

The Miracle That I Offer

Connecting To Your Spiritual Self

by

Brad Jensen

Dedication:

To you who search for the miraculous.

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Introduction

The miracle that this book is talking about is the miracle of self-discovery. It is the grand miracle that opens the door to all kinds of other miracles. It is the place to start your journey to any worthy goal. It is the key to everything you can think of.

Are you interested in personal transformation? Begin it by asking yourself who you really are, and allowing the universe to give you an answer.

Would you like to change your circumstances? Find the Truth within yourself, and then find a way to express it.

Do you want to impact the world in a positive way? See your innate goodness, and you will truly become a light of the world.

Lessons that are offered to you are essential for any permanent progress. They may sound too simple to be true, but nevertheless they are true. You are not

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asked to believe it - you are invited to try and to prove that they are workable.

Jesus discovered his divine identity, and our world became different ever since. Brad discovered his divine identity, and it made him a millionaire, a person who contributes to the well-being of thousands of people all over the world. Now it is your turn to find out who you are and to demonstrate it by blessing the world. Let your light shine.

I have never met Brad personally, and yet my life has changed radically since I found his writings on the Internet in 1997. At that time, being a minister of a traditional Protestant church, I searched for new ways of thinking about myself and about God. Old dogmas did not bring me the satisfaction I was looking for, and I knew that there has to be something more.

Brad's messages helped me to look at Jesus anew and to realize that he has nothing to do with old-fashioned dogmas on human depravity and weakness. Later on, I started to translate Brad's messages into Russian

and to share them with my friends, and it became evident to me that we receive full benefit of any idea only when we give it to others.

You will notice that Brad is not a scholar, but Jesus was not one either. His purpose is not to make a thorough description of human nature, but to stimulate your own thinking and to give you some ideas to work with.

As you will encounter those ideas, some of them may seem to you weird, unbalanced or even sacrilegious. Do not resist your desire to argue. Do not write off the challenge that those ideas offer. Sometimes the only way for an idea to get our attention is when we set ourselves to fight with it. Jacob became Israel after he wrestled with God. All true teachers know that, that's why they continue to challenge those who come to them.

I heard that someone called Jesus "the great Stimulator". He did not explain things as

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much as he provoked thinking of his disciples.

You will see that Brad does the same in this book. It is not his goal to give a picture of reality for you to embrace. He wants to be a servant of the Truth that you have within, and lead you into a process of discovering who you are - the greatest miracle and the greatest adventure in the world.

When you will know yourself, you will know God. When you will know God, all things will be added to you.

Andrei Yashurin

Tver, Russia

August 2001

Author's Note

Many of the following essays were originally written as replies on Internet Web-based, or email-based discussion forums. These forums vary in tone from academic symposium to lively neighborhood squabble, often within the same message.

Sometimes these replies were comments on existing discussion topics, and other times they were as answers to specific questions.

I have edited them only slightly, to preserve the conversational and familiar nature of the text.

I hope the overall result is pleasing to the ear and stimulating to the mind.

I express my deep appreciation to Andrei Yashurin, who assembled and organized these writings for his own translation into Russian, and sent them on to me so I could share them with you.

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As Andrei Yashurin says in the above introduction, you may find some of the things I say here difficult to integrate with your existing worldview.

Many of the things we each believe, we internalized long before we had a chance to rationally evaluate the ideas. Taking the time to think about what you believe now, is a good thing whether you decide to change or maintain your old belief.

I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoyed writing it.

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Bless Your World Into Being

Bless what comes into your hands. You can change your whole life in a moment if you do this. This is what Jesus called judging with righteous judgment.

If you could see the world as it truly is, as the kingdom of God, you would realize that every new experience comes to you for your good, and for no other reason. The way to enter this consciousness of the kingdom of God is to change your thinking to match reality as it is.

When you bless something, you accept it as the gift of God, no matter what the seeming source may be. You make it your own gift to the world, by pronouncing it good. You take responsibility for it.

In blessing it, you say that this thing is something that you have asked for in some way. This thing is something that will add to the good in your life. This thing is something you can do good with.

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By changing your consciousness in this way, you enter into the right relation with God. You cast aside all confusion and indecision. You make each new event in your consciousness an opportunity for prayer.

At the same time, you enter into the right relationship to the gifts of the spirit. You acknowledge that everything in the world is such a gift. You also recognize that nothing in this world is greater than your spiritual identity, your relationship with the Creator that makes you the creator of your world and experience.

This prevents anything in your world from becoming an idol or graven image to you. If your health, happiness, wealth, or even scripture or religion becomes God for you, then you have taken the wrong path. By blessing things as they come to you, you keep your eyes on God.

In having the audacity to, and claiming the constant permission to bless the world, you affirm and acknowledge your true spiritual identity as the only begotten child of God in

your world. Your world comes to you, through you. Everything in your world comes in answer to a call from within your spiritual self for growth. There is a meaningful way to use each experience, no matter what it seems like on the surface, to assist your spiritual growth and development.

Bless what you give forth into the world. Sometimes it seems as if it is being taken from you against your will. Sometimes you must let go of something you think you desperately need to keep. It may be a thing, a place, a person, or even a belief. When the time comes that it seems these are required from you, do not just surrender them to the world. Give them freely, with whatever joy you can provide them with, but in every case, give them as an active and willing gift to the world.

When you give to the world, you are giving to your own tomorrow. If you do not know this, you often give reluctantly, with fear and resentment. What is given that way, returns that way. Do not sow the seeds of

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discouragement and further resentment in your world. Give willingly, with no strings attached.

You are the child of God. God is the Creator of all that is. As God's child, become the creator of all that you are, within His love.

You do not have to become good first, before you do this. As much as you accept God's plan for you, you live in the goodness of His love.

You do not have to participate in a ritual or a particular group or religion. All of those are things we have invented to help us remember God. They can be very good things, as long as they lead us to a relationship with God, and remind us to affirm and improve that relationship. Bless them also.

What do you think will become of you as you do this? Of course, you yourself will become blessed. Your attention will be raised above fear and lack. You will improve your experience of the world.

You will strengthen all of your spiritual qualities, including love, faith, and confidence. You will strengthen your imagination and will, which are the tools God has given you to direct your creation. The quality and quantity of the things that come into your life will rapidly begin to change.

Your mind is a powerful engine of creation. It tends to wander aimlessly, wherever your attention leads it. When you decide to bless everything in your world, that is, everything that enters your consciousness, (and this includes the memories of past experiences that become new again as you consider them) you take control of that engine, you set it on the course of creating blessings for yourself and others.

What does it mean to bless what comes into your world? It means to see it clearly and pronounce it as good. You say, "This that I am thinking of, is here in my presence for the good of myself and my world. I will add my own goodness to this and give it forth into the world as an even better thing. I

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recognize that my decision to do so is the seed of even greater goodness for my world”.

We bless this world into being. As soon as you realize and accept this, and as much as you choose to act on this, you can change everything in your experience, and everything that you are.

To you who are trying to reach enlightenment like a jockey trying to win some desperate horse race, I say, it is like a ride along a beautiful riverside with someone you love deeply. It is happening now, not in the past or the future. Open your eyes where you are today, and see it.

There is a difference between principle and fine sounding words. I am not satisfied with fine sounding words.

Bless your world into being.

Reality

Each of us creates our own reality from the mind stuff God provides us with. That mind stuff is the whirling thoughts of God, condensed by his intention into the foundation of our being.

It is as we come to suspect that God wants us to be happy now, in the midst of this kingdom that he has given us, that we realize the true scripture is written in our hearts, and that Christ is with us now present, not as some faint echo of long-ago miracles, but as the spirit within our breath.

When we deny the reality of any outward thing, we do so knowing that outward things are not permanent, and are not the limitation of what we can have or be. We believe that the Truth is within us, and the truth will set us free now, not after we are dead. For truly this world we live in is dead until we worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

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When we seek to prove the truth of Christianity, let us know that it is possible only by using it in our own life, not by contesting or arguing with each other.

No one can take what really belongs to you, just as no one can give you what you do not already have within you.

Thank God for the great wisdom and understanding within yourself, and it will continually increase. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, which symbolizes knowledge of the power of continuous praise.

When you look for the good in any situation, you will see God.

God cannot lose you, but you may forget your way to God. If you forget your way to God, then the path shown by Jesus is the way to return.

Give up judgment, practice mercy instead.
Give up separation, practice unity instead.
Give up condemnation, practice forgiveness

instead. This is the way through Jesus to God.

When you see God operating in your life now, as it is today, then you have found the pearl of great price. You have entered the kingdom of God.

If you want to love God, then love his creation. If you want to serve God, then serve his creation.

To pray is to praise. Praise God without ceasing.

“I have taught you what I know, so you are no longer my servants but my equals”.

“I’m leaving now and returning home, so that you can do greater things than I have done”.

“Those who see God as I see God, in the men and women around them, and love God as I love God, by serving those around them

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with love, these are my disciples. These are my mother and my brethren”.

“You are all gods”.

These are the words of Jesus, who became the anointed of God.

You would do well to prefer them to the words of anyone who tries to interpret Christ to you, whether ancient or modern.

Works do not prove your faith. Such works are the vanity of one person striving with another. But faith seeks works in which to expand itself and express itself.

Praise love and wisdom wherever you find it, and you will find love and wisdom everywhere.

God is not mocked. Those who try to kill your understanding with the sword of their words, have no certainty in themselves because they do to themselves what they

are trying to do to you. They separate themselves from the presence of truth.

The obvious falseness of their words gathers the error that is still in your own thought, together where you can see it. Now you can more easily discover the truth within yourself.

So rejoice in the coming of those who would lead you back into bondage, and celebrate the freedom in you that frightens them so.

Heaven is a place that you are living in now. Open your ears so you can hear it, open your eyes so you can see it. Rejoice that the kingdom of heaven is in your hands now.

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I Agree With Jesus

I know there are many of you, my friends, who have taken years to recover from the cults of worshipping Jesus as more than man. In your youth you were given no choice. Jesus was presented as the key to a heaven that existed in the clouds of unknowing and the fear of death.

As you grew through adolescence and discovered a world of life, it may have seemed that Jesus was something to leave behind, forever tainted by the ignorance and fear that was preached to you, in his name.

And now we often tell each other that Jesus was the Wayshower, and that his accomplishments do nothing for us until we each learn to repeat them. I understand the emphasis, I understand the reasoning, and I will not ask anyone to change the way that they think of Jesus as an elder brother and the first of many who will live in Christ.

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For this day that we celebrate as the anniversary of his birth, I want to tell you what Jesus means to me.

When I was a child, I chose to be a Catholic by birth, baptism and confirmation. I believed in God, and I worshipped Jesus, trying to build the sense of holy shame that I was told would make the offering of my soul acceptable to God. As I got older, it seemed to me that this form of worship was based on separation from God. I remember reading catechisms that were designed to answer questions I had never even considered, as if asking God to reveal himself was the greatest insult to the Creator of intelligence and love. This makes no sense to me now.

I read about philosophy and science and the many religions of man. I was not satisfied with being satisfied about God and the universe. I could see that the persons who came to conclusions and then tried to use them to convince their neighbors, were driven by fear and self-doubt and the desire

to shout down that fear, no matter how they called it love and concern.

And I came back to God through metaphysics and New Thought, and along the way I met Jesus Christ. I found that the person who always agrees with me the most is Jesus, as I read his words in the Gospels. There are some scholars of great reputation who say that many or most of the words said to be Jesus', are not his. But their reputations will fade with time, and the words of Jesus will go on. What they are really saying, is that they do not know.

My job for almost thirty years has been in information processing. I am amazed to see the scholars arguing about the truth or falsity of the Gospels according the record of their transmission, and the structure of the information. This would make sense of the data being transmitted was random noise. But if the information being given is a spiritual formula for knowing God, what we can do is put it to work and see if it works.

