

Abundant Life

Key To Yourself

Book One in the Abundant Life Series

It's For You

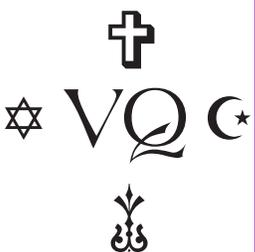
It's About You

Learn to Use It

You Already Have It

Look Inside Yourself!

Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD





Book One

of

The Abundant Life Series



Key to Yourself



Rev. Charles E. Darnell, PhD



Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated:

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Authorized or King James Version of the Bible. Those verses annotated (NIV)® are Copyright© 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Original Copyright © 2000 by Charles E. Darnell under the title of *Getting There*, all rights reserved.

Edited with the assistance of Teresa Spurling (my wife), PhD, NBCT and fully revised in 2015.

Title changed to *Key To Yourself* after edit.
Copyright © 2015 by Charles E. Darnell, all rights reserved.

Published by
VisionQuest Publishing, Inc.
Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718-7416



No portion of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means in whole or in part without written permission of the publisher. Reproduction for use in electronic media format is also prohibited. Due to copyright infringement and piracy of intellectual property all pages of digitally formatted work from VisionQuest Publishing will be electronically watermarked. Any page not having this watermark is not an original and should not be accepted as a valid copy of the original copyrighted material.

Throughout my works I have attempted to incorporate supporting scripture for the convenience of the reader. In doing such I may, or may not, follow the appropriate manuscript style as stated in the Fifth Edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) or any other accepted manuscript guide. While acknowledging the authority of the APA there is a clause used in the stated manual which needs to be inserted herein:

The Publication Manual presents explicit style requirements but acknowledges that alternatives are sometimes necessary; authors should balance the rules of the Publication Manual with good judgment. Preface: p. xx.



Preface



Each and every one of us stand upon some level of understanding concerning who we are, what we are and where we are going? The primary question should be: Do we understand who's in control over these things or how some of them may be changed? The most simplified answer can be given in the title to a hymn, *With God All Things Are Possible!*

There are two avenues that we can approach this subject. We can travel via the secular world and say the mind controls all things. That is true, however, is there any evidence from the Bible that would lead to the same conclusion? I believe there is, we can, therefore, say that the view from the Bible takes the other avenue and is the spiritual aspect of the same thing.

If you are confused I'll try to clarify on where all of this is leading. Mankind has always been searching for understanding of themselves. This searching has passed from generation to generation and continues to this very day: Who are we? What are we? Where are we going? Our common questions can be asked and most certainly answers found in the studies of psychology and philosophy, but I think there is another answer in the guidebook left by God. God really does love mankind to the extent that He did inspire men to record a set of rules as a standard to live by and provide insight and answers about ourselves. I just wanted to know more than the other guy, or perhaps God granted me the knowledge to understand all of this and showed me the keys to understanding myself. Now it is my turn to give these keys to others so they may find the answers for which they are searching.

In order to do this we must establish a baseline to have a common starting point for our search of the keys for which many are looking. We need to define two words before we go any further.

Soul

What is man's soul? We read about the soul in the Bible, and we see television programs and movies that depict what may happen to the soul when we die. What is the soul, where in the body is it located, and why is there a battle between good and evil for it? In all the years I've sat in denominational churches I've never been taught the answer to this simple question that is a cornerstone to what I believe and how that belief was shaped.



The difference between plant and animal life is that the plant has no conscious life, while the animal does. The difference between animal life and human life is that while animals have conscious life, man has more! Man is a living being, that is a being or soul in which dwells a spirit. While man differs from a beast in having a spirit, yet he is, as to his fleshly body, only an animal. That is, his body is formed on the same general plan and governed by the same principles. Its organs, and functions of respiration, digestion, and assimilation are the same as those of an animal. However, what is it of our existence that makes up the soul? Is it merely our fleshly body? In all of my reading, research and discovery of knowledge I have learned that there are those who call the soul the mind. According to them, at death everything pertaining to life ends. Supposedly, the white light that people see when they have a near death experience is the nerve neurons firing off as the body dies, nothing more, and nothing less. Is that all there is and nothing more? My belief is that there is far more than this in our existence and much more that we are not normally taught from those who should be teaching this subject. **The soul of mankind represents the conscious portion of our mind** where all of our memories are stored. It is made up of our intellect, our reasoning ability, and where the battle over the soul occurs. It is this

attribute of our mind that confirms why there is a battle between good and evil for the soul. Prior to our discussion there is a second word we must have a common basis of thought toward.

Heart, or Man's Spirit

Where is the heart that the Bible speaks of repeatedly? This cannot be the physical heart, even though the spiritual heart does impact upon the physical heart. Consider that the physical heart is the engine of our body, and without this engine working we are simply dead. This engine pumps the life giving force of blood throughout our body. In like manner as pertaining to the soul, the spiritual heart pumps our attitudes and emotions throughout our being. It is our spirit, but what is this heart? **The spiritual heart of mankind includes those functions of respiration, digestion, and assimilation that are the same as those of an animal. Yet, we are of a higher order, with a portion of our subconscious mind that connects directly to God.** It is this ability of mankind, connected directly to God, that holds the force to transfer thought into material substance.

The next page begins a journey of truth. Grasp the practical and find a oneness in your spirit, mind and body. God gave you the answer, learn how to live free!

Introduction

Since the dawn of human existence, and through all the succeeding ages, mankind has recognized the mighty invisible force that governs and controls the universe. Through the eons of time mankind has tried to understand how to use this power. In ancient China, in mysterious India, and beneath the shadow of the Sphinx of Egypt, the seers and prophets sought to lift the veil that shrouds the mysteries of life. Each race, each generation, has made its quest for answers. In every country on the globe we have found, and are still finding, the influence of each step of bygone civilizations. Yet, history is a glorious record of man's upward climb toward truth and freedom. Mankind fails to accept that history is to a society or civilization as genealogy is to an individual. Both record who and where you come from in generations past!

The early savage was awed by the phenomena of the sun, moon and stars, and the mystery of life and death. He found satisfaction by creating a primitive system of deities to whose supernatural powers he attributed those things beyond his own comprehension. As we trace him down through the ages, we find his ideals gradually changed to fit his improved mentality until today we stand on the pinnacle of those bygone centuries as the intellectual giants of all ages passed. Tomorrow will bring a new journey for the next generation to continue the search toward truth.

We have reached the sublime heights in literature and art, and science has revealed infinite resources and undreamed possibilities. Invention has lightened the burden of harsh manual labor and given us comforts, conveniences, and educational facilities beyond the mental grasp of our ancestors while the future possibilities of the computer stagger the imagination.

Today, more than ever before, we find a tendency to question the meaning of life. We find more and more people holding an agnostic belief that sounds like a Budweiser commercial: *You only go around once*. This concept makes mankind a finite entity with no further hope of life everlasting. The atheists claim there is no god, especially Almighty God, as creator of the universe. The majority of people are drifting upon the high seas of life. There is no chart marking their destination, there is no rudder setting their course. They are at the mercy of the winds of chance, the rocks of doubt, the shoals of ignorance, and if they make some progress before the curtain falls, it is because they have stumbled unconsciously upon the creative power that is the birthright of every individual. By the efforts of a few we have reached the present stage of civilization, and because men are wiser today, and these few cannot be satisfied with anything less than the truth. The time for individual development has come. We must discover for ourselves the why and wherefore of all that baffles us in the marvelous scheme of life. Each of us must find our own place, and realize for ourselves the true meaning of life. Individually we must find the **KEY** to our own destiny.

In order that we may avoid aimless drifting with its wasted energy and its painful collisions, we must know something of the mighty principles that govern us and the world in which we live. We must also understand something of the great principle of cause and effect under whose operation our lives can be filled with pain and poverty or joy and success. There is a paramount principle that governs every thought in the entire universe and there can be no such thing as luck or fate. Behind every bit of good fortune lies the causes that we ourselves have, at some time, or at some place, set in motion. Behind all ill fortune we will find the energy that we, ourselves, have generated. Every cause must have a certain definite effect, there is no dodging the results, and we reap what we sow with exact mathematical precision. **Yes, a man reaps what he sows!** Paul spoke this in Galatians 6:7-8-NIV, *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

As a seeker of truth, I've studied many religions and philosophies from those told in the flowery language of the Middle East to the crisp, clear, scientific findings of modern day psychology. In all of these we find the same laws, or the same immutable principles, that are ageless, changeless, eternal, moving in silent grandeur, principles that control our thought and from which there is no escape. It doesn't matter whether the principle be put into operation consciously or unconsciously, with or without the suggestion of religion. It is apparent that knowledge of these principles and how to bring them into operation for the benefit of others and ourselves is the most practical thing we could acquire. Let us understand something here and now. I said at the beginning of this that there were two avenues to arrive at the same point. To secular man, the principles can work and will work if placed into motion. However, the greatest achievements can only be made when the great Teacher is permitted to lead the way and we have elected to follow and work within the bounds of His principles.

It has been said that I surely do not understand the impact of Jesus upon mankind nor what He did for us and that I should remove the cause and effect message implied throughout this work. Actually, I prefer to state that it is due to Jesus that this work is presented. Here are some of Jesus' statements that you need to understand. Once again, understand that the following are not my words!

I come in the volumn of the book! We find this in both the Old and New Testaments. The New Testament reference is Hebrews 10:5-7-NIV, *Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased." Then I said, "Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God."* The reference *it is written about me in the scroll* comes from the Old Testament statement recorded in Psalms 40:7-8-KJV, *Then said I, "Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart."*

I have told you everything ahead of time! As recorded in Mark 13:23-NIV, *"So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time."*

Jesus' flock is a small flock! Jesus spoke these words as recorded in Luke 12:27-32-NIV, *"Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."*

Jesus is the only Way to the Father! John 14:6-NIV speaks volumns to the entire world, *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

Jesus' statement to Nicodemus concerning God's love for the world! The world famous statement of John 3:16-18-NIV, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."*

Religion, a pious higher-than-thou attitude, and Pharisaism, the dictate of implied principle and ceremony, have destroyed everything that Christ brought to mankind for understanding. It is time to return to the simple ideas of truth and if that means making a realistic presentation using terms such as, cause and effect, and the conscience and subconscious thoughts of mankind, then so-be-it. Read this entire work and think and pray about what is presented before you pass judgement upon this book or even this writer. It will not matter if you are taking Jesus' example from the Bible, or my presentation here, unless you put the concepts into practical day-to-day action. You could call this mental conditioning, or discipline, or faith. Without it nothing in your life will change and **the only one who can change you is you yourself!**

Once we understand the hidden power of the unseen world of spirit then we take on a new dimension of accomplishment, prosperity, friends and pleasure. There is a golden return to the study that is presented in this material, however, the results will vary with each individual, depending upon the time, effort and energy put forth to master the principles discussed.

Thought and Principle

We toyed with the concept that there is a principle that can unlock the power within us in our introduction. We discussed that there were two ways to view and understand this power and what it was. In this section the author will explore in greater depth the realm of thought and principle.

Do you believe that thinking is the true business of life? Consider that thinkers rule the world, they always have and they always will. All people think, but the tragedy of life is that so few of us think creatively or constructively, so few recognize the fact that thought is a God given creative force. Every achievement in business, literature, philosophy, or even science found its source and expression through the mental efforts of the world's thinkers. The outstanding figures of tomorrow are the creative and constructive thinkers of today.

We live in the same world and are as far apart as the difference in our thought processes: some fail, while others succeed; some are sick, others are healthy; some are miserable, others happy. One's tendency is to blame luck or fate or one of our fellow men, but the difference is within ourselves. We alone are the product of our prevailing habits of thought.

Each person is building their own world from within. Thought is the builder: subtle, vital, irresistible, omnipotent; and according to how we use our thought process we bring to ourselves joy or sorrow, peace or pain, success or failure. To many these words will sound like some far out *New Age* guru teaching that cannot be Biblically based. It may surprise you to see how much of this is actually different wording from Bible text. Go back and reread the preceding paragraph before we go further with the Biblical view. Isn't that the same principle Paul stated in Galatians 6:7, *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

Look at the idea of thought and some verses in the Bible: Psalms 49:11 *Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names.* Psalms 119:59-61, *I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments. The bands of the wicked have robbed me; but I have not forgotten thy law.* Proverbs 24:9, *The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men.* King David wrote these verses from Psalms and Proverbs.

Now, let's look at some of the verses the prophets recorded: Isaiah 14:24, *The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, "Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand."* Jeremiah 18:8, *"If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them."* Ezekiel 38:10, *Thus saith the Lord God; "It shall also*

come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought.” Daniel 4:2, *I thought it good to show the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.* Daniel 6:3, *Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.* Amos 4:13, *For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.* Finally, look at what Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 13:11, *When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*

The thoughts of God are shown, within Biblical context, how they became manifested into substance. The cause and effect of the principles in the Bible are clearly demonstrated as an example for us to use these same principles for our own benefit. Within our lives every person we meet, any event and condition that occurs, is relative only, because our own thought processes have built every experience that comes our way.

The world without is merely a reflection of what you have acknowledged as true in your world within, therefore if the state of your health, finances, etc. are not all you desire, you must look within yourself. Regardless of the condition or how it seemed to have come about, its cause found a place in your consciousness before it came into existence. That a man can change himself, recreate himself, improve himself, control his environment, and master his own destiny is not a theory, but a matter of positive knowledge. Look at what Paul wrote in Romans 8 NIV, *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.*

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Look closely at the following verses. In verse 5 two avenues are clearly shown, the sinful and the spiritual nature and verse 6b identifies that this is a result of discipline. Verse 7 illustrates the nature of rebellion and disobedience within mankind. We see the redemptive power of Christ in verse 10. Verses 19-23 imply a renewal of life, verse 24 shows our hope, verse 25 gives us an indication by faith for things unseen. Verses 26-28 explores the interaction of our spirit with God's Spirit and the planting of spiritual seeds to answer our needs. Look at verse 29, what does the first four words read? Doesn't it tell you, *For those God foreknew...*? Explain to me who God didn't foreknow. God foreknew each and every one of us because we were spirit just as He is Spirit. Verse 32 illustrates that God will give us all things and the cumulative reason is given in verse 39.

There is no such thing as luck or chance! On the contrary, our lives are governed by principle, by actual, immutable principles that never vary, that's why the Bible says that God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Law is in operation at all times, in all places: mighty, silent, fixed principles that underlie every human action, that bring to us, with exact precision, the full measure of our thoughts. Laws favor no individual, and are no respecter of persons! We find almost the same statement in Acts 10:34, *Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.”* Also, in Romans 2:11, *For there is no respect of persons with God.*? In a sense, there is nothing in the entire universe but principle. Every tree that grows, every flower that blooms, every snowflake that falls, testifies to the unceasing operation of this great law!

We all admit that there are natural laws in regards to the plant kingdom. We also accept the fact that the sun, moon, stars and tides of the sea are controlled by principle, but it has not occurred to the majority of mankind that man is just as subject to laws as the vast panorama of nature. It is principle that makes the universe so harmoniously exact. We could never be sure the sun would rise or the

seasons come in rotation if there was no law.

There is but one law giver, one principle maker, one cause, and one source of power. We cannot change the law, but through our thought processes, by understanding and cooperation, we may bring ourselves into harmony with the law as the principle works with, through, and for us! It is natural for man to be healthy and whole in mind and body, and for him to abound in all good. When one learns this truth and lives in accord with the principles of his being, health and prosperity spring forth naturally and abundantly.

The majority of people believe that peace and abundance, on one hand, and poverty and sickness, on the other, are somehow interwoven in divine providence. Those who know the truth understand that life, health and abundance are a natural law of the universe, and thought is the active principle by which we are related to the things we need and desire.

Thoughts are things. Thought causes vibrations and sets in motion the principle of mind. Since everything has its beginning in mind, and as thought, or in action, produces form, we realize thought is creative.

Our subconscious mind is our connection to God and immediately available to us for use. It guarantees that we have at our disposal the use of a principle that is not only immediate, being inside of us, and a connection with everything else in the universe.

It is the belief in separation from God, that keeps our good away from us. It is this belief that binds us into our sinful nature that the Bible speaks of and not any actual power. We are really bound by our false beliefs and shall never be permanently free until we experience a complete change of thought. We become completely free through a belief in Jesus as the Christ and through a rebirth of thought. When our ideas and desires change there ensues Biblical rebirth with the Spirit of God.

Consciousness, Concentration and Prayer

It is important for everyone reading this material to fully realize what consciousness means, for we may know something and it still not be a part of our consciousness. To illustrate: When you went to school and your teacher put the first example in long division on the board, she explained it as she worked out the problem. You saw that it could be done. No doubt entered your mind that long division was an accomplished fact, but you couldn't do it yourself until you had worked at it, studied it, concentrated on it for some time. Then suddenly, perhaps, it came to you — you understood, you could *do* long division. That branch of mathematics was then a part of your consciousness. Do you see the difference? It is possible for us to intellectually perceive something without it being a part of our consciousness.

So it is with these words, just seeing them will not improve your situation, nor will it answer your purpose at all. You must study them, concentrate on them, and take them with you when you are in prayer until they become a part of your consciousness. The next step after you have learned how to apply this is to do likewise on the information that has been left for mankind in God's Holy guidebook. If our lives are going to follow the guidelines set forth, we must study, concentrate and seek guidance for understanding until the principles are a part of our consciousness.

There seems to be an idea that concentration takes a lot of effort, but quite the reverse is true. It is easy to lose one's self in an interesting story, or TV program, until our surroundings are completely obliterated. That is concentration! We can train ourselves to meditate so that we immerse our minds in our subject to the exclusion of everything else. This power of attention is employed when we pray, taking time every day to turn our thoughts within and take stock of ourselves to learn the truth.

When we pray we should not expect any particular manifestation while we are in prayer. Prayer is a physical stillness when we shut out our surroundings and sound to rest ourselves in mind and body,

and learn to control and direct our thoughts into the spiritual realm. Look at Matthew 14:23, *After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.* Notice that even Jesus sought a time to be alone and to pray. It would be well to gain control of the body first. Reserve half an hour or so each day, retire to some quiet place where you will not be disturbed, seat yourself comfortably, relax every muscle and be still. Let your thoughts roam over pleasant memories, as you resolve to attain perfect control over your body. You might be amazed to learn that you can, in fact, control your heart rate, your blood pressure and the number of breaths you take in a given time period. It takes concentration and will not be mastered on the first attempt, however, it can be done. There are many verses from the Bible, and also from the Quran, that would indicate that this is exactly what prayer is. This is that time when your spirit aligns itself with the Spirit of God. Do not be anxious, but quietly understand that we have plenty of time for everything and are capable of doing what we set out to do. Practice makes perfect in all things. When you can do this you will find a new balance and a new power pervading your entire being. You will gain the first thrill of exultation that comes to those who master communication with the Heavenly Father.

The next step is to control your thoughts. It is hard to think steadily on one subject for any length of time, because our thoughts seem to want to jump from one thing to another. We can select one subject, or object, and think on it, bringing our thoughts back every time they play truant, until we finally learn to think of anything we wish for ten minutes or more. Some people find these exercises hard, to some they are easy, but everyone can accomplish what they set out to do by patient effort.

It is absolutely necessary to obtain self-control both mentally and physically, because efficiency is contingent upon harmony. There is no harmony where there exists a lack of self-control. Self-control enables you to be in a position to think constructively and harmoniously, then you may decree a thing and it will be established unto you. It is then you will understand with deeper reverence what the Master meant when He said in Matthew 6:6-NIV, *But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

Thought is reality! Conditions are but the outward manifestation of thought. As thought changes, all conditions must change in order to be in harmony with their creator. This is your thought and not God's thought. Remember God gave us free will choice dependent upon our own personal thoughts of what will occur.

This city with all its houses, palaces, steam engines, cathedrals and huge immeasurable traffic and tumult, what is it but thought, but millions of thoughts made into one — a huge immeasurable spirit of thought embodied in brick, in iron, in smoke, dust, palaces, parliaments, coaches, docks, and the rest of it! Not a brick was made but someone had to think of the making of that brick.
—Carlyle.

The Conscious Mind

Each individual is endowed with two phases of mind, conscious and subconscious. We do not ask God to design us in this manner, nor can we request a state of conscious or subconscious mind from any particular religion in order to receive our mind. The states of our conscious and subconscious mind is determined when we are created and that is that.

The conscious portion of our mind enables us to perceive, reason, judge and reject as we are aware of our power to think, to know, to will, and to choose by its operations. Through the conscious mind we have conscious communication with every part of our body and respond to every sensation of sight, sound, smell, taste and feeling.

The conscious mind is the supreme ruler in our mental world and deals with all impressions of the visible world around us gathering the sensations of the five senses. It carries the responsibility of decisions and is the gateway through which our destiny comes. Through the portal of consciousness, creative, constructive thought, wisdom, knowledge and understanding bring their richest gifts and place the scepter of power into your hand. Health, wealth, happiness and youth trail their glittering robes across the threshold of your consciousness and crystallize their royal attributes into your body and environment.

