

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS AND
SUPPLEMENTAL READING
THE ELECTRONIC SEARCH TOOL

FOR
The Altitude of Prayer

CHAPTER II

“Creating a Vacuum for the
Inflow of the Spirit”

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CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL READING

FOR

The Altitude of Prayer

CHAPTER II

“Creating a Vacuum for the Inflow of the Spirit”

Chapter Highlights

... Prayer can never be answered unless there is a fitting preparation for prayer and unless the terms of prayer have been fulfilled. ... One of the terms is humility.

... Too many of us have grown up with too much confidence and faith in our own powers and wisdom, and it is in this respect that the quality of humility must be developed in us.

Pp 13

... True humility understands that in the beginning God incarnated Itself as our very being.

Pp 13-14

... To understand our dependence upon the infinite Invisible is the sense of humility that I ask you to ponder. It is not that you are less than another; it is not the sense of humility that bows down before some other human being; it is the humility that acknowledges a divine Grace, a divine Power, a supreme Being in operation.

... There is nothing of an enduring nature that man needs to pray for or about....

... Is there, then, no reason for prayer?

... Indeed there is, for prayer is the very bread of life. Prayer brings the Divine into our individual experience.

Pp 14

... True humility is an acknowledgment that God is the wisdom, the intelligence, and the love of this universe. True prayer is a coming into an at-oneness with God through this realization, not resisting the particular evil that confronts us, the lack, limitation, or pain, which may be the immediate problem, but turning from it to what we now know of God, and then enlarging our vision of what God is.

... When we think of going to God to get something, we are in trade; we are bargaining, begging, pleading, or accusing. But to go to God seeking only His grace is to know that “the Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want... He leadeth me beside the still waters.” There is no praying to God to do something, no begging, no pleading, just the realization, “He leadeth me.” That is resting in Him.

Pp 15

... Before prayer can become answered prayer, the old vessels must be emptied.

... If our prayers have not been answered, let us have the humility to begin to discard all that we have ever known and take the attitude, “I do not know how to pray. Father, instruct me.”

... The moment that we seek anything of a material nature from God, we are throwing dust in the face of God, for we are saying, “Father, listen to me. I will tell You what I need that You do not know about. Let me tell You some of Your business.”

... Is it possible to believe that there is a God who sits up in heaven holding back our good, waiting for us to beg, plead, or sacrifice, and then does not give it to us in the end?

Pp 16

... God is not here to fulfill your desires or mine; God does not exist to please you or me.

... The only correct approach to prayer and meditation is “not as I will, but as thou wilt,” not “Do for me what I wish done,” but “Prepare me to fulfill Thy will. Let Thy Spirit be in me that I may be Thy child, that I may be one with Thee, that I may dwell in Thy house, and that Thou mayest dwell in me.”

... In surrendering our will to God, we are surrendering ourselves to life eternal, to immortal spiritual life, perfect life, harmonious life.

Pp 17

... God does not know if we need an automobile or a new house. No, God knows our need as the sunshine knows the need of the earth.

... Every time we go to God with some need or desire that we want fulfilled, we have set up the barrier that keeps it from us. There can be only one way to go to God: “Thy will be done in me. Thy will be done in me that I may be one with Thee, that there be no barrier within me hiding Thy light.”

Pp 18

... God has formed us in His own image and likeness, and then we look up and tell God what He has omitted from us. No! It will not do! There will be no answered prayer unless our prayer is to a God of omniscience, all-wisdom, and all-intelligence, so that when we pray we can say, “God, cut my tongue out if I try to advise You. Let my prayer be with the

ears, not with the tongue. Let my prayer be listening, not speaking.”

... We are “the temple of God” when our prayer is listening, when our attitude is receptivity, when our willingness is to be purified, to be cleansed, and to do the will of the Father.

... Only when we are a state of emptiness can we receive the Grace which is already established within us.

Pp 19

... Grace is not something given to one individual and withheld from another. Grace is not something anyone earns or deserves. Grace is God’s gift established within each and every one of us, which we receive when we are empty.

... The grace of God was bestowed upon us in the beginning when we were created in His image and likeness. It is as much a part of us as our integrity, loyalty, and fidelity, and we had 100 percent of those in the beginning, and still have.

... Divine Grace is more than a word. Divine Grace is a power, and It is not something for which we wait. The moment we relinquish a material faith, divine Grace takes over.

