme dedication. They would *boldly* lead the world into the new age now dawning, in which nothing less than the absolute doctrine of love and faith must operate.

We are in desperate need of universal church teaching about this deeper extension of faith and committal to prayer, as the infallible means of ensuring the fulfilment of Christ's own ministry to mankind.

The leadership of the Church should be the highest pinnacle of human observance and obedience. It can and will be the Light to guide governments and people. We grievously delay the Divine Answer to the human dilemma whenever we lose sight of the greatest vision of truth that has ever been given to man.

We are not concerned here with criticism of the church or its ministers. We are only too well aware of the indescribable service they render the community. We are merely pointing out some of the misconceptions which abound so that, on recognition, they can be rectified. And it is indeed true that, no matter how humble, or illumined, we may be, there is for us all the immediate invitation and challenge to a greater love, a more extended faith, and a clearer practice of the Presence of God.

In view of the grave spiritual, mental, moral and physical problems which increasingly beset mankind, we cannot but be convinced that we are invited and urged to "go the extra mile" with Christ. We believe, completely, that the Churches of Christ can literally be instrumental in solving ALL human problems, but the magnitude of the task certainly demands of us all a supreme dedication, enthusiasm and determination at least equal to the love and faith of the early disciples and the first churches.

It is incredible and untenable that there could ever be any doubt about prayer and Divine Healing in the church. Yet vast numbers of ministers, and their congregations, "do not believe in it", and even go to great lengths to proclaim how a book like this is not true to theology!

But what is theology if it is not based on the spirit and intention of Christ's teaching? It is *Jesus* Who taught us

how to love, and how to pray, and what to expect from prayer.

And in all the history of the world there has never been such emphatic and clear teaching about the "abundant life" of communion with the Father. The Lord decrees, with decisive statements, and amplifies them by demonstrations, just what happens when we "believe we receive"!

So the church has right now its greatest opportunity to proclaim the Good News to the people, and lead them into the deeper faith whereby the works of the Lord can be made manifest amongst them.

If, for example, everyone KNEW they could actually, factually and practically, come into *God's Presence* by coming to church, every temple in Christendom would be besieged by the people who are presently like lost sheep in a wilderness of doubt, despair and unbelief.

Yet that is the simple truth. God is Present in every church. And every human ill could be dissolved in His Love, just as soon as the ministry and congregations can lift the level of their love and faith to believe it. Hence the urgent need for bold and committed teaching to this end.

Take "gifts of healing" out of perspective, and we have the Christ teaching and prayer as the clear way forward. Then no power on earth could stop the spiritual awakening of the multitudes.

Teach the TRUTH—and know the world is yearning to hear it.

In addition, in these days of scientific illumination, there are infinite ways of teaching realistic Christianity to millions of people simultaneously. What a spiritual revival there will be when, with the authority of the church, this Divine dynamic is consistently released through television, radio, and the written word!

Much is already being done. More and more ministers

are following the Light. The populations of most countries have read and heard about Divine Healing. Through the works of many pioneers, the dreary darkness of fifty years ago has already been filled with much light. Slowly, but surely, the Church is already on the march into the new dispensation. It remains the responsibility of all ministers of Christ to speed this evolution so that it can become comprehensively effective *now*.

And this, inevitably, begins with a new and far-reaching teaching about prayer. It involves an expanding experience of prayers of high expectancy in Divine Healing. It means active work by dedicated prayer groups with a sense of mission. It means training the laity in the art of prayer. And it certainly involves dedication to the principle that *everyone* has the same right and potential ability to pray for themselves and others, with the same results as the early disciples.

Then we will become a praying nation—and all things will be possible, because we shall have learned how to pray effectively.

The more people who are inspired to adopt these principles, the easier it becomes for everyone else. As experiences multiply, everyone else becomes quickened with the same inspiration. It has been long known that the two most “infectious” and powerful qualities of the mind are LOVE and FAITH. When released, the impulse spreads like a prairie fire.

The Church, then, is already filled with God. So are the minister and his congregation. Faith simply recognises the awe-inspiring truth, and from that moment Divine Adjustments are ministered spontaneously and continuously thereafter, according to the degree of faith and committal by each person.

For many, there will be the additional need to seek prayer help from the minister. If in private session, the

minister will have the opportunity to direct the one in need into true spiritual understanding to clear the way for effective prayer. If in a Divine Healing service, the principles will already have been preached, and with the entire congregation in prayer, the minister can pronounce the Perfection of Christ as a reality now healing and Blessing each one as they come forward.

It is important to note that prayer appears to be effective, and often dramatically so, when the minister's faith realises that all the Perfection of Christ is already there in the midst of the outward appearance of disease. It goes far beyond beseeching God to do something. It is rather abiding in the Presence of everything that is Perfect, and believing because we pray with love, that He is now naturally proceeding to heal, alleviate and Bless the person concerned. In some it can be instantaneous; in others a progressive experience. Hence the need to teach present and consistent receptivity to the infallible Power which is constantly healing everything in the right way, as He knows best.

There is only one way to behold the signs and wonders of God following our prayers, and that is to embark on this dedicated way, eagerly knowing that He is guiding and opening the soul to increasing sanctification and awareness.

This is a vision of the Church now in the making. Some day we shall have true cause to thank God for the dedicated ministers who gave their all to this supreme fulfilment.

With all this in mind, consider some of these letters from people who came to church to pray. Their witness stands like the radiant Cross of Christ in the portals of every church in Christendom. And these friends have become God's ambassadors to all His ministers and the congregations who worship the Lord.

A lady from Cheshire writes:

I attended the Divine Healing Service on Monday. It was a wonderful time for me, as I was healed of paralysis of the nerves in my left arm and leg. . . . I shall never forget your service, as it has meant so much to me. The Love and Peace which surrounded us all was wonderful. My thanks to God for this marvellous healing.

We touch the real heart of prayer when a life is renewed. A paralysed arm and leg is a terrible handicap to the one who has to struggle through each day with it. Is this not what Jesus Himself was revealing? He had compassion for the weak and weary, the sick and sinful—and healed them all. That is Love in action.

A gentleman in Sussex found this truth:

I have joyful news for you. The day after your wonderful meeting at Brighton I discarded the leg iron which I have been wearing for fifteen years. Thank You, Father, for this manifestation of Thy Healing Love. Things are changing in every way, and new opportunities to serve God and other people present themselves daily.

It is often stated by Ministers that too much emphasis is placed on physical healing. But this assessment is not valid, because we begin to realise that true healing is entirely spiritual. As the soul and mind come into harmony and union with the Lord, and realise His Love as comprehensive Perfection, the physical conditions naturally reflect the same Divine Order.

If there is a physical healing, then we can be absolutely sure that the soul and mind were also liberated. It is a fact that the great majority of people who find healing through prayer become *spiritually* revitalised.

This gentleman, for example, tells us of the new spiritual impulse to serve God and other people, which is exactly what happens to all of us when we come into close contact with the Father.

Many ministers are apparently reluctant to embark on a Prayer Ministry which embraces the healing of disease and worldly problems, because they sincerely worry about the reaction of those who are apparently not healed after ministration. They fear disappointment may destroy their faith, and that they will be worse off than before.

This is a very serious question, because unless the truth is known and accepted, it can prevent the widespread recognition and adoption of prayer principles by countless great souls, who in every way are so well equipped by training and consecration to advance the Christ Cause.

It is the testimony of all ministers with whom I have come into contact, who practise the Ministry of Healing Prayer, that almost invariably those who are not healed physically are spiritually renewed. Far from faith being reduced, they are inspired with greater courage, hope and spiritual vision.

This is certainly my personal experience. In fact, in many instances the changed spiritual outlook has proved to be much more important than the physical healing which did not come into manifestation. In others, the disease began to clear weeks or months later as the new spiritual impetus led them into freedom from the hidden causes of the trouble.

It seems we must boldly face this paramount truth: If we pray with love and faith, there is ALWAYS a Divine Response. Something GOOD MUST HAPPEN. If this statement is not true, and if it cannot be accepted by man's theology, then we might as well close our churches and forget all about the teaching of Jesus.

The evidence proves the truth. Therefore, it is only

spiritual commonsense to set about expanding our experience rather than retarding it. When we seek to walk hand in hand with Jesus, it is better to realise at the beginning that He expects us to go boldly forward, to exercise our love and faith by meeting ever greater challenges of service. *The only way we can ever extend faith is to use it to solve situations beyond our normal experience.*

In fact, spiritual growth can only proceed in this way. The moment we become adept at one level, we are confronted by a greater difficulty or phase of our ministry which invites us to accept a victorious fulfilment through a faith which embraces it.

A friend from Manchester relates two revealing answers to prayer at services:

Twice I have been healed. You prayed for my heart and my leg, swollen with water. They became normal within three or four minutes. I walked home without the aid of my sticks. You also prayed as you passed up the aisle in a Manchester meeting, and my ulcerated ankle—which had defied medical treatment—healed at once and has not troubled me since.

In Divine Healing services over the years so many wonderful things have happened in prayer that, as is the experience of all ministers who conduct them, we can only see the vision of the greater possibilities which await us when these principles are universally adopted.

Sometimes such healings are spectacular, and sometimes the inner changes quietly reflect the Divine Intention. But all are Blessed, including, of course, the many people in a congregation who are not sick. For every one healing witnessed, perhaps a thousand people become quickened because they shared the experience in prayer.

I remember, some years ago, a particularly stirring

healing in the Caxton Hall, London. It is outstanding in my mind only because I saw the beginning and end of a startling sequence.

As I entered the Hall, I saw four strong men carrying a wheel-chair up the stairs. In the chair was a big man who had not walked for years. His chair was wheeled to the front, to my right side.

During the prayer period, I walked to him, prayed, and knew that wonderful feeling of Divine Power meeting his need. I took his hands, and he simply rose to his feet and we walked together with the Lord.

After the service, as I went to the exit, there I saw an inspiring sight. The same four men were now carrying the empty chair down the stairs, and the "crippled" man was walking down on his own!

Everybody has love and compassion in their make-up. I, too, just love people, and in common with everyone else, would we not all go to any extreme of personal sacrifice, if we knew we could help someone to be well again—especially in these dreadful dilemmas which almost completely spoil a man's life on earth?

Naturally, we are all deeply moved and thankful when, at a service, we see our united love and prayer really working where the need is so great. Can you wonder that a humble servant of the Lord, witnessing His Works, becomes enthusiastic with a yearning for all the churches and people to discover and experience the same glorious liberation?

There is great power in Divine Healing Services when conducted with this emphasis on the reality of God's Presence, and His response to our love and trust. It is not always understood that the combined prayer-power of the congregation is a very important factor in helping the sick to be lifted into the Kingdom of Perfection.

That is why I personally believe that the congregation

should first be prepared for the subsequent prayer period by emphasising the basic principles. The function of the minister in this is vital, because if he speaks with love and absolute conviction, the people, listening to the Word of God, likewise become lifted up into an equivalent faith.

"If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto Me." Jesus meant that in so far as He was poised in union with the Father, in love and in faith, all people would likewise become aware of the same inner realisation. In prayer, teaching and way of life, they would follow Him.

Then when we pray together for those in need, all the people are united in the Christ Consciousness, and instinctively know that God's Blessings abound. We are lifted up from the world into the Kingdom of Love and, as Father John Maillard says, "Where Love abounds, Healing abounds".

We think much about the sick, and try to assess the results of our prayers for them. But no man can become fully aware of all that is happening to a human soul, mind and body, during a period of communion with God. We must have faith, and know that it is the inviolable Law that God is responding to do all that is necessary in the right way for each person. He leads each one as far as he or she can go, and the seeds of Love released continue to germinate and grow with their eternal well-being always in God's mind.

From the church point of view, and their constant dedication to preach the Gospel to the whole world, we cannot ignore the impact of a Divine Healing Service on all the people who are not sick, and who have not come seeking special help for themselves.

Take, for example, the service where the man rose from his wheelchair and walked. And remember, too, that this was only one instance of many other visible healings and alleviated conditions in the same service.

Here we have hundreds of people actually experiencing the Presence of God! They are seeing how prayer works to accomplish things which are quite beyond the normal powers of man. They know that most people who are sick like this have probably tried every possible human remedy, and have become "incurable". Yet, as Jesus promised, "These things, and greater things than these shall ye do", and they see it happening.

It must be true that the entire congregation is quickened and established in a deeper faith through the experience. It can only mean that hundreds of people are going back into the world with a KNOWLEDGE of the reality of the Christ teaching about prayer.

Is this not what the Church is seeking? Is this not what Jesus wants people to know? If He walked into any church now, would He not do the same as He did in the Holy Land, and inspire His ministers to do likewise? And, at all times, surely we can declare that ALL the people would respond to this reality, *if* they really *knew* it existed.

So it would seem that the churches, generally speaking, are confronted with the greatest inspiration, invitation and challenge since the early days. But we cannot honestly say, in its deeper sense, that all denominations are as yet united and dedicated to this supreme committal.

But they *can* do it—because all the Love of God is behind them to provide everything necessary to this aspiration and achievement. And, let it be declared a thousand times, the church is already richly blessed by an army of most dedicated disciples who could readily respond to all that has been said in these pages and, more especially, the Words of the Master.

There is nothing new about what has been written herein. Our only purpose is to emphasise the reality of Christ's own teaching and instructions. And all I personally know about it, is that He meant what He said, for

I have witnessed it to be true. Not the man, not the minister, not the church, not the people, but the Father—HE it is Who doeth the works, according to our love and faith.

* * *

Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up His cross, and follow Me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. . . .

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. . . .

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My Name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. Ask anything in My Name, and I will do it.

If a man love Me, he will keep My Words: and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus.

CHAPTER TWELVE

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

When two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst.

Jesus: Matt. 18:20.

THE spiritual vitality of a church depends mainly upon its members. In fact, a church is not a building, but the union of people who are offering their lives to the Father.

Too often we fall into the error of evaluating the church according to the personality and popularity of the minister. We formulate our concepts and judge the service, congregation and preacher by human standards. We only touch the real truth when our supreme and only purpose is to come into communion with God, in loving fellowship with others.

We can miss so much, unless we become completely immersed in this conviction. But with this clear spiritual vision ever in full view, an entire congregation can proceed to unfold all the wonders God seeks to release.