Look very carefully at what is being said and what is being taught. There is nothing taught here that indicates the government is in control of your thoughts or that any other individual, even Satan (who is a living entity), influences what you control. The government, Satan or another individual can only take control of those thoughts and things that you permit them to control. Your thoughts are owned by you, produced by you and released by you, and not controlled by someone else.

If the thoughts entertained by the conscious mind are hate, envy, anxiety, weakness, fear, or other negative thoughts, then the mind portal becomes the iron door of despair. Through this door poverty, disease and unhappiness drag their ragged garments into your life. We are taught that there is a bell curve pertaining to wealth. There is also a bell curve pertaining to the power of thought and in most cases the teaching only applies to the positive side of this curve as it makes its grand turn upward. Do not be deceived, there is also a negative side to any bell curve that makes a disastrous slope downward to the negative realm of destruction. It does not matter if this curve pertains to financial areas or even physical wellness. If the downward slope is approached, it is slippery, treacherous and will swallow everything that starts down its path.

It is strange that we have, for so long, failed to understand the wonderful power of thought. Every religion and philosophy in the history of the world teaches it. Paul, when in captivity and chained to a Roman soldier, gave the world this message:

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, and of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. Philippians 4:8-9

Most of us have overlooked the meaning of those verses. We have been so busy admiring its beauty of diction that we failed to place emphasis on the word THINK in verse 8 and DO in verse 9. If everybody followed Paul's injunction and thought only in terms of truth, honesty, justice, purity and loveliness, this world would be transformed from a planet of confusion, sickness and poverty to one of radiant health, happiness and prosperity.

Earth's crammed with Heaven, and every common bush
is afire with God, but only he who sees takes off his shoes.

E. B. Browning



The Subconscious Mind



The subconscious mind presides over all the involuntary processes of your body, such as digestion, assimilation, elimination, the beating of your heart, the circulation of your blood, and the manufacture of various glandular secretions. It builds, sustains, repairs and operates the body. Under its direction new cells are born every minute.

We are so accustomed to the operations of the subconscious mind that for a long time science failed to recognize any distinction between our two phases of mind. Finally, however, positive proof of cell renewal directed by a central intelligence presented itself. It was then recognized that the subconscious mind faithfully and tirelessly keeps up its work of building and operating the body whether we are awake, asleep, or under the influence of an anesthetic, while the physical body is controlled by the conscious mind.

The subconscious mind is the storehouse of memory, the seat of habit and instinct, and also the center of emotion. **Its action is automatic!** The subconscious is that marvelous phase of your mind that brings things into existence by the sheer power of thought. It is the spiritual part of us through which we are connected with the Divine and brought into relationship with infinite constructive forces of the universe.

The subconscious mind possesses the power and knowledge to build and repair the body. It is a part of the universal mind of God and has infinite resources at its command. It has been said that the subconscious mind not only contains all the classified data gathered during all the past life of the individual, but that it contains all the wisdom of the immeasurable ages past. By drawing upon that wisdom and power the individual may possess the good things of life in great abundance. Furthermore, it has been made clear to the individual who remains in ignorance of his subconscious power. Ignorance of the existence and power of the subconscious mind is the cause of all the failures and near failures in the world. On the other hand we can draw on the subconscious mind for wisdom and power necessary in the management of all our business and personal affairs. In fact, those things left absolutely to the subconscious mind will be accomplished.

The subconscious mind does not think, reason, balance, judge or reject. It simply accepts all suggestions furnished by the conscious mind whether they are good or evil, constructive or destructive. Herein lies the mighty power of the conscious mind. The subconscious mind receives any idea or belief as a pattern to work by and proceeds to bring such ideas and beliefs to manifestation.

Prior to the development of our conscious reasoning power the subconscious mind functioned according to a hereditary pattern, or society instinct. During childhood these subconscious activities kept our body operating, and continues to do such until we recognize the unlimited power of our subconscious mind. Strange, but some people can draw on this power unconsciously with most splendid results.



The secret of good or bad results in child training are reliant upon the fact that whatever training children receive leaves its impression on the subconscious mind. Habits formed in one's tender years are the basis for all future actions unless we consciously and systematically set about to change them.

Every thought that enters the conscious mind is subjected to our reasoning power. If we accept an idea or thought as true, it is then carried to the subconscious mind for action and brought forth to visible expression as a part of our physical condition and immediate surroundings. Thus, we find that in its last analysis the conscious mind decides our fate. So, to control our health and environment we must control our thought.

Within the four preceding paragraphs rests the truth of good and evil and the battle over the soul that is spoken about in the Bible. If we learn Godly ways as a child, we use those ways as we grow,

however, if we learn the ways of evil as a child, most likely we will practice those evil ways as an adult. It should not be difficult to understand that a child molester may produce more child molesters, because that is the pattern being followed. Only when there is a choice to break the cycle and go in a different direction because of the power of the mind of an individual is the pattern broken. Note, some writers speak of the *superconscious* mind and refer to various grades of inner perfection, but the term subconscious covers all the unconscious part of us and is more easily understood.

The Universal Mind, meaning God

The universal mind, meaning GOD, is the source or common origin from which spring all manifestations. There must, of necessity, be a source of life, if there is life! If there is love there must be a source from which love comes. The same is true of wisdom, intelligence, health, happiness and what we call material things.

Charles Hanaal tells us in *New Psychology* that:

The Universal Mind is the substance of all force and form, the reality that underlies all existence. By it, in accord with fixed principles, all things are brought into being and sustained. It is the pure substance of being, is everywhere present and is essentially the same at all points of its presence.

Herbert Spencer, the physical scientist, in *Facts and Comments*, tells us the same thing when he says:

Amid all the mysteries by which we are surrounded nothing is more certain than that we are ever in the presence of an Infinite and Eternal Energy from which all things proceed.

The Church tells us on Biblical authority that:

In Him we live and move and have our being. Acts 17:28

Since the dawn of human existence, and through all the succeeding ages, mankind has recognized the mighty invisible force that governs and controls the universe, a power by which and through which all things are created. Some have personalized this power and called it God. The most beautiful and the most comprehensive idea of this power was given by Jesus when He talked to the woman at the well, John 4:24, “*God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.*” *God is Spirit*, Jesus did not say a spirit nor the spirit, but simply *God is Spirit*, clearly indicating the presence of God at all points at the same time. Therefore we recognize that the findings of the psychologist, the scientist and the greatest of Teachers are all one and the same. We must simply understand the all important fact that there is but one principle, one power, one presence, and that this Omnipotent, Omniscient Presence is good.

We must realize that the subconscious mind and the individual are one in kind and quality with God, the only difference being one of degree. We are individualized spirit and bear the same relationship to God that the sunbeam does to the sun. 2 Corinthians 6:16, “*For ye are the temple of the living God.*” Here, then, is the secret of the wonderful creative power of thought. Thought is a spiritual activity and

the only power the spirit possesses is the power to think. Spirit is creative, therefore, thought is creative. Thought can be considered as love, emotion or anything else. It still begins with a thought, thus the power rests within thought itself.

You know that the spirit of you is — **YOU!** Without the spirit you would be nothing! You also know that your thinking processes are directed by your spiritual power. Have you also considered the importance of this fact or recognized its connection with the creative principles of God? As you stop to consider what the real *I* of you is, you will be astonished to find that it is neither your body nor your conscious mind. On the contrary, you will find that your mind and body are simply instruments used by the *I* of you to carry out its wishes. The *I* of you controls and directs both your mind and body and decides what they shall do and how they shall act.

The real *I* of you is eternal and is a creation of God. The real *I* of you was shown in the section on *Thought and Law*, refer back to Romans 8. The real *I* of you is your spirit and it is a point within God's Spirit. If you take a cup of water from the ocean, the water in the cup is still ocean water, there is just not so much of it and its power is not so great. Such is our comparison between ourselves and God. When you fully realize the true nature of this *I*, you can never think badly of yourself again. Let your habits, characteristics, temperament be what they will, they compose your personality, are subject to change, and have nothing to do with the real indwelling self. The real *I* of you is your subconscious mind and has the power to change your physical condition and environment through its connection with God.

Thought is the connecting link between one's self and God. Considering this marvelous fact, we arrive at the conclusion that we ourselves are channels through which God pours Himself into expression. Thoughts are causes and conditions are effects. Therefore thought is the cause and we realize that if we control our thoughts, we control effects. It then follows that our health, happiness, and prosperity are also under our control. When you understand this glorious truth, and realize the wondrous possibilities open to you through your connection with Omnipotence, you have found the Kingdom of Heaven within you.

It is interesting to view the phrase Kingdom of Heaven. Of the Gospel writers, only Matthew chose to use this phrase and he used it a total of 31 times to illustrate and illuminate the qualities of heaven.

We are so constituted that we fail to comprehend an entirely new idea. The conscious mind must reach understanding through the vibratory action of thought. It is necessary for us to study with undivided attention anything we desire to learn. Your thought forces lead you to the realization of your fondest dreams, but make no mistake by thinking these lessons are the royal road to so-called miracles. Thought may be the royal road to undreamed happiness, freedom and success, but you must pay the price of concentration and study if you are to claim this golden key. Without concentration this golden key is not for you. All possession is based on consciousness and you must establish a conscious thought understanding. A transfer of material things can be made, but **wisdom must be bought by our own efforts!**

We have the freedom of choice to express ourselves any way we see fit, but it is our duty to our fellow man and ourselves to express ourselves harmoniously and constructively. Sorrow, sickness, and poverty are quite unnecessary and the result of ignorance of truth. If you are manifesting any undesirable condition, change your ideas and viewpoint of life and a new set of conditions will appear.

Spiritual things are spiritually discerned or learned. For a moment, view with me what Paul recorded in 1 Corinthians 2:14-16, *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him?*

We have the mind of Christ. We can take no real understanding from the world of visible things. The things we see have no originating power in themselves. The world without is relative only, and truth is absolute. It must be found by each individual within his own soul. Everyday, when you pray, concentrate on the fact that you are a spiritual being, a child of God and a co-heir with Christ. Put aside every other thought except a desire for the truth. Ask for wisdom, knowledge and understanding as Solomon did and you will find, as he did, that all else follows in their own scheme.

Faith, the Power Activator

If we would only understand that God is not some far-off Deity, not a stern Judge, but the beneficent force that we commonly recognize as Nature. Nature is the Life Principle that makes the flowers bloom, the plants grow, and that spreads abundance about us so lavishly. Now, I know there are those who just turned everything that has been said totally off, thinking how can anyone call God nature? Why, we all know that God is male and nature is female, uh, isn't that right? Stop for a moment and think about that. What is it we call the abundance that causes every plant to grow, and every flower to bloom, every bird to be fed, and for the squirrels to have nuts and berries? Don't we call that abundance nature? Isn't that the creative, life giving force of God's own storehouse? Aren't they one and the same and there is no judgement or sacrilegious intent in saying so?

If we could only realize that there is no lack, want, limit, or restriction to God, and the supply of His love and creativity is limitless, inexhaustible and free flowing to all God's children and creatures. Read the following in Malachi 3:10, *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith," saith the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."* The blessings are piled mountain high for you but you must have the faith to *"Prove me now herewith."*

Paul tells us in Hebrews 11:1 that, *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* Give that a moment's thought! Faith is the substance, the actual substance of anything we desire. The reason we have not demonstrated more faith is because of our lack of understanding. We do not understand that everything works in exact accord with a definite principle. The big term for this definite principle from God is reciprocity. We will study in later chapters how mankind reaps what he sows and must hold a definite image for God's limitless creative power to be used. However, there are far too many people who believe that anything we ask for will be granted to us if we have sufficient faith to believe. Actually, there is no such thing as a free lunch. God provides the power for substance to be created into material objects to meet our needs, but every frivolous wish we make is not the will of God and will not be answered. Therefore, we must build our desires in our world within, build them in faith, hope, charity (meaning love), and hold them regardless of outside appearance. Pay no attention to appearance. Your success, your happiness and your health are all of your own making, and if you are not satisfied with conditions as they are, you have only to visualize them as you would have them to be in order to change them.

Once again, every reader must understand that if God has placed you into a particular situation you must transverse that situation. Paul explains this in Philippians 4:11-NIV, *I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.* Paul speaks to us about God's grace, however, on the other side of the same coin Mark tells us the following as a statement made by Jesus pertaining to faith in Mark 10:27, *But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."* It is at this point that we need to change our thoughts and use the Law for our betterment. The Law will work for you every time, when you are working with God's Law and for the good of all concerned. Whether for health, success,

sunshine, rain, or whatever it is — you can so protect yourself, your home, and your business, so that nothing in the universe can harm you.

When Christ told Peter to come to Him walking on the waves, Peter looked at the water and began to sink. Looking at the dangerous appearance of the waves weakened his faith. Remember, if Peter could walk on the waves so can you. It is a matter of your faith, and like Peter, do not look at the appearance. Peter looked at the waves at his feet, how deep the water was, and doubted because of appearance. Jesus rebuked Peter for judging by appearance. He did not rebuke anything outside of Peter, though the waves were rough. He did not say to Peter: If these waves were smooth, or if there was a bridge you could come. But regardless of the existing conditions, He had said, **COME!** He rebuked Peter for lacking something he should have had within himself, **FAITH!** Matthew 14:31, *And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*

The power of God is invisible and there is no reason to doubt it. All the generating powers of existence are invisible. We cannot see *life* except as a motivational power. Love is invisible, yet no one doubts love. We only see the effects of happiness, peace and health, but they are still there. The same paramount principle that works for us is the truth that Christ used and gave to His disciples. It is just as available to us today as it was when God said, *“Let there be Light.”*

One example of the power of faith follows. When the First World War began the Germans took for their slogan: Christmas dinner in Paris! But when the great crisis came and the Germans were almost triumphant, the French people, even the women and children took up the cry: They shall not pass! Instead of dinning in Paris, the Germans retreated. The faith of the people of France built an impassable barrier. Isn't the same idea illustrated in the following Bible verse: Zechariah 4:6, *Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*

Another example: We read of Oriental ceremony, in their religious custom, that requires its followers to walk barefoot over red-hot coals. The fact that they do so without the least injury to themselves shows that these people possess the power of faith. It also proves that faith is an individual attainment dependent only on the power of the individual to believe and act upon that belief. It also demonstrates that faith is not confined to any race or creed. Those who visit the shrines of St. Roche in New Orleans, Guadalupe in Mexico, Lourdes in France, and Ann Beaupre in Canada are astonished to see the crutches and canes left at these places, silent reminders that **faith does heal!**

The principle of Faith is universal! It is just as powerful and just as available now as it has ever been, and every desire of our hearts is included in its rich promises to all men. God never gave poverty to one man and riches to another, neither has He ever brought sickness to you and health to your neighbor. Life, health and abundance are omnipresent. The only principle of nature is the principle of supply. Poverty is unnatural, it is distinctly a man-made condition, brought about by the limits man places upon himself. God's gifts are equally available to everyone. Health, happiness, and prosperity are not limited either to time, place or individual. They are a matter of consciousness and are attracted to those who understand and believe in their own inherent powers to achieve.

In the 11th chapter of Mark, Jesus gives us the key, not only to unlimited achievement, the principle by which we may bring anything into manifestation. This verse also shows the fact that God works in accord with our demands regardless of whether the results are good or bad. Jesus had cursed the fig tree the day before and Peter called his attention to the fact that the fig tree was dead. (This is the only record of Christ having used the creative principle destructively). The exchange between Peter and Jesus is recorded in Mark 11:20-26, *And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, “Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.”*

And Jesus answering saith unto them, "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. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."

Christ used this illustration of the mountain to impress on the minds of His followers the fact that anything is possible to those who believe. The wording of Jesus' reply indicates that our faith must be absolute to the extent that we believe our petition is an accomplished fact. *All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for believe that ye receive them*, or believe that we already have them. This is the key to God's unlimited riches. Make a mental image of what you pray and ask for, build it firmly in your imagination, claim it as your own, close your eyes and see it. Then realize that you have created your desire from the invisible substance all about you. Believe that you have it, and you can safely leave ways and means for its manifestation to God.

Let us reason together on that *Believe that you already have it* concept. You have learned that the principle of growth brings our wishes into being in the same manner that our garden seeds are brought to maturity. Now after you plant your seeds in the ground you cannot see them but you know you planted them, so you cultivate your ground in faith. If you did not have a reasonable faith that your seeds would grow vegetables, you would not tend to them. Since you do have faith you proceed on the idea that your garden will produce abundant vegetables at a given time. You are really considering your garden as an already accomplished fact. Perhaps it has not occurred to you that you are doing the very same thing to all of your other thoughts and ideas. Just think it over and you will realize that you are doing the same thing. Furthermore, the more you think about the idea you planted the more it produces the fruit of your idea.

Because the universal substance is invisible and thought is invisible we feel less confident in the idea that our desires are accomplished before they come into visible expression! Yet, we must plant our thoughts and grow them exactly as we do a visible seed, for that is the only way you have ever acquired anything. It is unfortunate that our denominational churches destroy this very idea and principle. Consider that the teaching given by the church is that our Lord Jesus was a poor man. Christians are to pray for their needs but not their wants. Their wants weren't covered within this principle. However, the Biblical verses indicate otherwise. Look once again at Mark 11:24, *Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.* Do you read that only your needs are subject to this principle of supply from God? Doesn't it say, *What things soever ye desire.* Isn't that wants and not just needs? You must consider carefully what you ask God to provide. Are you sure that what you are asking for is what you really want?

Poverty, unhappiness and disease are the results of a belief in such conditions. These conditions are not only unnecessary, but they are unnatural. There is no limit or restriction upon God and you may have anything you want if you will ask according to principle. Make your mental picture clear and distinct. Take time every day to enter your mental world and live with your ideas awhile. Then realize that your present conditions were unconsciously made by the same process that you are now consciously using. Do each day what your hands find to do. Learn to expect only that which is good, and expect only what you want. **Have a mental house cleaning every day, throw away every mental indication of lack or discord, and watch events shape themselves for your benefit.**

Why did Jesus tell us that we must become as little children before we could enter the Kingdom of Heaven? Simply because the faith of a little child is perfect. Thus, everything you tell a child is accepted at face value. Children have no adverse experience and fears to counteract their faith. As another example, you may remember the story of the crowd of people who congregated in church to

pray for rain and no one brought an umbrella except one little girl? The rain came while they were praying and everybody got wet except the small child whose faith really brought the rain, and the preacher who shared her umbrella. It is the absolute, unquestioning faith that brings results. The faith of the little girl who prayed for rain was so absolute that she carried an umbrella. Such faith never fails because the thought is positive.

The Kingdom of Heaven is within you, but to enter that kingdom you must wrap yourself in the mantle of a child's faith. It is the mission of these lessons to teach the truth of your relationship to the Father, so that your faith may rest on the solid foundation of understanding. Remember how rose colored everything used to be when we were children. How we used to roll on the grass and laugh just for the pure joy of being alive. Try to recapture some of the joy and faith of childhood. Strip your mind of worry and care, grab your faith with both hands and enter the kingdom as we find in 1 Corinthians 2:9, *But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.*

We must agree on several things to fully understand how the principle of faith works. First, there is a difference between belief and faith. They are as different as daylight and darkness, but both make a day. Far too many believe they are placing the principle into practical application by just believing. To believe is the starting point, but it is faith that is the activator of the power. For example, consider that you own a car, you believe that the car can take you to any point that you desire (as long as you have gas). Now stand on the hood of that car and believe that you can get to where you are going. Let me tell you, you can stand there as long as you want, but if you don't get down, open the door, insert the key into the ignition switch, and start the car it will not even begin to get you where you think it can take you. Finally, you must put the car into a gear so it will move. Now you have an example of the difference between belief and faith. Reality of the situation indicates that there must be an action within faith that is not necessary within belief. That action of reality in this case was caused by the steps to start the car and put it into gear. In our next example, a starving man can have all the food he wants and can believe that the food will keep him alive, but if he doesn't eat he will still die from starvation. Read closely the Gospels and notice something that is taught by Jesus. In every situation where healing or the casting of demons is accomplished if faith is mentioned, it always says, by *your* faith indicating the faith of the individual that is receiving the act of healing. It never says by Jesus' faith.

Understand one other point. There are two parts to put faith to work. The first part is the planting of the seed and the second part is faith of the outcome. Speak with your mouth what it is that you desire, immediately follow this and possess the image of what you want as your mental picture. There is power in the spoken command. We used the illustration of Mark 11 above and looked at the spoken command from Jesus to Peter, **COME!** In fact look at Proverbs 18:21, *Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.* Need another example? Jesus' first miracle was the changing of water into wine. John 2:1-10, *On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."*

Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it.

When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the

bridegroom. And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

Look very carefully at verse 8. Doesn't it say, *And he saith unto them, Draw some out now, ...* the miracle was completed at that moment when Jesus spoke the word **draw**.