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Many of the ideas presented by Jesus are found in other religions. What Jesus adds for me, is attitude. He has an attitude towards knowing the truth, and creating a life that is a relationship to God, that inspires me to attempt the same in my own life. I know that there are some persons who would discourage me from the attempt, and call on Jesus' name in doing so. I have heard them say that God loves Jesus more than he loves us, but Jesus doesn't say what these people say.

I have heard that it is taught that faith is believing what someone else says about God without knowing it yourself.

This is not the truth. Jesus says that if you make your decisions based on your traditions, or on the word of others who claim spiritual authority, you will lose your way to God. You are responsible for knowing God yourself. No one can do it for you. Faith is believing what God knows about you.

I do not know every thought of Jesus, the man who accepted that he was completely the Christ. But I believe that his thought is greater than the thought of anyone who has ever tried to explain his thought, or explain it away. He said, you will do greater things than I have. He said, because I have taught you what I know, you are no longer my servants, but my equals. He believed that what made him special is what he knew, and he believed that we could learn it.

Everything he says inspires me to believe that he thought we are in the same relation to God that he knew for himself. Why bother to teach us a language we would be incapable of speaking? Why teach us to parrot thoughts we could never know?

I think the Gospel writers knew that they did not understand Jesus. In this they have the advantage over many who have followed through the years, relying on a secondhand set of dogmas and a foolish intellectual theology that is a poor stand-in for direct knowledge of God. If I desire to convince you

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of the nature of God, I do not understand the nature of God's relation with you.

I know that I do not know all of Jesus. I do know that the faint and fractured echoes of his teachings have transformed the world forever. I seek to follow for myself the trail he has blazed. If you want to call him Wayshower or Son of God, I will agree with you, but I will not stop with what you tell me to believe. I would rather swallow his gnats than your camels.

Every time I read the Gospels, I find myself agreeing with Jesus more and more.

I agree with Jesus that none is good but God. I agree with Jesus that the most important thing is to take a chance and get to know God directly, by using my talents and loving Gods creation.

I agree with Jesus that it is a mistake to stop thinking, no matter whether I use scripture or tradition for an excuse. I agree with Jesus that sometimes I can't see my way clearly, but I know that everything that

has come into my life is a result of my desires and has come to bless me.

I agree with Jesus that when I believe in suffering that I have turned my face away from God, and for best results I should turn back to God and sacrifice the idea of suffering. I agree with Jesus that to love your neighbor and yourself is to love God.

I agree with Jesus that the universe, God, and myself are a unity, and every time I see divisions and separations I am forgetting something about myself and God.

I agree with Jesus that no matter how perfect my relationship with God, there comes a time in each change where I am afraid that God will forget who I am. I agree with Jesus that despite that fear, I will put my faith in God and go on.

I agree with Jesus that God loves me without limit, without conditions, and without reservations, and that his love for me is beyond my comprehension. I agree

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with Jesus to submit to the love of God, and forgive God for my fear.

I know that some of you think I have created these ideas, whether you think the ideas are good or bad. I will say that they are my own, and I do not think them good or bad as people count things. They are just the way things are. If they are God, then they are good. I find every one of these ideas in the sayings and examples of Jesus.

I agree with Jesus that what is good comes from God. If something good comes to you from thinking on these things, it came from God.

Jesus keeps showing me the way. He lives.

God bless you all my friends, and ask God for your blessings.

The Loneliest Man In the World

I am happy to tell anyone who asks that I believe In Jesus Christ. I believe in what he told us to do. I believe he walked on water and rose from the dead.

I do not believe in the shame and blame that is handed out in his name, the condemnation and separation of people by those who claim Christ but who believe mostly in their own traditions and concern themselves with proving that other people are loved less by God.

I believe that Paul was given to us for the hardness of our hearts, and not as the perfect example of Christian living. Jesus himself is that, until you become that example for yourself.

For me the only test of authenticity for the Gospels is for me to take the ideas of Jesus, as I perceive them, and put them to work. If they give me a more accurate and descriptive understanding of reality, then worrying about the shape of his nose and

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how many girlfriends he had is an interesting vanity, but not much more.

The theory of Jesus as a mythical beast who was invented hundreds of years after his life is interesting. However there are dozens of gospels, not four. It is the Socrates problem magnified. Who is the 'real' Socrates, the Socrates of Plato or the Socrates of Xenophon? Or of the others who wrote of him?

I will say that I am the real Socrates, the Socrates who exists in my mind is the one that shapes my reality.

If you read a book on nuclear physics, and you want to know if it is true, there is only one thing to do. You don't spend time reading commentaries, and commentaries on commentaries. You build a reactor and see if it works. This is science.

In New Thought, we are scientific Christians. This means we take the ideas of Christ and test them. We don't use them because they sound nice. We don't use them

because they fit our common idea of holiness. We use them because they are an accurate description of the reality that is larger than everyday life. We move from the world of effects into the world of cause.

Here is the secret teaching of Jesus, which is no secret if you read his words without preconditions:

“Be like God!”

To test the authenticity of his sayings, ask yourself if they enhance that teaching or take you further from it.

Ask yourself also why he would say such a thing.

Most of theology is trying to keep God and Jesus at a safe distance, in the past and as a separate individual.

Jesus wants you to come to God through him. You must say the same things of yourself that Jesus says of himself. You

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must claim the same relationship to God, having mercy and not judgment, that Jesus has with God. You must see this world, this moment now, as God's perfect kingdom, where all his laws are followed, and there is perfect peace.

As long as you are looking at this world and see suffering and injustice and separation from God, as long as you are seeing this world as less than somewhere else you might be, as long as you see yourself and others as less than the perfect children of God, then you are worshipping the Adversary and living in shadow in preference to the light.

The sin of Adam was not that he made a mistake, because God made us so we can make mistakes and learn. Adam's sin was that he denied the responsibility for making his decision. In that denial he gave up the possibility of learning from his mistake. It is only as we repeat that denial that we separate ourselves, in our consciousness, from God. Jesus healed that separation and became the Christ when he accepted

responsibility for even the injustices done to him, and forgave God. This is what we must also do if we are to approach God through the doorway opened by Jesus.

Some people might say, “How can he talk about forgiving God? Who are we to forgive God?”

Following Jesus’ example, I say that when you do not forgive your neighbor, when you feel an injustice has been done to you, when you seek to shame another, when you feel envy or resentment or jealousy or blame, then you are calling God unjust and denying the kingdom of God, and you are not forgiving him. So I ask you, who are you to continue not forgiving God?

Jesus was asked for the greatest commandment, and ignored the ones of Moses. He said (and I paraphrase freely here into modern speech), “Love God with your whole heart, mind, and soul. The way to do this impossible task is to love your neighbor as a part of your total self”.

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All the worshipping of Jesus as some superbeing is just personal vanity unless it leads you to do this one thing. If you do this one thing, you will recognize and accept the true meaning of Christ in yourself, and you will have a more real respect for the accomplishments of Jesus. I would bet for a time he was the loneliest man in the world.

You Are the Question

I try to be careful about putting too much attention on single words in the Bible. I believe it is written in thought pictures, and I interpret it the same way.

For example, in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus speaks of the 'kingdom of heaven'. In the Gospel of Mark, he is quoted as saying the 'kingdom of God'. Does this come from the fact that Matthew was writing for the Jews, who would be offended by speaking the name of God? Was there an oral tradition that told the readers that he really meant God, not heaven? Or does Mark add interpretation, and translate heaven to God?

Or are the Gospel writers telling us indirectly that God is heaven, and heaven is God?

What is definite about Jesus and his view of the world, is that he thinks the kingdom of heaven, or kingdom of God, is present here and now. To the people around him, a

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kingdom meant a situation of peace and justice, where the principles or laws were followed by everyone.

Somehow, Jesus sees the world around him with a different perspective than other people who lived in his time and place. Where they see inequality and injustice, he sees justice. The people who feel weak and broken, he sees as powerful and strong and healthy.

The Bible says there was one place where he could not heal people - in his home town, where their beliefs were too rigid.

Here is my interpretation of what these words mean, as they are used by Jesus in the Gospels.

God is the recognition that the world is one living unity, a unity centered in my own experience of it. Heaven is the world as it is, when I take complete responsibility for my existence in it and relationship to it. It is the world as I see it knowing that God is in every part of it.

The Father in heaven is the recognition that I am rooted in God. The creative source of the universe exists in my consciousness.

Think of the Father as a direction rather than a destination. It is the reminder to look for God in each moment, to look for God in each experience, and most of all, to look for God within yourself, as a loving, caring presence that teaches and nurtures you, that wants only good for you.

A father is the source and focus of authority, tradition, instruction, and most of all, love. Jesus says to call no man on earth father. If you look for love and truth and freedom in external things or other people, you will always be disappointed. Look for the true source of being.

Think about these things on your own. Ask the Father of your being to instruct you in them.

People read the words of Jesus and become frustrated by them. They want them to be ordinary things, like 'sofa' and 'bread knife'

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and 'potato'. The early Christians got into great arguments, calling each other heretic. They took these new teachings and tried to understand them as a new way of speaking about their familiar concepts of an afterlife of heaven and hell, reward and retribution. I think when they did this, they lost the Way.

I think Jesus was aware that this would happen, and so he created a message that can speak directly to you now. Read the Gospels in a different way. Consider them as a message from Jesus to you.

Jesus is talking about now, and he's talking about you as an individual.

Find the good in yourself, celebrate it, and share it.

A person without eyes cannot see. A person without ears cannot hear. If you are aware of truth and life and wisdom and love, then you must have the eyes to see them, and the ears to hear them. You have these qualities in you, or you would never see or hear them

in your experience. Have the faith to find those qualities in yourself and express them. Have the faith to look in the same place again, when you are challenged and your light of wisdom is obscured. See it with your eyes of faith, and hear it with your ears of faith, and you will see “all things new”, and what you see is what will be.

The voice of God speaks every part of the world into being. You can hear the echoes of this voice in everyone and everything you experience. The clearest expression of this voice, for you, will always be as your own voice. Take every opportunity you can find to speak with the voice of God, in love and kindness and truth and harmony. Give people what they ask for, as it is yours to give.

You are the question. Your life is the answer. If you want a better life, make yourself into a better question.

If you are looking for answers that you can put down on paper, and point to with pride, and convince others with, I don't have

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anything to offer you. People reading these words will have their own personal experience of them. Don't assume these words will mean the same to them as they do to you. Your meaning is something that you bring to the experience.

How I Am Like Jesus Christ

I am like Jesus who expresses the Christ awareness, in the only way that I can be, in thought.

The link between personal man and spiritual principle is meaning. Meaning ties together thought as it manifests from abstract law outward to physical experience.

Like Jesus, I see outward circumstances not as the validation of my life, but as the reflection of my inner life, expressing through mind action.

I believe as Jesus does that all of life is meaningful, each situation, every idle dream. I no longer ignore God by believing in luck, coincidence, or random chance.

I have stopped seeking excuses to condemn myself, but instead I seek to take those aspects of myself that are out of harmony, and reintegrate them in my total self.

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I do this through love and unconditional affirmation of my life, as I experience it within, as well as through my relationships with others.

I understand that I manipulate meaning through symbolism, and that my firm foundation is in understanding universal or spiritual law. It is through this I declare my responsibility for my total Mind, and my willingness to grow through expressing greater wisdom and truth.

I know as Jesus does that faith is nothing more nor less than the firm understanding of spiritual cause and effect, and that this causation both supports and determines physical causation and outward reality.

It is in seeking the spiritual cause of each outward expression that I turn my attention to that within myself that is the source of the expression. I worship God through my willingness to express our understanding as my own.

Jesus is willing to take universal principle and express it as a personal relationship. I also understand that to share this awareness with all the aspects of my being, both inner and outer, requires me to include the quality of personality in it.

I am willing to give up seeking the approval of men (who represent the outer consciousness) for the awareness of the Father, who is the inner consciousness.

I am willing to fast from rationalizing and intellectualizing, in order to lay a hold of the law, and claim my relationship with the total self.