It is astonishing how few churches, for example, have a "Healing Prayer Group". Yet this prayer practice by the laity could release a Light which would "electrify" the church and all its activities.

It is pathetic to realise that, out of perhaps a membership of hundreds of people, the Prayer Group—if it exists at all—often comprises two, three or half-a-dozen people who honestly believe in the need of communal healing prayer.

What a transformation there would be if word got about

that these two, three or half-a-dozen people were REALLY in full communion with God Almighty! What a rush there would be to get into the Prayer Group on a Wednesday night to share such an amazing experience!

If, for instance, Christ Himself appeared in a glorious vision before the two, three or half-a-dozen, and spoke to them about Love and how to believe that He would meet every request in prayer, what joy and wonder would stimulate the members of the Group! If He said that a Great Light would now fill the meeting place night and day, the difficulty would not be how to accommodate all the members of the church, but how to control the multitudes which would throng to get in from all over the world.

And everyone who came into the Divine Light would be instantly healed—spiritually, mentally and physically. Their faith would be perfect before such evidence of the Glory of God.

We merely illustrate how, quite unconsciously, even sincere Christians debar themselves from true Divine Illumination, because they are not taught or accustomed to demonstrate this degree of faith in their relationship with God.

Since the true purpose of congregating together at all in church is to worship God and to pray, it follows that absolute concentration should be applied to the teaching and practice of effective prayer.

It is not sufficient to leave the main work of the church to the minister. While his function is indeed a vital one, it only becomes consummated to the degree the members live the life he preaches, and make prayer the supremely effective instrument it is by practising the use of it.

In general, most people tend to think that the minister or "Divine healer" have special gifts and abilities which can never belong to *them*. The majority have far more

faith in the prayers of the man who has been trained for the ministry, or the one with a reputation for healing, than in their own.

It is true, of course, that the minister is more accustomed to prayer and can, according to his faith, be a powerful channel of God's Blessing to all. But we shall be missing the significance of Christ's Mission if we do not recognise that it is also our own privilege and birthright to commune with God, and receive answers equal in power to those released even to the early disciples.

Hence the value of the Prayer Group. Here in very informal session, laymen can gather to practise the Presence of God in good works through prayer. In this fellowship, on equal terms, they under-gird each other's faith and love. They become intent on releasing Divine Perfection to any sick amongst them, to those whom they know to be in need—and, indeed, unto the whole world.

At all times, the need is to be completely committed to the Divine Principle that wondrous things are happening because they pray. And, with that level of faith, Prayer Group work becomes exciting indeed. It is the constant experience of most Prayer Groups that many of those for whom they pray get better—often spontaneously. But very much more could be accomplished with the absolute assurance that the signs and wonders will inevitably follow the release of prayer made in its highest form of realisation.

The atomic scientist may well be excited about his discovery and use of atomic energy. A Prayer Group is potentially using the Power of God which created the atom and all else. Their imagination should become magnified to conceive the marvels of the Powers God has given into their keeping. Then the results become correspondingly magnified.

We must lift our vision to realise that, because we dwell in the ocean of Divine Mind, everyone on earth, and in

heaven too, also have their being in the same Spirit. When we come into communion with God, we have entered into potential communion with everyone else, without exception. It remains only for our faith to realise that truth, to make prayer effective for the whole world. It is this truth that makes distant or "absent" healing possible, and we shall discuss this in the next chapter.

It is our practice at Divine Healing Services, in this consciousness, to pray for everyone on earth. At first glance, this appears to be a very abstract conception, and few would *really believe* that Blessings were *actually* liberated to everyone, without any possible exception.

I learned to believe in this through the first of a number of subsequent events which proved it to be true. It happened in the early days of my ministry.

One Wednesday morning, a young lady came to the Sanctuary looking for "Brother Mandus". When I introduced myself, she said she had come on a strange errand, for she was not sure whether she was suffering from hallucinations or some strange phenomena.

She said, "It is imperative that I know exactly what you were doing at eight o'clock last Sunday evening."

I told her I was conducting a Divine Healing Service in a little church.

"Thank God!" she exclaimed. "Now I can tell you what happened to me at that time. I was sitting at home, alone, before the dining-room table. I was racked with pain, to screaming point, through my head and down into my shoulders. My elbows were on the table and I was holding my head in my hands, with eyes closed.

"Then suddenly, something happened which I had never seen in the whole of my life before. I saw a vision! Although my eyes were closed, I saw a man (and now I recognise him to be you) standing before a congregation, praying.

"And a 'voice' said, 'Brother Mandus.' All the pain instantly disappeared, and the vision faded.

"I was, of course, so amazed that I have been seeking the answer to it ever since. Eventually I found someone who knew you and your address, and here I am, and it was all true!"

Now this was a very remarkable sequence of events, to say the least of it. While we were in church praying, and at some point praying "broadcast" for everyone, everywhere, an unknown lady "out in the world", who did not know me or that the service was being conducted, was healed and the means of the healing identified to her.

The only significance I attach to the identification by mentioning my name to her, is that I believe it was the Lord's way of teaching me that when we pray for people, known and unknown, "broadcast", wonderful events follow such prayer.

The fact that, in these circumstances, ONE person was healed, and the means so clearly shown, proves the existence of a Law whereby it can happen. And potentially, therefore, it can happen on a world-wide scale, since it is the Spirit of God "doing the works".

From that moment I have believed, completely, that everyone on earth actually receives Divine Blessings liberated by people who realise the full possibilities of it. I believe that at every service where we pray like this all kinds of "miracles" are taking place in countless people.

I believe that some are healed instantly, like the lady mentioned. Perhaps a patient in hospital feels a release from pain, or a man in China, intent on taking his life, suddenly changes his mind as he sees a new possibility for solving that problem which was defeating him. In infinite ways, I believe God responds—quietly, unseen—

to quicken the lives of all whom we have embraced in this prayer.

All people—without any exception. In some there is an active awareness of change. In perhaps millions of others the Blessing lies dormant, like a seed planted in the deeps of being. And I believe that these seeds, even if they remain unawakened for a hundred years, some day in the eternal unfolding germinate, and produce the fruits of their intention when they were initially released in prayer.

Love is eternal “substance”. It can never evaporate, and whatsoever is infused in this “seed of love”, in faith through prayer, must in its own Law produce multiplying fruition.

With this in its true perspective, we can glimpse something of the vital importance of prayer in Churches and Prayer Groups. Our work is not even limited to prayer for individuals or particular projects, but is world-wide in its possibilities.

It is simply true that the greatest work on earth could be done by the congregations of churches wedded to the paramount practice of prayer on this level of effectiveness.

So when the two, three or half-a-dozen people meet to pray, in the vestry or at home, “there am I in the midst”. It is a Divine Experience, and it can be magnified beyond human imagination, if we can learn to pray in the Christ-dimension of infinite possibilities.

Therefore, it is to the congregation we must look for the “Light of the World”. The real Power comes when the *people* become enthused and infused with it. It is of little use judging the church for so much apathy and compromise—for until we see that everything depends upon the integrity, enthusiasm and dedication of the people, we will never have the truly *living* church which everyone would like to see.

Mighty power is vested in every soul on earth. And

even ONE church, if every member became completely committed to the Christ Way as emphasised herein, could inspire and lead every church in Christendom to emulate their example.

Potentially, any member of a church can produce a "miracle" of healing, or the solution of a grave problem, for any relative or friend, if he or she could know the simple truth that *God* responds to simple faith which believes "ye receive".

Like every advance in human knowledge, this truth can only be realised by devotion and practice. The best of all ways is to create a living Prayer Group in your church, home, office or school.

Be still, poised in the Spirit of God. He will inspire and guide you. In the Peace, know His Power is Present. Leave the details of people's troubles in His Care—it is sufficient to ask Him to reveal His Perfection in those people or situations for whom you pray. Then only believe that, night and day, they are radiant with the Love, the Perfection, of the Father, and that His Will is being done, comprehensively and effectively.

Pray for one another in the same way, and observe the quickening Spirit at work as the days pass. Keep some records of results, so that you can always turn to cases of answered prayer to stir your imagination. Invite your minister to share the vision you have, and to declare it to the congregation to enlist their aid in prayer and vision.

As you go forward in your desire to serve, the Father will inspire and guide you in every way. The moment ANYONE offers his or her life to Him in service, He immediately accepts it and will produce abundant opportunities through which His Power will flow.

Pray for one another that ye may be healed, for ALL things are possible to them that believe.

And Prayer Groups in all the churches could very well save the world.

Thank you, Father, it is so.

* * *

Here is a little story of faith and courage from California:

It was my turn to help in the commissary. We were cutting up celery. I was shoving the stalks in and a woman I didn't know was running the big circular knife in the machine. My hands were damp and numb with cold, and I accidentally sliced off a sizable piece of the middle finger of my left hand. It was a bias cut, taking off half the fingernail, the tip of the finger, and down nearly to the first joint on one side. The woman said, "Oh, what a shame!" I was trying to remember what I had been thinking to put me so crosswise to God's Love. . . . "Can you see the piece?" I asked, and she silently pointed to it sitting on the heap of celery. I picked it up and clapped it on to the finger and went with her to the camp which was nearby, saying, "I'll just tie this back on." She gave me bandages, but did not offer to help me. . . . I was shaking a little and the piece wouldn't stay on and fell down on the ground. I asked her for water and washed it off in my tin cup. The word "tetanus" tried to insert itself into my consciousness, and I just waved it away. . . . I told her to tell no one of the accident and went back to my camp.

I realised that this was a test. One thing I absolutely know for sure, and that is that God is Love and never gives a test except He gives the ability or strength or whatever is needed for the perfect solving of the problem. . . . I was filled with gratitude and began to rejoice.

There was no pain, just the slight sensation of a nail cut below the quick, and I slept perfectly. The following night, however, I noticed a smell after I was in my sleeping-bag and found that it was coming from my finger. My heart folded its wings and started to plummet downwards, but I agreed with my adversary and prayed. "Dear Heavenly Father, if the only way I can be fitted to serve my fellow-men is to lose my arm—well then, dear Father, take it. I want to do whatever is Your Will for me." After a bit I fell asleep and slept soundly.

It was impossible to change the dressing, so I just let it be. Four days later when I was back in the city I put on a new dressing. A friend of mine kept talking about my "poor sore finger" and it came to me not to resist her curiosity, so I unwrapped it and showed it to her. Seeing it with her eyes, I was horrified—it wasn't healing at all. As soon as she left I turned to that Light within and asked what was wrong. It came to me. . . . "I have ways and means ye know not of", and I realised that I was dictating as to *how* it would heal. So once again I said, "Father, Thy Will be done. You can see into my heart. Do with this finger as You will, transmute this whole thing to Your Glory."

THEN THE MIRACLE BEGAN! The blackened flesh began to shrink, and as it shrank new flesh, new nail, and I presume new bone began to form. At the end of five weeks to the day, the shrunken flesh—now a scab no bigger than a dried lentil—fell off, leaving a tiny depression and a smaller bump at the very tip of a brand new, perfectly formed finger and nail. The little bump is rapidly disappearing, the joint works perfectly, and there is no loss of feeling. As a matter of fact, the tip is better shaped than before, not quite so spatulate. TO GOD THE GLORY.

One holy Church of God appears
Through every age and race,
Unwasted by the lapse of years,
Unchanged by changing place.

From oldest time, on farthest shores,
Beneath the pine or palm,
One Unseen Presence she adores,
With silence or with psalm.

Her priests are all God's faithful sons
To serve the world raised up;
The pure in heart her baptised ones,
Love, her communion cup.

The Truth is her prophetic gift,
The soul her sacred page,
And feet on mercy's errand swift
Do make her pilgrimage.

O living Church, thine errand speed;
Fulfil thy task sublime;
With bread of life earth's hunger feed;
Redeem the evil time!

S. Longfellow.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

DISTANT HEALING

And Jesus said unto the centurion "Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto you." And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Matt. 8:13.

IN the healing of the centurion's servant, Jesus illustrated how the power of God was not limited by time or distance in His response to faith.

A sick servant, many miles away, suddenly became well when his master spoke to Jesus, believing that it was only necessary for the Lord to speak the Word. "And as thou hast believed, so be it done unto you." Unseen, silently, and spontaneously, the combined belief of Jesus and the centurion in Divine Perfection, expressed in their minds when they met, manifested as wholeness at the distant place where the servant was lying grievously sick of the palsy.

It is interesting to note, in passing, that the palsy sickness was no minor ailment. The words "grievously tormented" adequately describe something of its misery. It is, we believe, the "Parkinson's Disease" which is such a dreadful burden to many thousands of people in this country alone.

Yet here, by doing "nothing" more active than meeting the Lord on a dusty road, and expressing a complete conviction that all would be well if He said so, is a demonstration which could revolutionise every scientific concept.

If it actually happened, it revealed a Law transcending

human imagination in its ultimate possibilities for mankind.

Very often doctors, scientists and the "worldly wise" dismiss the Biblical stories as events which, if they took place at all, certainly have no bearing on modern life. And in this rigid attitude they block the way to a recognition of Laws which could lift so many well-nigh intolerable burdens from multitudes of people.

In our modern experience there is a mass of evidence available of Divine Healing at a distance, through prayer. We can at least state, categorically, that the healing of the centurion's servant was possible, because so many healings have taken place in a similar way, in many Ministries, in our present time.

Take, for example, this letter received from a lady in Scotland:

I must tell you of a miracle wrought through the prayers of those at the Sanctuary. I went down to see my aunt, whom I asked you to pray for, as she was completely crippled with arthritis and in great pain. I was met at the door by her, completely cured! She greeted me with, "I don't know what has happened, but I went to bed one night completely crippled and woke in the morning like this!" I hadn't told her I was writing to you. I asked her when it was, and on being told, I produced your letter to me, which was the same time. It is really wonderful, especially as she was quite unconscious of your prayers for her. Thank You, Father, and thank you all at the Sanctuary.

It is but one of thousands of similar testimonies accumulated by many people who are working in this Ministry of Prayer. If there were but one or two isolated examples, we might perhaps quibble and talk of nature's own

recuperative powers which can, sometimes, produce equivalent spontaneous recoveries.

But when large numbers of people become relieved of pains and problems, most of which have not yielded to other treatment, and which proceed to become healed or adjusted *when prayer is introduced*, we must pause to consider very carefully how such important things can happen.