One final illustration; recall the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15. Look very carefully at verse 17, *And when he came to himself, he said, "How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!"* The son had to understand that he could change things, then he spoke the change into existence and accepted the image of better things already being there.

You hold the key to the power that comes from within yourself through faith, and only you can unlock that power!

Ideas and Affirmation

God, is life, love, wisdom, power, health and abundance in abstract perfection. Man represents the instrument through which these attributes are made concrete. The visible expression of God's perfect material appears in the form of the individual idea that calls it into being. The Bible is full of illustrations to give us some idea of what God's perfect material is and how it can be manifested. Consider, for a moment, the illustration of heaven with its streets paved with gold or the New Jerusalem with precious jewels as part of the building material. We are so wrapped up with the material things of this life that we fail to understand what is actually being illustrated. What are these elements and how did they come into existence?

We must recognize the fact that mind is reality, and that ideas are the generating energy behind all existence to be in tune with God's will. Original ideas are not the products of the conscious mind but are furnished us by our subconscious mind and are spiritual. Everything is first an idea, even the illustrations of heaven were first ideas or thoughts by God, thus every stage of human progress from the first stone hatchet of the cave man to the latest model flying machine of the present day.

Everything is first worked out in the unseen realm before it appears in tangible form. The realm of the unseen is the realm of cause, the realm of the seen is the realm of the effect. Paul, in the picturesque language of his day, stated this truth when he said:

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:18

This is the greatest discovery of all the ages: ideas stand as cause to all that appears and man can control ideas. This truth runs like a golden thread through all the religions and philosophies of the world's history, as told in parable, song and story by the seers and prophets of all ages. The beautiful story of Aladdin and his wonderful lamp was based on the fact that each individual possesses the indwelling power to condition his or her life in exact accord with what they would have it to be.

You remember that Aladdin only had to rub the lamp and a powerful genie appeared, ready to do his bidding. Fortune, fame, power and the hand of a beautiful princess were his for the asking. The lamp represents the conscious mind, the rubbing of the lamp means understanding. The genie represents the subconscious mind, that mighty power within yourself waiting for recognition and acknowledgement.

When aroused and used this genie will bring you to the realization of your fondest dreams. No matter what those dreams may be, their fulfillment rests in God, ready to come into expression at your request through Jesus.

When you learn that you have the power to change everything about you, including your body, by changing your thoughts and ideas, you will cease to worry over appearance of any kind. Instead you will calmly set about changing your state of mind by using your imagination to establish a new set of ideas. The best and quickest way to bring about reform in our thinking is by the use of a strong affirmation, to be repeated while praying and any other time the need arises. The following, "I am healthy, strong, young, powerful, loving, harmonious, successful, and happy," is constructive and may be used with good results. Your present character is made up of countless thoughts, beliefs, and habits, which are, entertained by you and formed by you in the past. This character is expressed on your subconscious mind and is the cause of your present health, your present state of mind, and your present financial status. If you wish to change all, or any one, of them the affirmation just given will be effective. This is true because any statement continuously made by the conscious mind is accepted by the subconscious mind as a pattern by which to weave your future. Your present conditions are the result of your past thinking. You will be what you are thinking today.

There are those I care to call the deceivers who understand these principles of mind, their infinite detail working and the influence that these principles will effect. These deceivers may be called business entrepreneurs, crafty lawyers, or some may even be called pastor. These crafty deceivers understand the power that can be imprinted upon your conscious mind by repeatedly stating an affirmation that places you in a conditional response that they need, to serve their purpose and not yours. They feed on greed, ego and control. Their material desires may cause them to be very greedy and they need you to be a manipulated portion to support that greed. Likewise, they may have a huge ego that must be stroked and petted on a daily basis. Their mistakes and errors will rest upon your back and not theirs. Finally, there is the control freak who desires to dominate every situation. These folks will say anything and do anything to keep themselves in the position of central influence. Their world truly does revolve around them, and you do have the power to break the link, this spell, and change the situation. The difficult part of all this is your understanding that you are in one of these situations that calls for you to take control of your own thoughts.

Some time ago in a speech the then Governor of Pennsylvania said that he had been asked to give his opinion of what conditions would be in the United States twenty-five years hence. His reply was: "If I knew the predominant national thought of today, I could tell you what twenty-five years would bring forth." As with nations, so with individuals, whatever your predominant thoughts, they will be expressed in your health and surroundings, which means that your future is entirely under your own control.

It does not matter what your present condition may be, it rests with you to change it and make your future exactly what you would have it to be. There is no limit to the creative power of God. He is no respecter of persons, but moves in ageless, changeless, eternal silence bringing to you with exact precision, the full measure of your thoughts. You may ignore your subconscious self and through this inner self your connection with God, but it is and will continue to be the basis of your existence. The all pervading intelligence behind the vast panorama of Nature, the intelligence that evolves every form of plant and animal life, that is all-wise and all-powerful, is simply your life as it interreacts with God.

Man is the highest expression of individual life, because of his ability to think. We sometimes blame God for our misfortune, but the fact remains that we are entirely responsible for our success or failure, happiness or misery. While God created us, man determines who he is, creates his own personality, character and circumstances. Destiny is fixed by subconscious action, you are not the slave of circumstance, but the creator of your own destiny. We attract to ourselves only that which corresponds

to our subconscious impressions. You can always make a new start and create new conditions by changing your subconscious impressions.

If you have thought failure, think success, replace thoughts of illness with thoughts of health. If there is any reason for unhappiness, resolutely put it out of your mind, for like attracts like (we are not talking about those magnets that you had as a kid where opposites attract). The more you think of discordant conditions, the more such conditions will manifest for you. Concentrate on what you desire. When you think your desire is impressed on your subconscious mind, never let your thoughts dwell on what you do not want. Jesus knew this as truth, gave the mysteries of this to the Apostles, and taught parables to the common people as examples of this.

Sowing the Seed

So far, we have learned that thought is creative, and that we may think what we choose. Our thoughts are governed by immutable principles and God is the reason for all existence. There is but one power or principle pervading the entire universe, and that through our subconscious mind, which is our link to God, enables us to condition our life in exact accord with what we desire. Now, we will find out how we obtain good results through our thinking processes.

Jesus himself indicated that He had not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill the law. How is law fulfilled? It is fulfilled when we are obedient to the principle of the law. Jesus gave us the examples to do this, it is simple, it is life, and it is not religion. Jesus understood the principles of His Father and in many of His teachings He used agricultural terms to convey these laws to common man. Consider the concept in the following: When you want to raise cabbage in your garden you plant cabbage seed. If you want beans or corn you plant these respective seeds and you are very careful to select seeds of the best quality. You plant these different seeds in the same soil, but you know that the perfection of your harvest depends on the quality of your seed, and your careful attention during their growth. You are never in doubt as to the nature of your crop because you know that where you planted corn, you will gather corn, and where you planted beans, you will harvest beans. Contrary to the belief of many, evolution must follow this same principle. The Bible states the fact that God created the heavens and the earth. Evolutionists want us to believe that plants and animals evolved from one single source. Modern science can now prove that the Biblical account is more accurate. How? Simple! DNA would have to prove that the DNA of a man, bird, elephant, pig, dog and cat all came from the same starting point. While it may be that each species may contain some of other DNA strands each species has its own DNA formula. Thus, the complete theory of evolution doesn't match, therefore we must state that the principle of evolution has a flaw in it and in similar fashion we would have to say that to reap a pig we sow pig seed and not cat seed, nor bird seed, nor man's seed. We sow and grow and reap our thoughts in exactly the same manner.

We reap what we sow, in kind and quality with exact precision. The Law of Compensation will not allow us to sow thoughts of one kind and reap the fruits of another. We can be absolutely certain that we will express outwardly the results of our predominant thoughts. Everything and everybody is governed by the same principle, and we should not expect to reap: riches from poverty thoughts; happiness from miserable thoughts; health from disease thoughts; or peace from angry thoughts any more than we would expect to gather tomatoes from gourd vines. We sow our thoughts in our subconscious mind and the principle of growth brings them into visible expression. If our thoughts are positive in faith, desire, courage, determination, cheerfulness and love, our physical condition and environment will express these qualities in health, happiness and prosperity. However, if our thoughts are fear, hatred, envy, anxiety, grief or jealousy, we will reap these results in poverty, disease and

misery. Every time we think, we start a chain of causation that will create a condition in strict accord with the quality of thought that originated it. Whether we have success or failure, it comes by the operation of exactly the same principle. The principle is unchangeable and its operation is exact. We use the same principle and the same substance to bring either good or bad results. It is the seed you sow that decides the nature of what you will grow.

Let us use another illustration. Imagine everybody as being a miniature manufacturing plant, where our raw material is the limitless, inexhaustible substance of being. Some of us turn out beautiful homes, automobiles, fine clothes, health, happiness and everything else our hearts desire. Others work harder, are not so healthy, and gain a meager salary. Still others manufacture for themselves poverty, disease and crime. Yet, all use the same substance or material. We are not restricted as to quality or the quantity, the supply is always equal to the demand, but we must create the demand and supply the kind and quality of the seed, or in other words, our idea. Thus, if a so-called sinner sows seeds of love and faith, and a so-called saint sows seeds of fear and bigotry, we should not blame God because the sinner harvests peace and plenty and the saint reaps bitterness. The Divine Mind of God knows neither denomination nor creed, but works for all men impartially and in justice and love.

God's universe is a universe of law and order from its smallest expression to the circuit of the solar system. **GOD IS LAW!** Man neither makes nor breaks the law, he works with it or against it as he chooses, and reaps the pleasant or unpleasant results of his own decisions. There is nothing either mysterious or religious about it. It is simply THE LAW OF GOD!

Let us remember that God is the Divine Law, who rules the universe!

Fear

God created us, but we determine our character and personality or, in other words, who we are. We are the architects and builders of our own destiny. Our lives contain no joy that was not born in our imagination, and crystallized into outward expression by the power of our own thoughts. Sorrow, sickness and failure spring from fear, and negative thinking, and are self-imposed — always.

We fear poverty, sickness, hard-luck, accidents and disaster. We all have our own personal fears, and are the cause, or foundation for such. Is there substance within this foundation for our fears? **NO, NONE!** They come from false appearance, heredity, environment, race consciousness, and not a single fear is born of right thinking. They are the appearance of evil. How are these negative thoughts to be overcome? Not by opposition, for opposition to evil implies its reality and evil of itself never was and never can be real. We count as evil that which does not bring good results, and the word *sin* is attached to those acts that bring discord and unhappiness. Evil and sin are not causes, but results, and cannot be placed among the principles of God.

Test the thread of truth in the Bible. Right thinking is righteousness and the stories of Noah, Abraham, Lot, the forefathers, the prophets and by all means the teachings of Jesus. All carried right thinking as their core. Jesus gave us the means of right thinking and returned us to righteousness through his examples and our belief that He was, and is, the Son of God.

All principles are good! It is only when we fail to use principles correctly that we sin or fall short. *Fallen short* is the original meaning of the Greek word from which our word *sin* is derived. Our difficulties are due to ignorance of truth. We have accepted any doctrine or creed without consideration. Because the world has been taught for so long to think that some must be rich and others poor, that trials and tribulations are a predestined lot, and that this world is necessarily a vale of tears, is no reason for us to continue to accept any such ridiculous creed.

Look at nature, how profoundly abundant she is in everything. Can you suppose that the mind

that imaged such profusion as we see on every hand ever intended you to be limited, or to have to scrimp and save and count pennies! NO! You don't believe it! After you stop to think it over you must realize there has been a mistake somewhere. Actually we have not understood that everything is first an IDEA, so let us reform our ideas. All reforms must begin with self as cause. Cause is mind, and mind does all its creative work in silence, and by prayer. Elijah found God, not in the whirlwind, the earthquake, nor the fire, but in the still small voice. Let us follow Paul's advice in Romans 12:2, *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* Fear makes cowards of us, it makes us do things we should not do and keeps us afraid to do things we should. It is like the *Old Man of the Sea* on our backs, it goes to sleep with us and kicks us awake in the morning.

Whenever you find anything bothering you, form, create or think some sort of affirmation and hang on to it. Do not give worry a chance, resolutely refuse to entertain any kind of negative thought. The Bible is full of positive affirmation, Psalms 23:1, *The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want*, or Psalms 91:10, *There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.* In fact, read all of Psalms 91 as many times as you can — you could not read it too many times — for in it you find a promise of deliverance from every evil, and even the fear of evil things. When you retire at night always repeat the affirmation, *I am healthy, strong, young, powerful, loving, harmonious, successful and happy.* When you repeat this affirmation, you impress your subconscious mind with just those qualities as a basis for the new character you are building. This character will attract to itself conditions that correspond in kind and quality. Remember that the subconscious mind does not argue or prove, but goes to work and brings about conditions that the conscious mind believes to be true. **If you believe it, it is so!** Fear is a very strong thought, and if you fear any condition, you will be able to say as Job did in verse 3:25, *For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.*

If a man is in debt he generally concentrates upon it, and not only ties the debt closer to himself but attracts more debt, thus, we use the creative principle of God constructively or destructively. Think about and concentrate upon what you want, NOT on what you do not want. Substitute new constructive ideas in place of those old worn-out beliefs, and take the load of worry, criticism, hopelessness off your subconscious mind and let your light shine. The creative principle of God is a rule that will work both ways, if you have not been successful, healthy and happy in the past then let that dead past bury its dead. Once the past is buried turn your face to the sunrise of truth and forge ahead. **Nothing can stop you!** Thoughts are causes and conditions are effects. Change the conditions to suit yourself, and then you no longer have any cause for fear or worry. There is only one law, and that law is good. Look at 1 Timothy 4:4-8, *For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*

Only good can have true reality or power! Evil is false and its power mimics real power only to the point that it is permitted. If you have a fear and you dwell on that fear you are only permitting your true power to be deflected to support that which is false. It does not matter how many poor people you see, or how many crippled, sick, or unhappy people there are in the world, that does not alter the fact that the law of God is **GOOD**. When used intelligently, good will destroy every manner of lack, limitation or disease exactly as light destroys darkness. Turn on the light and there is no darkness, turn on the good and every seeming evil disappears. John 7:24 reads, *“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”* Teach yourself to realize that every form of discord is but a mistake

that should be simply corrected in the same way that we would correct a sum in addition. When we get the wrong answer to a mathematical problem we have merely deviated from the principle of mathematics. We work the problem over again, just so with life, when things go wrong we have deviated from a portion of God's laws and need only to correct our thoughts to return to harmony. Whenever you let your mind rest on a disharmonious condition you must realize that such conditions are apparent only. We hear a good deal about passing laws that apply to people to correct this or that evil or wrong, but before any progress is made or any change is really effected the people must change their minds. If society as a whole does not accept a law there is no such thing as a law.

We are creatures of habit in both mind and body, so when we start to change habits of thought we must be ever on our guard for when we seek to change ourselves in any way it seems as though everything goes against us. But, remember, if we want to change our course when driving an automobile, we must stop, back-up, go forward and maybe back-up again before we get turned around. So in changing the impressions and habits of our subconscious mind we may experience some difficulty before the change is made. When the old poverty or distress thoughts try to argue with you just club them out with positive affirmations. Have a mental house cleaning and have one every day. Remember whenever you affirm that you are healthy and happy and prosperous, you are stating the exact truth and in perfect accord with the will of God for you. Jesus expressed the truth for every one of us in Matthew 5:48, "... *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.* When this truth becomes a part of your consciousness you will understand that you have nothing to fear.

Fear, anger, criticism and all such thoughts are the most expensive guest we can entertain. They bring a harvest of poverty, misery and discord. There is no need to fear anything for we carry the indwelling power to overcome everything. Why should we be angry with our brother? If he has injured you, he will surely reap with interest everything he has done to you. If you are angry in return, you harm yourself more than him. Remember that the same mighty power that dwells in you, resides in your brother as well. We are all children of the same Heavenly Father, so lift yourself above the petty manifestations of mistakes and live in accord with the good within you. We become co-heirs with Jesus when we believe in Him.

Mental Pictures and Imagination

Everything is first worked out in the unseen, before it is visible in the seen. The idea is present before it shows forth in the real, the spiritual before it manifests in the material. Your subconscious mind is bringing you the matured fruits of your mental seeds, so get busy and build something worthy of the latent powers within you. Your imagination is a divine gift, for with mental images you may build any condition you desire. First comes the idea, then a mental picture of that idea. These are the thought seeds that the subconscious mind uses to grow our conditions and environment.

Every time a negative thought tries to tell you, you are a fool, say to yourself: *I am rich beyond my fondest dreams. I have all the limitless substance of God with which to build. There is nothing that my mind can conceive that I cannot have.* You must also remember that you built any undesirable condition that is manifesting in the same way, and by the same principle. Of course, you did not consciously ask for poor health or financial embarrassment or anything else that you do not want. However, not knowing the importance of controlling your thoughts, you went along with no definite end in view, no goal, blown along by Tom, Dick and Harry's opinions. You allow your mind to sop up any opinion or statement without asking yourself whether such opinions were based on real facts or not. Finally, you find yourself with a lot of beliefs, impressions, and opinions that have no foundation whatsoever.

Now, if a principle works to bring about undesirable conditions on the hit or miss plan that most people use, it will certainly work better to produce conditions that are systematically thought out and concentrated upon with a definite end in view. In fact, it will work much better to bring good conditions, because good is in accord with law. Every time the beautiful, joyous possibilities of realizing your ambitions seem too good to be true go back to the fact that mind or thought is the unseen creator within you. Understand that thinking is real, the true business of life and that your results will be in exact accord, both in kind and quality with your thoughts. Do not think that your supply or your ways and means must come to you through any special channel. To do so limits your avenues of supply. God can be depended upon to open the way before you bring about your desire.

You cannot teach the Creator. The power that thought the universe into expression does not need to be advised by you. Instead, follow the advice as recorded in Matthew 7:7, *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.* You must, however, supply the idea or mental picture, and you must make the image clear, hold it, and concentrate on it, until it becomes the only real thing to you. Want it with your entire mind, heart and strength. Expect what you want and nothing else. Give no thought to external conditions, build your ideal in the world within and the principle of attraction will certainly and surely bring it to you.

The principle is that *like attracts like*. Whatever you hold in mind for any length of time must come into expression for you. Make a clear mental picture of whatever you desire, health, business, a new job, automobile, home or anything else, and hold it in mind as your own. The way will be opened for you and you will have the joy of knowing you can be what you will to be, and no restriction can be placed on you. Your subconscious mind has no pattern with which to mold your future except that furnished by your conscious mind.

Everything that has ever been accomplished has been done by visualization. Every building was first in the architect's mind. Every picture painted was the brainchild of an artist. Every invention was first an idea in the inventor's mind. The principle of cause and effect is absolute and undeviating. Thought precedes and determines every action and manifestation, so when we fix any goal, and concentrate on that purpose we can be sure of our results. That is the law, always has been the law, and is still the law even if you should try to do something and seem to fail. Try again and keep on trying. If a building or bridge falls we do not think the law of gravity has failed. We know the building or bridge was not strong enough. Perhaps the building or bridge's construction was not in accordance with the specifications. Maybe a cheaper grade of material was used in the construction. The truth would be that the laws of physics were not followed for the building or the bridge to meet the need. A hundred years ago we had as much electricity as we have now, but it did not do us any good until someone found the principle by which to make it serve us. It will prove so with you when you have established the consciousness of your oneness with God and your power to use His laws. Your needs will not reach the stage of needs. You will find the way prepared, before you realize the desire. Look at the statement of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah 65:24 *And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*

You must have a goal for which you are willing to strive. Some people do not succeed because they just dawdle along and watch the clock for quitting time. They reap what they sow — failure — others work well, but have no goal and no faith in themselves. They are timid and easily believe in calamity and consequently never get anywhere. Decide what you want and stick to it. If you were cutting a figure from a block of stone and changed your model every few days, all your efforts would be useless. You would cut the stone away and have nothing to show for your efforts. So it is with building your future. When you sow seed thoughts for some special purpose, hold it in mind until you have acquired your desire in objective form. You cannot fail if you want anything strong enough to make the proper mental effort to impress your desire on your subconscious mind.

It has been commonly supposed that the dreamer is a failure, but he who builds his future in his imagination with faith and purpose, never fails to realize his desire. Of course, merely wishing for anything or just to let your fancy run riot is wasted effort. If you only wish, you do not believe you can obtain your wishes and you are really saying to your inner power, *I certainly would like to have this or that but it is beyond my means*. To use your mental powers in this way is to sow failure. Be positive, do not say, *I'd like to have*, but instead, *It is mine!* Whenever you claim anything by faith never go behind that statement. Let every effort of yours be mentally listed as carrying you nearer your goal. Matthew 8:13, *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.*

There are times when even the bravest of men want to quit, times when appearances indicate that everything is against us, and there is no use to try. At such times you should remember that it is always darkest just before the dawn, and a little more faith, a little more patience is all we need to accomplish our goals. Remember, too, that all those who have reached their goal ahead of you felt tired at times and wanted to give up, but they persevered. If they had given up, you would never have heard of them.