I have given up the need to have spiritual truth proven to me. My existence and my ability to learn is proof to me of God's love for me. I will not reject that love and birthright by seeking to give my authority or power to choose to another.

Giving and receiving are the turning of the same wheel. Like Jesus I set the wheel in motion myself, for each of us is complete

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and the creator of our own joy by our willingness to express unconditional love.

I rest in my understanding of divine justice, knowing that since each of us is a light, there is no need for darkness. I recognize that my awareness of my need for growth is not indication of a lack, but rather of a developing and unfolding perfection in my total self.

The true and honest picture of myself is to see myself as God sees me. Looking outward, I see that God affirms the absolute value of each individual, despite man's preferences and prejudices. Looking inward, I dare to accept myself as I am, and express the Amen: Lord, I am willing to change.

What About Evil?

To believe that evil exists as a force in the world is to believe that in some small way God hates us. It is a rejection of faith in God and is an assumption that universal law acts intermittently or erratically.

Suppose for a moment that God did create a devil to torment us. What could be his motivation in doing so? The idea that he has done so to strengthen us in our love of God is nonsensical and poorly thought out. It also directly contradicts Jesus' teachings, both literally and symbolically.

Jesus points out that God is like a loving father, without the limitations of an earthly one. "Which of you, if his son asks him for a fish, would give him a serpent?"

This image means, 'If you honestly seek true understanding in a situation, will you settle for egoistic rationalization?' Of course not.

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If your child needed to learn something, would you try to teach him through fear, or love? Would you set yourself against him, set stumbling blocks in front of him, dig a pit in his way? Of course not.

“If ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”

Nowhere in this image of God is there room for a Father who lets loose torment on his child.

The concept of an active force of evil reminds me of the classical paradox, can God create a stone so big he can't move it? Those who believe in a devil have implicitly answered this question yes.

Evil has often been compared to darkness. In this formulation, evil is an absence of good as darkness is an absence of light.

We can say light exists and darkness does not, because light is a measurable energy,

the presence of photons. Darkness is just a place where photons have not yet penetrated.

Perhaps we would have a more complete understanding of evil if we saw it this way, as incomplete. Evil is incomplete understanding, it is pausing on the journey to the truth.

If you go into outer space, there is light everywhere. Even the side of a satellite that is in shadow, is illuminated faintly by the billions of stars. Only an area that is completely enclosed by walls is truly in darkness. The rest is only in shadow.

The universe itself is more than half full of light.

I believe that most of what we take as evil, is more like shadow than true darkness. I believe that the love of God, which is the true light of creation, is strong enough to penetrate into the depths of every situation. We cannot completely close ourselves off from the love of God.

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Our thoughts are transparent to the light of grace, which is the love of God for each of us. That love has no prerequisites or conditions. God's love for each of us in this moment is deeper than the sea and wider than the sky. He shows it to us whenever we look for it.

If we give ourselves a moment to let our spiritual sight adjust to the experience we are in, we will see the love of God and the gift of goodness that the situation has for us.

Why would God give us stones instead of bread, serpents instead of fish? He is too busy leading us into light, to ever lead us into darkness.

A stone represents mind substance hardened by the application of will power, or in other words, something that you have already made a part of your permanent understandings. There is no nourishment in it for your mind. God is continually giving you new opportunities for learning, new challenges, represented by bread.

If you hesitate in reaching for your new understanding, then you are choosing the stone instead of the bread.

Some people have misconstrued the phrasing of the Lord's Prayer to indicate the existence of an active force of evil. "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil".

But this misunderstanding comes as a result of forgetting the true function of prayer, one that Jesus certainly knows and affirms. Prayer is not meant to reform the thoughts of God, but of man.

The Lord's Prayer is a spiritual photograph of God, designed to change our consciousness of spirit into a right relation to God. Suppose you add one word to the statement, and turn it into a descriptive phrase. "You lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil".

In other words, you are saying, "God, I understand that by loving you, I center my awareness on growth, rather than

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limitation, and commit myself to unconditional love of my situation, and complete responsibility and understanding of it”.

You love God by doing his will. His will is expressed as spiritual or universal law. So by choosing your thoughts to express according to spiritual law, you are choosing the light of God, which is goodness, and the darkness, the optical illusion of evil, evaporates in the fullness of light.

There are philosophies today that take the new wine of metaphysical thinking, and attempt to place it in the old bottles of original sin and dualistic thinking. To the thirsty man, even muddy water tastes sweet.

To think that there is a spiritual world, which is real and good, and a physical world, which is illusion and somehow lesser, is to falsely enthrone self-pity and self-delusion as spiritual law.

To think we have somehow offended God, and therefore are sentenced to live on Earth until we learn to submit to his will, is to fatally confuse guilt and grace.

We are here on Earth, in the kingdom of the heavens, because we have worked hard for the right to be here. It is in this place that God rests, not because he is tired, but because he wants us to grow up and make choices ourselves.

Hell is the desire to escape from this responsibility. It feels so bad because it is unnatural. Anything that goes against the Tao, the way the spiritual laws work, cannot persist.

This explains why so many spiritual seekers are still unhappy. They seek to have God be responsible for their decisions. They do not realize that you “Let go and let God” after you make the value judgment of what you want.

Does evil exist? It exists for you as long as you continue to pretend it does. Fortunately

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no one has the strength to be this foolish
forever.

How Do I Pray

Divinity reveals itself directly all the time. Look in the mirror. Or look in your reality, which is the true mirror of your consciousness.

What people are looking for is the ability to prove God's divinity to someone else, and this would be an interference in God's relationship with that other person. It comes out of your own insecurity and doubt. What is false is never able to prove what is true.

I can only say for myself now, that prayer works directly and definitely and momentarily and I have no doubt about it. If you create a picture where you are 'nudging' reality in a vague and indefinite way by repetitive pleading over long periods of time, this will work also but is like digging a ditch with an arsenal of A-bombs.

Prayer works any way you use it. There is no wrong way to pray. What is key to it is your intention and act of placing your

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attention on God as you know him, her, or it.

Things that I have found helpful in prayer:

1. I acknowledge the infinite presence, love, and power of God as my source in Spirit.
2. I know that nothing exists in my life except what God has created for my good.
3. I rise above all circumstances and conditions and let go of all physical limitations and expectations, and share God's view of my life as a learning experience.
4. I recognize and respect the needs of my human selfhood, and connect these desires to my spiritual perception. I bless what I desire. I think specifically about those things I desire, and expect a corresponding answer from Spirit, in a present or future thought, word, or action in my life.

5. With God's help, I forgive the doubts and self-deceptions that result in my resentments and guilt. Each of these is a sign of where I am living in the shadow, not the light, so I review them carefully and let them go.

6. I express my gratitude for the divine presence which animates my life, the divine purpose which gives it meaning, and the divine love that gives me value to share with others.

7. I reaffirm that I know God and accept his active presence in my life.

Of course I have just described the Lord's Prayer...

And the seven days of creation...

And the seven churches in Asia...

And the Kaballah...

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I recognize that prayer is a quality of thought that is always present, in every thought. Each of us prays without ceasing. Choosing to consciously emphasize the process of prayer by setting aside a time to reduce my distractions and concentrate on God enhances my understanding of prayer, my confidence in its effectiveness, and my instant access to this aspect of my being at any time and in any situation.

Now all of discussions about the quality of Isness of God sounds like a person standing on shore trying to describe what it is like to be sailing.

If you want to find physical proof of the action of prayer, then pray. It works instantly, constantly, in every situation. Think of your challenge or situation, then think of the perfect presence of God, which enters every place and every moment without restriction. Think of the perfect power of God which knows no opposition or reticence. Know the perfect knowledge of God, which does what is done and allows all possibility. It is only because God has

created the answer, that you can ask the question. Ask by claiming, and claim by asking, that good which you seek.

You are asking for a change to come into your life. Welcome change when it comes, even if it doesn't seem to be the perfect result that you seek. Sometimes there are steppingstones between the place that has claimed you, and the new place you have claimed. Move forward cheerfully and expectantly on the path God sets before your feet. There is no doubt that it will lead to that thing that you desire.

IF you are placing emphasis on "I don't want to be wrong, because I would then condemn myself based on what I think others would be thinking of me" then you are still confused. As long as you doubt, and as much as you doubt, you will create what you fear instead of what you desire.

Everything that exists in your life, you created with your use of God's omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence. It is the only way that anything is made. There is

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only one process of creation in your life, and you are at the center of it, working with God.

God is infinite joy expressing as love. Become that joy by expressing the love. Quit denying your real self, and God will appear instantly and in this moment now. You don't earn it, you learn it. Once you learn it, the results are instantaneous.

Release all the conditions you have made in your mind, of what has to happen in order to bring you your desire. Every seemingly idle thought is actually a dynamo, creating a result. What you think of the most, or the most firmly, creates your reality. Ask God to help you concentrate your thought on what is good for you, on what you desire to have happen. Don't make God jump through hoops. It is not necessary and it delays your good, although nothing can prevent it.

Ask God to help you pray.

The Acceptable Year of the Lord

When Jesus came out and proclaimed his ministry, he preached the scripture “today is the acceptable year of the Lord” and said that it was fulfilled in the presence of the people he was with. They considered it blasphemy and wanted to stone him.

I know when you look to the world with its seeming tragedies and apparent irrational circumstances, it is a great temptation to condemn this world and declare that God is absent from it.

When you do, you only condemn yourself and declare your own personal separation from awareness of God. You can only limit your own awareness. Not one word and not one thought can limit God’s awareness. God is instantly, constantly, and completely in love with you, without reservation or restriction, unconditionally. If you want to experience that love, turn outward and share love the same way with people. You will experience God’s goodness while you share that goodness with others. This

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becomes an open pathway in your consciousness to the experience of God.

Don't be concerned with what people say. Do not be concerned with traditions or rituals. Find what people need for themselves, and help them get it. Let them respect you or disrespect you, let them admire you or call you names. Don't let anything distract you from your goal of unconditional love. If you are expressing with unconditional love, you are thinking about God.

When you spend time protecting your self-importance, you lose sight of what you truly desire. Don't be fooled by yourself. If you fight yourself and try to suppress parts of your consciousness, you will only end up wasting time. If you judge your love and the gifts that you offer as unworthy or insufficient, realize that this is your conscious ego afraid of the experience of God. You are good, and your love is sufficient. Do it anyway and the doubt will pass away like a shadow at high noon.

This magnificent world is God's home. He created it as a way to fulfill his own purpose. When you love this world unconditionally as God's creation, you begin to discover the depths of your own purpose.

If you want to have power over all of creation, then love the people that annoy you. Have tender compassion for the people who you think desire to impede your progress or even do you harm. The way forward is love. Doubt cannot exist in the presence of love.

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My Christmas Message

As Christmas comes this year, I am thankful for my many friends.

I have learned to say the same thing over and over again, without fear of repeating myself, for behold all things are new.

So here once again is the little bit I know about who I am and why I am here.

Each of us is a world to himself or herself, in God where we live and move and have our being.

When you give, you are giving to yourself. As much as possible, give with no strings attached, freely and completely.

Treat everyone you meet and everyone you think of, as if they are bearing a gift from God to you, because they are.

God (that is, the innermost source of life and love within yourself) treats every thought you think, as a prayer about you.

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There is no receiving, there is only giving from one part of you to another.

The universe you see is your own invention, and it is cooperative and supportive. Act as if, and you will do.

Do not try to make decisions for others or change what they think. You will only make yourself unhappy, and confuse them about their own responsibility for their life. Trust in God's relationship with that person, and you will find God's relationship with you.

Ten minutes a day of concentration, meditation, or prayer will change your life forever.

The world is getting better all the time, and wonderful things are ahead.

Use every reminder and every excuse to ask yourself "Who am I? What do I really want? How can I make my life better? How can I be a better person to those around me?"

God is not mocked. Don't worry about what other people think or say or do, or how they regard you. Resentment and condescension both slow your awareness of your real self, and delay the demonstration of your desires. "What is that to you? Come follow me". Don't worry, God never forgets you for a moment. Hold to Christ, the principle of unity, in the face of all temptation to division.