It is interesting to note that, in this case, the sick person did not know prayer had been requested for her! There are many such cases, and it is important to analyse the significance of this. In the story of the centurion, we can at least say that here, too, it is quite possible that the sick servant did not know of his master's intention.

We have discussed, in great detail, the need of personal faith, and all that can be expected from the exercise of Divine Laws in the unfolding of a good, happy and creative life. And, inevitably, this will ever remain a personal responsibility, to be implemented as quickly as we can become aware of the need to do so.

But it is also true that we can help one another, often with dramatic effect, as in the case quoted. The reason, when thinking in terms of love, is that in God there is only ONE MIND, and all His children dwell therein. Whenever *anyone* enters into communion with Him, the Word can be spoken for anyone else. Someone has to have faith to activate, or invite, the Father's help.

When we can realise Perfection as the only true reality, and can extend our faith to believe in the same inner truth for someone else, our prayer for the person at a distance MUST produce a good result. If we were as perfect as Jesus in our understanding of the infallible response, we should indeed be doing the works that He did. We suffer only through our lack of training, understanding, faith, love and experience of the infinite nature of God.

All we can say today is that we are really beginning to

learn how to do it, and become encouraged in the process by a mass of evidence of its effectiveness, as in the case described. There are many *apparent* failures to secure spontaneous healing, both for those who know prayer is being offered, and for those who do not know. We say *apparent* failures, because our experience leads us to believe that *all prayer* must produce some good effect, which may manifest in ways which we cannot readily understand or discern.

I remember a vivid experience which took about nine months to evolve. It is worthy of mention, because here too, is a lesson to be observed and understood.

Not long after I was led to begin prayer work for people in the Sanctuary, a lady wrote to me about a young man she desired to help.

She said he was suffering from advanced tuberculosis. But he was an atheist, and extremely arrogant in his beliefs. So much so, that it was impossible to speak of Jesus or spiritual matters in his presence. She asked if it would be any good trying to help him through prayer, in view of his antagonism.

I replied that prayer which sought only to release the Will of God as perfect love, could only Bless the one for whom we prayed. I suggested that we should make a covenant together that we would daily thank God that His Perfection was indwelling, enfolding and expressing in him, according to His Will. I asked her to keep contact with me each week, and steadfastly to see our mission through to its fulfilment.

In the first week there was no more blood in his sputum, coughing had ceased, and he had gained several pounds in weight.

In three months he was completely healed of the tuberculosis—a vigorous, vital man again. He knew absolutely nothing about our prayer-partnership, and

there was no change whatsoever in his atheistic outlook.

I was very interested in this sequence of physical healing taking place in the midst of an apparently contradictory mental attitude. I advised that we should just continue our prayer covenant.

About three months later, she informed me that she was marrying this man. Still no spiritual change. With this even more intimate opportunity in love, I said we must keep on with even more eager trust.

Then, one Saturday morning, after a further three months, I received a very remarkable letter.

She said, in effect, that a wonderful thing had suddenly happened that morning. Her husband spontaneously began, for the first time in her association with him, to speak about God, and the teaching in the New Testament.

Astonished, when she could interrupt him, she eagerly told him of his healing through prayer, and of our partnership in this.

Then, as though all the past years of atheism had never been, he said:

"Well, of course, what else should you expect when you pray"!

And so was born a true spiritual partnership between them, and the last I heard was that they were real followers of Christ, members of a prayer group, and intent on doing good.

There is one supreme lesson in this. God works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform. We can become so rigid in our fixed beliefs as to how He must do them, that we can literally prevent the very good we seek.

To all human reasoning, we might well declare, with our minds fixed on the doctrine of being re-born in Christ, of faith and love, that the physical healing should logically follow the spiritual degree of realisation.

Yet here we see the process reversed! The body healed

first, and spiritual illumination upwelling months later! In this, and in many such cases, the first requirement is that SOMEONE must initiate the process of love and faith in prayer.

We are emphasising this aspect of prayer, because it can broaden our concepts, and release us from rigidity. When we go to the Father, it is vital to recognise that His Love is like the sun shining upon both sinful and righteous with equal impartiality. If anyone is in trouble, we can KNOW that He desires to lift the burden, and if our prayers can be made with absolute conviction that we are releasing infinite Blessings to meet every need, in the right way, and at the right time, according to God's Will, we shall come much closer to the truth.

A lady from Wales writes:

I wrote asking you for prayer, as I had been suffering from rheumatism for ten years, and with no warning one day recently, I experienced a kind of light, or rather a halo about me. Just a flash, but I knew it was the Lord, for I felt my freedom. I have not had any pain since and I often felt ill—that has also gone. Thank you. I daily thank our Heavenly Father, and will you please thank Him for me.

A Blessing from Cheshire:

I do want to thank you for including me in your prayers. God has wonderfully Blessed and helped me. For months I have hardly been able to walk with bad legs—rheumatism and varicose veins—now I can use them better than for several years. . . . You will be pleased to hear about my old friend Mrs. G. When I went to see her a week ago she said: "I have a grand surprise for you. You know I have had no sight in one

eye since a young girl, and my other eye has been getting weak. Now God has given me back the sight of the blind eye!" I do thank your people for their trust and faithfulness in prayer. Thanks for all prayers answered.

There seems to be no differentiation between functional and organic disease when prayer is used. Every kind of human trouble has been dissolved in this way.

Here are two of many instances, where epilepsy has been healed:

I have great faith in God after my son was healed from fits, and my daughter with tuberculosis, after writing to you for prayer (N. C., Bristol).

Our loving Father, through your prayers, healed our little G. eighteen months ago, from fits (J. J., Manchester).

A lady in Essex says:

My friend, for whom the doctors said they could do nothing more, is well on the road to recovery. It is a wonderful feeling to know and feel that our loving Father is always with us, to help and to heal. I am also glad to say I am well again . . . the sugar diabetes has cleared up after twelve years. It is wonderful not to have the insulin needle very morning. Thank You, Father, for everything, and thank you all at the Sanctuary.

From Northumberland:

My husband is very well. He is 87 now. My brother, whom you prayed for (he was very ill with coronary thrombosis) is now able to work again.

And from Kent:

Thank you for prayers for Mr. C. Another miracle—his growth dissolved, and the operation was unnecessary.

Day by day letters for prayer and testimonies of the results come in. The great majority of these hundreds of letters every day are from people we do not know personally. Is it not wonderful indeed that, since they are all known personally to the Lord, as we unite in prayer all we need to do is commit them into His keeping after asking for help?

Jesus tells us how we need to be simple in our trust, and comprehensive in our faith. Let me tell you how I had to learn this "the hard way" in connection with distant, or absent, prayer healing.

When the time came to extend our work from praying personally with individuals in the Sanctuary to prayer for people at a distance, the volume of correspondence soon grew.

At that time I was busy all day helping those who came to see me. Then in the evening I replied to all the letters. Usually, about midnight, I would quietly settle down to pray for each person who had written in.

I took each letter, read it, and then asked for God's help. One by one this process continued, and often until nearly two o'clock in the morning.

One night, after a rather heavy post, I worked my way through this prayer sequence until, at nearly three o'clock in the morning, feeling quite exhausted, I suddenly realised there must be something wrong to feel such a sense of strain in prayer.

So I put the letters on one side, and asked the Father to tell me what was wrong. Shortly, in a great Peace, I knew that I was involved in too much personal effort. My faith had not reached up to understand that God was infinite Intelligence, and that He knew every word in

every letter, and was with the friend even as the words were written.

The privilege given to me, the servant, was but to exercise the greater faith whereby all these people could receive the Blessing and help they needed. I realised that, therefore, if I took all the letters simultaneously to Him, my part was completed when I became still, poised in His Spirit, believing that infinite Good was now manifesting in each one, in detail, as He Willed.

From that moment, the results clearly indicated the greater response. This very act was placing faith on a level which believed in the All-knowledge of God. And in this Peace, great works have been done by the Lord for thousands of people since that day.

The more closely we work with the Father, the more surely do we come to know that simplicity of trust is a quality ever to keep in perspective.

That is why, at Divine Healing Services, we always introduce a prayer period for absent loved ones and friends, based on this same simplicity.

The entire congregation becomes still. We invite them simply to speak the names of those for whom we desire to pray, and then know that the Will of God is now liberating Blessings to each one. Some amazing things have happened during such times of simple prayer.

Here is the story of a man whose wife had been sent home from hospital with incurable growths in the lungs.

He knew nothing about Divine Healing, but he met a friend who was coming to our service in London, and was persuaded to join him. He said nothing to his wife.

During the quiet time of prayer, just before nine o'clock, together with hundreds of other people, we all spoke aloud the names of those for whom we desired to pray. And he, naturally, called out his wife's Christian name.

When he arrived home, his wife was greatly excited. Just before nine o'clock, she told him, something wonderful happened. The pain disappeared, breathing was easy, and a complete feeling of health and strength came upon her.

In fact, she was healed as the husband spoke her name to the Lord in prayer. Subsequent medical examination confirmed that it was indeed a "miracle".

There is an interesting time-sequence to this story. I heard of this healing from several people each time I went to London, but never had any contact with the man who came to the service until about eighteen months later. Then, on one of my visits to London, he came to the house where I was staying.

He told me, apologetically, that he had felt very neglectful in not contacting me to "give thanks", as he put it. So he had taken the morning off work to come to ask me to pray and render thanks with him for the wonderful healing which came to his wife.

Since that moment just before nine o'clock, he said, his wife was not only healed, but had been in better health than throughout their married life.

If we are going to meet God in prayer, then we must certainly learn to believe in the "Impossible" being very possible indeed, if we can become simple enough in our beliefs.

To human sense it seems incredible that just by being still, speaking a name, and then quietly believing God-Power is released, an incurable disease can instantly vanish!

But when we have the demonstration of its occurrence, surely it is time to re-arrange our concepts to embrace and explore the significance of it?

It is constantly happening all over the world. In fact, every minister of every church is able to tell stories of answered prayer. It is time we used our intellects to seek

a deeper understanding of laws which can produce such amazing transformations.

In prayer for people at a distance we must lift beyond our ordinary sense of limitation imposed by distance. It has no significance whatsoever, in a relationship with God.

In fact, in many cases, distant healing may be more effective than personal contact with a minister. Sometimes the personal contact becomes limited by dependence, in some degree, on the power of the man who is praying. In prayers invoked for someone far away, however, the sufferer is inclined to be more dependent on God invisibly doing the work.

In our work we have letters testifying to Divine Adjustments from people in the U.S.A., Canada, West Indies, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and other far-distant places. So distance is no obstacle.

Here are some letters illustrating this fact.

From Trinidad:

Thank You, God, and you, dear Brother Mandus, for the help you gave to one of my daughters (who was hospitalised some time ago) and an old friend of mine. When I wrote you concerning my daughter she was prostrate on her back and could not move. Just when I believed you received my letter she suddenly got up, and was able to move around with the help of a wheel chair. Then she got better steadily. . . .

The old lady I mentioned previously was suffering from a growth. The doctors said they could not do anything for her, and everyone said it was only a matter of days left for her to live. After you sent her your free magazine and the Blessed Prayer Card, her condition changed for the better. In a few weeks she was walking about and travelling. Her recovery was a miracle. Thank You, Father.

Whatever the arguments and decisions of men as to the reality or extent of spiritual truths, the people who have had their lives changed or diseases healed always KNOW that "whereas before I was blind, now can I see". They pass from the human decree and definition into the Divine Order, and are not concerned any more with what the world has to say about it. "Thank You, Father" is the only way.

I am very happy to be counted in your wonderful group, and to report that J. E. (diabetic) has been greatly helped, both mentally and physically. From a recent check-up the surgeon told her that the blood is clear and perfect. We have God to thank for that (Indiana, U.S.A.).

And another from Pennsylvania, U.S.A.:

I want to share with all of you the news that Mrs. M. L., for whom you have prayed, was told by her obstetrician that she needs no operation (hysterectomy). He says he wouldn't think of sending her for one now. His brother-in-law, who has taken care of her for years, says he simply cannot believe it. He says tumours like she had don't just go away. However, she has had no haemorrhages, and I am rejoicing and praising God, and can see no reason to doubt that the condition is permanently healed.

As our love, prayers, and *Crusader* magazines went out to a friend in far-away New Zealand, this is what happened. She writes:

The *Crusaders* have just arrived, with your loving letter and prayer card enclosed. With humble gratitude, I am able to tell you of an experience connected with the arrival of the above. For about sixteen years I have

averaged about twelve heart attacks every year, lasting from five minutes to five hours. My daughter has generally been able to contact the Father within, and so bring about harmony. But last night, from 7 p.m. until 11 a.m. this morning, I had a very distressing time, and my daughter could only relieve. When your Blessed Prayer Card arrived at 11 a.m. this morning, and as I was looking at it, my heart ceased its pounding *immediately*, and I am now fit and well. Thank You, Father. Perhaps He delayed the relief on purpose—it is wonderful (Auckland, New Zealand).

Sometimes we receive long-distance telephone calls asking for immediate help. Recently a lady telephoned through from Louisiana in the United States. Her husband was being rushed to hospital for an operation and, even as the call came through, he was in the ambulance.

We prayed over the telephone—and, right across the Atlantic Ocean, and deep inland in the New World, a man was healed in an ambulance. When he got to the hospital there was nothing to do, and he was sent home. So distance is nothing to God.

Here is another example of an immediate change, following prayer on the telephone between Washington, D.C., U.S.A. and Blackpool, England—both of which places happen to be in the Kingdom of God, and belong to Him!

It has been such a profound experience! Since calling you on the long-distance from Washington requesting your Intercession for Divine Healing of my sister, who the doctors considered to be in a very critical condition—and her life to be very doubtful—the *decisive change came instantaneously*.

The doctors are astonished at such a sudden change

in her condition. We are all profoundly grateful and thankful that such a revelation of God's great Power has taken place, and is ever available to us. Thank You, Father! Thank You, Father! Thank You, Father! My sister is now at home from hospital. She is fully aware of her great Divine Healing, and gives continual thanks to the Father. This wonderful healing has affected everyone in close contact with it. I can feel God's Love working in my own affairs. I surrender to God's Love and Will (Washington, D.C., U.S.A.).