Occasionally we are like the little boy who went off to find the *wishing gate*. He was so intent on his purpose that he did not notice where he was going. Presently, he found that he was lost and very tired, so he sat down on an old stile to rest. The north wind came along and offered to take him home, and he abandoned his quest because he was tired and accepted the north wind's offer. As they traveled along the north wind asked him how he came to be lost. "I was looking for the wishing gate," he replied. The wind laughed all the way to his home. When they reached his doorstep the north wind said, "The next time you go out to search for anything keep your wits about you. You were sitting on the wishing gate when I found you." **We give up sometimes just before we attain our goals!**

Success

Beyond the horizon of today are the problems of tomorrow! In those problems of tomorrow lies either success or failure based upon your method of thinking. What are you thinking? Where are you drifting and what will you harvest? Do you remember how joyously we once spent our last quarter for a magnet? We never wearied of watching the *horse shoe* pick up needles, nails, and pieces of steel. The magnet illustrates the law of attraction, and it is by this same principle that we draw to ourselves through positive and negative polarity those things, conditions, events and people to whom we are properly attuned. Life gives back to us exactly what we give to it. We externalize in the objective world what we store up in our internal world. The principle of expression is that we must ultimately express in objective form those thoughts, emotions and impulses that we have stored up in our subconscious mind.

The principle of the subconscious mind is suggestion. The subconscious mind does not think, reason, balance, judge or reject. It simply accepts all suggestions furnished by the conscious mind, whether they are good or evil, constructive or destructive. Therefore the secret of success is to fill your subconscious mind with desire, ambition, courage, determination, enthusiasm and faith in yourself. Add to these indispensable attributes love for your fellow man and faith in the ultimate good of all things. Have faith in your inherent power to achieve. It is faith in yourself that attracts success. If you do not limit your capacities they will have no limit. God sees all, knows all and can do all. We share in this absolute power exactly to the extent of our faith, belief and purpose. Our mental attitude is the magnet that draws to us everything we need to bring our desires into being.

Find out how much your ideas are worth to you. You can image big things as easily as little ones, put your creative imagination to work. Start something! Imagine things, not as they are, but as you would have

them. Create a place for yourself in your imagination and hold it steadily. If you want a certain position, claim it as your own and see yourself doing it. Do not let any lack of training, education, or any other *excuse* get in your way. Your subconscious mind knows more than all the book learning in the world can give you. Education helps one to succeed, but some of the greatest failures have been highly educated. Examples include: Andrew Carnegie, after he had made millions, employed a tutor to teach him the essentials of education. Ben Franklin's future wife laughed at him the day he landed in Philadelphia because of his ridiculous appearance, yet, we pay tribute to Franklin every time we turn on our electric lights. Abraham Lincoln was born in a frontier cabin minus a floor; reared in poverty and handicapped by an awkward body. The mighty soul of Lincoln surmounted every barrier, led him to the loftiest heights and enshrined him for all time in the hearts of his people. And Jesus, whose pure white torch lights the way for untold millions, was the Savior, who recast the drama of civilization, and whose teachings we are just beginning to understand — was born in a manger. With these mighty examples before us we cannot help but realize that what a man is and does depends entirely on the use he makes of his indwelling power, or his God given gifts. Often referred to as talents, capabilities or genius!

This is the age of mind. Men are thinking today, as they never thought before. Invention has lightened the burden of labor. Science is proving to us the truth of principles underlying every human action. The greatest discovery of all is the fact that we can take our lives out of the hands of chance, and place ourselves on the sure foundation of God's laws by Godly obedience to the righteous examples of His son.

Right thinking plays the most important part in our lives. Most of us merely reflect the opinions of others; *we fear the search for truth*; our occupation, politics, religion, and social relations are usually due to heredity or the pressure of our environment. The explorers, prophets and empire builders have all been men who dared to come out of the ruts, think new thoughts, and find new trails. Shake off the old worn-out prejudice, ignorance and superstitions. The world needs real thinkers for they are the men and women who led us out of all the previous ages.

Abundance

We cannot doubt the fact that abundance is a natural law, everywhere we look nature is lavishly, wastefully, extravagant. Every seed that grows brings forth *fifty, a hundred, and a thousand fold*. Nowhere is economy displayed in any created thing of nature or, in other words, God's creation.

There is abundance of health, happiness and prosperity for everyone and your supply does not depend on any living creature but yourself. The principle of attraction operates unceasingly and brings to you your own regardless of existing circumstances. Consider the law of attraction among your friends and surely there is that one person whom everybody considers a live wire. They are cheerful, hopeful, greet you with a million dollar smile, make a success of everything they touch, and you say, *This is one lucky person*. Now, flip the coin and call to mind the party who is always complaining, nothing ever goes right with him or her and they are either sick or bankrupt or some one has swindled them, etc. Then there are the very economical, narrow-minded ones who find something to criticize everywhere they go. Now just take stock of those people and see if their health and environment doesn't correspond exactly with their mental attitude. When you realize the fact that we express absolutely in body and surroundings what we think, you will understand what is meant by, *"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."* Matthew 12:37

The difference in men is almost wholly due to the difference in their thoughts. Therefore, you can readily see that to have health you must concentrate on health, to be loved you must love your brother, and to have abundance of material wealth you must think abundance. That is the principle and no permanent good was ever acquired in any other way.

If you lay a lot of steel shavings on a barrel, every time some one jars the barrel some of the shavings will fall off. Put a magnet under them and you may turn the barrel upside down and the shavings will stick. So it is with human beings, whatever you have made yourself a magnet for, you will get. You have seen people work and strive for something and just when everything seemed to be coming their way, the unexpected element stepped in and destroyed all their efforts. On the other hand, we see people who gain everything they wish with very little effort. Everything just seems to happen for them. It is the appearance of such things that leads people to believe that fate or luck worked for some and against others. The cause for every condition being thought and invisible is not taken into consideration. The effects, good or bad, may arise from any number of sources, but the cause had to originate in the mind of the individual affected. This is so true that you may gauge a man's mental capacities by taking stock of his physical condition and his immediate environment.

The greatest barrier to individual progress is a slavish devotion to precedent. We do what everybody else does. We believe the majority, without inquiring whether a doctrine is based on a myth, tradition or a scientific fact. If these beliefs were transient mental impressions, no harm would be done, but when an idea sinks into the subconscious mind it comes forth as material results and while we do not realize it, we unconsciously fight any opposition to these submerged tendencies. That is the reason it is so hard to overcome a long established habit. The only way to overcome error is to know the truth, and to know that our mind is the only creator within us connecting directly to God. Then we may consciously create any condition in body and affairs by holding a mental picture of the desired condition. The fact that we build ourselves both in body and environment should not seem strange when we consider that such an arrangement is the only way we could be absolutely free. Freedom was promised by Jesus when we learned the truth.

Each man's ideas and desires are different, what is plenty for one would be poverty for another. The work one man finds pleasure in would bore another to extinction. When we discover that each person may call into being their very own desires by impressing those desires on their subconscious mind we are on the correct path. It is then we begin to understand something of the mighty power, wisdom and justice of God, and it is so beautifully simple.

Suppose you had a great store of raw material that would produce anything according to individual desires. You have many children for whom you wish to provide, but you desire that they reach their highest efficiency without restriction. You would say to them, "Here is unlimited material that will create good or evil conditions for you exactly as you call it into being. Take your choice but you must abide by your decision." That is exactly our relationship to the Father, and Christ understood this principle perfectly when He said in Mark 11:24, *Therefore I say unto you, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."* You should note the unrestricted *What things soever*, meaning that no limit is placed on the individual. God is as much present in the infinitely large as in the infinitely small and responds as readily to one demand as another.

In the two verses following the one just quoted (vs 25-26) we are warned that to acquire What things soever, we must, *And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.* Thus, we find that we may sow thoughts for our heart's desire, but to reap what we want, then we must be careful not to harbor anger, jealousy or criticism against any one. To do so is to fail altogether in realizing our desires or reap them mixed with unwelcome attributes.

Among men there is a deep rooted conviction in our minds that generally Christ taught the *beauty of poverty and self denial*. No greater error was ever made, and there is nothing in Jesus' teachings to support any such theory. On the contrary, Jesus taught that *all things are possible* to him who believes. Look at the following for examples: Matthew 19:26, *But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, "With*

men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.” Mark 9:23, Jesus said unto him, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” Mark 10:27, And Jesus looking upon them saith, “With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.”

Jesus was never ambiguous. He never used words or figures of speech for effect. However, He did teach using parables for illustration because only a few understood what He meant. Even today we can find only a few who understand the truth. The great multitude stop far short of reaching success and believe that whatever comes their way is by Divine providence. Jesus meant what He said, wholly, and exactly what He said. His marvelous consciousness of oneness with the Father gave Him powers of concentrated expression that no other man has ever approached, and His every word and action showed an all absorbing desire to give mankind health, happiness and abundance. Look at John 14:12, *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.”* Did you notice the phrase, ...*greater works than these shall he do?*

In His talks to the multitudes He pleaded with men to ask anything in His name. Refer to John 16:24, *“Ask and you shall receive. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”* Also, Matthew 21:22, *“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.”*

It was Christ’s mission to teach the truth (the spirit of the law), thereby, effectively removing the condition of sin and restoring man to his status held in *The Garden*. This is the simple truth! It is not stated in this manner to be taken as theology, or religion, but simply truth. Notice what is recorded in Matthew 5:17-19, *“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”*

Jesus made every effort to establish truth by arousing man’s faith in their own indwelling power as well as a personal realization of that power, read Luke 17:21, *“Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”* Jesus taught the truth but only a few understood the truth. Observe the following two references: Matthew 13:11-13, *He answered and said unto them, “Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.”* And Matthew 16:19, *“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

Science has proven to us that every material thing is composed of the same substance (matter), and that substance is omnipresent. Christ proved His absolute knowledge of this principle by materializing loaves and fishes out of the air, thus we are forced to realize that He knew there was no such thing as poverty. When we consider His numerous healings we know that He understood that the only physical principle was the principle of health when He said in Matthew 6:33, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* Jesus was simply telling us where to find the unfailing supply for every need including our material blessings. Jesus was also demonstrating what was revealed in the Old Testament where we find the following story in 2 Kings 4:1-7, *Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.*

And Elisha said unto her, "What shall I do for thee? Tell me, what hast thou in the house?"

And she said, "Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.

Then he said, "Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full."

So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, "Bring me yet a vessel."

And he said unto her, "There is not a vessel more." And the oil stayed.

Then she came and told the man of God.

And he said, "Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest."

We find another story from the Old Testament demonstrating this principle in 1 Kings 17:7-24, *And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.*

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, "Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee." So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her; and said, "Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink." And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, "Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand."

And she said, "As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

And Elijah said unto her, "Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth." And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.

And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. And she said unto Elijah, "What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? Art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?"

And he said unto her, "Give me thy son." And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried unto the LORD, and said, "O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?" And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, "O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again." And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, "See, thy son liveth."

And the woman said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth." Notice in chapter 18, verse one, that this woman, her son and Elijah were taken care of by God for three years.

Many people think that *seek ye first the kingdom of God* meant that Christ wanted us to choke out every desire for food, clothing, houses, land, recreation, amusement and seek only after an unknown

God to many and His spiritual Kingdom. We can see the effect from the two stories recorded in Kings., If you will read the full passage of Matthew 6:21-34, and not just verse 33 you will see Jesus teaching that the Father understood your need and would provide them to you. Matthew 6:21-34 NKJV, *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”* The companion passage of this is given in Luke 12:22-32. Use your faith and accept that these things will be! Therefore, be not of a doubtful mind and chase after foolishness.

This section concerning abundance is here for a reason. God’s word, and the teachings of His son give every indication that God wants and desires for you to be productive, successful, and to have abundance all around you. There are those who have this all wrong and have not understood the riches of God’s grace upon His creation. **Riches are God’s blessings!** *They are not the seeking of wealth in any manner!* To chase after wealth is the basis for greed, corruption and many of the other vices that Satan can bring into the mix of everyday life. Understand that riches of God’s grace are the treasures that you are storing up in Heaven.

Realization

All the ceaseless knowledge of eternity means nothing unless there is a realization that what is said is true. Throughout the history of mankind there has always been the question of the masses in relationship to an individual. Man thought the earth was the center of the universe but that proved different by first one and then others. Man said the earth was flat, but that also was disproved by first one and then others. So many things have changed since God said, *“Let there be light: and there was light.”* Genesis 1:3

Today we seem to find that there are so many among the masses that have failed to understand the reality of principle. It really doesn’t matter if the principle pertains to personal finances or to our own physical well being. We find time, and time again, that our fellow man follows the great masses. The banking industry would like for you to believe you need another credit card and yes, there are two reasons why you received that application for a new credit card in the mail. The first reason could be because you do have good credit because you understand the reality of what all that unleashed debt would do to your personal finances. The second reason could be that you find those who need a new credit card just so they can balance what is owed, because they don’t have the money available to pay

the debts they already have.

What about personal responsibility? There is also a realization within that area. If we continue to pass the buck, *It's not my problem, or I didn't do it.* We fail to realize the potential of compounded thought influence. Our society is to a point that an entire community can be thinking with a cumulative thought that is either good or evil. When the community thought is a good affirmation, then society within the community goes forth in accordance with the law. However, when the community thought turns negative the resultant can be devastating to the entire community. We now blame floods, storms, massive snows, drought and even tornadoes upon Divine influence. To some degree maybe we should because the resultant environment is caused many times from the collective thought in a particular area. Realization is that the creative force of God can be unleashed upon a community as either a wake-up call or as total destruction. When mankind comes to understand that they have the ability to make changes, the cumulative will of the people can be generated to the abundance and health of the community.

When there is opposition to a principle there must be a balance struck before the force can be applied in either one direction or the other to create a change. Take for example the circumstances within a family, the parents are at odds and one is thinking in one direction and the other's thoughts are going in the opposite direction. There must be a balance of the influence that is there before there is any influence in one direction or the other. So much of this is absolute wasted energy from both parents. There is no wonder that there are so many divorces within this nation. Every individual appears to believe that they are the only one who is right and disregard everyone else, including spouse. The two parties have failed to understand the principle of harmony that is given by Jesus in Matthew 18:19-20, *Again I say unto you, "That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* Look at verse 19 very carefully, do you see the rule for the completion of the promise? Doesn't it say, ...*That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask?* The power is compounded and the effect becomes a multiple of the original. When significant other partners are in agreement the resultant thought is increased, when the thoughts are in opposition the resultant is cancelled with only the residual being the strength of faith of the stronger influence.

You must come to the realization that the resultant creative force does come about because of one's personal belief. The church that Jesus spoke of is the church of truth. Today's churches appear to be the resultant of religion and not so much truth. Mankind seems to dictate the traditions, myths and thoughts that are acceptable to the greater collective mind of society itself. Have you noticed that in these lessons there is no mention of a denomination? Truth is non-denominational! Have you noticed the term significant other has been used? It is used because society now dictates what is acceptable and not by the principle. If we applied only the principle there are only two genders, male and female. There is no need to go into any other discussion because the simple truth will tell you that is all the genders that were ever created.

This entire discussion is generated for one point and that is the realization of the creative force of thought. To understand gives us the realization that the creative substance is there for our use and we have the control over what is being produced by and through that substance. When we fail to realize what the creative substance is and how to use it, we are simply doing what a person does when they cannot cook — just ruining good material.

Everything and everybody is controlled by the same principle. When we understand the principle and work with it we may ask what we desire and it will be done for us. Peace, happiness and prosperity are really man's natural state.

Return to the verses in Matthew 6 and Luke 12 pertaining to *seeking the Kingdom of God* that we used in our last section area. Let's paraphrase a little and look at the verses in this manner: *Consider*

the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin — Wherefore if God so clothe the grass of the field — shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought (be not anxious) say, what shall we eat? Or what shall we drink? Or how shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek... .

Let us remember Jesus was a teacher and He taught and demonstrated peace, power and plenty to those who believed or realized the Kingdom within. Now let us consider what He meant by *Gentiles*. Today the word means everybody who is not a Jew, but in Christ's day Gentile meant the unbeliever, the pagan, the people who worshipped idols and had no concept of the invisible God or Spirit. The Gentiles were those who looked to the outside material world and depended on the five senses altogether.

Thus, we find that Christ was teaching us to depend on our indwelling spiritual power to bring forth our full supply of *what things soever we desire* — we must first realize our power, to do these things. Secondly, we must sow the seed or idea by visualizing our desires mentally. Thirdly, we must have the faith to hold our ideas steadily in the face of any seeming opposition or material condition. When you can do this you will have found the Secret Place of the Most High, where there is no evil and no fear of evil things.

You must realize also that any unharmonious condition is apparent only. It was generated by thought and can be erased by thought. We are individualized spirits and we create our conditions with exact mathematical precision according to our character and belief. The one who has strength, faith, self-respect and love for his fellow man draws all good to themselves, while the person who draws the sword in anger or criticism of his brother simply throws a boomerang for himself. The person who is healthy, happy and prosperous is the one who believes in themselves, in their fellows and in the goodness of God.

Charles Hanaal has stated:

It is in the mental realm, that last fact beyond which analysis cannot go, that all physical and environmental effects find their common origin. In mind is found the remedy for every ill, the solution for every difficulty. In fact, it is the Creator's magnificent provision for the emancipation of mankind.

From every viewpoint, is this not the most intelligent, the most reasonable and the most just arrangement that could be brought into effect for the good of all mankind? The fact that every human being has within himself the latent power to realize his highest ambitions, his fondest and noblest aspirations are true. Henry M. Flagler, who built the Florida East Coast Railroad, admitted that his success was mainly due to his ability to visualize and hold his ideas until they became facts.

Health, Youth and Beauty

The human body is composed of millions of cells. These cells possess an intelligence sufficient for them to perform their individual duty in the physical anatomy. They do everything the body does, eat, drink, move, reproduce their kind, select their food, repair themselves, and produce waste. They also heal wounds, knit together broken bones, repel and destroy germs, etc.

Dr. Thomas J. Hudson says:

No intelligent physician of any school claims to do more than assist nature to restore the normal conditions of the

body. That it is a mental energy that is thus assisted, no one denies; for science teaches us that the whole body is made up of a confederation of intelligent entities, each of which performs its function with an intelligence exactly adapted to the performance of its special duties.

It is a mental energy that actuates every fiber of the body. Health, like any other condition, is a matter of consciousness and is absolutely a matter of choice. Mind controls every function of the body. Take away your mind, and your body is as lifeless and as senseless as your front gatepost. The central intelligence that controls each and every one of these mind organisms is the subconscious mind. As the subconscious mind accepts all suggestions and beliefs of the conscious mind as a pattern in which to work, we find that our health is the product of the conscious mind.

Your body has no more say-so as to its condition than clay in the potter's hand. Just as the potter forms the clay so does your body conform to your ideas and beliefs. Your heart, your lungs, your digestive organs merely carry out the commands of your mind. The body with all its intricate organs is the incarnation of ideas, and the present condition of every organ in your body is the result of an idea.

Science has found that our bodies are constantly changing; that every eleven months we have formed an entirely new body, so far as constituent elements are concerned. Then why is it that diseased organs are constantly rebuilt in their abnormal condition when new, fresh elements are furnished them from the great storehouse of nature? It is the idea back of the organ that decides its form, and a false idea will take the pure essence of being and build sickness and disease.

Let us consider the control of the conscious mind in its temporary uses. You laugh when something amusing enters your mind, you cry when something sad enters your mind, you grow pale with anger or fear, and you blush with embarrassment. But always it is a thought, that brings the different reactions to the body, and we realize that the body is simply an instrument which the mind uses to express its emotions. It is by the same process that we impress our subconscious mind, for whatever the conscious mind accepts as true, the subconscious mind accepts as a pattern to mold our bodies. Hold before your subconscious mind the thought that weakness, disease, deformity, and lameness are merely a mistake and are not real within themselves. I said within themselves! You must understand that God created the universe in a state of perfection. Perfection is the state of God's realm. God intended for mankind to live in a perfect world, with perfect conditions and perfect harmony. Satan causes the discord and is the breaking point between God and mankind. Yes! There are weaknesses, diseases, deformities and those who are lame. But that is not God's choice nor the pattern He used to create mankind. These conditions are manifestations brought to mankind by Satan and if Satan can get you to believe that they are real it is only because you accept this as being real. Instead, understand *The Image and likeness of God* within you is perfection and the truth concerning your body, and you will soon be free of every ill.