Anyone who speaks of man as shameful, incomplete, forgotten, or unworthy, has turned his face away from God the Father, and are blind guides. Christ warns us of these people when he says "Know the tree by the fruit". You do not have to struggle with them or argue with them, but do not accept their teachings or their judgments. They teach the children, crying "Lord. Lord!" but they serve the devil of their being. They will have their reward. Pray for God to bless them with love, understanding, and wisdom, so they can be delivered from their condemnation.

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Teach what you know to anyone who shows any interest at all. If someone speaks negatively in your presence, and you think they can learn, tell them your different approach. If they respond negatively to you, do not defend yourself or your thought, just be still. If they take interest in what you say, give them as much as you think they can work with now, plus just a little tease for the future. You can leaven the entire world.

Believe you are important to God, more important than any church or any Bible. God loves you as much as he loves Jesus and will grant you the same wisdom, and more, as you use what you have and share it with others. Jesus told us so. The Bible was made for man, not man for the Bible.

Do one thing today to demonstrate to yourself your love of God.

Remember, the way forward out of any circumstance or condition is through understanding, and you create new understandings through conscious acts of

forgiveness. It helps to think of people as just big children.

God is more willing to give than you are to receive, and you demonstrate what you are willing to receive by what you willingly give. Give your heart to the world, love the thing that you fear. Nothing can withstand your love, which has its root in the love given by God.

Grace is all you are made of.

In your heart of hearts, continue to secretly suspect the following things:

“I am really rich. I can have anything I desire. I love God with all my being. God protects me from all harm. God wants me to be happy, healthy, joyous and whole, and I am willing to cooperate with him fully. Everyone I meet helps me, no matter what they think their attitude is. I give to God through others, and I receive from God through others, and I am thankful for everything I receive and for everything I give. My life is getting better all the time”.

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and remember that just by your thinking of bettering yourself, just by your search for the truth, you are broadcasting goodness into the world and making the way easier for all other beings. The world is blessed by you. Be easy on yourself, and bless even your mistakes - they often teach you more than your successes do!

“Each step takes me further along the road to my own happiness and prosperity. I continually bless others and I am blessed. I will move”.

Remember Gardner Hunting's saying “When you are working with God, God works with you - and God works miracles”. Make room for miracles in your life. Clean out your closets, physically and metaphysically.

God bless you all!

Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for making me a part of your creation. Thank you for deciding that free will, remembrance and self-awareness is a part of existence, even down to the smallest particle.

Thank you for making more than one of us, so we can love each other. Thank you for making light a rainbow, instead of just one color. Thank you for letting us have loneliness, so we can come together in love. Thank you for letting us have ignorance, so we can become wise. Thank you for letting us have childhood, so that we can become mature.

Thank you for letting me see you through the eyes of my children, and letting them see you in my eyes. Thank you for my friends and relations, who remind me to love the whole tapestry of life and not just the prettiest colors. Thank you for my lover, who reminds me of your love when I need it.

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Thank you for letting us have the sunrises and sunsets that people call birth and death. Thank you for the trees and flowers that are the growth of love and awareness in our hearts. Thank you for the birds and beasts that are the thoughts taking on a life of their own. Thank you for all of life.

Thank you for letting us know that you are there, by the way you respond to the prayer of our hearts.

Thank you for letting me be wronged, so that I can know the complete joy and compassion of forgiveness.

Thank you for letting me be like you.

Amen.

What is Prosperity?

**Big whirls have little whirls,
That feed on their velocity;
And little whirls have lesser whirls,
And so on to viscosity.**

-Lewis Fry Richardson,1925

This chemical formulation applies to mind as well as to physical liquids. Each thought is a miniature whirlpool in mind substance. The larger, universal thoughts or divine ideas occur in the Superconscious mind. They are individualized and particularized into discrete physical expression in the densest part of mind, the physical level of consciousness.

We can erect barriers in our outer consciousness that turn the divine ideas aside, or cause their expression to be warped and stunted. These barriers come from fear, anger, and self-pity.

The consciousness that blocks prosperity is the consciousness of lack. The affirmation

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that “supply does not exist” is always temporary, because it is untrue. Sooner or later you run out of lack, and you become desperate enough to hope for some good.

The consciousness that permits you to experience prosperity is wealth consciousness. It is recognition that the universe contains every thing you need. The world is made of energy, according to the physicists, and we only need to learn how to release the energy trapped in matter.

I am prosperous, because I believe that the only permanent truth is God, that I am made of God-stuff, and that the world reflects my thoughts as a creator. I know that there is no limit to substance, and that I am worthy to manipulate and use that substance.

My wealth is my confidence that I will be able to see and use the good in every situation, that I am an eternal being, that beyond every thunderstorm is a rainbow, and I will live to see that day.

One of the secrets of the universe is that everyone is wealthy. You may have a wealth of prosperity, or a wealth of poverty, or somewhere in between. But your life is always full of something.

Since everyone is rich, how much money a person seems to have doesn't tell me anything about how good or bad a person they are. It just tells me what they are thinking about. It may suggest that they have come to understand and direct the creation process, but this is a likelihood, not any form of certainty.

The solution to prosperity is your own consciousness. You can manipulate all the circumstances and events you please, but you will experience prosperity when you take a hold of your own cubic centimeter of consciousness and declare your "I Am" dominion over life.

You can direct the big whirls in your mind by taking hold of the largest, most all-inclusive ideas that you can think of, and continually rethink them, adding to their

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energy and power. You direct the smaller whirls by examining each thought, and accept and reinforce those thoughts that fit your larger idea, and let go of and turn away from each thought that doesn't fit.

Finally, do everything with a consciousness of your own wealth. Feel rich while you do the dishes. Polish your shoes as a reflection of your bright inner self. Look for ways to let your wealth out into your physical experience.

Self-confidence or self-pity: every moment you choose.

Confidence in your own inner self leads to prosperity.

Prosperity Step By Step

(The following is the original version of Prosperity Step By Step. At the request of my readers, I later revised and expanded this text, and added an additional description of a method to use these ideas, as a separate book called *Prosperity Step By Step*.)

This essay was written as the response to an email message sent to me ‘by accident’, where its author asked, “Are there any millionaires reading this?”

It so happens that I am a millionaire, in that I own a company that I created that is worth at least seven million dollars, and I earn an income of over half a million a year. And I started 22 years ago with a degree in Philosophy/Religion and a borrowed pencil.

I have been diligently exploring prosperity ideas, learning and teaching them for most of the last 20 years.

It came to me, when I was studying perception and nerve transmission in

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school, that as I am driving a car, what I am seeing and responding to is not where the car is at the moment of my response, but rather where it was a split second before, when the impressions reached my eyes, before they were transmitted to my brain.

Then I realized that everything that we perceive, is in the past. We see effects, not causes. Causes can only be seen with the mind directly, never by the senses.

In a similar way, the experiences that you judge and weigh as the evidence of your current prosperity, are actually the echoes of the choices you have made in the past. These echoes seem real and present, they seem to control your prosperity, but they are all in the past. They are not causes.

So I would like to present to you the sentences of Prosperity Step by Step, one by one. Working with these thoughts, you will excavate the thoughts that are causing the prosperity that you are experiencing now. You will be able to change them if you choose, and create a different prosperity.

You will reveal your experience, while remaining focused on your goal.

Here are the principles:

1. The big secret first: our physical world is a dream world, and it works just like dreaming, but generally slower. As you acknowledge the dreaminess of it, and begin to work with it from that perspective, the apparent speed of action increases.

The way to direct the world is through your imagination and will. Exercising your will strengthens it. You can exercise it by doing something unpleasant until it becomes pleasant.

2. You receive through the same doorway you give through. The way to receive freely is to give freely.

Every time you give unconditionally, you open the door to the Spirit, to receive the same way. In relation to your own life, you are all powerful, all knowing, and

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everywhere present. You are also completely fair.

Quality is more important than quantity, since the universe amplifies thought into circumstance. You will know that the quality of your giving is good, when you take great joy in the gift.

Begin to give, and let God perfect your giving.

3. Forgive God. Loving your neighbor is loving God. Forgiving your neighbor is forgiving God. When you see a lack of God's love or grace in any condition - look again. Look deeper.

“Blessed is he who is not offended in his own life experiences”.

“You meant it for evil, God meant it for good”. This is the fulcrum from which faith will move your entire world.

Jesus on the cross said, “How could you do this to me, God?” and then “I trust you, I accept your purpose as my own”. He figured out something that it would benefit you to know: Your enemies are also your friends. They just don’t know it. Sometimes, in some situations, they are better friends than the people who think they are your friends, are to you. You will get the best possible experience of life, learn the most, and enjoy the most, if you give your enemies your complete and undivided attention without prejudging them, that is, you love them unconditionally.

Other people’s intentions towards you are not the limit of your ability to be benefited by the experience that you have of them. The stimulus is always neutral. You are the creator of your life.

4. No matter how you stumble and fall, are unable to meditate, turn your attention from your real self for years, hurt and are indifferent to the love of those around you, get back up and expect forgiveness

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from God, and accept his grace wherever you find it. Whether your friend or your enemy gives you something, it is a gift from your own true self.

4. Do not waste energy on the impossible.

Of course energy is never wasted, it is always used completely. However, energy can be used in a directed way, that maintains your conscious awareness and provides you with results that can be interpreted and used, or energy can be used in ways that lead only in circles, denying your authority and responsibility for your decisions.

Do not try to convince anyone or change anyone's mind.

It is said that "in God we live and move and have our being". Each of us is the indestructible and limitless love of God. Realize that the mind makes approximations of reality that are incomplete. See with principle instead of only your eyes. Hear with principle

instead of only your ears. Love with principle instead of only your heart. Know with principle instead of only your thoughts.

Do not ask others to make choices for you, do not make choices for others.

When you realize what choice is, and who you are, you realize that these phrases make no sense. It would be like saying 'do not swim in rock', or 'do not breathe dirt'. All choices people make are their own.

The best thing you can do for anyone else is help them make a conscious choice, so that they can learn from it. The best thing you can do for yourself is to help others get what they want, and see who they are.

The best way to teach is by example. The only way to teach is by example.

Everything else is not teaching.

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The student believes in true teaching.
The teacher believes in true learning.
Who knows what is what?

I only teach because those of you who expect to learn, want material to work on. I am not so deluded to believe that I am teaching you.

6. You are wealthy now with an abundance of what you are thinking about.

Your life is full of you. Make 'you' what you want your life to be full of. The world is a creative engine, and will create whatever you are really thinking.

How do you know what you are really thinking? Look at what your life is full of.

Realize there is no 'the world'. It is really 'your world' and it is as unique as you are. The only thing you will ever experience is your own consciousness.

Every thought in your mind is a prayer about you, no matter who the subject seems to be.

Realize that your subconscious world-generator is no respecter of persons.

It is not fooled by the masks of reality that you entertain yourself with. All it knows is the limitless love of God. It does not know iniquity. Your subconscious creative engine creates what you are thinking, and it does not care who you are thinking it about. It creates the result in your own experience. So if you are angry at someone, that anger will shape the creation of your own experience, not theirs.

The only way to manifest lack is to hold something against someone else.

Loss, lack, and unhappiness are not the natural state of man. They are created from your thought. To continue to exist in your life, they must be continually be

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created from the replenishing of these thoughts.

Give up all thoughts of offense, revenge, of being injured, of self-justification, of needing to defend yourself against others' expectations, of the unfairness of life, of others getting some unearned advantage. The thoughts will create the appearance of loss and lack in your own life.

Your subconscious mind is a multiplier. It will take every thought that you hold in mind, as a pattern for constructing your experience.

The cost of condemnation is loss. How long are you willing to spend your prosperity on loss?

Joy breeds joy and sorrow breeds sorrow. When you hear of someone's good fortune, think, "Good for them! God is blessing and prospering them, and I bless them also!"