And so it goes on in many Ministries. The truth speaks for itself, but it is so strange how blind we can be. There is no real need to quote cases of answered prayer in any book today, for thousands of these have been published in recent years.

The greatest mystery of all is why, in spite of all the evidence, neither the church, doctors, psychologists nor state—generally speaking—take very much notice of these events, which are charged with infinite potentials.

If scientists tomorrow discovered they were in two-way radio communication with the inhabitants of another planet, every newspaper on earth would be black with banner headlines about it.

But when man establishes communication with God, very few pause even to notice it! And the greatest discoveries of our time are lost to the majority in the fogs which cloud so many brilliant intellects.

Here then is vision for the Churches, for Prayer Groups, and for *anyone* who cares to use the gift which belongs to all. But the only way to prove it is to practise it.

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Above, and beyond, the Power of God to Heal, is the greater vision of living the abundant life; of answered prayer in creative works. Prayer is the *Prevention of Disease*,

and the way to victorious accomplishment in every aspect of human aspiration.

This, indeed, is the supreme spiritual objective of all prayer for others. Beyond the healing—the life of love, peace, harmony and all Good.

Thy Will, Lord, for spiritual, mental, physical and material wholeness and fulfilment.

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And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him.

And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed. Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. . . .

And Jesus said unto the centurion. Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Matt. 8:5-10, 13.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

THE CHRIST VISION

The spirit of the Lord is upon me—
Because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor;
He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted,
To preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight
to the blind,
To set at liberty them that are bruised,
To preach the acceptable year of the Lord,
To give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes—
The oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the
spirit of heaviness;
That they might be called trees of righteousness—
The planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.
For as the earth bringeth forth her bud,
And as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to
come forth;
So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
To spring forth before all nations.

Isaiah 61.

WHEN the Spirit of the Lord is upon us, what else could we truly see but HIS vision? With Isaiah, we too could only be lifted up in Divine Love to speak the Word, heal the bruised and broken-hearted, and generally express God's Love in tolerance, understanding and service.

As surely as the seeds planted in the garden must bring forth their bud, the Seed of Divine Love in all creation will cause His Will for all-good to be revealed in all nations.

Then came Jesus, with His absolute revelation of Love

as the only standard whereby the Will of God can be experienced in the world.

A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By *this* all men know that ye are my disciples, *if ye love one to another.*

It is natural enough, when the Christ Revelation infuses our minds with such glory, that we become devoted and dedicated to so perfect a way of life. But, usually with the highest of motives, the history of Christianity has been distorted by an incredible amount of intolerance and even bitter hatreds between rival denominations, and in much individual and collective thought, word and deed against those who did not profess the Christian faith.

In the past we have so often lacked the Christ Vision of Love, that wars have been waged, heretics tortured and put to death, other "heathen" religions condemned and, in all kinds of ways we have broken, and often still break, the central Law in our relationships with others.

Filled with a vision of the rightness of the Christ teaching, we cannot bear to see others not conforming to our own particular understanding, and are often deceived into the sin of intolerance ourselves without realising it. Indeed, the history of the Church itself is one "break-away" movement after another, following the changing opinions and concepts introduced by new leaders, inspired with idealism. And, of course, we have now many hundreds of denominations, all following the Lord, differing in aspects of theological interpretation and emphasis.

It is almost inevitable that this should be so because, thank God, every individual is unique, and naturally differs in his outlook, aspiration and particular channel of expression. It would be a complete disaster for mankind

were we all stamped in exactly the same mould, all desiring to express in exactly the same way.

The miracle of creation is this infinite variety and expression of God, and its special benediction to self-conscious man. Therefore, even in the paramount religious need, worship and spiritual experience will forever be expressed first in personal communion and awareness, and secondly, in fellowship with others whose minds respond to the kind of communal worship which has a particular appeal to them.

We should never be concerned, therefore, with rivalry between denominations, nor *ever* be involved in condemnation or judgment concerning their particular approach, nor scorn the emphasis they may give to doctrine which may appear to be peculiar, or even heretical, to us fixed, as we may be, upon our own adored forms of worship and understanding.

Would Christ Himself, if He were on earth today, refuse to enter *any* church of *any* denomination? Surely HE would equally love the members of the Church of England as much as the Methodists, Baptists, Congregationalists, Catholics and Spiritualists? We must believe His Love to be all-embracing, and therefore, in God, to include every soul on earth irrespective of their Christian denomination, their "heathen" religion, or even no religion at all.

God omnipresent and omnipotent. Only God, at all points, at all times, with all Power—and, therefore, indwelling every soul on earth as the high potential of eternal unfolding for all.

So far as the Christian faith is concerned, it becomes apparent that comprehensive union in the vision of a common goal is the most urgent need of modern times. In so many ways we are a "house divided unto itself", and the incredible potential powers vested in the manifold

denominations are largely imprisoned in more or less isolated cells.

There can only be ONE church of Christ, with many members, and certainly only one supreme objective—that we all love one another, and thus unite in one broad front of spiritual truth, in which Love dissolves all differences. Separate, in our *form* of worship, but completely integrated in the greater vision in which the Christian Principle becomes released in love, faith, prayer and service, which is the only way to solve all human problems.

In the Christ-Church there can be no place for intolerance or conflict. Could we have achieved this vision in the past, and implemented the full spirit and dynamic prayer purposes of Christ released through love and faith, the world problems would have been largely healed long since. Even warfare would have dissolved in the Christ Love released in action, and would now only be found in historical records of the time when man did not know the Great Law.

Many may well say that this is over-simplifying the truth. Yes—so long as we are prepared to dilute the truth, and thus complicate it with the *multiplying* complexities and compromises which germinate in *every* divergence from the Great Law. Weeds will grow as abundantly into increasing harvests as the good seeds which can provide the food we all need. And, as we well know, the weeds of hatred, judgment, condemnation, fear and intolerance are choking the fruits in the garden of the world today.

In the Christ vision we must also surely embrace and understand the patterns and purposes in all life upon earth. We who have been born into a Christian environment may well adhere to the pattern presented to us by “accident” of birth. And rightly so, for it is perfect in Christ.

But what of the three-fifths of the human race who are

not Christians? Of about three thousand million people on earth, perhaps nearly two thousand million are members of other highly spiritual religions. They have become worshippers of God through the teachings of prophets like Buddha, Mohammed, Lao-tse, Confucius, Zoroaster and, of course, many other illuminati who have arisen in every race.

One cannot fail to be impressed with the pure spiritual teaching to be found in the Holy Books of every religion. Look at some of these quotations, taken for convenience of reference from that lovely book *Every Nation Kneeling* by Will Hayes, published by "the Order of the Great Companions", Hertha's Chapel, Meopham Green, Kent, England:

It is recorded by Abulfazl in the Sufi Scriptures:

Have the religions of mankind no common ground?
Is there not everywhere the same enrapturing beauty
beaming forth from many thousand hidden places?
Broad indeed is the carpet God has spread, and beautiful
the colours He has given it. . . . There is but one
lamp in this house, in the rays of which, wherever
I look, a bright assembly meets me. . . . O God! whatever
road I take joins the highway that leads to Thee.

Is that not the Christ Way? A sublime fulfilment comes to all people whose vision is stayed upon all creation to behold it good in God. It lifts us free from bondage to narrow confined ways, and in this freedom all men become brothers, for we behold mankind, the family of God—of every race, colour, creed or religion.

From the Koran, the Mohammedan Scriptures:

In the Name of the merciful and compassionate God.
Praise belongs to God, the Lord of the worlds, the

merciful, the compassionate! Thee we serve and Thee we ask for aid. Guide us in the right path.

This prayer could certainly have been made in any Church in the world, without any discord whatsoever.

And the following prayer from the Egyptian Scriptures—Hymn to Amon:

Hail to Thee, Lord of the thrones of the earth—the ancient of heaven, the oldest of earth, Lord of all existences, the support of all things—the One in his works. Hail to Thee, Lord of law, maker of men, giving them life. Hail to Thee, Lord of wisdom, Lord of mercy, most loving, at whose coming men live. Salutation to Thee, because Thou abidest in us.

All souls, of every race, ever turn to God. The Parsi Scriptures (*Desatir*) gives us this same vision:

Preserver of preservers! Maker of the pure! Thou adored by the free intelligences, who have found felicity and proximity to Thee, and shed illumination on bodies! Who recallest from evil to good, of spotless purity! Lord of the revolutions of time, accomplishment of desires! Thou art exalted above all that is visible through Thy resplendence; and nothing can be detached from Thee! All pure things are moved by *affection* towards Thee; pure souls repose their hope in Thee!

In the *Bhagavad Gita* are these inspiring words:

He who seeth Me everywhere, and seeth everything in Me, of him will I never lose hold, and he will never lose hold of Me. He who, established in unity, worshippeth Me abiding in all beings, that man cometh to Me, whatever his mode of existence.

Jesus spoke exactly the same truth in other words. It can only fortify our faith and worship to see how all people, everywhere, down the ages, have discovered the reality of God and His Presence within us. Like the radiant colours of many silks, they become a lovely tapestry when woven in love to produce the pattern of the whole scene.

Finally, a few more holy words to emphasise the points we are inspired to make in this writing:

There is no kind of beast on earth, nor fowl which flieth with its wings, but the same is a people like unto you. . . . Unto their Lord they shall return—God is the light of the heavens and of the earth. Hast thou not seen how all in the heavens and in the earth uttereth the praise of God?—the very birds as they spread their wings? Every creature knoweth its prayer and its praise! (The Koran).

The Holy Man, he who ever seeks the good, is the saviour of men; to him no man is outcast. Always seeking the good, he is the saviour of living beings; to him all life is sacred (Lao-tse).

An all-embracing love for all the universe;
Unstinted love, unmarred by hate, not rousing enmity.
So as you stand or walk, or sit, or lie, reflect
With all your mind on this; 'tis deemed a state divine.
(Buddhist Sutta.)

“The narrow-minded ask, “Is this one of our tribe, or is he a stranger?” But to those who are of a noble disposition the whole world is but one family (*Panchatantra*).

He who is beloved by God honours every form of religious faith (Buddhist scriptures).

The paths to God are more in number than the breathings of created beings (Persian scriptures).

Altar flowers are of many species, but all Worship is one; systems of faith are different, but God is one (Hindu apothegm).

We are not, in any sense of the word, trying to convert anyone to adopt any other but the religion or church of their choice. We merely emphasise that our own Christian tradition and practice can become richly enhanced, according to whatever degree we are able to lift our spiritual vision to behold more of the magnitude of God's *all-embracing* Love. We can then see more of the total Divine Pattern than is ever possible when we observe the outward scene through the bars of a prison cell.

For myself, I am a totally committed Christian. I was confirmed into the Church of England in Durham Cathedral by the Bishop of Durham. And all our work is exclusively devoted to helping people to become quickened in their faith in the infinite purposes of Christ, as the testimony of this book abundantly proclaims.

Neither do we seek to judge or condemn Missionary work the world over. Only history in its true perspective will reveal the magnitude of the services for human well-being and progression done by so many Christian churches in the far-flung outposts.

But we do emphasise that **ALL** Christian works, howsoever implemented, can only be magnified if developed in the all-pervading theme of love, tolerance and faith. For it is Love in example which releases the light into any dark places in other people, and their faith or religion.

Just as it is true that the Christian way has not yet fulfilled itself in its highest potential, equally the peoples of all other religions have not fully adopted and expressed

the high truth held before them by their prophets. The world problem is to discover the inviolable laws inherent in spiritual truth, and to become convinced that these **FIRST PRINCIPLES** are essential to peace, happiness and prosperity.

So the Christian has a great opportunity and challenge for, if he will, he can lead the way by example into these higher states of consciousness. And tolerance of other methods and means, of other religions or denominations, is a fundamental factor in achieving a comprehensive unity in practising and proclaiming the spiritual principle. It is, indeed, a first requirement of Love according to Christ's standards.

In the history of Spiritual Healing, for example, it is completely evident that countless people have been healed by Divine Influence in every religion on earth. In fact, wherever religion has awakened man's beliefs in God, from the dawn of man, there are corresponding reports of "miraculous" healings.

It is a human futility to argue that it can, or must, only take place through the specific channel of one's own denomination or religion. The evidence contradicts any such assertion, and we would do well, again, to lift our vision to a loving Father Who is concerned only for the well-being of His children.

If a coloured brother in the heart of Africa, who knows nothing perhaps of organised religion, gives himself to God in some form of tribal worship, could we dare to think that the Father would not understand? Dare we really believe that a God of Love would not wish to heal this brother just because he was ignorant, by "accident" of birth, of the heights and depths of Divine Law? In fact, when faith has been alive, the healings have followed accordingly.

Nearer home, we know today that God has produced

healings, in every denomination, inside and outside the Church, wherever the principles were observed. In the human sense, we might very much like such Divine manifestations to be an exclusive "possession" of our own particular theological concept, but the evidence reveals that this cannot be so.

Whether we like it or not, amazing healings have taken place in every ministry where faith became fixed upon the possibility. It apparently matters little whether this spiritual quality is expressed in a Church of England, in the Catholic faith at Lourdes, a Spiritualist or Christian Science church. Certainly the evidence has accumulated to such a degree that it is nonsense to ignore or deny it.

It is far better to take a wider view and seek to understand the significance of these events. If, for example, Spiritualists—through their own particular vision of spiritual power, directed through them in response to prayer, find that people are Blessed and healed, who are we to dare judge how God shall work to save?

If they talk of angels, guides, and wonderful beings in spirit who help them, can we dare to dogmatise, when the Bible itself is replete with visions, angels and helpers, and postulates the concept of communion with Saints?

The fact remains, quite irrespective of our prejudice or bias, that Divine Power has responded in every conceivable way in the healing of vast numbers of people through their own approach. And it can be said with truth, that at least every Spiritualist church is founded on this implicit belief in God and a ministry of angels to heal the sick.

It is ridiculous to ignore, amongst many others, the work of Mr. Harry Edwards, which is a complete illustration of amazing success in healing the sick through spiritual principles.

When we take our heads out of the sand, we might observe that his files contain *thousands* of catalogued case

histories which include the healing of almost every kind of human disease. Facts speak for themselves, but we can become so spiritually blind that we will not recognise facts which do not square with our own particular decree as to how God shall work.