You are using your creative power of thought every minute, the problem is to use it consciously and correctly, thus creating only desirable results. Cheerful, happy, constructive, loving, kindly thoughts set in motion vibrations, which bring us good results. Thoughts of worry, envy, hatred, criticism and other thoughts of discord set in motion vibrations that bring bad results. Every cell in your body is intelligent, will respond to your direction, and will create the exact pattern you give it. Therefore, if you place a perfect idea before the subconscious mind, its creative energies will build a perfect body. So if you wish to manifest health, your predominant mental attitude must be one of health, strength and vigor.

All the elements of nature are pure. All the forces of existence are harmonious. But man, the supreme ruler of the realm of effect, may take the perfection of being and through his thinking processes build a world of sickness and distress. We have educated our mind to believe disharmonious conditions are real until it has become a fixed belief in the community mind that sickness, poverty and discord are

necessary. Some people believe that trials are a punishment for what we call our sins. However, Jesus himself indicated that not all afflictions are the result of sin by the person or their parents. Look at the story of the blind man in John chapter 9. It is true that we find many appearances of evil, but these conditions were brought about through ignorance and a belief in evil as a law acting in opposition to good. We have not stopped to reason about this because we are so accustomed to accepting the evidence of our senses without question. Take for example prescription drugs: we, as Americans, have become so indoctrinated with television commercials for this drug or that drug, this condition or that condition. We don't even listen to, or read, the side effects of the drug and what it might cause within our body, or even all those other drugs which are prescribed to counter the effects of one side effect or another.

What does God's Word say about this? I find it amazing that there appears to be an answer within the Bible that tells us what God has to say. Our first group of verses is found in Genesis. Look in the first chapter of Genesis at verses 29 and 30, *And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air; and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.* It appears that God gave mankind the plants and herbs of the field as food before the Fall of Mankind into sin. Genesis 3:18 should confirm this because we read, *Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;* Going further we find in Genesis 9:3 God speaking to Noah and, at this juncture, we see that meat is also included within the diet of men, *Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.*

We now have sufficient references that indicate that God gave mankind the plants and fruit of seed bearing trees as food. Additionally, God gave meat to mankind as food after the flood of Noah. However, where is the verse that really gives us an answer to our initial question pertaining to herbs and their usefulness for healing as well as for food? Turn with me to Psalms 104:14. This verse shows us the following, *He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth;* Do you see where God gave herbs for the service of mankind? Think for a moment and look at what is presented here. God gave the herbs and the plants of the field for food, and later, through Noah, gave mankind meat to eat along with the plants and fruit. In my thoughts, all those wonderful herbs that King David indicates, were for the service of mankind, therefore wouldn't it make sense that herbs can also cause healing? Our forefathers surely thought so and learned what bark, leaf, root or pulp of which plant would produce the desired effect upon the human body for healing purposes. Mankind's greed created the pharmaceutical companies to produce the various compounds and pills that exploit the masses of humanity. Ah, you don't think that mankind has been exploited by these pharmaceutical companies. Answer this! When was it that a pharmaceutical company last created a CURE for something, anything. Just give me one answer! In my lifetime during the period between 1950 and 1970, we came up with cures for polio and measles, and possibly mumps. Today, with all the millions and billions of dollars spent on research for cancer, diabetes, heart disease, strokes, and Alzheimer's we haven't cured a thing. Even so, with all of our knowledge and all the money spent on research we now see after thirty-five years that measles was not eradicated.

We have pill after pill that puts band aids upon an ailment but nothing to show for our efforts except the profits of the pharmaceutical companies. No cure for cancer has been discovered via today's grouping of health societies, and yet many varieties of cancer were cured in 1938-39, however you haven't been told this. Diabetes can be cured, but you haven't been told that. Stomach ulcers can be cured by cabbage juice within two weeks but you haven't been told that either. Why would a company in the business of making money want to show you a cure, tell you about a cure, or even produce the product that would cure you. Their profit margin is what it is because of repeat business and if they

gave you a cure they wouldn't have that income source for their excessively large profit every year. Even those societies that have been set up to help with research for a cure don't want the answer to be found. Can you imagine what would happen to the American Cancer Society if a cure was found that eliminated cancer? There would not be a society, no large payroll, no bonuses for top officials, and most certainly no donations from the public at large.

God did give us the answers, but it is up to us to find those answers within His Word and to believe in both. If mankind is going to continue down the primrose path that we have been on for so long, the winner is, by default, Satan. This is simply because we didn't want to take the time or trouble to discover the answers pertaining to truth for ourselves. We continue to follow this mistaken belief that an error has power. We must continue to seek truth!

When we let go the idea that error of any kind has power, we are forging toward the truth that makes men free. There is nothing to compare with the sense of freedom and joy that comes to those who realize that God is good, that good is the only reality, that good is omnipresent, and that we may draw on this limitless supply without cost.

We may build strength, health, youth, and joy back *into the temple of the living God* that we call our body. Open your mind to the inflow of good. When we realize the fact that there is no such thing as lack, want, or disease with God, you will see, hear, walk, and laugh as you never have before. This is an individual work, and each one of us must find the *Holy Grail* for ourselves.

Some time ago I went into the hospital having a heart attack and it was found that I needed a quadruple by-pass. When asked who of my family would be in the hospital the day of surgery I informed the nurse that I expected no one to be there. I was told that someone was expected to be there in case something happened. I then told the nurse that I only needed three people in surgery, the doctor, my Lord and myself, all others were extras. I told the nurse that my healing would take place the moment the last stitch was put in place and all I needed to do was wait for my body to catch up with the healing. My answers so startled the nurse that no further questions were asked. The morning after surgery I slowly went up fifteen steps of the stairway as part of my recovery and was released to go home after three days. Sure, it has taken effort to fully recover, but it occurred. Recovery is possible with anyone if you only believe that it can.

Any time the human body goes through surgery there is time that must be taken for the body to heal. However, there are no less than four verses in the Bible that tell us that our healing has already occurred and the pain and suffering was taken by Jesus unto the cross of Calvary. These verses are Psalms 103:3, *Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;* Isaiah 53:4-5, *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*; Matthew 8:17, *That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias (Greek form of Isaiah) the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.*; 1st Peter 2:24, *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

I had a choice to make when I was in the hospital. I could either act as most of mankind and give myself a fifty-fifty chance of surviving surgery or I could believe my Lord and trust Him in what the Word of God says. I made the physical choice to not call God a liar, but instead to take Him at His word. I accepted the light at the end of the tunnel and knew I would reach it, because my arrival depended absolutely on myself. My survival depended upon the use I made of my own indwelling power. There was no real evil to beset me, and God was a just, loving Father who had placed at my disposal His boundless, limitless good. All I had to do was to set aside all limitations, decide what I wanted, and think it into being. Simply, it's called faith! During my recovery process I made a study of the Bible to find the verses, or means, to promote healing. Would you believe that there are no fewer

than 12 means to promote healing? These are:

- 1) **By obedience**, Exodus 15:26, *He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals*
- 2) **By forgiveness**, Psalms 103:3, *who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,*
- 3) **By speaking with a wise tongue**, Proverbs 12:18, *Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*
- 4) **By the name of Jesus**, Luke 9:6; Acts 3:16. Luke, *So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere. Acts, By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.*
- 5) **By the gift of the Spirit**, 1 Corinthians 12:9, *to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,*
- 6) **By faith**, Matthew 8:13; 9:22; Luke 8:48. Matthew 8:13, *Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour. Matthew 9:22, Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment. Luke 8:48, Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."*
- 7) **By the word**, Psalms 107:20; Matthew 8:16; Luke 7:7. Psalms 107:20, *He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Matthew 8:16, When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. Luke 7:7, That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.*
- 8) **By anointing with oil**, Mark 6:13, *They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.*
- 9) **By laying of hands**, Luke 4:40, *When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.*
- 10) **By rebuking evil spirits**, Luke 9:42, *Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father.*
- 11) **By prayer**, Acts 28:8; James 5:14-15. Acts, *His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. James, Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.*
- 12) **By confession**, James 5:16, *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

I have found over the course of many years that we must build our consciousness, or our faith, step by step. When we make certain impressions on our subconscious mind and live for years by those impressions, we cannot expect to destroy them in a matter of a few days. We must patiently substitute constructive harmonious thoughts for destructive, critical ones. The more you realize your freedom,

the happier you become. Faith, joy, health, and contentment cause you to bubble over and they attract the best people and environment.

I do not claim that it is easy to change our habits of thought and action. It is even harder to disregard society's thought and the evidence of the five senses, but it can be done by anyone who will systematically and patiently keep going. It takes courage, determination, patience, loving kindness, and careful attention as to thought and motive. It is worth every effort for the reward is so great.

Everything is first an idea! The idea of old age and sickness came about more because man, through ignorance, trespassed the principles of his being and had to suffer the consequences of his action. Thus we find a deeply grounded belief in poverty, disease, and old age because we have had these errors given us as true all our lives. Our present conditions are the result of our disbelief in God.

Ever since Ponce de Leon made himself famous by seeking the Fountain of Youth, we have heard more or less humorous references to this supposed mythical condition. The only mistake Ponce de Leon made was in looking anywhere outside himself for youth. Age is a matter of condition and not years. It does not matter how many years you have lived. You are only eleven months old now! Your body is constantly being renewed. Every organ, every cell, and every miniscule part of your body, from the crown of your head to the soles of your feet, is made over every eleven months. Your body cells are always building, always tearing down old tissue and building it new. Why then should you grow old, look old, or feel old? There is no reason except that you believe it necessary to grow old, because there is no principle of decay or death. Remember, God is the God of the living and not of the dead.

It is said that if you say anything long enough and often enough folks will believe it. It cannot be said enough that there is no limit to your capacity or achievement. You can be what you want to be and you can do what you want to do, by the creative power of your own thought through God. You are just as old as your thoughts. Every activity of your body is controlled by your mind. The saddest thing on earth is to hear men and women say: *I can't go the pace I used to, I'm getting along in years.* Or another statement like: *We are growing old now and must look ahead for old age.* You can be old at thirty-five — or you can be young at eighty. It is a matter of choice. Your mind will make you young or old according to how you think of your youth or age.

God is life, health, youth, beauty, happiness, and abundance in abstract perfection. Your subconscious mind is one with God through Jesus. You draw on this unlimited supply for any and everything. If your physical appearance does not suit you, start right now renewing your youth. Visualize a mental picture of physical perfection, picture every feature of your face as being perfect. To do this successfully, form an image of yourself standing beside you. If you cannot focus an image of yourself satisfactorily, select a picture or statuette that meets with your approval, one that gives you real pleasure to look at, and use it as your model. Keep it in your room, think of it as being you, and say to yourself, "I am growing to this ideal." Never think of yourself as anything else. Learn to disregard appearance. Hold your idea in mind as yourself and your subconscious mind will accept it as a pattern with which to build you until one day you will find that it is you. Many seamstress find they are capable of creating a pattern for a dress without having to go and buy one at a store. They take a mental image of what they desire and create their own original pattern, while others may adapt someone else's ideas to fit their mental image. It must be stressed that no words given in this book are meant as a *free lunch*, whereby an individual is involved in some unbelievable pyramid scheme.

Everything is the result of thought. Before anything material can exist it must be in the mind of the person creating it. Always there must be a pattern or model made of what is desired to form. Heretofore, we have made our bodies unconsciously by hereditary pattern and our own subconscious impressions. When we do this building consciously we work by the same principle and our results are just as certain.

The fact that every living creature, even the tiniest forms of life, has recourse to God. This was proven by experiments at the Rockefeller Institute as follows: A rose bush infested with tiny insects was placed in a window and allowed to die. When the bush was dead, the insects, which were wingless, grew wings and flew off the bush, seeking subsistence elsewhere. These insects knew they would starve after the rose bush was dead unless they acquired the means for rapid motion, and grew wings to save their lives.

Didn't Jacob use the same principle to increase his wealth and stature in the same manner in Genesis 30? Didn't he place before all the flocks a pattern for them to see and didn't the spotted, streaked and speckled increase more than the unblemished?

Now, if the lower creatures can use God's life force with no will, except the instinctive demand for preservation of life, man with his will guided by the intelligence and knowledge of his conscious mind can do infinitely more, considering that the same principle is brought into play. The same life principle works through both man and animal, with this difference: The lower creature works by unconscious instinctive desire. Man has no restriction and can manifest anything he has the faith and knowledge to request. Always remember, however, our desires must become subconscious before they come into expression, for we must be before we can do. The supply is always equal to the demand, but the demand must be made according to law and the law works only by subconscious demand.

Desire

The road to success is through the land of desire. After we reach the age of reason and independent action we do what we want to do. You may be inclined to disagree with me on this, and say that circumstances are too strong for you, or that duty keeps you from taking a chance at gaining your desire. But any such argument simply shows a lack of understanding on your part, for the right sort of desire will break down anything that stands in the way of its fulfillment. You cannot keep a man in prison who desires hard enough to be free, and nothing can keep your own desires from you when you understand who and what you really are.

God is omnipotent and omnipresent, He surrounds you like the sunshine and air! Your subconscious mind is a part of God and through your subconscious self you have access to the mighty wisdom and power of God. When you realize this fact there is no limit to your achievements, for the mind does its building solely by the power of thought, its creations take form in exact accord with your mental image, and desire builds the mental image for you.

This is the secret of the power of prayer. God is not a being to be flattered or bought by promises into granting your desires. If that were true every man would receive his wish for there is no one living who has not prayed for something. When you pray earnestly you form a mental image of what you want, and if your faith is strong enough, you hold your desire in your thoughts. Then God works with you and for you, thus bringing your desire into manifestation. If you are lacking in material wealth or lacking in health, it is because you do not believe or you do not understand your own power. It is not a question of God giving you your heart's desire — everything is omnipresent for everybody — you have only to realize your own power and use it.

You may say that you have had a thousand desires, you want to be rich and happy and healthy, but you doubt like most other men. Those who think in this manner receive exactly what they have desired, nothing. We have so many mild desires and we do not really believe we can obtain any one of them. We are so accustomed to lightly wishing for things that we do not know what we want. **The secret of attainment is one intense desire!** Fix one goal at a time, concentrate on just one desire. If you wanted to climb a mountain, you would not start up one path and every once in a while come down

and select a new trail. If you did, you would never reach the top. It is the same way with your desires. You have got to concentrate on one idea at a time. Hold in mind the thing you desire most. Declare it to be an existing fact, understand that it is yours, from the moment you desire anything it is given you. You must hold it steady and want it with all your heart so that the law of growth can take effect. If you planted seeds in your garden and dug them up every once in a while to see if they were sprouted or threw them away to plant other seeds, nothing would ever grow for you. The same law governs growth of any description, you can readily see that you must plant your thought seeds and tend them with confident desire and expectation. All of which means that you must realize that you have received a thing even before it comes forth in tangible expression.

If you can truly believe that you have received something, your subconscious mind will surely see that you get it. Everyone who has reaped success has started out to accomplish just one thing. Find out what you want, imagine things as you want them, build new ideas of life, and stop believing that some people are lucky and some must be poor. Change your ideas and find that life is a beautiful adventure that each day brings new opportunities to those who will lift up their eyes above the everyday grind. Life means something more than animal existence. Get out of the rut, for rut is only another name for *grave*. Didn't Jesus say in Matthew 8:22, "*Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.*" If you believe in poverty, misery and distress, you are as good as dead already.

Everything is done according to principle. Therefore, if a prayer ever has been answered, yours can be. If anybody has ever been successful, you can be. Life is not carried on by any hit or miss plan. For every effect there is compelled to be a certain cause. So get your causes lined up and the effects will take care of themselves. You can have anything you want if you want it badly enough to make the proper effort to get it. Do you want health? Then study and practice the lesson on health and beauty. It matters not if you are crippled or bedridden or what the trouble is, you can have rich abounding health. Your body rebuilds itself every eleven months and you can begin any time to build a perfect body.

Is it money you want? Then realize that the source and idea of money is service, plant your desire for money in your subconscious mind and ask for ideas to increase your power to serve. The way for your individual success is waiting for you. Take more interest in your work and keep your mind open for new ideas. You will be guided to do the right thing at the right time. Some one has said that when we desire anything intensely, it is the thing itself trying to reach us. However that may be, the fact is that we come into understanding and right relation with our subconscious mind. Things just seem to happen for our benefit, and we are miraculously protected from all harm.

Habit

We are creatures of habit in mind and body. Our lives, our physical conditions, and our environment, show unerringly what we habitually think. Some one has said, Sow a thought and reap an action, sow an action and reap a habit, sow a habit and reap a character, sow a character and reap a destiny. The definition of the word *character* is: The peculiar qualities impressed by nature or habit on a person, which separates the person possessing them from all others. Thus we find that each individual is simply the product of his or her own prevailing habits of thought and by the principle of attraction, their bodies and environment reflect what they inherently are. We generally think of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco as injurious habits, and so they are, but aimless drifting, fear, worry, anger, and jealousy are habits that often bring disaster more swiftly than the first mentioned three.

You cannot always prevent unpleasant things from happening, but you can develop the habit of self control. Your reaction to your daily situations is what counts, and the actual happening is only as important as you will allow. The same disaster that causes one man to commit suicide will cause

another to redouble his efforts and succeed. Train yourself to smile in the face of seeming defeat. The misfortunes of today are things to laugh about next year.

Life's journey has brought to me a story about a thorn and the blessing that it can bring when applied in a positive manner. Here's Sandra's story:

Sandra felt as low as the heels of her shoes as she pushed against a November gust and the florist shop door. Her life had been easy, like a spring breeze. Then, in the fourth month of her second pregnancy, a minor automobile accident stole her ease. During this Thanksgiving week she would have delivered a son. She grieved over her loss. As if that weren't enough, her husband's company threatened a transfer. Then her sister, whose holiday visit she coveted, called saying she could not come. What's worse, Sandra's friend infuriated her by suggesting her grief was a God-given path to maturity that would allow her to empathize with others who suffer. "Had she lost a child? No - she has no idea what I'm feeling," Sandra shuddered. Thanksgiving? Thankful for what? she wondered. For a careless driver whose truck was hardly scratched when he rear-ended her? For an airbag that saved her life but took that of her child?

"Good afternoon, can I help you?" The flower shop clerk's approach startled her. "Sorry," said Jenny, "I just didn't want you to think I was ignoring you."

"I . . . I need an arrangement."

"For Thanksgiving?" Sandra nodded. "Do you want beautiful but ordinary, or would you like to challenge the day with a customer favorite I call the Thanksgiving Special?" Jenny saw Sandra's curiosity and continued. "I'm convinced that flowers tell stories, that each arrangement insinuates a particular feeling. Are you looking for something that conveys gratitude this Thanksgiving?"

"Not exactly!" Sandra blurted. "Sorry, but in the last five months, everything that could go wrong has."

Sandra regretted her outburst but was surprised when Jenny said, "I have the perfect arrangement for you." The door's small bell suddenly rang. "Barbara, hi!" Jenny said. She politely excused herself from Sandra and walked toward a small workroom. She quickly reappeared carrying a massive arrangement of green bows, and long-stemmed thorny roses. Only, the ends of the rose stems were neatly snipped, no flowers. "Want this in a box?" Jenny asked. Sandra watched for Barbara's response. Was this a joke? Who would want rose stems and no flowers! She waited for laughter, for someone to notice the absence of flowers atop the thorny stems, but neither woman did.

"Yes, please. It's exquisite." said Barbara. "You'd think after three years of getting the special, I'd not be so moved by its significance, but it's happening again. My family will love this one. Thanks."

Sandra stared. Why so normal a conversation about so strange an arrangement? she wondered. "Ah," said Sandra, pointing. "That lady just left with, ah . . ."

"Yes?"

"Well, she had no flowers!"

"Yep. That's the Special. I call it the Thanksgiving Thorns Bouquet."

"But, why do people pay for that?"

In spite of herself she chuckled. "Do you really want to know?"

"I couldn't leave this shop without knowing. I'd think about nothing else!"

"That might be good," said Jenny. "Well," she continued, "Barbara came into the shop three years ago feeling very much like you feel today. She thought she had very little to be thankful for. She had lost her father to cancer, the family business was failing,

her son was into drugs, and she faced major surgery.”

“Ouch!” said Sandra.

“That same year, I lost my husband. I assumed complete responsibility for the shop and for the first time, spent the holidays alone. I had no children, no husband, no family nearby, and too great a debt to allow any travel.”

“What did you do?”

“I learned to be thankful for thorns.”

Sandra's eyebrows lifted. “Thorns?”

“I'm a Christian, Sandra. I've always thanked God for good things in life and I never thought to ask Him why good things happened to me. But, when bad stuff hit, did I ever ask! It took time to learn that dark times are important. I always enjoyed the flowers of life but it took thorns to show me the beauty of God's comfort. You know, the Bible says that God comforts us when we're afflicted and from His consolation we learn to comfort others.”

Sandra gasped. “A friend read that passage to me and I was furious! I guess the truth is, I don't want comfort. I've lost a baby and I'm angry with God.” She started to ask Jenny to go on when the door's bell diverted their attention.