Bless your world into being. What do your reservations buy you?

Faith is the better choice for creating results you will enjoy.

Charles Fillmore says, “The inexhaustible resource of spirit is equal to every demand. There is no reality in lack. Abundance is here and now manifest!” And he is absolutely right!

7. Trust yourself consciously. You really do anyway!

You are always at the fulcrum of the lever. You are the person who decides who to believe, what authority to accept, what meaning to give to your choices. If you stop pretending that there is another will in the world, you will begin to see clearly.

The future pours into the past through the funnel of your thinking. Change what you are thinking now, and the future will take care of itself.

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Reality is a constant creation. There is nothing in the Bible that says that the seven days of creation are a week of time long ago. Creation is happening this moment, and all of creation is recreated in each moment. That is why we call God the Creator. His perfect creation has no beginning or ending, it is always now.

Think of reality as a simulation that collapses into principle and potentiality, and is recreated in each moment. Reality is shaped by the same forms and forces that shape your thoughts. When you redefine your thoughts, you connect to the basic identity that is the creative ground of being. This changes all of reality that touches you.

There is no force or effort needed. There is no struggle. You can be anything, just decide 'who am I'.

8. Your life is in a dynamic balance, based on your present thinking.

What happens when you take 2% of the amount on one pan of a balance and put it on the other side? Of course that side goes down and the other goes up, and the change is complete. 2% of your waking life is ten minutes a day. Ten minutes a day of concentrated thought will change your life completely. The only proof of this statement I can offer you is the proof of your own experiment.

As a starting point, you might take this message out and read it daily for one full month. When things start to change, don't get excited and distracted, but stick with it. Don't talk it away to others. Let the energy concentrate and build. The only thing God knows how to make is a miracle.

The greatest miracle is not the existence of a particular thing or being, it is the existence of existence itself.

9. You don't earn it, you learn it.

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Before healing, Jesus asked, “Do you believe God can do this?” Then he said, “Your faith has made you whole”.

Some people say, “There must be something wrong with me, or I would already be perfectly happy, healthy, and wealthy”.

That is the same as saying, “There must be something wrong with this room, since it is dark”. Open the shutters, and it will be light. Think of those who you love. Fill your heart with enthusiasm. Think of the 12 qualities of Christ consciousness, the twelve powers of man. They are faith, strength, wisdom, love, power, imagination, understanding, will, order, enthusiasm, release, and life.

“When you understand karma, it goes away”.

In any challenging situation, ask yourself, “What am I trying to learn here?” Then begin to act on that principle. Experiment with your life.

Invest in your relationships by taking risks in your communication.

The ultimate wealth is the power to choose.

10. When you are stuck, find someone else with a similar situation, and teach them what you have learned so far. (Often they will come and find you!) Until you give it away, you don't own it. This goes for wisdom above all things.

I and the world are having the experience of life together. To call us two instead of one is a mistake of perspective.

Plant the seed of the wisdom that you want to grow. Be the wisdom that you hope to find. Love the world with what you hope to be. Someone will ask you to be more than you are. Do not deny them.

11. Understand that you will never create a situation that you can't learn from. What would be the point?

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If you can change your point of view from being the created to being the creator of your experience, you can begin to see the world as it really is. To see the world as it really is, means to see the world with the minimum amount of preconceptions and expectations. Seeing the world as it really is, means not fooling yourself about what is happening. Seeing the world as it really is, means seeing yourself as you really are.

God is with you every moment - it's his job. "I can handle this with God's help" is the beginning and the ending of faith.

Faith is setting the laws into motion by your thought, and by your spoken word. Make a place for it here in the physical world by seeing it as already done. Doing so connects your physical thoughts and being with the true decided state of inner mind. Dare to care.

12. The only limitations are self-limitations. Let abundance begin right now.

Watch out for the tendency to “Name it and blame it”. Responsibility is the opposite of blame. When you blame yourself or others, you temporarily deny your power to change (which is wasting energy on the impossible again.) Sooner or later everyone in your life that you think is preventing you from being or having whatever you want, will either die or move away, and you will find out that the condition is made in your own mind. Why not act on this awareness now?

13. If you are alive, you deserve to be rich. God wants you to be rich. He is more willing to give than we are willing to receive - no matter how willing we are to receive.

Dare to believe that God wants you to be wealthy and healthy and happy.

Dare to teach it to others. Joy is the true seed of abundance.

14. We are infinite beings pretending to be finite. We have created forms and

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conditions to escape the limitations of formlessness. But let's not forget who we really are, and let's not pretend too hard.

The first step to abundant living is to relax, the second is to focus attention, the third is to concentrate, the fourth is to rejoice, the fifth is to allow manifestation, the sixth is to give freely, and the seventh is to express gratitude to the true source.

15. Let go of what you aren't really using. If you are holding on to something (person, place or thing - or even an idea) because you think you might need it later, you are really telling yourself that you do not own that thing, you do not deserve it, and you do not believe you can recreate it in the future. These are all poverty thoughts. Clean out your closets, have a garage sale or give to Goodwill, but let go of all that spiritual cholesterol that is clogging your arteries of good.

16. Tithing is giving ten percent of your income to those groups or individuals

that you see using spiritual principles in a way that you would like to have grow in your life. The secret to tithing is to understand that you are tithing now, through your thoughts, and that conscious tithing is just taking control of a process that is already occurring. Regular, conscious tithing builds your conscious power to accept God's abundance in your life.

Tithing doesn't make you a good person, it just expands your conscious experience of abundance. It is the declaration that I am worth something to the universe, that my participation means something to reality, that I know I am worth something to God.

For most people, a good place to start is tithing to your church, your support group, someone who is teaching you, someone who is a good spiritual example to you. Of course paying your own spiritual teacher is a part of your tithe. The tithes of the Bible were given to the priests.

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Think of your tithe as a spiritual investment. Think of it also as a decision, saying “I want more of this in my life”, referring to whatever you tithe to. Many churches and centers teach you to tithe to “Your channel for spiritual good”. Well, that’s the whole world if you choose to live in the Spirit.

I say, give where you feel good about giving - where you can give without doubt or restriction. If there is no such place, create one. Give unconditionally, with joy, with no strings attached, and receive the same way.

I hope these ideas add to your wealth. The ones you recognize are the ones you already own.

The Fear of Money is The Root of All Evil

I do think it is important to deal with the lingering sense of shame that people seem to have about money. As long as you think that money is bad (or even not as good as healing, for example) , that being poor

makes someone better spiritually than being rich, that you must apologize or justify yourself when seeking happiness in wealth and health, then you will not see the God that Christ points out to us.

Seeking prosperity is no less holy than seeking health or seeking spiritual joy. What makes you think you should have any of it? Why do you think you deserve it? Why should God pay any attention to you at all?

God thinks that you are worth as much as the entire universe. That is why he gives each of us our own universe to live in. Often, people try to shame themselves out of one kind of behavior or another by calling it selfishness. This is just the conscious ego's attempt to keep them from seeing their true self value and expanding their consciousness beyond the limitations the ego has set for them.

The only way to avoid wealth is to continually seek poverty. Wealth is an experience of the goodness of God, and is our natural state, like health.

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Prosperity is letting the love of God flow through you without restriction. There is nothing holy in thinking and manifesting a limited view of reality. You need to cure this unhealthy error from your thinking.

The fear of money is the root of all evil.

Poverty is a disease like any other, and causes more discomfort to most people than any other. To validate poverty consciousness is not spiritual or good.

If you want to be poor and are in a state of contentment, that's fine. If you are poor and secretly or openly believe that people who have greater prosperity get it through greed or manipulation of scarcity, by taking it away from others, then you secretly crave wealth but have a sour grapes attitude about it. If you practice poverty consciousness you will create lack and limitation. Congratulations on your successful demonstration.

If you say, "Shame on you for wanting to experience the joy of God as material

freedom”, I say, go and think some more about this.

Why do we give unconditionally to others? Because it is an expression of our own unique individuality, and leads to greater good and happiness. Is this a selfish act, to decide what we think the world needs and give it? Yes it is. So what!

If you don't trust God completely, how can you live in his kingdom? Seek the kingdom of heaven first, and everything else (that is, spiritual understanding) will be given to you. If you don't believe that this physical world acts only according to spiritual law, if you believe in luck or coincidence or unearned success or that there are some things God does not want you to have, or that desire itself is unspiritual, then you deny the kingdom. As long as you deny the kingdom of heaven, that this is one world in unity under God (the Christ principle), your deeper understanding will remain shallow and intermittent. If you believe theoretically in the kingdom, but do not

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claim your abundance, then you only believe that you believe.

The stone that the builder rejects (the intellectual seeking after truth) is the cornerstone.

The major thing limiting the lower-performer's income is their constant self-limiting behavior. People permit themselves to experience only what they think they are worth. Any time they start to grow out of a particular income level, they start losing their concentration, shooting themselves in the foot.

Someone said he doesn't think rich people owe it to others to contribute to the world.

Stop and think what people with money do. They put it in banks, they put it in stocks, they spend it, and they pay taxes.

When they put it in banks, the banks have more money to lend to others who are making things happen. When they put it in stocks, the companies can expand their

business, employ more people, produce more goods, buy more products and services to help them run their business. When they spend it, it pays for products and services that keep people employed.

There are four million millionaires in the USA. There are a quarter of a million decamillionaires, with a net worth of 10 million dollars or more. These people aren't standing on anyone's necks, they are too busy trying to figure out what their highest and best use to the world is, so they can become richer.

Rich people put money to work. So does everyone. Spend your money with joy and enthusiastic appreciation of your own value in creating it. Imagine happiness for each person who touches and uses it as it rejoins the great stream of commerce among your neighbors.

I am now working diligently to become wealthier. A large part of my motivation is the desire to be able to do more good in the world.

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In order to accomplish useful things, you have to gather more money than it takes to eat and keep yourself fed, sheltered, and clothed. There is nothing more holy about having government do this than private individuals. Private individuals tend to be more efficient, less wasteful, and less hypocritical about the process.

The basic problem with some people's perception, from my point of view, is that they think that wealth is something lying around on the ground, and the greedy and the unscrupulous and the unprincipled grab more than their share and exclude everyone else, who remains poor.

Do you know, you can buy the best hoe made, sharpen it to a fine edge, and walk out into a fertile field full of growing plants, and if you don't know the crop from the weeds, all the effort you can exert will only cause random violence to your desires. Working harder doesn't make any difference.

Wealth comes from service to the world. Find out what people think they need, and help them get it the best way you can think of. If you do this, and you aren't getting wealthy, then you are being irrational somehow about what is needed, or what you have to provide.

Wealth is created by acting on the desire to serve.

It's a cheap thrill to bash the evil rich. This is cartoon consciousness. "Shame on you" may seem like a shortcut to greater spiritual authority, but it is really self-deception. You cannot create wealth by stealing it from others. Lack creates lack. Abundance and joy creates wealth. Loving one another creates wealth.

The greatest greed of all is the greed of maintaining a state of poverty. It takes hard work, firmness of purpose, and determination to maintain that unnatural state.

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Relax, tell God you will accept prosperity in any way offered, let go of all conditional statements (this has to happen, then that has to happen...) and have a secret suspicion that everything is going to be wonderful.

What are you doing to let wealth into your life?

God is completely committed to you.

You Are the Father

The problems people have with prosperity, health, relationships, and realizing their good, come from the mistaken notion that they are limited to recombining the ideas and accomplishments of their earlier efforts. They believe that they have come into this world empty, and have been filled up by circumstances, conditions, the behavior of others, and random chance.

What I say is different. You are the Father, seeking to express into this world. When you don't get what you want immediately,

stop looking for an excuse to blame something or someone. Put your attention on the infinite power, presence, and love that is your divine birthright, and expect a positive answer to your needs.

If you come into New Thought looking for a new set of rituals, a healing treatment process, a set of magical affirmations that must work in every case, then you are just replacing one set of mental conditions with another, and your results will be inconsistent.