So we have in England one of the great "healers" of our time and, so far as the Church and Science are concerned, our vision is more or less closed to the implication of the laws which make such a ministry possible. This kindly and consecrated man, giving his life in service, in company with those who work with him, is proving that where there is loving intention to help others, the power of the Spirit, however expressed, is at work healing the bruised and brokenhearted.

Just because his emphasis and method might be different from mine, in no way gives me the right or power to judge or criticise. If *one* person in all his life had been healed of some torment through his love and faith, then his whole being may have fulfilled God's purpose. As it is, thousands have benefited, so surely we shall know the tree by its fruits? All who are for us in love and good works cannot be against us, for God is Love in whomsoever chooses to give himself to serve.

It is just as futile to deny psychic phenomena, in whatever form it takes. Clairvoyance, telepathy, psychometry, visions and all else are a proven part of human experience.

They represent unknown laws operating in ways beyond our usual experience. But because they happen, a much more intensive scientific research ought to be seeking the significance of the facts.

This does not mean that we must abandon our own church to become Spiritualists or Christian Scientists. We are merely pointing to a truth of spiritual experience in those churches, and suggesting that we might well learn much from them. In any event, we gain nothing by

ignoring the facts they present, and lose much if we sit in self-righteous judgment upon their methods.

In love and tolerance, even as we learn from them, perhaps we too, in our quickened faith and example, may serve their cause in the true Christ Spirit. If God goes into their churches to heal the sick, in addition to allowing Him to do likewise in ours, we should also be ready to go into theirs too.

Without a vision, a man or a nation is lost. A house divided unto itself is in danger. In this time of the birth pangs of a New Age, our first obligation is to muster all our united spiritual resources safely to bear us forward into it.

And, to this end, we must envisage one Father of all mankind, and the brotherhood of man, with *all* his ways leading back Home to God.

Perhaps, if we pray, we may receive Grace to acknowledge and adopt this viewpoint in comprehensive expression. Then we shall be healed of intolerable and untenable racial and religious superiority. We shall find the same God in our coloured brother as in the white. We shall be only too happy to advance the well-being, in equality, of the man and woman of every race on earth, unconditionally. Then we can be *sure* the Christ goes with us, for in Him, *all* are equal.

It is a sign of the times that millions of people, as never before, are eager and ready to follow this Christ Way in practical expression. Authority, as vested in church and state, lags behind the desire of the community. The people, all over the world, are but waiting for a bold and illumined spiritual policy to inspire, co-ordinate, and direct this yearning into the greatest and most scientific spiritual revival of all time.

Give us the Christ-Vision, Oh Lord, that Thy Will may be done.

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Men have rent their great concern, one among another, into sects, every party rejoicing in that which is their own. Wherefore leave them until a certain time. . . . One day God will call to them and say, "Where are my companions?" And we will bring up a witness out of every nation and say, "Bring your proofs." And they shall know that the Truth is with God alone. . . . To its own Book shall every nation be called. . . . And thou shalt see every nation kneeling.

Koran.

In the deep cave of the heart, far down, running under the outward shows of the world and of people, running under continents, under the fields and the roots of the grasses and trees, under the little thoughts and dreams of men, and the history of races, I see, feel and hear wondrous and divine things.

I seem to see the strands of affection and love, so tender, so true and life-long, holding together the past and present generations—the currents of love and thought streaming in the watches of the night from far and near, from one to another.

I dream that these are the fibres and nerves of a body that lies within the outer body of society; a network, an innumerable vast interlocked ramification, slowly being built up—all dear lovers and friends, all families, all groups, all peoples, members of a Body, archetypal, glorious, the centre and perfection of life—the organic growth of God Himself in time.

Edward Carpenter: extracts from
Every Nation Kneeling.

And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three: but the greatest of these is Love.

And thank You, Father, that it is so.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN

Suffer little children to come unto Me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus: Mark 10:14.

A GOOD farmer, or gardener, has no difficulty in understanding that his ripening crops, and flower-filled garden, reflect his care and attention to every phase of growth from the first planting of the seeds.

Indeed, before the seeds are placed in the womb of mother earth, the wise man ploughs, digs, cleans and fertilises the soil to ensure a healthy home for them. When the baby shoots emerge from the womb to show their beauty to the sun, and man, constant attention is given to protect them from weeds, infection and disease.

It is well-known that the best gardeners and farmers are those who lavish love upon their family of flowers and fruits. They are the people with "green fingers", endowed with deep affection for all growing things. They touch the same inner Power which was used in the experiments with prayer, and Blessed Water, as reported in the newspaper articles previously mentioned.

Even a grain of mustard seed will not grow on a stone. Although endowed with the Power and Pattern to fulfil itself, it needs the right conditions to ensure its growth to the tree.

Naturally enough, the deep instinct of most fathers and mothers is to cherish and protect the children God gives into their keeping. The family and home, everywhere in

the world, is the evidence of this fundamental principle. And, in the main, there is no difficulty in evoking the love for children which is the ideal quality to ensure the progressive unfolding of the young life.

On the other hand, however, relatively few people understand or recognise the infinite potentials that are latent in every child; or the true significance of prayer and spiritual principles in releasing them into future experience.

We are not suggesting that parents do not pray for their little ones, for undoubtedly the great majority probably pray for them more fervently than for any other human cause. Our purpose is merely to emphasise, in every possible way, the ever-increasing potency of prayer, when it is practised with absolute faith in its results.

The ideal in every parent's mind is the happy and healthy fulfilment of each child. Like the farmer, the need is ever to cultivate the ground, keep it free from weeds, and consistently to protect and nurture the young shoots.

Since so many tragedies in adult life are often proved to reflect discords, tensions, and emotional conflicts during the early formative years, it is vital that parents, of all people, should recognise the need for promoting a spiritually enlightened environment for their children. With quickening vision, we can see now how love linked with prayer can protect and prepare our offspring for the great destiny which awaits them.

From the moment of conception, through subsequent birth and right on into adolescence and adult life, the child should be enfolded in love implemented by prayer which realistically embraces the concept of Divine Perfection, forever at work to unfold the highest purposes of God. Faith in this principle is the greatest contribution a parent can make to the entire future of the family.

The teaching of the Christ Way then begins when the child first suckles at the mother's breast of love. It is taken into the Kingdom of God, and all good will then, and thereafter, be constantly expressed as this spiritual vision is kept in true perspective.

Children are so responsive to prayer. They offer no resistance. They have an instinctive love and faith that is not yet crushed by the onslaught of worldly ignorance, prejudice and sin.

If, in these early days, they can be taught and encouraged to develop their sublime trust in these basic aspects of being, they will be fortified as in no other way to go on into adult life. They will be undergirded by Powers beyond human understanding, and thus take their appointed place in a world which awaits the coming of a spiritually inspired generation.

The time to ensure a man's or woman's future security and happiness is when they are yet children. Modern research in the deeps of the mind so clearly reveals this to be true. Bring a *child* into the peace, love and harmony of spiritual enlightenment, and the future will unfold on a foundation which cannot fail, no matter what storms break against it.

When we add to this the knowledge that our lives unfold, for good or ill, according to the quality of our minds, we can state categorically, that the most important of all human objectives is to ensure that every member of the family and community are taught how to achieve the positive power which spiritual principles alone can produce.

All the wastage of power in disease, crime, war and breakdowns mainly reflects the distortions of human consciousness. Since these are serious problems, representing a constant threat to personal, national and international well-being, surely it is time to concentrate all our

efforts, on a national scale, to teaching these positive principles?

We become so intent on healing the *effects*, that we are blind to the *causes*. In Great Britain alone we spend hundreds of millions of pounds every year, with an equivalent in man-power, largely directed to repair work. And this is only a fraction of the world expenditure to this end.

It is as though all our inheritance was stored like a great reservoir of water held by a dam. Over the face of the dam are many breaches, and the life-water pours out to deplete the lake. Seeing this precious water flowing to waste, we muster a permanent army of workers—with pumps, mechanical buckets and all kinds of ingenious equipment—to collect the wasting water and put it back into the reservoir.

How much safer and more economical it would be to send the same army of men to repair the breaches in the dam itself!

The most economical way, always, is to go straight through to the cause of the trouble. In human life, the real essential of this age is to begin with the children, and thus bring into being a generation whose vision and power will release the “abundant life” of all mankind, as well as experience it themselves.

There are, of course, many people who see this truth today. Increasingly, church authorities, psychologists, doctors, educationalists and parents are moving in this direction. And much progress has indeed been made in the last twenty years.

But there is still a widespread lack of co-ordination and integration of vision about it. We tend to evolve in isolated and self-dependent cells. The churches, each in their own way, do a mighty work amongst the youth which comes into their orbit. Psychologists and doctors touch the fringe

of the problem in their way. *Illumined* parents implement it, even more effectively, through the greater personal love which gives power to their motives.

It is all very haphazard and only partially effective, because the real vision has not yet been recognised as the paramount need of every nation. It is not directed into expression with the fervour we put into any national emergency when it arises. And only when we see this in its true perspective and significance will we arouse the nation *to give priority*, in every function of the state, through the church, school, medical science and parental teaching, to its accomplishment.

With the facilities at our disposal, once the nation had the incentive of vision and purpose, it would be relatively easy to ensure that the vast majority of the population could be taught the basic truth and method of the spiritual principles which produce positive mental attitudes and corresponding happy creative experience.

Since these principles are the basic common denominator of all denominations, there should be no conflict whatsoever between the various churches. As illustrated in the last chapter, we must implement Christ's teaching in a supreme tolerance, which lifts us far above the confines of secular belief.

The Roman Catholic and Protestant alike can surely sit at the feet of the Master to believe that love and prayer in faith are basic to human well-being? In its nation-wide implication, there could be no violation whatsoever of denominational adherence and interests by uniting in a drive to teach scientific truths about the mind and its spiritual-mental-emotional powers and needs.

The united faith of all the Churches in this could quicken the vision of the entire community. And it is the primary responsibility of the Church to LEAD governmental and public opinion into this awareness.

With this spiritual impetus from spiritual authorities, we might well progress to capture the imagination of educationalists and medical practitioners.

With all the resources of television, radio, newspapers, books, churches and schools at our service, what a transformation there could be throughout the nation, if it became a national conviction that spiritual mental training was the **FIRST** essential of every child and adult in the land.

Every parent needs comprehensive teaching and guidance about these vital facts. We print pamphlets about many other kinds of important knowledge which the government wants people to know, and distribute them to every household. Who can measure the saving of waste and the production of national **GOOD**, if every home received a simple teaching of the practical and scientific importance of this Truth?

Even the Insurance Companies, if they knew the truth, would unite to get such knowledge to all their clients! And would thereby multiply their earnings in the savings in sickness, stress, tension and death which would inevitably result! In business, vocation, and every-day life, these principles pay practical dividends. What a stampede there will be when we realise it!

From the natural environment of the home, the children go to school to be "educated". And, of course, none would seek to deny or minimise the value of our educational system. It increasingly fulfils its function in developing the intellect, cultivating fellowship in enterprise, and teaching knowledge and the way to use it.

But seldom do we find education teaching that the first need is to become centred in God, so that every other aspect of training can be super-charged with Divine guidance, intelligence and purpose. This fundamental training is left to the Sunday school, the home, or wherever it might (or might not) be offered.

We send our young people out into the world—generally speaking—intellectually awakened, but spiritually crippled.

With the modern knowledge at our disposal, there is no escape from the conclusion that it is an imperative need of all education to begin with *the science of the mind*, and teach the infinite potentials of spiritual-mental powers in the creative works ultimately to be achieved through the educated intellect.

Train the only instrument we possess, the mind, to embrace the vision of life, its powers and its purpose, and then all things become possible. Without the spiritual dynamic and impetus, we only use a fraction of the power available, and this is the revelation not only of spiritually inspired people, but of psychologists, whose work it is to explore the inner deeps of human personality.

Begin with the baby. Cherish the young life in the home. And at school, right on through immaturity, stimulate the awakening intellect with the real Power which conditions every life, for good or ill, according to the degree it is expressed.

The only real wealth of a nation is its people. The only treasure in store for its future lies in its children. If we want a brave new world tomorrow, we must train the children now, for they will make the next generation according to the power of their thinking.

The first nation to see the truth, and put it into nation-wide operation as the science of life itself, will surely lead the world into the ways of health, prosperity and peace which have long been the instinctive desire of all people, since first the world began.

Work on the breaches in the dam, and the waters of life will not be wasted.

Where are the men and women of vision, courage and integrity who will lead the way?

They are there in their thousands in every family on earth. They are to be found in the hosts of ministers and church members of every community. They work already with their eager sense of vocation in politics, education, science, medical practice, the professions and industry. They are everywhere, waiting only to be inspired with vision and knowledge to spur them into corresponding and dedicated action.

You, who read these words, immediately become a potential leader of the way in your home and environment. And you can be sure that every expression of your purpose in leading the children to Christ will have all His Love lifting you on to the goal.

"Suffer little children to come unto Me . . . for I am the way, the truth and the life".

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What an adventure this is for the young man and woman who is taught and encouraged to practise this way of life!

If you are a boy or girl, a young man or a young woman, just let your soul free for awhile to look beyond the immediate things which capture your attention. Have a good look at yourself in relation to the world, the universe and everything that is in being around you. And see something of the incredible possibilities that are yours if you can use your MIND in the right way to achieve them.

Being young, you have a far greater opportunity than most adult people around you. They, so many of them, never had the full knowledge that is now available, to inspire them to adventure in big ways with prayer and mental power. But you, through the work and research of spiritual leaders, scientists and psychologists, have been given a mountain peak, as it were, upon which you can stand to survey the whole horizon.

Down in the valley the view is limited by the surrounding hills, and no man can see the far country. But you, standing on your high peak, can not only behold all the lands in every direction, but can choose whichever way you desire to take in a journey of exploration.

No doubt you have read the tales of intrepid explorers like Livingstone, Amundsen, Scott, Hillary and a host of others. You have surely felt the thrill of this age of atomic power, jet planes, and supreme scientific achievement. Perhaps the science fiction which made your mind leap into space begins to look more like a possibility now, with new man-projected moons and planets in orbit. Of all the peoples of the world, you can see so much to excite your imagination, enthusiasm—and perhaps fear.

You have been born into the most vital age since man first awakened into this world. It is the time of greatest discovery, exploration and progression ever made, and has largely come into expression in the last hundred years.