“Hey, Phil!” shouted Jenny as a balding, rotund man entered the shop. She softly touched Sandra's arm and moved to welcome him. He tucked her under his side for a warm hug.

“I'm here for twelve thorny long-stemmed stems!” Philippians laughed, heartily.

“I figured as much,” said Jenny. “I've got them ready.” She lifted a tissue-wrapped bouquet from the refrigerated cabinet.

“Beautiful,” said Phil. “My wife will love them.”

Sandra could not resist asking, “These are for your wife?” Phil saw that Sandra's curiosity matched his when he first heard of a Thorn Bouquet. “Do you mind me asking, Why thorns?”

“In fact, I'm glad you asked,” He said. “Four years ago my wife and I nearly divorced. After forty years, we were in a real mess, but we slogged through, problem by rotten problem. We rescued our marriage - our love, really. Last year, at Thanksgiving, I stopped in here for flowers. I must have mentioned surviving a tough process because Jenny told me that for a long time she kept a vase of rose stems — stems! — As a reminder of what she learned from *thorny* times. That was good enough for me. I took home stems. My wife and I decided to label each one for a specific thorny situation and give thanks for what the problem taught us. I'm pretty sure this stem review is becoming a tradition.” Phil paid Jenny, thanked her again and as he left, said to Sandra, “I highly recommend the Special!”

“I don't know if I can be thankful for the thorns in my life,” Sandra said to Jenny.

“Well, my experience says that thorns make roses more precious. We treasure God's providential care more during trouble than at any other time. Remember, Sandra, Jesus wore a crown of thorns so that we might know His love. Do not resent thorns.” Tears rolled down Sandra's cheeks. For the first time since the accident she loosened her grip on resentment.

“I'll take twelve long-stemmed thorns, please.”

“I hoped you would,” Jenny said. “I'll have them ready in a minute. Then, every time you see them, remember to appreciate both good and hard times. We grow through both.”

“Thank you. What do I owe you?”

“Nothing. Nothing but a pledge to work toward healing your heart. The first year’s arrangement is always on me.” Jenny handed a card to Sandra. “I’ll attach a card like this to your arrangement but maybe you’d like to read it first. Go ahead, read it.” My God, I have never thanked Thee for my thorn! I have thanked Thee a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my thorn. Teach me the glory of the cross I bear, teach me the value of my thorns. Show me that I have climbed to Thee by the path of pain. Show me that my tears have made my rainbow.

-Author Unknown

Every destructive emotion is a wasteful emotion. They always waste your energy and make you less able to meet a situation, whatever it may be. Great anger leaves you weak and unable to put forth your best efforts for some time, while suppressed, pent-up emotions are one of the surest causes of disease. Any destructive emotion disturbs the chemistry of your body and always causes illness in some measure. If you find it impossible to prevent such emotions from getting started — take some sort of physical exercise while you force your thoughts into pleasant channels. Make yourself repeat an affirmation that will counteract the emotions you are trying to control. Do not try to crush all emotion from your life. Simply replace all destructive habits of thought and emotion with constructive ones. Encourage and develop your capacity to express love, happiness and contentment.

Take stock of any habit or thought and action that does not contribute to your happiness, then resolve to quit that habit right now. If you fall from grace a few times, do not waste time and energy being sorry, and above all, do not get discouraged, but dig right in and break the habit. Do not keep the habit on your mind, but find something of special interest to yourself and fill your days with constructive thought and action. There can be no set rule or formula for breaking undesirable habits, but the fact is that you can erase any impression on your subconscious mind. Earnest, consistent effort is your best assurance of success!

The Principle of Attraction

The principle of attraction is the principle of your being. It is neither good nor evil, neither moral nor immoral. It is simply a blind principle that cooperates always in perfect accord with individual demand. It is the one source of perfect justice, and by its action you reap what you have sown and that which you measure unto others is measured back to you. There is no way to escape this principle. You may use it consciously or unconsciously but use it you must. It is the principle of life and controls the universe with absolute undeviating precision and justice.

The benefit mankind receives by the operation of this principle is represented by the forms of supply that add to his comfort, his human needs and happiness, as determined by man individually. Food, clothes, money, houses, automobiles, etc., are all symbols of this principle of attraction and are all related to man through this principle. Cause and effect, desire and response, supply and demand are all examples of this principle.

It is the operation of this principle that produces such varied conditions and circumstance as riches, poverty, sickness, health, and joy or sorrow. With such a conglomeration of conditions as we see manifested on every hand, you can understand how people came to believe in evil, poverty, disease, and discord as being necessary somehow to human nature. But when you fully realize that all these conditions have no power within themselves and are simply the results of individual thought, you will

have found the birthright of every human being. You must first know that such a principle exists and then live in accord with it.

The principles of life and nature do not punish or reward man. We simply live in or out of harmony with the natural principles and our happiness or misery, health or disease, prosperity or poverty. This is the working of this principle as cause and effect in perfect harmony with our individual demands. This is the truth that we must understand and live by if peace, power, love, health, happiness, and success are to be a part of our daily life. The only way to change our conditions in life is to change our mind about life. The road to happiness and prosperity begins in one's secret thoughts, and the power by which we progress along that road is constructive emotion expressed in right action by faith.

The guidance of this entire work is meant for you to understand yourself. Everything we have discussed from faith to attraction is all connected and intermingled together to form this one absolute principle of GOOD. Regardless of your age or condition these instructions are for everyone. If you are middle-aged and have lost hope of ever realizing that youthful dream. Then read this material until your hopes are rekindled. It is never too late. Your dreams can come true. Say it over and over until you feel new life running through you like an electric shock. Square your shoulders, breathe deep, and step out of your rut.

If you are fifty years old, you are wise and mellowed with past experience. It will be easy for you to realize what life means. If you are seventy years old, then I say to you, step out of your rut! You are only seventy years old because you think you are. Your body is made over every eleven months, so if you are using your birthright, you ought to be in condition to start anything you want to do. Stop telling people what you once did, instead, think about what you are going to do *now*. Call on the life within you. It is there, it is your history and your dreams and all the energy and creative power you can ever need is there. Use it!

It doesn't matter what your past or present condition may be. Whether you are seemingly walled in by responsibilities that you cannot climb over or crawl under it is there. It doesn't matter whether you are bedridden, a cripple, or a woman with a family of little children who never made a dollar in your life. The same principle that brings riches to presidents and kings and power to the captains of finance is the same principle that you have used to bring yourself poverty and disease. It does not matter where you are or your condition, you would not be there unless your subconscious mind held the pattern by which you live.

You will recall that your subconscious mind is the seat of memory and habit. It is your storehouse of knowledge, and its function is to build into your life, body, and environment the result of your every thought. It builds into your life, body, and surroundings the result of suggestions given you, as well as the suggestions you have given others.

Your subconscious mind is a blind, unreasoning force and operates wholly by suggestion. It is constantly at work arranging and rearranging the details and affairs of your life to correspond with your ideas, convictions, motives and opinions. By this method it causes the conditions in your life to become visible records of your thinking processes. If your desires are passive and not clearly defined, you become the instrument of the dominant mentalities about you. If you drift along without decision and definite purpose, you become the helpless victim of circumstance.

The way to overcome the foregoing is to set a goal of some kind. If you haven't much faith in yourself, make a resolve to accomplish something you feel you can do by some extra effort. Then do it! Do not let anything stand in your path or keep you from doing what you resolve to do. If you tell your subconscious mind you are going to do something, it immediately sets vibrations in motion to get that thing done for you. If you do not keep steady at one thing until it is accomplished you literally throw a monkey wrench in your own machinery. Your subconscious mind is your obedient servant if you

understand its power and treat it as you would a good servant. If you do not know what you want and have no set purpose, your subconscious mind just produces a conglomeration of circumstances. Concentrate on one thing long enough and you are sure to get it. Always have a definite goal in view and never let yourself drift away.

Then you must always remember that poverty, disease, and sorrow are the results of ignorance of the principle of supply. While it is good to help people in any way possible, we must never acknowledge any sorrowful condition as real. When we feel sympathy for people we must feel sorrow for their lack of understanding rather than any adverse condition. When you find yourself being overwhelmed by any evidence of the five senses, remember that everything is made from the invisible substance all about you. Every condition is an individual demand brought into expression by the principle of attraction, and everything is a result of thought that can be erased by thought. Be careful what you wish (pray) for!

Disease

The primary cause of every disease is mental or spiritual discord and the only permanent basis for health and happiness is mental and spiritual harmony. Every emotion and mental attitude creates after its kind. Intense anger with destructive intentions will attract physical injury to yourself, while fear, hate, anger, or unkind criticism produce rheumatism, lumbago, headaches, stomach trouble, etc. You may gain a certain measure of relief from the foregoing by medicine, but no permanent relief is obtained until the mental discord is removed, for pain is an unharmonious mental vibration registering distress in the body cells. Anger causes high blood pressure with its kindred ills. Harsh, angry, destructive thoughts bring accident, burns, broken bones, etc. Violent emotions and the fear of violence cause violence.

Every phase of hate, anger, prejudice, criticism, jealousy, envy, and greed is the expression of fear in one form or another. Jealousy is the fear of losing a loved one, position, etc. and is caused by lack of self-confidence. Envy is an expression of weakness. It is the coward's snare of defeat. The man or woman, who possess the right character never envies anyone, they dig in and get things done. Greed is a highly developed sense of want. Many men who pile up great fortunes are those who did not possess decency and comfort in childhood.

Jealousy, envy, greed, and grief cause liver and kidney trouble. Grief, hate and opposition cause heart trouble. Heart trouble is a specific result of mental opposition and we seldom find this disease developed except in those people who oppose the personal liberty of others. The dictator pays a fearful price for the pleasure of bending others will to their own.

Children are the most helpless sufferers from adverse thoughts, for a child's mind is a clear, sensitive plate that receives impressions without protection. Unless children are over the age of puberty their physical condition is largely the result of suggestion and impressions gathered from the adult minds around them. We can also note that the prospective mother determines to a very great extent the mental and physical conditions of her child.

So far as constituent elements are concerned, the human body, to be properly nourished, must receive food daily. A certain amount of proteins, fat, carbohydrates and mineral salts are needed. We know that regardless of our state of mind we cannot be perfectly healthy without a balanced diet. On the other hand, your mental state controls your appetite. When you desire certain kinds of food it is because your mental attitude has created a demand for the food that will make your body reflect the state of consciousness that you possess at that time.

You have a certain impression of yourself on your subconscious mind, and the food you eat is

used by your cells to sustain that subconscious image. For this reason dieting never produces the desired results. If your subconscious image of yourself is too fat, you may starve yourself and lose a few pounds, but if you do not kill yourself, you will finally eat what you crave and be in the same image as you started or heavier. Thin people, as a rule, do not eat enough of fat producing elements. If they try to eat such foods, it makes them sick. So to change ourselves in any particular way we must go to the first cause, which is our state of mind.

During these discussions of disease, sickness and human conditions I do not wish to give the impression that I consider doctors unnecessary. This world, in its present mental state of consciousness, would be a very poor place indeed without the physicians to ease its aches and pains. I simply want you to understand that your inner self is the real healer who is assisted by a physician.

If we sit down and read the historical conditions of mankind, as presented in the Bible, we can find that mankind's diet has changed twice by divine intervention. When Adam and Eve were in the garden they were permitted to eat of the trees that grew in the garden. When they were expelled they were permitted to add to that diet the grains of the fields. Mankind itself was not permitted to eat meat until after Noah and the other seven left the ark. My point is simple, we control, for the most part, what we eat. We are the ones who must change, if we do not like the results of our eating.

Again, we can find that there are conditions which have caused the sicknesses and disease that surrounds us if we go back to the conditions of our own mental attitudes and state of mind. The true state of man is in the perfection in which he was formed in the garden.

Look at the condition of obesity. We are bombarded with advertisement after advertisement for fast foods. We consume tons of food cooked in oil and wonder why we are getting fat. Along the way there will be many who will question if obesity is really a disease, and my answer may not be completely medical, but yes, it is! If you do not believe me, or even yourself, ask your doctor or dietician. Work with your dietician and yourself to resolve this condition. We have formed a mental image that it is okay to eat these foods and our subconscious mind is only following our own instructions. If we begin to diet without changing the mental image of ourselves and the foods we eat, we only starve ourselves to the point that we must have just one of what we crave and go back to our favorite foods. In similar manner, the same rule applies to those who wish to put on weight. They have a mental image of being thin and do everything in their mind to retain that image. If you desire to change you must first change the mental image that you possess in your mind in either situation.

Time for confession and a glimmer of hope at the same time. There was a time I weighed over 240 pounds on a five foot six inch frame and 65 years of age. Much too much to carry around. In fact, if you put this into a perspective of building material objects, I was carrying five concrete blocks extra upon my body. I say that with honesty and truthfulness. I lost 60 pounds and a concrete block weighs 12 pounds, therefore I was carrying those five concrete blocks someplace in my body. **Stop and think what I just said!** With each step I took I was having to lift five concrete blocks just to move. None of us like moving even one concrete block in our hand. Try five extra attached to your body! I have managed to keep a 38 inch waist after my weight loss. You say it can't be done? You ask well, "What kind of life changes have you made in your life recently?" Did I starve myself? **No!** I have remarried and my wife and I eat what we please. We've had pizza, country cooking, ice cream and all the food you can find at a family reunion or church social. You may ask how are we able to do this and maintain a consistent weight? Simple! Watch your diet, exercise, believe in God, and be happy with life! I am constantly remembering the grace God gave me to write this book, and others, to allow my mind to focus upon the truths He has brought to me through His Spirit, and to rejoice in being able to accomplish my desires for my life. If I can do this, so can you and I place this here to reassure **YOU!!!**

Prosperity

When Paul said in Philippians 4:6-NASB, *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.* Paul left no doubt of the fact that everything is obtained by **thought, prayer and thanksgiving** or, ask for what you need and give thanks that it is yours at once. Do not be anxious or bothered when you ask for anything. The subconscious mind sets vibrations in motion to comply with your request, and if you will take the shackles of doubt and fear off your inner self, your wishes will materialize.

The stumbling block for most people is lack of faith. God the Father must do everything at once or we do not believe it can be done. However, we should try to follow Paul's advice to, *Be anxious for nothing.* Consider what such an attitude of mind would mean to you. If poverty is your chief worry, try to imagine how you would feel if someone gave you an income for life that would cover all your needs. You would be so happy you would want to shout for joy and you would find out that you really loved the whole world. Isn't this an example of saying the same thing that Paul said? Aren't we to think and act as if we had already received our request?

Call on your imagination, the most wonderful power we have, and then paint mental pictures of what you want. Build yourself and your environment as you would have them, build them with prayer and thanksgiving and be not anxious as to the results. It is impossible to see two mental pictures at the same time. Just ignore things as they seem to be and make a perfect picture of your destiny. See yourself a perfect success, happy, healthy, and prosperous.

Your true self is the spirit in you, **and the spirit in you is forever complete and perfect.** Spirit cannot know any lack, limit or disease. It is the conscious mind that places limits on us in accord with our education and environmental training. There is no limit to our supply. The limitation is in our ability to receive, so we must broaden our concept of truth and enlarge our receiving powers by the use of affirmation, concentration, and suggestion. You learn truth just as you would learn anything else, **by study and practice!**

Affirmations are a wonderful help in establishing your knowledge of your true self, for you are healthy, young, beautiful, prosperous, and happy. But, your conscious mind must be taught to know this fact. It is not necessary to use any set form of affirmation, just make any affirmation, of anything or condition that you desire to see made manifest. When you can truly believe what you say is true, nothing on earth can keep it from you, provided the quality of your thought is in accord with your affirmation and aligned with God's will for you. By this I mean that your intentions toward all men are good and your whole attitude is one of loving kindness.

If you would be truly happy, you must realize that you are a spiritual being and one with God. Jesus did not claim any more for Himself than He did for all men, for He said the following in John 14:12-14, *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. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.* Jesus understood that He and His Father were one. With this understanding Jesus knew that He and all men were equally children of God, and His message was, **Believeth on me.**

We have seen John 3:16 signs in football games and at other sporting events but when was the last time you really read the verse? John 3:16-21, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light*

is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

We must wipe out all fear of God and the man-made idea of punishment to be truly happy. The man-made concept of punishment has been established because mankind breaks man's laws. It is true that there is a punishment from God, but to truly see what this is you must refer to the reading from the Gospel of John and reread about belief. The Prophets preached the **fear** of God, but the word used really meant respect or reverence. We must remember that in ages past the masses were ruled through fear because of their ignorance.

Another step toward happiness is to find out the work to which you are best suited. Many people hate work simply because to them it is another four letter word and they have not found their own place in the scheme of life. Find out what it is that you enjoy doing. Meditate on a vocation for yourself. Ask your subconscious mind to open the way for you when you decide what your life's work is. Go into the silent closet every day and ask until your desires come true. Whatever you are doing, **do it well**, with a happy heart, knowing that your present occupation is merely a stepping stone to your true desires. Do not scheme or worry, but with prayer and thanksgiving make known your wants to the Holy Spirit within. Review Matthew 6:6, "*But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*" When we consider what we do as work, we are poor indeed, for whatever we do is an expression of the creative power within each individual. We should find happiness in such expression. There is something wrong with our viewpoint in regards to work in general, or we are doing something that is foreign to our indwelling talent if we do not.

Some will say that riches bring happiness. Others will tell you that work brings happiness. Still others will affirm that health, pleasure, and love will make one happy. If that is true, all rich people would be happy, and we all know that there is less satisfaction in mere riches than any other walk of life.

If work alone brought happiness, every one who works would be happy. We know that riches, work, health, love, pleasure, etc. do not bring happiness in themselves anymore than alcohol, drugs or sexual misconduct will bring pure happiness. True happiness is a state of mind and must come to you through recognition of your own power and finding God's will for your life. Don't waste this opportunity for true happiness!

The Word of Power

In all ages people have believed in a magic word, because wise men and prophets have spoken of the **power of the word**. The fable of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, with the magic word *Sesame*, is based on this belief. Naturally, the majority of us today know that no one word could be vested with any unusual power, but what the majority do not know is that every word you speak is a word of power in exact accord with your own conscious power. *Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.* Proverbs 18:21 Develop your knowledge of your own power and watch your affirmations come true, not only for yourself, but for others whom you desire to help (prayers of intercession).

In the beginning was the word, John 1:1 Another way we could say this would be, the beginning of everything is thought, and every thought must be clothed in words, thus the beginning of everything is the word. So your word is the word of power, and whether you speak from the housetops or speak in

the secret recesses of your own soul, your body and environment will certainly and surely reflect what you say.

I have told you the same truth in every one of these sections. You can be healthy, happy and successful by your own efforts. No real or lasting good can come to you except as it reflects your own state of mind. It is tragic to see people striving and struggling for existence when the good things of life are yours for the asking. Not only yours for which to ask, but yours by divine right! God is spirit, you are spirit, and every manifested thing is made from the spiritual energy that is all around you. Therefore, the proper way to acquire anything is to ask your subconscious mind for it. You are God's child just as surely as you are the child of your human father, and God is just as interested in your welfare and just as anxious to give you your desires as the very kindest and most loving earthly father, with the following advantage from the spiritual viewpoint:

Whereas, your earthly father can withhold his blessing, however, God has established the principle of attraction so that each and every one of us must be given strict justice. You cannot acquire and hold anything that is not in accord with your predominant mental attitude. Neither can you be robbed of anything that is yours by subconscious right. When correct thinking people seem to lose something, it is their inner self, clearing the way for better things.

When you ask for anything in spirit, you are complying with the principle and allowing the principle to work through you unhampered by the doubts, fears, and restrictions of the conscious mind. When you fail to recognize your spiritual wealth, you cut yourself off from your source of supply and your subconscious self is powerless to do anything except to let you work just as hard as you think is necessary.

Soil, water, sunshine, and air contain every element necessary to sustain life on every plane of consciousness. In the plant kingdom we find thousands of different kinds of trees, shrubs, and flowers. Each species draws its own portion to sustain life and growth, but its color and form are decided by nature's secret pattern. In the animal kingdom we may take a kitten and a puppy and feed them exactly the same food, house and care for them the same way. Each of them will develop the color, form and characteristics of its own breed because regardless of every material condition the unseen God given pattern of each must be followed.

Concerning man, we may give identically the same food and attention to babies, each representing a different human race. The society consciousness of each race group will furnish the pattern for its growth, and their character is in utter disregard of external conditions. The pattern or mold for each one exists on the unseen side of life, and must express in exact accord with its own consciousness. That is the principle, and this folly that mankind follows is strictly something that mankind itself has thought up. It has nothing to do with God or the equality of His principles.

We are bound by our own consciousness, but man, above all living creatures, has the power to build himself individually by working with the principle to create and express his very own unseen pattern. Concentrate on the foregoing until you understand it thoroughly. The unseen is the world of cause. That which we see manifested has no power within itself. It is simply the result of an unseen pattern.