Some people think that if they get the right job, or go through the right motions, they will become rich. My experience is that if I change my consciousness, that the right job finds me and the right doors open up, and I become rich.

I practice the joy of giving, and I stretch my giving muscles, and my receiving muscles become stronger at the same time.

I have given money to friends, relations, and strangers, when asked or when I have

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felt moved to do so. I tithe of my time, talent, and treasure. But I have noticed that when I give people money, especially repeatedly, they seem to get weaker and in worse circumstances. This is very annoying to those of us who want to save the world.

When I give people ideas, and they put them to use, then they become happy because their circumstances and their self-confidence improves.

So here is what I know:

God is waiting for you to ask for every good thing. He is waiting to give you what you are willing to receive. If you say, "God I am worthless", then he will give you more worthlessness. If you say "God I am good", he will give you more goodness.

How do you know what you are really thinking? By what you do. Put what God has already given you to work, and show that you are ready to receive more. Your life is full now, this instant, of something. It is full of wealth or it is full of poverty.

There is no such thing as a metaphysical vacuum.

You may think that prosperity is a secret method that produces results. I tell you over and over again, it is your public attitudes, the way you think of others and treat them, the way you bless or curse the world and the events of your lives. Nothing can withstand your prosperity of thinking. It is operating now, and you know the tree by the fruit.

From my point of view, everyone is rich. All I know how to do is ask people if they want to change the output of their spiritual assembly line. You can do that easily by changing your thought. Nothing else will do this for you.

There is nothing magic about money, but for many people this is tied so closely to their self-importance and self-image that they lose their rationality when they think about it.

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Just like current flowing through a wire creates a magnetic field, thoughts flowing through your consciousness create a 'prayer field' that shapes your reality. Every thought is a prayer about you, no matter whom you think the subject is.

Do you want to freely experience wealth? Take every person that you feel anger, fear, resentment, or any form of unhappiness about, and bless them unconditionally and unreservedly. Wish them well. Smile in your mind about them.

Do this with your relatives, friends, coworkers, enemies, rivals, classes of people, political figures, religious figures, religious institutions, political parties, etc.

We bless this world into being. Sometimes the form of our blessing seems to be a curse. This is self-deception. If you practice self-deception you will get results that you don't like.

Bless the world and the people in it. Think good of the world and the people in it. Don't

be afraid of possible consequences and results. Turn your thoughts to the goodness of the world. Let your reservations subside, encourage your faith to resound, echoing in every thought and deed.

It is so simple, and so easy.

Do everything the same and change your thinking, and you will still become prosperous beyond all belief. Let your thinking change your actions, and your prosperity will grow even faster.

Morons will say, it cannot be this simple, it cannot be so easy. These resentments and suspicions and petty jealousies and rages cannot be creating lack and unhappiness in my life.

Think of the mustard seed.

You may say, “The world is unfair”, and “my own good is withheld from me by selfish and unfriendly people”. And you are shouting into a mirror, and the world struggles to

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create the image that you see, magnified as God magnifies all thoughts.

And yet, the voice of God's grace whispers in the background, "It is not so". In moments of exhaustion, in moments of despair, and in moments of chosen silence, you begin to hear the whisper, you begin to choose faith and love, and the world responds.

The exercise I have given you will change your attitudes if you practice it. If you find a reason not to do it, then do not waste your time with anything else I say.

How to Run Your Business Like a Church

1. See every individual as unique and powerful, with their own relation to God. They have the power to make anything out of their life. You are a channel for their good, but not the source. Expect them to be responsible and capable, and most of all capable of growth and positive change.
2. Realize that the most important thing you do is help people grow, within the group framework of providing a service to the larger community. Look at each person who works for you in the light of what they want out of life, what they want to learn, what challenges they seek, and how you can help them face their challenges and win.
3. Respect the emotions and feelings of your people, but also respect the inner needs that they have. Don't lose sight of your common goal.

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4. Respect the vehicle that you have chosen. Run your business according to principles, and communicate those principles to your employees and customers. Your greatest communication is not by your words, but by your examples. If you find yourself making decisions in the moment that are counter to your principles, chances are that you are being dishonest with yourself, and the decision is bad for the business and also for the people involved with you.

5. Respect and honor the channels of your good, which are generally your customers and employees. But most of all respect and honor the source of your good, which is God within yourself.

6. Seek unity in the face of challenges. Seek unity in your own thought.

Where things seem good and bad, rich and poor, find the underlying principle and make it your own.

7. Become non-resistant to your good. Don't hang on to old ideas, people, or relationships. Don't be so proud of past decisions that you try to apply them to new situations where they don't fit.
8. Whatever plan you have, God has a bigger one. Keep an eye out for it.

Ray Kroc started franchising McDonalds so he could sell milkshake machines to the owners. God had a bigger plan. He listened. You should too.

9. Your greatest role as the business owner is to encourage people to make intelligent decisions and act on them. You are God's wakeup call for your people. They in turn will remind you where you need to make decisions and grow.
10. You will be constantly tempted to give away your power of choice and ask others to decide for you. Usually your justification will be 'to make the right decision and avoid error'. You should be careful and cautious, but you must make

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the final decisions, and you must make your own errors so that you can learn from them.

11. There will always be plenty of people willing to tell you that you are doing it the wrong way. You can shape your creation with these doubts, but you can only build it on faith. You don't need to be angry or resist them, just tell them that they can go run a business of their own any time.
12. People will be entering and leaving your consciousness constantly in the course of your business, as partners, prospects, customers, and employees. Bless them as they come, and bless them as they go. They cannot bring you anything that is not rightfully yours. They cannot take away anything that is rightfully yours.
13. Believe in yourself. Believe in your right to see the world a certain way, and present the truth as you see it. If your vision is clear, and you desire to help the

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world work with its problems, then you will succeed, make money, and inspire others.

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Honor Your Parents

I suggest that anyone who wants to increase their prosperity, send money on a regular basis to their parents.

Do this even if they have more disposable income than you do.

Do this even if you do not have enough money. Don't wait until you have 'extra money' to do this. The purpose of this is to recognize the law of being, and create extra money.

Do this even if they tell you not to. Do this even if they tell you it is not necessary. Do this even if they tell you to send the money to another family member, charity, or someone else. They can send the money to whoever they want, you just send it to your parents first with no strings attached.

Do it even if they are not speaking to you. Do it even if they are separated from each other. Do it even if they, or you, have done

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something unforgivable. Do it even if you hate them from the bottom of your soul.

Do it even if you would rather send flowers. Send cash, a cashiers' check, or a money order - something that is released at the moment it is sent, unlike a personal check, which has to be cashed to be accepted as money.

Send at least one hour's pay. If you are unemployed, send something anyway.

This will change the way you think about everything. Changing how you think about everything, will change your circumstances completely.

Do this without restrictions or reservations. If you can't do it this way yet, do it anyway, and let God perfect the giving.

Change your behavior, because your mind will have to change for the new behavior to persist.

Don't fool yourself by thinking that mental self-analysis is the same as repentance, a true change of thought. Mental self-analysis may make it easier for you to change, or it may make it easier for you to stay the same.

Try this for several months, and watch what happens. Notice the changes in thought that you go through.

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I Looked For Something

I looked for something significant to give the world, but never thought of giving myself.

I looked for someone significant to give it to, but I never thought of you, who are right next to me.

Oh, I have been such a foolish person, thinking that God was missing from this world, and that something I say or do would add him to it.

I love you. I want you to be happy, healthy, wealthy, and wise. I want you to have what you desire, before anything that I want for you.

What can I give you that you do not already have? You can only hear with your own ears. You can only think with your own mind.

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Consider who you really are. If you want understanding, ask for it and let the universe provide it in any way it chooses.

You have done everything except ask. Ask, and then prove you are asking by listening, and prove you are listening by accepting the answer that you receive.

Like you, my friends, I am afraid that I am not smart enough, that I have not worked hard enough, that I will betray myself with doubt or indecision, that the idea of God may be a fantasy, that I can only have what I want by taking unfair advantage of others, that my wisdom is empty.

And yet, I continue on, and I stay true to myself. Why? Because I know I have nowhere else to go. I know there is a pure being of Spirit within me. I know that everything that is made of doubt, dies. I know that there is a wind of change that carries me forward to a greater good. I know that everyone who claims authority, fears the winds of change.

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Do you want to have what you want? Make up your mind what you want. You think your indecision is a trivial luxury, and it is the murderer of your desire.

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Begin by asking, “Who am I?”

What is the answer? Living is the answer. Be the question, and living will bring you the answer.

There is no proof of who you are.

Trust yourself, without proof. Trust who you have been. Trust the decisions that you have made. Trust the future that your mind creates. Believe that when the time comes, you will make the right decision. When you think you have made a mistake, believe it is the seed of a greater good.

Do what is in front of you, and don't think you should be somewhere else, living a more noble or fulfilling life. If you want to know God, find out what the people around you need, and help them get it. Your wealth is beyond measure, open your eyes to it now.

This is half of my wisdom. If you want the other half, you get it by teaching the half you have been given, over and over. People

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are asking you for it now, I hope you will answer them.

Truth Speaks to Truth

I do my best to speak to people in terms of what is in their mind. Some people have a great desire to be serious, and with them I discuss the fact that all of life is serious. I think it is necessary to do so with humor.

I have seen ministers, both in person and on email lists, begin to suffer when they see their job become enmeshed in tasks that seem to have nothing to do with spirituality, as they conceive spirituality.

Sometimes this is a call from God to change the form of your life work. Sometimes it is a call to minister at a new level. Taking your attention off yourself and giving your undivided attention to people is good for your spiritual growth. New Thought ministers have an advantage, since they know God is alive today, and that the person that comes to them with a problem, comes with a gift from God. The minister gives the gift of truth to the person with the problem, and receives his own gift in return.

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I receive my spiritual growth through people I meet in restaurants, on airplane flights, through email lists, and all sorts of other ways. The universe is alive with meaning.

If you assume that everyone who comes to you should be treated the same way, then you will have trouble with either your grandma or your girlfriend.

I treat each person that I communicate with, with respect, by giving them my undivided attention and then replying with what comes to my mind. To do this I have to trust myself. I do not make the issue of whether that person is offended, the basis of my judgment of whether the communication has been useful or effective for that person. This is because I take my responsibility seriously.

I certainly do not determine the value of my communication by whether it generates praise or blame from others watching the communication. Doing so would be

disrespectful to the person I am communicating with.

True humility is to see your self-importance, and act anyway. If you battle your self-importance with vows of poverty, obedience, and by adopting the mental or physical uniforms of some religion, then you are still caught up in the praise of men, which is your own praise and condemnation of your self.

Instead, put your attention on people's concerns. Share your ideas about how they can meet those concerns using the principles you know to be true. Open your heart completely and do not defend yourself. Be ruthless in your dedication to unconditional love.

Don't be distracted.

Truth speaks to truth. If you communicate at the level of truth with someone, it is only of secondary importance whether they acknowledge the interaction on the surface.

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If you see a world that is not fair, then what you are seeing is that your own mind's judgment is incomplete. Fix what you can fix, which is your own judgment. Decide that you and your house (that is, your reasoning mind) will serve the Lord of your being.

If I look at a street sign, and it seems blurry and indistinct, I can either decide that it is time to obtain a new set of corrective lenses, or I can create a world view that says that street signs are blurry when I look at them from a distance. Most of us do the latter. If you can help someone see something clearly, then you give them the faith in the possibility that they can correct their vision, and find out who they truly are.

If you think of yourself as a spiritual optometrist, it may help you. Do your best to remind the people you help, that the truth is what makes them see clearly, not anything you have done.

Your life will be more successful and enjoyable when you learn to pass

responsibility on to the people who are seeking it. This will be true for them as well as for you.

When you try to be aware for others, you withhold their good. They have worked hard to create the challenges that they can grow from. Don't tear those challenges away.

If you can awaken the desire for change, and the belief that the person himself can create the change, then they will invite the power of spirit into their life, and true change will occur.