... Nevermore let me pray for anything. My heavenly Father is the divine wisdom which founded this universe and maintains and sustains it. My heavenly Father is the infinite Intelligence which knows the need even of the sparrow. Furthermore, my heavenly Father is divine Love. It is His good pleasure to stock the seas with fish, fill the air with birds, the trees with fruit, the bushes with flowers, and the ground with grass.

Pp 20

... How could the kingdom be within us if the grace of God were not within us?... It is the way of peace, holiness, righteousness, harmony, wholeness, completeness, and abundance far beyond our ability to outline.

... Who knows what treasures God has laid up for those who love Him? Who knows what treasures God has in store for those who surrender their puny desires, wishes, and will, and let God's grace be fulfilled?

Pp 21

... In the surrender of all desires, we are cleansed and purified; we are a vessel which is empty. We have no words, no thoughts, and for a moment—it could be a second, a minute, it could be five minutes—we are just receptive.

... We wait, and, whether we know it or not, something takes place.

Pp 22

... Fill me. Let Thy mind be my mind; let Thy life be my life; let Thy Spirit be my spirit.

Let me be empty that Thou mayest enter, and always with the realization that if there be any hidden fault in me I be purified and be willing to surrender.

... As we yield ourselves to God, God will make us over in His image and likeness, which is the image and likeness of health, harmony, abundance, and joy. Sometimes we are merely able to prove that manna falls for only one day at a time, that a sufficiency exists day by day where we are for what we need. But in whatever way it comes, it is not going to be your will or my will. It is going to be a yielding to the will of God so that we may be influenced by God.

Pp 23

... Our praying really is a recognition of the fact that we have wandered into a far country and that we are trying to find our way back home. Therefore, if there is to be any begging or pleading, it is only "Father, awaken me."

Pp 24

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Search: “prayer can never”

From *Rising in Consciousness*

... How far are we failing in the right sense of prayer in this twentieth century even when we have received enlightenment on so many other things? Prayer can never be successful unless we know what we are praying to, or praying for—and that brings us to the subject of God. All prayers are uttered to God; all petitions are offered to God; all affirmations and denials are aimed at God. What is God? Where is God? What is the function of God? Until we rightly understand those questions we can never pray aright.

Rising in Consciousness
Chapter 9 – “Prayer of Understanding”

Search: “true humility”

From *Consciousness Transformed*

... Humility is not a feeling or an emotion. Humility is a recognition of the truth that consciousness is the source and the activity of all that is. Therefore, the part that we play in prayer is an attentiveness to consciousness as if listening. This is true humility and this is the true attitude of prayer, because even without saying it, it is an acknowledgment that it is not the human sense of I who has power or who can bring health to anyone. But the consciousness which *I* am, expressing itself, reveals itself as harmony in any and every form.

Consciousness Transformed
September 28, 1963 – “Two Covenants”

From The 1960 Canadian Open Class

... True humility comes when we stop trying to enlighten God, when we stop trying to teach God what things our country needs, our family, our community, or we ourselves. True humility exists only when we can acknowledge God to be the all-knowing, and when we can repeat after the Master, “I of my own self can do nothing; the Father within me doeth the works,” and then let the Father do the works. Be still; be still and invite God to speak to you. It doesn’t make any difference if you invite God a few hundred times and receive no answer. Keep on inviting God until a condition of true humility is established within you.

311 A 1960 Canadian Open Class
“The True Humility”

Search: “to get something”

From The 1950 First Portland Series

... Our prayer must be for illumination, for correct vision, for spiritual understanding, for spiritual guidance and direction; then of course, the prayer would be answered. Watch, watch that you’re praying for spiritual light, and not to get something, or get rid of something. Watch that, because there is no such thing in the kingdom of God as a prayer to get something, or get rid of something.

5 B 1950 First Portland Series
“Questions and Answers: Living by Grace,
The Deep Things of God, More About Grace”

From The 1954 Honolulu Lecture Series

... There is no use of going to God for good. God is Itself the good; the infinite good; and all-good, and to desire anything apart from God is a missing of the way. Even if we want something good or even if we want it unselfishly for the

world, it is not to be attained. It is not to be attained. There is no way to go here to God to get something here. That is one of the major points that the world has missed out on prayer. It goes to God for something. You can't do it. You can't do it!