You have come to understand there is no lack of the basic material from which all things are made. You may lack this or that thing in materialized form, but there cannot be a lack of universal substance. This substance or energy can only manifest for you in exact accord with your own unseen pattern. If you just drift along with no definite desire, then the society consciousness steps in and hands you the things that are usual for people of your age and hereditary development. Your mind, and its present state of development, controls the materialization of God through you. Your present subconscious impressions determine exactly what you are now. So please do not jump to the conclusion that you can read the truth set forth herein and go right out and start manifesting an entirely new set of conditions.

An acorn is the seed of a mighty oak, but the principle of growth must unfold and build up the tree. And while the Holy Spirit within you is not subject to time in the same way that a tree must be, you must gain understanding through meditation and study. This is because a new consciousness must be developed before a new set of conditions can arise. A person who has thought in limited terms cannot, at first, picture himself possessing and using a huge amount of money. However, he can see himself spending wisely a reasonable amount and can gradually entertain the idea of being a millionaire. To keep your equilibrium, your consciousness must change first, causing new ideas, which in turn make new and larger demands on your subconscious mind. These demands will be met in perfect accord with the unseen pattern or mental picture held by you.

Time is not a prime factor in the building of our consciousness. One person may be able to get results quickly, while others will be months reaching any satisfaction. Some will be years learning the truth. You may learn more in ten minutes intense concentration than you would in a month's ordinary thinking. Your progress depends on your ability to eject old ideas and set opinions. You are fortunate if you have no set opinion. It seems every generation brings a new set of scientific facts to set aside what everyone thought was the core of wisdom in the generation before. There can be no progress without change. So keep an open mind. Do not declare anything false just because you do not understand it. Dig in and find out what it is all about. Be up to date in worthwhile things and take a friendly interest in everything about yourself.

Suffering

Through the passage of the generations of mankind there seems to be the ceaseless question of why certain people must suffer ailments, deformities, or the suffering of situations they are going through. Many who wear the cloth of the church will tell you it is an expected part of being a Christian, that as Christ suffered so must we to be the coheirs of the kingdom. We understand we are coheirs in Romans 8:17, *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Alas, the voice of the Spirit that leads me does not provide to my thinking the same verses or concepts as those who wear the cloth of the church. I have heard it said that those who teach a health and wealth ministry do not understand the Bible or the teachings of Jesus. I must make a stand upon those words, because I not only believe that the opposite is true, I believe it is the pure teaching of Jesus Himself. In every situation we may find in life there will always be a minimum of two choices. These may be yes or no, true or false, accept or deny, sorrow or joy, sick or well, rich or poor, alive or dead. The choice to be made is left up to us. If you follow the thought that suffering is a part of the Christian life-style, haven't you made a statement contrary to that of Jesus himself. Didn't Jesus say that by accepting Him that the yoke was easy and the burden light? Oh! I fully understand that there are those passages in Bible verse that say we will suffer for the sake of Jesus' name, however, isn't that persecution because of belief and not an ailment or condition of environment? You see, there really is a difference and the choice of belief is left up to us.

My understanding brings to mind three conditions that we call suffering: an ailment, persecution and certain situations. Upon running a full analysis of the terms suffer, suffered, suffering, etc. it seems that there is a misunderstanding of the Hebrew and Greek origins of the term, as used in many places in the King James Translation. At many places in the Bible, I will not say all, the term used may mean one of the following: permit, allow, leave out, not let, share, endure or refuse and has nothing to do with what we would actually call suffering.

In the matter of sickness, disability or disease we must come to understand that the truth of the condition says that Christ took the cause upon the cross. We must make the choice and decide if we are to accept, in faith, the Word of God or if we are to accept the statements of men that the cause is outside of our control and we cannot do anything about it. Review the chapter on healing to see that there are no less than four verses that tell you, you are healed and no less than twelve ways to promote healing. I don't believe that Jesus would have left us information that spoke contrary to these conditions if He wanted us to suffer conditions of sickness.

In the matter of persecution there are those times that we are persecuted not for what we have done, or for our own sake but simply for the sake of the name of Jesus and in what we have accepted by becoming Christians. That does not invalidate the easy yoke or light burden that Jesus promised us in Matthew 11:29-30 NIV, *"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* Study should show, to anyone who reads the Bible, that the world does not accept Jesus as Lord and in doing so you will be ridiculed and subject to persecution. Look at the following verses to see this:

Matthew 5:11 NIV, *"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."*

Matthew 24:9 NIV, *"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me."*

2 Timothy 3:12 NIV, *In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,*

1 Peter 3:14 NIV, *But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened."*

1 Peter 4:14 NIV, *If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

Revelation 2:10 NIV, *Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

It is said there are two sides to every coin. The verses above show you one side and yet I care to believe that Jesus Himself showed us the other side in Matthew 23:13 NIV when He said, *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to."* It seems there is nothing in this verse that would be the other side of this coin. Let's look at it in the King James version, *"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."* Jesus places the real trouble upon the Jews who are blocking those seeking truth.

Finally, there is the third matter of situations. Mankind feels suffering could be a divorce, being poor, being unemployed, etc. Each situation is a set of circumstances that we have gotten ourselves into and it is up to us to get ourselves out of these situations. We should remember that God has already seen our situation and based upon what we have done in prayer, set the changes into motion. To see these assurances look at the following:

1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV, *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

2 Thessalonians 1:5 NIV, *All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.*

Philippians 4:12 NIV, *I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*

To the common man these verses from the Bible make absolutely no sense because you have never really been exposed to these sayings. To those who attend church these verses may indicate that mankind, who call themselves Christians, are subject to suffering. To those, such as myself, the answer is in the choice made by each of us.

To my belief, the case of cause and effect may not be the most practical means to describe the vast goodness of God toward all mankind. However, if I don't get your attention by something that you might understand, how will I ever get you to understand something you don't even know? I want to leave you with one more set of verses from the King James and New International:

Deuteronomy 8:3 KJV, *And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.*

Deuteronomy 8:3 NIV, *He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.*

In many cases all that is being done when we are suffering is God is trying to instruct us to believe in His word and to understand the gift that has been given to us. A matter of choice, and remember we are subject to the choice that we make.

Depend on Yourself and Your Faith in God's Word

The hardest work you have to do is learn to depend on your inner self because you have been taught to look always to someone else. As small children we depend on mother, in generations past, we looked to both parents for everything. When we take our place in the world as a wage earner, the job is of paramount importance and there was a time when married women saw no means of support except their husband. Until recently we have learned to always look outside of ourselves for support and encouragement. It is perfectly right and proper small children should depend on their parents, but they should be taught to recognize their own power and how to use it. Every man should work but should not depend on the job as his only means of support. Such mental attitude makes one afraid, and fear causes tenseness and strain.

On the other hand, the man who knows his material wealth really depends on his state of mind to work better, be healthy, and happy. If he loses a job, instead of being upset, he will simply recognize an opportunity to better his condition. When changes begin to occur, one of two things is going to happen, you are either going to be in a better position or you are going backward. Whatever occurs will be in strict accord with your predominant state of mind. In any event, when you cannot see your way clearly, do not get blue. Instead, calmly and steadily hold a mental picture of what you want. If you are seeking a position, keep yourself in a hopeful frame of mind and depend on your subconscious mind to guide you to do the right thing, for oftentimes what we want is hidden behind something else. Therefore, if a position is open for you, take it with the mental reservation that it is a stepping stone to what you want.

Do not ever let your mind lean on anything or on any person. Your supply or support may come through any obvious channel, but God can create any number of ways and means for you if you will only recognize the truth and live by it. I must say a word to the wives and mothers who do not earn any money. **Yours is the most important position on earth.** You wield the mightiest power, and your responsibility is the greatest, for nine times out of ten, your child will not depart from your training. Proverbs 6:22, *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

Your mental outlook and your spiritual strength is of paramount importance, yet I feel that in regard to strictly wife and mother, they are most difficult pupils, because of their ideas of dependence upon so many outside forces.

Now, let us go back to the first cause: God is the spirit, life, and mind of every individual, the same life which operates through your spouse operates through you. The same mind that manifests thoughts for one person can manifest things for you. We are all spirit and we all seem to have a latent power of expression that is unused, yet this power is equally given to each and every one of us. To those who claim to be Christian, recognize that we are to grasp the truth and become as mentors, instructors and encouragers so others can find the truth.

There is nothing wrong with a man supporting his family. It is a blessed privilege to do so. However, I want the women to understand that they have the same power to gain their desires through recognition of their subconscious mind as any male and your mental pictures are just as sure to materialize as those of any other individual. To the homemaker, I tell you that the means to gain your desires may come through your spouse, or you may be given ways and means through other sources. The important thing for you to know is that, because you are busy bearing and rearing children is no reason for you to believe that you cannot be as independent mentally as the woman who receives a pay check. Consider your husband as a beloved partner in the business of homemaking and look to God as the unfailing source of supply for you both.

To the husband I leave you this: God is your silent partner, and the one and only source of all you have or will ever acquire. Do not carry the entire burden, give your Father a chance to materialize through you, that which you desire for the good of yourself and your loved ones. Realize the all embracing life substance about you and recognize the principle of attraction as your most efficient aid. God is not only willing, but also eager to express in external conditions anything for which you give him a pattern. Always remember it is the seed you sow that decides the nature of your product.

If you are already a student of the Bible, you will know the facts set forth herein are true. If you are a beginner, you may be a bit confused as to the meaning conveyed, thus it behooves you to take each section and study it carefully. **More importantly, study the Bible and ask the Holy Spirit to show you the truth.** Every time you read a sentence you will gather a better understanding! Something you have passed over will attract your attention and by degree a new world of infinite beauty and achievement will open before you.

When you have reached a reasonable degree of understanding, make your own affirmation to suit your own needs and apply the truth after your own ideas. Develop your inner power, and use it for your every need and desire. Read some part of the Bible every day, and refer back to these lessons to add a measure of understanding or inspiration. Concentrate with undivided attention half an hour every day, and keep an affirmation handy to repeat when you think of it or when the need arises. In this way you will reach your goal. Whatever your goal may be remember to align yourself with God's will and the words of His guidance in His Holy Bible. Set your goals, be it one or be it many, the fulfillment lies in God awaiting your realization to make your dreams come true. Jesus said, in John 8:31-32, ... *"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

Love

We have covered every aspect of the power inside of you, except one, and that is love. We called faith the power activator in the section on faith. Actually, the principle represents forces just as a law of physics represents forces. My career training was electronics and there were many laws that

went along with that knowledge. The one which comes to mind the most was Ohms Law and represented three parts: resistance, current and voltage. Within that principle the work of electricity was applied to the resistance, the voltage was the activator of the force, and the current was the pressure of the force.

There is a similar structure to the principle of supply from God. The three parts of this principle are hope, faith and love. Just as in Ohms Law, this principle has a part that the action is applied toward, meaning hope. We can call hope our desires and just as these lessons are given with two intertwined viewpoints there is no difference. The spirit of mankind can be in harmony with, or in opposition to, the Holy Spirit. If we look at the Bible we can find the following verses concerning hope: Romans 5:5 NIV, *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.* Each of us has a connection to God through our spirit with the Holy Spirit. We must also understand that hope demands a certain amount of patience on our behalf. It is written in Romans 8:25, *But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.* Finally, we must give the glory to whom the glory belongs. Jesus, the Master, gave to us the path, the view and the truth so that we could follow. We find this truth of Paul's teaching in Colossians 1:27, *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

There are two other portions to our principle theory and the second part is faith. We learned in another section that faith is the power activator of our desires. We also learned that it is hope that our faith is being applied toward. The third part of this principle is love. Love represents the pressure of the force that is being applied. With a pure heart, meaning the subconscious mind where patterns are acted upon, love acts as a multiple of our faith. The vibrations sent out by our subconscious mind to manifest our desires are sent out with a greater force, that attracts the result to us, much quicker and with more accuracy. Consider the following to illustrate how strong the power of love really is. Jesus restates the original Ten Commandments, from the Old Testament, with the following exception: One is changed and a new one is inserted. I'll let you look to find the one changed but the new one is given in John 13:34-35 *"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 shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* This is the only point in the Gospels that Jesus directly states that a new commandment is being given.

There's a joke going around about a wealthy lawyer who wants to take part of his fortune with him when he dies. After much thought he decides that he'll convert some of his holdings to cash that he can pick up as he departs this life. He has read much about the parting of the soul from the body and figures that the money should be someplace above him when he dies. He takes the money home and instructs his wife that it is to be kept in the attic above their bed. Within a week he has a heart attack and dies in his sleep. The wife, after some grief, remembers what her husband had done with the money and she rushes upstairs to see the results. Coming back down, carrying a moneybag, she announces that she knew he should have left the money in the basement.

Reality indicates there really are three things that you can take with you when you depart this life. You can take the three things that we just spoke about above: hope, faith and love. The proof rests in the following verse, *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.* 1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV. One more story to illustrate love.

One More Story About LOVE

A woman came out of her house and saw three old men with long white beards sitting in her front yard, but she did not recognize them. She said, "I don't think I know you, but you must be hungry, please come in and have something to eat."

“Is the man of the house home?” they asked.

“No!” She replied, “He’s out.”

“Then we cannot come in,” they replied

In the evening when her husband came home, she told him what had happened. “Go tell them I am home and invite them in!” The woman went out and invited them in.

“We do not go into a house together,” they replied.

“Why is that?” She wanted to know.

One of the old men explained: “His name is Wealth,” he said pointing to one of his friends, and pointing to the other one said, “He is Success, and I am Love.” Then he added, “Now go in and discuss with your husband which one of us you want in your home.”

The woman went inside and told her husband what was said. He was overjoyed. “How nice!” He said, “Since that is the case, let us invite Wealth in. Let him come and fill our home with wealth!”

His wife disagreed. “My dear, why don’t we invite Success?” Their daughter-in-principle was listening from another room and jumped in with her own suggestion: “Would it not be better to invite Love? Our home will then be filled with love!”

“Let us heed our daughter-in-principle’s advice,” said the husband to his wife. “Go out and invite Love to be our guest.”

The woman went out and asked the three old men, “Which one of you is Love? Please come in and be our guest.” Love got up and started walking toward the house, and the other two also got up and followed him. Surprised the woman asked Wealth and Success: “I only invited Love, why are you coming in?”

The old men replied together: “If you had invited Wealth or Success, the other two of us would have stayed outside, but since you invited Love, wherever He goes, we go with him. Wherever there is Love, there is also Wealth and Success!”

Intercession

Events have presented themselves that have caused this writer to see the need to address the question of intercession. In days gone by, I have had events in my own life that are written about in these lessons. I made decisions at those times, and those decisions carried forward toward results. What part does intercession play in the decisions of mankind?

From a Christian perspective there is the hope that the wonderful, mysterious power of God will somehow work on behalf of someone else if we will only pray for that other person. We must look seriously at the concepts of prayer and intercession. When we pray we connect our spirit to the Spirit of God and we certainly have the capability to ask for something to be done for another person. Our request is a statement of hope, we hope an illness will pass, or a condition of nature, as the weather, changes. We pass this request on, so God may consider it, however,

Let’s consider what is really being done. We could say that intercession is representing someone else. Rev. Dutch Sheets has an excellent book on *Intercessory Prayer* and I highly recommend everyone read it to further understand the circumstances, the action and the results. I’m going to borrow a thought from Rev. Sheets’ book. What we are really seeking is the Great Counselor to represent us before God and for the Holy Spirit to compel an act or action to be completed. Rev. Sheets says:

Prayers of intercession are an extension of His (*Jesus*) work of intercession, the difference is in producing versus distributing. We don't have to produce anything — reconciliation, deliverance, victory, etc. — but rather we distribute, as the disciples did with the loaves and fishes, Matthew. 14:17-19, *"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. "Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.* Our calling and function is not to replace God, but to release Him. It liberates us from intimidation and emboldens us to know that:

- The Producer simply wants to distribute through us.
- The Intercessor wants to intercede through us.
- The Mediator wants to mediate through us.
- The Representative wants to represent through us.
- The Go-between wants to go between through us.
- The Victor wants His victory enforced through us.
- The Minister of reconciliation has given to us the ministry of reconciliation, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.* We now represent Him in His representation ministry. God continues to incarnate His redemption purposes in human lives.

We don't deliver anyone, we don't reconcile anyone to God, and we don't defeat the enemy. The work is already done. Reconciliation is complete. Deliverance and victory are complete. Salvation is complete. Intercession is complete! Finished! Done! WOW! What a relief. And yet... .

Rev. Sheets provides excellent ideas of how we may encourage the distribution of God's love. Remembering God is not a respecter of persons, thus this principle once again works for the **good** of all mankind. Notice two things, first when this writer changed over to quote Rev. Sheets the ending formed a lingering question. The quote of Rev. Sheets ended the same way. There is a lingering question and several statements that need to be made.

If you read Rev. Sheets' book further he goes on to show that Jesus was God's representative and the Church is Jesus' representative. The question remaining is: What action does the church have and how does it relate to everything presented as truth in this work?

Matthew 28:18-20, *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."* In these verses is the passing of authority from God the Father to Jesus the Son and from Jesus the Son to His Church. Continue this thought and look at John 20:21, *Then said Jesus to them again, "Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."* In this verse from John we have the confirmation of the two actions established in the Matthew account. Authority is passed to the church and we are the representatives to perform the action of the authority.

So many times this writer has seen intercession fail because of misunderstanding or, as stated previously, a flaw in the method of application of the principle of good. The attributes of faith, fear, habit, responsibility and desire must all be considered on how they interplay upon results. Let's take

two situations where we normally use a prayer of intercession.

Natural occurrences cause us to pray for intercession. Drought, flood, tornados or weather related conditions cause us to pray for ourselves and for others. Even these conditions may cause us to see two different prayers to be prayed. Drought, flood, tornados, ice storms, etc. lead us to request relief from situations. These are results and we are passing through the effects and not the cause. Paul teaches us that we must go through our circumstances in the following two verses: Philippians 4:11, *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.* The second verse is 1 Thessalonians 5:18, *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.* On the other hand, we may see a prayer of intercession being made prior to the results of the effect, or even before these results are made known. A sudden rain may cause us to pray that there isn't a flood. We may pray that a thunderstorm doesn't produce a tornado. When we speak about natural occurrences, we may see one person plant a negative seed of thought. They, in turn, talk with another, then another, then another until such time that the thought has become a newsworthy event and the entire community hears the thought. If the collective mind of the community becomes set in one direction, the seed is planted, and the vibrations are placed into motion toward results. Any time a community forms a collective thought, whether positive or negative, there will be an action.

Now, what happens to our prayer of intercession if it is made toward, and on behalf of, an individual? Most probably, we have all experienced the illness of a loved one and our resultant prayer of intercession. We set circumstances ourselves! We have set a result into motion if we make the conscious decision to not seek medical attention. We have set circumstances into being if we make a statement in an illness situation, "I don't want to live this way." We must remember that we influence the interaction of our fears, our habits, our faith, our desire, our responsibility and the resulting effect.

We have charted a course if we permit old traditions to be our standard. We have set conditions in ourselves if we fear illness, or doctors, or hospitals. We have made a statement of faith if our faith indicates that we of today live in a time, which is different from when Jesus walked upon the earth, and He is not here. We have made a choice if we view medical treatment as hoses, IVs, ventilators, machines and monitors.

What happened to the choice that we really have? We have a choice that says: I'll get through this! Or, we can say: I don't want to live this way. I personally wouldn't want to live life connected to machines and kept alive by artificial means. However, we must look very carefully at the last conscious statement made by the person who is ill if circumstances warrant the assistance of medical equipment to sustain life. The power of that last word or thought has been set into motion, and can be a word of wellness or a word of death. Remember, it can be said that mankind speaks life to their life or they can speak death to their life. This can be shown in the following verse: Proverbs 18:21, *Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*

Through the statement made, the ill person has established a core belief statement and now the immediate family's intercession will assist to complete or change this thought. If the ill person's last statement was, I don't want to live like this, and the statements being made by the family are, We're preparing for the worst, or We may lose this one, or any similar statement then these statements match the core thought. The resulting thought has been expanded to that point that all the prayer chains in existence cannot overcome the wall of belief at the center.

On the other hand if the family:

- 1) gathers in the patient's room
- 2) defies the rules of the hospital
- 3) prays openly in the presence of the patient
- 4) speaks of love and encouragement

- 5) tells the patient about others who are praying (even if the patient is unconscious)
- 6) says, You can get through this!
- 7) or, We are in one accord that God's word says you are healed!

Then there stands a good chance that if the last statement made was negative it may be overcome and a good fight will be fought toward a transition of circumstances to get through the illness.

We must remember one thing above all other statements. The decision made by the individual will be the basis for the result. If our loved one makes the decision to not fight, intercession will not win. Period! Unfortunately, we may not know of this decision. At that point we must accept the circumstances and go forward with what we can do in our own life.