For some the lesson of Christ is that there are loaves and fishes.

For some the lesson is that we can create loaves and fishes.

For some the lesson is that we can teach people they can create loaves and fishes.

I know which of these that you are. I hear your truth and I speak it back to you,

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knowing that you will hear it more clearly
when I do.

The Miracle That I Offer

I think teaching and learning are important. When I speak of these things, I speak from the first person - 'I', because I think teaching and learning are about personal responsibility. If I spoke any other way about it, it would be better to remain silent. How can I explain this without destroying it, without apologizing for what is betrayed by apology?

The example is more important than the possibility that anyone will approve of the form of the example, or disapprove of it. How do I know this? By the example I have seen. I am faithful to what I have been taught by my self, and I honor those who have made an example of themselves to me. Follow the good examples that you find, and forget the dance of self-justification and accusation, no matter how noble you can make it sound.

If I ever were in one nanosecond in the relationship of teaching a person, it could only be because that person had freely

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chosen that role for me. I have no power over another person's power of choice. The teacher is the free and willing servant of the student, and the only authority the teacher can ever show to a student, is the authority that the student has. Authority is not a pair of shoes, bought at a discount and passed from hand to hand.

If I seek deference I am busy doing something other than teaching. If the student gives deference he is doing something other than learning. I teach because it gives me the opportunity to focus my complete and undivided attention on individuality, and I get to express and experience the absolute worth of this moment now.

Teaching is the only time you can take your attention off yourself completely. It is the greatest gift in the world, given as an opportunity by the student to the teacher. It is the act that gives you a place to grow. When the teacher is ready the student appears.

If you look at me and all you see is someone who wants to be the boss, it might be your loss.

What do you think that I think that you have, that you think that I think I could take away from you?

Jesus says (and this is a paraphrase), “Because I have taught you what I know, you are no longer my servants but my friends. You will do greater things than I do”. As he said in another occasion, when he was asked about David’s son, how can the lesser do the greater? This is the man who washed his disciples’ feet.

When the teacher is ready, the student appears.

With Abraham, human sacrifice ended. With Jesus, the sacrifice of the material ended, and the true sacrifice became a sacrifice of attention. Give God your undivided attention.

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The miracle that I offer is the certainty of knowing who you really are. You know if you have experienced this miracle in some way. Even those who argue with me sometimes receive it to some degree. It excites them and they think that by testing me, they are testing their own certainty.

All the doubt, unhappiness and frustration is fascinating and interesting. Put it to the side, or you will return to it again and again using different excuses. Place your attention actively on the truth.

I've always wondered why teachers trick their students. It is a great tradition in spiritual teaching, to keep the student in the dark, and give them things to do with unstated or even false reasons. I always thought this was unnecessary, and even offensive. Now I see that the greatest problem is that the student thinks they already know everything about the world, and the teacher must induce the experience in the student, that will teach the student something new.

The moral justification of this is that the teacher has presented himself as a servant to the student. The teacher knows that the student has come to him for new understanding, and that these new understandings cannot be created by a lot of blabbing and arguing. So the teacher uses a method to create the new experience of reality, instead of wasting time in idle discussion. If the student does not like this method, the student can change their mind at any time and find a new teacher, and many do.

If I would try to explain this to a student, the student might say to me, “You are calling me prideful, obstinate, short-sighted, and stupid”. So the self-importance of the student would prevent any further teaching. Or the student might say, “I am not like that, I will pay attention and do whatever you ask of me”. Of course this is impossible to do, and so the student just slips from self-awareness to further self-delusion.

Everyone, from the moment they are born in this world, thinks that they understand

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everything. Why would they think anything different? Only unexpected phenomena cause us to stop and question our understanding. We create a new mental map of expectations, and continue on through life. When we are very young, our mental maps are very incomplete, and we experience many new and unexpected experiences. Because this happens so often while we are young, we are not so set in our ways. As we get older, under the influence of language, culture, and perhaps the limits of our own capacity to understand the world, we tend to be less flexible about modifying this mental map to conform to the observed world.

We are more likely to take a new experience, and look for a label to place on it, to assign it to a place on the map that it may not actually fit.

The teacher knows that everyone, the teacher included, is prideful, obstinate, short-sighted, and stupid. It is not something to be cured by good intentions. It

is not something to be ashamed or angry about.

Everything in the world is about who you really are.

The example of the teachers of past histories, is that they accept a student, ask for his current understanding, provide a new theoretical framework for his future understanding, then either induce an experience or wait for reality to provide one that will allow the student to put the new understanding to work.

So you tell me, first I must know the answer, and then I am willing to ask myself the question. Of course, this will not work.

First you must believe in the possibility of the possibility, that you might discover something new that may replace your existing beliefs. You already have a pile of words, that you think is what you really believe. If all you want is a new pile of words, then open the next book that comes

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to hand, and start reading aloud to the world.

Your choices make no difference, unless you can carry them through to create the new circumstances and reality you desire. Once you have decided that you want your life to be better, and you are willing to sacrifice what you are already doing, and what you already believe, to create this new expression of your self, then everything that you do becomes a part of that goal. Every breath takes you closer.

The world is round, not flat. If you set off in any direction, you will eventually get to where you want to go. In the journey you will learn to trust yourself.

If you find yourself continuing to wander around your starting point, perhaps things are not as bad as you have been telling yourself they are. Maybe you are just whining to remind yourself you are alive.

Here is my advice to you: choose a direction and stick to it for a while.

Create a goal and commit to it. Stop asking yourself why 'it' isn't working, and get to work. You tell yourself that you know the principles, but you don't know them. You have heard of them, you can discuss them, you can repeat them with great feeling and enthusiasm. These are all good things. Now think them constantly, without regret or resentment, without having to talk yourself into it. Pretend. It is the great power we have been given. You might as well pretend the truth for a while, since you have spent so much time pretending what isn't true.

Here is the secret that millions have asked for, but have not understood:

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all else will be added unto you”. This statement of Jesus has a simple meaning: God does not create injustice. Look at every circumstance and situation as the justice of God in action. If you find yourself condemning this situation, change your understanding. The people involved may be on their way to a new awareness. There is certainly something

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you do not yet know or understand. When you see the world through God's eyes, you will come to a new knowledge about the world, and that new added knowledge will make you free.

The Challenge that Brings the Gift

There is a difference between responding from self-pity and from principle.

If you come to me with a problem, and I want to do the best for you, I need to refer to principle and apply it with compassion, if I want to give you something that you can use to change your unhappiness into happiness. If I get lost in my own unresolved issues, I cannot give you the gift of spirit, that is waiting for us to share it with each other.

It is the challenge that brings the gift. It is the student who brings the gift of learning to the teacher and himself.

I do not understand how a teacher can consider himself anything but the servant of the student. I don't see how the teacher can see the relationship as anything but love, even if the student hollers and screams. There is no transfer of authority between teacher and student. I cannot give you what

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you do not already have. You cannot give me what isn't yours to give.

To say this more plainly, (although I do not know if it is really helpful to do so,) if I am functioning with a person as a servant to their truth, then the authority of that person already exists and is complete. I cannot give that authority or take away from it. It would be insanity or foolishness for me to spend attention in pretending to do so. In the same way my own authority is not something to be bought and sold. If I pretend it is a commodity then I have fallen asleep again.

I do fall asleep a lot.

You might be helped by telling me that I am a sanctimonious, self-righteous, authoritarian know-it-all who is full of himself.

Some people see the ego as an invisible prison. I see it as the beach on an island in the sea.

The ego is the holder of value for the self. Unexamined it becomes self-importance, and leads the mind in strange directions.

The ego is the reflection of God in man. If the mirror is unsteady the reflection is wobbly. You can hold the mirror steady by developing your will, which happens when you focus on a goal and apply principles to your thought.

I do agree with you that anything I can do to help people see themselves as teachers can be of great benefit to them.

What is the difference between teacher and student? The first thing that comes to mind, is that the teacher remembers that the student is the teacher. Therefore there is always a relationship of great respect and deference between them, because the teacher always defers to the problem of the student, when he is teaching. The teacher gives complete respect to the problem of the student, even if it might look trivial to someone else. The absoluteness of this

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deference is more than the whiteness of snow, or the wetness of water.

Jesus speaks of this when he talks about the shepherd leaving his sheep to find the sheep that is lost.

Maybe I could get a tattoo on my forehead, 'I am teaching.' Then when the person reads it, they will think 'I am teaching' and for a moment their thoughts will be accurate and clear.

Of course, many will perhaps think that 'I am teaching' means that I am teaching, and they will be confused.

Put all of your indecision and self-doubt to the side when you are interacting with a student. It is what they depend on you to do. Trust yourself in determining when it is time to do this.

Realize when you are teaching, that you are the servant of your student. You can tell when it is time to serve someone, because

The Miracle That I Offer

they treat you as master in some way. Serve them with the truth.

Christ in you, your willingness to serve your universe as its unifying thought, is your hope of glory.

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All Discovery Begins With Doubt

When Jesus was asked by what authority he teaches, he answered, "Tell me what it means, I will have mercy and not sacrifice". People seem to think this was some sort of trick question, or an evasive answer. It is not. When you answer that question within yourself, you will find the only true spiritual authority that there is. Jesus offered them (and us) the same authority he himself had discovered.

This is the same as his great commandment: Love God unconditionally by loving your neighbor unconditionally. Otherwise you will come up with intellectual theories that are untestable and unsatisfying.

The Christ principle of unity is to find one thing in the spirit where the mind sees two. It is to find good at the root where the mind sees light and darkness, savior and suffering. It is to find one Will that is free from alpha to omega.

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Give and let God perfect the giving. Let the dead bury the dead.

I would say to the person questioning my credentials or authority, the following.

“The only way my understanding will do you any good is if it becomes your understanding. If you hear what I teach, and you can find a way to use it to better your life, then don’t worry about who has approved of me in the past. If you can’t find a way to use it, or you are uneasy about me personally, then move on quickly and find a place and a teaching that is right for you. It doesn’t take a lot of time to try these ideas out. If what you are afraid of most is being made a fool of, or what others might think of you, perhaps you need to work with those personality aberrations in yourself first, and come back to this serious form of study and work, after you do that.”

People in spiritual study who are caught up in this are telling you about themselves, not about your self. They are warning you, “My ego is in the way, and I am not ready”. Find

something that you can give them to work on, offer them that, and then withdraw your attention.

I have found for myself that it helps me to make a commitment to presenting truth as I see it, even when it makes me look arrogant or foolish. I am trying to learn to temper this with gentleness and kindness, recognizing that these are a part of the real truth, not something that waters it down in any way. I recognize that I have a ways to go with this, and I appreciate the guidance of you my friends who are my teachers.

What we have invested in, we seek to preserve. Invest in the truth, and God preserves it for you.

Those who love are loved, those who bless are blessed. Those who confirm others in their belief are confirmed in their belief. Those who seek to separate others from their belief in God are separated from God. Those who recognize the faith of others experience unity with God.

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All discovery begins with doubt.

Stop fighting fear, and you will release tremendous amounts of energy for your personal transformation.

What do I fear? What is behind that fear? Who gives my fear its power? What would it take to remove that fear? Then imagine that in your mind, and begin to act as if.

Just restate your problem as a positive solution, and let your mind work for you. You don't have to create the creative process, it already is in constant action. You just need to direct it.

Let me tell you, these ideas belong to you now. As soon as you give them to someone else, they become yours forever.

You know when a chemical solution becomes supersaturated, one crystal of the saturate dropped into the solution causes the entire solution to be crystallized. So it is with these ideas, they do not come to you until you are ready for them. If they come to

you before that, you do not hear them even though they are shouted into your ear.

Then when you are ready to hear them, a still small voice in you whispers, “pay attention to what you are hearing”, and even if the words sound strange, even if they conflict with the scientific rationality that you are proud of, still you think about them. You give them to someone else in greater need, and they strengthen in their work within you.