It cannot fail to fire your imagination. Being young, you will almost surely feel the stimulation of adventure, and eagerly look forward to taking your part in the civilisation we are creating.

Therefore, to you, of all people, the truth of all that is written herein should appeal. For you are the one who is beginning the great adventure of life. And you cannot fail to appreciate the truth that spiritual-mental power is fundamental to the kind of experience you are going to create throughout your life.

It is really only commonsense to recognise such a simple fact. Hence the importance of concentrating on the expression of these principles.

There was never so wonderful an adventure offered to man as the prospects latent in these present times. It is nothing less than the exploration of the mind, and the

Great Mind of God. It is a journey infinitely more exciting and rewarding than any exploration ever made.

As you "dream your dreams" with God, in imaginative concepts, with faith and spiritual intention, you will have the experience of witnessing the results of this Power at work. Day by day, in everything you can discover God in work and play, and see the patterns of life unfolding and being fulfilled.

Look at your highest desires; seek your greatest good; find the true vision of being a partner with the Lord in creative works. Let your imagination leap to every kind of possibility, and refuse to be defeated by man-made beliefs of limitations, money, influence, or anything else that might seem to have power to prevent your highest achievement. With God, ALL things are possible—it is up to you to prove it.

Practise meditation. Be still . . . listen, and feel for inspiration, guidance and conviction about anything and everything.

Remember that the Christ Way is not a narrow and limited bondage. Rather does it lead you into infinite freedom and a realisation of all good.

Experiment, and experience the Power of Spirit in action. It is the greatest avenue of research, adventure, exploration and fulfilment now open to man. Perhaps you may be the one to make new discoveries for human well-being. Perhaps you will open a new horizon to many in the realm of church, politics, science, art or business. Perhaps it may be YOUR vision and experience that will greatly influence the course of history. All things are possible with God, to those who believe it.

If you know these fundamentals now, and can begin to cultivate and experience their power, what infinite prospects lie open to you in the long life span ahead. If every day yields its results of Divine Activity, what extensions of

faith and love are already prepared for your experience!

The world belongs to you. It is your inheritance. Therefore, please do not look back upon the failures of your forbears. Understand and learn the lessons of their mistakes, but turn right away from their futilities and ignorance, from their dreadful concepts of war and negative expression, wherever revealed.

Behold and profit from the Good they have produced in so many ways. Observe the pains of birth into the New Age, but hold fast to the countless benedictions of wisdom, inspiration, genius, knowledge and intellectual achievement. There is so much to disillusion the young mind, but also much to inspire it to greater works.

This is your inheritance; and you, in turn, will pass it on to your children. What you give to them will reflect every thought and pattern you introduce into it in your own lifetime. And, if you will, you and your generation can lift the whole world into the freedom, joy, peace and prosperity which is the true potential for everyone.

You can banish war and decrease disease. You can solve all racial colour-bars and reveal the true equality of all men, irrespective of race, colour, creed or religion. You can inspire the churches, government, education, science, business and materia medica with true vision and spiritual leadership. You can prove that man without God is as barren as a desert without water.

If you yourself can see the vision and steadfastly work for its accomplishment in His Strength. Then, all things are possible, and you can prove it.

A great responsibility? Of course it is! But there are very few young people who shrink from the challenge of high adventure and prospective achievement. Great works demand great initiative, and of all works, the solving of the complex problems which beset us today is the greatest. But for *every problem, without exception, there is a solution.*

In creative aspirations which embrace the concept of a world set free, God is the solution, and you are given the opportunity of taking your part in it.

Your young and virile mind is your priceless asset. It is, as yet, uncontaminated by the fixed beliefs, prejudices and disillusionments of your elders. Take it now, while it is as a clear glass, and let the Light of God shine through you to illumine all your true objectives.

Take it now, and you will be the salt of the earth, the Light of the world, and all people will see the works of the Lord shining through you.

It is a goodly heritage. Protect, preserve and prosper it in the Law of God, the infinite Good. For all things are possible to him who loves the Lord, and believes on Him.

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We can probably more quickly become aware of God's Presence through a child than in any other way.

At least, that is my experience. On very many occasions I have had the high privilege of praying for children—privately, in special children's services and in public services.

On each occasion, without exception, I have become lifted up into an intensive awareness of the peace and power beyond human imagining or definition. The moment I take a child into my arms to pray, it is as though all the heavens were opened. At such times it is easy to believe in angels thronging round and praying with us.

And, so often wonderful healings take place at such times.

I am so sure now why Jesus said, "Suffer little children to come unto Me." I know He, too, was revealing the Spirit of God in this sanctified experience. He used both the symbol and the fact to show us that we can all come into the Presence when we let fall the hard crusts of

unbelief, fears, tensions, selfishness and bitterness, which we so often accumulate as we grow from childhood into adult life.

I am convinced that He desires us to become humble, simple, pure and loving, so that we can enter the Presence with the unsullied trust of a child.

I believe that my own experience with children might well teach us how a child can be God's own chosen channel to bring us back to Him when we are in trouble, or to remind us, when all is well, that all goodness lies in God.

As a matter for personal experiment and experience, perhaps you would do this yourself. At the very next opportunity, take a child in your arms, and lovingly pray for it, believing quite simply that you are both instantly filled with all the Love, the Perfection, of God.

If you are sick or troubled, think of the child already being poised in the Kingdom and that, as you pray, all your needs are met, and that the child too is glowing with the Glory released.

Most parents and Sunday school teachers must also have felt something of this truth. With all that has been said herein in mind, why not really take the little ones to the Father, with your own love and faith shining as you do so?

Tell them the absolute truth that you and they are actually going into the silent invisible Presence of Jesus. Tell them about the Great Silence, and let them abide in it. Be just like Christ yourself, and take them into your heart in love, confidence and faith.

Teach them to pray for one another, with high expectancy of healing and blessing. Teach them to pray realistically for their loved ones, friends, and for everyone everywhere.

And perhaps teachers in day schools will also see the

infinite possibilities in this kind of prayer. Some day it will be unthinkable to begin any lesson without a few minutes of quietness, waiting upon the Lord, so that Divine wisdom, knowledge and guidance may quicken each mind.

In every possible way—in church, school and home—children should be taught and encouraged to pray. And, even as you teach them, *they* will lead *you* to God.

Children, wherever they are, become our greatest responsibility. There are endless opportunities open to men and women of vision and goodwill to work in this field. And it is amazing what anyone can accomplish if they become fired with spiritual purpose.

With children especially, all things become possible, for God is ever ready to use anyone who offers service in love, prayer and deed to help them.

In Europe alone there are something like ten thousand displaced children. Think of it! Ten thousand children living in refugee or displaced persons' camps, set up to hold vast numbers of people like you and me cast out into a cold world by warring nations.

There was never such a barbarous example of man's inhumanity to man as this scandal of displacement. Although some charity is offered to keep them alive, whatever is the matter with a civilisation which will not absorb them into its social environment? What diabolical force prevents every country from throwing open its resources to adopt these people and integrate them in homes and work?

There they are, all these years after the "cessation" of hostilities, hopelessly rotting their lives away, with no prospects for themselves or their children.

And that is only a small part of the problem. When we look to the Middle East the tragedy is intensified. The million homeless, hopeless Arabs, mainly from the Holy

Land are like the accusing finger of Christ Himself pointed to every man and woman of Christendom.

"Suffer little children to come unto Me." Yes, so long as it does not upset our national pride, racial superiority, or disturb our political policies. This is not a question for interminable debates in the United Nations, for pettifogging policy-makers, or for a few crusts to be thrown into these camps.

It requires a quickened compassion to spur the peoples of the world to demand and offer an immediate solution. It cannot be evaluated in terms of cost or sacrifice. A country like the United Kingdom or the United States could absorb, or redeem, them all, if the will to do so was born in them. And could certainly lead the United Nations into a comprehensively effective policy and solution to the problem.

Hundreds of thousands of children and their parents need rescuing from something that is really worse than slavery. And countless others, in the Middle East and elsewhere, are crying in the wilderness, waiting for national and international vision and compassion to set right some of the intolerable sin released in war.

It does not matter what nationality they lost, what their colour or creed—they are God's people in desperate need. They might just as easily have been our people—your family or mine, and our children.

Valiant efforts have been made by many private individuals and organisations to help. Many of these children have been rescued by men and women who adopted them and gave them new life here in England. Some set up homes to care for as many as they could accommodate. And volunteers have gone to work in these camps.

But the whole situation could be redeemed and transformed in three months, comprehensively, if we really made up our minds that it **MUST** be so, irrespective of cost

or sacrifice. It is the responsibility of all the people, their churches and governments, to see that it is done.

In the British Isles especially, we have achieved a wonderful conviction and policy for the care of children. Through government, church, voluntary organisations and private individuals, we offer an example second to none in the world. We have a special flair, or a deep sense of love and justice, which insists that no child shall be in want.

The time has come for us to Crusade in the outer world to implant the same conviction and action, and to take the lead by example. We have talked about this problem for fifteen years. Let us now solve it with enlightened, determined and dynamic action.

Thank God, always, for those loving individuals who constantly lay down their lives in the service of little children. All over the country their works are like sunshine lighting up the whole land. Organisations, orphanages, private homes, and a mass of welfare work, testify to our love of children.

The family who adopts a "lost" child and accepts the responsibility, and joy, of bringing it up as one of their own. The "little" people who become inspired with a yearning to care for a few children with a home they provide for the purpose.

I am reminded, for example, right now of two nurses in the Isle of Wight. They have a house they have called "God's Mead" at Seaview, Isle of Wight, of which one of them, Miss Hilda M. Flucke, is Matron. There they look after about fifteen little children. The love and dedication these lovely ladies bestow upon them is right out of this world. Whenever I am in the Isle of Wight I call on them, and the joy of taking these little ones in my arms in prayer is one of the experiences in life I would not have missed for anything the world could offer.

They have a little chapel, and the entire establishment

is founded on love and prayer. God's Mead, indeed, with angels in charge of it.

The "little" people who are great in the Kingdom of God, because they lay down their lives without thought of material sacrifice or reward, to serve the children who need their love and care.

People like Edna Graver of St. Christopher's, Old Cleeve, Watchet, Somerset, whose life and love is devoted to a group of spastic children, and whose prayer work has done so much for them all.

People like Mrs Palmer of Hamilton Lodge, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex, a home and school for defective boys. Their spiritual vision has enfolded the entire project in the prayers of hosts of people under the name "Operation Love".

There is really no end to such stories of heroic dedication and service. They are the true signs of spiritual awareness, and an example to follow by all who dare to cut adrift from apathy and compromise to do something about the spiritual education and care of children wherever the opportunity arises, or can be made to open if they seek it.

"Suffer little children to come unto Me" is a command and a teaching which is vital to all future generations. For the world may well live, or die, according to the speed with which we go to work to ensure that all children are taught to practise the spiritual and scientific art of living in God.

Christ is always asking:

"What will you do about it"?

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And they brought young children to Him, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God.

Verily I say unto you, Whomsoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:13, 16.

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These things shall be: a loftier race
Than e'er the world hath known shall rise
With flame of freedom in their souls,
And light of knowledge in their eyes.

Nation with nation, land with land,
Unarmed shall live as comrades free;
In every heart and brain shall throb
The pulse of one fraternity.

Man shall love man with heart as pure
And fervent as the young-eyed throng,
Who chant their heavenly psalms before
God's face with undiscordant song.

New arts shall bloom of loftier mould,
And mightier music thrill the skies,
And every life shall be a song
When all the earth is paradise.

There shall be no more sin nor shame,
Though pain and passion may not die;
For man shall be at one with God
In bonds of firm necessity.

J. A. Symonds.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

DIVINE HEALING AND THE DOCTOR

It is written, that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

Luke 4:4.

. . . What reason ye in your hearts? Whether it is easier to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?

Luke 5:22, 23.

ALL healing, without any possible exception, comes from God. Man can share in the process, but the very root of healing is the Divine Power which is constantly at work repairing the body and maintaining life in soul and mind.

It is easy to accept this definition, because it is a fact which can be measured and observed. The very basis of all medical research and practice is co-operation with the natural healing impulse which is a comprehensive principle in all life.

The doctor sets the broken limb, but inner forces work with infallible precision to produce new bone material and knit the fracture. The surgeon cuts away diseased tissue, but "nature" creates new cells, each of their right kind, in the right order, to heal the wound. Even a cut finger provides a demonstration of amazing intelligence at work in natural healing.

There is a constant power which ever seeks to repair and maintain the mind, soul and body. As can be readily observed, the whole system demonstrates infinite intelligence and direction in the manifold operations required to keep it in being.

The mind itself proclaims a "miracle" far beyond human understanding, and the fact that it exists takes us straight to the Creator, without any need to become involved in religious or philosophical argument or speculation.

The body, which is obviously the vehicle of the mind, equally demonstrates not only the initiating impulse of creation, but the continuing presence and activity of that Power. As perhaps in no better way, we can actually intimately witness God working in the intricate cellular structures of a human body. And any doctor will agree that it is awe-inspiring in the precision and magnitude of its manifestation.

But the things we observe as a constant factor in the world tend to become commonplace, and the mind loses its vision of the true significance of what it beholds. Because we see people everywhere around us, we seldom pause to realise that we are witnessing in each one a concentration of Cosmic Power. The truth that could lead us into the very centre of creative Power is lost, because our feeble minds relegate Divine Activity into a very much reduced order of "nature".

We may indeed pause to consider the beauty of a sunset, or the grandeur of springtime over the valleys and hills, and marvel, "Isn't nature wonderful?" We are accustomed to the daily view of trees and people, birds and bees, seedtime and harvest, scientific discoveries and human ingenuity. But vast numbers of people live in the midst of God and His handiwork, and still say, "I wish I could have faith in God!"

We emphasise this because, generally speaking, the psychologist and doctor, brilliant in their understanding and techniques, do not usually lift their vision to embrace the full significance of the Divine Nature which is the all-powerful cause and effect in the people they seek to help.

All life, and all healing, is God in manifestation. If we

can recognise and accept that truth, then infinite possibilities become open to our exploration and practice. It leads us immediately out of the restrictions and definitions which limit the degree to which we can co-operate with God, and with each other, in securing the highest well-being of those given into our care.