75 A 1954 Honolulu Lecture Series
"Nature of Faith"

From *The Foundation of Mysticism*

... Be sure in your own being you have given up all thought or belief that you are going to get something from God that God isn't already giving you. Be sure you are not looking to God for something, but you are understanding that all that God is, is flowing now.

The Foundation of Mysticism
Chapter 14 – "Overcoming Mesmeric Sense"

... Prayer, as we know it in The Infinite Way, is an inner communion. It is an inner abiding in the spiritual law, or spiritual presence. It is not a seeking of something; it is not a desire for something; it is not an attempt to get something. That is not prayer. Prayer is merely that inner quietness which comes from the assurance that there is a God, and therefore as long as there is a God there can be nothing wrong in the kingdom of God. Abiding in that inner assurance, a sense of peace envelops us, and that sense of peace dispels these pictures of sense.

The Foundation of Mysticism
Chapter 16 – "Know the Truth"

Search: "must be emptied"

From The 1964 Manchester Closed Class

... as we tune in every day, attuning ourselves to the way and the will of God, we will certainly be disappointed if we expect God to be the same every day, because it will not be that

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way. Nor will we always feel as if we were uplifted. Vessels must be emptied in order to be filled. And in that emptying out process, we are to expect many, many days with feelings of barrenness, feeling that we are separated from God, or that God for some reason has deserted us. God has never deserted us: “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.” It is only that in the emptying out process we are deprived of that upon which we relied yesterday.

559 B 1964 Manchester Closed Class
“Spiritual Discernment of the Bible”

Search: “state of emptiness”

From *Realization of Oneness*

... It is an impossibility for us to know more than God, and it is only possible for us to know as much as God if we have first reached that state of emptiness where we know nothing, and are then able because of that emptiness to let the wisdom of God manifest itself as our wisdom. By achieving a receptive attitude for the inflow, always maintaining a listening attitude, making of ourselves a vacuum, we wait for the new melody or new idea, the new vision, the new invention, or the new discovery to come to us. When we learn to let both mind and body be the instruments for infinite Wisdom, which in silence and in stillness can manifest Itself as us, It performs Its functions through us. We cannot use God, but by attaining an inner stillness, God can use us...

Realization of Oneness
Chapter 7 – “Unconditioned Infinity”

From The 1961 Washington D.C. Special Class

... Answered prayer then is not a prayer or a treatment that I be given health, or that you be given health; prayer is not in the words we speak or the thoughts we think; prayer is in the surrender to God—self-surrender; the ability to enter prayer

without a problem—for the joy of communion with God, for the experience of coming to know God aright. Remember, to know God aright is life eternal. Here you see then, that prayer is really an attitude and an altitude: it's an attitude of consciousness and an altitude of consciousness.

409 A 1961 Washington D.C. Special Class
“The Attitude and Altitude of Prayer”

Search: “whatever way it”

From *The Only Freedom*

... “My grace is sufficient for thee” in all things, and let that grace take form in whatever way It will. The only difficulty is that we are very apt to believe that we know what form that grace should take, and we keep watching for it. In watching for it, we miss it when it comes, because usually it does not come in the expected form. God, in His infinite wisdom and love, bestows on us not those things that we believe we need, but those things which are spiritual life, water, and wine to our experience.

The Only Freedom

Chapter 9 – “Starting the Mystical Life”

From *The Master Speaks*

... My presence goes before you. My presence is with you. But remember, you have that assurance only when you have made your contact with It—when It responds, and you feel that “click” in your system, that energy that rushes in, “the still small voice,” or whatever way It has of responding. To each one of us it is something different, and sometimes it is different each day. If you make this contact, let us say in the morning before you leave home, you can rest assured that your contact with It, God, is your contact with everything necessary to your unfoldment for that day.

The Master Speaks

Chapter 19 – “The Infinite Invisible”

From God Formed Us for His Glory

... God is at the center of our being, and in one way or another It can make Itself known to us. It may be interpreted as sound or as light. Many persons, however, do not hear sound or see light: they merely have a feeling of the Presence. But in whatever way It translates Itself to a person, It is an evidence of Immanuel, God with us. Whether we hear, see, or feel something, that something is an effect, not God. It is the effect of the invisible presence called God.

God Formed Us For His Glory
Chapter 8 – “Illumined Prayer”

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