These ideas are presented to you from someone else, but they are the ideas that exist in your inner self, they are your own ideas. The world being the way that it is, you think you must hear them through your ears. Because you expect only the ordinary from those near to you, they must at first come from far away. Yet they are your own ideas, and you will know this more and more as time goes by.

Here is the Truth:

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In whatever way you think the truth should be applied, apply it. The one mistake in all creation is to keep your truth to yourself, and not share it with others. If you think you can share your truth by speaking on politics, do so. If you think you can share it another way, do so.

The only thing the world is made of is the grace of God. It is your divine responsibility to shape that grace into a form that benefits yourself and others.

Put a Mind on Your Goal

I myself am a person who shies away from spiritual discipline. Spiritual discipline alone does not make for complete development, either. On the other hand, it leads to consistent results if it is guided by a sincere course of spiritual self-exploration.

You can never have more faith in God than you have in yourself. You can never know God better than you know yourself.

If you want to be a good wrestler, you don't just wrestle. You also practice weight training and other exercise programs to build your strength. How much more so when you decide to become Israel and wrestle with God.

So my commitment is to be a coach and a trainer, and to train other coaches.

The only things I believe to be true about gravity, is that its effects are indistinguishable from acceleration, and its effects are the same as if space-time is

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curved. These ideas are from Einstein. I've thought about these ideas for years, and I still do not know what they mean in any complete sense.

When people begin to think differently about gravity, the effects of gravity will be different - perhaps even antigravity will be possible. If people were scientific about being scientific, progress would be much quicker.

You create a magnetic field of prayer with your thoughts. Reality molds itself to that magnetic field, and does its best to give you the experience of the world that you believe is true. What you believe is true is not what you think ought to be true, and it's not what you tell yourself is true, it is what you expect.

It is what you don't think about, and what you assume, that holds you where you are. Reality is a simulation, and the software is more than just your biology, more than just your meat brain. It is the entire constellation of your thoughts, beliefs, and

attitudes. Develop your imagination and will. Begin to question what you don't question now.

Faith is the belief that gravity will keep working.

If you think of God as that which doesn't belong to you, you will make a life of scarcity. Put your mind on your goal, and all of your attitudes will change.

As an exercise, stop treating the world as me and not me. Let everything in the world be responsible for itself. Don't value things on their comings and goings. Put your focus on your life as an event not a collection of objects. Have positive expectations of all your outcomes, even death and funerals. Life is a festival of love.

Gravity is not a glue that holds everything together. Even in the most mundane sense, the universe is flying apart. Gravity is a secondary effect of identity, where the existence of two things causes a modification over time of the relationship

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between them. The most interesting thing to me about gravity is that although it is assumed to be an effect of particles that have mass, it also affects the passage of light, which has no mass.

Love is that which has no opposite. When you think of opposites, return to love.

Do you think of yourself with shame or blame? If you want to know the whole experience you need to be able to put these to the side without a moments notice.

How can you bury your father, if your father is alive? Change your thoughts, your thoughts will change your feelings, and your feelings will change your actions. You will know when your thoughts have actually changed, because your actions will have changed. If you can't seem to get your thoughts to change, try changing your actions, over and over again.

Try redefining your identity. I am a person who knows that there will be plenty of food when I am hungry again, so I can eat just a

little now, instead of stuffing myself. I am a person who knows that tobacco will always be around, so I don't need to smoke now. I am a person who knows that God will give us everything that we accept into our hearts, so I don't judge whether others deserve what they have.

I am a person who knows that my children are creating their own lives, and I serve them to the best of my ability, so I don't need to compare them to other children to see what kind of a job I am doing as a parent.

In your eternal life, you will have thousands and millions of people, places, and things that you will think you need for your happiness. Every one of them will eventually either die or move away, and you will go on living. Find the real source. Don't be satisfied with the outer clothing of an idea.

Use each thing which comes in to your life as completely as possible. But when that thing pretends to be indispensable or the

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source of your good, ignore that part. Laugh
at that ignorance.

I am true to my lowest principles

Practice is easy, it is the theories that make life hard. Behind them sits the unspoken need to be correct about the world, as if I were giving and taking credit for it. What madness is this?

I am true to my lowest principles. I will not pretend that there is a good and bad, a spiritual and unspiritual, a sacred and a profane. I will greet God in my own perception, and give that perception to the world without judgment.

I am true to my lowest principles. Is there anything but love in the world? Sometimes it seems twisted into strange forms, but that is all there is. If God is all and God is love, how can anything else be? So I will greet love with unconditional love.

I will be true to my lowest principles. I will wait to judge with right judgment, even if I wait until the end of time. I want to be right, but I want to be in love with the world more than I want to be right.

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I am true to my lowest principles. I call on God to give me those things he has led me to desire.

I am true to my lowest principles. I am true to you.

Sacrifice your resentment and reservations on the altar of truth. Be humble in the face of what your circumstances tell you about your state of consciousness. Let go of petty thoughts of annoyance and self-pity. Think magnificent thoughts. Fill your mind with decisions and goals, and take any action that leads you towards the fulfillment of your goals.

Don't look for people to reinforce your vacillation and indecision. If reality slaps you in the face, turn the other cheek and keep going.

Reality will do most of the work for you. All you have to do is make up your mind, and discipline your thoughts to those of joy, happiness, and fulfillment. Praise every part of your experience, and the weaker a

part seems, the more you need to praise it. Realize that there are no static objects of consciousness. Everything is growing greater or lesser. Place your attention on things to make them grow greater, and remove it to have them grow lesser.

This is a description, not a prescription.

I know God loves each of you without limit, and has given each of you the greatest and most appropriate understanding that you are able and willing to accept in this moment now. But I will remind you (and myself) that you can always ask for more and receive it.

I reject any call from any source that asks me to limit God's gifts of understanding. I wholeheartedly accept each person's individual expression of their love of God. I gently but firmly set aside any person's expression of their fear, which is not of God, but inspired by the error of opinion.

You cannot fear God, because as soon as you fear, your attention is no longer on God.

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Why do I continue to be offended by reality? How can I change my conception of the world so that this is no longer so? I do not consider my dishonesty, by which I mean my advance and withdrawal from actual perception, to be fundamental. I think it is a constructed strategy of engagement that has a certain usefulness but too many unintended and unconscious side-effects.

I suspect that Jesus sees the world more clearly than I do, so I try to understand his thought by placing myself in the position that I think will give me the same perspective on reality that he exhibits. Some of you measure this on a scale of self-importance, but I measure it on a scale of service. My action plan is to help people see themselves as God sees them. This is what I see Jesus doing.

If you see the world from God's point of view, then you become honest with yourself, which is with the world, and with the people of creation. Then the kingdom is in your hands.

Thought Seeds

Yesterday I didn't even try. Today I tried and failed. Tomorrow I will succeed. I know that God is the source of all my good, and that everything that tries to stand against this knowledge will not prevail.

The love of God is the opportunities that life gives you in response to your desires and fears.

Jesus is unique, just like each of us. He realized that this uniqueness was the proof of his spiritual identity.

Everyone thinks like Jesus thinks. He admits it to himself, many others do not. Each of us is built of the truth.

When you bear witness to the truth, you bear witness to yourself.

Everyone hears the truth, all the time. It is what we are made of. If you will listen for the truth in yourself, and present it as the truth of your being to others, your thoughts

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and words will be followed by joy and miracles.

There is a clear voice of God, and there are echoes. Know the clear voice of God, and you will have what you desire. Say for yourself what Jesus says for himself. Don't be afraid. It is the Father's great pleasure to give you the kingdom.

The understandings we seek are not for certainty or as an excuse to stop thinking, but as pointers to inspire our prayer and our thinking about God.

Either Jesus is exactly like us, and lived by the same physical and spiritual law as the rest of us, or we are turkeys imitating an eagle and our efforts are foolish and vain.

If you want to take the Bible literally, what Jesus teaches is not to wash your hands before dinner.

I do not respect anyone's beliefs, not even my own. By this I mean that I am always willing to prefer the truth to any belief.

Religions were invented as training wheels to help people balance their thinking until they can strike out on their own. They are misused when we try to make them answers to the questions that they are supposed to remind us to ask.

The purpose of right thinking is to open the window shades to the light that is already there, already shining on each of our lives.

Making unconscious decisions into conscious decisions, makes it possible to evaluate the results, and change the decisions. This is a good thing.

Here is a secret for you to consider. If you don't have what you want, you haven't made up your mind completely.

Change your thinking, then change your heart, and finally your practice will change. Don't believe the lie that doesn't believe in you.

Those who want God to overcome their own ability to doubt, are asking God to not be

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God. The greatest proof of God is the fact that each of us has free choice.

I am a hypocrite. I pretend to be weak, when I am strong. I pretend to doubt, when I believe.

My problems are God's problems. I have called them to myself for the spiritual gifts they can bring me.

I am not only who you think I am. I am not only what I seem to you. I am that I am. So are you.

My memory is imperfect, so I remember only God.

I have no time for anything but the truth. This is not because I have a lack of time, but because I have an abundance of truth.

I know that I am meaningful, and I do not believe in the meaninglessness and emptiness that arises to challenge me. It is a shadow, and I am the light of the world. I

do not fear it or fight it, I listen to it as an echo of the truth, whose voice is too loud and too close for me to hear directly at this time.

Every part of you exists for a reason and has value. Everything you have is good for something. You created it to fulfill a need in your consciousness. It didn't come and find you on its own.

Since God is everything, everything matters.

God praises the universe unceasingly. God prays without ceasing. Be like God.

God's grace is the idea that reality is slightly weighted in favor of happiness.

In every breath, God's good grace inspires us to do and be something more than we have ever been before.

The only thing you have to be saved from, is your mistaken judgment that you are lost.

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You are divine, so when you guide yourself you are receiving divine guidance.

If you do not trust your own judgment, then how do you trust your judgment about God?

If you only deal with the things your mind is comfortable with, you will get inconsistent results and lopsided development.

Today's solution is the seed of tomorrow's problem. If we applaud solutions and bemoan problems, we will be confused and unhappy.

Situations have no intelligence and will, so they cannot choose for you.

You always choose.

You can learn a lot about a person's intentions by listening to the motivations they infer from other people's behavior. People tune in on the frequency that is natural to them.

Life is always working, like your heart. It takes direction from your mind, even when you do not want it to.

You don't need to teach people what to think, or even how to think. Instead show them how what they think produces results, and how to evaluate their results honestly. They will figure out truth for themselves, and then it will be the root of their being, instead of a theory competing with other beliefs for their attention.

My wealth has come from playfulness. I have seen those who worship suffering create a world of suffering. This proves they are right. I have seen those who worship joy create a world of joy. This proves that they are right.

God sent you into this world with a gift for yourself. In order to have it and experience it fully, you must give it away.

Pay your taxes with pride in your ability to contribute and joy in your heart.

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We can become who we want to be because we are willing to forget who we have been.

When someone brings you a gift of anything, including an idea, bless the channel, but thank God within.

Secretly suspect that you are fully healed. Pretend to be happy, and happiness will follow. Pretend to be happy that you are wealthy, and wealth will follow.

Take care of this moment, and you take care of eternity. Love one another, and you love God who is in each of us.

God is dead but he rose again.

Conclusion

There are some powerful ideas presented in the above essays. You might want to read them several times, giving them at least several days to sink in between readings.

After writing these words, they became stepping stones for me in the changes I continue to make.

These are my own thoughts. I offer them to you freely. You may prove them to be true in your own life.

To the degree that these ideas make sense to you, and you use them, you are creating them in your own mind.

If they are of no use to you, then forget about them. If you want to get the greatest good out of them, then share them with others. Most of all, if they are useful to you, then use them. If you will look, then you will find.

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Each of us is personally connected to God. Not through someone else, nor even through some idea. You are made of truth. You are made of God. What else could you be made of?

Have the courage to see God as Christ sees him. Today is the great and acceptable day of the Lord.

The miracle that God offers you is the chance to know yourself in his image, as the creator of your world.