In every approach to healing the sick, it is an observable fact that man can help man in stimulating the "natural" healing process. Whenever anyone honestly seeks to help anyone else, and introduces methods or means designed to do so, healings have followed their efforts.

The minister in prayer can often witness results which transcend all human knowledge and ability. The "psychic" healer also has a vast array of wonderful healings which spur him to greater dedication and practice. The psychologist, uncovering and releasing hidden tensions, discords and causes of physical disease, reports hundreds of examples of healed and changed lives. Osteopaths prove their methods by results. Physiotherapists know the value of their work. And doctors, often specialising in specific diseases, have introduced knowledge and techniques, with results which startle the imagination.

Wherever, and however, we introduce a plan, purpose and aspiration to help others to become whole we have the evidence that the innate Healing Power co-operates with us, and is often stimulated into quickened expression.

Therefore, let it be understood, here and now, that anyone—be he minister, psychologist or doctor—who decrees that he has the one supreme method of healing, is simply refusing to observe the facts as revealed throughout the entire history of healing work.

Although this book concentrates mainly on Divine Healing and human personality, we are completely committed to admiration and praise for the wonderful work

and research of the entire medical profession. The world would indeed, at its present level of evolution, be in a sad plight without the dedicated services of all doctors, psychiatrists, nurses, general and mental hospitals, and everyone else involved in this work of healing the sick.

They have not only introduced astonishing new techniques which have saved countless lives, but their work in its widest application, from hygiene to healing, has ensured a safer and higher birthrate, and a considerably extended span of life.

With all this in mind, it would seem that we are rapidly approaching the time when we can extend our vision to embrace the next big step forward. In view of the research and discoveries in the realm of spiritual principles, psychology and materia medica, it becomes obvious that our real need now is to co-ordinate all these aspects of healing work, and re-focus them in co-operation one with the other.

Hitherto, each faculty has tended to work in its own more or less isolated field. The spiritual principle has been the prerogative of the minister, the "Divine Healer" is fixed in his own orbit, the psychologist keeps to the profundities of the mind, and the doctor probes and manipulates the physical structures of the body.

But with our present knowledge of the total man, we must acknowledge that he functions as a trinity of spirit, mind and body. Inevitably, each of these fundamental factors of being interpenetrate and affect, for good or ill, each of the others.

We can never reach the complete fulfilment of our world-wide aspiration to prevent and cure disease until our entire approach becomes concentrated on the integration of all the spiritual, mental and physical attributes of man.

It is as foolish and futile for the doctor to ignore possible

spiritual and mental causes of physical disease, as it is for the minister to close his mind to the techniques of the doctor. The psychologist, close to the truth of mental-emotional causes, isolates himself from the profound powers of prayer and spiritual sublimation, when he ignores the Divine Mind in which the human mind subsists and has its being.

The minister and psychologist alike begin to understand how discords in the mind produce most of the outcropping effects in physical disease. The doctor, intent on dealing with effects in the body, can well miss the permanent healing he seeks, unless he has the vision to do something about healing the cause.

It is, and must ever be, a truth that unless the CAUSE is removed, we can only patch and alleviate. As long as any spiritual-mental-emotional cause lies festering in the mind, even when betterment is physically achieved by rest, nursing, drugs or operation, it will only outcrop again in some form or other later on.

The minister, when illumined with clear vision about all these aspects of personality, can guide the individual into the spiritual paths of love and faith which will forever be the greatest insurance of general well-being. He can offer inestimable assistance to both psychologist and doctor, if they too can understand the significance of the spiritual centre of man.

The psychologist, already well on his journey of discovery in the deeps of the mind, is beginning to understand the implication of many of his observations. He knows that the mind can and does project its influences, for good or ill, into the physical system, according to the quality of the sub-conscious and conscious mind.

He too, inevitably, comes face to face with the infinite capacities and potentials of the Divine Mind which is the governing cause and motivating power expressing in

spirit, mind and body. Sooner or later, he will find himself completely committed to this spiritual principle.

In his research through analysis and hypnosis, he already observes the dramatic effect of mind-power released for good, under his illumined direction, into the body.

Increasing research in hypnosis, for example, reveals something of the incredible latent power in every mind. And in this approach, not only can he unveil and release so many hidden causes of tribulation, but he can often direct this power into amazingly effective healing action in the body.

But, even in this, psychologists have not yet generally understood the true significance of their research and discovery. Because most of them are unaware of the spiritual truth that man lives in the MIND of God, their research and practice is more or less still concentrated upon the possibilities inherent in the mind of MAN.

Since everything in life is conditioned by what we can believe, the psychologist extends his faith only to accept the application of human mental faculties resident in the conscious and sub-conscious mind. He has not yet seen that his concepts must leap into the unknown to embrace the Divine Mind at whose threshold he now stands.

In his techniques of hypnosis, he has found his way into the "un-conscious" stratas of human personality. There he finds power which is startling in its manifestation and potential. He is touching and releasing forces which can be observed, even with our still limited understanding, to produce effects in the conscious mind and body far beyond anything possible in ordinary conscious states.

His real mission now is to extend his vision to realise that just beyond, or within, the sub-conscious state to which he has entry already, lies the infinite power and capacity of Divine Intelligence.

This is the realm of God-head in man, waiting only to

be recognised and accepted as the All-Power to accomplish anything and everything which our faith can believe and accept.

The psychologist can proceed to open an infinite new field of research in this direction, just as quickly as his mind can leap to embrace a Divine Dimension and begin thinking in terms of ALL-POWER for human good—spiritually, mentally and physically.

Since the mind can only experience what it can accept, it is obvious that any psychologist seeking to advance in this direction will only do so according to his faith. It is no use expecting results, unless he can completely accept the spiritual principles involved in such high adventure. Even the scientist, in any field of research, must conform to the laws which govern his approach.

It is significant of the “new look” which is coming to medical science, that doctors and psychologists are increasingly co-operating in their work. It is also a sign of the times that the British Medical Association has accepted the use of hypnosis in medical practice wherever it is deemed to be useful or necessary. The more illumined psychologists and doctors believe that hypnosis will be a fundamental part of every doctor’s training within the next ten years.

Under enlightened medical direction, this will give the entire medical profession a “break away” impetus right into the realm of spiritual-mental powers and causes of disease, and will have a profound effect upon the entire medical scene.

Even so, this is only a beginning. We are moving, in all the sciences, from matter to mind. The real step forward will come when we move not only from matter to mind, but from the mind of man into the MIND of God. Then we can co-relate all the spiritual, mental and physical aspects of being, and harmonise them in one WHOLE personality.

We must reach an understanding that life is spirit, mind and body, expressing as one unit in that order of importance.

In God we have the central flame of life, endowed with ALL-POWER. It projects the concentration of life we recognise as man. This spirit operates through the mind, and we observe this as the sub-conscious and conscious power which represents an awareness of being, and everything we experience. The combined functions of Divine Mind and human consciousness project its vehicle, the body, and directive control of the system is vested in these causative powers.

That is why we shall never solve the terrible problem of disease until we embrace all three phases of human expression, and understand the significance of the spiritual-mental powers which are the invisible forces that create the body, and that distort it by disease, when they are out of equilibrium.

So the doctor, like the psychologist, must some day concentrate on the powers beyond the flesh in his aspiration to heal comprehensively. And both will certainly need to consider with great care all that the minister can contribute through his spiritual knowledge and experience.

This certainly does not mean that the doctor and psychologist have to become ministers of religion, nor that the minister must turn psychologist or doctor. There is such infinite scope in each of these aspects of the healing ministry, that we can only see the vision of equivalent infinite advancement, when each recognises the value of the other.

What is so vital is that they should all recognise the true position, and give their professional backing to this understanding, so that the public can embrace spiritual-mental-physical principles as a science of life to be observed and practised.

The most exciting adventures ever known to medical science beckon both doctors and psychologists on into this hitherto largely unexplored realm. Like every other pioneering work, men of faith, courage, vision and imagination are the ones who will go out along these lonely paths to point the way. But surely such men—and women—are already with us, and soon we shall see them unfolding before our dazzled sight the vista of a new horizon towards which all mankind will happily walk.

Doctors like Rebecca Beard of America and Dr. Christopher Woodward of England, go ahead and prove this dynamic spiritual principle in factual results. In these days we have gone beyond speculation. The barriers are down, and the case histories of spiritual and mental healings have been widely published by many people, as confirmation of all that has been said herein. It is time we took the blinkers from our eyes to see the whole scene with clear vision.

Most doctors and psychologists know of Dr. Alexis Carrel, Member of the Rockefeller Institute, Nobel Prize, 1912, winner of the Nordhoff-Jung Medal for cancer research, and author of the famous book* "Man, the Unknown".

This world-famous scientist says just what Jesus and His followers have been teaching for centuries. He endorses the experience alike of psychologists and of all who work in Ministries of Prayer. He points to these mental causes of disease and the need to release them spiritually. He says:

Thought can generate *organic* lesions. The instability of modern life, the ceaseless agitation, create states of consciousness which bring about *nervous* and *organic*

*From "Man, the Unknown". Published by Hamish Hamilton Ltd., London; Harper Bros., New York.

disorders of the stomach and of the intestines, defective nutrition and the passage of intestinal microbes into the circulatory apparatus. Various kidney and bladder infections are the remote results of mental and moral unbalance. Such diseases are almost unknown in social groups where life is simpler, where anxiety is less constant. Likewise those who keep the peace of their inner self in the midst of tumult are immune from nervous and organic disorders.

Even on the authority of this statement, in every state of mental or physical ill-health, the urgent need of ministers, psychologists and doctors is FIRST to seek the psycho-mental causes; and to adhere to the fundamental principle that unless we heal the cause, we heal nothing.

On July 15th, 1953, Professor Sir Sydney Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, at a doctors' graduation ceremony, clearly pointed the way into the future.

He said that much of the future in *preventive* medicine lay in obtaining clearer knowledge of the relationship between the mind and the body, and how their functions were controlled and harmonised.

He urged doctors to do more to understand the nature of cures by prayer and faith, which would give them an insight into this "uncharted territory of medicine", with its entirely new vistas in the maintenance of health through early diagnosis and adjustment of disturbances which probably occurred long before the disease made itself manifest. He said:

The importance of balanced action in all the processes of the body, mind and spirit, has been noted by scientists and philosophers over the past 5000 years, but it now rests with us—it rests with you doctors—to bring

it into the field of medical teaching and practice. This question has already intruded violently into the field of medical treatment, and we must encourage and stimulate research on these relationships. . . .”

He said that there were few doctors who could not recall instances in clinical experience where prayer or faith had brought about a dramatic change in some seemingly hopeless case. . . . “We should do much more to try to understand the nature of such phenomena.”

Here is light indeed, coming from so famous a source as the Faculty of Medicine in Edinburgh.

In his little book *Prayer* (Hodder and Stoughton, London), Dr. Alexis Carrel tells us:

Prayer has sometimes, so to speak, an explosive effect. Patients have been cured almost immediately of affections such as lupus of the face, cancer, kidney troubles, ulcers, tuberculosis of the lungs, of the bones or peritoneum. The phenomenon is produced in nearly always the same way. Great pain, then the feeling of being cured. In a few seconds, at most a few hours, the symptoms disappear and the anatomic lesions mend. The miracle is characterised by extreme acceleration of the normal processes of healing. Never has such an acceleration been observed up till now in the course of their experience by surgeons and physiologists. . . . Such are the results of prayer of which I have a sure knowledge . . . this mass of phenomena introduces us into a new world, the exploration of which has not begun and which will be fertile in surprises. What we already know for certain is that prayer produces tangible effects. However strange this may appear, we must consider as true, that whoever asks receives, and that the door is opened to him who knocks.

When a man of Dr. Carrel's stature and experience as a surgeon and physiologist, amplified by his laboratory research on the regeneration of tissues and the healing of wounds, makes such statements, the wise amongst us will concentrate on their significance.

It is not the purpose of this book to criticise or judge anyone, anywhere. We know so well the amazing work that is being done in the churches and throughout every aspect of medical science. We only seek, humbly but with vision and conviction, to emphasise basic principles and their potentials. We point the way to co-ordinated research and practice, and see the need for all concerned to come into an intimate partnership with the unconditional objective of helping those in need—spiritually, mentally and physically.

The reorientation of our minds to envisage the possibilities is but a challenge to our integrity and purpose. Every advance requires the abandoning of fixed positions before we can stand on a new pinnacle. Indeed, the greatest obstacles to progress are always the patterns and standards we tend rigidly to fix in the mind through past experience.

All pioneering work is fraught with difficulties, but in the end it is the pioneer who opens up the new territories for everyone else.

One of the greatest problems is the general lack of knowledge by the people of these truths. When we consider spiritual and mental healing, it becomes evident that intensive education by church and all medical authorities is urgently needed, before the people can co-operate effectively to achieve its fulfilment. They are not, for example, accustomed to the idea of going into hospital to find that prayer and positive thinking were a basic part of all treatment!

Yet in that direction lies the answer to the entire

human problem. It will become progressively effective as more and more people are taught the scientific reality of the truth.

There must be a beginning, and much has already been done. We are now ready, with the evidence at our combined disposal, to move forward with authority into the teaching, research and practice of principles which cannot fail to lead us into a new and wonderful dimension of experience.

It leads us inevitably, into the greatest aim of society—the PREVENTION of disease. And when we are all seriously embarked on this high project, stimulated by the illimitable rewards which it offers for the nation and the world, we shall see something of the true destiny of mankind.

The need today is to deal with the problem of disease by co-ordinating all our present knowledge, and using it with the vision of the whole man in true perspective. No longer the body of solid flesh, but the invisible Reality, the life-force itself in the mind and indwelling every living cell.

And to teach in Church, School and Clinic the paramount Principles which prevent disease, disaster and breakdowns.

Then we shall see the Ministry of the Church, the Ministry of the Psychologist and the Ministry of the Doctor, all equal servants of God, working with Him for the abundant life of His people.

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As a doctor, psychologist or nurse, you may, or may not feel able or willing to introduce the idea of prayer to your patients. There is no doubt whatsoever that, in scientific and spiritual principle, much good would accrue if you could. You would be offering them the greatest of all gifts, and with your authority behind the statement of

truth, they would accept and implement it with perhaps more fervour than by any other way.