These words may not sit well with many people, however, they are truth. Review all that is written in this work and the pieces should come together. There are many facets to any problem, and its resultant answer. Answers to many problems rest within the problem itself. We hold the power to unlock these answers because consciously or unconsciously we set the question.

The Great Commission and the Second Commission

The occurrence of Jesus' resurrection is the basis for Christian belief. The resurrection had to be, or else nothing in the Bible can be accepted as being true. There are very important lessons taught at this junction in the life of Christ. All four Gospels go through the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus. There are important points we must look at in the words used by the Gospel writers. Matthew records one such point in the 28th chapter of his gospel, we normally call this the Great Commission: Matthew 28:16-20 NIV, *Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

In all the days I have sat in churches, this is the one teaching I hear coming from pulpits pertaining to the instructions from Jesus after His death and none other. I believe there is another teaching of equal importance given by Jesus after the resurrection! Many sermons are teachings either for, about, or pertaining to nonbelievers when we attend church on Sunday morning. Tell me who makes up the attendance at these services? Is your church full of nonbelievers? Neither is the church I attend, so with that being said, why is it necessary to teach to the nonbeliever when over 90 percent of those attending are believers? Wouldn't it make sense to teach to believers? Wouldn't the nonbelievers then come on their own accord, to learn what was being taught?

Here's another question: To whom is the Great Commission given? Do you see anything in those verses which says this only applies to pastors, teachers or missionaries? The true answer is given at the start of verse 19 where Jesus says, *Therefore go ...*. The implied instruction is given to every Christian, plain and simple.

There's another important point given in these two words, it is the second word *go*. We must take notice of when this instruction was given. Wasn't it given after the resurrection of Christ? Then common sense tells me I would need to see if other instructions are given to the disciples after the resurrection. Then I may understand what information is necessary to put everything together for this commission to work. We would perform a very large disservice to Jesus and to His body, the church, if we were to follow this instruction without the other portions.

Turn over to Acts, chapter 1. This chapter gives information about Jesus before He is taken into heaven. We must understand some things here in Acts for us to fully understand the commissions given to Christians. Read the following in Acts 1:4-8 NIV, *On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

So when they met together, they asked Him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

We must notice this is a command from Jesus (v4a) and the disciples are not to leave Jerusalem until the gift the Father promised is received (v4b). The gift to be received is identified in verse 5 as the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is important for Christians to understand there are three baptisms that we go through, baptism with water, with the blood of Christ and with the Holy Spirit to reach the fullness of who we are in Christ.

Now, I pray this is a review and not some new revelation made to you. The first baptism is by the water and is the moment where three things occur. (1) It is the public profession of faith that is made and the act declaring we accept Jesus as Savior and Master of our life. (2) It is also by this act we repent of our sins. (3) Finally, this is the act which records our name in the Book of Life. The second baptism is by the blood of Christ and represents the forgiveness of our sins. We can see this in those scriptures relating to the Last Supper events in the following verses: Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20 and John 6:54. We can also find references in other verses such as Ephesians 1:7. The third baptism is that of the Holy Spirit as shown in verses 5b and 8 above. For the sake of understanding let us look at Ephesians for additional information. In Ephesians 1:7-17 NIV, we can find another part of the equation we are dealing with. *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In Him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of His glory. For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.*

What are the riches of God’s grace that was poured out upon us? Furthermore, what mystery of His will was made known to us according to his good pleasure? It doesn’t seem that the answers are given and yet they are. To see the grace that was given you turn over a few pages to Ephesians chapter 4. There are many answers recorded for us in this chapter. Ephesians 4:7-16 NIV reads as follows, *But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, He led captives in His train and gave gifts to men.” (What does “He ascended” mean except that He also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who*

ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Notice to whom grace has been given in verse 7. Now, I'm sure there are many who will take this verse and say grace is only given to Christians as this verse is a part of Paul's writings to the Church, thus only to Christians. However, there is another thought that goes back to John 3:16. I cannot find anything in John 3:16 that would imply God only loved Christians. Therefore, I read this as saying each and every individual is given grace as *Christ apportioned it*. That is the key to understanding this verse, as *Christ apportioned it* and not as mankind sees it according to their denomination or belief. Notice also in verse 12 the reason for the giving of those identified in verse 11. The purpose is in verses 12-13, *To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of fullness of Christ*. We can see in verse 14 we are not to be spiritual infants and in verse 16 we can see we all have a part to play, *as each part does its work*.

There was also the question pertaining to the mystery mentioned. Since we are reading from Ephesians there must be an answer that Paul reveals to the Ephesians themselves that we can find and observe. The answer is given in Ephesians 3:6 NIV, *This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus*.

In many churches, and by many traditions, we have this backward. We, Christians, are joint heirs with Israel. We are not the spiritual leaders over Israel, nor are we the only members of the body. For any denomination to proclaim that Christians are the new Israel, or the only members of the body, or for that matter the only heirs is outright foolishness. It only proves there is no unity in the body within the outpouring of God's grace for us toward understanding.

As one example, let me show you something that tradition has formulated and passed down. Turn to Matthew 6:9-13, We traditionally call this passage of scripture, *The Lord's Prayer: After this manner therefore pray ye: "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."*

We recite these verses and don't even recall, nor remember the first six words of verse 9. Those words are (NIV), *This, then, is how you should pray: ...* . If this verse is giving instructions for the manner in which mankind should pray shouldn't we call this The People's Prayer, and not *The Lord's Prayer*? There is nothing in these verses that says this is how I pray (meaning Jesus) nor do you find the statement, "My Father, who art in heaven..." indicating a prayer being made by Jesus. If you really want to see the Lord's Prayer for all believers you must turn over to John 17:20-26. Before we get to those verses notice something else that is recorded in the seventeenth chapter of John in 17:1 NIV, *After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed*. Notice that you do not have to shut your eyes, nor bow your head to pray to God. Now, back to verses 20-26 NIV, *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one,*

Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

In verse 20a, the *them* refers to the twelve apostles and verse 20b indicates they are responsible for the message that caused you and I to believe. This prayer is also for us! In the remaining portion of this prayer look at the significance of the unity of the church. I would like to know, as long as the body of Christ goes on fussing, fighting and finger pointing, how much do you think this prayer is answered? How much love do you think is shown by the body of Christ? Oh! By the way, just so you haven't forgotten, the body of Christ is the Church.

There is another answer that is revealed in the full prayer Jesus prayed to the Father. Look in verses 11-12 NIV, *“I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.”* If you go back to the Great Commission, which we have actually been talking about. It gives instruction on the manner of baptism and says in verse 19 of Matthew 28 NIV, *...Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.* The name to be used is identified in John 17:11.

We have been reading about various implications of the Great Commission, and yet, I titled this chapter, *The Great Commission and the Second Commission*. I indicated that to find the second commission we would need to study events after the resurrection of Christ to see that there really is a second set of instructions given by Jesus. This second commission would reflect upon the first, or Great Commission. The second commission is hidden in the 21st chapter of John. This passage should be familiar to many as the occasion where Jesus comes to some of the disciples while they were fishing on the Sea of Galilee. They had caught nothing and Jesus tells them to cast their net on the other side of their boat. After the catch they had breakfast together. It is after breakfast that we find the verses necessary to identify the second commission. Read the following in verses 15-17 NIV, *When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”*

There are three statements that make up the instructions for the Second Commission: (1) *Feed my lambs*; (2) *Take care of my sheep*; and, (3) *Feed my sheep*. All three statements indicate a nurturing is to take place and there should be a transition of maturity from lambs to sheep. In reality what is the second commission and how does it relate to the Great Commission?

The Second Commission sets forth that the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11) are to prepare the followers (sheep) for the purpose of the Great Commission.

Let us go back to that little word in verse 19 of Matthew 28. It simply says *go*. Notice it does not say for pastors to go, or teachers to go, or even for missionaries to go. It just says *go* and would mean for each and every one of us to go, and proclaim the Good News of Jesus. Now, return to the first

chapter of Acts, verse 8. Doesn't it read (NIV), "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" Couldn't we say that Jerusalem represents our home base (shouldn't that be our home church), Judea and Samaria our state or nation, and the ends of the earth represent the rest of the world? How are you going to go into all the world and teach and preach the gospel if you, as a believer, do not understand the meanings, the mysteries, and the instructions recorded? That's your assignment as indicated in the work you are to do in Ephesians 4:16. Without you doing your part, the completeness of the body fulfilling its task is not possible. Just as your physical body depends upon all the various parts to function together for it to work, the body of Christ depends upon you doing your function, or part, so the whole body may complete the assigned work from Christ, the head of the body.

Now, let's go back to one of the first questions I raised in this chapter: Is your church full of nonbelievers? Does your church provide the nurturing of the Word, being represented as the second commission, so you are prepared to fulfill the Great Commission? There is abundant life in knowing Jesus as Savior. There is a process one may go through to increase their faith. A person can find the riches of grace granting to you that which you ask for in God's glory. Where is it stated in either commission the believer must suffer or be in poverty (called sacrifice) to proclaim the truth? Doesn't the truth actually indicate we are to find the truth, to mature in this knowledge and to pass this knowledge on to others? When churches speak of sacrifice aren't they asking you to give them more of your money? Isn't it interesting that they have it completely backward? If you would only read the entire teachings of the Bible you would find the only reason for a sacrifice is due to disobedience. If you are obedient there is no need for a sacrifice. Thus, who is in disobedience? Is it you or those you are following, that create a need for a sacrifice? The other part of this is the requirement of the pastor and teachers to provide you the nurturing to understand the Word. Did you notice in the Great Commission anything that said you would have a connection back to the church for support, or even a need for support? Wouldn't it make sense that by God's grace, through Jesus, that money, or material things required to complete the Great Commission would be provided from the storehouse of God?

Let's look at an example of what I'm trying to get you to understand. Who existed first God or an army? I'd say that God was first, but let's look at an army. When an individual elects to go into military service, or is inducted into an army, all they give is themselves. The items necessary to fulfill the mission are provided by the army itself. The individual does not take a cow along so they can make combat boots, nor do they take funny looking green cloth so they can make combat clothing. Neither do they have to find a gunsmith to fashion them a weapon, nor find a teacher to train them in the art of war. All of the needs are provided by the army to prepare the individual to meet the mission that is requested. All the individual really has to do is **go** when told to **go**.

In similar manner if the Great Commission tells us to *go*, wouldn't it make sense that the means to prepare the individual to go is taken care of by the one who said *go*? If God has given the believer the order to go, hasn't He also given the teaching, the material necessities, and the will to go before the call was made? There was no need to suffer, there was no need for a sacrifice, there was only a call to go. It was up to the church to prepare you for that call.

Isn't it time we stop this game playing we have in many of our churches and return to the truth of what it is we should be doing and believing? Without the shepherds leading, and nurturing the sheep, there is no growth and preparation for any calling. Without a calling there is no expansion of the knowledge of Jesus in the world. We defeat ourselves for the sake of our own disbelief, instead of being the proclaimers of spiritual gifts of love, healing, teaching the knowledge and truth of God, and by all means the belief in His Son.



Mysteries



Prior to concluding this work there is one other topic that must be discussed and that is the mysteries contained in the Bible. Jesus was there revealing mysteries when He taught the Apostles. They were mysteries at that time because no one had taken the time to reveal subject material as Christ did, often teaching in parables or using examples. That was then and this is now. The Apostles did not have the advantage to see the guide book in its final form, thus things were amazing and a mystery to them. However, we have the completed inspired work presented together and should be able to see the bigger picture that Jesus wanted those to whom He spoke, to understand. We should acknowledge that the mysteries have been revealed and they are full of truth and understanding. Yet, we seem to have a veil over our eyes that masks the truth. We are easily lead astray.

The veil I speak of is what I call smart marketing. It seems that this veil is in every corner of life and there is little that is done to remove it. Judges and lawyers present the idea that you can no longer represent yourself, yet the principle of the land permits you to represent yourself. Pharmaceutical companies want you to believe that you have particular symptoms and you need their latest and greatest pill for that symptom, yet the Bible tells you, you were healed by Jesus' stripes. Politicians want you to believe only they can solve the issues of your life and you need them to control your every move from birth to death. Reality indicates it is your spirit that is connected directly to the power source of God and you can control what is released from that source. I also want you to look at the churches themselves. They point fingers at one another over who has the best approach to God and who will be saved. They tell you that you must do this or that in order to be righteous. They present to you information that never permits you to grow in the understanding of what the Bible actually says.

Go through the topics of this work and ask yourself if the church would agree that you have the God given right to ask God for what you want? Ask if they would agree that there is only one Church and only one way to get to the Father? Ask the government why they believe our tax dollars belong to the government and not to the people who paid them? Ask why the government does not support programs to get people to understand they have the ability to change their personal circumstance? Ask the courts, and the officers of the courts why it is necessary to have more officers of the court added on a daily basis. Ask doctors who actually performs healing, the physician or the patient? Ask the pharmaceutical companies why there is so much research conducted to bring new forms of medicine to market? Ask why they don't support programs that would take the dependency away from certain medications?

Your answers may be different from my own. However, I would care to believe none of these groups will support intellectual growth in people because these groups, as a whole, would lose their power, influence and money base. Therefore, you will not hear from any of these groups what is recorded in this work. You will not hear this taught in most churches, nor in many schools. Most probably, you will hear that this is nonsense, impractical and against the teachings of both Jesus and the Bible.



Here's the challenge! You, that means yourself with no outside influence, pick up the Holy Book on your coffee table, the one beside your bed, the one over there in the book shelf, or the one that you only open on your Holy day and read it. I mean really read it! Don't try to use some dreamed up, read it in a year, program because those only go through a small portion at a time and may skip from place to place. Find a translation that you are comfortable with and read the book. Sit down and read for an hour or two at a time. Permit the time to cover 100-200 pages at a sitting. By doing this you will start to see portions that fit together from one place to another. The stories, history and facts will start to make sense and the one thing that will stand out is that what is making sense is not what you have been taught in every case. Some things will be exactly the same and others will be as different as the difference from darkness to light. Learn from God's Spirit by understanding the principles that are there.

Circles

Generations have come and generations have gone and we still try to understand where we are going. In reading the laws as God gave them, I've come to understand all things come full circle. God set down a beginning and it will come full circle to an ending. Mankind's existence, called life, is no different. We are born and in that beginning we must come full circle to an end we call death. Over the course of that journey everything we do and say causes ripples to occur, small circles ever increasing in size as they move away from us. There are times when these ripples align themselves with the ripples of others and a larger wave is formed from the two. The opposite is also true and there are those times the ripples we set into motion clash with the ripples of those around us and we see the turbulence caused. All of this is done through our thoughts and through our words.

Love, and the understanding of the power of love, is the greatest of all gifts from God. If we followed the lead that has been given us we should all understand that if we all loved each other as we love ourselves there would be no conflict between any of us, for who would hate themselves? My only legacy is my children and not what I write. We should understand that we become parents because we desire to leave something behind after we are gone. Most of us will never be mentioned in any history book and the only thing that we can leave behind is our children. If we understand this then the question becomes what is left behind? Do we come to understand love and the universal principle from God or do we do our own thing, forsake everything in the name of self and complete the circle in loneliness and despair?

I write this to everyone. **Love!** Love your spouse, love your children, love your neighbor, love life and most of all love the Creator who made us and gave us this journey to make. If you really want to understand what life is all about, it is this journey we are on and the answer is rebirth. We find rebirth in seeds, we find rebirth in our children and we find rebirth in the examples from Jesus, the greatest Teacher. Our rebirth is spiritual and not physical and we should be traveling on our journey in full knowledge of our rebirth. The answers have been given and it is up to us to find them. Do you have the answer yet? Why not? It was left for you to find. Don't give up, look once again, because our journey is to prepare ourselves for the completion of our circle and the eventual return to the Creator. The eternal results will be based on what we ourselves have done.

Our memory will be what we leave in our children. If we teach them love, respect and the fullness of understanding God's law, then our memory will continue just as the memory of our forefathers rests within us. If we teach our children hate, prejudice and envy, our memory will die with us. Unfortunately, that is the grand sum of reality.

Finally, there is only one other thing that must be written. All through these sections there has been a reference to Jesus and the application of God's law being applied to everyone on an equal basis. This statement alone will send many Christians off to think about things and to criticize this writer for the manner of presentation. Here is the difference and it's only one word. **Heaven!**

Every individual can use the power of the principle. It can be done without an acceptance of Christianity, however, there is one fact that remains. If there is a desire to continue your relationship with God throughout eternity there must be a belief of Jesus as the Christ. Note once again John 3:16, "*that whosoever believeth in him should not perish.*" Now, look at John 14:1-4. In these verses we should grasp an understanding that Jesus is the one who goes to prepare a place for us in heaven. Without a belief in Him, we will not have the opportunity to spend eternity in the place where He is.

So, does that mean that there is no heaven for the Moslem who reads the Quran? No! I did not say that. Muhammad taught many things about the hereafter and about paradise. To those who adhere to the teaching of the Quran there will surely be a hereafter and a paradise will be found. Here rests the

differences. It does not matter if you are learning from the Bible or the Quran, most will not read for themselves what truth actually says, thus you end up with many who are only following tradition and stories that have been passed down without regard to where these traditions or stories originated. You will hear them say: So what if the text indicates something different, I believe and that's what counts. Perhaps they may say: It's only a matter of interpretation and this is the interpretation I care to use. What you really end up with is a group of individuals that have a closed mind, a hardened heart and could care less about truth. Their mind is already made up and there is little that can be said or done which will ever cause a change within their thought pattern. Yes! The followers of Muhammad will find heaven and the principle difference will be what was said above about Jesus. There will be a paradise for the Moslem, it just won't contain Jesus.

Therefore, once again you have the choice of cause and effect. You select the heaven in which your soul will spend eternity. You possess the key to the power within. Through truth you release the power within and you're free. Free to be, free to do, free to live life more abundantly. Jesus taught the following in John 10:10-NIV, *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* Listen to the Teacher, and not the thief, and you'll find the answers you seek.

Conclusion

This series of consecutive sections reflect truth which I have come to understand over many years of study and practice of the beliefs outlined in these words. I am no different from you and have had days when I believed what is written here and success followed my every turn. There have also been days when I fell into the same trap that many others fall into and listened to the myths of society and my health and environment reflected those thoughts. When I realized what state my condition was in, I would sow different seeds to reap once more from God's wonderful gifts.

These words may be taken as a teaching toward secular man with a viewpoint from psychology or they can be taken as a teaching toward the spirit filled person who seeks to learn more of truth. In either context, the principles of the laws will remain the same, only the method of application will be different. In similar manner truth may be found in the Bible, or also in the Quran. Again, the principle of good will remain within each of us.

God gave to every individual a mind to use and it remains up to us how we will use this gift. If you search scripture for truth you will find many verses do not match with the teaching we hear taught in our denominational churches. I am not advocating that denominational churches be done away with, or that they are teaching false doctrine. What I want more than anything else is for you to understand the power rests within you and is under your control if you will only take charge of that control. Search for truth, study God's guidelines at every opportunity and learn what is truth.

It seems to me mankind has gotten to the point within our society where we would prefer to call God and Jesus a liar instead of having an open mind toward understanding what is recorded as truth. Look at the accounts in Genesis. The life span of the people was recorded as being 700, 800, even over 900 years of age. By being creatures that God created perfect, in the beginning, we should still live to see ages such as this. However, we have heard time and time again, that this is only an illustration of a very old age and the time factor of these years is not true. We are also told that we are not perfect, only Jesus was perfect. Who says so? Why must these answers be correct? Aren't we co-heirs with Christ and aren't we to follow His example? If we think in the manner that we have traditionally been taught, don't we put a limit on God's ability and accept that what is recorded is untrue?

In like manner we call God a liar when we read that our healing has occurred but we don't

believe a word of it and continue to accept disease and sickness as real. We call Jesus a liar repeatedly and think nothing of the traditions that we have permitted to come into existence. We fail to understand the true picture of Christ's birth and His crucifixion upon the cross. For example look at the crucifixion of Jesus, which day of the week did it occur? Most will say Friday because that is what we have been taught for so long without regard to truth. Matthew 12:40 gives us a statement direct from Jesus and reads, *"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*

Now, unless you have learned some form of math that is contrary to my own there is no way possible for the crucifixion of Jesus to take place on a Friday and His resurrection on Sunday and this verse be true. Therefore, either there is a flaw in the traditional view, or you are calling Jesus a liar. To go one step further please explain to me how the bunny rabbit and baby chicks got into the crucifixion of Christ. Are you starting to understand what is being said?

In many cases your beliefs were good enough for your parents and you do not intend to change. In doing so, you close off the force of the principle that is all around you and you continue to sow the same thought seeds as previous generations. Instead, be as little children and believe as you once did. Accept that the principle is real and you possess the key to unlock its power. You and you alone have the means to unlock the lock on this power. In doing so you have truly found the "**Key to Yourself.**"



☆ VQP ☾



☆ VQP ☾



☆ VQP ☾