You can, at least, suggest the reading of spiritual literature which can open the way for them. And advise them to contact their minister to discuss their personal problems with him.

You may not, as yet, feel inspired to pray with your patients—but here again, there is nothing to be ashamed of or timid about. You are invoking the greatest Power in the universe to move into action. It is the science beyond all science, and not to be made subservient to all the nonsense and dissipated definitions of man as to the propriety or effectiveness of communion with our Maker.

But whatever your personal reaction, you can certainly introduce a silent prayer sequence into all your activities. You may well do this already, for it is known that many doctors and surgeons pray for help and guidance prior to visiting or operating.

You can also note the effectiveness of prayer in the stillness for all your patients. If you refer back to the chapter on “Distant Healing”, you will see the real possibilities inherent in spending quiet times with the Father, in which you are believing each patient to be filled with God, with Good.

And, as you talk to your people, why not believe that all the Love of God is with you, and shining through you to Bless and heal the sufferer?

The practice of the Presence of God is the rightful prerogative and true responsibility of every doctor. You are, in the highest sense of the word, His Ambassador to all those who come into your orbit. In this your ministry becomes great, for it is true to the Divine Order of creation.

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When Jesus saw the vast crowds he went up the hillside and after he had sat down his disciples came to him.

Then he began his teaching by saying to them,

"How happy are the humble-minded, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs!

"How happy are those who know what sorrow means, for they will be given courage and comfort!

"Happy are those who claim nothing, for the whole earth will belong to them!

"Happy are those who are hungry and thirsty for goodness, for they will be fully satisfied!

"Happy are the merciful, for they will have mercy shown to them!

"Happy are the utterly sincere, for they will see God.

"Happy are those which make peace, for they will be known as the sons of God!

"Happy are those who have suffered persecution for the cause of goodness, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs!

"And what happiness will be yours when people blame you and ill-treat you and say all kinds of slanderous things against you for my sake! Be glad then, yes, be tremendously glad—for your reward in Heaven is magnificent. They persecuted the prophets before your time in exactly the same way.

"You are the earth's salt. But if the salt should become tasteless, what can make it salt again? It is completely useless and can only be thrown out of doors and stamped underfoot.

"You are the world's light—it is impossible to hide a town built on the top of a hill. Men do not light a lamp and put it under a bucket. They put it on a lampstand and it gives light for everybody in the house.

"Let your light shine like that in the sight of men. Let them see the good things you do and praise your Father in Heaven."

The Gospels, Matt. 5* (Phillips translation).

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Large crowds followed Him when He came down from the mountain side. There was a leper who came and knelt in front of him. "Sir," he said, "if you want to, you can make me clean." Jesus stretched out His hand and placed it on the leper saying, "Of course I want to. Be clean!" And at once he was clear of the leprosy.

Matt. 8:1, 3 (Phillips translation).

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a sensible man who builds his house on the rock. Down came the rain and up came the floods, while the winds blew and roared upon that house—and it did not fall because its foundations were on the rock.

"And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not follow them can be compared with a foolish man who built his house on the sand. Down came the rain and up came the floods, while the winds blew and battered that house till it collapsed, and fell with a great crash."

Matt. 7:24, 27* (Phillips translation).

** From the book "New Testament in Modern English", by J. B. Phillips. Published by Geoffrey Bles Ltd., London.*

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

THE GOLDEN YEARS

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Gen. 8:22.

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

Jesus: John 4: 35, 36.

AS I write these words it is winter-time in England. A week ago, a deep carpet of snow was laid over the hills, valleys and towns throughout the land. Now it has gone. Mother earth still looks bedraggled, sleepy and undressed, but there is a sense of awakening, like a lovely lady stirring in the early dawn.

In the cold half-light of the mornings, for several days now, the birds have been rehearsing their spring symphonies, and fluttering with joy in anticipation of the happy days soon to come.

Even as the harvests of last year were gathered in, the sleep of winter is but the assurance of a new seedtime, summer and harvest this year.

And so the eternal cycles of God bring forth the fruits of the earth and the evolution of man.

We come into this life as a seed which contains within it all the loving purposes of God. His Spirit awakens the

seed, and soon the springtime of a new life reflects the creative joy of the Lord.

Like all nature, we know the thrills of youth, the summertime of intense creation, and the autumn when the harvest of our lives can be seen and reaped. And then, as winter creeps upon us, we prepare for the Divine Sleep, soon to awaken again to a new spring.

There is no real age, for the spirit can never grow old. We are eternal beings, living in the Spirit of God, with a destiny which must unfold in endless cycles of experience. The body, which is but the vehicle of our spirit and mind, will some day be laid aside, and we will take up a new body in which to express on the next plane of life.

The body is like a motor-car owned by a young man. When it is new he drives it without trouble. As it gets older, he often has to repair it and take more care; and eventually it is no longer very roadworthy. Then he is called to take up a new vocation in another country, so he leaves the old car behind, and is given a new one as soon as he arrives at his destination.

It is the ever vital man or woman who is the driver of the car, or body. The real person is the spirit, and the mind which contains all his memories and awareness. And this is the eternal life-power with which we are all endowed.

The saints and mystics down the ages have ever perceived this truth. Jesus Himself revealed the eternal nature of man, and promised the fullest expression of it in following the Divine Way of love and faith.

We know, as a proven scientific principle, that it is impossible to destroy or diminish the eternal energies of the universe. The total energy of creation, manifesting in infinite ways and forms, is ever the same undeviating whole of everything, everywhere.

The expenditure of energy or matter is only a superficial truth. We burn a ton of coal, and our senses tell us

that where the pile of coal was there is now only the bare floor. We have seen it burning away, and therefore it has been diminished or destroyed in the fire.

But in the deeper sense this is not true. The coal has merely changed its outward form of manifestation. Some of it is now ash, some has gone into the atmosphere as smoke and gas, and part of it was released as heat. But the total being, or energy, of every particle of coal ever used by man is exactly the same as it was when it was buried in the earth.

This is true of everything in the universe. It is one scientific principle known to man which allows of no deviation. In one form or another, however manifesting, everything is the eternal energy of God.

The greatest pattern of energy known to man, is man himself—at least, until he can comprehend the Mind of God which projects him. With the scientist, as we contemplate the mind and body of a man, we must conclude that his total being is the essential energy which can never be destroyed or diminished. We know that the body some day will disintegrate and change its form, when the spirit and mind leave it. Some of the total energy of man will, therefore, so far as the body is concerned, be dispersed in the earth.

But we have an intensive awareness of another, and fundamental, pattern of energy in the life-force itself moulded, as it is, by the deeply impressed consciousness of being. It is not the body which gathers the life-force unto itself, but the MIND which is the real centre of power.

For example, we only superficially know another person by his or her body. Looking deeper, we really observe the other person by his or her personality, character and consciousness.

So in a human being we can recognise the eternal energy as the life-force, and understand that we have used

our minds to possess and mould it into an intricate system of memory and mental power which is the real "I am".

When we put aside the physical body, this personal awareness—so intensely "stamped" on the eternal life-force—must continue to express itself somewhere. It is no longer in the body, and is an infinitely greater power than the body, so it must inevitably continue to find its personal expression in the eternal life-force itself.

This central power of spirit-mind is usually as invisible to our ordinary senses as radio waves, but because it is invisible, this in no way minimises its potency, as we can so well observe in the works of man, which always reflect the unseen mental processes. In fact, the mind is the greatest power we know.

In the scientific discoveries of modern times we see how everything manifests within specific harmonies and scales of vibration. Our senses on earth are attuned to the range of vibration of the environment in which we function.

For example, take a twelve-inch ruler as a rough scale of the total range of cosmic vibration and expression. Let us suppose that the fifth inch represents all that we can perceive of the world by sight, touch, hearing, scent and taste—the five senses. That leaves us with another eleven inches of all kinds of vibrations beyond our present awareness.

Scientists have become aware of many radiations which exist on the octaves above and below our sensory perception in the one-inch graduation.

Suppose we suddenly lost all our senses which operate in this fifth inch of the cosmic scale, and were endowed with senses adapted to become aware of the vibrations on say the seventh inch of the scale. Surely then all of this range of vibration and environment would become real to us.

The heaven to which we go when the earth is left

behind is another higher range of vibration. We are equipped with a mind and another body which is attuned to it, and that environment will be as real and more beautiful than this one. "In the Father's House are many mansions".

We can at least begin scientifically to conceive how this can be true. We see so much evidence nowadays of the real nature of the universe, and have discovered so many inner truths about the mind and its innate ability to commune with God, that continual personal existence becomes more than a theory.

Religion has always pointed in that direction. The human instinct endorses it. Science begins to see infinite possibilities in an infinite universe, in which Spirit and Mind are the fundamental motivating powers. And, in addition, we have the accumulating evidence of psychic research and extra-sensory perception.

Throughout the ages, man has seen visions of beings in spirit. It is as futile to ignore the faculty of clairvoyance, as it is to deny the gift of ordinary vision. While everyone has apparently not become aware of such faculties, there is such a similarity in the clairvoyant visions of countless people down the centuries and in modern times, that we must agree they exist.

Psychic research has certainly revealed the truth of psychic facts and experience. And they point always to a dimension of consciousness beyond our normal vision or understanding, in which people like ourselves live.

In a more intimate way, how many people, as they prepare to leave the body, see their loved ones in spirit waiting to welcome them? It happens so often, and always with the same recognition of relatives or friends who have passed on, that we should certainly profit by seeking the significance of it all.

Hitherto, the scientist has insisted that he must work

in the material realm of things and forces he can measure, see or touch. But he has been increasingly led into the intangible aspects of creation, and is right now faced with the exploration of MIND before he can really move on into the great age now dawning.

It is impossible to "measure" love, faith or personality—but all the attributes of the mind are real. Since all the ultimate knowledge of universal creation lies in the deeps of the Spiritual-Mental motivating forces, he will some day need to take this leap from matter to mind to acquire it. For man himself is eternal, and his true potential becomes revealed when he knows it.

We stress, in broad outline, this eternal nature of humanity, because it has a tremendous bearing upon the well-being and unfolding of our lives on earth.

With this knowledge comes a greater vision of the meaning of life, and its infinite objectives. We become free from bondage to old age, and so many attendant worries and fears. We no longer think of age and subsequent death as the end of everything, but as the beginning of a new and vigorous experience.

With grace, as joyfully as the seasons, we can pass through the summer to autumn and yield great harvests. We can move on to the winter with our barns full of corn to share with everyone around us, and when we go into the new kingdom, much of the harvest will be left to Bless the lives of those we temporarily leave behind.

The latter days on earth can truly be the Golden Years. With a lifetime of memories, experience, knowledge and wisdom, what a benediction can be given to the younger ones in our orbit! A man or woman can fulfil himself spiritually and mentally at this time, with love, faith and prayer as the Light which illumines the soul.

Many people will remember, and revere, the beloved Henry Thomas Hamblin, whose teaching in the *Science of*

Thought Review was, and under his son still is, a light unto the world.

He lived in a constant awareness of God. He passed on at eighty-six years of age, but worked joyfully radiating the truth to others until it was time to go.

We all know people who have grown old gracefully and who, as the years passed, became sweeter, kinder and gentler, as though they were being prepared for heaven. On the other hand, we also know those whose lives are a burden to themselves and others, and it is pitiful indeed to see a human soul suffering with fear, worry, sickness and bitter old age, because their vision of God is clouded.

There is so much work to be done teaching the true gospels to people. The ideal will ever be that we come into harmony with Divine Laws while yet young, so that we can fulfil ourselves according to God's Purposes. Then we will not acknowledge age as finality, but as an ever-growing awareness of spiritual truth, leading onwards to richer experience.

It is wonderful how such a person can inspire and help the younger people. We know, for example, such a lady. We affectionately call her Mother Mary.

Eighty-three years old, she radiates the Christ Consciousness to everyone she meets. She probably did her greatest spiritual work in her seventies—at least at that age she was led to take an active part in our Sanctuary work, and she is still a shining Light both at home and in Intercession Services.

She does not, of course, pursue all the intensive activities of a woman of forty. Her work is in the serenity of the Spirit. She spends much time in meditation, realising the Perfection of God in people everywhere. She is an example and a power to all with whom she speaks. And when she prays at a meeting, the Peace of God enfolds everyone present.

She is surely the ideal personality of "old age". It is her spirit, abiding in God, which expresses the eternal vitality and power ever to be found in Christ. And her prayers are effective in healing, inspiring and blessing everyone with whom she comes into contact.

These are her Golden Years, and Thank You, Father, that they can be Golden Years for everyone, everywhere, when Thy Will is done.

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As you will have realised, the only purpose of this book is humbly and lovingly to share our experience with you, and to emphasise the reality and significance of all that Jesus taught about the Will of God for man.

Whatever we are seeking, the truth in all its glory is that we are only seeking God.

And we find Him when we also see that we live only to express God in love and service every day, for we were born to become Christ-like. That is our eternal mission, from birth to "old age", and thereafter in the infinite Kingdoms which have been prepared for us.

Perhaps you can, in His Grace, lay down your life in love more completely than ever before, to inspire, heal and bless everyone you meet day by day.

Perhaps you can find the weak and weary, the bruised and broken-hearted and, as Christ's Ambassador, rescue them from bondage.

Perhaps, in a re-kindled compassion, you can look behind the curtains to give strength and vision to old people. They are everywhere to be found, often lonely and lost, waiting for the hand of Christ to guide them through the mists and fears of age. Perhaps you can enter the doors of one of the many Homes for old people to present the offering of yourself. How desperately they need you!

In a thousand ways you can serve, and the Lord will

lead and give you His Love to make every mission a benediction.

Then, as you grow old yourself, you will find eternal youth. People will come to sit at your feet to bask in the Christ-Love shining through you. They will listen to the inspired authority of your counsel and teaching, and be thankful for your prayers. And their love will envelop you in heavenly robes, so that you can eventually go Home to bear these gifts to the Lord.

When the great day comes, you may well be welcomed by the Father, by angels and loved ones. And the Lord may kiss you and say:

“Well done, My beloved one, well done! For My people of earth are more loving, wiser, purer and richer because you lived with them. Thank you, My child.”

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And He said: So is the Kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground:

And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickles, because the harvest is come.

And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?

It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:

But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge in the shadow of it.

Jesus: Mark 4:26, 32.

